

Guide to Leading Rapid Assessment/BioBlitz Activity

**Thanks for your interest in participating as a leader in our BioBlitz!
This page should help you get a better idea of how to get you and your intended activity included on the required Rapid Assessment Permit.**

Event Overview

The mission of the Indiana DNR Division of State Parks is to conserve, manage, and interpret our resources while creating memorable experiences for everyone. .



312 IAC Articles 8 and 9 protect wildlife resources and prohibit activity that may compromise preservation of habitat and natural and cultural resources on a DNR property, except as authorized by a license. Scientific Research and Collecting permits and temporary Scientific Rapid Assessment permits serve as a license for qualified researchers on state park and reservoir properties only. All team leaders and their activity details will be included on one single permit. While additional individual property policy may apply, permits are selectively released as a partnership between the Division of State Parks and the permitted individuals, agencies, or organizations named on a single, collective permit. All permits are released with the intent of potentially increasing the knowledge base with which the Division of State Parks may make future resource management decisions. All permits require a report including detail of any/all findings (data, photographs, collection samples, etc.) to the event coordinator as well as copies of any published work resulting from licensed activity, regardless of permit period or publication date. Future permits are contingent upon full compliance.

Event Details

- One coordinator has been identified to plan and oversee the event and coordinate survey teams, verify permit terms and special conditions are being followed, and be responsible for compiling reports from team leaders within one month following the event. The report will include findings by taxa, survey team participants, specimens presented for public, number of public attendees, and incidental mortality. The coordinator is designated long before event registration begins and is the primary contact for event information.
- One site will be designated for public presentation of findings.
- Unless otherwise authorized, each survey team is limited to six or fewer individuals off official trails at any one time.
- **Collections for presentation are to be limited.** Specifics may be noted in special conditions section of permit for each team.
 1. Generally, flora (including bryophytes and fungi) are not to be disturbed and may be photographed only.
 2. Insect collections will be limited by the number of sample stations/methods on an event basis within special conditions on individual team profiles.
 3. Typically, fish are to be photographed and released at the capture site.
 4. No more than one non-listed live reptile per species may be collected for presentation, but the Division of State Parks may be more restrictive depending upon the species present, and the reptile must be returned to the capture site as quickly as possible.

5. Amphibians should be minimally handled and photographed and released at the capture site. Each specimen should be placed in a fresh plastic baggie for temporary handling/inspection.
 6. No mammals or mussels shall be collected, although small mammals may be live-trapped, photographed, and immediately released at the capture site.
 7. Other than approved mist netting/banding, no birds are to be collected.
- The coordinator will be making sure that all equipment is clean prior to being brought onto the property to prevent the spread of pathogens.
 - All presentation specimens must be alive and in presentable condition. All incidental mortality must be reported to the coordinator at the close of the event. Collection of state or federal rare, threatened, or endangered species is prohibited. Collected specimens must be immediately returned to exact site of capture following documentation and/or presentation.
 - All tools, traps, markings, signs of disturbance, or other introduced materials for the purpose of the event must be clean prior to entering the property and be removed upon conclusion of the event.

What We Need From You

Please take a moment to prepare a brief proposal of what your planned activity includes and email it to spresearch@dnr.IN.gov. This information is necessary for us to include you on the required permit. Be sure you do this before the registration deadline.

A valid Indiana Scientific Purpose License, available from the Division of Fish & Wildlife, is also required in addition to this permit from the Division of State Parks for activities involving the capturing and/or collecting of fish, mussels, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; contact Linnea Petercheff in the Division of Fish & Wildlife at 317-233-6527 or at lpetercheff@dnr.IN.gov for more information.

What do I include in my proposal?

Team Leader/Principle Investigator

(name, title, address, phone number, email)

Research and Collection Intent

(Taxa being covered, any additional objectives beyond presence-absence survey)

Research and Collection Start & End Times

(Planned start and end time of survey)

Sampling Methods/Presentation

(Specific details regarding sampling protocol and means of public presentation or “show and tell”: data collection methods, trap styles, areas being traversed/worked, projected disturbance, materials, markings, construction, ongoing intent beyond this permit, etc.)

Copy of valid Scientific Purpose License (if applicable)

