

RESEARCH PERMIT POLICY

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) grants permits to researchers wishing to observe and examine natural resources on EBRPD lands and sanctions scientific activities based on the following requirements:

- The research relates to conservation biology, natural resource management, biology, environmental sciences, ecology, geology, or related studies.
- Successful permit applicants must make their findings accessible to the public and EBRPD through reports, publications, and/or presentations.
- Applicants must demonstrate a well-constructed research/project proposal, knowledge of the topic, a schedule for reporting, a thorough plan to avoid potential adverse environmental impacts that the fieldwork could cause, and an ACUC-approved protocol for any research involving animals.
- Research is for academic or educational purposes associated with a college, university, or non-profit entity.

Permits are provided on a one-, three-, or five-year basis. Research reports must be submitted in compliance with permit guidelines upon expiration of the permit. To be considered for a research permit, EBRPD requires completion of the following application and compliance with all [park regulations](#). Once a complete permit application is submitted, processing and technical review may take up to 10 weeks.

If an extension is needed, you are required to reapply for a permit and provide a summary of the research findings to date. Overall, EBRPD welcomes proposals for scientific studies designed to increase understanding of the human and ecological processes and resources in parks. EBRPD supports proposals that aim to utilize the unique characteristics of open space parks to advance scientific understanding for the public benefit.

RESEARCH PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS

- I. **Access** – The Researcher and associates must each keep a signed copy of this permit on their person and post one on their vehicle as evidence of their authorization to do research in the designated park(s). Prior approval from Park Operations is required for after-hours access (10 pm – 5 am). Access to restricted areas is prohibited without prior approval from EBRPD. If approved to drive within the Parks, abide by the following driving restrictions:

Driving restrictions:

- a. Researcher and associates carry auto insurance certificate. See Permit General Conditions 6 for more information.
- b. Pull to the side and let all trail users pass or get their attention before passing them.
- c. Maximum speed of 15 mph when driving within the Park.
- d. Keep your vehicle on the designated trails as indicated in the park brochure or designated by Park Staff.
- e. Do not drive on the fire roads when it is raining, and wait at least five days after it rains. Check with the Park staff about any trail changes and what trails are not available to vehicles.

RESEARCH PERMIT POLICY and GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

- f. Vehicles accessing park property must be clearly labeled with the name of the organization under which they are operating (Ex, A temporary magnetic sheet on the side of the vehicle with the company name).
 - g. Follow the linked decontamination protocol for driving within the park and walking off-trail.
2. **Archaeological Sites** - No paleontological, archaeological, cultural, or historical resources (older than 50 years prior to the present) may be disturbed.
3. **Authority** – The Researcher must contact the Park Supervisors or appropriate staff for each park directly one week prior to the first entry into the park, sampling event, etc. During this contact, park staff and permittee will agree upon the preferred method of contact (i.e., via email or phone) and requirements for advanced notice before each subsequent visit. **Failure to communicate with the Park Supervisor or their staff may result in the revocation of this permit.**
4. **Collection of specimens (including materials)** - No specimens (including materials) may be collected unless expressly allowed in the research permit. The researcher must:
 - a. Provide copies of a collection permit through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and, if necessary, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or permit applications at the time of your application submission.
 - b. Wear a high-visibility vest or clothing denoting affiliation at all times when collecting specimens so that the public understands that the EBRPD sanctions the sampling.
 - c. Should any member of the public question your project, the researcher will take the time to explain the purpose of this activity and that it is undertaken through this research permit process.
 - d. Animal Care and Use Approval (ACUC) Documents – In addition to an SCP, an ACUC may be required from the affiliated organization or institution if working with live animals.
5. **Expiration date** - Permits expire one, three, or five years after issuance, depending on the indicated term on the permit. Nothing in this permit shall be construed as granting any exclusive research privileges or as conferring an automatic right to continue, extend, or renew this or any other line of research under a new permit.
6. **Insurance** – A copy of a valid license and insurance is required at the time of application submission if you are requesting driving access. A four-wheel drive vehicle may be necessary, and access may be denied due to conditions following rain events.
7. **Liability** - You agree that the East Bay Regional Park District shall not be liable for any bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death of any person or for damages to any property resulting from this Permit. In consideration of being permitted to enter the Property and perform the work under this Permit, you agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the East Bay Regional Park District, its directors, officials, agents and employees (collectively “District”) from and against any and all actions, claims, demands and liabilities for any loss or damage, including claims for bodily injury, sickness, disease or death or property damage, arising from, relating to, or resulting from the entry onto the Property and/or the performance of activities under this Permit.
8. **Manipulation of Resources** – If the study requires any manipulation, removal, or introduction of natural resources, complete details must be outlined in the scope of work and research proposal. Transplantation or introduction of animals or plants is prohibited without prior approval and added

as special conditions of the approved permit. Additionally, any introduction of pathogens on plants and animals is prohibited.

9. **Media Policies** – Notify the EBRPD Public Affairs Department at mediainquiries@ebparks.org at least two weeks prior to any interviews conducted on Park District lands. EBRPD may request that a representative be sent to the event.
10. **Reports** – Submit a Research Proposal when applying. A report or written summary of your findings is required. This may include any papers or written articles, whether published or unpublished, related to your subject matter. Any publications that use data collected from the district's land must be submitted to the district within two months of publication. Raw data in the form of spreadsheets, databases, or shapefiles for internal management use may also be requested. Data may be embargoed if necessary to provide time for publishing papers or reports. If you wish to continue your studies and extend your permit beyond the original permit period, please provide a summary of your findings or actions for consideration of a permit renewal.
11. **Responsibility** - The researcher ensures that all persons working on the project adhere to permit conditions and applicable EBRPD regulations.
12. **Rules and Regulations** - The Researcher and associates abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in Ordinance 38. Park rules are available at the respective park kiosk, signs, and public information centers and can also be found at www.ebparks.org/activities/ord38.htm
13. **Revocation** - This permit may be terminated at any time for any reason at the sole discretion of EBRPD. The researcher may consult with the appropriate EBRPD Stewardship Department contact to clarify issues resulting in a revoked permit and the potential for reinstatement by the Stewardship Department.
14. **Staff Participation** - Whenever feasible, opportunities will be encouraged for EBRPD staff to attend relevant field activities.
15. **Additional Conditions** – The Park District may impose additional conditions beyond the General Permit Conditions to protect the Park District's resources and ensure public safety.

The permit applicant accepts and agrees to comply with the following Research Permit Policy and General Permit Conditions:

- 1. I understand that the EBRPD reserves the right to grant or deny a permit for any reason, including scientific merit and/or potential damage to the resource.*
- 2. I understand that the EBRPD will require specific conditions depending on the impact of the proposed use.*
- 3. I understand that as a condition of the permit, I agree to submit a written report to the EBRPD within two months of publication or permit expiration, or as agreed upon with the Stewardship Contact.*
- 4. I understand that East Bay Regional Park District shall not be liable for any bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death of any person or for damages to any property as a result of this Permit.*

Permit applicant:

Date: