

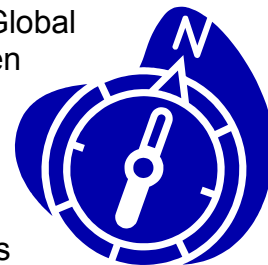
# Hancock Park District

## Geocaching & Letter Boxing Activities

Park visitors are welcome to participate in “Geocaching” and “Letter Boxing” in the Hancock Parks System. Both activities are a “sport” with traditions, courtesies and rule appropriate for parks. To protect park resources and for visitor safety, general rules are in effect, and a coordinator designated to monitor such activities. This information is available on line at [www.HancockParks.com](http://www.HancockParks.com), click on to “Parks” scroll down to Parks Network, “Geocaching/Letter Boxing”.

About Geocaching (see [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) or [www.nwogeo.org](http://www.nwogeo.org))

- Geocaching is a treasure hunting sport where people use GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) units to find containers that have been hidden around the world.
- The first cache was placed in Oregon in May 2001.
- As of February 2003 there were over 41,000 caches in 161 countries with several hundred new caches hidden each week.
- The caches are primarily located on public land or in public places although some of them are only virtual and no actual container exists.
- All geocaches are listed on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).
- You can locate caches near you by going onto the website and putting your zip code in on the homepage. Click on “details” for location and more information.
- When you find a cache, there is a logbook to log that you were there. There are several “goodies” inside the cache. There is a rule that if you take something out of the cache, you must leave something in return, generally small toys, coins or coupons.
- One of the mottos of Geocaching is “Cache In, Trash Out”. Geocachers generally pick up litter as they hike.
- Caches should never be buried. They are typically hidden under leaves or logs.
- There should never be food left in a cache.



About Letter Boxing (see [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org))

- Letter Boxing has a history dating back over 150 years to England and Europe related to games, communications and passing on secrets.
- In the United States, the first recorded Letter Box was placed in Connecticut in 1998.
  - By the year 2000, 47 of 50 states had Letter Box locations arranged by the Letter Boxing North America Club.
  - Letter Boxing is very similar to Geocaching, but uses clues and written directions to find boxes rather than GPS units.
- In the Hancock Park District, Geocaching and Letter Boxing are one and the same – each location can be used by either activity to not duplicate sites or confuse finders.



## General Rules for Geocaching & Letter Boxing

1. Park only in approved parking lots.
2. Use good eco-manners when Geocaching/Letter Boxing. Use trails where available, step around delicate vegetation and flowers, DO NOT LITTER.
3. Follow all HPD rules and regulations. Complete list available on-line or a summary is posted on park bulletin boards.
4. You may take something from the cache. If you do, please leave an item.
5. Do not take the log book or pencils.
6. Sign the log book.
7. Do not place FOOD, CANDY, WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, KNIVES, DRUGS, ALCOHOL, or CONTRABAND in the cache.
8. If there is a camera in the cache, please take a photo of yourself or group and leave the camera.
9. You may go on-line and register yourself at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). or [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org). If you are registered you can log the cache there.
10. Replace the cache as you found it.
11. Contact the HPD if the cache is vandalized or for any other reason.
12. Note: We won't tell you where the cache is, so don't ask. ☺
13. Enjoy the parks!

### Local Coordinator

Local coordinator for Geocaching and Letter Boxing has been designated to monitor locations and websites, and answer questions to assist the HPD as a volunteer. Currently this person is James Engard. His e-mail address is [yogi57geo@yahoo.com](mailto:yogi57geo@yahoo.com).

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