



Policy- Park Grounds (Self Directed Recreation Use)

Standard Operating Practice

Geocaching or Letterboxing

- **Policy**

The St. Charles County Parks Department encourages geo-gaming as a healthy physical outdoor activity. The Parks Department also must minimize the impact on natural and cultural resources in the parks.

- **Operating Practices**

Containers:

- must be marked with “OFFICIAL LETTERBOX” or “OFFICIAL GEOCACHE”.
- shall be waterproof and see-through for park staff to ensure proper contents.
- should NOT be placed in or around campsites, picnic shelters, in or on buildings or structures (i.e. signs, tables, play structures), in sensitive archaeological, historical, or ecological areas such as historic building, caves, glades, landscaped planting beds, or locations that contain rare plant species. No digging or disruption of soil or rock walls is allowed in the placement of containers.
- may not be placed in locations that could potentially endanger those searching for them, e.g., on cliffs, bluffs, in or near bodies of water, or in areas prone to frequent flooding. Extreme placement – caches with a difficulty rating of 4 or above are not allowed.
- may be stolen, damaged or destroyed by other park users, or as the result of common natural resource management activities, such as prescribed burns.
- may be removed by park staff if it becomes unsightly, the surrounding natural resources are adversely affected, or the container contains items that are not family friendly.
- must be registered with Groundspeak at geocaching.com for geocaches.
- that are missing or removed should have their status updated on the listed website.

All St. Charles County ordinances and Parks Department rules apply.

- **The Director of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to alter this operating practice if the Director determines an exception to the operating practice is warranted.**

Ryan Graham, Director
St. Charles County Parks and Recreation Department

6/12/23
(DATE)