

ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PLACING GEOCACHES

Antelope Island State Park recognizes the enjoyment and adventure of geocaching and is currently permitting this activity. However, to reconcile this with other park purposes, restrictions in the placement of geocaches are required. The park has recently experienced a large increase in geocaches, many of which violate park regulations, resulting in law enforcement citing those searching for the geocaches in restricted areas. Geocaches in violation will be physically removed and removed from the Geocaching.com web site.

Antelope Island State Park has established two areas of the park regarding off-trail travel. These two areas are seen in Figure 1, below. The northwest portion is uncontrolled, and the southeast majority of the park is controlled.

IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL CONTROLLED PORTION OF ANTELOPE ISLAND

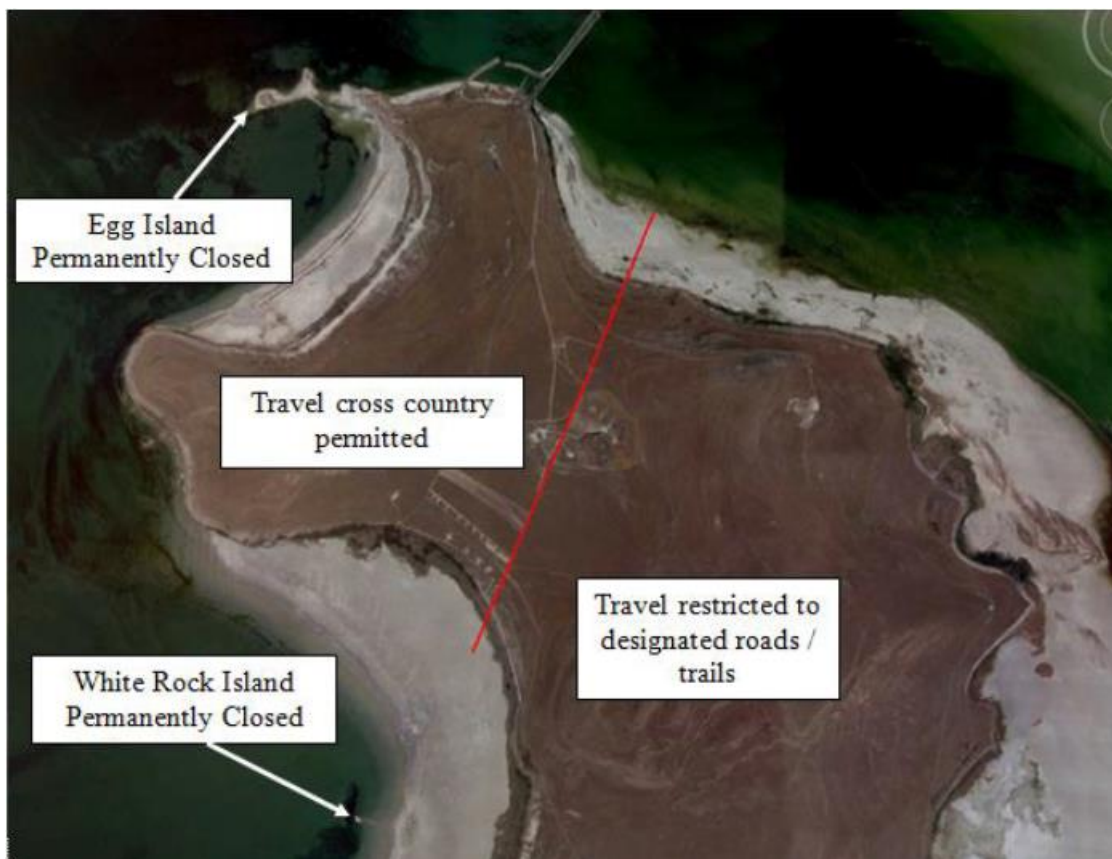


Figure 1. View of the northwest end of Antelope Island showing restriction demarcation.

In the northwest end of Antelope Island, visitors are free to wander cross country on foot or horseback as desired. Visitors may travel off designated roads and trails. However, vehicles and bikes must stay on roads and trails.

In the southeast majority of the park, travel is controlled and users must stay on designated roads and trails. In this controlled area of the park geocaches may not be placed more than 50 feet from any designated road or trail. Travel restriction is necessary to protect the environment and avoid stress to wildlife. Hiking well off the designated trails and roads forces animals to retreat and hide from humans, greatly reducing the opportunity for visitors to enjoy viewing the wildlife. Additionally, during birthing times, the safety of the newborn and their mothers is significantly compromised. Additionally, note that White Rock Island and Egg Island are bird sanctuaries and are permanently closed to all visitations. Violators are subject to citation.

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW AND WESTSIDE TRAILS – CLOSED TO GEOCACHES

The Mountain View Trail (Figure 2) lies parallel to the East Side Road and is located nearly entirely in the travel controlled area of the park. It has been observed that geocache hunters are parking their car on the road and illegally short-cutting over to the Mountain View Trail to access the cache. It is an overwhelming temptation to illegally cross-country over to the trail since that is much closer to the cache than using the established trailhead. Individuals have been cited for taking this short-cut. Consequently, caches are no longer permitted along the Mountain View trail



Figure 2. Mountain View and Westside Trails. Caches are not permitted along these trails.

The Westside Trail (also Figure 2) is located on the west side of the island and is in a remote area of the park. The trail is closed seasonally (March 10 to May 20th) for protection of the wildlife during birthing season. Comments from caches logs reveal access during times of seasonal closure. Therefore, caches are not permitted anywhere along this trail at any time of the year.

THE GARR RANCH – CLOSED TO GEOCACHES



Figure 3. Garr Ranch. Geocaching is not permitted within the delineated area.

The Garr Ranch (Figure 3) is located on the east side of the island at the south end of the paved east side road. Because of high visitor traffic, presence of historical artifacts, and the need to control resource and environmental impact, the placing geocaches within the designated area in Figure 3 is not permitted.

SUMMARY

Geocaching is an enjoyable and rewarding recreation. However, the park has found that the arbitrary placing of geocaches (with associated off trail hiking) has led visitors to believe that off-trail hiking is permitted, creates social trails to caches, and has had an adverse impact on the wildlife. The improper placement of geocaches has tempted seekers to violate park rules and be cited. Those placing geocaches must be informed and responsible.

Therefore, the park has enforces the following requirements regarding the placement of geocaches in the travel restricted area of Antelope Island State Park.

- All geocaches must be placed within 50 feet of a designated trail or road.
- The Mountain View trail is closed to placement of geocaches.
- The Westside trail is closed to placement of geocaches.
- Geocaches placement is allowed alongside the East Side road, but only by turnouts and parking areas to prevent traffic congestion along the roadway.
- Epoxy, nails, screws, etc, may not be used to secure geocaches to either natural features or to manmade structures.
- Geocaches may not be placed on park structures (i.e., signs, fences, buildings, etc.).
- All geocaches must be placed in such a manner to be safe for all island visitors. Caches may not be located in areas or on surfaces presenting a safety hazard (i.e., steep slopes, cliffs, high in trees, etc.).