The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Guidelines and Permit for Geocaches on Michigan Preserves



General Information

- Participants must comply with all Geocaching and Michigan Geocaching Organization Guidelines. Visit geocaching.com and migeocaching.org for guidelines.
- Participants must abide by The Nature Conservancy's Preserve Visitation Guidelines. Rules and policies are either
 posted on the web at nature.org/michigan or may be obtained at any Conservancy office.
- TNC reserves the ability to revoke and remove the Geocache at any time without notification.

Seeking Guidelines

- Participants must adhere to <u>geocaching.com</u> guidelines for seeking.
- When seeking a cache, please do not disturb the surrounding environment in any way. This includes digging holes or cutting vegetation.
- Respect the existing trails and DO NOT create any new trails.

Placement Guidelines

Geocaching is a regulated activity at TNC. In order to protect the sensitive areas of preserves, to maintain a safe, fun activity and to allow TNC to monitor this use, all people wishing to place a geocache within preserves must receive a permit and follow the regulations stated below.

- 1. To place a Geocache on any TNC preserve, one must submit a permit application (below) with a photo of the cache container to Danielle Miller, Conservation Coordinator at S. Front St., Ste. 105, Marquette, MI 49855 or by email to ddmiller@tnc.org. The permit must be approved prior to any placement of caches.
 - a. Obtain permission from TNC for location of the cache (via a permit).
 - b. Affix a TNC sticker to the cache, identifying it as a cache. Sticker provided when permit is approved.
 - c. Register your cache on <u>geocaching.com</u> and have it approved by the site.
 - d. Maintain the cache.
 - e. Please visit <u>nature.org/michigan</u> for information on specific preserve access, such as seasonal operations, open/close status, and trail information.
- 2. Containers must be transparent and clearly marked "GEOCACHE". Do not use ammo boxes, PVC pipes or other containers that might cause alarm.
- 3. Weapons, and any substances or things illegal, hazardous, alcoholic, inflammable, threatening, sexually explicit, profane, discriminatory, or gambling-related are not allowed in any cache. Do not place food in a cache to avoid attracting wildlife.
- 4. Caches should not in any way promote commercial, religious, or political agendas.
- 5. Cache locations must be naturally occurring hiding spots, do not disturb the surrounding environment. There is no need to dig holes, cut vegetation, or harm the environment when placing a cache. Do not cut or prune trees or attach items with nails, screws or other fasteners; remove or plant vegetation; no bringing in new items such as sculptures, boxes, etc. No caches can be placed in nests, in or under logs, in holes/burrows, or in animal dens.
- 6. Geocaches must be placed no farther than 20 feet away from the marked trail. Caches will not be permitted in sensitive areas (e.g., dunes, wetlands, protected areas, near rare plants, steep slopes, etc.).
- 7. Respect the existing trails and do not create any new ones.
- 8. When placing a cache, be considerate of the seekers and their safety. Do not place caches in an area that is harmful or dangerous to others.
- 9. Caches can remain in place 3 years from the date a permit is issued. After that date, the cache must be removed or re-permitted. This is done to protect areas from foot traffic. If the caches are moved or removed during this period, TNC must be notified.
- 10. The following statement shall be included on <u>geocaching.com</u>: "This cache is located within The Nature Conservancy's ______Preserve in Michigan. For general information, please call 517-316-0300, or visit <u>nature.org/michigan</u>. All preserve rules and regulations apply. Park in parking lots only. Check preserve web page for access information."
- 11. TNC has the right to limit the number of caches per site.

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☐ APPROVED	
☐ DENIED	
Date	

Nama	Coocciding	
Address:	Geocaching username:	Zip:
Phone:		
	, WAI	
Is this a multi-part cache?	If yes, how many parts?	
Physical description of area:		
Physical description of container and	contents:	
Geocacher must notify The Nature Co. Geocaching.com.	nservancy of any change in location of the cach	e and register the change with
	ne. Permit is valid only for the cache listed above Conservation Coordinator at S. Front St., Ste. 10	-
Conservancy, its departments, officials all liability to Permittee, its relatives, f expenses or whatsoever kind or natur any and all property, rising out of occurrence.	eby releases, waives, discharges, and covenants is, employees and agents, and the Michigan Georgian in the michigan in the	ocaching Organization, from any and algments, lawsuits, damages or life, and or damage to or loss of ies authorized by this permit; and
Conservancy, its departments, officials death or damage, that any person or e (2) the activities authorized by this perpermit, as well as any other Conservato all loss, injury, death or damage, predepartments, officials, employees and	his permit and the accompanying guidelines an	ns and demands, for all loss, injury, ccurrence related to (1) this permit; is ses which are the subject of this e harmless agreement shall extend ce of The Nature Conservancy, its

Permittee Signature

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

MiGO user name Waypoint #:

Permit #:

Date Issued:

Expires: