

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Portrait Photography Rules & Guidelines

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is a picturesque location full of beautiful backdrops and serves as the sole botanical garden property owned and operated by NOVA Parks. All posed and portrait photography of groups and individuals at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens requires a photography reservation and the photography session fees made in advance. Garden entry fees are paid upon arrival.

Weddings and Bridal photography are handled exclusively through the Atrium Events Office and the information listed below is only applicable to photography sessions unrelated to Wedding or Bridal photography sessions. Please call 703-255-3631 ext. 105 for all Wedding related photography, guidelines, and fees.

Scheduling a Reservation:

If the primary purpose is to capture photos an individual or group, attire including formal, and/or costume, or a photographer (professional or hobbyist) is present to take photos; a photography session reservation is required.

Photography session reservations are available for two-hour increments during daytime admission only. Reserving a photography session at least two weeks in advance is recommended to ensure the desired date and time is available. Time slot reservations are available on a first come, first served basis. Reservations may only be made up to 90 days in advance from today's date. Only one photography session per person/group per day is permitted.

Reservation holders will receive a permit number unique to their photography session. To ensure a speedy check-in, please have the group's permit information ready upon arrival for the reserved photography session. Please arrive at the Visitor Center ten minutes prior to the photography session start time, sign in, pick up the group's assigned photo pass, and perform a final review of these rules. The photographer must always ensure the pass is visible and return the pass upon departure.

Fees:

All guests, including the photographer, in attendance for the photo session must pay the parks daily admission in addition to the photography fees. The reservation holder of the photography session must return their photo pass no later than fifteen minutes after their Photography Session end time; otherwise, the reservation holder will be required to pay for additional time.

- Two Hour Portrait and Posed Photography Session: \$50
- Late Return Fee (by the hour): \$50

Photography Session Rules and Guidelines:

Props & Attire:

- As many costume pieces and hand-held props as desired are welcome.
- Any free-standing props or materials are not permitted including but not limited to tables, chairs, arches, balloons, confetti, drones, flying lanterns, and/or pyrotechnics.
- Pets or animals are not permitted within the Gardens as part of a photography session. Service animals are always welcome at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

Location:

- No part of the Gardens may be closed or restricted for a photo session.
- A photography session reservation grants non-exclusive access to outdoor Garden facilities.
- Please be courteous of other guests and do not block pathways or obstruct views.
- There is no photography or set up permitted within the garden beds at any time.
- Photography sessions are not permitted inside the Visitor Center, the Atrium, or the Conservatory.
- For photography at the Atrium please contact Atrium staff at 703-255-3631 ext. 105.
- Photography sessions are not permitted during the Winter Walk of Lights.

Additional Rules:

- Before or after – hours photography sessions are not available.
- Video filming or drone use is not permitted on Garden grounds.
- Adjustments to photography reservation times will not be made due to late arrival.
- The Gardens does not provide a photographer or any additional assistance for a photography session.
- Walk – in photography sessions are not recommended. Due to limited availability, staff reserve the right to refuse a walk-in photography session arriving without a reservation.

Cancellation/Refund:

Reservations can be changed by the original reservation holder online in advance prior to the start of their reservation with no penalty with at least 24 hours' notice from the start time of the reservation. Cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance of the reservation start time to be eligible for a full refund. However, after the reservation time has passed, there are no refunds, and a new reservation must be made.

For any assistance including cancellations, please contact Meadowlark Botanical Gardens at 703-255-3631 or email at meadowlark@nvrpa.org. You can also contact NOVA Parks Headquarters, M – F, 8 am – 4:30 pm at 703-352-5900.

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