

Go to <http://www.geocaching.com/default.aspx> to login and get GPS coordinates to these geocaches:

Geocache #1 – Crooked Bear GC3BYT4

Our first cache is located near the confluence of Crooked Creek and Bear Creek on the west side of Bear Creek Park. The best access is from Spencer Street, at the north end of the park. It is mostly flat terrain and is much easier now that the blackberry bushes have been cleared.

This cache is within the project area of a series of riparian plantings along Bear Creek. The cache is located on the north side of Crooked Creek, which can be accessed via a walking track from Spencer Street or via the parking area near the ball fields off Barnett Street behind Dairy Queen. If coming from the south side, (the ball field side,) one can get around Crooked Creek by walking near the fence that separates the park from the freeway.

From the log:

2/9/2012 – “Another nice big cache. Quiet here today – the only wildlife I saw here was winged. Restoration work along the creek is quite interesting. Thanks!”

Geocache #2 – Herons Hide GC3C9QX

Our second cache is off the Bear Creek Greenway on the north end of Blue Heron Park. Look for a dirt side trail at the north end of the riparian planting project. This cache is located at the edge of a riparian planting project that was installed in 2009 by the Bear Creek Watershed Council working through Rogue Valley Council of Governments and in cooperation with the city of Phoenix.

The goal of the project is to increase shade on the stream in summer to help cool the water for our native salmon and steelhead, stabilize the stream banks to reduce soil erosion and establish native vegetation in an area overrun by invasive blackberry.

While looking for this cache you may see a blue heron or maybe even a spawning steelhead. Enjoy!

From the log:

2/9/2012 – “Well-placed cache in a nice spot. Quiet this morning, so quick find. Educational, too. Thanks!”

Geocache #3 – Swale, isn't it? GC3CPT6

Our third cache is located within a bio-swale, which was designed to treat stormwater runoff from surrounding roads and parking lots. It reduces pollution and pulse flows in Bear Creek as well as creating habitat for birds, bugs and mammals alike.

The best parking is at the Nature Center/Coyote Trails building or the Harry and David ball field parking lot.