[Year]
[Preserve(s)]
[Applicant Last Name]
[<30-character project title]
[New Application/Renewal]

RESEARCH PERMIT APPLICATION & LIABILITY WAIVER
Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a non-profit corporation of the District of Columbia, issues research permits for its Illinois Preserves. The purpose of these permits is to allow controlled access for scientific research and other designated activities at Preserve(s).

Anyone wishing to conduct research at TNC's Illinois Preserve(s) must first apply for and receive an approved research permit from TNC using this Research Permit Application and Liability Waiver form. Such applications must be signed and emailed to tomoko.busha@tnc.org or mailed to:

The Nature Conservancy,
240 SW Jefferson St., Suite 301,
Peoria, IL 61602.

Application review may require up to 30 days. An approved and fully signed Research Permit Application and Liability Waiver shall be the **Research Permit**.

In consideration of TNC permitting the undersigned researcher and their assistants, if any to conduct research on Preserve(s), researcher, on behalf of themselves and their assistants, if any (collectively, the "**Researcher**") hereby states and agrees as follows:

1. Researcher is subject to and must abide by all rules and regulations identified on this Research Permit while conducting activities on the Preserve(s) and shall comply with all instructions or directions, either oral or written, from TNC.

2. Researcher will conduct their projects in accordance with the approved Research Permit. The specific research project is described in this application. Modifications to the approved research project require advance written authorization from TNC.

3. TNC reserves the right to terminate any Research Permit or individual research project on TNC Preserve(s) at any time.

4. The term of this Research Permit shall begin on the date it is approved by TNC staff and shall automatically terminate on 31 December of the year of issue unless terminated earlier by TNC.

5. By January 15 of the year following issuance, Researcher must submit an annual report to TNC via email. This obligation shall survive termination of the Research Permit. Failure to submit an annual report may result in denial of future research permit requests. Reports must include:
   a. Names of Preserve(s) and date(s) visited.
   b. Numbers of specimens, species collected, and deposition by date and Preserve(s) (if applicable).
   c. Types, dates and locations of disturbances made on Preserve(s).
   d. A brief summary of project results.
   e. Copies of all publications derived from research allowed by this permit.
   f. A list of all presentations/posters derived from research allowed by this permit.

6. TNC shall be acknowledged and given proper credit in all published papers and presentations relating to research or studies conducted on TNC Preserve(s). The acknowledgement will be in a form approved by TNC.

7. Contact information, general description of research activities, and annual reports may be shared by TNC with other researchers and interested parties.

8. Researcher shall not engage in any activities on TNC Preserve(s) that are unlawful, improper, or contrary to any applicable law, regulation, or ordinance.

9. Researcher shall conduct itself at all times in a manner that respects the site's integrity as a nature preserve and shall take care to safeguard the condition of the property and the natural resources thereon.

10. Researchers may not collect, remove, disturb, harm, harass, take, or destroy any rocks, minerals, plants, artifacts, animals, specimens, or matter, nor parts thereof, except to the extent specifically authorized in writing in a research permit issued in advance by authorized TNC staff. Except as authorized by such permit, all research activities must be non-invasive. Even where invasive collection or other research activities are authorized, Researcher shall at all times minimize disturbance and shall cause no long-term impacts to natural communities or populations. Negative impacts associated with conducting research on TNC Preserve(s) shall also be minimized by proper use of vehicles and equipment. If TNC staff identify negative impacts or wasteful practices that could affect the Preserve(s), researchers must cooperate with TNC staff to avoid or minimize the impacts.

11. Any Researcher authorized by TNC to collect flora/fauna is required to possess all applicable local, state and federal collecting permits and authorizations. If proposed research involves a state-listed threatened or endangered species, a permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is necessary (). Some TNC preserves are also Nature Preserves or Land & Water Reserves. In these cases, an Illinois Nature Preserves Commission permit must also be obtained. It is the responsibility of the Researcher to ascertain in advance and fully comply with the terms of any governmental permits, and any federal, state, and local provisions that may apply to their planned activities, throughout their stay. Researcher needs to submit copies of all permits and authorizations to TNC before any collections are made on the Preserve(s).

12. If any portion of the research requires access to lands or waters owned by a person or entity other than TNC, Researcher shall be responsible for obtaining authorization for such access from the property's owner.

13. Any and all persons participating in, assisting with, and/or accompanying Researcher must read and adhere to all the rules and guidance provided herein.

14. Researcher shall assume rarity when encountering any unfamiliar plant or animal and to seek specific guidance from TNC if a known species or community is rare or imperiled. Researcher shall take appropriate protective measures to ensure flora/fauna known or suspected to be rare or imperiled shall not be disturbed. Researcher is expected to collect conservatively and will be constrained to the kinds and numbers of specimens specifically authorized by this permit. Researcher is expected to collect in a discreet manner, away from roads, trails, and developed areas unless specified otherwise, and are required to minimize damage to the Preserve(s).

15. TNC reserves the right to restrict access to any area of the Preserve(s) at any time for any reason. In such event, Researcher shall not use such area(s) in any manner whatsoever. TNC also reserves the right to use, and to permit others to use, areas of the Preserve(s) that are being accessed by researchers/assistants, including for management activities, such as prescribed fire, invasives control and other activities which could be disruptive to Researcher's activities. Any limitations on such activities requested by Researcher shall be granted or denied in TNC's sole discretion.

16. Equipment, vehicles, and other personal property brought onto the Preserve(s) by Researcher shall be stored and used in manners that allow for continued use of the Preserve(s) by TNC and other visitors and that does not cause a nuisance or danger to others, nor create an unsightly condition. While on the Preserve(s), Researcher shall conduct themselves so as not to threaten the health or safety of others and shall refrain from interfering with the quiet enjoyment of any other persons who may be on or near the Preserve(s).

17. Researcher will answer questions from TNC personnel regarding data collected, research methods and equipment utilized, conclusions drawn, and implications of their work on TNC Preserve(s).

18. Camping, smoking, and fires are prohibited on the Preserve(s) without written authorization from TNC.

19. Possession of weapons of any sort on the Preserve(s), including but not limited to handguns, firearms, or archery equipment, is prohibited except as authorized through any TNC hunting program(s) or with written authorization from TNC.

20. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the Preserve(s) without written authorization from TNC.

21. Dogs are not allowed on the Preserve(s) beyond office yards except for legal use during TNC hunting program(s) or with written authorization from TNC. This prohibition does not apply to service animals on TNC properties open to the public.

22. Access to the Preserve(s) must be along existing roads. There shall be no off-road vehicle use without written authorization from TNC.

23. No hazardous, toxic, or dangerous substances, chemicals, materials, or wastes, may be brought, utilized, stored, processed, transported, or released on, under, about, or from the Preserve(s) without written authorization from TNC.

24. No substances, chemicals, materials, or wastes may be disposed of or dumped on the Preserve(s).

25. Researcher may not install or erect any permanent or temporary structures, fixtures or attachments on the Preserve(s) without written authorization from TNC.

26. TNC makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, and Researcher shall engage in activities at the Preserve(s) at their own risk.

27. There are possible dangers that might be involved in the type of activities Researcher will be participating in. Researcher must not be aware of any problem or condition that could endanger others or themselves if Researcher participates in activities at the Preserve(s).

28. Researcher, for themselves and their heirs, shall waive, release, indemnify, and hold harmless TNC and its officers, directors, and employees from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses incurred in connection with the activities of Researcher and circumstances resulting from any injury to Researcher, or damage to Researcher's property at the Preserve(s).

29. Researcher must be aware of TNC'S property boundaries and agree to avoid trespassing on private property adjacent to the Preserve(s).

30. Researcher must complete a site orientation with Nachusa staff prior to conducting any field work. Field assistants and anyone else who will be leading data collection without the permitted researcher must also complete site orientation prior to field work.

31. All individuals wishing to access a Preserve pursuant to this Research Permit Application and Liability Waiver must be specifically identified on the attached application form. The undersigned research applicant shall sign this Research Permit Application and Liability Waiver on behalf of themselves and any additional listed assistants, or they may elect to have each assistant sign on their own behalf.

BY SIGNING, I ACKNOWLEDGE I AM AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE. I UNDERSTAND THE USE OF THIS PRESERVE(S) IS A PRIVILAGE GRANTED TO ME AND THIS PRIVILAGE MAY BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME. I CERTIFY I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS, CONDITIONS AND RULES, ABOVE, AND I WILL ADHERE TO THEM, AND THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. I ALSO UNDERSTAND I AM REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL RESEARCH REPORT AND THAT TNC MAY SHARE CONTACT INFORMATION, GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH, AND ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION WITH OTHERS.

THIS RESEARCH PERMIT IS NOT VALID UNTIL SIGNED BY APPLICANT AND APPROVED BY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY.

RESEARCH APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY **SCIENCE** APPROVAL:_____ DATE: _____

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY **SITE** APPROVAL:_____ DATE: _____

To be completed by primary Researcher, leading the study (not advisor):
The below information is incorporated by reference into the attached Research Permit Application and Liability Waiver.

APPLICANT'S FULL NAME:

AFFILIATION: POSITION:

ADDRESS:

OFFICE PHONE: CELL PHONE: E-MAIL ADDRESS:

If applicant is a student, please provide name, affiliation, and email address of supervising faculty member:

SUPERVISING FACULTY MEMBER:

AFFILIATION: POSITION:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

If applicant will have field assistants collecting data on the preserve without the permitted researcher, please provide name, affiliation, email address and cell phone number:

FIELD ASSISTANT'S NAME:

AFFLIATION: POSITION:

CELL PHONE: EMAIL:

APPLICANT'S RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

OTHER PERMITS HELD:

PROJECT TITLE:

NAME OF PRESERVE(S):

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH INCLUDING OBJECTIVE(S) (*a proposal may be included, but this section MUST be completed*):

LOCATION(S) OF RESEARCH SITE(S) AND ACCESS ROUTES. A detailed description, GPS coordinates, GIS shapefile, KML file, and/or maps with the research site(s) identified are acceptable formats to accompany this application.

METHOD OF ACCESSING RESEARCH SITE(S) INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION MODE. Any proposed use of motor vehicles off of established lanes must be mapped.

DESCRIBE ANY EQUIPMENT, SAMPLING DEVICES, OR MARKERS TO BE LEFT ON THE PRESERVE(S) OVERNIGHT OR LONGER, AND DURATION OF PLACEMENT.

IF THE PROJECT REQUIRES SOIL DISTURBANCE PLEASE EXPLALIN THE METHOD AND EXTENT INCLUDING THE DEPTH AND WIDTH OF THE DISTURBANCE.

PROPOSED TIME, FREQUENCY, AND LENGTH OF VISITS AND NUMBER IN PARTY.

DURATION OF PROJECT (WITH DATES):

IS THE RESEARCH DEPENDENT ON THE OCCURRENCE, TIMING OR LOCATION OF ANY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITES? (*E.g., prescribed fire, invasive species control. If YES, description, map, and/or timeline MUST be included. Researchers are responsible for coordinating and scheduling with TNC staff. Any modifications to TNC management activities shall be in the sole discretion of TNC.*)

SPECIES OR MATERIAL TO BE COLLECTED:

METHOD OF COLLECTION(S):

NUMBER OF SPECIMENS AND DEPOSITION:

OTHER DISTURBANCES TO BE MADE:

RECORDS TO BE KEPT:

DESCRIBE KINDS AND AMOUNTS OF ANY HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS YOU NEED TO BRING ONTO THE PRESERVE(S) AND DISPOSAL METHODS:

LIST FULL LEGAL NAMES OF ANY RESEARCH ASSISTANTS THAT MAY BE PRESENT ON THE PRESERVE(S) IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED RESEARCH:

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OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION: