

## Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC)

One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702



Dear Permit Applicant:

Please thoroughly read the information below prior to submission of your application. When completing the application on page 2, be sure to fill in a response to all fields on the form with enough detail to ensure that requested actions can be considered for permitting. Supporting documentation may be included for reference, but “see attached” is NOT acceptable information for any field. If information regarding methods or other activities desired for permitting are provided only in attachments, these methods/activities will NOT be considered for permitting.

**The holder of a special use permit is subject to the [Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act](#), and the following Illinois Administrative Codes: [Rules for Management of Nature Preserves](#), [Regulation of Public Use of Dedicated Nature Preserves](#) and the rule for the [Register of Land and Water Reserves](#).**

Collecting activities that are allowed in a preserve include:

1. Collecting that is provided for in the master plan.
2. Collecting, under permit, of voucher specimens of species not already recorded as occurring on a nature preserve provided specimens are deposited in a permanent institutional collection in Illinois and are available to research workers.
3. Collecting, under permit, for a research project which will significantly contribute to knowledge of the nature preserve, provided the specimens taken are limited in numbers and are of species represented by large populations with high reproductive potential.

Permits for collecting and research may be denied if the vegetation of the nature preserve is well known, no methodology is presented, no need statement for the study is presented, or the planned activity will cause unacceptable impacts to preserve resources. Likewise, a permit may be denied due to related ongoing ecological investigations.

A person who wishes to collect for scientific purposes any fauna protected by Illinois wildlife code or fish code is also required to secure from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) a General Scientific Permit. Any work with reptiles or amphibians requires an IDNR Herptile Permit. An IDNR endangered species permit is required for collecting or working with endangered or threatened animals and federally endangered plants.

All applications must specify the name of the preserve and county the site is located in. The Nature Preserves Commission will not issue statewide or county wide permits.

**Permit holders must obtain the owner's permission and signature on the permit prior to beginning research.**

Landowners retain the right to deny a researcher access to a preserve for research. Landowning agencies such as Forest Preserve, Conservation and Park Districts may also require a permit through their agency. Please check directly with such landowners to determine if they will require a permit.

- Advance coordination with landowners should aid in efficiently processing INPC permit(s). For further information about INPC sites and ownership, see the INPC [Nature Preserve & Land and Water Reserve Directory](#). [Prairie State Conservation Coalition's I-View](#) mapping platform can also help to identify INPC sites and associated landowners.

Permits will be valid for a maximum period of one year and will expire on 31 December. Within 30 days of expiration, permit holders shall submit an annual report in electronic format to the landowner and the Commission including the following information:

1. Names of preserves visited and dates of visits.
2. Number of specimens and species collected by date and preserve.
3. Disposition of specimens.
4. Types, dates and locations of disturbances made on preserves.

Permits may be renewed upon submission of a report and the original permit to the e-mail address below. Failure to submit an annual report will result in denial of renewal of the permit for future years and denial of additional special-use permits.

Permit holders shall provide the landowner and the Commission copies of all reports and reprints of publications derived from the research allowed under this permit.

**PLEASE ALLOW A MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS FOR REVIEW**

PERMITS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY **E-MAIL** TO:

[dnr.inpcpermits@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.inpcpermits@illinois.gov)

Please cc: [kelly.neal@illinois.gov](mailto:kelly.neal@illinois.gov)

Stewardship and Protection Programs Manager

**Online Permit Application System Coming Soon**  
**The System is expected to go live in 2026.**

Please contact [dnr.inpcpermits@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.inpcpermits@illinois.gov) for guidance before requesting permits for 2026.  
In the subject line, please use applicant's last name, first name & "new" or "renewal" (to renew 2025 permit).

**ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION**  
**APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL-USE PERMIT**

**PLEASE ALLOW A MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS FOR REVIEW**

**APPLICANT/LEAD RESEARCHER INFORMATION**

NAME:

POSITION & INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION:

ADDRESS:

DATE OF BIRTH:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

GENERAL FIELD OF INTEREST & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

**PROPOSED VISITS AND ACTIVITIES**

NAME(S) OF NATURE PRESERVE or LAND AND WATER RESERVE AND COUNTY (for multiples sites, please list each site name and associated county on a separate line):

MAXIMUM NUMBER IN PARTY:

NAMES TO BE INCLUDED AS SUB-PERMITTEES:

OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT:

FREQUENCY AND LENGTH OF VISIT:

DURATION OF PROJECT (WITH DATES):

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES:

METHODS AND PROCEDURES include information on any equipment to be used at the site(s).

OTHER DISTURBANCES TO BE MADE:

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION (LIST ALL PERMITS HELD):

RECORDS TO BE KEPT:

**COLLECTING (INCLUDING CAPTURE AND RELEASE)**

SPECIES OR MATERIAL:

NUMBER OF SPECIMENS:

METHODS OF COLLECTING:

DISPOSITION OF SPECIMENS:

**BY MY SIGNATURE, I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS ON THE BACK OF THIS APPLICATION AND THAT THE ABOVE SUPPLIED INFORMATION IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.**

X \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: