

Ottawa County Parks

Guidelines and Rules for Geocaching

These guidelines and rules apply to all properties managed by the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission. Geocachers must also abide by Ottawa County Park or Open Space Rules and Regulations. Rules and regulations are posted at most properties and are available online. For rules and more information on Ottawa County Parks, go to www.miottawa.org/parks. For questions on geocaching, call (616) 738-4810.

General Guidelines

- Participants must comply with all *Geocaching* and *Michigan Geocaching Organization* guidelines. Visit www.geocaching.com and www.mi-geocaching.org for guidelines.
- Ottawa County Parks & Recreation has the ability to revoke and remove any geocache on park property at any time without notification to the person who placed the cache or geocaching.com.

Guidelines for Placing a Geocache on Parks Properties

- Geocaches are not allowed on selected parks properties (see attached list).
- Caches must be placed no more than 10 feet away from a designated trail, lawn, or parking area in a "Park" and must be more than 50 feet from a property boundary in an "Open Space."
- Containers must clearly be identifiable as a geocache using the word "geocache" or the geocaching.com logo on the outside of the container and must be no bigger than a standard brick or 20oz soda bottle.
- No offensive, illegal or dangerous items are allowed in the caches.
- Food is not to be placed in a cache to avoid attracting wildlife.
- When placing a cache, do not dig holes, cut vegetation, or alter the environment.
- Any placement that causes damage to park amenities or natural features is prohibited such as the use of screws or nails into trees, signposts, kiosks, or buildings.
- Caches are not permitted in sensitive areas (wetlands, fragile dunes, steep slopes, protected areas and riverbanks).
- When placing a cache, be considerate of the seekers and their safety. Do not place in an area that is harmful or dangerous to others. If park staff believes that seeking any specific cache will endanger the seeker, it will be removed.
- Caches should not in anyway promote commercial, religious or political agendas.
- Ottawa County Parks has the right to limit the number of caches per site.
- Any geocache that is clearly visible or in anyway detracts from the natural look of the Park or Open Space will be discarded as litter.

Ottawa County Parks Commission Properties Where Geocaching is **NOT** Permitted

- ✗ Historic Ottawa Beach Parks (Mt. Pisgah, Black Lake Boardwalk, and Holland Harbor Fishing Access)
- ✗ Marne Bog
- ✗ Olive Shores
- ✗ Rosy Mound Natural Area

EarthCaches

EarthCaches are permitted at all Ottawa County Parks and Open Spaces, however, these caches must be completely virtual in nature with nothing physically left on park property, must be accessible without leaving the trail, and all questions must be preapproved by park staff by emailing ocparks@miottawa.org.