

## **Purpose**

To provide direction for the management of geocaching as a recreational activity in provincial parks and protected areas.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all parks and protected areas with the exception of ecological reserves where geocaching is prohibited.

## **Strategic Direction**

### **Goals/Objectives**

To encourage low impact, healthy activity in parks and protected areas, geocaching will be encouraged, where appropriate, as an allowable activity in conjunction with related policies, regulations, and protected area management direction.

## **Operational Policy**

### **Other Existing Policies Apply**

Participants in geocaching activities must adhere to other related policies, regulations and management direction. This includes specific regulations and policies respecting other recreation activities such as hiking and trail use as well as conservation policies.

### **Placement of Caches**

Cache placement may only occur in areas accessible from established trails or along approved travel routes (including remote backcountry areas that allow travel in areas without established trails). Cache placement must not result in disturbing of soils, vegetation, wildlife or other natural or cultural heritage phenomenon. Caches may not be placed within or near sensitive sites or in "special feature" zones as outlined in protected area zoning plans. BC Parks retains the right to remove any caches deemed to be located in an inappropriate location.

### **Cache Lifespan**

Caches placed in protected areas must not be considered "permanent" by the cache owner. Caches must be removed once the cache is no longer being actively sought and must be checked (physically visited with log entry on online log page by cache owner) at a minimum of every three years to ensure the containers and content are in good condition and the area around the cache has not been negatively impacted.

### **Cache Identification and Contents**

All caches must be marked "Geocache" on the outside of the container and the owner's name and contact information must be inside of the cache. Caches may not contain food items or any other materials that may attract wildlife. Any caches without proper identification and owner information or any caches that may be deemed inappropriate may be removed by BC Parks staff.

### **Permits Not Required**

Permits or prior authorization is not required for placing a cache providing the cache is placed in an area open to public use and consistent with the direction of this policy. All geocachers should ensure that cache placement is consistent with protected area management direction and in areas normally accessed by the public.

### **Geocaching Events**

Geocaching events may be permitted in protected areas without a park use permit providing the event is non-commercial in nature and, if within an area managed by a Park Facility Operator (PFO), has been granted permission by the PFO.

### **Related Recreation and Park Management Activities**

Geocaching or cache placement may not occur anywhere that may interfere with other approved recreational activities or where it may be contrary to other park management objectives.