

# Frequently Asked Questions about Weddings at the Whalehead in the Historic Corolla Park

## **Q. How do I book an event/wedding at The Whalehead?**

A. The best way to book an event is to contact the Whalehead Promo & Event Coordinator at [Emily.Oneal@currituckcountync.gov](mailto:Emily.Oneal@currituckcountync.gov) or the Assistant Promo & Event Coordinator at [Ashley.Wetzel@currituckcountync.gov](mailto:Ashley.Wetzel@currituckcountync.gov) and provide your name and date you are inquiring about.

## **Q. Am I required to have a wedding date decided before I can inquiry about weddings/events?**

A. It is not required for you to know a date before contacting us. If you have a general idea, we can let you know what dates are booked to help you determine an available date.

## **Q. When is payment due for my wedding date?**

A. The deposit of \$750 is required to reserve your preferred date and must be sent in along with the completed *Rental Agreement*. Final payment of the total must be received 90 days before the date of your wedding.

## **Q. Is smoking allowed at my wedding?**

A. By County Ordinance, no smoking is allowed on County owned property including parking lots and buildings.

## **Q. Can my rental company pick up items the morning after my event?**

A. In the event a tent is not rented for your event, rental items must be picked up the day after your event by 10:00am. This should be coordinated with your events coordinator and the events coordinator of Whalehead. **Please note:** A renter with a tent rental is required to rent the tented lawn for three days, all items must be removed from all porches, trash must be properly disposed and removed, and no alcohol can be left.

## **Q. Can I have alcohol at my event?**

A. Alcoholic beverages are permitted only in the immediate vicinity of the event/tent and Whalehead house and cannot extend to anywhere else on park grounds. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited to be served to anyone under the legal drinking age in the state of North Carolina. No bar shall be self-serve; all alcoholic beverages must be served by a caterer or bartender with an off-premises liquor license and adequate proof of insurance provided to Currituck County at least 90 days prior to the event. A member of the catering or bartending staff must be present for the entire duration of the event. It is the responsibility of the Event Holder to ensure that all caterers hold any

required permits to serve alcohol. NOTE: CURRITUCK COUNTY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THE SERVING OF ALCOHOL AT THE EVENT.

**Q. Is there space available inside The Whalehead for use for events/weddings?**

A. The Whalehead is listed on the National Historic Register; therefore, no events or gathering can occur inside the property. This includes getting ready or waiting for the wedding to begin. All events occur on the amazing lawns located around the historic house museum.

**Q. How much does it cost to rent the lawns at The Whalehead?**

A. A detailed *Pricing Guide* is provided on your rental agreement. In summary, you choose one lawn for \$750 and each additional lawn is \$400. To have the property secured with no other events booked on your day the fee is \$1,550 (ceremony only). See map on last page for locations.

**Q. Can more than one wedding/event occur at the Historic Corolla Park on the same day?**

A. Since we offer more than one location to rent; yes there can be other events on the same day; however, your lawn choice(s) will be available solely to you for the duration of your rental. Please keep in mind that the historic house museum is located in the park. The park stays open until dusk. Tours of the Whalehead Historic House Museum occur until 5pm. If you would prefer to ensure that no other events occur on your rental day(s) you may rent all three locations for \$1,550 (ceremony only) a day. Please note that your rental is from 10am to 11pm. See *Pricing Guide* provided in your packet.

**Q. Are there restrooms available for our guests?**

A. Yes, we offer spacious public restrooms, cleaned daily and located near the Whalehead. The building also houses our two private dressing rooms that are available to our brides and grooms.

**Q. How many hours are included in the rental of a lawn?**

A. The lawn rental is from 10am to 11pm on the day(s) you have reserved. **All vendors and guest must be off the property by 11:30pm.**

**Q. Are we allowed to drive on the lawn?**

A. NO TRUCKS are allowed on any grassy area. Small pick-ups and SUVs (and trailer if applicable), with a Gross Vehicle Weight of no more than 5,000 lbs., will be allowed to drop off items closer to the event location but **must be removed immediately following**. Only small pick-ups, SUVs (and trailers if applicable) and golf carts will be allowed out on the Point Lawn. Catering trucks are allowed on the lawn, but catering employees must park their cars in the designated parking areas, not on the lawn beside the catering truck. If any driving is seen, whether damage has occurred or not, we reserve the right to keep your security deposit. This applies even if a vendor you have hired does this. It is your responsibility to make sure the vendors you hire understand our rules and regulations.

**Q. What is a Wedding Coordinator and why can't it be someone in my family?**

A. A Wedding Coordinator is required for events exceeding 30 individuals and is someone that will communicate, coordinate, and direct your wedding and your vendors on your behalf that ***is not a guest or family member of your event***. However, you will need to get clarification from whomever you hire for details on what they will and will not do. A tent inspection will be necessary, and the Wedding Coordinator should be on site for the inspection if you are not. Under the rules of the Historic Corolla Park, they are required to make sure the rules of the park are followed and will be on hand to communicate with the Whalehead Promo & Event Coordinator the day of the wedding. They will also confirm the availability of a rehearsal time so that it does not interfere with another event occurring on the property. We require that the Wedding Coordinator be on hand for set-up and breakdown. Your Coordinator will be required to provide a copy of liability insurance to the County listing Currituck County as an additional insured 90 days before your event.

If your event includes 30 people or less, a Wedding Coordinator is not necessary but it still highly recommended. ***The Whalehead staff will not function as Day-of Coordinators***, and therefore a responsible party will need to be on site to act as the Event Holder's coordinator.

**Q. Do you have preferred vendors?**

A. At this time, we do not recommend any specific vendors. We recommend that you visit:  
[www.visitcurrituck.com/weddings](http://www.visitcurrituck.com/weddings)  
[www.obxwa.com](http://www.obxwa.com)

**Q. What happens if I hire a vendor that is not permitted to do business on the property due to not following the regulations?**

A. We are not held liable for any loss of deposits for a vendor not being permitted on the property. The Historic Corolla Park is precious to Currituck County residents, visitors, and wildlife. If a vendor is not permitted on the property, there is a good reason. Please remember that it is your responsibility to make sure that all your vendors know the rules and regulations at the Historic Corolla Park. Your coordinator will be able to check to ensure that your vendors are in good standing at the park.

**Q. What is the best way for my guests to get from the parking lot to the ceremony and reception lawns?**

A. We are believers in good health so if able walking is a good way to go. However, if you prefer that your guests be more comfortable in their wedding attire, we offer golf carts with drivers for an additional \$300. They will be available for six hours to cover your ceremony and reception. These drivers will pick up guests in the parking area and take them to the lawn you have designated. Throughout the evening, they can be easily taken over to the restrooms too.

**Q. What about all the people walking around the park?**

A. Please understand that there may be other events and weddings occurring on the same day, the day before or the day after your event if you have not rented the entire property. While set-up for these events will not interfere with your wedding, there may be tents, chairs, and other items set-up on a lawn that you have chosen not to rent. Historic Corolla Park is a popular site for a variety of outdoor events, both public and private. The park is well used daily, especially during the warm weather months, by visitors seeking recreation, relaxation, and/or a tour of the buildings with actual numbers of people varying according to the time of day and season. Most frequently during the week, visitors come to watch the sunset. We will post signage advising visitors that there is a wedding in progress and, when able, will advise people to be respectful of your private event.

**Q. There are a lot of geese and droppings around. Who cleans that up?**

A. Wildlife: Historic Corolla Park is home to many forms of wildlife, including a large variety of waterfowl such as geese, sea osprey, egrets, and swans. We are pleased to provide a natural habitat for all wildlife and will not interfere with the normal patterns of wildlife behavior. **Visitors are PROHIBITED from harassing the wildlife!** The Historic Corolla Park does not clean up the droppings. Some vendors will offer a clean-up service for this.

**Q. Are fireworks permitted in the Historic Corolla Park?**

A. Currituck County law prohibits the use of fireworks on county property, including the park including no sparklers and no wish lanterns, or any other open flames of any kind.

**Q. How is the park lit at night?**

A. Permanent Lighting: There are in-ground lights which illuminate the Whalehead Historic House Museum, the underside of many of the oak trees, and around the boat basin. These are on an automatic timer to come on at 8pm.

**Q. Is there power available on the lawns?**

A. There is ample power supply (more than 200-amp service) on the North and South Lawns. Each of the North and South Lawns has twelve (12) 120-amp circuits available for your wedding/event. Your rental company, caterer, band, DJ, and other vendors must provide the necessary cords to plug into each circuit.

***BANDS:*** *At a minimum, your band should bring three or four 200-foot cords to run from the power supply to your tent.*

***DJs:*** *At a minimum, your DJ should bring one or two 200-foot cords to run from the power supply to your tent.*

**THERE IS NO POWER ON THE POINT AND NO WAY TO SAFELY RUN CORDS TO THE POINT.**

**Q. Are rehearsals allowed the day before my wedding?**

A. Pre-scheduled rehearsals are encouraged if the lawn is not reserved for another event. There is no additional charge to use an available lawn for a rehearsal.

**Q. Why must I purchase liability insurance for my event?**

A. It is required that \$1,000,000 certificate of liability insurance be provided for all events occurring on the Currituck County-owned Historic Corolla Park. You may not need to purchase the insurance. We recommend that you contact your current insurance agent to determine if you have coverage under your current homeowner's insurance. A certificate of insurance is required listing **Currituck County, 153 Courthouse Rd, Currituck, NC 27929** as an **additional insured** and listed as **certificate holder**.

**Q. What local lodging is available?**

A. There are several options available for you and your guests. Check out the following websites: [www.visitcurrituck.com/accommodations/](http://www.visitcurrituck.com/accommodations/)

**Q. What, if any, restrictions apply to wedding decorations? \*\*\***

A. **The main concern is for the safety and preservation of the Whalehead Historic House Museum and Historic Corolla Park. Nothing can be attached to wooden structures (the Whalehead Historic House Museum, boat house, decking, footbridge, gazebo, or the finger piers around the boat basin) with nails, tape, tacks, or staples. No open flames are permitted in Historic Corolla Park; no candles are permitted in Historic Corolla Park.**

**Q. Is my caterer required to have a tent to cook on site?**

A. You have the right to choose any caterer as long as they are licensed and have their proper permits. We recommend a catering tent; however, it is not required. All open flames and fryers must be a safe distance from the Whalehead Historic House Museum and fire extinguishers should be present and comply with the fire marshal's regulations. We recommend that your wedding coordinator clearly explain to the caterer where set-up is to take place. For the ease of your caterer, we recommend that you have their set-up close to the parking area and power source.

**Q. Are there any additional expenses that I need to budget to adhere to the requirements of the Historic Corolla Park rules and regulations?**

A. There are fees outside of the rental of property that do not apply to the Historic Corolla Park. There are permits that are required for Currituck County such as Noise, Tent Permit, and an ABC permit. Some of these permits are taken care of by the vendors that you hire, but it is your responsibility to make sure that ALL REQUIRED PERMITS have been submitted to Currituck County 90 days prior to your event. For more information about permits, potential additional fees and how to obtain what is needed, the Historic Corolla Park Event Coordinator would be happy to assist you. Please be aware that Wedding Coordinators, tent rentals, etc. will be additional fees that you will need to budget for. ***Due to the complexity of larger events, Historic Corolla Park requires hiring an Event/Wedding Planner for your event (if there are more than 30 guests).***



★ Public Restrooms & Dressing Room Facility