

Geocaching 101

Franklin County Conservation

What is Geocaching?



Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, played all over the world. Participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called geocaches or caches, at specific locations marked by coordinates. Kind of like hide and seek or a scavenger hunt.

The Point of Geocaching

- Gets people participating in outdoor activities.
- Makes walks and hikes more fun for both children and adults.
- Promotes exploration of new areas.
- Can lead to a fun adventure.
- Is fun and rewarding.



How Geocaching Works as a Seeker

1. Get Coordinates of a Cache

2. Using GPS enter the coordinates

3. Make your way to the coordinates

4. Find the cache

5. Write your name in the log book

6. Trade Items, take item, give item. No item. Depends on the hider's instructions.

7. Put cache back where and how you found it

8. Do it again!

How to get started.

- Need to have a desire to explore.
- Find a place such as [geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com) that has geocache locations posted.
- Make sure you have all necessary equipment
- Go out there and have fun!



Equipment Needed

GPS
Enabled
Device

Tradable
Item or
Trinket

Pen or
Pencil

Any
Wanted
Items

It's really that easy...

GPS Devices



Handheld Units
\$\$\$



GPS Tracks

Smart Phone Apps

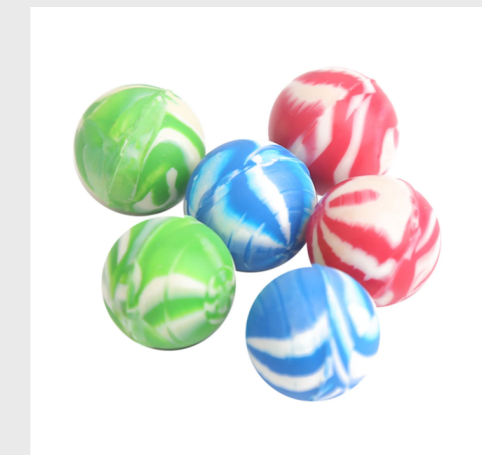
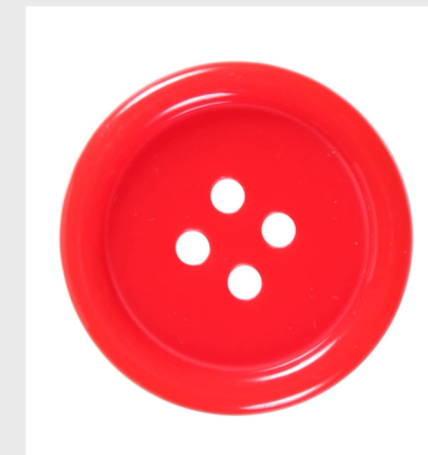
Items – What to trade and what not to trade

Items that should NOT be placed in a cache:

- Illegal material
- Dangerous material, such as explosives, ammunition, lighters, knives, drugs, or alcohol
- Edible or scented items
- Items that can melt, such as crayons or lip balm
- Items that can expand in the cold, such as liquids

Items Should Be:

- Hold little to no monetary value
- Appropriate for all ages
- Random
- Not Controversial





If you know the size of geocache keep that in mind when choosing an item to give. Some smaller caches, especially micros will not contain items.

Possible Wanted Items

- Bug Spray
- Boots
- Sunscreen
- Food and Water
- Compass
- Hat
- Long Pants
- Binoculars
- First aid kit
- Backpack
- Map of Area
- High Visibility Clothes

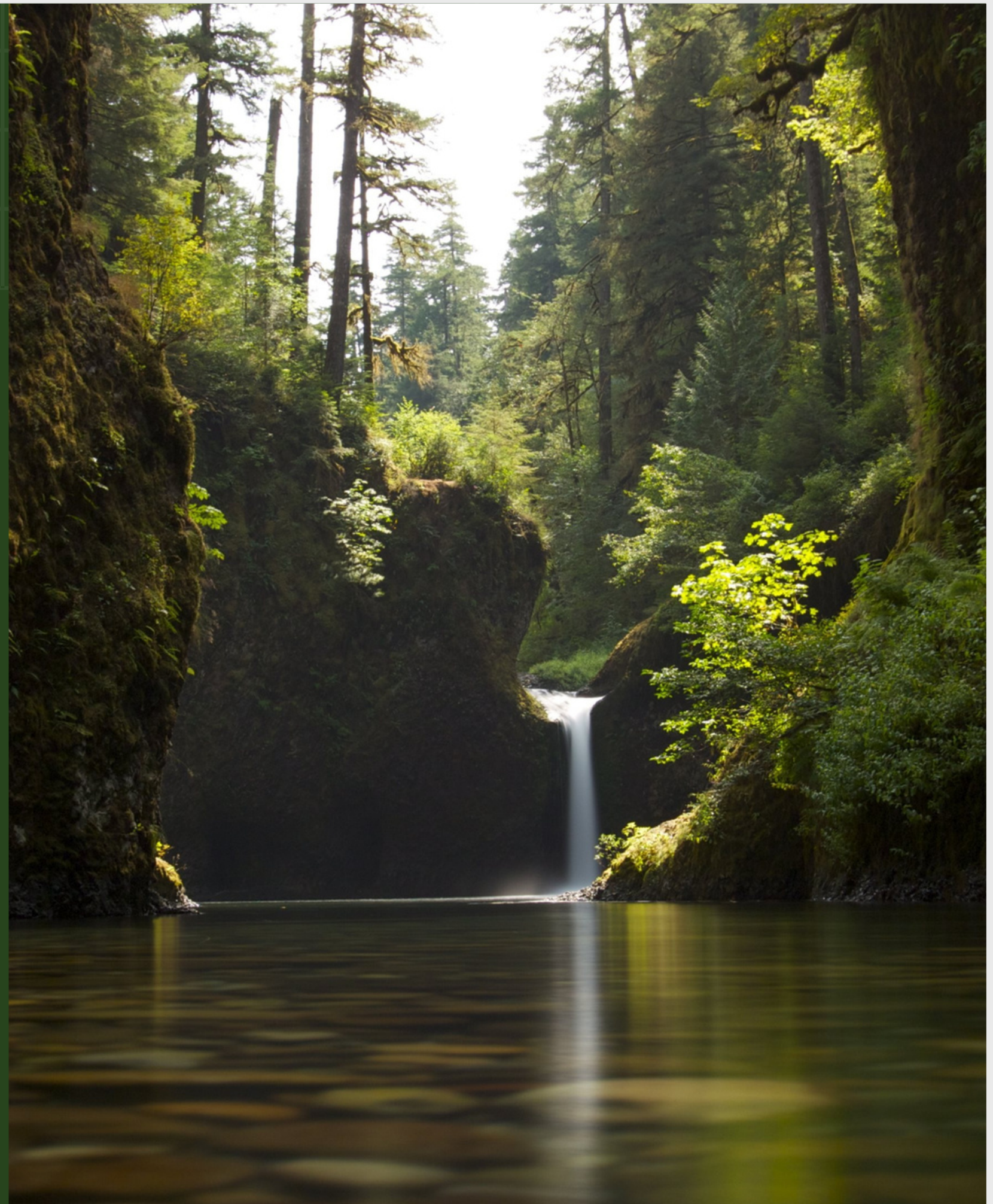


GEOCACHING

Geocaching with [Geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com)

Guidelines

- Be aware of the general area the location is and obey all laws
 - ex. Some parks close after sunset or at a certain time
 - Avoid going on private land unless you have permission
- Leave no trace
 - Don't leave trash, avoid disturbing natural areas
- Be respectful of the cache and other players.



Safety

- Don't trespass
- Research the general area ahead of time.
 - Try to plan for parking and hiking route.
 - Know when hunting is occurring while in areas hunting is allowed
- Don't put yourself in dangerous situations while looking for a cache
 - Going far off a trail at an area you're not familiar with.
 - Crossing a deep stream

REMEMBER

SAFETY FIRST
SAFETY ALWAYS

SmartSign.com • 800-952-1457 • S-5112

Tips and Tricks for Finding Caches

- Think creatively; some caches are disguised or require you to solve a puzzle.
- Look for things out of place.
- Read the hints if they're available.
- Use your hands, not just your eyes.
- Be patient!
- Never doubt a spot, it could be under the 10th rock you turn over!



Cache Examples



Creating and Hiding Your Own Caches



- First, find some geocaches to get ideas on what is most fun for players.
- Pick a container
 - Generally want it waterproof. Come in various sizes, shapes, and colors.
- Choose locations wisely
- Check all laws
 - Certain areas prohibit or require permits for placing caches
- Ask permission before placing it at private land and business.
- Don't place your cache too close to other caches.
- Don't bury a cache.
- Hide cache and publish it somewhere people can see it.

Visit geocaching.com for more in depth guidelines and info.



Dukefarms.com

October Geocaching Competition

A month long geocaching event. 24 Parks 24 Caches. Prizes awarded to top 3 participants who find the most caches.

All needed info posted on Franklin County Conservation's Facebook and on the events tab for Franklin County on mycountyparks.com