

**City of Albuquerque**  
**OPEN SPACE DIVISION**  
***Geocaching Guidelines***

The City of Albuquerque Open Space Division encourages low-impact, responsible recreation throughout its extensive trail system. Geocaching is a fun and challenging component of outdoor recreation. When placing or searching for geocaches in Open Space please observe all rules and regulations and geocaching guidelines to ensure the preservation of Open Space lands.

If you are new to geocaching, please visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for full guidelines on this sport.

***The Open Space Division retains the right to remove any and all geocaches from Open Space property without notice.***

### **1. Containers**

The following guidelines for containers are intended to make the geocache blend in with the surrounding environment. If a geocache is conspicuous, it may be removed by the Open Space Division.

- Color should be natural and blend in with the environment it is placed in.
- Unacceptable containers include:
  - Pipe or anything resembling an explosive device
  - Rust prone Material
  - Glass
  - Bright colors

### **2. Labeling**

A geocache container must be labeled with the following information:

- Name of cache
- Contact information
- Location of the log for the coordinates, such as a web address.

### **3. Contents**

Items in the geocache should include a letter explaining the cache and logbook for visitors. You can find a copy of a letter to use in your cache at <http://www.geocaching.com/articles/stashnote.doc>

Contents should **not** include food or anything that smells like food (fruit scented lip balm, for instance); nor should the cache contain illicit items (e.g. Drugs, alcohol) or weapons.

### **4. Locations**

Caches should be placed so as not to impact the environment or detract from the surrounding landscape.

Caches may not be placed more than two feet (2') off an *official* trail (a trail designated by a trail sign and/or identified on an Open Space Division map).

Open Space properties where geocaching is **not allowed** include Petroglyph National Monument and wildlife preserves (e.g. Elena Gallegos Wildlife Pond, Candelaria Wetland, Alameda Wetland, and San Antonio Oxbow).

Caches may not be placed in or around historical or archaeological sites.

Natural resources may not be disturbed to hide a cache (ie. Moving rocks, piling woody material, breaking branches)

Landscapes may NOT be altered to identify a geocache (ie. Painted X on a rock, flagging, etc.)

**Contact Information**

Please don't hesitate to contact the Open Space Division if you have any questions regarding geocaching guidelines:

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Open Space Division  
PO Box 1293  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
(505) 452-5200

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