

Geocaching in Warren County Conservation Board Areas

Geocaching has become a very popular activity for individuals and families. Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for Global Positioning System (GPS) users. The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is to leave an item if they decide to take something from the cache. Visit geocaching.com for more details.

The Warren County Conservation Board (WCCB) permits geocaching in keeping with its mission to provide opportunities for safe recreational activities. Geocachers are welcome to place a cache in WCCB lands as long as they comply with the requirements of the WCCB geocache permit.

Warren County Conservation Geocache Placement Site Guidelines

At this time, WCCB managed areas have been placed into 2 categories. However, terrain type, sensitivity, management practices such as burning, and human impact may result in changes to category description, placement of areas in those categories, and the number of caches allowed.

Category 1: Caches not allowed.

- Wilson Woods (12 acres)

Category 2: Physical caches may be placed in these areas. Contact the Warren County Conservation Board prior to development to inquire about any designated and/or off limit areas and to learn interesting facts that may enhance the educational value of your cache.

- Annett Nature Center & Park (160 acres)
- Bank Swallow Bend (543 acres)
- Blue Flag Marsh (138 acres)
- Grant Park (150 acres)
- Great Western Trail (17 miles)—caches in Polk County must have a Polk County Conservation geocache permit
- Hickory Hills Park (160 acres)
- Lundy Acres (15 acres)
- Otter Creek Park (80 acres)
- Rolling Thunder Prairie (282 acres)
- Summerset Trail (11 miles)—caches inside Indianola corporate limits require permission from Indianola Parks & Recreation
- Woodland Mounds Preserve (325 acres)
- Zo-El Annett Woods (10 acres)

The following specific conditions and provisions shall apply to those placing a geocache in an area managed by the Warren County Conservation Board:

1. A Geocache Placement Permit Application must be filed with and approved by the Warren County Conservation Board before posting the cache on a geocaching web site.
2. At a minimum, Cache Listing Requirements/Guidelines developed by Groundspeak and posted at geocaching.com must be followed when developing a cache.
3. All local and state laws apply.
4. The cache container must be clearly marked on the outside with geocaching.com and the name of the cache.
5. Permit valid from date issued to March 31 of following next year. Cache must then be re-permitted or removed. Cache owner will notify the WCCB if cache is removed.
6. The WCCB, through its director or designee, reserves the right to terminate this approval for placement of a geocache on WCCB land for any reason at any time. Caches not in compliance with the terms of this permit will be removed from the property and this permit voided for failure to comply.
7. We request that you monitor this cache every two months and you maintain it to be family friendly. This means the cache should contain no food, alcohol, firearms, drugs, dangerous items, or adult items.
8. We also request that you direct people seeking your cache to follow established trails most of the way to your cache. We discourage off trail hiking as it negatively impacts the environment.
9. Each geocache placed in Warren County Parks will be given a permit number. Please include the permit number in your online description of the geocache.
10. The WCCB is not responsible for damage to a placed cache resulting from mowing, burning, or any other maintenance or management activity.

Warren County Conservation Board

Geocache Placement Permit

The Warren County Conservation Board (WCCB) permits geocaching in keeping with its mission to provide opportunities for safe recreational activities. Geocachers are welcome to place a cache in WCCB lands as long as they comply with the requirements of this permit. Application may be submitted via email. Approval of permit will take two weeks from the date it is submitted. You will receive a notification via email of approval. Each geocache will be given a Warren County permit number for our records. Please include this permit number on the online description of the cache.

Cache Owner & Location Information

Name: _____

Geocaching Nickname: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: (____) _____ **E-mail address:** _____

Cache Information:

Planned Cache name: _____

Geocaching Web site it will be listed with: _____

Type of cache: ___ virtual ___ traditional cache ___ multi-cache

Please describe cache container in detail:

WCCB Park or Area: _____

Location, coordinates (WGS84 Datum): _____

Description of hiding place (e.g. in stump, behind large rock):

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I have read and understand the terms of this permit and agree to comply accordingly. I will retain a copy of this permit for my records.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Please forward any questions or concerns to the Warren County Conservation Board, 15565 118th AVE, Indianola, IA 50125, (515) 961-6169, or wccb@warrenccb.org.

Email to: wccb@warrenccb.org

**or Mail this form to: Geocache Permit
Warren County Conservation Board
15565 118th AVE
Indianola, IA 50125**

Policy compliance. This section to be completed by Warren County Conservation.

If any item does not meet policy requirements it shall be grounds for denial of a permit.

- Cache is not located in a sensitive archaeological, historical, or ecological area.
- No damage or disturbance of the ground will result from placement of this cache.
- The cache is not located in an area where a prescribed burn might take place.
- The cache is not in an area that might cause potential danger to visitors, i.e. under water, in potential flood areas, on a steep slope, etc.
- This application has been reviewed and it complies with Warren County Conservation's Geocaching policy.

APPROVED (ALL PERMITS EXPIRE MARCH 31 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR)

DENIED

Permit #: _____

Warren County Conservation designee

Date