

## **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: (updated 12/30/2019)**

### **Notice:**

Photography (Photo) Permits are now required when conducting photography business in Cobb Parks.

1. Is a photo permit required to take photos on park property?

Yes, if it is part of a business transaction.

2. How can I obtain a photo permit?

To obtain a photo permit requests must be made by contacting Cobb PARKS at 770-528-8800.

3. Is the County planning to change its' current fee structure to an annual permit?

Currently there are no plans to change from the current fee structure to an annual permit.

4. How far in advance must I apply for a permit?

Requests for formal photo shoots must be submitted 5 to 7 work days in advance.

5. How much does a photo permit cost?

Photo permits costs are: Resident \$100/day, Non-resident \$150/day, Commercial \$150/day

6. Must I be a resident of Cobb County to photograph in the park?

No. You do not have to be a resident of Cobb County to obtain a photography permit.

7. Do all Cobb County Parks require a photo permit, or only certain ones?

Yes, all Parks managed by Cobb PARKS require a photo permit.

8. Do I have to purchase a different permit for each visit?

Yes, each permit is time and date specific therefore a different permit is needed for each day?

9. Am I allowed to set up props for my photo shoot?

a. Small props may be used in only common areas provided they cause no damage to the grounds and leave no trace of having been there. The use of tents, canopies, trellises, etc. are permitted but they may NOT be staked into the ground. Any item that require staking or other type of ground penetration are NOT permitted. Vehicles, wagons, structures or other large items are NOT permitted. Small props may be used only in common areas and not in gardens or other planted areas. (hp)

10. Is the use of special effects like smoke bombs, sparklers, glitter or fireworks allowed in parks?

a. Incendiary devices such as smoke pots, sparklers, or fireworks are prohibited. Items such as glitter, confetti, streamers, etc. that cannot be completely removed by the permit holder prior to the expiration of their permit are prohibited. (hp)

11. Am I allowed to drive a vehicle onto the property to drop off equipment?
  - a. Motorized vehicles of any type are not permitted anywhere but in designated parking areas.
12. Can I use park buildings, pavilions or other structures?
  - a. A photography permit allows you access only to the common area of the park during the date and times specified on the permit. It does not include the use of or access to buildings, pavilions or other park structures. A permit does NOT grant you the exclusive use of any portion of the park. You may NOT impede the use of the park by other park patrons.
13. Who does this apply to? Wedding photographers? Prom groups? Scout troops? Newspaper reporters? Parents on playgrounds?
  - a. This applies to any commercial enterprise, anyone who is making money using our parks properties. So, no, parents taking pictures of their kids or scout troops posing after an event would not be required to get a permit.
14. Was this voted on, and if so, when, by whom and what was the vote?
  - a. BOC approved Nov 2017.
15. Who will enforce this and what will the repercussions be?
  - a. Park rangers or police (not staff). Violators would be cited and likely face a fine.
16. Would this affect news reporters/journalist? Say there was a blizzard and we wanted to get shots of kids sledding in a park, would we have to pay? Also, what is the fine?

No, I believe our 2018 Cobb Communications Policy, which spells out guidelines about media access to public areas would take precedent.
17. Why was a photography permit considered?

The photo policy came about after photographers and companies would advertise photo packages that included scenic areas in some of our parks and there were complaints they were restricting access by park patrons. They were essentially using county parks property as their business backdrops.