

The Nicollet Island Pavilion

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the rental time-frame?

You have the venue for an 11-hour rental. You can access the venue three hours prior to your contracted event start time for getting ready, set-up, and photos. Additional set-up or event time may be added for an additional cost. Events must end by midnight.

For example, with a 2pm-1am rental, the day would be broken down as follows:

2pm: Venue opens for setup

5pm: Ceremony Begins

12am: Music concludes / Guests Depart / Teardown begins

1am: Venue closes

Q: When can we set up and and take down decor?

Decor can be brought in during rental hours on the event day. All decor and rentals need to be removed at the end of your event.

Q: Are there any decorating restrictions?

We love seeing creative designs in our space, but to ensure safety and preserve the venue's historic charm, we have a few guidelines:

- Ceiling treatments (like draping or lighting) must be arranged through your Sales Consultant
- Helium balloons and streamers are allowed only if provided by a professional company, and must be securely placed and removed immediately after the event.
- Glitter, confetti, rice, hay, or feathers are not permitted.
- Please refrain from using tape, nails, pins, or similar items on the venue.
- Open flames like votives, tea lights, or floating candles are allowed but must be enclosed (e.g., inside a vase).

Q: Do I need to make place cards?

If you're serving a plated meal with multiple entrée options, place cards are required. Include the guest's name, assigned table, and meal choice. Make sure the meal indicator is clear for smooth service. Bring the cards in alphabetical order by last name, and your venue coordinator will take care of setting them up.

If you're using a seating chart to assign table numbers, place cards can be set at each seat instead—just organize them by table and provide a seating map if needed. Check out our blog to learn more!

Q: How does your sound system work?

We provide sound for the pavilion and tent with two available microphones and an aux cord for playing music. You'll need to bring your own device (phone, iPod, computer) and any necessary adapters to control the playlist. The sound system is located on the east side of the ballroom, so most couples choose to add a DJ to manage the music seamlessly throughout the event.

For outdoor ceremonies on the patio, we recommend considering an additional speaker to ensure clear sound for all guests, especially those seated further back. Electricity is available under the tent and on each tree bed, but we suggest consulting a professional to decide what's best for your ceremony and music. Your DJ or band will also handle the sound for your walk down the aisle.

Q: Can I include my pet in my wedding?

Absolutely! We love having pets join the celebration. Your pet is welcome for photos, the ceremony, and throughout the event as long as they're monitored. However, for safety reasons, pets are not allowed inside the pavilion

Q: What part of the island is open to the public?

Inside the pavilion, the tented space outside, and the square grass patch next to the included patio are all considered private event space. The deck, down by the water, is open to the public as well as the surrounding walking paths. While your guests may enjoy the entire island, Mintahoe cannot restrict the public from accessing walking paths or entering the island. The Nicollet Island Pavilion is a popular event space that holds events regularly throughout the week. Most of the visitors you'll see are simply enjoying their regular walk, and typically there are no issues.

Q: Can I have my ceremony rehearsal at Nicollet Island Pavilion?

Absolutely! Ceremony rehearsals can be held at the venue, and we're happy to accommodate them during your rental hours on the day of your event.

Q: Do you allow smoking onsite?

Because this is a city-owned building, smoking isn't allowed anywhere onsite. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board prohibits the use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, on park property and in its facilities. Additionally, the park restricts the use of other substances and sparklers on-site.

Q: What if it rains on my wedding day?

You've chosen the right venue! We offer three ceremony locations, so if the weather doesn't cooperate, we have options. We have an 8am rain call policy, meaning the decision to move your ceremony or social hour must be made by that time.

- For onsite ceremonies, your ceremony can move under the tent or indoors, with the social hour held in the opposite space.
- For offsite ceremonies, the social hour and bar can remain outside, move indoors, or be set up in both spaces if needed.
- Please note that our tent is not four-season, so heavy storms or winds could cause flooding, which we cannot prevent.

Q: What's the difference between the event captain and venue coordinator?

The event manager oversees all staff, bartenders, and event operations from setup to closing. They ensure food and beverage are served as planned, manage guest and staff interactions, and handle venue inclusions like linens, votives, and sound. While their work is behind the scenes, they ensure everything runs smoothly.

The venue coordinator, on the other hand, is the front-facing contact. We assist with setup, manage transitions between ceremony, cocktail hour, and dinner, and help with personal items like guest books or place cards. Together, we make sure everything runs seamlessly!

Q: Do I need to hire a day-of coordinator?

While hiring a day-of coordinator is not required at our venue, we highly recommend it. A day-of coordinator is a professional who helps ensure your wedding day runs smoothly by managing all the logistics, from the ceremony to the reception. They coordinate with vendors, assist with the timeline, and handle any last-minute details so you and your guests can enjoy the celebration without stress. Having a coordinator on-site allows you to focus on the big moments while they take care of the behind-the-scenes work, ensuring everything goes as planned.

Q: My contract states that menus are guaranteed 6 months out. What does that mean?

Menus are updated throughout the planning process, so certain items may change due to factors like availability or popularity. While the menu you choose is guaranteed, pricing may adjust based on market conditions if your event is booked more than 6 months in advance.

Q: Does Mintahoe make desserts?

Yes! Mintahoe has an award-winning pastry chef on staff and ready to create the desserts you crave! Cake through Mintahoe Catering & Events includes complimentary cake-cutting service. You are welcome to choose a third-party licensed baker. Mintahoe will provide cake-cutting service, china plates, stainless forks and cocktail napkins for \$3 per guest. We can also serve your sweets table-side for \$5 per guest.

If you'd like to provide a display-only cake from an outside vendor, the outside service fee does not apply. After photos, our team will box the cake so you can enjoy it offsite.

Q: We want to have a late-night snack! How does that work?

Mintahoe Catering & Events can provide late-night snacks to keep your guests fueled. If using an outside vendor, a 25% outsourcing fee applies, and the caterer must be licensed and approved by Mintahoe. The invoice is due before the event. Mintahoe will service the buffet, provide equipment (hot boxes, chafers, heat lamps, etc.), and supply plates, napkins, and utensils.

Q: Can food be brought in prior to the ceremony?

Outside food is allowed only while the wedding party is getting ready, before noon. It must be restaurant-prepared or store-bought (no homemade items). You are responsible for plates, napkins, utensils, and any other service items. All food must arrive by 12:00pm and be stored properly before the ceremony.

Only non-alcoholic beverages are allowed, such as coffee, bottled water, and soda.

Q: Are alcoholic beverages allowed prior to the ceremony?

Alcoholic beverages can only be purchased through Mintahoe for on-site "getting ready" service. This must be arranged in advance with your venue manager; day-of additions are not permitted. Allowed beverages include wine, champagne, beer, and seltzers. No cocktails are allowed, as a bartender is not on site.

Please note: outside alcohol is not allowed on the property. Mintahoe reserve the right to confiscate and dispose of any unauthorized alcohol. Violations of Mintahoe's alcohol service policies may result in a fee up to \$500 to the client(s).

Q: Is glassware provided at the bar throughout the evening?

Glassware is provided during dinner service only. After dinner, we switch to high-quality compostable cups to minimize breakage and keep the dance floor safe for everyone. If you'd prefer to use glassware all evening, an upgrade is available for \$1 per person, per hour.

Q: Can I host a signature cocktail?

Yes! If you're already offering liquor at the bar, you can easily feature a signature cocktail by adding a sign to highlight your favorite drink. Our standard bar includes mixers like soda, juice, vermouth, bitters, syrups, and garnishes. If you'd like something beyond these ingredients, we can create a custom signature cocktail or work with your provided recipe. Specialty mocktails and cocktails can also be added, with a minimum of 50 servings.