



Belwin Conservancy Research Policies and Guidelines

Belwin Conservancy seeks to provide an outlet for research on the understanding and recovery of Midwestern ecosystems for local, regional, and international research organizations. The following research policies and guidelines pertain to all research conducted at the Belwin Conservancy preserve.

Application:

Applications must be submitted to obtain permission to conduct research on Belwin Conservancy property.

- Project title
- Name, contact information, and organization of the researcher(s)
- Purpose and goal of the project
- Methods, equipment and locations of sampling and data collection
- Permitting
- Timeline
- Collaborations with other organizations
- Assistance from Belwin Conservancy staff

Criteria:

Research applications will be evaluated on rolling basis to determine if the proposed research is

- consistent with the mission and goals of the Belwin Conservancy
- complementary with preserve activities such as education and recreation
- has little or no impact on natural resources or ecosystem functions at the landscape scale
- scientifically relevant and additive

Approval of any research project is at the sole discretion of Belwin Conservancy staff. Research that is observational or moderate experimentation is encouraged. Intensive experimentation will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All research projects must be approved by the Belwin Conservancy with a signed liability waiver prior to the commencement of the research.

Data Collection:

Belwin Conservancy must be notified at least five business days in advance to coordinate data collection. Upon entering the preserve, researchers must check in at the office prior to sampling and data collection. There are no overnight facilities available for use onsite.

Any necessary permits are the responsibility of the researcher. The location of any research plots, equipment, or specimen collections must be approved by Belwin Conservancy. Researchers are responsible for the removal of all equipment upon completion of the study.

Researchers are responsible for the liability of any assistants. Domestic animals are not allowed. Children under 18 are not permitted to accompany researchers. Firearms, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs are not allowed. Possession of these will result in immediate and permanent expulsion from the property.

Reporting and Publication:

A final report in the form of a project summary, thesis, or manuscript submitted for publication should be provided to the Belwin Conservancy upon completion. In addition to the final report, the Belwin Conservancy reserves the right to request all data collected to add to its database. All reports and publications must properly acknowledge the Belwin Conservancy and contributions of its personnel. Two reprints of published reports must be submitted to Belwin Conservancy for its library.