

GUIDELINES FOR GEOCACHE PLACEMENT & OPERATIONS

Schuylkill River Greenway Association, Berks and Schuylkill Counties, PA

The Schuylkill River Greenway Association (SRGA), managers of the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area, own and maintain the various properties including the Thun and Bartram Segments of the Schuylkill River Trail in Berks and Schuylkill Counties. SRGA encourages geocaching as a passive recreation pursuit and has established guidelines to allow geocaching. As property owner SRGA reserves the right, for any reason, with or without cause, to approve, disapprove, request relocation, remove geocaches, and/or to require remediation of damage as a result of a geocache's placement. Please contact SRGA at any time with questions.

Step 1: Self Evaluation: The potential Cache Owner (CO) should complete the checklist below to determine, in advance of a geocache submission to SRGA, the likelihood of approval of a cache placement on SRGA property.

- Geocache placement and management: Must be in accordance with Groundspeak's *Geocache Listing Requirements* at <http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx>.
- Parking: SRGA encourages voluntary listing of safe and legal parking waypoint coordinates associated with specific caches. The distance between parking areas and caches must be reasonable to mitigate the temptation to park illegally, unsafely, or to trespass on private property. Parking areas must provide adequate sight distances for safe vehicle operation in and out of the parking area.
- Access: Pathways to cache sites must be on dry ground away from environmentally sensitive wetlands and waterways, archaeological sites, and natural and man-made hazards. Examples of hazards are unstable ruins, culverts and drains, quarries, roads, railroads, and other similar features.

Step 2: Approval Submission: If the planned geocache meets the Step 1 criteria, please submit the following via e-mail for SRGA review and approval. Individual submissions can be combined in one e-mail.

- Contact: CO name, legal name, address, telephone numbers, and e-mail address.
- Proposed geocache name, latitude and longitude coordinates, container type and description, distance from trail, and if known, the parking location and coordinates. A photo of the site and cache is appreciated but not required.

Step 3: SRGA Action: The submission will be reviewed against SRGA property data and the criteria noted in Step 1, and may include relocation suggestions. Approvals will be on condition that the CO agrees to abide by SRGA's geocaching policies, trail rules and regulations, and [www.geocaching.com's](http://www.geocaching.com) *Geocache Listing Requirements*.

Caches receiving few visitations should be promptly evaluated by the CO for relocation or archiving. SRGA may require relocation, disabling, or archiving of geocaches due to nearby construction or maintenance activities. The CO must maintain their cache, including removal of any offensive items.

Step 4: Cache Owner Acknowledgement: After SRGA approval, the CO shall submit the proposed cache to www.geocaching.com and inform SRGA via email of activation or disapproval by the Groundspeak Reviewer. Include the cache name, and Geocaching.com GC Number, with the following phrase in the acknowledgement email.

"As the Cache Owner, I agree to SRGA terms and conditions of my approval as stated in my approval e-mail from SRGA."

SRGA welcomes geocaching along its trails and appreciates geocachers' understanding and cooperation in helping maintain a safe and environmentally healthy trail.