

RESEARCH PERMIT POLICY

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), from time to time, will grant permits to approved researchers wishing to conduct scientific activities and/or observe and examine natural resources on EBRPD lands. Permission for a research permit is granted to applications that meet the following the requirements:

- The research relates to one or more of the following topics: conservation biology, natural resource management, biology, environmental sciences, ecology, geology, or related studies and is consistent with EBRPD's mission.
- Successful permit applicants are required to make their findings accessible to the public and EBRPD through reports, publications, and/or presentations.
- Applicants must successfully demonstrate a well-constructed research/project proposal, sufficient knowledge of the topic, a schedule for reporting, and a comprehensive plan to avoid potential adverse impacts to the environment that could be caused by the fieldwork.
- Research is for academic and educational purposes that is affiliated with a college, university, or recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit entity.

Permits are provided on a one, three, or five-year term, with expiration occurring one, three, or five years after the issue date. 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, it may take approximately 10 weeks for processing and technical review.

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 seek to use the unique values of open space parks to develop scientific understanding for public benefit.

Research conducted with EBRPD or at the request of EBRPD does not require a permit.

RESEARCH PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS

- I. **Access** – Researcher and associates must each keep a signed copy of the permit on your person and post one on your vehicle as evidence of your authorization to do research within the designated park(s). For after-hours (10 pm – 5 am) access, prior approval from the Park Operations is required. Access into restricted areas is prohibited without EBRPD approval.

If the permit includes permission to drive within the Parks, permittee must abide by the following driving restrictions:

- a. Pull to the side and let all trail users pass or get their attention before passing them.
- b. Maximum speed of 15 mph when driving within the Park.
- c. Keep your vehicle on the designated trails as indicated in the park brochure or designated by Park Staff.

RESEARCH PERMIT POLICY and GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

- d. Do not drive on the fire roads when it is raining, and wait a minimum of five days after it rains. Check with the Park staff on any trail changes and what trails are not open to vehicles.
 - e. Vehicles accessing park property must be clearly labeled with the name of the organization for whom they are operating under. (Ex: A temporary magnetic sheet on the side of the vehicle with the company name)
 - f. Follow the Decontamination protocol for driving within the park and walking off-trail.
2. **Archaeological Sites** - No paleontological, archaeological, cultural, or historical (constructed more than 50 years prior to today) resources may be disturbed.
3. **Authority** – Researcher must contact the Park Supervisors or appropriate staff for each park directly one week prior to 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 revocation of this permit.**
4. **Collection of specimens (including materials)** - No specimens (including materials) may be collected unless authorized by EBPRD, the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Scientific Research and Collecting and if necessary, a Federal US Fish and Wildlife Service 10(a) 1(a) permit. If research requires collection, you must include that information on the application, and obtain a collection permit through California Department of Fish and Wildlife and, if necessary, US Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - a. Wear a high visibility vest at all times when collecting specimens so that the public understands that the sampling is sanctioned by the EBRPD.
 - b. Should any member of the public question your project, time will be taken to explain the purpose of this activity and that such activity is undertaken through this research permit process.
5. **Expiration date** - Permits expire one, three, or five years after issuance depending on the indicated length on the permit. Nothing in this permit shall be construed as granting any exclusive research privileges or automatic right to continue, extend, or renew this or any other line of research under new permit(s).
6. **Insurance** – All drivers and vehicles on park lands must be licensed and insured. A copy of a valid license and insurance are required at the time of your application submission.
7. **Liability**- You agree 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. 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, the Park Supervisor and Stewardship contact must be notified and provide approval. Details must be outlined in the scope of work and research proposal. Transplantation or

introduction of animals or plants is prohibited. Additionally, any introduction of pathogens on plants and animals is prohibited.

9. **Media Policies** - The EBRPD Public Affairs Department needs to be notified prior to any interviews conducted on Park District lands. EBRPD may deny the request to allow media as part of the research permit and/or request to send a representative to the event.
10. **Reports** - As a condition of being granted a research permit, a Research Proposal is required when applying for a permit. Additionally, a report or written summary of your findings is required annually and at the completion of your study. This may include any papers or written articles, published or unpublished, regarding your subject matter. If you wish to continue your study and extend your permit past the allotted period of one year, you are still required to submit a summary of findings or actions and reapply for a new permit. If reports from past research are not submitted, your permit will not be renewed or extended.
11. **Responsibility** - The researcher is responsible for ensuring that all persons working on the project adhere to permit conditions and applicable EBRPD regulations.
12. **Rules and Regulations** - 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 for breach of any condition. The researcher may consult with the appropriate EBRPD Stewardship contact to clarify issues resulting in a revoked permit and the potential for reinstatement by the Stewardship Department.
14. **Staff Participation** - Whenever feasible, opportunities for appropriate EBRPD staff to attend field activities will be encouraged.
15. **Additional Conditions** – The Park District may impose additional conditions beyond the General Permit Conditions in order to protect the resources of the Park District and provide public safety.

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

- 1. I have read, understand, and if granted a permit, agree to comply with the Permit General Conditions.*
- 2. I understand that the EBRPD reserves the right to grant or deny a permit based on the scientific merit and/or potential damage to the resource.*
- 3. I understand that EBRPD will require certain special conditions depending on the impact of the proposed use.*
- 4. I understand that as a condition of the permit, I agree to submit a written report to the EBRPD within a year of the expired permit, or as agreed with the Stewardship Contact.*

Permit applicant:

Date: