



Wedding Packet

Engagements | Ceremonies | Reception Venues



Say ‘I Do’ at the Zoo

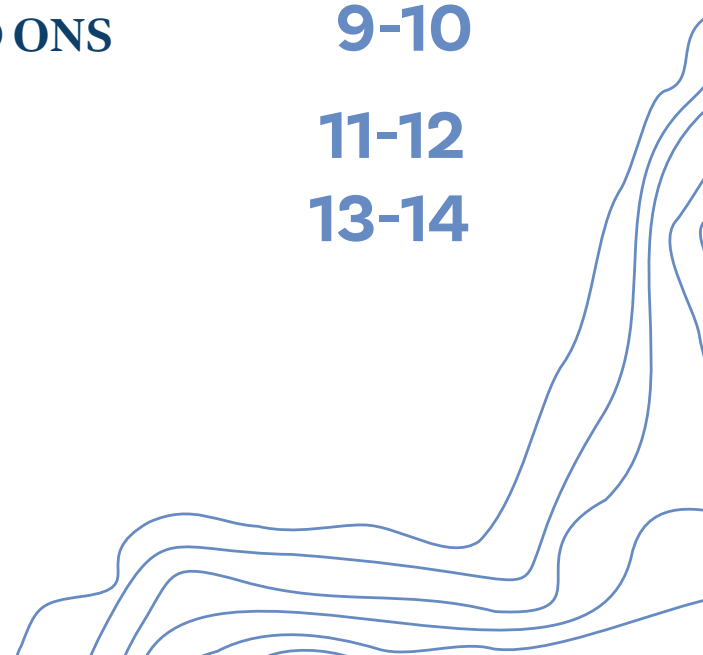
Your wedding at Blank Park Zoo will be an unforgettable experience. We offer a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces, to make your special day truly yours. The zoo offers spaces for up to 450 guests, as well as smaller more intimate spaces for 50-150 guests.

Our wedding packages are designed for you to create your wedding in your way, with à la carte options for your reception, ceremony or cocktail hour. You also have the option of adding animal viewing and other customizations, as part of your package should you wish.

The Zoo also offers options for rehearsal dinners and bridal showers. Use your imagination and design a wedding day that is uniquely yours.

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Wedding Amenities

- Complimentary, free parking
- On-site event supervisor and uniformed security guard
- Tables and chairs (*including setup and tear down*)
- Private bride and groom dressing areas
- Available WIFI and A/V packages
- Choice of two exclusive caterers (*Baratta's Catering or HyVee Army Post Road*)
- Zoo Members receive 10% off the entire rental cost

Booking Details

- Contract and 50% payment of contracted amount is required to book a wedding
- Final payment is due 30 days prior to event date
- Only one rental event scheduled per venue per day
- Ability to host weddings and receptions year-round

Additional Fees

- **Zoo access for set up and decorating day prior to or day after event:**
\$50 per hour (*based on availability*)
- **Additional event rental time:** \$300 per hour (*based on availability*)
- **Holiday weekend charges:** \$750 (*New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas week*)

Weddings at Blank Park Zoo are customizable. Add zoo tickets, animal ambassador visits, train rides, carousel rides, animal feedings and more to your special day. Please note some customizations are weather dependent.

450 GUESTS

Holmes Foster Event Center

The Holmes Event Center is our largest indoor space and an ideal venue for your wedding reception and/or ceremony. It can accommodate up to 450 guests including a dance area, head table, bar and buffet.

The Holmes Foster Event Center includes everything you need for your special day including free parking, tables, chairs, dressing rooms and the latest audio and visual equipment. Additionally, it has an outdoor patio, ideal for cocktail hour.



RECEPTION RENTAL RATES

PRICE

Up to 250 Guests

\$4,500

251-450 Guests

\$5,000





120 GUESTS

Discovery Center

This indoor space overlooks the Discovery Center's free-roaming bird aviary and botanical gardens, it can be utilized for ceremonies, cocktail hours, or smaller receptions. It accommodates up to 200 guests for a wedding ceremony or 120 guests for a reception. Indoor animal exhibits within the Discovery Center can be accessed all year long.

RECEPTION RATES

PRICE

Up to 120 Guests

\$3,000

CEREMONY RATES

PRICE

Up to 200 Guests

\$1,500

COCKTAIL HOUR RATES

PRICE

Up to 200 Guests

\$1,500

150 GUESTS

Large Pavilion

This covered, outdoor space is a beautiful location conveniently situated near the Zoo's entrance and the Bald Eagle exhibit. The large pavilion seats up to 300 guests for your ceremony or up to 150 for your wedding reception and includes a wedding arch and platform.

RECEPTION RATES

PRICE

Up to 150 Guests

\$3,000

CEREMONY RATES

PRICE

Up to 300 Guests

\$1,500

COCKTAIL HOUR RATES

PRICE

Up to 300 Guests

\$1,500





100 GUESTS

African Pavilion

Overlooking Iowa's version of the African savanna's iconic animals, this outdoor, covered pavilion offers sweeping views of the Jamaa Kwa Africa exhibits of giraffe and addax. The Africa Pavilion seats up to 60 guests for a wedding ceremony or 40 for a reception. This is also amazing area for cocktail hour.

CEREMONY RATES

PRICE

Up to 50 Guests

\$1,000

COCKTAIL HOUR RATES

PRICE

Up to 100 Guests

\$1,000



400 GUESTS

Joseph Stage

Joseph Stage is immersed in the center of the zoo, with views of the lions, tigers and sea lions. This partially covered area seats up to 175 guests for a wedding ceremony or accommodates up to 350-400 guests for a reception or cocktail hour.

CEREMONY RATES

PRICE

Up to 200 Guests

\$1,000

COCKTAIL HOUR RATES

PRICE

Up to 400 Guests

\$1,500





PACKAGES

Wedding Reception Rental

Reception rentals begin at 9:00 a.m. for setup, decorating and vendor load in. Wedding reception events are allocated for six (6) hours for you and your guests, with event conclusion at 11:00 p.m. One hour of clean up following the reception is included. A security guard is \$35 per hour per guard. One guard is required for each 250 guests.

HOLMES FOSTER EVENT CENTER	PRICE
Up to 200 Guests	\$4,500
251 to 450 Guests	\$5,000

DISCOVERY CENTER	PRICE
Up to 120 Guests	\$3,000

LARGE PAVILION	PRICE
Up to 150 Guests	\$3,000

Ceremony Add-On or Ceremony Only

Ceremony add-on includes private dressing rooms for bride and groom, guest chairs, access to space for decorating in advance, and ceremony rehearsal. Time allotted for the ceremony is one hour.

DISCOVERY CENTER AQUARIUM	PRICE
Up to 50 Guests	\$1,000

AFRICA PAVILION	PRICE
Up to 50 Guests	\$1,000

DISCOVERY CENTER ROOMS	PRICE
Up to 200 Guests	\$1,500

JOSEPH STAGE	PRICE
Up to 200 Guests	\$1,000

LARGE PAVILION	PRICE
Up to 300 Guests	\$1,500

ZOO PARK GREEN SPACE	PRICE
Up to 400 Guests	\$1,500

Cocktail Hour Add-On

A cocktail party add-on includes a private cocktail hour space separate from your reception. Cocktail receptions include high top tables and animal exhibits in certain designated areas. Time allotted for cocktail hour is up to 90 minutes. Outdoor areas are only available between the months of April through October.

Discovery Center Aquarium <i>(Indoor Space)</i>	Up to 50 Guests	\$500
Discovery Center Conference Rooms <i>(Indoor Space)</i>	Up to 200 Guests	\$1,500
Africa Pavilion <i>(Covered Outdoor Space)</i>	Up to 100 Guests	\$1,000
Large Pavilion <i>(Covered Outdoor Space)</i>	Up to 300 Guests	\$1,500
Africa Pavilion and Boardwalk <i>(Outdoor Space)</i>	Up to 400 Guests	\$1,500
Center of the Zoo <i>(Outdoor Space)</i>	Up to 400 Guests	\$1,500



Animal Exhibit Add-On

Bring the Zoo to life exclusively for you and your guests. The animals head to bed 30 minutes before sunset. Contact event supervisor for sundown times. Outdoor exhibit rentals have a maximum rental period of three hours. **Indoor exhibits may remain open until 8:00 p.m. and are available year-round.**

<i>Exhibit Add-Ons Available for Up to Three (3) Hours:</i>	<i>Hourly Rate</i>
Zoo Center <i>(Big Cats, Sea Lion, Aldabra Tortoise, Lemur, Gibbon, Vulture)</i>	\$400
Jamaa Kwa Africa <i>(Giraffe, Rhino, Addax, Zebra, Red River Hog, Okapi)</i>	\$400
Australia and Kids Kingdom <i>(Wallaby, Cassowary, Emu, Goat, Llama)</i>	\$400
Discovery Center <i>(Freeflight Aviary, Aquarium)</i>	\$400

Full Zoo Add-On\$3,000

Rent the entirety of the Zoo, including both indoor and outdoor exhibits, exclusively for you and your guests. This package is only available between the months of April through October.

Wedding FAQs

Is zoo admission included in my rental fee?

If your ceremony and reception begin after the Zoo has closed to the public, then there will be no additional admission fees for your guests. If your guests would like to tour the Zoo during normal business hours, then they will pay a reduced rate (\$10) for admission.

Do all rentals include tables and chairs?

Yes, all rentals include setup and tear down of tables and chairs. Table layout and chair quantity is due ten (10) days in advance of your event date. Black or white linens are included when using Baratta's as your caterer.

Can we decorate the room for our event?

Yes, in our indoor spaces, we encourage you to add linens, LED candles, centerpieces, florals, etc. to personalize your special day. We do have restrictions on fog machines, glitter, confetti, as well as adhering décor to walls and doorways. Contact us for specific décor questions.

Are there bridal and groom suites?

Yes, we have two private rooms, which serve as a bride and/or groom suites. These are included free when you book a ceremony and/or wedding reception.

Do all rentals include tables and chairs?

Yes, all rentals include setup of tables and chairs.

What is your catering policy?

We have two exclusive caterers from which to choose: Baratta's Catering and Army Post Hy-Vee. We encourage you to contact them regarding your specific menu ideas. Baratta's (Michelle Dodds) 515-710-0516 and HyVee (James McCaffrey) 515-285-6394.

What is your alcohol policy?

Baratta's Catering is the licensed entity for all alcohol served at the zoo. They have several packages available for your wedding needs. Contact Michelle Dodds at 515-710-0516.

What is your wedding cake and dessert policy?

You are welcome to bring in wedding cakes and desserts, provided they are from a licensed entity. Please note, cake cutting service and serving utensils are not provided by zoo.

Can we have a band or DJ?

Yes, you may have a band or music at your event. In outdoor areas music levels cannot exceed 90 decibels nor can strobe, laser or cop lights be allowed for animal welfare. These restrictions do not apply inside the Holmes Event Center or Discovery Center.

Is animal viewing included in my event? Will the animals be out for my entire event?

Zoo animal exhibit packages are available for an additional charge. See add-on elements on Page 3. All animals go in 30 minutes before sunset and are available for up to three (3) hours from April to October. Please contact our Private Events Supervisor for further information.

Can I view the animals if my wedding is during the winter months?

Yes, indoor viewing of rhino, giraffe, tortoises, penguins and the Discovery Center exhibits are available in the winter months (November - March) when the remainder of the zoo's animal habitats may not be available due to weather conditions.



Is payment and contract required to reserve wedding spaces at the zoo?

Yes, A non-refundable payment (half of the total rental fee) is required at the signing of the contract. Final payment is due 30 days prior to event date.

Is there a security charge?

Yes, Blank Park Zoo requires an on-site security guard at all weddings. The security charge is \$35 per hour/ per guard. One security guard will be required for each 250 guests. Payment to be made 30 days in advance of event.

Are extra hours available for events?

Yes, additional hours are available upon request and availability. The rate is \$300 per hour and must be scheduled 15 days in advance of the event.



What happens if we have to cancel our event?

Should you cancel the event more than one year prior to the scheduled event date, a refund of 50% of the paid rental will be given. Should you cancel the event less than one year prior to the scheduled event, no rental refund can be given.

Is guest event setup and clean-up time included?

Yes, the facilities are available during the times listed in the contract for event setup and cleanup of the event as well as vendor load in/out. If the clean-up/load out lasts longer than the stated time a fee of \$75 per hour will apply.

Can we have a rehearsal the day before our wedding?

Please discuss rehearsal time with your event supervisor. Rehearsals are set for 90 minutes and depend on the calendar of events for the week.

What is the tobacco use, smoking, vaping policy?

The Zoo prohibits smoking, vaping, chewing, or any consumption of tobacco products and all illegal drugs on Zoo grounds in accordance with state law and for the health and safety of our animals.

What is your rain policy?

If your event is due to take place outside, we offer our indoor facilities for 25% of the specified rental rate in case of an unwanted weather emergency. Please note, this offer is contingent on space availability.



Rental Times

FULL WEDDING

- 9:00 a.m. for set up, decorating and vendor load in
- Up to eight hours for ceremony, cocktail hour and reception (4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.)
- One-hour ceremony rehearsal on the day prior (based on availability)

CEREMONY ONLY

- 9:00 a.m. for set up, decoration and vendor load in
- Ceremony at 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.
- One-hour ceremony rehearsal on the day prior (based on availability)

RECEPTION ONLY

- 9:00 a.m. for set up, decoration and vendor load in
- Receptions are for six hours (4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.)

COCKTAIL & RECEPTION

- 9:00 a.m. for set up, decoration and vendor load in
- Seven hours for Cocktail Hour and Reception (5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.)



WEDDING RENTAL PACKET



For more information on rental packages
call **515.974.2633** or email **sales@blankparkzoo.org**.