

Sumter Iris Festival 2012

FAQ

Please see below for a list of the most frequent questions we receive regarding the Sumter Iris Festival. We hope to see you at Swan Lake Iris Gardens!

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What are the dates for this year's Iris Festival?

The Iris Festival will be held **May 25-27, 2012**. On Thursday, May 24, the Opening Ceremonies will take place at 5:15 p.m., followed immediately by the Taste at the Gardens. All festival attractions will open Friday morning at 10 a.m.

What time does the festival open to the public?

The festival will open Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m.

Is there a charge for admission or parking?

There is no charge for admission or parking. However, vendors will have their products for sale.

Where are parking areas located?

The main parking area is located across from the Heath Pavilion on Garden Street (off West Liberty Street). Overflow parking is available at the Sumter County Fairgrounds, adjacent to the Sumter County Civic Center, 700 West Liberty Street.

Is there space for RVs?

We are sorry, but RVs cannot be brought into the garden parking areas. They may be parked at the Sumter County Fairgrounds, but hookups are not available.

May I bring my pet with me to the Festival?

Swan Lake Iris Gardens is a bird sanctuary; therefore, pets are strictly prohibited. Please note that this does not apply to service animals.

Where are the iris beds located?

The Japanese Iris beds are located at the water's edge on both the north and south sides of the gardens.

Will there be irises for sale?

Yes! The Sumter Master Gardeners will host their annual iris sale. Supplies are limited, so come early for the best selection.

May I feed the swans?

We are sorry, but feeding the wildlife is not permitted. Also, please remember that the birds are wild animals, and are not tame. This is nesting season for the swans, and it is best not to approach them.

Where can I find the schedule of events?

The schedule of events can be found online at www.irisfestival.org, or posted at all garden entry points and in front of the Swan Lake Visitors Center.

What happens if it rains?

The festival goes on, rain or shine! However, in case of storms, there may be a temporary pause in live entertainment and children's rides.

Are alcoholic beverages allowed?

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the gardens except when available for sale during City-sanctioned events. In no circumstances are visitors permitted to bring alcohol into the gardens.

May I bring a lawn or camp chair?

Yes, you may. However, bleachers will be available at the performance stages. There are also picnic tables and benches located in many areas throughout the gardens.

Do you have an ATM?

We are sorry, but we do not have an ATM available at this time. The nearest one is located at the Persimmon Hill convenience store at the corner of West Liberty Street and Alice Drive.

Is handicapped parking available?

Handicapped parking is available in the main garden parking lot (in front of the Swan Lake Visitors Center).

Will there be shuttle service available?

We are unable to offer shuttle service from the parking areas to the gardens this year; however, there will be a trolley available to take visitors through the park. It will depart from and arrive at the Swan Lake Visitors Center, 822 West Liberty Street.

Are food and drinks available for sale?

A wide variety of food and drinks will be sold. Be sure to bring your appetite!

Are there wheelchairs, golf carts or strollers available for rental?

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer this service at present. However, the gardens are accessible to both wheelchairs and strollers.

VENDOR INQUIRIES

Are you still accepting vendor applications?

All vendor spaces have been filled for this year. Applications for the 2013 festival will be available in late January.

What time does the Iris Festival open for vendors to set up their displays?

Vendor setup times are as follows:

Arts & Crafts, Marketplace—7:00 to 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 25. All booths must be ready by 9:30 a.m.

Food Vendors—Setup begins at 6:00 a.m., and vehicles must be out of the gardens by 7:00 a.m. All vendors must be ready to begin serving at 10:00 a.m.

Gateway to Gardening, Art in the Gardens—Setup starts at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 25.

All vendors must remove their vehicles to the designated vendor parking before 10:00 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. **Vehicles that are not moved are subject to be towed.**

What time does the festival open to the public?

The festival opens at 10 a.m. on all three days. It closes at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Art in the Gardens and Gateway to Gardening will close at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Where are parking areas located?

Vendor parking is located in the vacant lot at West Liberty and Bland Streets. Vendors will be permitted to utilize the main parking areas on both sides of the gardens during setup only.

Do I have to take down my display every night and put it back up again in the morning?

No, do you do not, as the City will provide 24-hour security. However, we do ask that you cover your merchandise, and you may want to transport any items of special value.

Do I have to be in attendance for all three days?

All vendor booths must be attended during festival hours for all three days, except in cases of extreme emergency.

I have a vendor's license from the State of SC (or my home state). Will this be sufficient?

You will be required to obtain a permit from the City of Sumter. The cost is \$5.00, and the form is available online at <http://www.sumtersc.gov/Data/Sites/1/media/community/culture-recreation/2012-seasonal-business-license-application.pdf>.

Approximately how many people attend the Sumter Iris Festival?

Depending on variable factors (including the weather), festival attendance averages between 40-60,000 visitors.

If your question is not addressed here, please give us a call at **1-800-688-4748** (office hours Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2012 Sumter Iris Festival!