Ballard Nature Center, a private non-profit organization, provides a beautiful backdrop for photography. We welcome the opportunity to host photographers and their clients on the grounds. We invest funding and much effort each year to ensure the grounds, bridges, and buildings are maintained. Photography membership dues will directly support this effort. To maximize enjoyment and use by all of our guests, a formal photography policy has been implemented.

Those who wish to use Ballard Nature Center as a backdrop for their commercial photography sessions are required to purchase a photography license. You must also sign an acknowledgment form regarding rules to follow. For the purposes of this policy, a commercial photographer is someone who is being paid to take photographs or sells photographs taken on the nature center’s property. This fee does not apply to amateur/non-business photography.

A photography membership is $75 a year. A license will be issued; the permit must be in your possession when working with clients on the property. License must be current and renewed annually. The center’s staff reserves the right to approach anyone conducting a photography shoot to enforce this.

*Thank you for your cooperation. We are pleased you enjoy using the center for your photographs!* 

**Site Use Rules and Regulations:**
- Please be respectful of the property and other guests at all times.
- Parking is only permitted in designated areas; the entrance lane must not be blocked. No parking along the entrance lane; people exiting vehicles poses a hazard with traffic flow.
- Photographers and clients need to stay on the trails. No photo sessions in the bird feeding area.
- If benches are moved, they must be returned to their original location.
- No alcohol is permitted on the nature center property.
- Any props used must be taken down immediately after the photo shoot.

**Commercial Photography License Application**

Name of business: _________________________

Name: __________________________ Application Date: _______________

Address: ______________________________________________________

Email: __________________________ Phone number: __________________

**Agreement and Waiver of Liability**

I, __________________________, hereby agree to respect the Ballard Nature Center grounds, facilities, staff, and program schedules. I release and hold harmless Ballard Nature Center, its employees, volunteers, agents, officers and affiliates from any and all injuries, damages, losses and claims arising out of my time spent on the center’s property.

Signature: __________________________ Date: ______________________

Approved by __________________________ on _____________ (date)

Ballard Nature Center * 5253 E. US Hwy 40 * Altamont, IL 62411 * 618-483-6856