

Proposal for permission to use the USF Forest Preserve

The USF Forest Preserve (Forest Preserve) is a major University asset and a part of USF College of Arts and Sciences' Environmental Conservation Outreach, Research, and Education (ECORE) System facilities. The Forest Preserve is used to protect and provide learning opportunities about organisms, ecosystems, and cultural resources found in numerous types of Florida wetland and upland habitats. Several of these are imperiled, obligating careful, low-impact use. USF encourages the use of the Forest Preserve for research, teaching, or outreach, but requires the approval of a brief written proposal by the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, consisting of personnel in the USF College of Arts and Sciences. There are two purposes to this proposal: (1) To maintain the health of the Forest Preserve and the organisms, ecosystems, and cultural resources within it by assuring proper, compatible use by all users, and (2) To provide adequate information as to who is using the Forest Preserve and for what purposes, thereby making clear whose study plots, flags, markers, other field paraphernalia, and impacts are whose. The Advisory Board will not evaluate the scientific or pedagogic merit of your proposed work but may reject or suggest modifications to use requests based entirely on the expected impact on the Forest Preserve and the organisms, ecosystems, and cultural resources in it. Once approved, any departure from or modification of a proposal for Forest Preserve use must be accompanied by approval of a modified proposal before work begins.

USF recognizes the Forest Preserve as an asset, and stewardship of the Forest Preserve is expected for all who use it. Unauthorized use or damage of the Forest Preserve will lead to revocation of all use privileges including the removal of any introduced elements at the end of the agreed upon project timeline unless written consent is obtained by Nicole Brand, the Ecore Director, through the Advisory Board approval process.

Please provide your name, department, email address, and phone number. All graduate student use must have major professor approval.

I. Each research project proposal must include the following information.

1. What is the general purpose of your research?
2. Does this research have current funding and/or do you intend to submit a request for funding? This information is collected specifically for tracking use metrics of the Forest Preserve and is not a consideration for use.
3. Does your research have any USF or non-USF collaborators? If so, please list. This information is collected specifically for tracking use metrics of the Forest Preserve and is not a consideration for use.
4. Describe the methods you intend to use – number of plots, types of markers, etc.
5. Describe how you will minimize damage to soils, plants, and animals.
6. Identify (on a map) where you intend to conduct this work. Explain why these spots are desirable. This information may be used to suggest other locations in the Forest Preserve if there are problems of heavy or concurrent use.
7. How will your markers, plots, other field paraphernalia, etc. be labeled so that we can tell they are yours?
8. Describe your plan to repair damage, remove markers and other equipment, and generally reduce or remove your impacts at the end of the study. By what dates will

these tasks be accomplished?

9. If you are working with vertebrates, provide information on your IACUC permit. We will not approve any use that violates IACUC rules.
10. Over what time period will your work be conducted? Any time extensions must be approved.
11. Permission to use the Forest Preserve is conditional on your providing the Advisory Board with reprints of all relevant publications and links to all web sites referring to this work. Seminars and publications must acknowledge the use of the Forest Preserve.

II. Teaching and outreach use requests must present the following information

For courses or outreach activities that intend to use the Forest Preserve on multiple occasions during a semester, you may either submit a single, unified proposal (giving all the information for the entire semester or time period of use) or a separate proposal for each exercise.

1. For what course or outreach activity are you requesting use? Please provide the course code if applicable.
2. Dates and times access is requested.
3. Approximately how many people will be involved?
4. Briefly describe the methods you intend to use – number of plots, types of markers, removal of samples, strictly observational, etc.
5. Describe how you will minimize damage to soils, plants, and animals.
6. Identify (on a map) where you intend to conduct this work. Explain why these spots are desirable. This information may be used to suggest other locations in the Forest Preserve if there are problems of heavy or concurrent use.
7. How will your markers, plots, other field paraphernalia, etc. be labeled so that we can tell they are yours?
8. Describe your plan to repair damage, remove markers and other equipment, and generally reduce or remove your impacts at the end of the activity. By what dates will these tasks be accomplished?
9. If you are working with vertebrates, provide information on your IACUC permit. We will not approve any use that violates IACUC rules.

Please email your responses and any supplemental information and/or materials to Nicole Brand at brand42@usf.edu with the subject: “Forest Preserve Use Request.”