

Mission Statement: The Botanical Gardens at Asheville is dedicated to the study and promotion of native plants and habitats of the Southern Appalachians.

General Policy for Use of The BGA's Outdoor and Indoor Spaces

The BGA acknowledges that, as a community resource, the Gardens can be a desirable location for other organizations that wish to use its facilities to sponsor various outdoor events and indoor meetings. This policy is written to protect the status of the grounds of *The Botanical Gardens at Asheville* as a plant preserve that contains many sensitive plant species and habitats; and the buildings of the BGA as valuable assets subject to security issues.

Part I: Outdoor Spaces

The Gardens is not a recreational park. Therefore, usage of its outdoor spaces for organized events will be limited as follows:

Organizations

- ⇒ To nonprofit organizations whose mission is compatible with the mission of The BGA
- ⇒ To organizations that are affiliates of The BGA

Numbers

- ⇒ To groups no larger than 60 adults at any one time
- ⇒ To groups of no more than 35 children, provided that they are accompanied by one adult for every three children

Time Period

- ⇒ During daylight hours
- ⇒ At times that do not interfere with any events scheduled by The BGA.

Reservations

Organized events require advance reservation. Parking is limited and the BGA cannot guarantee parking spaces.

Compensation

A financial contribution in the form of a donation or specified fee to support the maintenance of the Gardens is expected from all organizations, including nonprofits, using the facilities unless the event is co-sponsored by the BGA.

Fund Raisers

Any fundraisers will be limited to events which financially benefit The BGA and/or its affiliates,

Contract

A contract approved by the Executive Committee of The BGA and signed by a representative of the applicant organization and the president of The BGA shall be required before final consent is given for the event. Such contract shall clearly specify the conditions for use of the Gardens, including liability for damage to Gardens property. The Executive Committee reserves the right to determine the appropriateness for each event of conditions such as music, food, beverages, tents or canopies, signage, decorations and any equipment brought onto BGA grounds.

Rules for Usage of the Gardens' Grounds

- ⇒ Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the Gardens.
- ⇒ Visitors must stay on established paths and out of signed, fenced, or roped-off areas.
- ⇒ Visitors may not pick or collect plants, seeds, berries, insects, animals, rocks, or other objects that are a part of the Gardens' environment.
- ⇒ Visitors may not climb trees, or modify or deface natural features.
- ⇒ Bicycles are prohibited.
- ⇒ Sporting games and similar activities such as Frisbee, kick-ball, kite flying, and football are not allowed.
- ⇒ Children must be accompanied by parents/caretakers at all times. Those adults will be held liable for any damage inflicted by children.
- ⇒ Regulations for use of the Gardens for weddings, memorials, or meetings are governed by the existing Reservations Policy.
- ⇒ Guided tours may be provided for a small fee by the Gardens' staff or volunteers if requested three weeks in advance.
- ⇒ The entrance and front gardens bordering the creeks are ADA accessible to persons with disabilities.
- ⇒ Visitors are asked not to block the paths, roads or bridges.
- ⇒ Streams are not clean. Visitors who wade in the stream or play on the rocks do so at their own risk.
- ⇒ Picnics are permitted in the Gardens, and there are tables and benches outdoors for this purpose. Visitors are asked to pick up after themselves and to leave the area clean. Garbage and recycle bins are located outside the Visitor Center.
- ⇒ If benches or tables are moved, please return them to their original position.
- ⇒ Unauthorized vehicles may not be driven on the grounds or service road.

Part II: Rental of Indoor Spaces

The buildings which comprise the facilities of the BGA contain a variety of valuable items which are subject to security risks endemic to an urban site, such as theft and/or vandalism. Since the BGA is a small non-profit organization with very limited staff, and limited resources for repairing damage, the Executive Committee has decided that it must act to minimize exposure to security risks in the rental areas.

Effective January 1, 2012, the Botanical Gardens will not permit rentals by any organization of any indoor spaces outside the hours of 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Saturday, or 12 noon to 4 pm on Sunday.

Adopted by the BGA General Board on Monday, October 17, 2011

The Botanical Gardens at Asheville is an independent, nonprofit organization supported entirely by memberships, donations, and the labor of an active group of volunteers. The Executive Committee, on behalf of the membership reserves the right to reject any request deemed incompatible with the BGA' s mission or potentially damaging to the fragile environment of the Gardens or to the limited resources of the organization. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, this policy may be modified for any single event.