

Planning for Your Event During Our Facility Improvements

As part of our continued investment in enhancing the guest experience, the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is undertaking a series of thoughtfully planned facility improvements. These improvements have been thoughtfully planned to strengthen the Garden for years to come while ensuring an exceptional experience for today's guests.

We're pleased to share that private events and weddings will continue throughout construction, and careful planning has gone into ensuring that celebrations remain as beautiful and seamless as ever.

Our goal is simple: to ensure your event experience remains exceptional while the Garden continues to grow for future generations.

Will construction affect our event?

We do not anticipate any meaningful impact on weddings or private events.

- All event spaces remain available.
- Ceremony and reception locations remain unchanged.
- Our signature photography locations throughout the Garden remain available.
- Guest parking remains available.
- Construction work is scheduled to avoid evenings and weekends whenever possible.

What will guests see?

Guests may notice construction activity near the front arrival area. The work is concentrated outside the primary event spaces, and the construction site is screened from view as much as possible. Once guests enter the Garden, their experience remains unchanged.

What improvements are being made?

The first phase includes construction of a beautiful new entrance addition adjacent to the Garden Gateway. Designed to complement the Botanical Garden's architecture and landscape, the new entrance will create a welcoming first impression for every guest while serving as an important long-term investment in the Garden's future.

Beginning in spring 2027, this beautiful new entrance will temporarily welcome all visitors while renovations to the existing lobby are completed. Once the permanent lobby project is finished, the temporary entrance will transition into permanent administrative offices, making this a long-term investment in the Garden's future rather than a temporary structure.

Construction Timeline**

Now–Late 2026

- Construction of the new temporary entrance through the Garden Gateway

Spring 2027

- Temporary entrance opens for visitors

Spring 2027–Mid 2028

- Main lobby renovation

Mid-2028 (anticipated)

- Renovated main lobby opens
- Temporary entrance converts to administrative offices



Rendering of the future temporary entrance, anticipated to welcome visitors beginning in Spring 2027.

Construction timelines are estimates and may be adjusted as work progresses.

Our Commitment

We know that your wedding or special event is one of life's most important celebrations.

Our team is committed to proactive communication throughout the planning process and will keep you informed of any updates that could affect your event. At this time, we do not anticipate changes to event schedules, guest access, or photography opportunities.

FAQs

Will construction affect our wedding photos?

We do not anticipate any impact on photography locations throughout the Botanical Garden.

Will guest parking change?

Guest parking will continue to be available throughout construction. While a small number of parking spaces may occasionally be unavailable due to the construction safety zone, ample guest parking will remain available.

Will guests still enter through the same entrance?

As construction progresses, the guest arrival experience will evolve. Should your event include a different arrival location than originally planned, our team will communicate those details well in advance and ensure your guests have clear directions on the day of your event.