

The City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department prides itself in providing first class recreational opportunities to the citizens of Merriam. While staff strives to provide a wide range of experiences within the park system, it is important to ensure all users have a positive experience.

GEOCACHE GENERAL INFORMATION

- Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for Global Positioning System (GPS) users. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is to leave something to replace the item that they took.
- Geocaching in the park system has mutual positive benefits to the user and the department:
 - Geocaching attracts visitors who otherwise may never visit Merriam parks;
 - Participants in geocaching receive the benefits of exercise while searching for the caches;
 - The placement of geocaches in the park system provides new, wholesome recreational opportunities for individuals and families.

GEOCACHE POLICY

Merriam Parks and Recreation allows geocaching under the following guidelines:

1. Caches shall not be placed within 100 feet of playgrounds and shelters.
2. When placing caches in the park system, no digging or any other kind of disruption of the ground will be permitted.
3. Caches shall be clearly labeled as a geocache and include an explanation of what it is, in the event it is found by non-geocachers. At the very least, contact information should be included on or inside the cache with the description of the cache as well as the name of the cache as listed on www.geocaching.com.
4. Please include a detailed description of the cache location in the encoded "hints" section that will guide a finder to the location without difficulty.
5. In order to see the geographical impact of geocaching, the Merriam Parks and Recreation Department encourages the finder to submit his name, city and state on the official geocache web site once a cache is located in a city park.
6. Geocachers are allowed to place a cache on City of Merriam park property so long as they comply with the restrictions stated above. Caches found not to be in compliance with this policy may be removed at the discretion of department staff.
7. Caches should not include: food, sharp items, illegal items such as drugs, or materials restricted from minors, such as tobacco or alcohol.