



# Venue Search

## **HOLLYHOCK DESIGN LLC**

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Venues can be anything from private house/land, state land, hall, park/pavilion, university, restaurant, hotel, golf course, brewery, winery, beach, airbnb, campground, gardens, greenhouse, courthouse, or full-service wedding venue. All have pros and cons, you just need to find what is best for you.

### *Private Property –*

Pros – Timeframes are totally up to you. You can start setup whenever you want, the party can last as long as you want (assuming you are not disturbing the peace or in a community that has “quite hours”), clean up can wait until the next day, no rules or regulations. You aren’t paying anything to have it there, which you can get away with if it is a very intimate affair.

Cons – You do need to outsource just about everything. Tent, tables, chairs, linens, catering, bathrooms, and anything else you need. So even though the location might be free, you may be sending quite a bit on all those other things. Parking is another thing to consider.

### *State Land –*

Pros – There are some really gorgeous locations in Michigan on state land. This is a good option for a more intimate wedding but there are some that accommodate larger groups. Camping and cabin options for staying on location. Low cost for location.

Cons – Special permits are normally required; each state park is different. Regulations on guest count. Generally, no rain backup unless they have a pavilion of some kind. No onsite staff for the most part.

### *Hall-Park-Pavilion –*

Pros – Low end on cost and most come with tables and chairs. I would say about 90% of them have a kitchen of some kind. That means it would be an option to have someone you know cook the meal. For a park, you may need to rent a warmer, unless you get a caterer. More time for setup than a standard venue.

Cons – No onsite staff. Generally, some kind of security is required. More of a DIY when it comes to setup and breakdown unless you bring in an outside vendor (coordinator, decorator).

## **Start the Search**

Begin with searching on line. Narrow it down to top 10 venues bases on items listed below. Do not just look on websites like TheKnot and Wedding Wire. Google maps venues in the area you are looking, search by venue type, ask on facebook wedding groups, think outside the box!

1. Must hold your highest guest count
2. Pricing
3. Location
4. Dates available
5. Parking or Hotel Space nearby



Get all the information you can prior to doing a venue visit.

1. Request a proposal based on your needs and requested date. Or ask on average what it costs to host a wedding there with your guest count.
2. Can you see a copy of their contract.
3. Preferred Vendor List
4. What is the deposit to book the space.
5. Can they hold a date for you for any amount of time.
6. What is included with the rental.
7. Biggest rules/regulations you should be worried about.
8. Any additional costs that may pop up along the way.

Narrow it down from there, setup venue visits for your top 3 venues!

Be prepared to put down your deposit when you tour if you do really like it. If you do all the research ahead of time, you won't risk losing the space if you are prepared to book while on your tour. If you do book another venue, don't forget to cancel any other tours you have scheduled.