

Guidelines for completing a scientific research permit application for Wellington Park

A permit is required to conduct scientific research in Wellington Park. The Scientific Research permit allows you to work in Wellington Park and permits you to undertake any activities you conduct as part of your research that would otherwise be prohibited under the [Wellington Park Regulations 2019](#). These guidelines outline the scientific research permit application process.

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What permit do I need?

All scientific research in Wellington Park requires a permit from the Wellington Park Management Trust. This permit grants you permission to work in Wellington Park. Your permit may also include activities that are relevant to your research that would otherwise be prohibited by the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019*, such as collecting flora and fauna or erecting signs. In your permit application, you will be asked a range of questions about your research activities, which will allow us to create the right permit for your research.

Some common research activities that require a permit include:

- Collecting flora, including parts of flora
- Collecting fauna, include any parts of fauna
- Research methods that involve temporarily capturing fauna, such as capture-mark-recapture
- Collecting fungi
- Collecting water samples
- Collecting rock or soil samples or disturbing soil
- Setting up camera traps or other monitoring equipment
- Laying traps or snares
- Driving on fire trails or closed roads
- Driving off-road
- Erecting signage or temporary barriers for safety and/or exclusion purposes
- Launching or landing a drone
- Possess or use a chainsaw or axe

State-listed flora and fauna

A permit from the Tasmanian Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) may be required for some research involving listed threatened species and protected wildlife, **in addition to your permit from Wellington Park.**

An NRE permit is require for:

- Taking flora or fauna listed under the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*
- Taking wildlife listed under Schedule 1 of the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021*

It is your responsibility to ensure you have an approved permit from NRE **before** you apply for a permit to conduct research in Wellington Park. You will be required to supply a copy of your approved NRE

permit with your Wellington Park permit application form.

Please note that permits from NRE may take some time to process and are subject to a two-week public comment period.

[NRE Flora Permit Guidelines](#) | [NRE Flora Permit application](#) | [NRE Fauna Permit Guidelines](#) | [NRE Fauna Permit Application](#)

Permit obligations

Your permit will contain conditions that are a legal obligation for the permit holder.

Failure to comply with the conditions of your permit may incur penalties, including fines and the cancellation of your permit. Conducting research activities without a permit may also incur penalties.

As a condition of your permit, you must:

- Carry the permit with you at all times in Wellington Park while undertaking the activity that the permit allows you to legally do, and produce the permit if requested to do so by an authorised officer
- Ensure you have any other permits, approvals, or licences you may require to undertake your activities
- Notify the Wellington Park Management Trust prior to entering Wellington Park and undertaking the activity
- Comply with any and all conditions stated on the permit.

The permit only allows you to undertake the specific activities listed on the permit, in the location identified in the permit, for the duration of the permit period.

If your plans change and you need to undertake additional activities that require a permit, or the time required to conduct the research changes, contact the Wellington Park Management Trust as soon as possible so that the permit can be amended.

How to apply for a permit

The form to apply for a scientific research permit in Wellington Park [can be found here](#).

Part one: personal details

This section is asking you to fill in the personal details of the individual to whom the permit will be issued.

The permit holder should be the primary individual responsible for conducting the research. If a student is undertaking research, please provide the details of the supervisor as the primary permit holder, and include the details of the student when prompted.

If multiple individuals will be conducting the research, please include one individual as the primary permit holder, and include the name and affiliations of all members of the research team when prompted. The primary permit holder will be responsible for ensuring that all parties involved in the research are aware of the permit conditions.

You are asked to provide a title and a short summary of your research project. This should outline the purpose of your research, the conservation or research outcomes you are hoping to achieve, and the benefit of the research to Wellington Park and the community.

Part two: details of your scientific research

The second part of the form requires you to provide the details of your research and research methods. You are asked a series of questions relating to your research activities, to which you can answer 'yes' or 'no'. These questions relate to activities that are prohibited under the Wellington Park Regulations 2019 without a permit.

Answering 'yes' to a question will take you to a page asking for further details, which you are required to provide. It is important to answer all relevant questions with as much detail as necessary, to ensure that your application is processed quickly. You may be contacted by the Trust if further information is required to understand your research activities. Incomplete or inaccurate application forms may be disregarded by the Trust, so ensure you take care while filling in the application form.

Native flora

A permit is required for research activities that include the 'taking' of native flora, where *take* means to kill, injure, catch, damage, destroy, or collect, and *flora* refers to any plant or any part of a plant, including vascular and non-vascular plants.

You are asked to provide information as to the number and species of plants you intend to take, what the materials will be used for, and what controls will be in place to mitigate impact to the plants and to Wellington Park.

State-listed flora

If your research requires the taking of any flora listed under the *Threatened Species Act 1995*, you are required to include your approved permit from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment with your WPMT permit application.

Fauna

A permit is required for research activities that include the 'taking' of fauna, where *take* means to kill, injure, catch, damage, destroy, or collect, and *fauna* means any wildlife or part of wildlife, including the dead bodies and any dead part of wildlife, and nests and eggs belonging to wildlife.

You are asked to provide details as to the species and number of individuals you will take, your trapping methods, your intentions after the wildlife are captured, and for your confirmation of Animal Ethics Committee approval, if required.

State-listed fauna

A permit from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment is required to take any fauna listed under the *Threatened Species Act 1995*. You will be required to supply a copy of your approved NRE permit with your Wellington Park permit application form.

A permit from NRE is also required to take any fauna listed as 'protected wildlife' under the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulations 2021*. This list includes:

- most native vertebrates and invertebrates
- some introduced vertebrates and invertebrates
- a number of marine and aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates

The list of protected wildlife can be found in Schedule 1 of the *Act* here:

<https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/sr-2021-093>.

A permit is required to take any fauna species listed under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. You are required to include your approved permit from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water with your permit application.

Fungi

A permit is required to dig up, collect, or remove natural substances within Wellington Park, including fungi.

You are asked to provide information on the species of fungi and number of specimens you intend to take, what the materials will be used for, and what controls will be in place to mitigate impact to the fungi and to Wellington Park.

Traps and snares

A permit is required to lay or set a trap or a snare in Wellington Park.

Many research activities involving the taking of fauna also require the setting of traps or snares.

A *trap* is any device or enclosure designed to catch and retain animals that may be left unattended and may or may not be baited.

A *snare* is a form of trap that uses string, wire, mesh/net or line to entrap or entangle wildlife for the purpose catching and retaining animals that may be left unattended and may or may not be baited. If you are setting up a camera trap or another type of scientific equipment other than a trap or snare, you require a permit to [Erect a structure](#).

If you are using a fishing rod or line with a baited or unbaited hook in order to catch wildlife, you require a permit to [use hunting equipment](#).

You will be asked to provide details about the type of trap or snare you will set, where you will set the trap, how long the trap will be in place, and what you will do to mitigate impact on non-target species from the trap.

Use or possess hunting equipment

A permit is required to use hunting equipment in Wellington Park.

Hunting equipment is defined as a weapon, implement, apparatus, or material that is capable of being used for the taking of any fauna, other than a trap or a snare. Examples of hunting equipment used in scientific research include guns and fishing rods or lines with hooks.

You will be asked to provide details as to the type of hunting equipment you intend to use or possess, whether it will be used lethally or non-lethally, and what measures will be undertaken to ensure public safety and the safety of fauna, including non-target fauna.

Interfere with habitat

A permit is required to interfere with the nest, breeding place, or habitation of any fauna in Wellington Park.

This applies to research activities such as placing cameras or other monitoring equipment into burrows, nests, tree hollows, branches, and other known places of fauna habitation. It does not apply to any place that *could potentially* be habitat for fauna species, but is not known to be.

You will be asked to provide details about the nature of the interference, where it will be located, why it is necessary to interfere with the habitat, and what measures will be taken to minimise impact on fauna.

Rouse or disturb fauna

A permit is required to rouse or disturb fauna in Wellington Park.

This applies to research activities that involve the handling or disruption of fauna from their normal activities, other than taking. Examples of research activities that involve rousing or disturbing fauna include waking fauna from sleep, hibernation, or torpor for any reason; applying collars, bands, or other tracking or monitoring devices; creating disturbance through the use of light or sound; weighing, examining, or performing tests on wildlife; or moving wildlife from one part of Wellington Park to another for any length of time.

You will be asked to provide details as to the nature of the disturbance and why the disturbance is necessary.

Collecting water

A permit is required to collect any natural substance in Wellington Park, including water.

This applies to any research activities that involve the collection of water samples, for water quality testing or other purposes. It may also relate to activities involving the live capture of aquatic fauna or flora.

You will be asked to provide details as to where and how much water will be collected.

Dam, divert, or pollute water

A permit is required to dam, divert, or pollute water in Wellington Park.

This applies to any research that requires the permanent or temporary alteration of hydrological flow in Wellington Park for any purpose, or any research that involves the addition of any substance, such as fertiliser, dye, or any other substance, into the waters of Wellington Park.

You will be asked to provide details on the nature of the activity, including its purpose and duration. Please note that these activities may not be permitted within the [Drinking Water Catchment Zone](#).

Natural substances

A permit is required to interfere with, dig up, cut up, or remove any sand, gravel, clay, rock, mineral, timber, firewood, humus, or other natural substance in Wellington Park.

A broad range of research activities fall under this permit category, including any research requiring soil or geological samples, leaf litter samples, tree samples (including dendrological samples), archaeological excavations, affixing or securing any items to trees or rocks, any research activities that require digging holes - including for the erection of equipment - and any research activities that may require the cutting down of trees, tree branches, or any other natural material.

You will be asked to provide details as to the nature of the interference, what type of material will be dug up, cut up, or removed, and what quantity of material will be dug up, cut up, or removed.

Remove or damage rock

A permit is required to move or damage rock in Wellington Park.

This applies to research activities that involve geological sampling or the excavation or blasting of rock, and any research activities that may involve climbing or otherwise accessing rock with the assistance of climbing or other technical equipment.

You will be asked to provide details about the nature of the interference, including the location, extent, and purpose of removing or damaging the rock.

Stalagmites, stalactites, or other formations in a cave

A permit is required to remove or damage any stalagmite, stalactite, or other formation in a cave in Wellington Park.

This applies to research activities related to geological sampling, as well as any research activities that involve caving, particularly the use of caving, climbing, or other technical equipment.

You will be asked to provide details about where and why you are required to damage or remove stalagmites, stalactites, or other cave formations.

Dogs

A permit is required to bring a dog into any part of Wellington Park other than [a dog exercising trail](#).

This applies to research activities that may involve the use of biosecurity dogs, weed detection dogs, or any other kind of dog that may assist you in your research activity by performing a specific function.

This does not apply to assistance dogs. Assistance dogs may be taken into any part of Wellington Park without a permit.

You will be asked to provide details as to the dog's function and where you intend to take the dog within Wellington Park.

Access Restricted Area

A permit is required to access the [Restricted Area](#) in Wellington Park.

The Restricted Area overlay prohibits public access to areas that are important to municipal drinking water supply.

This applies to research being undertaken within the Restricted Area, and where the Restricted Area may need to be entered in order to access areas outside of the Restricted Area.

You will be asked to provide details about where, why, and how you will access the Restricted Area, and what measures will be undertaken to ensure there are no negative impacts to water quality or catchment values from your research activities.

Research activities that would be otherwise permitted may be denied in the Restricted Area to preserve drinking water quality.

Erect a structure

A permit is required to erect a structure in Wellington Park.

This applies to research activities that involve the temporary or permanent erection of any building, structure, or improvement, such as a marquee, camera trap, monitoring equipment, permanent plots or photopoints, weather stations, solar panels, signs, temporary exclusion barriers, route markers, or any other type of structure on the land of Wellington Park or on any part of Wellington Park, including trees, rocks, and other buildings or structures.

You will be asked to provide details on where you will erect the structure, what type of structure you will erect, how long it will be in place, and what measures

you will take to ensure that the structure is hidden from public view and access and that there will be no impact on public safety or amenity from the structure.

Vehicle access

A permit is required to drive on fire trails, closed roads and other vehicular tracks within Wellington Park, other than Pinnacle Road.

This applies to any research activities occurring in any area that requires access by vehicle beyond a closed gate. If approved, gate keys will be made available by the Trust.

You will be asked to provide details on where you need access to, what trails you will use to access the area, when you need access, and whether you or a member of your research group has a current 4WD certification.

Off-road vehicle access

A permit is required to drive a vehicle in Wellington Park other than on a road or track.

This applies to any research activities that require off-road 4WD access.

You will be asked to provide details on where you intend to drive off-road, and whether you or a member of your research group has a current 4WD certification.

Features of interest

A permit is required to remove, destroy, damage, disfigure, or disturb any object or feature of Aboriginal, archaeological, historical, or scientific interest in Wellington Park.

This applies to any research that may occur in the vicinity of any features of interest in Wellington Park.

Please note that a permit to remove, destroy, damage, disfigure, or disturb any object or feature of interest in Wellington Park will only be approved in limited circumstance.

Use or possess chainsaw, axe, or saw

A permit is required to use or possess a chainsaw, axe, or saw in Wellington Park.

This applies to research activities that may include the removal of trees, branches, or other natural substances in Wellington Park. A permit is required if you intend to bring a chainsaw, axe, or saw into the Park, regardless of whether you use it.

Fertiliser, pesticides, or any chemical substance

A permit is required to deposit any fertiliser, pesticide, or any chemical substance in Wellington Park that may be poisonous to any flora or fauna.

This applies to any research activities that may use any substance that has the potential to be poisonous to flora or fauna, including substances such as petrol or diesel. This permit is only required if you intend to bring the chemical substance into Wellington Park for use or application within Wellington Park (i.e., fuel inside a vehicle does not require this permit, but refuelling your chainsaw while in the Park does).

You will be asked to provide details on the type and quantity of the substance, and what measures will be undertaken to mitigate impact on flora and fauna.

Other research activities

In this section you are asked to detail any other activities that your research may entail, including if the major activities of your research are not prohibited by the *Wellington Park Regulations 2019* – such as an observational study or survey.

Confirmation of public liability insurance

Wellington Park Management Trust requires proof of public liability insurance to process your permit. Your institution should be able to provide you with a document that confirms you are covered by their public liability insurance. Permits include indemnity clauses for both the Trust and the owner of the land within the Park on which your research will be conducted.

If you know you are covered by your institution, but cannot provide proof of confirmation, please contact the Trust's Natural and Heritage Value Coordinator at nhv@wellingtonpark.org.au.

Assessing scientific permit applications

The Wellington Park Management Trust will endeavour to return your application to you within 14 business days of submission.

Ensuring your application form is correctly filled out with all the necessary details of your research activities will enable the Trust to process your permit application efficiently.

In assessing scientific permit applications, the Trust may consider:

- Whether the research outcomes are compatible with the preservation or

- protection of the natural, cultural, and recreational values of Wellington Park
- Whether the research approach as outlined in the scientific research permit application adequately preserves or protects Park values

Sharing research results

It is an obligation of your scientific research permit that you provide a copy of your data collected under your research permit to the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas within **6 months** of your permit expiry date.

Note: Researchers with permits issued by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment are also required to provide their data to the NVA. Ensure you only upload your data once.

A copy of your research outputs (thesis, journal articles, conference papers, books etc) should be provided to the Wellington Park Management Trust when they are complete.

Please forward a copy to the Trust's Natural and Heritage Values Coordinator at nhv@wellingtopark.org.au or mail a hard copy to GPO Box 138 HOBART TAS 7001.

