

## **MHLC Geocaching Policy**

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy permits geocaching on some properties, but requires that certain guidelines are met to uphold MHLC's mission of environmental conservation and stewardship. Geocachers wishing to place caches on MHLC's Preserves must first receive permission by submitting a request in writing. MHLC reserves the right to remove caches that threaten environmentally or culturally sensitive areas or are located in unsafe locations.

### **Guidelines:**

1. Geocaches are permitted only on MHLC preserves that are open to the public and have maintained trails.
2. Prior to cache placement, cache owners must receive express written approval from MHLC by submitting the MHLC Geocache form that clearly describes the geocache and proposed location, along with contact information.
3. Geocaches placed on MHLC lands must be listed with [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and must comply with all rules found at <http://www.geocaching.com/about/guidelines.aspx>.
4. It is preferred that geocaches are located close to existing trails and that the total number of geocaches in a particular area or in a particular preserve are kept to a reasonable number (at the discretion of MHLC staff).
5. Geocaches may not be placed in unsafe locations or environmentally sensitive areas. Sensitive areas may include, but are not limited to wetlands, rare plant habitat or any structure found on MHLC property. Digging, removing naturally occurring items, and permanently marking any part of the natural environment are not permitted under any circumstances.
6. MHLC requests that cache owners include that their cache is located on MHLC owned land in the description on the Geocache website. Including a link to MHLC's website at [www.mohawkhudson.org](http://www.mohawkhudson.org) is also appropriate and appreciated.
7. Caches may not contain dangerous or inappropriate items, no food or scented items are allowed in caches and all cache contents must be family-friendly.
8. No cache may be placed in a location where it is likely that searchers will harm or modify the natural or man-made environment in their attempts to find or retrieve the cache. If MHLC observes any harm to the environment apparently caused by a geocache's placement the cache may be moved immediately in order to prevent further harm. When appropriate, MHLC will attempt to notify the owner if a cache is in violation of these regulations and request archival of the cache before removal. However, MHLC reserves the right to remove geocaches from MHLC owned properties without prior notice to the cache owner. MHLC will contact geocache owners through the official Geocaching website if a cache is removed.
9. Geocaches already placed on MHLC's properties prior to October 2015 are currently under review and some owners may be asked to archive and remove caches in environmentally sensitive or inappropriate locations. MHLC may contact existing cache owners via the Geocaching website to request that they complete an application for geocaches placed without documented approval. MHLC may remove a cache if unable to make contact with a cache owner.