



# fernwood WEDDINGS

WEDDING CEREMONY, RECEPTION, PROPOSAL, & PHOTOGRAPHY RENTALS

Share the beauty of nature with your guests, and create lasting memories at the most scenic venue in Southwest Michigan—Fernwood Botanical Garden.

Hey Sisters! Photography

FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN

# CEREMONY PACKAGES



A Security Deposit of \$500-\$1000 is required to secure your rental date.  
Package rental fees are based upon the garden reserved and additional rental options selected.  
10% discount to Fernwood Members at the Century Level and above.

Included in the Ceremony Package fee (**FOR RECEPTIONS, SEE LAST PAGES**):

- Facility access for a 4-hour time period, anytime within business hours of 10am-5pm.
- One designated changing room with private restrooms, clothes rack and hangers, multiple electrical outlets, vanity with light-up mirror, privacy screen, and tables and chairs. Additional changing room may be rented, pending availability.
- Preparation and removal of Fernwood rental items, i.e. audio equipment, arch, podium.
- Use of Clark Gallery as indoor ceremony venue with seating for up to 135 in case of inclement weather. Sims Education Center, with seating for up to 170, may be rented, pending availability.
- Free admission to Fernwood gardens, nature preserve, and exhibits for you and your guests.
- 2-hour rehearsal the day before your wedding.
- Free parking.
- Accessible restrooms.
- Electricity on site.
- Complimentary wheel chairs.
- Photography access to the grounds anytime during operational hours on day of wedding.
- Customer assistance from Fernwood Event Staff.

FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN

# GARDEN CEREMONY VENUES



## THE SOUTH VISTA

Saturday–Sunday \$1,450

Tuesday–Friday \$1,200

Maximum Capacity 450

A sunny expansive lawn located south of the Visitors Center with manicured borders, paved paths around the perimeter, and entry through the elegant Bauer Terrace. Each side of the lawn has a unique backdrop, including view of picturesque gazebo, a small pond framed by a curly weeping willow and evergreens, borders of colorful perennials flowers and, Fernwood favorite, the weeping katsura tree.

Close proximity to parking and restrooms.

Wheelchair access via ramp.



## THE GREEN

Saturday–Sunday \$1,450

Tuesday–Friday \$1,200

Maximum Capacity 400

Located north of the Visitors Center, the Green is a softly sloping lawn bordered by the picturesque Dovecote, Herb and Sensory Garden, Cottage Perennial Border Garden, Moore Wood Lot, and Daffodil Bowl. This is Fernwood's most popular garden for ceremonies. The Dovecote provides a dramatic altar backdrop with seasonal planters upon raised steps that frame the couple and paved paths leading into the Herb Garden for a wedding party on either side. The west end of the lawn provides a shaded, woodland background with show-stopping blankets of yellow aconite in March, and scattered pink "surprise lilies" in August.

Close proximity to parking and restrooms.

Wheelchair access via ramp or elevator.

FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN

# GARDEN CEREMONY VENUES

Danielle Sergio Photography



## THE NORTH VISTA

Saturday–Sunday \$1,450

Tuesday–Friday \$1,200

Maximum Capacity 400

A grassy woodland clearing surrounded by shady borders, ornamental grasses, and tall deciduous trees. Located in the heart of Fernwood's grounds with paved sidewalks on west side of lawn for guest entry. A 2-minute walk from the Visitors Center, this is an ideal space for those seeking the wilds over manicured gardens.

Maria Lewis Photography



## BOXWOOD GARDEN

Saturday–Sunday \$1000

Tuesday–Friday \$900

Maximum Capacity 50

A quiet, intimate venue, this vintage garden near the Summer House is bordered by boxwood shrubs, with leaves that retain their color year-round. The entrance features a cedar gate arbor that serves as a handsome focal point for a ceremony altar. Situated in a wooded, shady location with gravel and flagstone flooring. A 3-minute walk from the Visitors Center.

Danielle Sergio Photography



## WEIR LILY POND

Saturday–Sunday \$1000

Tuesday–Friday \$900

Maximum Capacity 90

A small lawn located alongside a scenic water feature and bordered by native woodlands near the trailheads that lead to the St. Joseph River and Nature Preserve. Secluded and shady. A 3-minute walk from the Visitors Center.

FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN

# GARDEN CEREMONY VENUES



## THE BAUER TERRACE

Saturday–Sunday \$900

Tuesday–Friday \$800

Maximum Capacity 30

Immediately outside the south exit of the Visitors Center, guests enter through a vine covered arbor and see the copper-roofed gazebo in a sunny section with plantings of lavender, boxwoods, and trellis work. At the south end of the terrace, the gazebo provides a panoramic view of the South Vista. Best for short, informal ceremonies with mixed seating and standing room. Paved throughout.

Close proximity to parking and restrooms.

Direct wheelchair access.



Westley Leon Studios

## UNIQUE RENTALS UPON REQUEST

Don't see your favorite Fernwood space listed? Just ask!

There is a wide variety of potential ceremony locations among Fernwood's 105 acres. Most areas can be arranged for a wedding ceremony with the coordination and approval of Fernwood staff.

All indoor facilities may be reserved for ceremonies year-round.

# ADDITIONAL RENTALS



All rental options include preparation and removal by Fernwood staff.  
Additional rentals must be reserved at least 2 weeks in advance and are subject to availability.

## RENTAL ITEMS

Wedding ceremony arch	<i>\$100</i>
Decorative hurricane lantern	<i>\$20 each</i>
Additional changing room	<i>\$100</i>
Sims Education Center as Bad Weather Back-up venue	<i>\$150</i>
Sound equipment (wireless bluetooth speakers, lavalier and handheld microphones)	<i>\$150</i>
Hi-Top Tables	<i>\$15 each</i>
String lights	<i>\$225</i>
Fire pit	<i>\$100</i>

## RENTAL SERVICES

### Golf Cart Shuttle Service | \$75/hr.

A Fernwood representative to shuttle you or your guests through our expansive gardens via golf cart. Please note, passengers may be limited to guests with disabilities or challenges walking for large events.

### Video Wall | \$250

For ceremonies and receptions held in the Sims Education Center. Have your own slide show or video projected onto our big video wall and rolling monitor to personalize your wedding. Requires your media on a flash drive (or drives, for both screens).

### Private Yoga for Wedding Party, Family, or Guests

\$500 | Additional persons \$10/each. Maximum capacity 20.  
Private yoga for a party of 10 for 90 minutes. Bring your wedding party, family, or guests to a private yoga session.



# FAQs

## How do I reserve my wedding date?

All reservations are subject to availability and approval by Fernwood staff. Availability may be confirmed via correspondence with Fernwood's Event Staff through email (info@fernwoodbotanical.org) or phone (269.695.6491). Your reservation is not final until the security deposit has been paid.

## Will the security deposit apply to the rental fee balance?

Security deposits are separate from the rental fee and may be refunded within 2–3 weeks after the event, by mail or to the card on file. Any damages to grounds, furniture, or facilities, including undue clean-up and overtime costs, may be deducted from the security deposit.

## When are the fees due?

Rental fees with signed contract are due at least two months prior to the event date.

## Will Fernwood close for my event?

Fernwood does not close any portion of its gardens to the public for private events during regular business hours. Garden visitors are permitted to walk along the sidewalks that may border your event. Fernwood staff will direct guests to follow routes that would avoid your event.

## What if it rains?

The Clark Gallery will be reserved as a Bad Weather Back-up venue if it rains. The Sims Education Center is available as a Bad Weather Back-up, pending availability, for an added fee.

## What if it rains and I have more guests than the capacity of the Bad Weather Back-up venue?

Fernwood recommends the rental of a tent, or for an alternate indoor ceremony venue to be arranged by the renter.

## Is an Event Coordinator or Event Planner included?

No, however the Special Events Staff will assist the couple to coordinate all venue-related components, including planning layouts and a general schedule. A Fernwood Special Events Staff member will be available on the day of the wedding to ensure all venue-related plans are successfully executed.

## May we bring in decorations?

Yes. All decorations must be freestanding or attached to existing structures without the use of nails, staples, or tape. Attachments made with zip ties or wires are acceptable as long as no damage is done to Fernwood property. No glitter or confetti permitted. Biodegradable confetti may be permitted with approval of Fernwood staff. **For receptions, all decorations, guests and vendors must be off the property by the end time of 9pm. An extension until 10pm is available for an additional fee.**

## Are chairs and tables included?

No, chairs and tables are not included for outdoor rentals. Chairs and tables must be supplied and set up by the renter's rental service, except where otherwise noted.

FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN

# WEDDING TESTIMONIALS



Danielle Sergio Photography

Beautiful and Accommodating Ceremony Location "We loved Fernwood as our ceremony location. Linda from Fernwood was especially helpful. She met with us several times before our wedding to help us plan, and she was very receptive to our ideas. Our favorite thing about Fernwood was the free photo opportunity on the grounds. The garden is so large and diverse; it's a perfect location for pictures. We received so many compliments on how beautiful our ceremony was. Many people said it was like stepping into a fairy tale. Everyone at Fernwood made sure our day went as smooth as possible."

- Katharyn and Josh

Fernwood is Fantastic! "I absolutely loved having my wedding at Fernwood. Leading up to the wedding it was incredibly easy and pleasant to work with Linda (the wedding coordinator at Fernwood), and it was such a relief to have such a great venue for my wedding. Fernwood also was incredibly flexible with seating arrangements and creating our 'back-up weather' plan. I would recommend anyone wanting to get married in 'refined nature' to get married at Fernwood."

- Kristian and Andrew

Lovely Location "Fernwood was beautiful. There are many places in the gardens to hold your ceremony. The staff was very professional and flexible during the planning process. Planning from a distance went easily."

- Andrea and Brian

Fernwood is the best wedding venue! "As a same-sex couple, my new wife and I had a wonderful experience at Fernwood Botanical Garden. We were greeted as any other couple, and the staff went out of their way to make sure that we had everything we needed. We were so lucky to have found Fernwood Botanical Garden and we had the most beautiful wedding we could have asked for. I am so happy with the service and the kindness from all of the staff, and they made our day so special. Thank you, Fernwood!"

- Caitlin and Amanda

Beautiful venue, best customer service ever! "Wonderful venue. A beautiful garden, but the shining gem here is the people who work there. The staff are so kind and helpful. I cannot express how thankful I am for their help. If you want a reasonably priced garden wedding, check Fernwood out!"

- Dori and Ryan



# PREFERRED VENDORS



## Photography

Anji Monique Photography  
Bells and Bliss Photography  
Brick and Pine Photography  
Danielle Sergio Photography  
Gingertown Photography  
Grace Pulver Photography  
Hey Sisters! Photography  
Lexie Williams Photography  
Lu's Lens Photography  
Maria Lewis Photography  
Scott Tibbles Photography  
Westley Leon Studios

## Floral Arrangements

Larkspur Farm  
Flowers by Anna  
Yellow Door Flowers

## DJ/Sound

DPM Events  
JMH Productions LLC

## Live Music

Dean Allrick, Jazz Piano/Singer-Trio Available  
John and David Van Dyke, and the Van Dyke Revue, classic rock and blues covers  
Julie Cline, Eclectic sounds quartet  
Lucas Miner, acoustic guitar  
Meg Rodgers, harpist  
Roger Humphrey, classical guitar

## Hair and Makeup

Girl On The Glow  
Pretty Committee

## Officiant

Reverend Sharon Zinser, Ordained Interfaith  
Minister Reverend Janet Van Lear, Presbyterian Church

## Lodging

A Room with a View in Berrien Springs  
Bridle Spur Bed and Breakfast  
Harvest Bed and Breakfast  
Holiday Inn Express in Niles, MI  
Dwell Vacations, New Buffalo, MI  
The Morris Estate, Berrien Springs, MI

## Tent and Event Rentals

Aays Event Rentals  
Burns Rent-Alls  
Classic Rentals  
Michiana Rentals

## Event Planners

1928 Planning  
Meaghan Vogt Events

## Transportation

Michiana Fun Tours  
Tim's Tours

## Catering

Navarre Catering  
CK Catering  
Classic Catering

## Bar Service

Beverage Specialists

## **Reception Venues (indoors)**

Maximum capacities listed are for formal seated dining.

### **Sims Education Center – Flora Wing**

Tuesday – Saturday \$3000

Sunday - \$3500

Maximum Capacity 136

The Flora Wing, located on the north end of the Sims Education Center, is a 1-minute walk from the Visitors Center and garden entrance. Completed in the fall of 2018, the large building has a modern, industrial design with large windows that provide views of the gardens. Direct access to the Courtyard incorporates the outdoors with the comfort of indoor heating and air conditioning. Two handicapped parking spaces and modern accessible restrooms on site. Adjustable room divider can be modified to suit the size of the event. Tables and chairs included.

### **Sims Education Center – Full building**

Tuesday – Saturday, 10am-9pm, \$6000

Sunday - \$6500

Maximum Capacity 136

Full building rental of the Education Center includes access to Flora Wing and adjacent Fauna Wing, and courtyards. Flora Wing is used for formal dining of up to 136 guests. Fauna Wing is used for extended gathering space - great for a lounge area with a bar and high top tables, with space for dancing. Tables and chairs included.

### **Clark Gallery**

Saturday – Sunday \$3000

Tuesday – Friday \$2500

Maximum Capacity 100

Centrally located in the Visitors Center with rotating art exhibitions on display. French doors provide direct access to the Bauer Terrace. Open and flexible floor layout with raised stage and carpeting throughout. Tables and chairs included.

## **Summer House**

Saturday – Sunday \$2750

Tuesday – Friday \$2500

Maximum Capacity 50

Historic three-season summer home of Fernwood founder, Kay Boydston, this rustic and secluded gathering space is a 3-minute walk from the Visitors Center. Large open room for guests and a preserved sitting room with a working fireplace for exhibition purposes (available by special request). Building is equipped with accessible private restrooms, prep kitchen, and excellent views of the surrounding woodlands.

## **Reception Venues (outdoors)**

Available May – October

Rental of a tent is required at most locations at the expense of the renter.

### **The South Vista**

Saturday – Sunday \$3000

Tuesday – Friday \$2500

Maximum Capacity 300

### **The Green**

Saturday – Sunday \$3000

Tuesday – Friday \$2500

Maximum Capacity 250

### **The North Vista**

Saturday – Sunday \$3000

Tuesday – Friday \$2500

Maximum Capacity 250

### **Weir Lily Pond**

Saturday – Sunday \$2600

Tuesday – Friday \$2000

Maximum Capacity 50

### **Boxwood Garden**

Saturday – Sunday \$2600

Tuesday – Friday \$2000

Maximum Capacity 30

### **Picnic Pavilion**

Saturday – Sunday \$1800

Tuesday – Friday \$1600

Maximum Capacity 40

\*no tent rental required

### **Café Decks**

Saturday – Sunday \$1800

Tuesday – Friday \$1600

Maximum Capacity 20

\*no tent rental required

### **Included in Reception Rental Fee**

- Facility access start time is negotiable with an end time of 9pm. At the 9pm end time, all guests and vendors must be off the property. Times are setup to clean-up. Additional time may be rented at Fernwood's discretion. Timing may be adjusted for brunch or lunch receptions.
- Set-up and tear-down of additional Fernwood rental items, including audio equipment, string lights, and tables and chairs in indoor locations. Linen is the responsibility of the renter.
- Free admission to Fernwood gardens and exhibits for you and your guests.
- Free parking
- Accessible restrooms
- Electricity on site
- Complimentary wheel chairs, high chairs, and booster seats
- Customer assistance from Fernwood Special Events Staff, including layout design and set-up coordination.

\*Please note. Outdoor reception locations do not include tent rental. Fernwood requires the rental of a tent for most outdoor receptions at the expense of the renter.