

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 made and payment received for the reservation in advance. As well as the payment of all appropriate admission fees 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 email atrium@nvrpa.org or call 703-355-3631 for all Wedding related photography, guidelines, and fees.

Scheduling a Reservation:

Photography session reservations are available for two-hour increments during daytime admission only. Time slot reservations are available on a first come, first served basis. Reservations may only be made no more than 90 days in advance from today's date. Only one photography session per person/group per day is permitted. Photographers may only host one client per photography session. No photography sessions may occur during the last hour of the Garden being open to the public.

Reservations can be reserved online [here](#).

Reservation holders will receive a confirmation email and a permit number unique to their photography session. Please arrive at the Visitor Center prior to the photography session start time, sign in, and pick up the groups assigned photo pass. The photographer must ensure the pass is visible and return the pass upon departure.

Fees:

All guests, including the photographer, must pay the daily admission in addition to the photography fees. The photo pass must be returned no later than fifteen minutes after the photography session end time; otherwise, the reservation holder will be required to pay the late return fee.

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

Props & Attire:

- Costume pieces and hand-held props are welcome. No people or props may be in Garden.
- No other props 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.

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, Atrium, or the Conservatory.
- For photography at the Atrium please contact Atrium staff at Atrium@nvrpa.org.
- 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. Photography Sessions are first come, first served.
- Staff reserve the right to refuse a walk-in photography session arriving without a reservation.
- A photographer and/or reservation holder and their group are only permitted one photography session per day.

Cancellation & Refund Policy:

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 refund. However, after the reservation time has passed, there are no refunds, and a new reservation must be made.

Weddings and Bridal photography are handled exclusively through the Atrium Events Office and require reservations. Please email atrium@nvrpa.org or call 703-255-3631 for all Wedding related photography, guidelines, and fees.

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.