

Rules for Use of Darden Garden during the Regular Session
of the General Assembly

During the Regular Session¹ of the General Assembly, the House of Delegates of Virginia and the Senate of Virginia have joint/shared control of the area known as Darden Garden pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of General Services and the Division of Capitol Police dated January 8, 2024. Any person or persons who wish to hold an event in Darden Garden must submit the “Application for Use of Darden Garden” and receive approval from the House and Senate. The “Application for Use of Darden Garden” and map is available on the General Assembly website <https://publications.virginiasenate.gov/>

“Event” means the assemblage in Darden Garden of 10 or more persons for any demonstration, rally, march, performance, picketing, speechmaking, holding of vigils, sit-ins, or other activities that involve the communication or expression of views or ideas having the effect, intent, or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. "Event" does not include casual use of Darden Garden by visitors or tourists.

The House and Senate hereby establish the following rules for use of Darden Garden:

- No motor vehicles may be operated within Darden Gardens
- The use of powered amplification or other audio/visual equipment, including but not limited to microphones, speakers, megaphones, and projectors, is prohibited.
- The following actions are prohibited:
 - Placing or affixing banners, flags, posters or other objects on or to any statue, building, tree, or any other vertical structure located in Darden Garden
 - Climbing on statues, buildings (or any part of a building), tree or any other vertical structure on the grounds
 - Engaging in unlawful activity
 - Placing of tents, tables, scaffolding or staging
 - Penetrating the ground by any object
 - Solicitations, sales, collections or fundraising activities

¹ “Regular Session” has the same meaning contemplated in Article IV, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia.

- Open air burning (hand-held candles with drip guards are acceptable)
 - Operating unmanned aircraft systems (drones)
 - Wearing a mask, hood or other device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered, unless otherwise permitted by law
- The following items cannot be brought onto the grounds of Darden Garden
 - Open containers of alcohol
 - Hazardous, flammable, or combustible liquids or materials
 - Fossil-fuel powered generators
- All pets must be on a leash or in an appropriate carrier and owners must pick up after pets
- Walkways must remain passable