



Additional Hints for Eco-Friendly Geocache Placement

From the Conservation Halton ecology staff

1) Keep the cache within reach of the trails.

Trails are placed where they are for a reason. Our parks contain many sensitive or rare species, off trail activities can cause damage to habitats or outright kill species. Always stay on the trails, if a cache is within reach of a trail we will likely approve it. There may be exceptions to this rule (exceptions that would allow for off trail placement could include placement close to the visitors center, mown area, field or other area where off trail activities are already permitted or would not cause damage to the natural habitats).

2) Do not leave the trails to seek a cache!

Even if your GPS says the shortest route leaves the trail please stay on the trails! If a cache has received approval from us then it will be on the trail system or within a few metres of the trails. **Any caches on CH lands published after Jan 2009 will have gone through the approval process** and should be on the trail system! Pre existing caches may be off trail but we are slowly working towards moving them closer to trails if possible. Often the trail is also the safest and easiest way to get there. Leaving the trail not only causes significant environmental damage it can also put you in danger! Leaving the trails is also considered trespassing and if caught could lead to a fine of 75\$. **If a cache leads to too much off trail activity it will be retired.** Please be considerate. We recommend downloading the Ontario Trails Project (<http://trailmaps.torontogeocaching.com/>) for your GPS unit so you can see all trails in the area. We have provided our trails to the project.

3) Label your cache container.

Label the cache **container** clearly, preferably on the outside (if it will not interfere with the hide). In addition to the paper explaining geocaching should be placed in the container itself. This will help prevent misidentification or muggles removing them as trash. Also please ensure any former markings have been removed from the outside of the container (especially ammo cans with the former ammo labels. These can startle muggles...and our security staff too).

4) When filling out the placement application: be specific as possible with the route and location/placement details.

Giving us all the information up front can help us better understand the placement and may lead to a faster approval. Even better provide us with a photograph of your hide! Close up and general shot showing vegetation around/between cache and trail useful.

5) Include the CH approver contact information.

Feel free to include the geocache@hrca.on.ca as a means of contact in the logbook or info paper if visitors have any questions or concerns. Whenever possible CH reviewer will affix a note on the inside lid identifying that the cache has received approval at that location.

6) Get a season pass.

It will be worth it in the end. There are many Conservation Halton parks to visit and most have multiple geocaches. It will end up being cheaper in the long run and all proceeds go back to the parks themselves.

7) Have fun!

After all that's the point of geocaching isn't it?

geocache@hrca.on.ca