GEOCACHING POLICY

Policy Statement:

Liberty Parks & Rec (LPR) supports and encourages the sport of geocaching as an activity that promotes exploration of our varied landscapes. LPR's public parks, natural areas, recreational facilities, gardens, and trails are intended to provide visitors with safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities. LPR actively manages public properties and facilities for a range of purposes, including both recreational and natural habitat values. This policy establishes procedures to facilitate and control geocaching on LPR property to provide a balance of wide stewardship and recreational opportunity.

Procedures and Guidelines:

- All caches must be registered online at www.geocaching.com. No permit is required.
- Caches must apply to all guidelines established by geogaching.com.
- Leaving a geocache in a park is permitted under Park rules, as long as its placement follows this policy.
- Geocaching is only allowed during normal park hours
- Physical caches must follow this policy. Virtual waypoints can be placed anywhere as long as both the person hiding and the person searching follow the posted rules at the park.

Rules regarding caches on LPR sites

- All parks are available for geocaches.
- Geocaches should not be within 75 feet of residences
- Geocaches should be placed in safe locations that do not risk the person searching, or persons visiting the park. Geocachers must review and consider the safety risks for their caches prior to visitors searching for them.
- Geocachers must "leave no trace" in the selection of cache locations. This means not damaging the ground, site furniture (i.e. benches, picnic tables, trash cans etc.), built structures (i.e. irrigation, utility boxes, control boxes etc.), landscaping or vegetation while placing or locating a cache, and they must consider potential damage that may result from other geocachers searching for or accessing the cache.
- Geocaches should not be attached to any human-made park amenity in a way that alters or impedes its proper use. However, attaching them in a way that does

not alter or impede its use is allowed. For example, attaching a small magnetic cache to the back of a park sign.

- People hiding caches must consider the impact that finding a cache would have on the environment. Cachers should hide caches with the expectation that they can be found without disturbing the location or environment behind them.
- Caches must not be placed in locations that will encourage trail damage, or cause erosion, or be located more than 25 feet from the edge of a trail.
- The following actions are prohibited, in relation to the placement of caches:
    - Removing bark from trees in order to camouflage
    - Relocating or cutting any living plants or vegetation
    - Excavation of soils or breaking of ground to place a cache
    - Moving or removing of archaeological or natural objects, including living plants, animals, minerals, fungi, or features etc.

Number of caches per site

- Each individual cacher may only place three caches at each park to allow fair opportunity at each location.
- The allowable number of caches varies per site based on the acreage of the property, access, trails, site amenities, other recreational activities or natural resource function.

Limitations on places of caches

Physical Geocaches are prohibited from being placed in or on the following ***types of park features.*** (These features can be used as reference points in finding a cache, but the actual features should not be the location for any caches)

- Art
- Statues
- Playgrounds
- Memorials
- Drinking Fountains
- Bathroom structures
- Fenced Dog off-leash areas
- Any park buildings, sheds or other structures
- Splash pads
- Community gardens
- Disc Golf baskets and tees
- Utility boxes- These are either above ground or below ground vaults, in a range of sizes, which hold controls to various systems(electrical, irrigation etc.). Placing

caches in them can be both dangerous to cachers and/or damaging the equipment.

- Landscape beds- These are planted areas in developed park sites which contain a range of plants or other features. Staff and park volunteers work hard to maintain our landscaping beds and keep them weed free.

In order to minimize conflicts between different user groups, ***geocaches may not be placed in certain active recreation areas,*** as detailed below. Caches *may be placed around the perimeter* of these areas, or in places that do not interfere with areas that have active use. (For example, it could be placed around the fence/bench of a tennis court but not around the net which could provide interference with the active use of tennis courts). The following are considered active recreation features which would fall under this “only around the perimeter” rule:

- All athletic fields
- Running tracks
- Skate parks
- Tennis/Pickleball Courts
- Disc Golf Course