



2019 GEOCACHE PLACEMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION AT LEAST 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO PLACEMENT

Geocaching is a popular outdoor "scavenger hunt" that uses a GPS device (or smart phone) and internet-published coordinates to locate a virtual or physical cache. A virtual cache may be an amazing view; a physical cache may be a trinket or logbook in a plastic container hidden under some leaves. Geocaching is an acceptable activity for most Milwaukee County Parks properties, when the Geocache Placement Permit Application is approved by the Natural Areas Coordinator, and activity conforms to all Milwaukee County ordinances, guidelines and restrictions.

TYPES OF GEOCACHING ALLOWED IN THE PARKS

- **Virtual Caching** (Preferred)
Coordinates of stationary landmarks guide participants to the virtual cache. Virtual caches are verified only by emailed photos of the cache site.
- **Physical Geocaching**
Participants seek a hidden—**not buried**—physical cache. A waterproof container stores the trade item or logbook. A letterbox cache usually contains a logbook and rubber stamp. Participants mark their personal logbooks with the stamp in the letterbox, and use their own personal stamp to mark the letterbox's logbook. A micro-cache uses a small container such as a 35mm film canister.

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR GEOCACHING (FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS)

- You must abide by all Milwaukee County Ordinances.
See https://library.municode.com/wi/milwaukee_county/codes/code_of_ordinances
- You must conform to guidelines of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: take nothing but photographs; leave nothing but footprints. For details, visit LNT.org.
- If you discover any illegal or hazardous materials in the cache, you must contact a Milwaukee County Parks employee immediately. If Parks staff are not available, call the local police department.

WHAT IS BEING PLACED & WHERE IT IS BEING PLACED (FOR PLACERS)

Restrictions on Physical Caches

- The following items are not permitted in a physical geocache:
 - Food of any kind
 - Pocket knives or weapons of any kind
 - Illegal items such as drugs
 - Materials restricted from minors, such as, but not limited to, tobacco and alcohol
- The maximum capacity of any single physical geocache must not exceed one gallon
- Cache containers must be clearly labeled in large lettering with the word "Geocache" on the outside of the container—**especially old ammunition cans!**
- The permit number for an approved physical placement must be inside the container.

Basic Placement Guidelines

- Place your approved virtual or physical cache within 5 feet of a designated trail or mowed turf grass area (non-sports field) within the Milwaukee County Parks property.
- Use the natural terrain and site conditions to hide the cache. The cache must not physically change the character of the site. This includes but it not limited to disturbing soil, cutting vegetation, moving downed logs, etc.

Restrictions on Placement Locations

A geocache **shall not** be placed in stream banks, riparian zones, wetlands, prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, unique geological features, or unsafe areas.

In addition, geocaching is **not permitted** in/on

- State Natural Areas: Warnimont Park fens (along the Lake Michigan bluff), Cudahy Nature Preserve, Franklin Park Savanna
- Sensitive Areas: Those areas the Natural Areas Coordinator determines are too ecologically sensitive for cache placement. This includes, but is not limited to, portions of the following parks and parkways:

Bender Park	Holler Park	Oak Creek Parkway
Brown Deer Park	Jacobus Park	Oakwood Park
Cambridge Woods	Kletzsch Park	Rawson Woods
Doctor's Park	Lake Park	Root River Parkway
Falk Park	Mangan Woods	Scout Lake
Grant Park	McGovern Park	Whitnall Park
Greenfield Park	Noyes Park	

- Recreational fields or facilities: This includes golf courses, water parks, or sports fields
- Areas with slopes of greater than 5%. Caches may, however, be allowed on the area above the slope or at the foot of the slope.
- Birdhouses or bird nests, or directly adjacent to them. Federal law protects nesting birds; disturbing their nests is a federal crime.

MONITORING THE CACHE (FOR PLACERS)

You are responsible for monitoring the cache, at least four times per year, and reporting any vandalism or deterioration of property to the Natural Areas Coordinator. If you discover any illegal or hazardous materials in the cache, you must contact Parks staff immediately. If Parks staff are not available, call the local police department. Your cache may remain at the permitted site for as long as three years.

MOVING OR REMOVING A CACHE (FOR PLACERS)

- Remove your cache at the end of your permitted time, or before, with written notification to the Natural Areas Coordinator, referencing the permit number of your cache.
- Restore the site to its original condition to the satisfaction of the Parks Department. If you are unable to restore the site by the end of your permit, request an extension in writing, referencing the permit number and/or providing a map.
- The Natural Areas Coordinator may require you to move your cache if he deems that the cache area is being over-used, or if social trails are developing.
- A cache will be removed if the Natural Areas Coordinator determines that there is an unacceptable hazard to humans, an unacceptable level of damage to the environment, or the cache is not in compliance with policy. The Natural Areas Coordinator shall make a reasonable effort to inform you of the removal.
- Milwaukee County Parks reserves the right to terminate the authorization for placement of a geocache container on Milwaukee County Parks land for any reason at any time. Milwaukee County Parks agrees to make a reasonable effort to contact the geocache placer prior to termination of this approval to allow the placer to remove the geocache or move it to an approved location. If the Milwaukee County Parks is unable to contact the geocache owner/placer after a reasonable effort, Milwaukee County Parks staff may remove the geocache.

GEOCACHE PLACEMENT PERMIT APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please complete and return a separate application for each virtual or physical cache location requested.

Notice: Personally identifiable information collected will be used for program administration and may be provided to requesters as required by Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.]

Requested Date for Geocaching to begin _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____

Placement Action: New Cache –OR– Move Existing Cache

Type of Cache: Virtual Cache –OR– Physical Cache

Requested Park/Parkway _____

Requested Cache Coordinates: Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Include a map (Google Earth or similar) of the requested placement location:

Detailed description of location:

Cache Name _____

Container description and contents:

By signing below, I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the general rules, regulations, and considerations of virtual or physical geocache placement at Milwaukee County Parks properties. If a permit is granted, I agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless, the County, its officers and employees, from any and all liability, including claims, demands, losses, costs, or damages to persons or property arising out of, or in connection with, or occurring in connection with this permit, where such liability is founded upon or grow out of acts or omissions of the Permit Holder or any of Permit Holder's guests or invitees. Milwaukee County Parks is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged property during the approved permit period.

In addition, I acknowledge and understand that if a permit is granted I am responsible for the actions of my guests or invitees, and I will be billed for damages and excessive cleanup costs.

ONLINE APPLICATION: ENTRY OF MY FULL NAME BELOW CONSTITUTES AN ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE.

Signature _____

Date _____

For Office Use Only:

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION & MAP, AT LEAST 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO PLACEMENT, TO:
Natural Areas, 9480 Watertown Plank Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53226 Tel: 414-257-7275
OR Brian.Russart@milwaukeecountywi.gov