

Howard County Conservancy at Mt. Pleasant
Event Rentals Q & A

Q: How long is the standard rental period for the day of my event?

A: The standard rental period is 8 hours. You can choose when the rental time starts and finishes, but all events must end before 11pm with clean up ending by midnight. This time frame includes all your set up and breakdown and is the full duration of time that you, your vendors and guests can be in the rental space. Additional hours are \$400 each. Overtime charges the day of the event (and any hour added within two months of the event date) will be charged at \$500 per hour.

Q: How many people can the Gudelsky Center accommodate?

A: The Gudelsky Center can accommodate up to 150 people seated with tables and chairs. We recommend a guest count closer to 130 to be more comfortable with a larger dance area inside. Up to 200 can be accommodated as a standing cocktail style reception.

Q: How can I arrange a visit to see the Conservancy?

A: Our property is open dawn until dusk every day at no cost. The Gudelsky Building and Nature Center are open Monday through Saturday, 9am until 3pm (closed Saturdays in the winter season). To tour the facility for a special event, it is best to make an appointment. Appointments can be scheduled via [this link](#), or by emailing rentals@howardnature.org.

Q: Can I come in early to decorate?

A: If you need more time to decorate than your 8 hour rental time, you can purchase additional hours for \$400 per hour. All decorating must occur within your scheduled rental time frame. Items cannot be dropped off early, and all items must be taken with you when you leave.

Q: Can I have both my ceremony and reception at The Conservancy?

A: Yes, on the 232 acre property, we have beautiful outdoor natural gardens and the MontJoy Barn for ceremonies with the receptions held in the climate controlled Gudelsky Building. The large exterior deck is also beautiful and overlooks the Honors Garden. This can be used for ceremonies or cocktail hours.

Q: Is there a place for the Bridal Party to get ready?

A: Yes, we have a beautiful historic farmhouse with a restored parlor, bathroom and small kitchenette for bridal parties at an additional \$400 for a 4 hour block of time.

Q: What types of tables and chairs do you have?

A: We have 150 Natural Wood Padded Folding chairs, 15 – 60”round tables, 8 – 6’ rectangular tables, and 6 – 36” dual height cocktail tables included in the rental price. These items must remain inside the building or on the deck and are not for outdoor use. Any additional tables and chairs must be separately contracted with an outside vendor.

Q: Do you have any requirements of caterer’s when they come to The Conservancy?

A: You can use any caterer you would like, but they must be approved by the Conservancy and have a license and general liability insurance. The Conservancy does not allow single use plastics or styrofoam.

Q: Do you have a preferred caterers list?

A: We do have a list of event professionals who have supported the Conservancy in the past, most of whom have worked special events at the Conservancy. You may select any licensed caterer you like to work with. If you select a caterer that is not already on this list, they must submit their certificate of insurance and be approved.

Q: Does the Conservancy charge a fee to photographers who want to have a photo session on the grounds?

A: If you are having an event at the Conservancy, there is no fee to take pictures on the grounds. Other professional photographers must purchase a \$150 annual photo pass. This pass gives them access to our calendar where they can view our programs and events. Conservancy events and rentals receive priority access and no other photo shoots can take place at those times.

Q: Is alcohol permitted during event rentals?

A: Alcohol is permitted during event rentals, typically managed by the caterer. If liquor, including beer and wine, is served for purchase or is included in ticket sales, a one-day permit (liquor license) from the Liquor Board must be obtained by the user by calling the Board of License Commissioner, County Council, at 410-313-2008.

Q: Is set-up and clean-up included in my rental?

A: Your rental time frame must include time for all of your set up and clean up. You or your caterer is responsible for the set-up and take-down of chairs and tables inside/outside. You must allot enough time for your caterer, decorators, band, DJ, photo booth, florist, etc. to set-up and take-down equipment within your rental time frame. If you feel more time is necessary than your 8 hour rental, you may purchase additional hours for \$400 per hour. Additional hours cannot be guaranteed if booked less than 60 days prior to your rental. If vendors arrive early, or do not break down their equipment within your rental time, a fine will occur.

Q: Is a security deposit required?

A: Yes, a \$1,000 security deposit is required. The deposit is separate from your rental fee and cannot be put toward your rental. If payment is made via check, it will remain on file, and will be shredded within 30 days of your event as long as you did not exceed your scheduled time frame, contract rules were followed and there were no damages. The Security Deposit is made via ACH the payment will be refunded within 30 days of your event, as long as you did not exceed your scheduled time frame, contract rules were followed and there were no damages. The security deposit is due 2 months before your event date.

Q: What type of payment do you accept?

A: We prefer checks; however, we do accept ACH (bank transfers).

Q: What types of tables and chairs do you have?

A: We have 150 Natural Wood Padded Folding chairs, 15 – 60”round tables, 8 – 6’ rectangular tables, and 6 – 36” dual height cocktail tables included in the rental price. These items must remain inside the building or on the deck and are not for outdoor use. If you need additional items you can coordinate this with your caterer or a rental company.

Q: What other unique options does the Conservancy offer?

A: The Conservancy has many aspects to make your event special: our Barred Owl, Ranger, is available for a 45 minute "Meet and Greet" for an additional \$400. Guests are also welcome to visit our 4 miles of trails, historic outbuildings, natural children's play area, goats and chickens. Children must be supervised at all times. We also have a new Nature center that is available to reserve during your event at an additional cost.

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