



JULY GEO EXPLORERS CHALLENGE INFORMATION

Welcome to the challenge! This is your Explore Maplewood Challenge information that will provide you with the basics needed to tackle the challenge, along with what we are looking for from each challenge participant/household. Reminder to stay safe and follow social distance guidelines while completing the challenge!

CHALLENGE PACKET SECTIONS

- Challenge Details
- Challenge Progress Log Updates
- Challenge in Action photo requests
- Highlights of Safe Outdoor Guidelines
- Helpful Challenge Tools/Documents
- Geocache Challenge Log Form
- Maplewood Parks PDF Map

CHALLENGE DETAILS

[Geo Explorers Challenge Video](#) – Watch for a quick and simple rundown!

The details of the July Geo Explorers Challenge are simple, find 8+ geocaches from July 6 – July 26. You should track the completed geocaches on the log sheet provided and send weekly updates to the parks and rec team so we can update the “Challenge Progress Log” on the webpage. We also encourage, but don’t require, “Challenge in Action” photos of you in action working towards your challenge completion!

Pick up of your Swag Bag and/or Medals will be communicated to the group near the end of the challenge. We will schedule an appointment pick up type situation but updates will be communicated toward the end of the challenge.

CHALLENGE PROGRESS LOG UPDATES – Email Sunday July 12, 19 & 26

We will provide a weekly update via our challenge progress log that will be posted on the challenge webpage. On Sunday July 12, 19 & 26, we would like participants to email recreationonline@maplewoodmn.gov your weekly progress log on how many geocaches you have found. You do not need to track the code words in the caches, those are for our passport program. These updates will be compiled and uploaded to the main challenge log. See where you stack up each week! Attached to this email is the excel document you can fill out and email back weekly. Enter the number of geocaches found under the applicable day of the week. An updated master sheet will be posted Monday afternoons to the website front page.

CHALLENGE IN ACTION PHOTOS

We would love action photos of participants to put on the challenge webpage slideshow. Take a picture of yourself or household in action, email the photo, with your team name, location and activity, to info@maplewoodmn.gov. We will put these “Challenge in Action” photos on a slideshow on the challenge page. Community through photos!



FINDING THE GEOCACHES, TO DO'S, ETTIQUETTE:

- 1) All of the Geocaches are in clear plastic containers and hidden above ground in safe locations away from water and wetland buffer zones.
- 2) Pick the park/cache you want to hunt.
- 3) Using the GPS coordinates listed on one of three cache documents;
 - a. You can click the cache link on the Google Maps coordinates list to use on your Google Maps App. (Easiest)
 - b. Or you can enter the coordinates of the caches you want to find into your GPS unit or phone GPS app with the Degrees & Decimal Minute list or Decimal Degrees list.
- 4) Navigate to, search for and find the cache using your phone or hand held GPS unit.
- 5) When you find a cache;
 - a. Take note of the style and method of this hide. Where did this geocache bring you? Enjoy the location.
 - b. Sign the logbook with your name, the date, and a few words about your experience (if you want).
 - c. Log the "Cache Code" in your Geocache Passport list (if you want).
 - d. If you trade for items, remember to trade for something that is of equal or greater value.
 - e. Make sure to seal the cache and place it back exactly where and how you found it. DO NOT MOVE IT. If it had some leaves covering it, please replace those.
- 6) Be sure to leave no trace of your presence and please pick-up and dispose of any litter you find in the parks during your hunt.
- 7) **This is an on your honor challenge so you do not need to document the code words for the your weekly progress check in just email me the Challenge Progress Log with the total number of caches found that day. If you want to track the code words you totally can.**

FINDING THE GEOCACHES

We suggest that you keep your GPS device on the entire time even if you may occasionally lose signal from overhanging trees or other obstructions. When you get close to the geocache (within 300 feet, which is the length of a football field), check your device's signal strength. Sometimes the signal will have an error between 25 - 200 feet. Concentrate more on the overall distance decreasing and less on the arrow as you get closer to the final location.

The final 30 - 100 feet can be the most difficult. It helps to think like the person who hid the cache. If there are trees around, investigate around the base. Check along the brush line. Some geocaches, especially in highly populated areas, are hidden with slight camouflage, so it helps to know something about the container used. All of the caches in the parks are in clear plastic containers.



HELPFUL CHALLENGE TOOLS AND DOCUMENTS

Below are two apps that can be used for geocaching or you can use a GPS device.

- Google Maps
- Coordinates

USEFUL LINKS:

[Maplewood Parks and Rec Geocache Webpage](#) – *Information and tips for geocaching*

[Google Maps Parks Locations](#) – *List of all Maplewood parks in a simple Google Map.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF SAFE OUTDOOR GUIDELINES

Below are a few highlights from the DNR guidelines on outdoor recreation. Information in full can be found here: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/covid-19-outdoor-recreation-guidelines.html>

- Practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet from people from other households).
- If you arrive at a park, water access site, or other public recreation land and see that it is busy, choose a different option.
- Avoid congregating in common areas like trailheads, parking areas, overlooks, fishing piers, boat launches or fueling stations.
- Consider visiting at off-peak times, such as mid-week, or early or late in the day on a weekend.
- Avoid contact with shared amenities like playground equipment, picnic tables, and benches. Assume such equipment has not been sanitized.
- Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (including fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) should stay home and not engage in outdoor activities.

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MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION-GOOGLE MAP

Geocache Passport Program Secret Code List

	<i>PARK NAME</i>	<i>GOOGLE MAP LINKS</i>	<i>HINTS</i>	<i>CACHE CODE</i>
1	Afton Heights (Afton)	N 44° 56.608 W 092° 59.836	Home run over the right field fence!	
2	Applewood	N 44° 54.993 W 092° 59.595	Looking over the playground beyond	
3	Crestview	N 44° 55.789 W 092° 59.578	Enjoy the butterfly garden from behind the big tree	
4	Four Seasons	N 45° 00.951 W 093° 01.828	Go towards the trees, it's on the ground	
5	Geranium	N 44° 58.434 W 092° 59.509	Go south but not up!	
6	Goodrich	N 44° 59.751 W 093° 01.027	A little in to the woods	
7	Hazelwood	N 45° 01.416 W 093° 01.989	If you are playing soccer watch out for this!	
8	Hillside	N 44° 59.808 W 093° 00.195	On top of hill in the pines	
9	Joy	N 45° 01.838 W 092° 59.225	"Camp Silver Maple"	
10	Kohlman	N 45° 01.170 W 093° 03.404	Don't go off the path too far, you'll fall in the water	
11	Pleasantview	N 44° 54.511 W 092° 59.861	Down the hill from the basketball courts	
12	Robinhood	N 45° 00.100 W 093° 02.447	Trains used to pass behind here	
13	Sterling Oaks	N 44° 59.076 W 092° 59.792	Up the hill a little bit	
14	Sunset Ridge	N 45° 01.997 W 093° 03.129	Up off the ground	
15	Vista Hills	N 44° 55.541 W 092° 59.776	Nice walk by the Gazebo	
16	Wakefield	N 44° 59.750 W 093° 01.999	Check the big stump	
17	Western Hills	N 44° 59.745 W 093° 05.403	Look behind the trees near the end of the big new wall	
18	Prairie Farm Preserve	N 45° 02.124 W 093° 00.568	In woods near new machine shed	
19	Priory Open Preserve	N 44° 59.501 W 092° 59.319	A little off the beaten path	
20	Maplewood Nature Center	N 44° 58.012 W 092° 59.326	Hike south over the bridge and up the hill on the left	

MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION-DEGREES & DECIMAL MINUTE

Geocache Passport Program Secret Code List

	PARK NAME	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	HINTS	CACHE CODE
1	Afton Heights (Afton)	N 44° 56.608	W 092° 59.836	Home run over the right field fence!	
2	Applewood	N 44° 54.993	W 092° 59.595	Looking over the playground beyond	
3	Crestview	N 44° 55.789	W 092° 59.578	Enjoy the butterfly garden from behind the big tree	
4	Four Seasons	N 45° 00.951	W 093° 01.828	Go towards the trees, it's on the ground	
5	Geranium	N 44° 58.434	W 092° 59.509	Go south but not up!	
6	Goodrich	N 44° 59.751	W 093° 01.027	A little in to the woods	
7	Hazelwood	N 45° 01.416	W 093° 01.989	If you are playing soccer watch out for this!	
8	Hillside	N 44° 59.808	W 093° 00.195	On top of hill in the pines	
9	Joy	N 45° 01.838	W 092° 59.225	"Camp Silver Maple"	
10	Kohlman	N 45° 01.170	W 093° 03.404	Don't go off the path too far, you'll fall in the water	
11	Pleasantview	N 44° 54.511	W 092° 59.861	Down the hill from the basketball courts	
12	Robinhood	N 45° 00.100	W 093° 02.447	Trains used to pass behind here	
13	Sterling Oaks	N 44° 59.076	W 092° 59.792	Up the hill a little bit	
14	Sunset Ridge	N 45° 01.997	W 093° 03.129	Up off the ground	
15	Vista Hills	N 44° 55.541	W 092° 59.776	Nice walk by the Gazebo	
16	Wakefield	N 44° 59.750	W 093° 01.999	Check the big stump	
17	Western Hills	N 44° 59.745	W 093° 05.403	Look behind the trees near the end of the big new wall	
18	Prairie Farm Preserve	N 45° 02.124	W 093° 00.568	In woods near new machine shed	
19	Priory Open Preserve	N 44° 59.501	W 092° 59.319	A little off the beaten path	
20	Maplewood Nature Center	N 44° 58.012	W 092° 59.326	Hike south over the bridge and up the hill on the left	

MAPLEWOOD PARKS & RECREATION-DECIMAL DEGREES

Geocache Passport Program Secret Code List

	PARK NAME	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	HINTS	CACHE CODE
1	Afton Heights (Afton)	44.943467	-92.997267	Home run over the right field fence!	
2	Applewood	44.91655	-92.99325	Looking over the playground beyond	
3	Crestview	44.929817	-92.992967	Enjoy the butterfly garden from behind the big tree	
4	Four Seasons	45.01585	-93.030467	Go towards the trees, it's on the ground	
5	Geranium	44.9739	-92.991817	Go south but not up!	
6	Goodrich	44.99585	-93.017117	A little in to the woods	
7	Hazelwood	45.0236	-93.03315	If you are playing soccer watch out for this!	
8	Hillside	44.9968	-93.00325	On top of hill in the pines	
9	Joy	45.030633	-92.987083	"Camp Silver Maple"	
10	Kohlman	45.0195	-93.056733	Don't go off the path too far, you'll fall in the water	
11	Pleasantview	44.908517	-92.997683	Down the hill from the basketball courts	
12	Robinhood	45.001667	-93.040783	Trains used to pass behind here	
13	Sterling Oaks	44.9846	-92.996533	Up the hill a little bit	
14	Sunset Ridge	45.033283	-93.05215	Up off the ground	
15	Vista Hills	44.925683	-92.996267	Nice walk by the Gazebo	
16	Wakefield	44.995833	-93.033317	Check the big stump	
17	Western Hills	44.99575	-93.09005	Look behind the trees near the end of the big new wall	
18	Prairie Farm Preserve	45.0354	-93.009467	In woods near new machine shed	
19	Priory Open Preserve	44.991683	-92.98865	A little off the beaten path	
20	Maplewood Nature Center	44.966867	-92.988767	Hike south over the bridge and up the hill on the left	

