Commercial or Professional Photography Session Permit

Session Fee ($50/2 hour session) and Locations:
- Auditorium Shores
- Mayfield Cottage and Gardens
- Mt. Bonnell at Covert Park
- Zilker Metropolitan Park

Photography Session REQUIRED if ANY of the following apply:
- Professional photography is defined as:
  - receiving compensation for taking pictures (money or barter), or
  - taking images for promotional purposes (such as advertising and marketing with a commercial intent)
- Portrait, posed, and formal people photographers.
- All photographers with accessories or approved props/equipment (such as tripods, lights, reflector shields) that are taking pictures of people must sign the guidelines and obtain a session pass.

Photography Session NOT Required: Amateur photographers, of which none of the above items apply, or non-commercial nature only photography.

Session Availability
- ✓ Photography of any sort may not occur during confirmed rental events (weddings, memorials, etc) on site.
- ✓ Sessions are limited to 2 hours per paid session pass, and for use of the booking photographer, and no more than 2 per day. Credentials from paid session users must be on display the entire time present in the garden.
- ✓ Sessions can be booked NO MORE THAN 30 days in advance, and NO LESS THAN 4:30 pm 4 calendar days prior.

Booking and Confirming a Session
1. Navigate to: www.austintexas.gov/parksonline
2. Search either by Location Name, OR by feature, scroll to (photo – permits).
3. Select a date, select a 2-hour time block.
4. Add to cart.
5. Sign and accept the online agreement.
6. Check out and pay fee(s).
7. Print or have your permit with you on a smart device.
General Park Photography Guidelines

Natural Environment Rules
- **Stay out of the planting areas and flowerbeds** and do not remove any identification signs/marking. This INCLUDES equipment, tripods and similar items.
- **Use only paved, designated or gravel surfaces and the turf areas.**
- **Do not block any trails.** Always allow enough room for park visitors to pass at all times.
- **Do not pose your subjects in trees, or on natural or other structures.**
- **Everything is to be enjoyed, used as a background and left untouched.**

Logistical Information - Equipment and Permissible /Restricted Items
- **Permissible items:**
  - Camera, lenses, flashes, and a tripod. Handheld light reflectors/discs.
  - 1 folding chair may be brought into the park and must have INTACT rubber bottom feet.
  - Personal size step stool (up to 3 rungs/stairs).
- **Restricted items:**
  - Furniture and props, club chairs, couches, etc....
  - Armature, pipe, drape or similar structures.
  - Farm animals. Pets must be on leash unless a designated off leash area.
  - Generators.
  - Ladders or any step ladders over 3 rungs/stairs.
- **All parking is first come first served, and MAY NOT be reserved on site.**
  - **WARNING:** Fridays through Sundays, parking is typically severely limited due to high public use (if not reserved for an event). Seasonal parking fees apply on site at Zilker.
- There is **NO** place for the changing of clothes.
- Appropriate walking shoes should be worn between shots, with photo/shot specific footwear worn only as needed. Sandals, “slides” and flip flops are not encouraged.
- All activities must be coordinated during the site’s regular hours of operation and scheduled/reserved events and allow enough time for the photo session.