



“Best kept secret”

Locations for Great Photos

BY: KAREN NEULANDER,
ESSENCE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Everyone knows Millennium Park, the Morton Arboretum and the Botanic Gardens are great places for wedding photos. But for those seeking some more unusual locations, Essence Photographers share some of the “best kept secrets” they’ve found to make your wedding photos unique and bring that “wow” factor!

SPECIAL TIP FOR WINTER WEDDINGS OR BAD WEATHER:

LINCOLN PARK CONSERVATORY
The best option for a green
Chicago setting in the winter!

CHICAGO

The old Meigs airport terminal at Northerly Island

Windswept, romantic take on the Chicago Lakefront, with breathtaking, unique city views!

500 West Cermak Artist Lofts

Large windows and lots of visually interesting “grunge” on top floors makes for a gritty city setting. The imposing bridge over the Chicago River also makes for creative photo ops.

Natural area behind the Museum of Science and Industry

It is part of Jackson Park and includes the East Lagoon, West Lagoon, and a wooded island.



WEST/SOUTH SUBURBS

The Arcada Theatre in Saint Charles

It's a really old theatre with an organ that comes up out of the floor! The dramatic look includes traditional dark red curtains and a "U" shaped balcony.

Indian Hills Equestrian Center

A rustic area with a random assortment of abandoned buildings, for an interesting artistic take in natural surroundings.

Waterfall Glen, Dupage County Forest Preserve
Near 55 and 355 by Lemont,
Many great unique photo ops

NORTH / NORTHWEST SUBURBS

Skokie Lagoons, Skokie
A beautiful and unique spot for all kinds of photos.

Kimball Hill Park in Rolling Meadows
Hidden behind a commercial area, it is a beautiful and uncrowded alternative to the more popular Arlington Heights park areas.

The Park behind the Westin Hotel in Rosemont
TOTALLY prefer this to the more famous waterfall in Rosemont on Higgins Road

Lake Arlington Park in Arlington Heights Off of Hintz and Windsor

SPECIAL TIP FOR WINTER WEDDINGS OR BAD WEATHER:

FRIENDSHIP CONSERVATORY
IN DES PLAINES

Its gorgeous vegetation is indoors and weatherproof!