

## FAQs for Mother's Day Garden Tour

### 1. Who owns Sycamore Hill Gardens?

Sycamore Hill Gardens is privately owned by the Hanford family. Originally a fully functioning dairy farm with over 300 head of registered Jersey cattle, the Hanfords have worked diligently for twenty years to transform pastures and cornfields into a magnificent 40 acre showcase of nature's beauty. Most recently, the Hanfords have planted over 10,000 native trees, 10,000 native shrubs, and planted 180 acres of ground nesting bird meadow mix as part of the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to restore farmlands, reduce erosion and runoff, and promote the habitat of indigenous wildlife. Additionally, these practices have prompted local Marcellus bee keepers to set up their hives within the CRP land and work toward keeping healthier, happier, honey bees and supplying an abundant source of pure local honey.

### 2. What can I do at the Garden Tour?

Tour these 30+ acres of private, one of a kind gardens and discover something new around every turn! For many it's a yearly tradition and for newcomers, the gardens are awe-inspiring. At this self-guided event, you can stroll the lawns and paths through vibrant gardens, with amazing sights and surprises around every turn. Bring a picnic lunch, find a cozy spot, and soak up the afternoon sunshine by the pond at this fun family day full of exploration and wonder around every turn.

In addition to strolling the gardens at your own pace, you can also enjoy a scavenger hunt, feeding the koi fish in the pond (weather dependent), and an amazing array of raffle prizes in the raffle barn!

### 3. If I have already purchased tickets, what do I need to bring to check in?

**If you purchased tickets online**, the receipt you received via email is your ticket (there are no attachments or QR codes that will arrive to your email). **We strongly recommend printing out the receipt and bringing a paper copy with you to expedite check in**, but are also setup to check you in from an electronic device that shows the number of tickets purchased.

In the event that you are the ticket holder for a larger group that will not all arrive at the same time, everyone should give the name of TICKET PURCHASER when they arrive. We will be able to look up the tickets and check everyone in individually or in small groups without a problem!

Please follow the signage at the check in table to either check in with a paper ticket/receipt or an electronic ticket/receipt.

**If you purchased paper tickets** at Baltimore Woods or an off-site vendor, follow the signs for paper tickets and hand them in!

### 4. Can I pick the flowers?

The owners of the garden are happy to allow guests to pick three flowers from beds (not pots) in the gardens. Please be sure to not pick any flowers on the parking side of the road.

### 5. Can I bring my dog or pet to the garden tour?

We're sorry, but we ask that you leave your pets at home. They will not be allowed to enter the gardens.

6. Can I get a refund if it rains?

Tickets to the garden tour are nonrefundable as the event is a fundraiser for Baltimore Woods Nature Center. The good news is that the gardens are lovely, even in rainy weather and so the event will take place rain or shine!

7. Can I bring food into the gardens with me?

You are most welcome to bring a picnic basket with you! We will also have local food trucks available for your enjoyment.

8. Is the garden accessible for those with mobility concerns?

The gardens are expansive, but stone dust paths provide generally level walking surfaces through portions of the gardens. For guests who cannot walk long distances, there is seating available on the patio and the stone dust pathways are accessible for wheelchairs and electric scooters.

9. Is the garden open other times of the year?

Please visit [www.sycamorehillgardens.com](http://www.sycamorehillgardens.com) for more information on upcoming public events at the garden.

10. How long will it take to tour the gardens?

Guests should plan to spend at least 2-2.5 hours in order to see all of the amazing features of this impressive property. No matter what time you arrive, please plan to depart at 4:00pm.

11. Where is parking for the event?

Parking is located in the fields across the street from the garden tour and is all grass parking. We strongly encourage all guests to carpool as much as possible to reduce the number of cars at the event.

12. Do I have to pay to park?

Parking is made available at no cost in the field across the street from the garden tour.

13. Will there be food available for purchase?

Yes! We are glad to partner with local food trucks at this event including the Chicken Bandit, Blueberries and Lace, Limp Lizard, and Skippy's Ice Cream!

14. Where does my ticket/admission fee go?

100% of your admission fee goes to support Baltimore Woods Nature Center in its mission to connect communities and nature in wisdom and wonder. Learn more about our year-round environmental education programs and stewardship of the 270 acre Baltimore Woods Preserve in Marcellus at [baltimorewoods.org](http://baltimorewoods.org)!

15. Where can I purchase tickets for the garden tour?

As of May 11, presale tickets are sold-out for the May 14 event. However, tickets will be available for purchase on-site at the garden tour during the event for \$20 each. Children 8 and under are free! At the gate, guests may pay via cash, check or credit card.