



WAKE COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Geocache Guidelines for the Wake County Section of the American Tobacco Trail

- Approval is required prior to placing a cache along the Wake County section of the American Tobacco Trail or it's parking access areas. To obtain approval, complete and submit the Geocache Placement Request Form below to the park office at Harris Lake County Park (address below). Staff will contact you within one week to let you know your application has been received. Please allow at least one month for park staff to review your cache placement request. After your request has been reviewed, park staff will contact you to let you know if approval is granted.
- There is a maximum number of caches allowed on the American Tobacco Trail in Wake County. In the event that this maximum number has been reached, park staff will place your name on a waiting list and contact you when a cache space becomes available.
- **There is a 5 geocache limit per person per park (this includes all types of caches).**
- **A multi-cache may not have more than three stages. Only "one" PMO (premium member only) cache is permitted per park.**
- Cache containers must be non-breakable, water-resistant, and have some form of secure latch/lid to prevent the contents from being exposed or possibly trap animals in the container (Example: military ammunition can, plastic container). The container must be approved by park staff. If the container is changed after geocache is placed, park staff must be notified.
- Geocaches must not be placed such that you or anyone looking for it would have to dig or disturb the soil, harm trees or other plants, or damage natural resources. The geocache location must not put a geocacher in unsafe conditions. Think safety when hiding and/or seeking a cache. Use common sense!
- Geocaches may NOT be placed *on* manmade structures such as bridges, tunnels, restroom buildings, benches, kiosks, tables, or signs,
- DO NOT place your cache in plain view. Attempt to conceal the cache to minimize the chances that a non-participant will spot it, which could cause worry, theft or vandalism. Try to hide the cache off the beaten path by at least a few yards to provide the finder some measure of privacy to sign the log without arousing undue alarm. Caches must be placed within **50 feet** of the Wake County section of American Tobacco Trail of a developed trail, road, or access point.
- Containers must be labeled on the outside and clearly marked as "Geocache" so as not to be mistaken as containing hazardous substances. This also prevents other park users from removing the cache, believing it to be litter. The only exception to this will be for "microcaches," caches placed in containers the size of film canisters or smaller.
- If the cache is large enough, place a note inside explaining the sport to any non-participant who may discover the cache. Examples for these types of notes can be found on www.geocache.com.
- As a cache seeker, or cache owner, you must abide by park hours and all other park and trail rules and regulations. Be prepared to show your GPS unit, so that you can explain your activity off trail.
- Park staff reserve the right to remove a cache for any reason including, but not limited to, if the cache is not being maintained or kept in good condition, the area has become unsafe for a cache location, Geocache guidelines are not being followed, or if significant degradation of natural resources has occurred.

Geocache Placement Request Form

Please complete this form and fax, mail or e-mail it to: harris.lake@wakegov.com

2112 County Park Drive, New Hill, NC 27562

Tel. 919-387-2117 Fax 919-387-4349

Name of Park: _____

Name of Person Hiding Cache: _____

Geocache User Name: _____

Cache Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

Email Address: _____

Is your cache a multi-cache or traditional cache? (If multi-cache, you will need to provide a detailed description of each location, coordinates for each location, and a picture of each location. You are limited to a maximum of 3 stages to a multi-cache.)

Container type (i.e. ammo box, plastic container with lid, bison tube):

Description of original contents of container: _____

Specific area of cache location in park: _____

Location of cache container (Please give as much detail as possible)

Coordinates of cache location: _____

(Use WGS84)

Please provide a picture of where you would like to place your cache.

Office use only: Date Received: _____ *Reviewed By:* _____ *Date Reviewed:* _____

Approved/Rejected: _____

Reason rejected:

Note: All personal information is required for hiding a cache. This information is strictly for American Tobacco Trail use, to be kept on file in the event that you need to be contacted. Cache will not be approved if full information is not provided. American Tobacco Trail staff reserve the right to deny requested cache placement and recommend alternate placement.

WAIVER: I, for myself or as a parent or guardian, hereby assume all the risks and hazards incidental to the conduct of geocaching activities. I release, absolve, and indemnify Wake County, employees of the County, volunteers, contractors, and/or sponsors from all risks and hazards associated with the activities and in the event of an injury, do expressly waive all claims against them. I understand that no insurance coverage is provided by Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space. I further release all copyrights for photos taken during said activities that may or may not have myself or my child(ren) published in future educational or promotional materials. All attempts will be made to contact individuals prior to releasing any names either in print or otherwise. Furthermore I have read and agree to follow all the park rules and geocache guidelines.

Signature: _____ Date: _____