

Indiana County Parts & Trails Wedding Guide



Having an outdoor wedding in the park can be a unique and memorable event. Our parks can provide a scenic backdrop to your special day. Our parks are appropriate for small, intimate weddings of less than 50 people.

The weather is always a factor in planning an outdoor wedding. Be prepared for all conditions and plan accordingly. We have established specific regulations regarding weddings in our parks which you should review carefully. These regulations were created to assist you with your event and to help ensure a memorable day for you and your guests.

If you have any questions
please contact us at
(724) 463-8636 or ind-
parks@gmail.com



WEDDING CEREMONY SETTINGS

Garden Ceremony

Indiana County Parks & Trails has many scenic locations for your wedding ceremony. High on the list is Blue Spruce Park, located north of Indiana, Pennsylvania. Blue Spruce Park is a 650 acre park where people enjoy hiking trails, open green space for informal sports activities, fishing, and our gardens.

Our well-maintained flower gardens can be the perfect location for an wedding ceremony. Picture all the various flowers; roses, marigolds, hibiscus, pansies and geraniums blooming as you exchange vows. We have a beautiful garden outside our Lakeside Center full of flowers waiting to be the perfect back drop for your ceremony.



Some concerns with a garden ceremony are the weather, allergies to the flowers your guests may have, and the timing of peak flower blooming.

Lakeside Wedding

Having a ceremony overlooking a body of water can be special. Our 12-acre lake at Blue Spruce Park provides a beautiful scenic backdrop for your friends and family to bask in as they enjoy your wedding ceremony. Pine Lodge features a scenic 2-acre pond. The waterfront offers great photo opportunities (though watch the sun reflecting off the water) for your photographer. Our Lakeside Center has a deck on the waterside of the building that could pose as the perfect spot for your ceremony. Also, take advantage of other areas around the lake you might enjoy more.

There aren't too many concerns with having a waterfront wedding ceremony, but you can never be too careful. If a significant amount of rainfall occurs and you decide to have your ceremony in the grass near the lake muddy feet and dresses may be a concern. However, if you choose the deck of the Lakeside Center the solid surface will be a safe place for your feet and dress hems! Also chairs for your guests can be set up. The deck of the Lakeside Center could offer more privacy for your ceremony. If there are any small children in the wedding party or attending it's very important you keep a close eye on them

Gazebo



At Blue Spruce Park we have a gazebo that is popular for wedding ceremonies. Along with the gazebo rental we provide 50 metal folding chairs for your guests. The gazebo provides a shelter from weather for the wedding party while acting as a scenic backdrop for your ceremony.

Indiana County Parks & Trails is a great place for engagement and wedding photo opportunities. Whether it's winter or summer, our scenic parks can provide the perfect backdrop for your memories.



Weather

Every Western Pennsylvanian knows that the weather can change blink of an eye. This is one factor that we strongly stress in the initial booking for your wedding. **WE CAN NOT CONTROL THE WEATHER!** If you're having an outdoor ceremony we highly recommend booking a pavilion, Lakeside Center, Blue Spruce Lodge or Pine Ridge Lodge for a rain back up. The last thing we want is for your day to be ruined due to inclement weather. Temperature is also a factor for an outdoor setting. Cold weather is possible at the beginning of April and snow in November isn't uncommon. Please consider the time of year when you book your outdoor wedding. We allow the use of canopies and tents on the park grounds as long as their use is approved in your application request.



Decorations and Favors

When having an outdoor ceremony use the natural backdrop as your décor. If you want to decorate for the ceremony/reception use natural items like pine cones, berries, and vines. Some favorite ideas for outdoor weddings are birdhouses, flower seeds, or miniature potted plants/herbs. Because of potential wildlife hazard we do not allow the use of confetti, rice and birdseed at any event. Also, the releasing of balloons, doves or butterflies is prohibited. Open candles, fires, and torches are not permitted and directional signage is permitted but must be removed promptly after the event. **Directions to each park are on our website: www.indianacountyparks.org.**

Privacy

Keep in mind all of our locations throughout the county are public facilities. We do not prohibit the public from entering our parks and trails at anytime. Generally the public is courteous with their curiosity for wedding ceremonies, but there can always be distractions that are unwanted.

Attire

Avoid ball gown style dresses for the bride and bridesmaids. Hemlines for all dresses should be off the ground to avoid soiling throughout the day. Choose sensible outdoor shoes like a low or flat heel. For the groom and his men tuxes may not be the answer for an outdoor wedding. A great solution could be khakis and a dress shirt. **ALSO, INFORM YOUR GUESTS THEY'RE ATTENDING AN OUTDOOR WEDDING** so they may dress appropriately.

Cake

For those hot summer day ceremonies and receptions, keep in mind wedding cakes do melt! If you have your reception at Pine Lodge (no air conditioning) or a pavilion chances are your wedding cake is going to melt. Choose a fondant icing over butter cream to help preserve cake life on a hot day. It may be a good idea to cut the cake first to avoid collapse!



Amplified Devices & Entertainment

Microphones and ceremonial music are permitted during your wedding ceremony. Because our parks are public facilities the noise level must be kept reasonable. The use of amplified music is prohibited, except inside our park lodges.

Park Regulations & Conditions for Weddings

◆ Access for other park visitors cannot be restricted or impeded. A Wedding Permit is authorization for your wedding to take place in the park and does not grant exclusive use of the entire park. It is recommended you schedule your wedding at a park lodge or less visited area of the park if you wish to increase the privacy of your event.



◆ A \$150 refundable damage/cleaning deposit must accompany all Wedding Permits. Other fees for the rental of lodge, pavilion or gazebo also apply. If you are only using the park grounds, but no park facilities, a \$25 grounds fee applies.

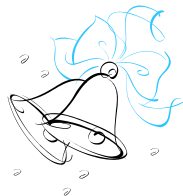
◆ Our park pavilions and lodges are normally booked in advance. Because of this busy schedule we are unable to allow access to pavilions or lodges for decorating or rehearsals the day prior to your rental. You can, however, guarantee access for decorating or rehearsals by renting the facility for two days rather than one.

◆ Available parking is limited and cannot be held exclusively for your group.

◆ Parking is permitted only in designated areas. Parking in lawn areas is not permitted without prior approval.

◆ Please schedule a sufficient amount of time to conduct the event including set-up and clean-up. No set-up time will be allowed prior to the start time on your permit.

◆ If you are planning a rehearsal practice please indicate this on your application.



◆ Rental rates for park lodges and pavilions apply to rehearsal practices.

◆ Wedding permits will not be issued if they would conflict with other park activities or events.

◆ Decorations and equipment must be discussed prior to issuance of your permit. The use of special equipment such as canopies, arches, chairs, tents or other decorations require park administrative review and may not be allowed in certain areas.

◆ If you are renting special equipment from a rental company please have the delivery of the equipment coordinated with the park office. Delivery of equipment whenever

park staff are not in duty will result an additional fee being charged at the rate of \$25 per hour for park staff call outs.

◆ In respect of other park visitors the playing of amplified music is prohibited.

◆ Acoustic music is permitted. Exceptions for portable tape decks, CD players can be made if discussed in advance with the park staff. Standing speakers, disc jockeys

and public address systems are only permitted within the confines of park lodges, not pavilions.



◆ **Alcohol is not permitted.** Violation of the no alcohol policy will result in forfeiture of your damage/cleaning deposit. Smoking is not permitted within park lodges.

◆ To protect the park and its wildlife the releasing of balloons, doves or butterflies and the throwing of confetti, rice and birdseed is not permitted.

◆ Fires, candles, torches and other sources of open flames are not permitted.

◆ The posting of directional signage is permitted but must be removed promptly after the event.

◆ All trash must be placed in park dumpsters or garbage receptacles. All chairs and tables must be taken down and stored as you found them. Please make certain that

someone from your group is assigned to remove trash and decorations after your event or you will be billed for staff at the rate of \$25 per hour. If you are using a rental company please be certain that they will remove rental equipment promptly.

◆ Park staff are not present at weddings and due to limited staffing may not be in the park at the time of your wedding. Law enforcement in County Parks is handled by the Indiana County Sheriff's Department.



Rental Facilities & Costs

We have several options for wedding ceremonies and receptions throughout our park systems. If you choose to have your wedding ceremony on any park grounds there is a \$25 grounds fee. This ensures that the area you choose in the park system is mowed and cleaned.

Options for lodges and pavilions include:

Blue Spruce Lodge: \$125/day plus \$150 refundable security deposit (2 separate checks, security deposit due 2 weeks prior to event).



Lakeside Center: \$125/day plus \$150 refundable security deposit (2 separate checks, security deposit due 2 weeks prior to event).

Blue Spruce Gazebo: \$45 to rent. Includes 50 metal folding chairs which you must retrieve from our storage unit and replace after the ceremony.



Pine Lodge: \$125/day plus \$150 refundable security deposit (2 separate check, security deposit due 2 weeks prior to event).

Pavilions

4 available at Blue Spruce Park with various capacities.

3 available at Pine Ridge Park with various capacities.

