

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of State Parks

PROCEDURE:

Geocaching in State Parks

SUBJECT OF POLICY

First Issue Date: 05-01-2013

Review/Revised:

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy directive is to present the guidelines for Geocaching in Tennessee State Parks

II. SCOPE:

The provisions of this policy are established for all Division of State Parks offices in Nashville and in the field.

III. AUTHORITY:

Tennessee Code Annotated 11-1-101

IV. BACKGROUND:

The increasing use of Tennessee State Parks as a location for the placement of Geocaching caches has required the Division of Tennessee State Parks to develop procedures that will ensure the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural resources of state parks, while providing the opportunity for our visitors to participate in this growing recreational activity.

V. GENERAL:

In general this policy will:

- A. Provide Park Managers with guidance on how to manage the recreational activity of Geocaching, while ensuring that the natural and cultural features of

the park are protected against unintended damage that may result in improper management of this activity.

- B. Provide Park Visitors the opportunity to participate in this growing recreational activity, through clear and established procedures that are implemented in all state parks.
- C. Provide review guidelines to ensure that Tennessee State Parks is implementing measures to ensure the protection of its natural and cultural resources while allowing for this recreational activity.

VI. PROCEDURES:

- A. Park visitors can make request with each state park for the placement of Geocaching caches, by completing the Tennessee State Parks Geocache Placement Site Permit Application. (Attached)
- B. Park Managers will review each Geocache Placement Site Permit annually to ensure that the placement of the Geocache meets the requirements of the guidelines, and ensures the protection of the park's natural and cultural resources.
- C. Park Management will maintain a file of all permitted Geocaches, and conduct regular inspections of each location to ensure that the placement is not causing damage to the park resources around the site.
- D. Dealing with existing Geocaches: Park Managers need to identify Geocaches located with the park, make an effort to contact the owner of the Geocache and inform them of our new procedures and the need for them to get their cache permitted. During this process Park Manger should evaluate the location to determine if the placement of this Geocache is appropriate, and is not adversely impacting the natural or cultural resources of the park. (Existing Geocaches can be found at websites like geocaching.com)
- E. Any Geocaches found on park property that have not been permitted and approved by Park Management will be collected; the owner of the Geocache will be contacted and notified that his or her Geocache has been collected and is available for pick-up at the Park Office. The owner will then be provided with instructions on how to apply for a geocaching permit.
- F. Park Managers may pursue measures to cite the owners of Geocaches that are found on park property unpermitted, and the placement has caused damage to the resources of the park, or it is determined that the owner of the Geocache is a habitual violator of the permit requirements. These owners may be cited for violations of Division Rules and Regulations.