

## ENRTA USE: INTERNAL, EXTERNAL USER GROUPS

The Ecology and Natural Resource Teaching Area (ENRTA) is a biological field station located on ~600 acres of Texas A&M University property, southwest of Easterwood Airport. The ENRTA is managed by the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management (RWFM), in collaboration with the Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology (ECCB). The mission of ENRTA is to provide teaching, research and outreach opportunities for the Texas A&M community and the citizens of the greater Bryan/College Station area. To that end, the property is used by professors from many departments, as well as partners external to Texas A&M University. RWFM prides itself on the ability to maintain the ENRTA as an educational property that can be utilized by a wide variety of stakeholders.

- The ENRTA main building includes a classroom with projector (~50 seating) that can be rented free of charge for the full semester or for a single class period or outreach event. Additional information can be found at the [ENRTA website](#).
- The primary area of ENRTA is broadly available for use for teaching, research and outreach. The secondary area is available on a case by case basis (see map). If a specific purpose presents itself for this area, please contact the property manager to discuss.

To ensure all have adequate access to the property, please follow the below rules. Contact ENRTA property manager ([Dianne.Robinson@tamu.edu](mailto:Dianne.Robinson@tamu.edu)) with questions.

1. Contact the property manager at least 2 weeks in advance of necessary access to ENRTA property or classroom, with the following information: 1) Purpose, 2) Date/time, 3) Number of users, 4) Location on site, 5) Lead contact information.
2. Access will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Access may be denied if use conflicts with other activities. Failure to comply with these rules can result in temporary or permanent termination or access.
3. Users will park at the main lot and walk on property. If someone requires specific access-requirements, contact the property manager to discuss.
4. Restrooms are available for use in the main building, provided the lead contact coordinates access with property manager.
5. Coordinate with property manager for combination lock details if access is required.
6. Speed on the main road is 15 mph.
7. Driving off road is prohibited at all times, to protect sensitive species, habitat and research.
8. Take particular care when on property not to destroy or disturb teaching or research activities.
9. Disturbance of landscape, soil and vegetation should be kept to a minimum to ensure no negative impacts to ENRTA. Some disturbance is necessary for teaching or research purposes (ex. sampling of soil, water, plants; removal of branches for trail camera placement) but please keep those actions to a minimum. Any large-scale alteration should be coordinated with the property manager.
10. Users are required to remove all equipment and materials on property upon completion of use. This includes but is not limited to flagging, fencing, stakes, trash, etc. The ENRTA manager will provide a garbage can and bags at the pavilion and in the main building for use in trash removal.
11. Smoking on the ENRTA is strictly forbidden.

## TEACHING AND EXTERNAL USE

1. On-site instructors should park at the main lot unless they have equipment. If necessary, they can park along the main road near the pavilion (see map). Coordinate with the property manager in advance to ensure this does not negatively impact other existing uses.

## RESEARCH

1. Any research requests at ENRTA must include a research proposal submitted at least 2 weeks before the anticipated start date of the project. Before research may commence, the proposal must be reviewed and approved by the property manager and the ENRTA Oversight Committee. All student research requests, for both undergraduate and graduate students, must include a long-form research proposal (see below) that has been approved by a faculty member with principle investigator (PI) status at Texas A&M. Research requests led by faculty may include either a long-form or short-form proposal depending on the scope of the work. Large-scale, long-term projects require a long-form research proposal, pilot projects (short-term, small-scale) only require a short-form proposal. Research proposal guidelines are as follows:
  - Long-form research proposals must include: 1) title, 2) summary/abstract, 3) introduction, including statements of key objectives and hypotheses to be tested, 4) methods, including the proposed project dates, 5) statement of expected impacts to ENRTA, including a map of the area to be used, 6) documentation of approvals (i.e., Animal Use Protocol, Institutional Review Board) for projects involving animal or human subjects, 7) contact information for student and PI, and 8) signature of PI, attesting to their approval of the proposal.
  - Short-form research proposal (small scope, pilot projects only) should include: 1) brief statement of objectives, 2) methods, 3) contact information, and 4) statement on impact to ENRTA, including information on the locations to be used.
2. Once approved, researchers must provide property manager with 1) specific location of research activities, 2) material placed, 3) approximate visit date/times and 4) timeline for research.
3. All researchers must sign a ENRTA liability form.
4. Speed limit on the main roads is 15 mph. Speed limit on all secondary roads and trails is 10 mph.
5. During wet weather and soft ground, ATV/UTVs cannot be used on the "ATV dry" trails. No trucks are allowed off the main roads during wet weather and soft ground. See map for details.
6. Following completion of research and analysis, results must be provided to further direct ENRTA management objectives. Any publications from ENRTA research should be shared in final format.
7. Any publications or presentations that result from research at ENRTA should acknowledge ENRTA access.