

GEOCACHING POLICY

City of Helena PARKS AND RECREATION

Geocaching is a recreational pursuit that brings technology and nature together. A geocache is normally a hidden container consisting of trade items and a logbook. The location of the geocache is recorded with a Global Positioning System receiver and is posted online. Other individuals then try to find the geocache, sign its logbook, trade an item, and later record their find online.

Helena Parks and Recreation recognizes that geocaching is occurring in the city's parks and open lands. The department welcomes responsible geocaching and has developed the following policy in the interest of all park users and geocachers.

- When hiding, finding, and trading items in a geocache, participants are subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Hiding or finding a geocache should never alter, damage, or otherwise negatively impact the parks, trails, or surrounding areas. Geocaching should never interfere with or detract from other park visitors' experiences. *New caches should not be placed within 1/10 mile (528 ft.) of existing caches.*
- Geocaching is not allowed in locked park facilities and places that are ecologically sensitive. Helena Parks and Recreation reserves the right to disallow geocaching in any area of any park.
- A geocache hider must notify Helena Parks and Recreation with the geocache name, coordinates, URL of geocache listing, and valid contact information when a geocache is hidden. The hider is responsible for maintaining the quality of the geocache, and it must be of value to other geocachers. The hider is also responsible for the upkeep of relevant information about the park and area where the geocache is located. Helena Parks and Recreation will notify the hider if there are any seasonal restrictions or relevant policy changes concerning the park or geocache area.
- Helena Parks and Recreation Department does not accept any responsibility in the maintenance or care of the geocache. The department also reserves the right to remove a geocache located on park property.

If you have any questions about this policy, or if you hide a geocache in a Helena park, please contact the City of Helena Parks and Recreation Department at 406-447-8463.