The Nature Conservancy in Michigan
Guidelines and Permit for Geocaches on Preserves

General Information

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

Seeking Guidelines

- Participants must adhere to 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 within The Nature Conservancy in Michigan. In order to protect the sensitive areas of preserves, to maintain a safe, fun activity and to allow the Conservancy 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 Nature Conservancy preserve, one must first obtain a permit from the Michigan Field Office. Permits are available at no cost and must be submitted with a photo of the cache container to Tina Hall, Director of Conservation Programs, and approved prior to any placement of caches.
   - Obtain permission from the local land steward for location of the cache.
   - Affix a Nature Conservancy sticker to the cache, identifying it as a cache. Stickers will be received when permit is approved.
   - Register your cache on Geocaching.com and have it approved.
   - Maintain the cache.
   - Please visit The Nature Conservancy's website for preserve hours and seasonal operation.
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, the Conservancy must be notified.
10. The following statement shall be included on the geocaching.com web page: *"This cache is located within The Nature Conservancy's _____Preserve in Michigan. For general information, please call 517-316-0300, or visit our website http://nature.org/michigan. All preserve rules and regulations apply. Park in parking lots only. Check the Conservancy website for preserve hours."*
11. The Nature Conservancy has the right to limit the number of caches per site.

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The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Application for Geocaching Permit

☐ APPROVED
☐ DENIED
Date _____

Name:_____ Geocaching user name:_____

Address:_____ City:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____ Fax:_____

E-mail address:_____

Cache Name:_____

Preserve:_____

Location coordinates:_____

Type of cache:_____

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 Conservancy of any change in location of the cache and register the change with Geocaching.com.
This permit may be revoked at any time. Permit is valid only for the cache listed above and is nontransferable. Questions should be directed to The Nature Conservancy at 101 East Grand River, Lansing, MI 48906; 517-316-0300; michigan@tnc.org

Statement of Liability: Permittee hereby releases, waives, discharges, and covenants not to sue The Nature Conservancy, its departments, officials, employees and agents, and the Michigan Geocaching Organization, from any and all liability to Permittee, its relatives, friends, employees and agents for all claims, judgments, lawsuits, damages or expenses or whatsoever kind or nature for any and all bodily or mental injury, loss of life, and or damage to or loss of any and all property, rising out of occurrence related to (1) this permit; (2) the activities authorized by this permit; and (3) the use of occupancy of the premises which are subject of this permit, as well as any other Conservancy-owned lands.

Statement of Indemnification: Permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, The Nature Conservancy, its departments, officials, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may , in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) this permit; (2) the activities authorized by this permit; and (3) the use of occupancy of the premises which are the subject of this permit, as well as any other Conservancy-owned lands. This indemnification and save harmless agreement shall extend to all loss, injury, death or damage, proximately caused or arising out of the negligence of The Nature Conservancy, its departments, officials, employees and agents.

I have read the conditions governing this permit and the accompanying guidelines and agree to abide by them in the conduct of my operations under this permit.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Permittee Signature	Date	The Nature Conservancy	Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

MiGO user name Waypoint #:_____

Permit #:_____ Date Issued:_____ Expires:_____