



## Gene Strowd Community Rose Garden Wedding/Event Planning Guide



Photos: In His Image Photography

### **ABOUT STROWD ROSES, INC.**

Strowd Roses, Inc. is a private charitable foundation established in 2001. Strowd Roses funds local nonprofits and projects that improve the quality of life for residents of Chapel Hill-Carrboro. We also provide for the on-going maintenance and care of the Gene Strowd Community Rose Garden. Our grants serve a broad spectrum of issues and populations such as animals, arts and culture, education and literacy, the environment, health, seniors, immigrants, youth and general welfare. To date, Strowd Roses has awarded more than \$4.8 million to local nonprofits.

### **ABOUT THE GARDEN**

The Gene Strowd Community Rose Garden is located in the Town of Chapel Hill Community Center Park at 120 South Estes Drive, Chapel Hill and contains over 350 rose bushes of 130 different varieties.

In 1987, Gene Strowd proposed his idea for the community rose garden. Construction began the following year. Along with the Chapel Hill Rose Society and the Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department, Gene designed the layout of the garden. The community garden was dedicated and named in honor of Gene in September of 1990.

With the support of the Chapel Hill Rose Society and the Strowd family, the Gene Strowd Community Rose Garden was renovated in 2000. The garden is maintained by Strowd Roses with the help of Witherspoon Rose Culture. Funding for garden maintenance and upkeep is provided solely by Strowd Roses.

### **RESERVATIONS**

The garden is a public space open to serve the community at all times, however, the garden can be reserved for private functions such as weddings, photography sessions, baby showers, etc. Reservations for up to eight hours can be made at no charge.

Requests to reserve the garden are honored on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants should be 21 or older (if the reservation is for an activity primarily involving persons under 18, the sponsor signing the reservation agreement will be responsible for providing one adult chaperone for every ten participants under the age of 18). Applicants should be prepared to state the intended date and time of rental, including any setup and cleanup time required.

Neither the Town of Chapel Hill nor Strowd Roses, Inc. assumes any liability for renters' use of the facility.

Requests should be submitted to:

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Burrill, Community Center Supervisor  
Town of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department  
120 S. Estes Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
(919) 968-2798, [eburrill@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:eburrill@townofchapelhill.org)

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **When are the roses in bloom?**

The roses are typically blooming between mid-May and the end of November, though this may vary depending on weather and temperatures.

### **What are the reservation fees?**

No fees are charged for reserving the garden but a refundable \$100 damage deposit is required. The deposit will be refunded within 2-3 weeks if no damage has occurred and the area is left in a clean and orderly condition. Reservations will not be confirmed until the damage deposit has been received.

### **What is the maximum occupancy?**

This depends upon seated vs. standing room only events. An estimated 50 people could be seated without visual or noise obstruction of the gazebo. An estimated 150-200 people could be accommodated for a standing room only event.

### **Is catering allowed?**

Yes, however, no alcohol or tobacco products are permitted.

### **Is parking available?**

A facility use reservation covers the rose garden only. It does not include reservation of the parking lot. The parking lot in front of the community center accommodates 63 cars and the parking lot behind the community center (accessible via Plant Rd.) accommodates an additional 23 cars. Parking in both lots is available on a first-come first-served basis for all activities of the Parks and Recreation Department, community center and playground and cannot be reserved. Consider hiring a shuttle bus/van to transport guests who may choose to park in the public lots at nearby University Place on Estes Drive.

### **Is music allowed?**

Yes, acoustic music is permissible. There is no access to an electrical outlet to accommodate amplified music or microphones.

**Can we rent table and chairs?**

Yes, the renter is responsible for identifying a vendor and being on-site for delivery, pickup and setup. Rentals must be delivered and picked up on the day of the event within the reserved time.

**Can we set up tents?**

No.

**May we hang decorations or signs?**

If you would like to hang or display materials, please discuss appropriate display methods with Lizzie Burrill. Please do not use staples, nails or tacks to hang signs or decorations.

**May we use candles or fireworks?**

No open flames can be used in the garden. Battery or solar operated candles are allowed.

**Where can the wedding party get ready or change clothes?**

The community center has two individual unisex bathrooms and a men’s and women’s locker room.

**What hotels are nearby?**

The Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau provides this great list of local accommodations:

<http://www.visitchapelhill.org/plan-a-visit/accommodations/c/hotels-and-motels>

**What else should we consider?**

No rose bushes may be cut for flower arrangements. No benches or garden signage can be moved or removed. Consider an alternative plan for inclement weather and reserving an additional day or time for professional photography sessions.

**How can I learn more about the garden or donate to Strowd Roses, Inc.?**

To learn more about the garden or the nonprofits, issues and populations Strowd Roses, Inc. supports, visit [strowdroses.org](http://strowdroses.org), call 919-245-1716 or email [executivedirector@strowdroses.org](mailto:executivedirector@strowdroses.org).

