

Callaway Gardens Geocaching Policy



Callaway Gardens

Purpose:

To establish an agreement and understanding between geocachers and Callaway Gardens in placing Geocaches in garden areas owned and operated by the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation.

Background:

Geocaching, also known as GPS Stash Hunting or GeoStash, involves “hiding” items, usually containers holding various “treasures” and then providing specific Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) coordinates for each “cache” on a website. Visitors to these websites can choose which “cache” they would like to locate using their own personal GPS. Cache searchers typically bring along their own “treasures” and make an exchange once the cache has been located.

The mission of Callaway Gardens: “To integrate man and nature.” Geocaching is recognized as a tool to attract guests further into the gardens and discover the flora and fauna at Callaway Gardens.

Cache Placement:

1. To place a cache in the Gardens, the cacher must receive prior approval through the education department and director of horticulture. Information from the proposed geocache owner will include the cache coordinates, their name, address and phone number.
2. The cacher places the cache in the garden, marks the cache with one of the following methods: a Callaway Gardens identification sticker, an “Official Geocache” sticker or stencil the container with “Official Geocache”. Post the cache on Geocaching.com, and maintain the cache appropriately.
3. If the cache is located in an area that the director of horticulture feels will impact public safety or may have an undesirable impact to natural and cultural resources, then the cacher will be notified and asked to relocate the cache.
4. Caches placed by Callaway Gardens will be maintained by Callaway Gardens’ education department.
5. The location of a cache will be reported to the Education Department and maintained by the designated geocaching volunteer.

Cache Containers and Contents:

1. Cache containers must be non-breakable and have some form of latch or other closing mechanism to prohibit content exposure to wildlife.
2. Cache may not contain inappropriate or dangerous items, such items include but are not limited to: food, medications, alcohol, personal/hygiene products, pornography, weapons of any type, sharp or bladed objects, etc.
3. Logbooks are required in all Geocaches located in Callaway Gardens.
4. All caches are subject to random inspections by Garden Services staff and or volunteers. Garden Services staff has the authority to immediately remove any item held in a cache deemed unacceptable. Garden Services staff also has the right to remove a cache for any reason.
5. Caches cannot be locked.
6. Caches must have information posted on the outside of the container identifying it as a cache (See Cache Placement, letter 'a' above). It must also have the cache owner information posted on or in the cache. At a minimum include the cache placer's Geocache nickname and email address.

Restrictions:

1. Participants must pay a gate admission, or may enter the garden with an annual pass, or be an overnight at Callaway Gardens.
2. Geocaching is restricted by regular visiting hours. Gates generally open by 8 am and close by sunset. Garden facility or attraction hours are 9am – 6pm from mid-March – end of August; 9am-5pm August – mid – March.
3. Caches should stay within an established walking trail.
4. All Caches must be located within the boundaries of the Ida Cason Callaway Foundation land – no caches on Resort property such as real estate, golf courses, or hotel/rental property.

Compliance:

1. Failure to comply with park guidelines could result in the banning of the Geocaching group or individual in Callaway Gardens.
2. If Geocaching activities as a whole are found to have a negative impact on the garden resources, or if safety becomes an issue in Geocaching searches, then the director of horticulture may ban Geocaching from the certain areas or from the entire gardens.

Cache Page Setup:

When writing up the cache page please put Callaway Gardens then the cache name. Put the cache description in the “short description” and cut & paste the following in the “long description”:

<p>Take a bike ride on the wonderful bike path around the park or a walk along the splendid walking trail and you will find some very interesting discoveries. Please, park in the proper parking areas and enjoy the caching throughout the park. Happy Caching.</p>

<p>The cache is located in Callaway Gardens which is adjacent to Pine Mountain, Georgia. The Gardens blends nature, service and dramatic rejuvenation in the mesmerizing beauty of its 13,000 acres of natural surroundings.</p>

<p>NOTE: Gardens admission is \$13.91/adult and \$6.98/child. Gardens gates are open from 9am – 5 pm from September – March and 9 am – 6 pm from April – August. Do not attempt to locate caches after dark during Fantasy in Lights® (Nov 16 – Dec 31). For

Callaway Gardens website: (Visit Link)</p>

<p align="center"></p>

<p>Callaway Gardens continues its commitment to environmental education and land management for the benefit of future generations. Callaway Gardens is a public, educational, horticultural and charitable organization owned and operated by the non-profit Ida Cason Callaway Foundation™ (ICCF). This cache has been placed in cooperation with the Education Department at Callaway Gardens. If you would like to place a cache in the Gardens please contact Katie Cook at: kcook@callawaygardens.com</p>

Be sure to check the HTML box.

Thank you