

## **“Say I Do at the Blank Park Zoo”**

*Your wedding at the 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 ala 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.*

### **Amenities Included**

- ✓ 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 wedding and receptions year-round.

### **Additional Fees (if applicable)**

Zoo access for set up/décor 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, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas week.*

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

For more information on rental packages email [sales@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:sales@blankparkzoo.org) or call 515.974.2533.

## VENUES

### **Holmes Event Center:**

*Our recently constructed Holmes Events Center is our largest indoor space and is an ideal venue for your wedding reception and/or ceremony. It can accommodate up to 450 guests including dance area, head table, bar area, and buffet. The Events Center includes everything you need for your special day including free parking, tables/chairs, dressing rooms, and the latest audio/visual equipment. Additionally, it has an outdoor patio that is ideal for cocktail hour.*

### **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.*

### **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.*

### **Africa Pavilion/ Exhibits**

*Overlooking Iowa's version of the African savanna's iconic animals, this outdoor, covered pavilion offers sweeping views of the Jamma 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.*

### **Joseph's Stage/Center of the Zoo**

*Immersed in the center of the zoo with views of the lions, tigers, and sea lion. This partially covered area seats up to 175 guests for a wedding ceremony or accommodates up to 250-300 guests for a reception or cocktail hour.*

## Rental Times

Full Wedding	9am for set up/décor and vendor load in. Up to 8 hours for Ceremony, Cocktail Hour, and Reception (4pm to 12am) One-hour ceremony rehearsal on the day prior based on availability
Ceremony Only	9am for set up/décor and vendor load in. Ceremony at 4pm, 5pm, or 6pm One-hour ceremony rehearsal on the day prior based on availability
Reception Only	9am for set up/décor and vendor load in. Receptions are for six hours (4pm to 10pm, 5pm to 11pm, 6pm to 12am)
Cocktails & Reception	9am for set up/décor and vendor load in. 7 hours for Cocktail Hour and Reception (5pm to 12am)

## 2024 WEDDING RECEPTION RENTAL RATES

<b>Holmes Events Center (Indoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 250 guests</b>	<b>\$4500.00</b>
	<b>251 to 450 guests</b>	<b>\$5000.00</b>
<b>Discovery Center (Indoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 120 guests</b>	<b>\$3000.00</b>
<b>Large Pavilion (Covered Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 150 guests</b>	<b>\$3000.00</b>

*Reception rentals begin at 9am for setup/décor and vendor load in. Wedding Reception events are allocated for 6 hours for you and your guests with event conclusion at 11pm. One hour of clean up following the reception is included.*

*Security guard is \$35 per hour/per guard. One guard required for each 250 guests.*

## ADD ONS and CUSTOMIZATIONS

### Wedding Ceremony Add-on or Ceremony Only

<b>Discovery Center Aquarium (Indoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 50 guests</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>
<b>Discovery Conference Center (Indoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 200 guests</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>
<b>Africa Pavilion (Covered Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 50 guests</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>
<b>Joseph Stage (Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 200 guests</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>
<b>Large Pavilion (Covered Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 300 guests</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>
<b>Zoo Park Green Space (Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 400 guests</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>

*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.*

### Cocktail Hour Space Add-on

<b>Discovery Center Aquarium (Indoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 50 guests</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Discovery Conference Center (Indoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 200 guests</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>
<b>Africa Pavilion (Covered Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 100 guests</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>
<b>Large Pavilion (Covered Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 300 guests</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>
<b>Africa Pavilion &amp; Loop (Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 400 guests</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>
<b>Joseph Stage/Center of Zoo (Outdoor Space)</b>	<b>Up to 400 guests</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>

*Cocktail party add-on includes private cocktail hour space separate from reception, 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 – October.*

### Zoo Animal Exhibits Add-on

**Full Zoo Animal exhibits for up to two hours** **\$3000.00**

*Use of outdoor and indoor animal exhibits exclusively for your guests.*

*This package is only available between the months of April – October.*

*Animals will be off exhibit 30 minutes before sunset. Contact event supervisor for sundown times.*

*Indoor exhibits may remain open until 8:00 p.m. and are available year-round.*

<b>Select Individual Exhibits for up to three hours:</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>
<b>Center of the Zoo Exhibits (Big Cats, Sea Lions, Tortoise)</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Jamaa Kwa Africa Exhibits (Giraffe, Rhinos, Addax)</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Australia and Kids Kingdom</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Indoor Exhibits (Bird Aviary, Aquarium)</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>

## **ADDITIONAL CUSTOMIZATIONS**

- **Ambassador Animals**
  - Ambassador animals may include: small mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, amphibians, etc. *(Subject to availability)*
  - Craft and enrichment workshops available upon request. \$65 for 30 min. during public hours
  
- **Unlimited Train and Carousel Rides (June – August)**
  - \$250 per hour for either Train or Carousel for up to 4 hours.  
*Train and carousel are weather dependent.*  
*Please note carousel is suitable for guests who are 150 lbs. or less.*
  
- **Animal Feeding Bundles**
  - \$250 for one hour of Giraffe or Goat feeding. *(Subject to availability)*
  
- **Adopt an Animal**

Become the proud parent of one of 20 Blank Park Zoo animals by participating in the Adopt an Animal program. Details @ <https://www.blankparkzoo.com/support-the-zoo/adopt-an-animal>  
Contact [sales@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:sales@blankparkzoo.org) or call 515.974.2533 for more details on customizations.

## ***SAMPLE WEDDING SCHEDULES***

### **FULL WEDDING with ANIMAL EXHIBITS**

9:00 am Vendor Load-in / Décor  
12:00 pm Wedding Party Arrival  
1:30 pm First Look photos *(Choice of Giraffe, Sea Lion Deck, Aviary)*  
2:00 pm Family Photos in Ceremony or Reception venue  
4:00 pm Refresh Time  
5:00 pm Wedding Ceremony  
5:30 pm Cocktail Party / Stroll Zoo  
7:00 pm Wedding Dinner & Reception  
8:00 pm Entertainment / Music / Dancing  
11:00 pm Clean-up / Load Out  
12:00 am Zoo Closed

### **COCKTAIL PARTY / WEDDING RECEPTION with ANIMAL EXHIBITS**

9:00 am Vendor Load-in / Décor  
5:00 pm Guests Arrive  
5:30 pm Cocktail Party / Stroll Zoo  
6:30 pm Wedding Dinner & Reception  
8:00 pm Entertainment / Music / Dancing  
11:00 pm Clean-up / Load Out  
12:00 am Zoo Closed

### **WEDDING RECEPTION only**

9:00 am Vendor Load-in / Décor  
5:30 pm Guests Arrive  
5:30 pm Cocktail Hour  
6:30 pm Wedding Dinner & Reception  
7:30 pm Entertainment / Music / Dancing  
11:30 pm Clean-up / Load Out  
12:30 am Zoo Closed

## **Wedding FAQ**

### **Is zoo admission included in my rental fee?**

*Assuming 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/tear down of tables and chairs. Table layout and chair quantity is due 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.*

### **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 / 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 / dessert policy?**

*You are welcome to bring in wedding cakes/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 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 thru March) when the remainder of the zoo's animal enclosures 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.*

**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.*

**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.*

**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 I have a rehearsal the day before my 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.*