Department of Parks
Monroe County, New York

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Weddings in Monroe County Parks Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the regular spots in Monroe County Parks that I can rent for my wedding ceremony, reception, or for wedding pictures?
A: There are two spots in Highland Park that are regularly rented for wedding ceremonies and/or receptions (Lilac Arches and Lamberton Conservatory). There are a total of three spots generally rented for wedding pictures (Lilac Arches, Lamberton Conservatory, and the Sunken Gardens). Please see our "Online Wedding Reservations" system at www.monroecounty.gov/parks for general details about these facilities.

Q: Can I rent the Sunken Gardens for my wedding ceremony or reception?
A: No, it can only be rented for wedding photographs. The site cannot handle the impact of large groups of people, and does not have the access, parking, bathrooms, or other amenities to accommodate such an event.

Q: How much do the Highland Park wedding/reception and picture facilities cost?
A: Lamberton Conservatory and Sunken Garden facilities cost $100 per hour to rent while the Lilac Arches are $50. Availability fills up very fast, so book your facility and time early.

Q: If I have my wedding ceremony at the Lilac Arches or the Lamberton Conservatory, can I also have my reception there?
A: Yes. Please note that there is no covered facility available at the Lilac Arches. The Lamberton Conservatory also has a patio available for a reception (patio included in Conservatory rental).

Q: Can I set up tents, chairs, tables, and have music if I have my wedding reception at the Lilac Arches or Lamberton Conservatory wedding facilities?
A: Yes. Keep in mind that there is considerably more space available for receptions at the Lilac Arches. Please note that all of the set up, take down, and clean up must happen within the time frame that you have rented the facility for. There is a fee if you want to set up a tent (no charge for up to 10x10 ft, $40 for small tents up to 30x30 ft, and $100 for larger tents). Space restrictions may require tent to be a short distance away from the wedding facility.

Q: Can I have a DJ/music or a band if I have my reception at the Lilac Arches or Lamberton Conservatory wedding facilities?

A: Yes, but the permit holder agrees that the amplified music at the function will not exceed an acceptable volume at any time and the amplified music will end at or before 10:00pm at the facility. If user fails to comply with this agreement, they will be evicted from said facility and granted no refund. Please keep in mind that there is considerably more space available for these activities at the Lilac Aches.

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Q: Whom should I speak with regarding availability of, and payment for, the Highland Park wedding/reception, and wedding picture facilities?
A: You can reserve your date, time, and facility in our "Online Wedding Reservations" system at www.monroecounty.gov/parks. Follow the registration and payment instructions. You can also call 585-753-PARK (7275) or visit us at 171 Reservoir Ave, Rochester, NY, 14620 to have our Office Staff help you reserve your date, time, and facility, and to receive your payment.

Q: Whom should I speak with regarding logistics of the Highland Park wedding/ceremony and wedding picture facilities (e.g. capacity, amenities, services provided by Park staff, space restrictions, etc)?
A: You can call the Lamberton Conservatory at 585-753-7270 and speak with Conservatory Staff about all three Highland Park wedding/ceremony, and wedding picture facilities.

Q: Can I have my wedding in any other Monroe County Park besides Highland Park?
A: Yes. You can rent a facility (shelter or lodge) for your wedding in a Monroe County Park and use the space in or around it for your ceremony and reception. You must rent the facility for a necessary time frame that includes the set up, the event itself, and the cleanup (i.e. if you want to set up the day before, then you must rent the facility for both days).

Q: Whom should I speak with regarding the availability of Monroe County Parks facilities (besides Highland Park) for my wedding/ceremony, or wedding pictures?
A: You can reserve your date and facility in our "Online Parks Reservations" system at www.monroecounty.gov/parks. Facility fees depend on park and day of the week. You can also call 585-753-PARK (7275) or visit us at 171 Reservoir Ave, Rochester, NY, 14620 to have our Office Staff help you reserve your date, time, and facility, and to receive your payment.

Q: Can I set up tents outside the facility (lodge or shelter) that I have rented for my wedding?
A: Yes, in most cases there is room and solid ground available for tents. Tents may not be feasible in certain locations. You provide this information when you reserve your facility (lodge or shelter). There is a fee if you want to set up a tent (no charge for up to 10x10 ft, $40 for small tents up to 30x30 ft, and $100 for larger tents)

Q: But, does my wedding need to be in connection with a facility rental (shelter or lodge)? Can I have it in any space in the park that I want?
A: These types of decisions will be made between the Park Staff and the customer, and will be made on an individual basis. These decisions will depend on issues such as season, soil/ground conditions, accessibility, parking, proximity of bathrooms, and other concurrent events, among other considerations. Please contact 585-753-PARK (7275) to discuss your idea.

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Q: Can I have a DJ/music or a band if I have my reception in a Monroe County Park?
A: Music and DJ's are allowed at most parks except Seneca, Durand Eastman, and certain parts of Ellison Park. This is because of the proximity of neighbors to said park. Please note that the permit holder agrees that the amplified music at the function will not exceed an acceptable volume at any time and the amplified music will end at or before 10:00pm at the facility. If user fails to comply with this agreement, they will be evicted from said facility and granted no refund.

Q: Can I set up a tent in the spot that I have chosen within a Monroe County Park?
A: Yes, in most cases there is room and solid ground available for tents. Tents may not be feasible in certain locations. You provide this information when you reserve your facility (lodge or shelter). There is a fee if you want to set up a tent (no charge for up to 10x10 ft, $40 for small tents up to 30x30 ft, and $100 for larger tents)

Q: Is there any special form that I need to fill out to have my wedding in a space that is not connected with a facility rental (shelter or lodge)?
A: Our Staff will have you fill out a Special Use Wedding Application for this type of event. Fees depend on the number of people attending the event and the level of service needed from the Park Staff ($25 up to 250 people)

Q: Can I use the Monroe County Park facility (shelter, lodge, space) that I've rented/reserved the day before for my wedding rehearsal?
A: Yes. But, you must rent the facility for the additional time frame necessary to include the set up, the event itself, and the cleanup. All other guidelines outlined above apply.