

Land Conservancy of West Michigan Geocaching Rules

General Guidelines:

- Participants must comply with all Geocaching and Michigan Geocaching Organization Guidelines. Visit www.geocaching.com and www.mi-geocaching.org for guidelines.
- Participants must abide by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan's nature preserve rules and policies. Rules and policies are either posted at preserves or may be obtained at the Land Conservancy office.
- The Land Conservancy of West Michigan reserves the ability to revoke and remove the Geocache at any time without notification.

Hunting for Geocaches:

- Those searching for caches must respect the surrounding environment and not disturb it in any way.
- No new trails should be created in the process of searching for a cache.

Geocache Placement Rules:

1. To place a Geocache on Land Conservancy of West Michigan land one must first obtain a permit from the LCWM office. Permits are available at no cost and must be submitted to the LCWM office and approved prior to any placement of caches.
 - a. Process for placing a Geocache:
 - i. Complete a LCWM Geocache permit and register with the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.
 - ii. Abide by LCWM rules and regulations, and the guidelines for geocaching found at www.geocaching.com.
 - iii. Post the Geocache online and have it approved by www.geocaching.com.
2. Containers must be clearly labeled "Geocache."
3. No offensive, illegal, or dangerous items are allowed in the caches. Food is not to be placed in a cache to avoid attracting wildlife.
4. When placing a cache, do not disturb the natural surroundings. There is no need to dig holes, cut vegetation, or harm the environment when placing a cache. Caches will not be permitted to be placed in trees, in or under logs, in holes/burrows, etc.
5. Geocaches must be placed no farther than 10 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.).
6. 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.
7. Caches should not in any way promote commercial, religious, or political agendas.
8. Caches must be reevaluated and a permit must be resubmitted each year.
9. The Land Conservancy has the right to limit the number of caches per site.

Application for Geocaching Permit

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Geocaching user name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Cache name: _____

At what site would you like the cache to be located? _____

Please describe the container and contents that will be in the container.

Office use only

Coordinates of the cache: _____

Site location and permit number: _____

Release and Indemnification Agreement:

This Release and Indemnification Agreement between _____ hereinafter called "Indemnitor"; and Land Conservancy of West Michigan, of 1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Suite 324, Grand Rapids, MI, hereinafter called "LCWM". Whereas, LCWM is the owner of a public nature preserve _____ and Whereas, Indemnitor desires to use the preserve for the purpose of a Geocache; and Whereas, the LCWM has no involvement with or control over the event to be conducted by Indemnitor; Now, therefore, in consideration of the respective covenants herein contained, it is hereby agreed:

1. Indemnitor hereby fully and completely indemnifies LCWM, its officers, agents, representatives, and employees, from any and all liability, loss, or damage LCWM may suffer as a result of damage to property, claims, demands, costs, or judgment against it arising directly or indirectly from Indemnitor's use of the Preserve for the purpose of a Geocache.

2. Indemnitor agrees to defend against any claims brought or actions filed against LCWM with respect to the subject of this Release and Indemnification Agreement contained herein whether such claims or actions are rightfully or wrongfully brought or filed.

3. The Indemnification under this Agreement shall commence upon execution of this Agreement.

4. Indemnitor releases LCWM from any liability that may be found against LCWM concerning damages to Indemnitor and/or property owned by Indemnitor arising directly or indirectly from Indemnitor's use of LCWM property for the purpose of a Geocache, and waives any claim or cause of action that it may have against LCWM for money damages or equitable relief in connection with the activities allowed by this permit.

Permit holder's signature

Date

LCWM executive director's signature

Date