



EarthCache

Using technology to explore the outdoors

EarthCaching is a fun outdoor activity where participants use GPS units to discover areas of unique geological significance.

NatureCache Key Terms

GPS – Global Positioning System – A system of orbiting satellites that work in conjunction with hand-held receivers to determine your location anywhere on Earth.

Geocaching - A high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world by adventure seekers equipped with GPS devices. The basic idea is to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, outdoors and then share your experiences online. Geocaching is permitted in Ohio's state parks and state forests with the permission of the site manager. Geocaching is NOT permitted in Ohio's state nature preserves or state wildlife areas. For more information, visit www.geocaching.com

Virtual Cache - A cache that exists in the form of a location only. Instead of finding a hidden container, the challenge is to answer a question about a location, an interesting spot, perform a task, etc. The reward for these caches is the location itself and sharing information about your visit. Virtual caches ARE permitted at Ohio's state nature preserves and state wildlife areas because nothing is left behind.

EarthCache - An EarthCache is a type of virtual cache. It is a special place that people can visit to learn about a unique geoscience feature or aspect of our Earth. EarthCaches include a set of educational notes. Visitors to EarthCaches can see how our planet has been shaped by geological processes, how we manage natural resources and how scientists gather evidence. For more information about EarthCaches, visit www.earthcache.org



Establishing EarthCaches

EarthCaching gives participants a chance to discover areas of unique natural significance. Once the location is found, participants are challenged to answer a series of questions about the site and upload their answers and photos to the official website. EarthCaching is administered by the American Geological Society.

To learn more about participating, visit www.geocaching.com and click "getting started." Remember, EarthCaching is the only type of geocaching permitted at state nature preserves. Traditional geocaching, where items and containers are left behind, is not permitted.

EarthCaches have been established at a number of Ohio state nature preserves, and the list continues to grow. Visit www.ohiodnr.com/dnap for location and site details.

Northwest Ohio

Irwin Prairie - Lucas County

Northeast Ohio

Siegenthaler Esker - Champaign County

Central Ohio

Shallenberger - Fairfield County
Stage's Pond - Fairfield County

Southwest Ohio

Clifton Gorge - Greene County
Davis Memorial - Adams County
Goodie Prairie - Miami County
Whipple - Adams County

Southeast Ohio

Conkle's Hollow - Hocking County
Rockbridge - Hocking County

Geocaching on Ohio Public Lands

Always consult the local facility manager for permission before establishing a cache of any kind. You'll need their assistance to determine a safe, scenic and appropriate location.

If you need help contacting a specific site manager, please contact the appropriate Ohio Department of Natural Resources division:

Division of Forestry - 614-265-6692

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves - 937-545-8313

Division of Parks and Recreation - 614-265-6911

Division of Wildlife - 614-265-6309