

# 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](http://geocaching.com) and [migeocaching.org](http://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](http://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 [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) 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](mailto: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 [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) and have it approved by the site.
  - d. Maintain the cache.
  - e. Please visit [nature.org/michigan](http://nature.org/michigan) 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 [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com): *"This cache is located within The Nature Conservancy's \_\_\_\_\_ Preserve in Michigan. For general information, please call 517-316-0300, or visit [nature.org/michigan](http://nature.org/michigan). 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.

