

Weddings at Whiterock Conservancy



For More Information or To Arrange a Visit

Please Contact Guest Services

712-684-2964 x112

guestinfo@whiterockconservancy.org

www.whiterockconservancy.org

About Us

Whiterock Conservancy is an Iowa nonprofit land trust conserving and protecting 5,400 acres in the Middle Raccoon River Valley. Majestic oaks, prairie wildflowers and sandstone outcroppings dot the landscape.

Visitors are encouraged to learn more about conservation, restoration and sustainable agricultural practices by engaging with nature on our extensive trail system, alongside our ponds or rivers, or at one of our many accommodations. The history and beauty of this land will surely make an extraordinary setting for your special day.

The River house Barn was originally constructed in 1899, but converted to a dance barn during Prohibition. It has been said that there has never been a “bad party” here. And judging by the stunning location, that isn’t hard to believe!

A faint, decorative green vine with swirling leaves and tendrils is positioned in the background, centered behind the text.

Whiterock Conservancy,
offers a *unique* and picturesque
setting for your outdoor wedding.

Situated along the banks of the
Middle Raccoon River in the
heart of the Whiterock Valley,
the River house Dance Barn, prairies,
and gardens provide breath-taking
scenery and serve as a gorgeous
backdrop for the most
beautiful day of your life.

General Information

We want to help you make your special day an unforgettable one. Please call us to arrange a visit to the River house (712-684-2964 x112).

The River house Barn and yard can accommodate special occasions for up to 400 guests. However, seating is limited. We provide 24 picnic tables (seats 144 people) for outdoor seating.

In case of inclement weather, please consider renting a tent for large groups (200+ ppl). We can provide covered seating for 235 people.
(Shelterhouse: 90, River house Basement: 30, Barn-Basement: 50, Barn-Dance Floor: 35, Barn-Loft: 30) *Additional charges may apply if food is present on the Barn dance floor or in the loft.*

Wedding Ceremonies can be arranged in various locations around the yard, in the barn or an alternative setting on Whiterock Conservancy's landscape. (Barn's ceremony capacity: 125 seated or 150 standing on the dance floor and loft, 50 seated in basement but would suggest speaking loudly and/or using a PA system.)

Prior evening rehearsal reservations are encouraged, but not required. It helps to get a feel for what the next day's preparations will require.

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General Information

Woodland Carriage House rental is *required* for staging/dressing area.

Whiterock Conservancy staff will be available at all times for set up, changes, and to help before and during event as needed. Please make prior arrangements if additional help is requested.

Inform DJ that the barn is a small, enclosed area – limited speaker system needed. Electricity available in barn and yard.

Décor should remain simple and wind/outdoor/ weather appropriate. **Absolutely no glitter, confetti, prairie seed, sparklers or fireworks.**

We recommend reserving Oakridge, a spacious and private farmhouse that sleeps 13 or more. It is located within close proximity to the River house and makes a great place to open gifts the following day.

Guest and party parking is available in the campgrounds, just across from the River house. A temporary loading/unloading zone will be provided during setup.

Expectations

Rehearsal Evening Rental: 4pm – 10pm.

Includes use of kitchen and basement areas; refrigerator space; grill use; serving platters and utensils; bathrooms; dishwashing supplies and space; garbage cans and liners.

Wedding Day Rental: 10am – Midnight

Includes picnic tables; barn tables and metal chairs for ceremony and their set up; extensions cords; and items listed under rehearsal evening rental.

Wedding Reception ends at Midnight. All food must be packaged and put away, all trash cleared that night; all cleaning done by 10am next day (cleaning service available; see price list). All attendees must leave by 1:00 am.

Next Day Clean-up: 8:00 am - 10:00 am

All decorations including signs, flowers, staples, string, tape, etc must be removed, All food, supplies, and other personal possessions removed. Scan yard and barn for discarded cigarette butts and food spills. *Additional charges will be applied if not cleaned appropriately.*

Further details about cleaning expectations provided in list format— cleaning not done will be subject to costs listed.

Alcohol is accommodated. You will be responsible for making arrangements (ordering/paying for kegs, bottles, etc).

Limitations

NO DRIVING ON GRASS at the River house yard and dance barn. Gator usage will be provided for large items and elderly as requested. Be sure to inform DJs, Caterers, etc. A \$100 fine will otherwise be assessed.

NO glitter, confetti, sparklers, fireworks, or prairie seed allowed.

NO fire (candles, etc) allowed inside the barn.

NO cigarette butts in yard, ashtrays are provided.

NO one under the age of 21 will be allowed to drive the John Deere Gator. The gator will only be driven by Whiterock Conservancy staff members or a prior appointed responsible person in order to help transport large items, catering supplies, sound systems, and handicap or elderly individuals. *The Gator is not to leave the immediate River house property.*

NO parking in the River house driveway, along the road, etc. All parking will be directed to the main campgrounds across the road. A loading/unloading zone will be set-up but vehicles must be removed immediately afterwards.

NO food will be served in Barn unless raining. All food spills must be cleaned up. *Additional charges may apply if food is present in the Barn.*

Accommodations

We will work with you on holding rooms for attendees to reserve before the event date. We suggest you help to assign family members different accommodations to make most efficient use of space. We can accommodate 36 people overnight.

We suggest that when assigning family members to accommodations that you consider putting wedding party members/college friends in Woodland, extended family members in Oakridge, a family with small children in Hollyhock, older family members in the B&B, and reserving Roswell's Suite or Hollyhock Cottage for yourselves.

- *Oakridge Farm House- 5 rooms; 10 beds (3Q & 7T); 2 Bathrooms; Full Kitchen, spacious living room
- *Woodland- 2 rooms, 4 beds (3Q & 1T); 1 Bathroom; Full Kitchen
- *Hollyhock Cottage- 2 rooms, 4 beds (2Q & 2T); 1 Bathroom; Full Kitchen
- *Home Farm- 5 rooms; 3 rooms have Queen, 1 room has King and 1 room has 2 Twins
- *2-night minimum stay on weekends required for Oakridge, Woodland & Hollyhock Cottage.

We also welcome overnight stays in our primitive campgrounds. Tents, campers, RVs, horse trailers are all welcomed! (Generators are not allowed at the River Campgrounds across from the River house.) The local county RV park provides electrical and water hookups.

Feel free to ask about other Hotel/Motel accommodations in Carroll & Perry.

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Activities

- * **Guided Tours & Workshops:** We encourage visitors to learn and interact with the land by providing a variety of fascinating and entertaining programs about the area and its history for all ages. Guided nature hikes, history talks, and agricultural tours are just some of the ways you can learn more about the landscape.
- * **Float the River.** Enjoy a 3-4 hour trip on the scenic 8-mile Middle Raccoon River. Canoes, kayaks, and shuttle service available.
- * **Take a Hay Ride** on an old-fashioned hay rack, pulled by a John Deere tractor. You and your wedding party/guests can head out on a riverside jaunt over rolling hills and through prairie and savanna restoration projects. Fun for all ages!
- * **Hike, Bike, or Horseback.** You bring the “ride,” we’ve got the trails! If you or your guests have a little extra time, check out the 30 miles of multi-purpose trails that wind through woodlands, wetlands, farmland & pastures, prairies and even connects into Coon Rapids. Bike rentals are available.
- * **Go Fishing** in one of the ten ponds or along the river. A handicap accessible fishing pier is located near the Bed & Breakfast. Basic fishing equipment is available for rent and an Iowa fishing license is required.
- * **View Birds and Wildlife** in a variety of habitats: grasslands, ponds, wetlands, or woodlands along the river valley. Whiterock Conservancy anchors the Raccoon River Bird conservation Area and is home to an Osprey Re-introduction Project.
- * **Star Gaze** in Whiterock Conservancy’s Star Field. Marvel at the myraid of stars in one of Iowa’s darkest places. Guided astronomy can be arranged.

Catering

If arranged in advance, Whiterock Conservancy can provide freshly roasted hog. Our staff will roast a fresh hog the day of your event on site and we will hand carve it as your guests are served. We provide the buns and BBQ sauce to serve along the side. All you need to do is make arrangements either with us or your own caterers for side dishes. The average hog can feed 200-300 people, all leftovers will be packaged for you to enjoy later. (*see price list*)

To ensure that you are eating a perfect meal on your big day without the hassle of dealing with one or multiple catering options or the cleanup associated we function as either a caterer and prepare your meal ourselves or as a catering contractor in which we discuss menu options with you and then contract it out to our caterers and suppliers for a percentage of their final cost. (*see price list*)

However, you are allowed the option of doing all of your own food as you wish. In that case ALL clean-up is done by you as well. Staff help is available to assist with catering and/or clean-up. Please make prior arrangement with us. (*see price list*)

Items & Services Available

Items included in River house & Dance Barn Rental:

- * A movable metal trellis
- * 50 metal folding chairs
- * PA System
- * 6 folding white plastic tables– 6' length
- * 24 picnic tables (avg. length 6 foot)
- * Some platters, serving bowls and serving utensils
- * Lanterns for indoor/outdoor use. **Note: Fire (candles, etc.) is prohibited inside the barn.**
- * One approved person will be available at all times to answer questions, set up, coordinate changes, and help before and during event as requested. Additional help maybe requested at the discretion of management based on the proposed needs for the party. *Additional charges may apply.*

Additional Items/Services Available (*see price list*)

- * Ice can be provided and restocked for you throughout the event upon request
- * Scheduled staff help to assist caterer with food service/clean up, cake cutting, pick up kegs, etc.
- * 24 green check table cloths
- * Hunter Green Tablecloths available for banquet and buffet tables
- * 75 white folding chair covers
- * Large Dinner Plates, Dessert Plates and Silverware for approximately 150
- * Tractor drawn hay rack rides

Price List

(tax not included)

(Prices & Policies effective through 12/31/2014)

Site Rental Fees

Prior-evening Rehearsal(4-10pm)	\$400
Plus per person	\$2.50
Event Day (10 am-Midnight)	\$1,000
Plus per person	\$2.50
Woodland Carriage House (2-night min. stay on weekends)	\$165/night

Supplies Rental Fees

Picnic Table Tablecloths	\$40
Other Tablecloths	\$40
China & Silverware	\$100
Folding Chair Covers	\$50
Straw bale seating	\$3/bale

Other Charges

Hog Roast	\$1,200
Catering (excludes Hog Roast)	\$25/plate
Catering (sides only for Hog Roast)	\$15/plate
Catering Contractor	Cost+20%
Additional Staff Support	\$30/hr
Post-event Cleaning - scheduled	\$30/hr
Post-event Cleaning - unscheduled	\$60/hr
Ice Service	\$7/bag

Payment Stipulations

\$1,000 Deposit due to reserve date.

100% of catering costs & 50% of estimated invoice due 1 month before event.

Final invoice amount due 2 weeks after event.

Cancellation Policy

6 months or more notice: 100% refund of deposit

3-6 months notice: 50% refund of your deposit

0-3 months notice: 0% refund of your deposit & catering costs

If pleased with our services, please consider a gratuity for our staffing services and/or a tax deductible donation made to Whit-rock Conservancy.

Local Service Providers

Alcohol/Beverages:

Frohlich's Supervalu Grocery (712) 999-2257
(Kegs, Bottled Beer, Pop, etc)
Sperry One Stop (Country Store) (712) 999-5119

Cake:

Cathy Nees (712) 684-5687

Caterer:

Elizabeth Reiling (712) -210-7104
Easy Street Catering (712) 272-3706
Kapela Catering (515) 401-8799
Lidderdale Country Store (712) 822-5322

Florist:

Windy Ridge Flowers (712) 684-5285
Village Hobby House & Flowers (712) 684-5211

Folksinger:

Chad Elliott (515) 460-5634

Justice of the Peace:

Eric Neu (712) 792-3508

Photographer:

Haleigh Wehr captured.hw@gmail.com
Haleigh Wehr Photography
Tia Hilgenberg (712) 999-2246
Natural Expressions Photography

Tent Rental:

Menefee Tent Rental 515-321-7409

Directions to Whiterock Conservancy Headquarters

Arriving from Des Moines: Whiterock Conservancy is about 70 miles from Des Moines; trip takes about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours. From I-35/I-80 on the NW corner of Des Moines, exit onto Hwy 141 towards Perry. Drive through Perry, Bagley, and Bayard on Hwy 141. Whiterock Conservancy is 6 miles west of Bayard on Hwy 141.

Arriving from Omaha: Whiterock Conservancy is about 100 miles from Omaha; trip takes about 2 hours. Take I-80 east to Hwy 71 Atlantic/Audubon exit. Go north on Hwy 71, through Audubon, to Hwy 141. Turn east (right) and drive through Dedham and Coon Rapids. Whiterock is located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the convenience store in Coon Rapids on the south side of Hwy 141.

Arriving from Ames: Whiterock Conservancy is about 65 miles from Ames; trip takes about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ hours. From I-35 in Ames, go west on Hwy 30. Turn south (left) onto Hwy 25 at Scranton. Turn west (right) on Hwy 141 at Bayard. Whiterock is 6 miles west of Bayard, on Hwy 141.



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Getting Around Whiterock Conservancy


Whiterock Conservancy's headquarters are located at The Bur Oak Visitor's Center, 1/2 mile east of Coon Rapids on Hwy 141 (1436 Hwy 141).

The Garst Home Farm Bed & Breakfast, and Hollyhock Cottage are located 1/4 mile east of Coon Rapids on Hwy 141 (1390 Hwy 141).

Fig Avenue is located 2.2 miles east of Coon Rapids or 4.5 miles west of Bayard. The River house & Dance Barn, Woodland Carriage House, Oakridge Farm House, River Campgrounds and Star Field are all accessed from Fig Avenue.

River house & Dance Barn, Woodland Carriage House & River Campgrounds are located on Fig Ave, 3.2 miles from Hwy 141. (1313 Fig Ave)
Campgrounds & party parking are located on the east (left) side of the road.

Oakridge is located 2 miles south on Fig Ave, turn east (left) at 125th Street and drive 1/2 mile. (1564 125th Street).



*Whiterock Conservancy is
ready to make this
wonderful day in your lives
as unique and special as
your relationship is with
each other.*

*The opportunities to
create an exceptional event
at Whiterock Conservancy
are endless with our
personal, attentive service
every step of the way.*

