



SWANER PRESERVE  
AND ECOCENTER  

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UtahStateUniversity

## GEOCACHING ON THE PRESERVE: THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Please also see “Geocaching Coordinates & Vocabulary” document for more information

### What do I need to go geocaching?

- **GPS Enabled Device** to help you find the geocaches. Smartphones or handheld GPS units are the perfect tool for this.
- **Pen or pencil** for signing the logbook: Some small geocaches will require you to bring a pencil or pen for recording your name and date on the log sheet. Larger geocache containers will include pencils and a logbook.
- **Trinkets for Trading** (Swag!): In medium and large caches, you will find several inexpensive toys and trinkets for trading. This is called “geocache swag,” and it adds a fun and exciting element to the game.

\*The rule for trading is: If you take something from the geocache, you must leave something of equal or greater value.

- **Water, sunscreen, and a snack** are recommended.

### I've never geocached before and I don't own a GPS.

No problem! Whatever map app you use on your smartphone works just as well as a GPS device. All you have to do is enter the coordinates of the geocache(s) into your GPS device. Click on this link: <https://www.geocaching.com/guide/> - “Getting Started” – “Inputting Coordinates By Hand”.

### Where are Swaner's Geocaches Located?

All seven of our geocaches are located on Swaner property. Four caches are located on the Swaner uplands on the north side of I-80 (Glenwild area trails) and 3 caches are south of I-80, in locations that border our wetland area. All 7 of our geocaches can be accessed at any time.

### Is geocaching appropriate for children?

Absolutely! Geocaching is a fun outdoor past-time for seniors, families with young children, and everything in between! Swaner's geocaches are ranked by degree-of-difficulty and each is accompanied by a description so that individuals and families can choose which geocache(s) is suitable for them.

## **Is there anything I should know before heading out to geocache on the Preserve?**

There are a few things that everyone should know before geocaching on the Swaner Preserve in order to have the best possible experience:

### **Geocaching Policies (PLEASE READ)**

- When geocaching on the Swaner Preserve, please **stick to the trails or bike path** during your search even though the GPS will guide you to the cache, using the most direct route. As long as you are going in the general direction, know that you will get there without having to walk through sensitive wildlife habitat or the property of others.
- Be aware of plants and wildlife in the area and respect their space.
- Obey signs that indicate sensitive nesting areas.
- Be aware of other trail users. All geocaches are positioned slightly off-trail so that geocachers will not be in the way of through traffic (i.e. mountain bikers, hikers, and other trail users).
- Do not leave trash behind (*Cache In Trash Out*).

## **Are there any “tricks” to finding a geocache on the Swaner Preserve?**

There is a slight “error” to every GPS device due to technological limitations. Your device can get you close to the cache, but sometimes the signal will have an error between 25 – 200 feet. Remember, the fun is in the hunting. 😊

## **What does a geocache look like?**

Swaner geocache containers vary. Some are tiny (nano caches) or small (micro caches), and some are medium to large-sized waterproof plastic containers (such as Lock-n-Lock containers or ammo boxes); and other geocaches blend in with their surroundings (called “devious” containers). All caches are hidden in order to make finding them more fun for the geocacher, but also to ensure that there is less chance of them being tampered with by the general public.

## **What’s in a cache?**

It depends on the size of the cache, but all caches include a logbook or logsheet, at the very least. Medium to large caches contain a logbook, pencils, an information card about the Swaner Preserve, and a few trinkets (called “swag”). These trinkets are there for trading, which means that the geocache finder can trade something of equal or greater value that he/she brings to the cache, for something already in the cache that was left by Swaner staff or a previous visitor.

## What do I do when I find a geocache?

- First and foremost, enjoy the scenery!
- **Do not move the geocache.** Make sure to leave the cache exactly as you found it.
- Sign the logbook with your name and date, and if you want, a few notes about the experience. Was the geocache easy/difficult to find? Did you see any amazing wildlife? What did you trade?
- If you DO trade for an item, **please remember to trade something that is of equal or greater value.**
- **Please do not leave candy, gum, food,** or heavily-scented items. Dangerous or inappropriate items, such as knives, ammunition, or alcohol, should also not be left.
- Make sure to **return all items to their Zip-lock bags and leave as found,** sealing the container so that its contents remain dry and protected. If the cache was found covered with leaves, sticks, or other debris, please replace these so that the cache is exactly as you found it.

## What do I do if I can't find the geocache?

If you are geocaching during EcoCenter hours, you can call the EcoCenter at (435) 649-1767 for hints in finding a cache.

## What do I do if something is missing in the geocache or if it's not where it should be?

Please contact the Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter at (435) 649-1767 with questions or concerns that you may have about a particular cache.

## Really Into Geocaching?

You can also access Swaner geocaches and information by clicking on <https://www.geocaching.com/> where you can log your visits, as well as find other geocaches in Park City and the surrounding area.

## Share your geocaching photos:



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