



Establishing an Earthcache on a Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area (SNA)

Introduction

An Earthcache is a GPS-based recreational activity focusing on the educational and interpretive features of a cache site. Earthcaches must provide an earth science lesson. Unlike a geocache, an earthcache does not place physical objects on a site. Following these instructions and submitting an application are necessary for a permit to be granted establishing an earthcache on any Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area. Geocaches are prohibited on all Natural Areas.

Permit Required

1. Persons responsible for an earthcache **must** have an approved permit. Each earthcache requires its own permit. Earthcaches may not be appropriate on some Natural Areas. SNA Staff reserve the right to deny a permit. Some permits may require additional approval on sites managed by other organizations.
2. Persons responsible for an earthcache will be contacted annually to:
 - a. insure that the earthcache is still active,
 - b. address any issues that may have arisen,
 - c. and renew the permit.
3. In addition to an earthcache permit, persons interested in conducting a short-term, sponsored event related to an earthcache may be required to obtain a Special Use Permit.

Selecting a Site

1. Minnesota SNA Staff (Regional Specialist) must be consulted to assist in selecting an appropriate site for an earthcache.
2. Earthcaches must not negatively impact natural and cultural resources other visitors or their safety.
3. Earthcaches will not be allowed on sites where they could interfere with management activities.

Important to Know

1. The Minnesota SNA Program retains the right to close or temporarily suspend any earthcache.
2. Each earthcache must include the following links:
 - a. www.mndnr.gov/snass (Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area homepage)
 - b. www.mndnr.gov/snass/rules.html (Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area rules).
 - c. A link to the Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area where the earthcache is found (list of all sites): www.mndnr.gov/snass/list.html
 - d. www.facebook.com/MinnesotaSNAs (Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area Facebook Page)
3. Each earthcache must have a statement on the purpose (customized for that earthcache) and a statement on methods for preventing the introduction of invasive species.
4. Persons responsible for a permitted earthcache must follow all Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area rules (see link above) and all Earthcache Guidelines at <http://earthcache.org/guidelines>.
5. Permitted earthcaches will be hosted at www.geocaching.com.



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Ecological and Water Resources

Scientific and Natural Areas Program

Application Instructions

1. Consult with Regional SNA Specialist or designee to select an appropriate site on an SNA for an earthcache.
2. Obtain GPS coordinates for the location(s) being proposed for review.
3. Mark location(s) on a map of the SNA and submit coordinates and map with application*.
4. Complete application and e-mail to mark.cleveland@state.mn.us. Review and approval or denial of permit application may take up to 30 days. Application may also be mailed to: Mark Cleveland, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025. Review of mailed applications will take slightly longer to complete.
5. Applicant and www.geocaching.com will be notified of approved permit applications.

Reminder: earthcaches may only be established after approved permit has been received.

EARTHCACHE APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Applicant Information

Person Responsible for Earthcache:

Address:

City:	State:	ZIP:
Phone:	Email:	

EARTHCACHE Information

Scientific and Natural Area where earthcache will be located:

Earthcache Name:

Description of Earthcache and Location (attach more details if needed):

Clues (if applicable):

GPS Coordinates (DDD° MM' SS.S" Latitude):

GPS Coordinates (DDD° MM' SS.S" Longitude):

Signatures

I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I must follow all Minnesota Scientific and Natural Area rules and guidelines for earthcaches.

Signature of applicant:	Date:
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Office use only

Regional SNA Specialist:	Date:
Management Coordinator:	Date:

*** Don't forget to attach map showing marked location of earthcache coordinates**