INTRODUCTION
This document provides guidance for visitors interested in participating in geocaching or letterboxing activities on lands administered by the MN Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation (state parks, state recreation areas, state waysides).

Geocaching is a recreational activity involving the use of a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) unit to locate “caches” whether virtual, now called “waymarks” (a scenic overlook), or real (a container including a logbook.) The most common form of geocaching involves individuals placing caches and sharing the locations of these caches on the Internet (www.geocaching.com). Participants use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, participants sign the logbook found in the cache container. They also post their “find” on the on-line logbook. They may also place or remove appropriate items from the cache. Letterboxing is similar but involves using only clues to find a hidden container.

PERMITS
A cache may not be placed in a state park, state recreation area or state wayside before receiving a signed and dated geocaching permit from the manager of the specific park in which the cache is to be placed. Each cache requires its own permit. In addition to a geocaching permit, groups who want to conduct a short-term, sponsored event may be required to complete a Special Use Permit for the event.

CACHE PLACEMENT & INFORMATION
Cache Placement
• Caches will be placed at locations where they do not negatively impact natural/cultural resources, visitor safety, or other users.
• Caches are not allowed in Scientific & Natural Areas, areas identified as restricted, golf courses, or overnight use areas.
• Caches may be temporarily removed or permanently relocated to accommodate MN State Park management needs. Park staff will coordinate these actions with the person responsible for the cache whenever possible.
• Caches may not be buried, nor may vegetation, rocks or other natural or cultural features be moved, marked or damaged in the process of placing, accessing or maintaining the cache.
• MN State Parks retains the right to remove, or have removed, a cache it feels is; in an inappropriate location, is causing undue impact on park resources or for other reasons deemed inconsistent with the mission and statutes of the MN State Park System.
• Due to resource protection or other park management concerns, geocaches may not be allowed in all units administered by the Division of Parks & Recreation.

Caches
• Maximum size of cache containers is 8” x 12” x 4”. Containers larger than these dimensions need to be noted on the application and specifically approved by the park manager.
• The container must be marked with the following information: the text “Geocache”, and the name of the cache as it appears on the website.
• Caches may only contain a logbook in which to record visits, a description of geocaching and non-perishable, family-friendly items.

Permit Applications - To obtain a permit application, contact the park manager at the location where you wish to place a cache or contact Minnesota State Parks central office at MNDNR-Parks 500 Lafayette Rd. Box 39 St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-259-5600 to receive a copy. Contact information for individual parks can also be found at: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/index.html. Anticipate that it may take up to 30 days for your application to be reviewed by Division staff before you receive your permit.