



**PUBLIC EVENT &
FILM PERMITTING**
DENVER ARTS & VENUES

FILM PERMITTING GUIDE

Public Event & Film Permitting



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Welcome to Public Event & Film Permitting

Denver Arts & Venues

Thank you for choosing the City and County of Denver for your filming or photography project.

Public Event & Film Permitting (PEFP), a division of Denver Arts & Venues, supports a wide variety of safe, successful, and vibrant film projects across the city. This resource is designed to help applicants understand Denver's film permitting process, location requirements, timelines, and additional coordination that may be required for filming activities.

Before filming in Denver, applicants should complete the following steps:

1. Confirm filming locations and dates
2. Review location-specific requirements
3. Submit a Film Operational Permit (FOP) application
4. Complete any required notifications, permits, or operational coordination

Use this guide throughout the planning process to help identify applicable requirements, stay on track with deadlines, and access helpful resources and contacts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Do You Need a Film Operational Permit (FOP)	3
1.1	Criteria 1: Cast and Crew Size	3
1.2	Criteria 2: Use of Equipment	3
1.3	Criteria 3: Access to Public Spaces is Impacted	3
1.4	Criteria 4: Rule and Regulation Exemptions	4
2	Plan Before You Film	4
2.1	Important Reminders	4
2.2	Check for Conflicts	4
3	Requirements by Filming Location	5
3.1	Denver Parks	5
3.2	Public Right-Of-Way	8
3.3	Private Property (Contact Venues Directly)	9
4	Apply For a Film Operational Permit (FOP)	10
4.1	Before You Apply	10
4.2	Submit Your Application	11
4.3	Review and Approval Process	13
5	Community Notifications	13
5.1	How to Complete a Community Notification	13
6	Additional Requirements Based on Your Production	14
6.1	Parking & Vehicle Access	14
6.2	Traffic, Transit & Public Safety	15
6.3	Equipment & Special Use	16
7	Film Operational Permit Denial or Revocation	19

1 Do You Need a Film Operational Permit (FOP)

A Denver Film Operational Permit (FOP) is required when filming or photography activities on public property (parks, streets, sidewalks, or alleys) and your production meets any of the criteria below.

1.1 Criteria 1: Cast and Crew Size

A permit is required when production exceeds:

- 25 or more people in a Denver park
- 10 or more people on a city sidewalk

1.2 Criteria 2: Use of Equipment

A permit is required when additional production equipment is used beyond handheld equipment or a single tripod.

Examples include:

- Drones
- Tables or tents
- Dollies
- C-stands
- Multiple tripods
- Props or set infrastructure
- Sound equipment
- Generators 5 kW or more
- Pyrotechnics

1.3 Criteria 3: Access to Public Spaces is Impacted

A permit is required when filming activities impact pedestrian or vehicular traffic flow.

Examples include:

- Inability to maintain a continuous 5-foot ADA-accessible pathway
- Closing or restricting streets, sidewalks, or alleys
- Use of public parking spaces, meters, or parking lanes
- Requesting exclusive use of a park space
- Requiring traffic control or police support

1.4 Criteria 4: Rule and Regulation Exemptions

You must obtain a permit if your production requests an exemption from City and County of Denver rules or regulations (e.g., filming outside normal park hours).

When a FOP Is Typically Not Required

A permit is generally not required for:

- Same-day news coverage by media outlets
- Filming entirely on private property
- Photography at permitted events (unless drones are used)
- Casual group photography

2 Plan Before You Film

Before you apply, confirm your filming location, dates, and times are feasible and available. PEFP cannot hold or reserve locations for you.

2.1 Important Reminders

- Review the [Denver Film Permitting Rules and Regulations](#)
- Filming hours in Denver are limited to 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM
- [The Denver Noise Ordinance](#) applies to film and photography productions
- An FOP is not a location agreement or endorsement.
- You are required to obtain permission from the property owner or managing entity when applicable.

2.2 Check for Conflicts

Approved events, construction, and existing reservations will not be rescheduled to accommodate filming.

Use the resources below to identify conflicts:

- [Special Public Events Calendar](#) - Public events on public property
- [Downtown Construction Coordination Map](#) – Downtown construction and street impacts
- [District 15 Coordination Map](#) - Construction and street impacts in Cap Hill, City Park West, and Congress Park along Colfax
- [District 9/ RINO Coordination Map](#) - Construction and street impacts in the River North area and surrounding neighborhoods

- [Visit Denver Calendar](#) Major citywide events

Check Major Venue Schedules

Events at large venues may impact nearby streets, parking, and access.

Review schedules and event calendars for major venues, including:

- [Empower Field at Mile High](#) – Denver Broncos games and stadium events
- [Ball Arena](#) – Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche, and concerts
- [Coors Field](#) – Colorado Rockies games and concerts
- [National Western Complex](#) / [National Western Center](#) – concerts, events, and conventions
- [Denver Coliseum](#) – concerts and large events
- [Denver Convention Center](#) – conventions and major events
- [Denver Performing Arts Complex](#) – concerts and performances

If conflicts exist, adjust your location, dates, or scope before applying.

Once filming locations are confirmed, review Section 3: Requirements by Filming Location.

3 Requirements by Filming Location

Filming in Denver may take place in parks, public right-of-way, or private property. Each location type has different rules and permitting requirements.

3.1 Denver Parks

Filming in parks is allowed but must remain accessible to the public and comply with park rules.

Key Things to Know

- Parks remain open to the public during filming
- Parking cannot be reserved
- Drones require a permit
- Exclusive use is limited

For complete park rules visit: www.denvergov.org/parkrules.

Urban Parks

FOPs for urban parks are generally non-exclusive, meaning parks must remain open to the public during filming. However, productions may request exclusive use in limited circumstances, based on availability and scope of proposed filming.

General rules when filming in a park:

- No equipment on trails beyond handheld equipment
- Park parking lots are first-come, first-served and cannot be reserved
- Oversized vehicles are not allowed
- All animals need to be leashed
- Hooved animals, including horses, are prohibited
- Drones are not allowed in City Parks without a Film Operational Permit

Park amenities must remain accessible to the public, including:

- Playgrounds
- Trails
- Sports courts
- Sand volleyball courts
- Picnic areas
- Other park structures

Exclusive Use (Urban Parks Only)

In some cases, productions may request **exclusive use** of space in an urban park. Please note, exclusive use is not available in all park areas.

To request exclusive use:

1. Submit a FOP application.
2. The film permitting specialist will connect you with the park permitting office. Please apply at least **10 business days** before requested filming date.
3. If approved by Denver Parks and Recreation, a FOP is still required.

Contact: 720-912-0700 | park.permits@denvergov.org | www.denvergov.org/permits

Mountain Parks

Filming in Denver Mountain Parks is more limited than in urban parks and may require additional agreements.

Where Filming Is Allowed

Filming is limited to **developed areas**, including:

- Parking lots
- Trailheads
- Park roads
- Designated trails
- Other facilities

Filming is **not** allowed in:

- Native areas
- Off-trail locations
- Undeveloped areas

Operating Conditions

Typical filming hours are from **one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset**. Access may be limited by weather or maintenance.

Key Restrictions

- Exclusive use is not permitted
- Public access must remain open
- Equipment may not be placed on trails
- No more than 5 people from a production may be on a trail at one time
- Parking is limited and additional restrictions may apply
- Watercraft and ATVs are prohibited
- Drones are not allowed

Red Rocks Park

Red Rocks Park has additional restrictions due to its use as a major event venue.

- Productions will need to coordinate directly with venue management to use the amphitheater or parking lots
- Filming will be limited during concert season (mid-April through mid-October)

See section **Private Property** for contact information.

3.2 Public Right-Of-Way

Filming activities occurring in streets, sidewalks, alleys, or parking lanes require a Special Event Revocable Street Occupancy Permit (SERSOP) issued by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DOTI), in addition to your Film Operational Permit (FOP).

A SERSOP is required if your production:

- Occurs on a city sidewalk with occupancy of 10 or more people
- Closes or restricts a street, alley, or sidewalk
- Uses traffic control or impacts vehicle or pedestrian flow
- Occupies parking lanes or removes public parking
- Requires barricades or lane closures

Required Documents

If your production requires a SERSOP submit all required closure documents through Step 6.5 of the FOP application at least **10 business days before requested filming**.

These include:

1. A certificate of insurance that matches the requirements of the sample provided.
2. A site plan indicating how the right-of-way will be used for production.

Additional Documents May Be Required:

- Traffic Control Plan (TCP) prepared by a barricade company of your choosing
- No Parking Request Form for parking lane use
- Sidewalk Closure Form(s) for sidewalk closures, occupancy over 10, large equipment or drone take-off and landing

Resources

Use the following forms and examples to prepare and submit required materials:

- [Sample of Certificate of Insurance](#)
- [Sample Site Plan](#)
- [Sample Traffic Control Plan \(TCP\)](#)
- [No Parking Request Form](#)
- Sidewalk Closure Forms:
 - [Sidewalk - 1 Corner Closure](#)
 - [Sidewalk - 2 Corner Closure](#)
 - [Sidewalk - Mid-Block Closure](#)

3.3 Private Property (Contact Venues Directly)

PEFP does not coordinate or book private locations. Contact venues directly to request permission and arrange filming. However, you still need to comply with all City requirements.

Common Private Filming Locations (Contact Venues Directly)

These locations require direct coordination with the venue.

Private Venue Contacts (Direct Booking Required)	
Facility / Location	Contact
Red Rocks Amphitheater and Lots	bookredrocks@denvergov.org
Union Station (Inside the building)	https://www.denverunionstation.com/about/press-and-news/photography-request/
Wynkoop Plaza (outside Union Station)	https://www.downtowndenver.com/permits
16th Street	https://www.downtowndenver.com/permits Additional approvals may be required. A Film Operational Permit may also be required depending on filming activities
Denver Art Museum	Film & Photography Policy: www.denverartmuseum.org/en/photo-video-request Application: https://form.jotform.com/81064741880155
State Capitol Complex	Capitol Complex: https://dca.colorado.gov/capitol-complex-facilities-management/event-permits Colorado State Capitol Events Permits: https://co.accessgov.com/dca/Forms/Edit/dca/e3e8909e-64c3-4100-bf11-c4cfe320c04c/1
Denver Performing Arts Complex	https://www.artscomplex.com/venue-rental-request-form
RTD	https://www.rtd-denver.com/news-stop/media-resources

Film Location Directory

The [Colorado Film Location Directory](#), maintained by the [Colorado Film Commission](#), is a searchable database of filmable locations across the state.

Filming on Private Property

If filming on private property, you must:

1. Obtain permission from the property owner or manager
2. Coordinate access directly with the property
3. Comply with all applicable City requirements

Additional Permits May Still Be Required

Additional permits or approvals may be required if your production:

- Impacts the public right-of-way (streets, sidewalks, alleys, or parking lanes)
- Requires traffic control or lane closures
- Uses drones, generators, or special effects
- Impacts surrounding properties or public access

See the section “**Public Right-of-Way**” and the section “**Additional Requirements Based on Your Production**” sections for more information.

4 Apply For a Film Operational Permit (FOP)

A FOP is processed by Denver Arts & Venues (DAV), Public Events and Film Permitting (PEFP).

Some productions may require additional permits, agreements, or coordination with other City agencies.

4.1 Before You Apply

Application Fees

PEFP does not currently charge a fee for a FOP.

However, productions may still be responsible for:

- Permit fees from other City agencies
- Staffing costs required for production support (such as police officers)

Complex Projects

Projects may require additional review or coordination if they include any of the following:

- Street, alley, or sidewalk closures

- Exclusive use of a park area
- Coordination with Denver Police, Denver Fire, or Park Rangers
- Drone operations
- Generators over 5 kW
- Large or complex equipment, infrastructure, or props

This list is not exhaustive. If you are unsure whether your project is considered complex, contact denverfilms@denvergov.org.

Application Deadlines

FOP deadlines are aligned with other potential permits required for filming.

Applications submitted after the deadlines below will not be accepted.

- Non-complex projects: 5 business days before requested filming
- Complex projects: 10 business days before requested filming

Applications must be complete to be accepted.

4.2 Submit Your Application

Application Process

Complete and submit your application through the [Film Operational Permit \(FOP\) portal](#).

Naming Your Application

Applications need to be titled using the **production name and filming location**.

Example:

Enchanted Adventures – City Park

Multiple Filming Locations

Each filming location requires a separate application. If your project includes multiple locations, you *must* submit an application for each one. Denver does not issue “grid location permits,” which are permits allowing multiple filming locations under a single application.

For multi-location productions:

- Duplicate the original application
- Update the location details for each site

Example:

- Location #1 - Enchanted Adventures- City Park
- Location #2 - Enchanted Adventures- 1800 Wazee St.
- Location #3 - Enchanted Adventures- Cheesman Park Pavillion

Duplicating an Application

To duplicate an existing application:

1. Open the Applicant Dashboard
2. Select the application you want to duplicate
3. Under Application Tools, scroll down and select Duplicate Application

Follow the prompts to create a copy.

Required Application Information

Each application is required to include the following information (steps 1 – 6 in the application):

- Production Company Information
- Contacts
- General Production Information
- Location Details
- Dates and Times
- Production Details

Additional Forms (if applicable)

If your project requires additional forms (such as sidewalk occupancy or no-parking requests), you need to complete them within the application (Step 6.5).

Site Maps

Site maps are typically required.

A site map should include:

- Boundaries and dimensions of the proposed production areas
- Locations of key features, such as buildings, landmarks, roads
- Camera positions, equipment setups, or staging areas
- All temporary structures, sets, portable trailers, restrooms, etc.
- Support activities - catering, vehicle parking, basecamp

4.3 Review and Approval Process

Once your application is submitted, PEFP and partner agencies will review your project to identify any required notifications, permits, approvals, or operational coordination.

Continue to:

- Section 5 for Community Notification requirements
- Section 6 for additional production requirements

5 Community Notifications

Community notifications are required for most film productions in Denver, particularly when filming activities may impact the surrounding area or attract public attention.

Notifications help inform residents, businesses, and stakeholders about filming activity and potential impacts.

Community notifications are typically required for productions involving:

- Street or sidewalk closures
- Restricted parking or local access
- Delays or rerouting of public transit
- Drone use
- Loud noise
- Filming before 6:00 AM or after 10:00 PM
- Simulated violence or use of prop weapons
- Other potentially disruptive or alarming activity

If any of the above apply, you are required to complete a community notification using the required template before filming. PEFP will need to approve notifications before distribution. Notifications sent before approval may need to be resent.

5.1 How to Complete a Community Notification

Follow the steps below to prepare, submit, and distribute your notification:

Step 1: Prepare Your Notification

Use the customizable template accessible within step 7 of the FOP application and include a site map.

Step 2: Submit for Review

Upload your notification flyer to step 7 of your application. PEFP will review and provide feedback or approval before distribution.

Step 3: Distribute Your Notification

Notifications must be distributed by email at least 5 business days before filming.

Send your notification to all required recipients:

- City Council District(s): <https://denvergov.org/Maps/map/councildistricts>
- Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) & Business Improvement Districts (BIDs): [Denver RNO map](#)
- Denver Police District(s): <https://www.denvergov.org/maps/map/police>
- Depending on the scope of your production, hand delivery to affected businesses, organizations, and residences may also be required

6 Additional Requirements Based on Your Production

Not all requirements apply to every production. Review the sections below based on your project's activities.

6.1 Parking & Vehicle Access

Key Things to Know

- Street parking should be avoided for non-essential vehicles
- The use of public parking may require permits or approval
- Meter reservations require advance coordination through DOTI

Parking for Production Vehicles

Street parking should not be used for non-essential production vehicles or cast and crew parking. Use a private lot or garage whenever possible.

If production vehicles need to park in the public right-of-way (streets, alleys, or parking lanes), approval or permits may be required. All posted parking regulations must be followed.

Productions filming entirely on private property will need to coordinate any public right-of-way parking needs directly with DOTI.

Resources

[Filming Occupancy - DOTIPT-106.0](#)

[Meter Bagging Permits](#)

Contact

For non-metered parking requests: SEAOA@denvergov.org

If your filming area includes parking meters, see **Parking Meter Requests** below.

Parking Meter Requests

If parking meters are located within your filming area or street closure, you must reserve those meters before filming.

A copy of the approved meter reservation permit is required before a Film Operational Permit can be issued.

Resources

[Filming Occupancy - DOTIPT-106.0](#)

[Meter Bagging Permits](#)

6.2 Traffic, Transit & Public Safety

Key Things to Know

- ITC requires DPD coordination
- RTD impacts require RTD approval
- Police staffing is not guaranteed
- Additional staffing costs may apply

Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC)

Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC) allows for the temporary stopping or slowing of vehicle or pedestrian traffic to support filming. If your production requires ITC, you are required to coordinate with the Denver Police Department Special Event Unit (DPD SEU).

To request ITC Support:

1. Submit a FOP application.
2. Contact DPD **at least 10 business days** before filming at DPDSpecialEvents@denvergov.org. Copy your film permitting specialist on all communication.
3. If approved by DPD, a FOP is still required.

DPD determines staffing needs and any required traffic control measures. A contract with DPD will need to be in place before a Film Operational Permit (FOP) can be issued.

PLEASE NOTE: A REQUEST FOR ITC DOES NOT GUARANTEE POLICE AVAILABILITY.

RTD Impacts

Filming must not impact light rail operations.

RTD approval is required if filming impacts:

- bus routes
- bus stops
- bus stations

Contact RTD at least 10 business days before filming and copy your film permitting specialist on all communication.

Resources

- View the [RTD Route Map](#)

Contact

- Zacharias.Kemal@rtd-denver.com
- Timothy.Lucero@rtd-denver.com

Off-Duty Denver Police Department (DPD) Support

Productions may be required to hire off-duty DPD officers, if filming:

- Includes simulated violence
- may cause public disturbance

Contact the Office of Secondary Employment **at least 10 days before filming**

at DPD.SecondaryEmployment@denvergov.org or 720-337-0775. Copy your film permitting specialist on all communication.

6.3 Equipment & Special Use

This section applies to productions using:

- drones
- generators
- temporary structures

- special effects
- public art

Drone Photography and Filming

A Film Operational Permit (FOP) is required for drone takeoff or landing on public property. A SERSOP is also required if takeoff or landing occurs in the public right-of-way.

Drones are prohibited in:

- Denver Mountain Parks (including Red Rocks Park)
- City Park (2001 Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO 80205)

Required Drone Documents

- [Remote Pilot License/UAS Certificate](#)
- [Drone Registration/FAA Certificate of Aircraft Registration](#)
- Certificate of Insurance (aviation liability insurance).

All FAA regulations must be followed. Visit the [FAA Commercial Drone Operations](#) website for more information.

Generators (over 5kW)

Generators **over** 5kW require both an **Electrical Permit** (power distribution) *and* a **Fire Permit** (fuel use).

Electrical Permit (Denver Development Services)

Apply through the e-permits portal under **Electrical Quick Permit**. Only licensed electricians may apply.

Resources

E-Permits Portal: www.denvergov.org/epermits

Contact

electrical.review@denvergov.org | 720-865-2700

Fire Permit (Denver Fire Department)

Read the guide before you apply for a fire permit online.

Resources

[Fire Permit Instructions](#)

[E-Permits Portal](#)

Contact

specialeventsDFD@denvergov.org | 720-527-9418

Generators **under** 5kW do not require permits. Review the [Portable Generators](#) guidance document for proper use.

Fire Permits

In addition to generator usage, additional production activities may also require a fire permit. Visit Denver Fire Special Events website at least 10 business days in advance of filming to view the DFD Special Events Guidelines, site plan requirements, fees, and application instructions.

Resources

[Denver Fire Special Events](#)

[DFD Special Events Guidelines](#)

[Permit Fees](#)

[Fire Permit Instructions](#)

[E-Permits Portal](#)

Contact

speialeventsDFD@denvergov.org | 720-527-9418

Temporary Structures

Certain temporary structures require a permit from **Community Planning and Development**.

Review the [Temporary Structures Permitting Policy found here](#) to determine whether your film structures require a building permit. Only licensed contractors may apply for building permits in Denver.

Structures That Typically Require Permits

- Large or complex sets
- Large tents or membrane structures
- Safety nets or rigging platforms
- Towers used for camera crane operations or lighting
- Elevated platforms

Applications are submitted through the **e-permits portal**: www.denvergov.org/epermits

Filming Public Art

You are required to obtain permission from the artist or their estate to film or photograph public art, even in public spaces.

Failure to obtain permission may result in copyright infringement.

If public art will be included in your production, the request must be identified in your application, within **Step 4 Location Details** of the application.

7 Film Operational Permit Denial or Revocation

PEFP works to support successful productions. However, a Film Operational Permit may be denied or revoked under circumstances including:

- The requested location is unavailable or under construction
- Required permits, fees, or approvals from other City agencies are not obtained
- Required insurance is not provided
- The application is incomplete or required information is not submitted by deadlines
- The applicant has a history of documented violations related to past permits
- A serious violation occurs that impacts public safety or welfare

PEFP may also deny, modify or revoke a permit due to unforeseen circumstances, such as weather, emergencies, or scheduling conflicts.

Failure to comply with permit conditions, City regulations, or approved plans may result in revocation of the Film Operational Permit.