

Partners in the Pines

A guide to all you need to know about a wedding at the Cumming Nature Center.



Photo credit: [Ash Carr Photography](#)

An outdoor wedding at the Cumming Nature Center provides you and your guests with a strikingly beautiful natural setting to celebrate your marriage, all while supporting the mission of the nature center to provide outdoor experiences and environmental education to the Finger Lakes region.

From the dappled lighting to the naturally buoyant acoustics, the majestic space of the cathedral pines will ensure your ceremony is breathtaking, original, and unforgettable.

Pricing

\$1000	Ceremony only
\$1,500	Reception only
\$2,000	Ceremony and reception

This document contains information about hosting your ceremony and/or reception at the nature center, details on what we provide with each booking, and an FAQ. Please contact Sarah at sjacobymurphy@rmsc.org with any questions not answered below.

The Ceremony

Ceremonies take place in the cathedral pines with dappled lighting and swaying trees. The space is, simply put, mesmerizing. The clearing holds approximately 200 chairs and can be adapted to meet a variety of set-up styles. The acoustics in the clearing are quite good, but electricity is available at the ceremony site if a sound system is required. Past couples have utilized standard bluetooth speakers and bluetooth microphones to provide just the right amount of amplification for their ceremony. The nature center provides 125 wooden folding chairs and will be responsible for setting these up for your event.



The Pines

Photo credit: [Ash Carr Photography](#)

The Reception

Receptions take place in the side yard area by the main building, and they typically utilize a rented tent and/or the nature center pavilion. Both the pavilion and the tent site have sufficient power for caterers, sound, and lighting. The yard area is large, rolling, and grassy. There is a great mixture of sun and shade, plenty of space for yard games, a fire pit that we will gladly stock for you, and a nature play area complete with a living willow tunnel for children (and adults acting like children). The yard is close to the building and, thus, the bathroom facilities. A reception in the yard allows couples to transition directly and seamlessly from their ceremony to cocktails, speeches, shenanigans and dinner.



The Yard

Photo credit: [Ash Carr Photography](#)



What We Provide

Our outdoor wedding venue is perfect for couples who love the outdoors and have a creative vision for their wedding. The nature center team will help guide you through the planning process of adapting this lovely space to match your vision for the day. Our venue coordinator is happy to answer questions, provide a list of past vendors, and guide you through the logistics of hosting your wedding at the nature center. A staff member will be present throughout the event to meet venue-related needs for the wedding party and vendors, as well as take care of trash and recycling at the end of the night.

Your booking will include:

- *Chairs and Tables:* Up to 125 wooden folding chairs, 10 8-foot tables, four 6-foot tables, and several miscellaneous tables as needed.
- *Reception Space:* After the nature center closes to the public, your guests will have exclusive access to the property. Our side yard can accommodate a tent of up to 40x100. If you need a larger size tent, please check with the venue. You will also have access to our 24-foot by 36-foot pavilion. Both the tent site and the pavilion have sufficient power for all of your music, lighting, food, and other needs.
- *Event Staff:* We provide kind, resourceful, respectful staffing through the course of your event, and we will do our best to respond to the various last-minute details as they arise. We will be responsible for emptying trash and recycling receptacles at the end of the evening.
- *Kitchen:* Our kitchen includes a ten-burner, double-oven commercial range, two griddles, a three-bay sink, and two warming devices.
- *Building & Bathroom Access:* Your guests will have access to the building throughout the wedding, and they are welcome to explore the nature center's exhibits. Our staff will clean and stock the bathrooms throughout the night as needed.
- *Storage & Preparation Space:* Couples can store items in the nature center the week prior to the event. We have one designated prep space on the day of the event, and can make a second space available as needed.
- *Rehearsal:* Each booking includes a time for an optional rehearsal the day before the wedding.



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Frequently Asked Questions

INCLEMENT WEATHER

As an outdoor wedding venue, a rain plan is a must. Parties of 100 or fewer can utilize the nature center building as a rain plan, with the ceremony in the theater and the reception in the downstairs dining area. Parties of more than 100 *MUST* rent a tent. Groups of fewer than 100 are still welcome to rent a tent if they prefer.

PARKING

250+ parking spots are available free of charge for event guests in the nature center main parking lot. This parking lot is located about 100 yards from the building. Handicapped spaces and bus parking are also available. There is additional parking for vendors.

INSURANCE

A certificate of event liability insurance providing \$1,000,000 per occurrence and naming the Cumming Nature Center as an additional insured is required for all wedding receptions. This is generally very simple to acquire and usually costs less than \$150. Most providers carry some kind of event insurance.

ADVANCE RENTAL DEPOSIT

A 50% non-refundable deposit is due along with a signed event rental agreement to reserve your event date. The remaining balance is due two weeks prior to the event date.

PAYMENT

A major credit card is required to be on file for all events. Payment can be made with a check or money order, but all checks must clear 10 days prior to your event.

TIMELINE

Remember, we're a nature center first, wedding venue second. The nature center is open to the public from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Visitation is generally comprised of fewer than 100 people throughout the course of the day. Spread across 900 acres and 15 miles of trails, visitors will not crowd your event. The ceremony site and reception area can be, to a degree, separated from or distinguished from the public areas. Weddings and receptions can take place throughout the day. We will work with you to find the right time for your wedding. A typical timeline may look like:

4:30pm - Ceremony

5:00pm - Cocktails

6:00pm - Dinner

7:00pm - Dancing

10:00pm - Wrap up

Events that stay past 11 p.m. may be charged a discretionary \$75/hour fee. If a good faith effort is made to be cleaned up and out of the space by 11 p.m., this fee may be waived.

ALCOHOL

We do not allow self-service bars. A licensed vendor is required to serve alcohol (i.e. a caterer or establishment with the appropriate liquor license). The vendor is responsible for procuring the appropriate permitting through the New York State Liquor Authority and providing a copy to the Cumming Nature Center.

ACCESSIBILITY

Weddings take place in a clearing roughly 200 yards from the visitor building. The nature center can provide two outdoor wheelchairs with wide rubber wheels. Couples may rent a golf cart for the day if they anticipate needing to shuttle folks from the parking lot to the ceremony site. Restrooms are located inside the nature center. Receptions held in the yard may rent portable toilets if they prefer a closer option.

OUTSIDE VENDORS

We do not currently have a list of preferred vendors, so feel free to work with whomever is the right fit for your event. Email Sarah at sjacobymurphy@rmsc.org for a list of past vendors.

STAFFING

The nature center will provide one on-site contact person for any venue-related needs for the duration of your event. Weddings of more than 150 will require a second staff person at a charge of \$50/hour. We reserve the right to remove guests that fail to respect the nature center grounds, buildings, or team members.

MUSEUM EXHIBIT & ATTRACTION ACCESS

The CNC gallery spaces, theater, and 12+ miles of trails are open to your guests after hours. If you'd like to coordinate a private guided hike or program during your event, just let us know and we'll see what we can make happen!

EVENT SET-UP

Our team will set up chairs in the ceremony site and prepare the ceremony site (mowing grass, raking pine cones, etc.). We provide 125 wooden folding chairs, 10 rectangular 8-foot tables, four rectangular 6-foot tables, and several miscellaneous tables as needed. To the degree that we are able, we will set up tables in advance. A set-up diagram is required 48 hours in advance. Chairs in the same style as ours can be rented locally. We do not set up rented tables or chairs. Your caterer or event manager will be responsible for ensuring that any and all rental items are cleaned and ready for pick-up by the end of your event.

DECORATIONS

The client will be responsible for setup of all decorations, floral arrangements, and centerpieces. We can provide on-site storage the week leading up to the event. Please note that the following items are strictly prohibited: helium balloons, glitter, and floating lanterns.

REHEARSAL

The nature center is open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday. We ask that you schedule any decorating, rental deliveries, and your rehearsal during our regular business hours. Please contact us if there are any issues and we will be happy to work out a solution.

WIFI AND CELL PHONE RECEPTION

Cell service is non-existent at the nature center. We do have very limited wifi in the building, which can be extended to the pavilion space. However, it is necessary to make sure any music, speeches, or otherwise important information is downloaded onto your device. We will share our wifi with you for the day of your event, but it must be used sparingly during normal business hours. For your reference, our fastest service typically provides 1.5 mbps download speed, usually slower. A typical connection in Rochester, for example, would be 50 mbps.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Sarah Jacoby Murphy, CNC Events and Communications Manager

sjacobymurphy@rmsc.org, 585-374-6160

RMSC Member & Visitor Services

mvs@rmsc.org, 585-697-1942