

General Staged Photography Guidelines & Fees

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is owned and operated by NOVA Parks. A reservation is required prior to arrival and a fee for staged photography is charged upon arrival to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens wherein the gardens or any portion of the grounds are used as a backdrop or scene for a photo session. This fee is directly supporting our gardens for you and your future visits.

We ask that all photography sessions be reserved in advance to ensure you and your special occasions are captured seamlessly. To book a reservation, please call us at (703) 255-3631 ex 0. This is to include any session such as prom, maternity, graduation, and family.

Please note, all Wedding related photography is handled exclusively through *the Atrium* Events Office. Please call 703-255-3631 x105 or email atrium@nvrpa.org to receive Wedding related photography information, guidelines and fees. Click [here](#) for the Wedding Photography Reservation Application.

Photography Sessions are scheduled in two (2) hour increments and can be scheduled between the hours below.

- April through September- 10am- 6pm
- October- 10am- 5pm
- November through March- 10am- 4pm

Fees:

General Photography Session
\$25.00

Additional Time (by the hour)
\$25.00

Scheduling and Sign-in:

Photo reservations are available every day of the week. The reservation includes a two (2) hour session; all guests in a party will pay standard daily admission. We do limit the amount of photo reservations per day to ensure the gardens have ample space for the various sessions. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens does not provide a photographer or any additional assistance for your photography session. Staff reserves the right to refuse a photography session without a reservation.

When making a reservation you will need the following the information and will be given a reservation code in return.

- Name for reservation
- Type of reservation/photos (Family, Prom, Maternity, Graduation)
- Phone number & Email for reservation holder

Guests who are interested in wedding related/formal photography or have reserved *the Atrium* for their wedding events will work exclusively with *the Atrium* Events Office for their reservation. Please call 703-255-3631 ex. 105 or email at atrium@nvrpa.org. Click [here](#) for the Wedding Photography Reservation Application.

You are required to sign-in at the admissions desk and may be asked for your reservation code. Upon arrival to the Visitor Center, please, sign in, pick up photo pass and do a final review of these rules. The photo pass must be visible at all times and turned in when you leave.

Restrictions:

Please be aware we are unable to close off or restrict access to any part of the garden for a photo reservation. Sessions may not take place in the Visitor Center, or the Conservatory due to limited space. There is no photography in or around *the Atrium* during events or during our holiday light show.

Our Reservations are in two (2) hour increments and we allow only one session per photographer per day. No adjustment to reservation times will be made due to late arrival.

We ask that all photographers be careful and courteous of guests and do not block pathways or obstruct views. No photography or set up is to take place within the garden beds at any time.

There are restrictions on props that are permitted on the grounds for a photoshoot. Please reference the Frequently Asked Questions section for a listing of items that are not permitted for a photoshoot. Garden employees are not available to assist in any way with a photography session.

All Wedding related photography must be reserved through the atrium office at 703-255-3631 ex. 105 or at atrium@nvrpa.org. Click [here](#) for more information.

All video filming must be approved by garden management prior to reservation. The use of drones is not permitted on grounds. Video reservations are subject to an additional fee.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Is the primary purpose of your visit to capture photos of your family or group?
- Are you wearing formal attire/costume/wedding attire?
- Will a photographer (professional or hobbyist) be accompanying you to take the photos?

If you answered “YES” to any one of these questions, you must make a prior reservation.

Call us at (703) 255-3631 x0

If you are interested in a Formal Wedding or Bridal shoot, you must make a prior reservation. Click [here](#) for more information.

Call us at (703) 255 3631 x105 or Email at atrium@nvrpa.org

What do I get for my photo permit?

Your two-hour photography session reservation gets you non-exclusive access to our outdoor garden areas. The Conservatory is not available for portrait/formal photography.

How far in advance do I need to reserve my photoshoot?

You can reserve your photoshoot any time prior to your photo session. We recommend at least two weeks to ensure you get the date and time you wish without any conflict.

Can I just walk in for a photoshoot without a reservation?

Please don't! We recommend booking your session in advance to guarantee that you get the date and time you want, and that your session does not conflict with other events. We cannot guarantee access to the Gardens for photoshoots on a walk-in basis, due to other scheduled photoshoots or events. All Wedding related photography must be reserved in advance with no exceptions.

What if it rains or I need to reschedule?

We understand scheduling an outdoor photo session can be tricky. If you need to reschedule a photo session for any reason, simply give us a call at 703-255-3631 and we will help you move your session to a different date.

Can I bring props or furniture for my photo session?

You are welcome to bring as many costume pieces and hand-held props as you like for your photo shoot. Any free-standing, floating materials, such as tables, chairs, clothing racks, free-standing arches, balloons, confetti, flying lanterns, and pyrotechnics are not permitted. Live Animals (not including vested service animals) are not permitted as part of a photoshoot.

Do you allow before/after hour reservations for sunrise/sunset sessions?

We do not allow any photography sessions within the gardens outside of our normal operating hours. Alternatively, we have an open picnic area outside of the gardens that has served as a great location for sunrise/sunset sessions

Photographer Registration:

If you intend to use Meadowlark Botanical Gardens as one of your frequent outdoor studio locations, we ask that you register with us for possible future perks.

Photographer Registration:

Date: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Photography Insurance Company: _____

Type of Vehicle: _____

License Number & State: _____

Website: _____

Social Media: _____

