

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MARYLAND PARK SERVICE**

**AGENCY POLICY 21-29
1 July 2021**

PHOTOGRAPHY / FILMING ON MPS-MANAGED PROPERTY

I. General

- A. It is the intent of the Maryland Park Service (MPS) to establish guidelines for the use of MPS-managed facilities and lands for commercial photography and filming.
- B. MPS-managed facilities may be used for commercial photography and filming purposes if such use does not (1) significantly interfere with public use of the requested facility or land, and (2) damage the natural, cultural, or historical features of the facility or land.
- C. Commercial film and photography users (Users) with a high impact on park resources must obtain a MPS permit or use agreement, as well as pay any applicable service charges.
- D. Permits/use agreements are not required for private, non-commercial filming or photography conducted on MPS property.
- E. Permits/use agreements are not required for low-impact commercial photography and filming. "Low-impact" is defined as filming and photography activities in park areas open to the public, involving five people or fewer, and using minimal equipment that can be carried.

II. Commercial Photography and Filming Request Process

- A. Requests from Users should be directed to the relevant Park Manager.
- B. The Park Manager will then forward the commercial filming or photography request to the Regional Manager for recommendation and further review.
- C. The Regional Manager will then obtain approval from the Superintendent or designee.
- D. Once all approvals have been obtained, the Regional Manager will coordinate with the Director of Administration and Park Manager on the preparation and processing of necessary permit/use agreement documents.

- E. The User must sign and fully execute the permit/use agreement document before the commencement of commercial filming or photography.

III. Service Charges

- A. In addition to securing a permit/use agreement, Users engaged in commercial photography and filming with a high impact on park operations and resources shall pay a standard one-time administrative service charge of \$500.00.
- B. The User may also be required to pay additional charges to cover any expenses to the MPS associated with hosting the photography or filming activity, which shall be determined by the Park Manager and the Regional Manager.