Great Parks of Hamilton County
NATURAL AREAS RESEARCH GUIDELINES

Great Parks of Hamilton County (GPHC) invites qualified researchers in the natural sciences to pursue various research projects in its parks and nature preserves. The philosophy of the park district is that preserved natural areas should be used as outdoor laboratories for scientific study of flora and fauna. However, because conservation of natural resources is the highest priority of Great Parks of Hamilton County and since the park district acts as a resource steward for citizens of Hamilton County, the following guidelines have been established:

1. All proposals are reviewed by the park district’s Research Committee. They will submit their recommendations for approval or disapproval to the Director of Natural Resources.
2. A final report summarizing all research conducted must be received by the annual deadline in digital form. If the project extends beyond the deadline, extension of the deadline must be sought from GPHC. Failure to file reports on time will result in denial of future research privileges. Please note that all final reports must be submitted to research@greatparks.org in a PDF digital format. Spreadsheet data should be in Excel format and graphics should be in jpg or tiff format. Mapping data should be in ArcMap Shape files.
3. Projects unlikely to receive approval include those requiring habitat damage or unjustified removal of specimens from the parks. Park by-laws must be followed during the study.
4. Any plants or animals removed from the parks must be vouchered in a recognized and accessible herbarium or natural history museum location. Specimens of species currently endangered or threatened species within Ohio cannot be collected without appropriate permits. Photographic documentation should take the place of voucher specimens whenever possible.
5. Researchers must abide by all state laws, including permit regulations, and have current permits where so required. Copies of permits must be submitted to GPHC prior to beginning of work.
6. Proposals will be evaluated based upon their consistency with park district goals and management. Denial of a proposal does not mean it is not scientifically valid, nor that the researcher is not qualified. We encourage the researcher to apply to do other projects, provided that the denial was not based upon an infraction of #3 above.
7. The park district reserves the right to withdraw research permission if, once it has begun, the research is found to be detrimental to the park district.
8. A signed letter from the Director of Natural Resources giving approval to conduct research must be carried by the researcher as proof to Park Rangers that necessary approval has been acquired. If live-trapping, collection of plants, animals, fossils or minerals is part of the proposal, the letter must specify approval of these activities.

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing and accept the conditions set there in this.

__________________________________________________________________________
Principle Investigator

__________________________________________________________________________
Student Signature (if applicable)

Date

Date

Last Update: 1/27/2021