We get these questions a lot!

Please let us know if you think of anything else: [Event.Manager@MontgomeryParks.org](mailto:Event.Manager@MontgomeryParks.org).

**How will my guests know where to go?**
We can provide simple directional signage, or you are welcome to provide your own so that they match your event style. You can put signs on the lawn and paved areas.

**Will restrooms be open during my reservation?**
Yes! Restrooms will remain open for your guests for the duration of your rental.

**Does my photographer need a permit?**
Photography permits are included in the cost of your rental. You don’t need an extra one, unless you want to take photos at a different time than your rental period. Let us know so we can make arrangements for you.

**It’s my wedding day. Will other weddings be going on at the same time as mine?**
No, only one couple at a time! We want you to enjoy a special experience at Brookside Gardens, so we only book one wedding at a time. 50 acres, and only one wedding in sight!

**May I have a rehearsal at Brookside?**
Yes! A one-hour period may be reserved free of charge to rehearse for your special day. To avoid conflicts with other events, let us know so we can reserve the space for you.

**May my guests throw rice, etc.?**
We have lots of creatures here in the Gardens, so we cannot allow rice, birdseed, confetti, silk flower petals, or glitter. We recommend real flower petals, fallen leaves, and bubbles. Balloons, and lanterns made for release into the sky are not allowed.
May my photographer or I use a drone for aerial shots?
Due to our proximity to D.C. airspace, we cannot allow drone photography.

Does Brookside have a dressing area?
Yes! For all 7-Hour Packages, the included Classroom is typically used as a dressing area, or green room. For 4-Hour Packages, the Classrooms may be rented separately so you have a place to get ready.

Will garden visitors be able to walk through my event?
The space is all yours. The Event Staff will close off the gardens with signs, and then stay for your event so that only your guests can attend.

When may my vendors and caterer deliver, and pack out?
At the start of your rental. Check your Permit Contract for the Start Time. This is the earliest deliveries and set-up may begin. If you need more time, let us know at least 30 days before your event. Subject to availability, additional hours for the 7-Hour and 4-Hour Event Packages are $400.00/$480.00 per hour. Classroom events may be extended at the regular hourly price (See Venue Rental Packages and Rates).

You don’t have to go home, but you can’t stay here! Check your Permit Contract for the End Time. We recommend saying goodbye to your guests and ending your event one hour prior to the End Time, to ensure that your vendors have enough time to pack out. All vendor equipment must be picked up before the end of your rental. No equipment may be left on Brookside’s property. Though most people delegate clean-up to the caterer, make sure you make arrangements with them because this is ultimately your responsibility.

Is there electricity in the gardens?
Yes! Each garden has electrical power nearby. Extension cords must be used in most cases. Please come prepared.

Are candles allowed?
Yes! Votive candles, and tapers with glass chimneys are allowed, so long as the flame is below the rim of the glass.
Who sets up?
Set-up and clean-up are your responsibility. Though most people delegate this to the caterer, you are ultimately responsible.

May we use bug spray?
Yes! Please only spray repellant on yourself, and not directly at an insect in the Gardens. The spray can damage plants.

When should I reserve?
For weddings, conferences, and retreats, we recommend you reserve six months to one year in advance to book your first choice on our calendar. A one-week hold may be placed on a date while you finalize your decision.

And we don’t mind last minute guests! So long as spaces are available, we will always do our best to accommodate your planning timeline.

How much is the deposit?
We do not collect a deposit. Forty percent (40%) of the total rental fee is due when the Permit Contract is created. The remainder of the rental fee will be due no later than one month prior to the event. If you are booking within 30 days of your event, 100% of the rental fee is due when the Permit Contract is created.

Do I need to rent tables and chairs?
We have a lot you can use! Our Equipment List is extensive, and probably has everything you need. Should you want more of an item, or something different, we recommend arranging this through your caterer or a party rental company.

May I serve alcohol?
Yes! Montgomery County law requires that alcohol for sale must be served by a licensed bartender. Even for events where drinks are complimentary for your guests, we recommend hiring a bartending service for your peace of mind.
Where do my guests park?
We have two parking lots, including our beautiful Parking Garden located at the Visitor Center. We do our best to schedule events so that there is always enough parking, but if you would like to reserve some spaces for your wedding party or special guests, just ask!

What if it rains?
We always have a backup plan! Brookside is primarily a garden, and most people like to have their event rain or shine, but it’s your call. For all Garden Events, we work with you to create a plan for light rain and heavy rain. You can enact your rain plan no later than 3 hours prior to your event. Just let us know and we’ll take care of it for you.