

State Parks Permit Update

GeocacheAlaska! Inc.
2026 Alaska State Parks Use Permit



Geocaching in Alaska State Parks



- New 2026 Permit

- This permit ONLY applies to official Alaska State Parks (ASP) land
- All prior ASP Permits are null and void with NO grandfather clause
- All existing geocaches within Alaska State Parks must comply with the stipulations of the new permit as soon as possible
- GeocacheAlaska! Inc. must report to Alaska State Parks by the end of 2026 that all requirements of the new permit have been achieved
 - GCAK! is requesting full compliance by August 31, 2026
 - We must compile and submit a compliance report to the State



Why New Rules for Geocaching in ASP?

- Alaska State Parks (ASP) has classified geocaching as a non-compliant use
- ASP Rangers have identified violations of prior permit stipulations
- ASP has concerns about protection of resources, such as historic sites and newly defined wilderness areas of Chugach State Park
- ASP has also identified concerns about containers being placed on park structures and the creation of new social trails leading to caches
- GeocacheAlaska! Inc. has worked closely with ASP to address concerns and adjust permit wording to allow geocaching to continue within ASP
- Failure to accept this permit would have put an end to geocaching in ASP



The Biggest Changes

- Alaska State Parks has decided that no more than 500 geocaches may exist across all ASP lands
- When this permit went into effect, there were over 1,100 caches in our State Parks; geocachers will be required to archive and remove over 600 existing geocaches from the parks to comply with new permit limits
- No new caches will be published until the active total is less than 500
- Cache Owners must physically visit their caches annually and log the visit
- **Chugach State Park** has a new cache size limitation of Micro
 - All caches with a container larger than a Micro must be removed ASAP



500 !

- This is a State Parks-imposed limit
- No new caches allowed until the existing number falls below 500
- New caches will be published by the Reviewer in accordance with current Geocaching HQ guidelines and Permit stipulations
- GCAK! is **not** involved in the selecting or removing of any geocaches



Getting down to the 500 Limit

- All geocachers with a State Parks cache should voluntarily archive their cache as soon as possible if they are not willing and able to fully comply with the new permit requirements
- Geocaching HQ, via the Local Reviewer, will facilitate cache reduction by posting Reviewer Notes to caches that need to be removed for non-compliance with the new permit and then archiving the caches after an appropriate time to allow the CO to correct the problem or remove the cache using the existing cache placement guidelines from GCHQ



Cache Size Changes

- All geocaches within the **Chugach State Park** are limited to Micro size, with maximum physical size of a standard preform container or less
- The maximum container size for all other State Parks placements is a Regular 50-caliber ammo can
- Any cache larger than these size limits must be removed immediately



No Geocache Areas

- No geocaches within designated Campgrounds
- No geocaches in designated State Historic Parks
- No geocaches on, in, or attached to any man-made State Parks facility or structure, including but not limited to bear boxes, trash cans, latrines, cabins, picnic tables, or signs
- No geocaches in designated Wilderness Areas of any State Park



No Caching in Historic Parks & Sites

• Historic State Parks

- Independence Mine State Historical Park (Palmer)
- Totem Bight State Historical Park (Ketchikan)
- Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park (Kodiak)
- Big Delta State Historical Park (Delta Junction)
- Old Sitka State Historical Park (Sitka)



• State Historic Sites

- Petroglyph Beach State Historic Site (Wrangell)
- Ernest Gruening State Historical Park (Juneau)
- Potter Section House State Historical Site (Anchorage)
- Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park (Sitka)
- Wickersham State Historic Site (Juneau)
- Baranof Castle State Historic Site (Sitka)

State Parks Designated Campgrounds

- No geocaches may be placed in any designated campground or near any designated campsites in other State Parks areas
- Any existing geocaches in campgrounds must be removed ASAP



State Parks Campgrounds

- Chugach SP - Bird Creek Campground
- Chugach SP - Bird Creek Overflow Campground
- Chugach SP - Eagle River Campground
- Chugach SP - Eklutna Lake Campground
- Big Delta SHP Campground
- Clearwater SRS Campground
- Delta SRS Campground
- Donnelly Creek SRS Campground
- Fielding Lake SRS Campground
- Quartz Lake SRA - Quartz Lake Campground
- Quartz Lake SRA - Lost Lake Campground
- Birch Lake SRS Campground
- Chena River SRA - Red Squirrel Campground
- Chena River SRA - Rosehip Campground
- Chena River SRA - Granite Tors Trail Campground
- Harding Lake SRA Campground
- Lower Chatanika River SRA - Whitefish Campground
- Lower Chatanika River SRA - Olmes Pond Campground
- Upper Chatanika SRS Campground
- Salcha River SRS Campground
- Eagle Trail SRS Campground
- Moon Lake SRS Campground
- Tok River SRS Campground
- Chilkat SP Campground
- Chilkoot Lake SRS Campground
- Mosquito Lake SRS Campground
- Eagle Beach SRA Campground
- Settlers Cove SRS Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Coho Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Halibut Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Silverking Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Slidehole Campground
- Anchor River SRA - Steelhead Campground
- Stariski SRS Campground
- Kachemak Bay SP/MP - Any developed campsites
- Deep Creek SRA - Deep Creek Beach Campground
- Deep Creek SRA - North Scenic Overlook Campground
- Deep Creek SRA - South Scenic Overlook Campground
- Ninilchik SRA - Ninilchik River Campground
- Ninilchik SRA - Ninilchik View Campground
- Ninilchik SRA - Scenic Overlook Campground



State Parks Campgrounds

- Captain Cook SRA - Discovery Campground
- Caines Head SRA - Campsite Areas
- Thumb Cove SMP - Campsite Areas
- Clam Gulch SRA Campground
- Crooked Creek SRS Campground
- Johnson Lake SRA Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Bing's Landing Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Funny River Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Izaak Walton Campground
- Kenai River SMA - Morgan's Landing Campground
- Decision Point SMP - Campsite Areas
- South Esther Island SMP - Campsite Areas
- Surprise Cove SMP - Campsite Areas
- Blueberry Lake SRS Campground
- Jack Bay SMP - Any developed campsites
- Sawmill Bay SMP - Any developed campsites
- Shoup Bay SMP - Any developed campsites
- Buskin River SRS Campground
- Fort Abercrombie SHP Campground
- Pasagshak SRS Campground
- Dry Creek SRS Campground
- Lake Louise SRA Campground
- Liberty Falls SRS Campground
- Porcupine Creek SRS Campground
- Squirrel Creek SRS Campground
- Finger Lake SRS Campground
- King Mountain SRS Campground
- Matanuska Glacier SRS Campground
- Matanuska Lakes SRA Campground
- Hatcher Pass - Government Peak Campground
- Hatcher Pass - Goldmint Campground
- Denali SP - Byers Lake Campground
- Denali SP - Denali View North Campground
- Denali SP - Denali View South Campground
- Denali SP - Lower Troublesome Creek Campground
- Denali State Park - K'esugi Ken Campground
- Montana Creek SRS Campground
- Big Lake North SRS Campground
- Big Lake South SRS Campground
- Rocky Lake SRS Campground
- Nancy Lake SRA - South Rolly Lake Campground
- Nancy Lake SRA - Tanaina Lake Canoe Trail Campsites
- Nancy Lake SRS Campground
- Willow Creek SRA Campground

No Animal Attractants

- Geocache containers may not be made from any container that previously held food (e.g. peanut butter jars)
- No food or scented items may be placed in any geocache



Caches and Annual Maintenance

- Geocache containers and/or the Log must be permanently marked with:
“AK State Parks Permit / GeocacheAlaska!”
- Cache Owner must physically visit the geocache once per calendar year and write an Owner Maintenance log both physically in the cache log and online on the cache listing



GeocacheAlaska!'s Role

- Will pay the state permit fees using existing club funding sources
- Provide Education about the permit to Geocachers
- Maintain a list of State Parks caches and submit a compliance report to Alaska State Parks annually in December
- Report non-compliant caches using Owner Maint Required and elevate to Reviewer Attention if needed



GeocacheAlaska! EduVents

- Provide Education to the geocaching community on the permit requirements
- Promote “Leave No Trace” and the CITO ideology to geocachers





That's All Folks!

Presented by GeocacheAlaska! Inc.

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