

Westmoreland County
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

GEOCACHE POLICY

Geocaching is an activity that must be pre-approved and the following guidelines apply to all Geocaches on Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation park properties:

- This policy applies to Cedar Creek Park, Mammoth Park, Northmoreland Park, Twin Lakes Park, Chestnut Ridge Dam Park, Bridgeport Dam Park, Loyalhanna Gorge, Historic Hanna's Town, and Sewickley Creek Wetlands. This policy does not apply to the Anne Rudd Saxman Nature Park as Geocaching is NOT PERMITTED in the Anne Rudd Saxman Nature Park.
- A Geocache Permit Application must be completed and sent to Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation/ Geocaching, 194 Donohoe Rd. Greensburg, PA 15601 for consideration.
- To be considered for a Geocache Permit, one must send in a completed Geocache Permit Application, which can be found at www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks/, and a photograph of the Cache. A copy of the Geocache Permit Application may also be obtained by calling (724)-830-3950.
- Placement of a Geocache within Westmoreland County Parks requires authorization by the Parks Maintenance Coordinator. This authorization will be considered through a review process that insures its location is compatible with other park activities and natural conditions. Upon approval a permit will be issued.
- Cache(s) must be in a clear container, no bigger than 4" x 8" x 12". PVC pipes and Ammo boxes or cans are NOT PERMITTED. An official Geocache sticker must be clearly visible on the outside of the cache(s). The responsible party for the cache(s) must have their name and contact information included in the cache(s).
- All caches that are previously located within or placed within Westmoreland County Parks, as of August 2014, will be contacted and given a 30 day period to remove the cache(s) or apply for a Geocache Permit. On the 31st day, the county will dispose of the cache(s), and the responsible party may be cited for littering.

- A cache may remain at the approved site for no more than three years at which time it must be removed, the site restored to its original condition, and the Parks Maintenance Coordinator informed in writing of the removal. This will control cache abandonment and assist in preventing renegade trail development to the site. Certain conditions may permit the relocation and re-approval of an existing cache that has been on County Park property for three years. If the cache remains a viable attribute to the visitor experience and does not have a current or foreseeable environmental impact on the site, it can be considered for re-approval. A new application must be filed at the end of the three year period to request the renewal of an existing cache.
- Do not place illegal items or anything that might smell like food to animals, into a cache.
- Once a permit is received, the cache may be placed in the approved location.
- Once the cache is placed, it is the responsibility of the permit holder to maintain the cache and the area around it. Frequent visits are to ensure that the cache is not impacting the area, and ensure that the cache is in good repair. If a cache's area is impacted, the permit holder must confer with the Park Maintenance Coordinator on how to mitigate the impacts, and seek his/her advice as to whether the cache be relocated.
- The responsible party must obtain the best possible coordinates for the cache to reduce unwarranted wear on the area. The responsible party must also recheck and correct the coordinates if finders report significant errors.
- There should be no earth disturbance or vegetative impact to any approved site, nor should the cache be readily discernable by the general public.
- The cache may not be placed on or within stream banks, riparian zones, wetlands, historic or archaeological sites, exemplary natural communities, ecologically sensitive areas, unique geological areas, dam structures, or unsafe areas.
- The placement of a "Premium Member only Geocache" will not be permitted on County Park property. These caches require a monthly fee to access their coordinates. All caches on public lands shall be available to the public without a fee.
- Unauthorized caches on County Park property, will be removed and treated as abandoned property, and the responsible party may be cited for littering.
- The responsible party shall delete the site location(s) from all publications and/or website(s) within seven days of removal.
- All cache seekers and cache owners must abide by all County Park Rules and Ordinances.