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CITY OF HARLINGEN INVITES COMMUNITY, TOURISTS ON HIGH-TECH TREASURE HUNT

With more than 550 acres of public park land, the City of Harlingen is ideal for quality-of-life experiences such as hiking, biking, running, fishing and more.

Now, the City is adding a high-tech treasure hunt that takes participants on a city-wide tour of parks, historic downtown and other notable landmarks.

It's called the City of Harlingen's GeoQuest Program. Also known as geocaching, participants utilize GPS to hunt down hidden sometimes well-camouflaged treasure. The hunt for that treasure, or geocache, also becomes a motivator for exercise.

"The GeoQuest Program is essentially a technology-driven, guided tour of the City of Harlingen," City Manager Dan Serna said. "It also goes hand-in-hand with the objective of the Mayor's newly-established Wellness Council. We're getting the community interested in the City with exercise as a direct benefit."

The GeoQuest Program launches at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Pendleton Park Pavilion. Thereafter, participants on their free time can go on the high-tech treasure hunt.

Parks and Recreation Director Javier Mendez said 25 locations were chosen for the hidden geocache treasures. He said in most cases, once GPS gives you a geocache location, it is only a general location.

"You will then need to rely on your senses to search for and find the geocache," Mendez said. "So, grab your family and friends for this fun-filled exploration of Harlingen. Don't forget some comfortable shoes."

Once the GeoQuest Program is launched later this week, go to www.geocaching.com to participate.

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