



Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Filming/Photography Policy

1. Purpose

This policy regulates filming and professional photography activities within public parks to ensure they do not disrupt park operations, damage natural or cultural resources, or interfere with public enjoyment and safety.

2. Permits are not required for the following:

- Casual Photography: Non-commercial photography for personal use.
- Individuals or families taking casual, non-commercial photos (this includes engagement photos, wedding party photos, senior photos, etc.).
- Use of tripods that do not obstruct the public right of way.
- News coverage by accredited press with handheld equipment.
- School projects or amateur filming with minimal impact.

3. Permits are required for the following:

- Professional Photography: Photography conducted for commercial purposes, including but not limited to advertising, marketing, publications, or resale.
- Filming: Motion picture or video recording for commercial, educational, or promotional use.
- Use of models, actors, or props that are not part of the natural environment.
- Use of drones or specialized equipment (e.g., lighting setups, dollies, tracks, microphones, speakers).
- Projects involving exclusive use of a park area or that may interfere with normal public use.
- Media productions that include sets, significant crew, or vehicles.



Permits may be acquired by:

- Visiting www.detroitriverfront.org/application/filmphotography, filling out the application, and emailing it to marc.pasco@detroitriverfront.org
- The photography/filming fee structure is as follows: \$750 for four hours; \$1,500 for (eight hours).
- For commercial shoots, applicants must provide proof of general liability insurance, naming the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy as an additional insured.

5. Restrictions

- No filming or photography may block park entrances, trails, pathways, doorways, parking lots, or emergency access routes.
- No alteration, damage, or removal of natural or man-made park features is permitted.
- Activities must comply within park hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. unless prior written approval for extended access is granted.
- Drone usage must comply with FAA regulations and local ordinances and requires separate approval.

6. Conduct and Compliance

- Permittees must follow all park rules, city ordinances, and instructions from park staff.
- Any damage caused during filming or photography is the responsibility of the permittee.
- Permits may be revoked if terms are violated, or if public safety or park integrity is compromised.
- The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy reserves the right to approve or deny any application based on park use, content matter, environmental impact, or safety concerns.