

Guidelines for Weddings in the Arboretum

We at Nichols Arboretum are honored that you are considering having your Wedding Ceremony here! In an effort to help you to understand what our policies are, we've compiled a list of items that you will want to take into consideration before planning your big event.

The fee for using the Arboretum for a ceremony is \$150. A \$350 damage deposit is also required at the time of reservation, which will be returned if all conditions below have been met. We have a Policy that will need to be filled out and returned to our office, before your event is confirmed. We also require a Certificate of Insurance in the amount of \$500,000 for the day of your event. This can be supplied from your homeowners' or renters' policy; otherwise, you will have to purchase Private Event Insurance (www.wedsafe.com).

Weddings in the Arb are for 100 or less people. If your guest list is over 100, then we are sorry, but we can not accommodate your wedding. If your guest list is from 40 – 100, then there are four areas that can accommodate that many people: the Peony Garden hillside; the Main / East Valleys; the Amphitheater; and the area just east of the Amphitheater with the pines that opens out onto Dow Prairie. Areas that can accommodate 40 or less are, for instance, The Heathdale, School Girls Glen Overlook, and the Riverfront. Tenting is never allowed; only ten or less chairs are able to be set up for elderly or handicapped guests, and those must be supplied and carried in by you. We do not allow any vehicle access in the Arb, and we can not supply vehicle access for your guests. There is no room for final dressing, nor do we have a restroom available. We don't allow microphones, or amplification of music. If you bring in any items that need to be disposed of, we ask that you bring trash bags and take out your trash when you leave, but please don't dispose your garbage in the waste containers located at the entrances. Marking the way for your guests is allowed if you use only signs that are mounted on wire, and taken with you upon exiting, or other non-invasive means of trail marking, which are subject to approval. You may not post signs on trees. We do not have staff available on weekends to assist you or your guests. Finally, Receptions, or the serving of any alcohol is not allowed.

Parking may not be a problem, though, if you have picked a weekend. There are three parking lots nearby: M-28 and M-79 are on Washington Heights, and the third one, M-29, is off East Medical Center Drive. There is also street parking on Washington Heights. All parking is subject to availability, and is not coordinated through the MBGNA staff. For more parking information, please go to www.parking.umich.edu

Please remember that the Arb is a public place and therefore people may be wandering through the area you have picked for your ceremony. The Peony Garden is especially popular in June for people to visit. We host a popular annual event called "Shakespeare in the Arb" which takes place the first three weekends in June, and therefore do not allow ceremonies to begin later than 2:30 pm during that time.

If you have questions about anything you have just read, or wish to speak to us about availability, please call the Rentals Coordinator at 734-647-7808, or email mbg.facilityrentals@umich.edu

Thank you!