



From 'Yes!' to 'I Do'

Your Wedding Planning Journey

Planning your wedding at Lakeside Garden Farm is an exciting journey, and we're here to guide you every step of the way. This timeline helps you stay organized and stress-free as you prepare for your celebration in our beautiful garden setting.



Lakeside Garden Farm
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Your Planning Timeline

12-18 Months Before

Book your venue and set your foundation

9-12 Months Before

Secure vendors and wedding attire

6-9 Months Before

Invitations and menu planning

3-6 Months Before

Finalize major details

1-3 Months Before

Final confirmations and details

Final Month

Rehearsal and last preparations

Wedding Day

Your beautiful celebration

12-18 Months Before Your Wedding

✿ *The Beginning of Your Journey* ✿

Book Your Venue

This is where your dream begins! Schedule a tour of Lakeside Garden Farm and fall in love with our serene gardens. Once you've found your perfect setting, review our package options, sign your contract, and celebrate—you're getting married at a beautiful venue!

Set Your Foundation

- Determine your overall budget
- Create preliminary guest list
- Decide on wedding date and backup date
- Choose your wedding party
- Start your wedding planning system

Secure Key Vendors

- Photographer/videographer (books up fast!)
- Caterer (we can provide recommendations)
- Wedding planner or coordinator
- Band or DJ

■ **Lakeside Tip:** Peak season (May-October) dates fill up quickly! If you're planning a garden wedding during these months, book as early as possible.

9-12 Months Before Your Wedding

✿ *Building Momentum* ✿

Save the Dates

Design and send save-the-date cards to your guests, especially important for destination or holiday weekend weddings. Create your wedding website with venue details and accommodation information.

Continue Vendor Booking

- Florist (we can coordinate with them on our garden aesthetic)
- Hair and makeup artists
- Officiant
- Transportation services
- Cake baker or dessert vendor

Wedding Attire

- Shop for wedding dress or suit
- Order attire (allow 6+ months for alterations)
- Shop for wedding party attire

■ **Lakeside Garden Farm Touchpoint:** Check in with our coordination team to discuss seasonal considerations for your date, review photo location options on our property, and discuss any special requests or customizations.

6-9 Months Before Your Wedding

✿ *Details Taking Shape* ✿

Invitations

Design and order your wedding invitations and other stationery including programs, menus, and place cards. Finalize wording with parents and family members.

Guest Management

- Finalize guest list
- Reserve hotel room blocks for out-of-town guests
- Update wedding website with accommodation details

Menu Planning

- Schedule tasting with your caterer
- Finalize menu selections
- Discuss dietary restrictions and special meals
- Plan bar service if applicable

Ceremony Details

- Meet with officiant to discuss ceremony structure
- Choose readings, vows, and music
- Plan any unity ceremonies or special traditions

■ **Lakeside Planning Session:** Schedule a walkthrough of ceremony and reception spaces, discuss layout and floor plan options, review our included décor, and coordinate vendor access times.

3-6 Months Before Your Wedding

✿ *Excitement Building* ✿

Invitations Out the Door

Mail your invitations 8-12 weeks before the wedding. Set your RSVP deadline for 3-4 weeks before the wedding date, and track RSVPs as they come in.

Finalize Major Details

- Confirm all vendor bookings and contracts
- Schedule final dress and suit fittings
- Order any rental items needed
- Finalize transportation plans

Reception Planning

- Work with caterer on final menu details
- Confirm cake design and flavors
- Finalize reception music playlist
- Plan any special dances or toasts

■ **Lakeside Coordination:** Submit your preliminary timeline to our team, discuss setup details and floor plan, confirm rehearsal date and time, and review the weather backup plan.

1-3 Months Before Your Wedding

✿ *The Final Stretch* ✿

RSVP Deadline & Final Count

- Track final RSVPs
- Follow up with non-responders
- Provide final guest count to caterer
- Create seating chart

Legal Matters

- Obtain marriage license (check Virginia requirements)
- Ensure you have valid ID for the ceremony
- Discuss name change plans if applicable

Final Vendor Confirmations

- Confirm arrival times with all vendors
- Provide final timeline to everyone
- Share venue contact information
- Confirm payment schedules and balances due

■ **Lakeside Final Planning:** Schedule your final venue walkthrough with our team, review the complete timeline and vendor schedule, discuss day-of logistics, and confirm any last-minute changes or additions.

The Final Month

✿ *Almost There!* ✿

2-4 Weeks Before

- Confirm final payments to all vendors
- Provide final headcount to caterer
- Submit final seating chart
- Have final dress/attire fitting
- Prepare place cards and escort cards

The Final Week

Pick up your marriage license, confirm all vendor arrival times one last time, pack for your honeymoon, and prepare your wedding day emergency kit. Most importantly—get plenty of rest, stay hydrated, and enjoy this exciting time!

Rehearsal (Day Before)

Your rehearsal at Lakeside Garden Farm! Walk through the ceremony processional and recessional, practice any special elements, meet with your officiant, and then enjoy your rehearsal dinner with close family and friends.

■ **Lakeside Reminder:** Our team will be handling all setup and coordination. Focus on enjoying your special day! We've got everything covered.

Your Wedding Day

✿ ✿ *The Day You've Been Dreaming Of* ✿ ✿

Today is the day you marry your best friend in our beautiful garden setting. Our experienced coordination team will ensure every detail runs flawlessly, from vendor arrivals through your grand exit. All you need to do is breathe, smile, and soak in every precious moment.

Sample Wedding Day Timeline

8:00 AM	Vendor load-in begins
10:00 AM	Bridal party arrives for hair and makeup
12:00 PM	Photographer arrives for getting-ready photos
2:00 PM	Flowers delivered
3:00 PM	Final setup complete
4:00 PM	Guests begin arriving
4:30 PM	Ceremony begins in our garden
5:00 PM	Ceremony concludes; cocktail hour begins
5:15 PM	Couple photos throughout property
6:00 PM	Reception begins
6:15 PM	Grand entrance and first dance
6:30 PM	Dinner service
7:30 PM	Toasts and speeches
8:00 PM	Cake cutting
8:15 PM	Open dancing
9:45 PM	Last dance
10:00 PM	Grand exit

Note: This is a sample timeline. Your actual timeline will be customized based on your specific plans and our coordination discussions.

Seasonal Planning at Lakeside

Spring (March-May)

Our gardens are blooming—stunning natural décor! Weather can be unpredictable, but temperatures are mild and comfortable. Less expensive décor needed due to natural beauty.

Summer (June-August)

Lush, full gardens at peak beauty with longer daylight hours for outdoor photos. Plan for guest comfort with shade and cold drinks. Most popular season—book early!

Fall (September-November)

Beautiful autumn foliage and colors create a gorgeous natural backdrop. Comfortable temperatures make this peak wedding season—venues book fast.

Winter (December-February)

Intimate, cozy atmosphere perfect for holiday-themed weddings. Often more availability and potentially lower rates. Weather backup plan essential.

Planning Tips from Lakeside Garden Farm

Budget-Saving Tips

- Our natural garden beauty reduces décor costs
- Off-peak dates may have better rates
- Utilize our preferred vendor relationships
- Take advantage of our included coordination services

Stress-Reduction Tips

- Trust our experienced coordination team
- Delegate tasks to wedding party and family
- Remember: small details won't matter on the day
- Build in buffer time in your timeline
- Have a backup plan for weather and don't stress about it

Making the Most of Lakeside

- Use multiple garden locations for ceremony and photos
- Take advantage of golden hour for sunset photos
- Plan time to actually enjoy the venue and your guests
- Schedule engagement photos on our property



Remember: You're not alone in this journey. Our experienced coordination team is here to answer your questions, provide vendor recommendations, help you create a realistic timeline, and handle all logistics for your day. We're dedicated to keeping you calm, organized, and excited as you prepare for the most beautiful celebration of your love.



*We can't wait to be part of your journey
from 'Yes!' to 'I do' and beyond!*

Contact Us

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