

## **POS Geocaching and Letterboxing Policy**

***June 10, 2013***

The City of Eugene's system of parks and natural areas is intended to provide visitors with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities. The Parks and Open Space division (POS) actively manages these areas for multiple objectives including recreational use, aesthetic beauty, and protection and restoration of natural resources. The policy outlined herein establishes procedures to facilitate and manage geocaching and letterboxing activities on City of Eugene POS property. This policy applies to both geocaching and letterboxing.

The purpose of this policy is to protect park resources and the safety of all visitors and City staff, while providing reasonable opportunities for geocaching on Eugene public park land.

### **1. General Guidelines**

- a. Geocaches may be located only in POS-managed properties that are listed in Appendix A:
- b. If a specific park or natural area is not listed in Appendix A, placing a geocache at that site is prohibited. See Eugene's Parks and Open Space Map for park locations. <http://eugene-or.gov//DocumentCenter/Home/View/4747>
- c. A park or natural area may be excluded from the list of approved geocaching sites for one or more of the following reasons:
  - 1) Lack of developed areas and/or lack of maintained trails.
  - 2) Lack of safe and legal parking in proximity to the park or natural area.
  - 3) The presence of sensitive cultural and/or natural resources.
- d. A City permit is not required to place a geocache, but all caches must be registered on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). Any unregistered geocaches will be considered abandoned property and may be removed without notification.
- e. Caches shall comply with all guidelines established by geocaching.com.
- f. All caches on POS-managed lands shall be at least 528 ft. apart from another cache located in the same park or natural area with a maximum of 12 caches per park.
- g. Each individual may place only one cache per park or natural area.

### **2. Geocache Placement**

- a. Geocaches are only allowed within 30" of the following: the tread of a maintained path or trail, other hardscape features such as patios or parking lots, or mowed lawn areas. Leaving the trail, hardscape or mowed lawn area to place or retrieve a geocache is not permitted. Unofficial footpaths or wildlife trails that are not signed or identified on park maps are not considered maintained trails. Islands not reachable via a developed path are not acceptable geocache locations.
- b. Geocaches are also prohibited within 25 feet of any children's play area.
- c. Geocachers must "leave no trace". This means not damaging the ground or vegetation while placing or locating a cache and, when placing a geocache, considering potential damage that may result from other geocachers searching for or accessing the cache location.

- d. POS retains the right to remove, or have removed, any cache that is considered to be in an inappropriate location, causes undo damage to natural, physical, or cultural resources, or for other reasons consistent with the mission and management principals of POS.
- e. Caches may only be placed in safe locations that do not pose undue risk to park visitors. Geocachers must review the topography of the location where the cache is to be placed and minimize the potential safety risks to the visitors trying to find the cache.
- f. Geocaches and geocachers shall comply with all City of Eugene Park and Open Space rules, which can be found at <http://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3737>
  - 1) Unless otherwise noted, all parks and natural areas are closed between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.

### 3. Prohibited Activities

- a. Geocaches may not be attached to any constructed or fabricated park amenity in such a manner as to damage the object or impede proper use. The physical placement or attachment of caches to any buildings or sheds is prohibited. Altering signs, fences, posts, trails, trail markers or buildings is prohibited. Attaching a small magnetic geocache to the back side of an interpretive sign is acceptable.
- b. Geocaches shall not be placed in areas showing recent utilization by wildlife such as birdhouses, nests, or animal dens.
- c. Offensive, illegal, perishable, or dangerous items are not allowed in any cache. All items placed in caches shall comply with the policies of geocaching.com.
- d. Night caching, earth caching, and Munzee placement on POS property are prohibited. Cache owners shall include wording stating the acceptable caching hours (within stated park hours) on their cache pages.

### 4. Cache Containers and Contents

- a. All caches placed after June 1, 2013 shall be in see-through, waterproof (or sealable) containers that are no greater than 9”L x 6”W x 3”H. All caches shall be permanently labeled on the container’s exterior with the word “geocache” and the registered geocache “GC” code from geocaching.com in minimum 3/16” font.
- b. Use of ammo cans and pipe-shaped containers is prohibited.
- c. Caches which promote commercial, political, religious or other social agendas are not allowed.
- d. Caches may contain only a logbook in which to record visits; a description of geocaching; and non-perishable, family-friendly items.
- e. Caches that have not been maintained will be considered abandoned and will be removed and discarded.
- f. POS is not responsible for any damage to, or loss of, geocaches or equipment. POS will dispose of any removed cache if unable to contact the owner of the cache to remove or pick up the items within five days.

### Eugene Parks and Open Space Contact Information

For questions about geocaching on City of Eugene Parks and Open Space property, please call: 541-682-4800.

# Appendix A

## Parks where Geocaching is allowed:

See Eugene's Parks and Open Space Map for park locations. <http://eugene-or.gov//DocumentCenter/Home/View/4747>

Acorn Park

Alton Baker Park

Amazon Creek (Fern Ridge Bike Path Corridor)

Amazon Creek Levees Greenhill to Fern Ridge

Amazon Headwaters

Amazon Park

Amazon Parkway (Hilyard- Martin)

Arrowhead Park

Ascot Park

Awbrey Park

Bailey Hill Natural Area

Berkeley Park

Bethel Community Park

Blanton Ridge Natural Area

Bloomberg Natural Area

Bond Lane Park

Bramblewood Park

Brewer Park

Candlelight Park

Charnel Mulligan Park

Chase Commons Park

Country Lane Park

Creekside Park

Crescent Park

Crest Heights Natural Area

Delta Ponds Natural Area

Edgewood Natural Area

Fairmount Park

Ferndale Park

Filbert Meadows Park

Frank Kinney Park

Friendly Park

Garfield Park

Gilbert Park

Gilham Park

Gillespie Butte Natural Area

Gimpl Ridge Natural Area

Glen Oak Natural Area

Golden Gardens Park

Grasshopper Meadow Park

Gudukut Wetland Area

Hawkins Heights Natural Area

Hendricks Park

Hilyard Community Center

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<b>Irwin Park</b>	<b>Prefontaine Memorial Site</b>
<b>Jefferson Park</b>	<b>Rasor Park</b>
<b>Kincaid Park</b>	<b>Ribbon Trail Natural Area</b>
<b>Lafferty Park</b>	<b>Richardson Bridge</b>
<b>Lark Park</b>	<b>Roosevelt Waterway Corridor (Maple-Beltline)</b>
<b>Laurel Hill Valley Park</b>	<b>Rosetta Place Park</b>
<b>Laurelwood Natural Area (golf course area off limits)</b>	<b>Ruby Park</b>
<b>Lincoln School Park</b>	<b>Santa Clara Community Park Site</b>
<b>Lone Oak Park</b>	<b>Scobert Gardens Park</b>
<b>Mangan Park</b>	<b>Shadow Wood Park</b>
<b>Marche Chase Park</b>	<b>Shasta Ballfields</b>
<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Park</b>	<b>Sheldon Community Center</b>
<b>Maurie Jacobs Park</b>	<b>Sheldon Pool</b>
<b>Melvin Miller Natural Area</b>	<b>Sheldon Sports Park</b>
<b>Milton Park</b>	<b>Skinner Butte Natural Area</b>
<b>Monroe Park</b>	<b>Skyview Park</b>
<b>Mt. Baldy Natural Area</b>	<b>Sladden Park</b>
<b>Murray Hill Natural Area</b>	<b>Sorrel Way Natural Area</b>
<b>North Beltline Floodway</b>	<b>Spencer Butte Park Natural Area</b>
<b>Oakmont Park</b>	<b>State Street Park</b>
<b>Owen Rose Garden Park</b>	<b>Striker Field Park</b>
<b>Petersen Park</b>	<b>Tandy Turn Park</b>
	<b>Terra Linda Park</b>

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**Trainsong Park**

**Tugman Park**

**University Park**

**Videra Park**

**Walnut Grove Park**

**Washburne Park**

**Washington Park**

**Washington/Jefferson Park**

**Wayne Morse Family Farm Park**

**Wendover Park**

**West University Park**

**Westmoreland Park**

**Wild Iris Ridge Natural Area**

**Willakenzie Park**

**Willamette East Bank Park**

**Willamette West Bank Park**

**Willis Park**