

Withrow Nature Preserve Weddings

Frequently Asked Questions



When is Withrow Nature Preserve available?

The outdoor venue and Highwood Lodge may be used May–October, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. and/or 4–8 p.m. for wedding ceremonies. A reservation may be made up to 30 days in advance to the event date. Failure to comply with your contract with Great Parks of Hamilton County will necessitate a minimum of a \$100 fine.

If we book a wedding, will we be the only people allowed at Withrow Nature Preserve?

Withrow Nature Preserve is open to the public daily, all year, from dawn to dusk. During your reservation period, "Wedding in Progress" signs will be placed outside in two locations to discourage visitors from wandering into the wedding venue. The park itself however cannot be closed during the wedding.

What is the street address of Withrow Nature Preserve?

7075 Five Mile Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230

What is the standard reservation period?

A reservation period consists of four hours. Guests may choose 10 a.m.–2 p.m. or 4–8 p.m.

During the wedding, will there be anyone present to answer questions?

A Great Parks Volunteer will be present when Weddings at Withrow Nature Preserve is reserved. Volunteers have been trained to answer questions that you may have. Also, during your reserved time a Park Ranger may stop by the event.

What is the maximum number of guests able to be accommodated?

The amphitheater is limited to 75 guests on cloth-covered benches. With the use of rental chairs provided by the reserving party, and placed to each side of the venue, you may accommodate 25 additional guests.

Can we have music at the wedding?

Yes. A musician or small ensemble is recommended. There is an electrical outlet. Please remember that the area is a nature preserve.

Are we allowed to decorate?

Yes, but only string or wire may be used to attach decorations. Decorations may not be stapled, nailed, taped, tacked, glued or in any damaging way affixed to any part of the amphitheater, gazebo or any of the fixtures therein. The wedding party is responsible for providing a runner or carpet leading to the wedding platform, as well as all flowers decorating the area.

Can we have confetti?

Birdseed is permitted and recommended. Confetti and artificial flower petals are strictly prohibited, indoors or out. Use of confetti will necessitate a \$100 fine.

May we have a wedding toast?

A wine or champagne toast is permitted by the reserving party within the reserved area only, and may be served in the form of a toast to the bridal party. The toast may be performed outside of Highwood Lodge on the front porch or rear terrace only. If alcohol is being served, the guests must comply with applicable liquor laws.

Do we have access to the upstairs?

There are two rooms upstairs that may be used by the bridal party for pre-wedding preparations. No showering is available.

What are the clean-up procedures?

All flowers and decorations must be removed. All litter inside building and outdoors must be picked up and placed in sealed receptacles provided. No trash may be left inside the building. All garbage must be placed inside the receptacles located at the rear of Highwood Lodge. Failure to comply with your contract with Great Parks of Hamilton County will necessitate a \$100 fine. If additional time is needed to clean up, you will be billed an additional \$75 per hour.

Where is the best place for pictures?

Withrow Nature Preserve provides many locations for beautiful wedding pictures. Pictures may be taken at the amphitheater, gazebo, lawn areas or elsewhere within the public areas of the nature preserve.

Is smoking allowed in the Highwood Lodge?

Highwood Lodge is a smoke-free facility; therefore, no smoking is allowed inside the building. Smoking is only permitted outside. Caution is encouraged and all litter, including cigarette butts, must be disposed of in the appropriate receptacles.

If we want a carpet runner for an aisle, how far is it from the porch door to the amphitheater?

It is approximately 100 feet from the porch door.

Is there a small table for the guest book?

A wooden podium is available to be used for the guest book. Please inquire with the Great Parks volunteer at your event.

Are there covers for the benches?

White covers are provided and are placed on the benches, weather permitting, by the volunteer on duty. Bench covers are removed after the wedding ceremony.

Is the Highwood Lodge air-conditioned?

Highwood Lodge is air-conditioned. Please remember the efficiency of the air conditioner is affected by the opening and closing of the doors.

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If we want a rehearsal, what do we do?

To ensure a specific rehearsal time, guests may confirm a reservation no later than 30 days in advance of the preferred date. Rehearsal ceremonies are also permitted on a first-come, first-served basis. It is recommended that groups intending on having a first-come, first-served rehearsal should call Guest Services no more than one month in advance of the date to check availability. Paid reservations have priority at the wedding venue.

How will the guests know if they are at the correct location?

On the day of your wedding, a sign will be placed at the entrance of Withrow Nature Preserve. The sign will read as follows:

Celebrating
Bride's Name & Groom's Name
Wedding

The wedding party is not permitted to place balloons, signs or any other decorations by or at the entrance to Withrow Nature Preserve.

What do we do if it is raining on our wedding day?

We recommend you plan accordingly while arranging your outdoor event. If it is raining around the time of your wedding, your ceremony may be held in the living room of the Highwood Lodge. No chairs or tables are available for use within the lodge.

If my wedding is cancelled, can I get a refund?

Cancellation notice must be made in writing, and your event cannot be cancelled until the notice is received. Notices received more than 180 days (six months) prior to the event date will receive a 100% refund. Notices received more than 120 days (four months) but less than 180 days (six months) prior to the event date will only receive a 50% refund. Reservations cancelled less than 120 days (four months) prior to event date will not be refunded. All cancellations are subject to a \$25 processing fee.

Can I view the area first?

The outside property is available to view from dawn until dusk daily. Please be courteous if there is a wedding ceremony in process when visiting the site. Great Parks hosts open houses to view the interior of Highwood Lodge, including the bride and groom changing rooms. Open house dates are available online at greatparks.org/wedding or by calling Guest Services at 513-521-7275.

Will our guests need a Motor Vehicle Permit?

Motor Vehicle Permits (MVP) are required at Withrow Nature Preserve. A group permit is recommended and may be purchased at the time of booking. A Group Motor Vehicle Permit will cover all wedding guest vehicles. Choosing not to purchase a group permit may result in guests having to purchase individual permits the day of event (\$10 annual or \$3 daily).

What happens if something is damaged during our wedding?

The reserving party is responsible for the full cost of any damage caused by the bridal party or their guests.

What happens if one of our guests is hurt while at Withrow Nature Preserve?

In the event that a guest is seriously injured, please call 911. The volunteer will call the Rangers to assist with the situation. A First-Aid kit is available to help with minor cuts and scrapes.

Whom should I contact with any other questions?

Please contact Guest Services or Volunteer Services at 513-521-7275 or information@greatparks.org or visit in person at 10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231.