

MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Policy and Procedure

Subject: Access to Park Properties to Collect Native Plant Seeds for Propagation	Effective Date:	Approval: Resolution No.
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Purpose:

To provide guidelines for individuals and nursery professionals wishing to collect seeds of native plants from Park Commission lands for the purposes of propagation. This policy seeks to ensure sustainable collection activities and minimize damage to collection sites that could result from unregulated harvesting practices.

Procedure:

All seed collection on Park Commission property requires permission before collection may begin. The Collector must carry a copy of the permission letter with them at all times when collecting on Park Commission property.

When requesting permission, the Collector must submit a letter to the Park Commission’s Superintendent of Natural Resources Management requesting permission for the proposed collection activities at least one month prior to the anticipated collection date to allow time for Park Commission review. Submission of a request does not guarantee that permission will be granted. The letter must provide:

- Contact information of the Collector
- Information on the professional credentials of the Collector
- Names of all target species
- Location information of proposed collections including the name of the park and specific locales within (if known)
- Anticipated collection dates
- The fate of the seeds to be collected

Before beginning any collection activities, the collector must submit a valid Certificate of Insurance indemnifying the Morris County Park Commission and naming the Morris County Park Commission as an “Additional Insured”.

General Requirements:

The collector must provide the Park Commission's Superintendent of Natural Resources Management with at least 48 hours' notice before all field collection days. The Park Commission may request to have a staff member accompany the Collector on these outings.

All collections must be done in a manner that minimizes impacts to park resources. When appropriate, the Park Commission may establish specific conditions to minimize potential impacts to park resources.

Only the collection of seeds will be permitted. The collection of cuttings or divisions; or the digging or removal of entire plants is prohibited.

Seeds may only be used to establish a regenerating seed source for future seed production. Seeds may not be used for direct commercial sale of the collected seed itself or to grow individuals for direct sale.

Seeds should only be collected when there is a high probability of success with propagation.

Seeds may only be collected by hand. The use of mechanical equipment is prohibited.

Seeds may not be collected from any species included on the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Natural Heritage Program's List of Endangered Plant Species and Plant Species of Concern at the time of the request/application.

Collections may only be made if at least 50 individuals of the target species are present within a population. Ideally, populations with more than 100 individuals of the target species will be used.

No more than 10% of the mature seed available in a given population may be collected.

The collector will be required to submit a summary report to the Park Commission's Superintendent of Natural Resources Management no later than November 30 of the collection year. The report must include the following information for all collections:

- Name of Collector
- Species name
- Collection date
- Park name
- Estimated number of plants in the population
- Estimated number of plants from which seeds were collected
- GPS coordinates of all collection locations
- Approximate size of areas sampled
- Count or weight of the seed collected
- Other species present
- Disposition of any collections