



Farmers Market Rules of Operation

1. Market Overview

1.1 Only the following items may be sold on the Market: All farm produce (Fruits, vegetables, flowers, fresh meat from a licensed packing facility, poultry, eggs, cheese etc.), Flowers and bedding plants, Baked Goods- if bakery meets all legal license requirements, Arts & Crafts- must be handmade by the vendor selling them. Priority goes to producers of edible farm goods selling their own products.

1.2. Market hours

1.2a Fulton Street Farmers Market shall be opened on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 8:00am-Close. Supervision and access to the office/restrooms will be provided from May 5th, 2007 until December 22, 2007

1.2b No one may enter the Market with produce to sell on other than the stated Market days. Such vendors will be asked to leave and may lose privilege to sell at the Fulton Street Farmers Market

2. Producer Stall Rental Procedure

A producer shall be defined as a market vendor selling produce grown on his/her farm or food products made by the seller in a state certified facility. A copy of state certification must be on file in the farmers market office.

2.1 Daily Producer Stall Rental Procedure

2.1a At 7:30 AM any rented seasonal stalls that are vacant will be assigned to daily renters unless other prior arrangements have been made by the Market Manager or agent by a seasonal stall renter. The daily renter must remain outside the selling area until she/he is assigned a stall, and she/he must keep the receipt for payment in her/his possession at all times.

2.1b. Entry into the Market with produce for sale, delivery or transfer is prohibited unless the proper Market fee is paid to the Market Manager or Agent. Payment of the daily fee entitles the seller to one Market session and this fee shall be paid before she/he enters the Market area. Currently, daily stall rates are \$10/stall/day for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Saturday rates are \$15/stall/day. This rate may periodically be adjusted pending Market Committee and City Commission approval.

2.1c. Those not holding seasonal permits to do business on the Market must register with the Market Manager or agent, who will determine eligibility

2.1d. The Manager will maintain at least five open stalls to be rented by the day (open meaning not rented by the season).

2.1e Daily stall renters must see the Market Manager before taking a stall.

2.1f. Daily stalls will be assigned by the Market Manager or her/his agent. When stalls are limited Priority goes to those 1) growing their own food 2) producing their own edible product, e.g. baked goods, honey, etc.

2.2 Seasonal Producer Stall Rental

- 2.2a. Seasonal Stall Rental assignments will be made on a seniority basis
Seniority for seasonal stall renters begins the date the stall rent is paid in full for the first year of renting seasonal stalls. Renters must rent seasonal stalls each year thereafter to maintain seniority date.**
- 2.2b. In order to accumulate one year of seniority, a vendor must attend market at least 24 times in one season. A seniority list shall be kept of parties other than current vendors interested in renting seasonal stalls when stalls are not available. New seasonal stalls shall be assigned at the discretion of the Market Manager with the guidance and approval of the Market Committee. All new seasonal vendors after 2006 must be producers selling a majority of what they grow or produce themselves**
- 2.2c. New seasonal vendor (beginning in 2007 season) may be subject to a farm inspection by the Market Manager or a member of the Market Committee prior to being awarded a seasonal stall at the Fulton Street Farmers Market. Seasonal stalls will be assigned each year. Seasonal stall renters will be offered the stalls they occupied the prior year.**
- 2.2d. Seasonal stall rent is due on or before August 1, 2007. Currently, seasonal stall rates are \$275/stall/year. This rate may be periodically adjusted pending Market Committee and City Commission approval. Seasonal stall rent not paid by the first of August will be collected by the Market Manager at a rate of \$40.00 per market day until the outstanding balance is paid in full. If bill is not paid in full by the end of the market season, the vendor shall lose selling privilege at the Fulton Street Farmers Market.**
- 2.2e. Seasonal stall rental and license fees are for January 1, 2007-December 31, 2007**
- 2.2f. When seasonal stalls are vacated, they first will be offered to the vendors currently selling on the Market with the highest seniority. This offer will be made as an opportunity for the vendor to transfer stalls, not to rent additional stalls for his/her operation.**
- 2.2g. Seasonal stall renters wishing to rent additional stalls that are vacant for the day must get permission from the Market Manager.**
- 2.2h. There shall be a limit of five seasonal stalls per operation. Those people who have held more than five stalls prior to January 1, 1992 will be allowed to retain the same number of stalls that they held in the 1991 season until they relinquish their stalls totally or partially, after which time these people will not be allowed to exceed the current limit of five stalls. Those operations that may retain six stalls after January 1, 1992 are: Turtle Island Farms.**
- 2.2i. Seasonal stalls will be held for individuals until 7:30 AM each Market day unless prior arrangements have been made with the Market Manager. After 7:30 AM vacant stalls will be assigned to a daily renter.**

- 3.2j. Seasonal stall renters must fill out staff reservation cards. They will be mailed to the last year's rentals in March, and they must be returned by April 15 to retain the same stalls from the previous year.
- 3.2k. In the event a farmer sells, or for any other reason, leaves his/her farm, his/her stall(s) shall be subject to reassignment by the Market Manager. Exception: Relatives or heirs to the farmer may continue that farmer's seniority as long as one full season does not lapse between the transfer of ownership.
- 3.2l. Market privilege is not transferable to any one other than relatives or heirs.

3.3 Craftsperson Stall Rental

- 3.3a. A craftsperson is defined as a person creating a product such as wearing apparel, toys, jewelry, home decoration, furniture, dried flowers, pottery, candles, photography, or other fine arts. All products sold must be created by the person selling the product or a family member of that person. All vendors of such items must have a tax id number on file with the market management. Service items such as massage, acupuncture, etc. are not allowed at the market.
- 3.4b. Craftspeople may be rented a daily stall at 7:30 AM after all producers have been granted a daily stall. If more craftspeople than stalls are present a lottery will be performed at 7:30 AM.

4. Vendor Conduct

- 4.1 No person shall use any stall not assigned to him/her by the Market Manager or Agent. Buying or selling elsewhere on Market property is prohibited. Seasonal vendors may move into vacant stalls with the permission of the market manager. Any unused stalls may not be sublet. Such stalls are forfeited to the market manager for reassignment.
- 4.2 Forestalling is prohibited. Forestalling is the act of intercepting a grower or other seller before he/she reaches the grower's Market stall with an offer to buy all or part of his/her load or to influencing Market prices by this method of controlling the supply or to take advantage of Market conditions and prices before the seller can become informed or to circumvent Market regulations.
- 4.3 No hawking, outcries or other methods of attracting the attention of customers is permitted. Cut or otherwise prepared samples are considered a form of hawking and is not permitted.
- 4.4 Vendors must be respectful of other participants of the market. Radios and other noise-making devices should not disturb vendors and customers. The City of Grand Rapids sound ordinance is in effect at the market.
- 4.5 All daily and seasonal stall renters must clean the area they occupy daily. Vendors must remove all waste, rubbish, or trash that they generate during the course of selling at the Market. Trash or residue from the vendor's produce may not be placed in any storm sewer or in market refuse receptacles. Renters' areas are defined by the selling area and the parking spaces directly behind the selling area.
- 4.6. All passageways must be kept clear. The Market Manager, Jayson Otto, is responsible for removing waste, rubbish or trash in the common areas of the Farmers Market. Common areas are those areas of the Market outside the vendor's

stalls used by vendors and/or Market customers, including but not limited to restrooms and parking areas.

- 4.7. Vendors or their employees are not allowed to park in any customer parking area. They must park behind the stalls they occupy or get permission from another vendor to park behind their stalls. All renters vehicles driven on the Market must be operated in a safe and prudent manner. Vendor and customer cars not parked in designated areas will be ticketed and towed.
- 4.8. Obstructing Market driveways, traffic lanes or stalls is prohibited.
- 4.9. Market vendors must comply with all identification and licensing as required by law.
- 4.10. All goods offered for sale by weight must be weighed on approved scales in full view of the purchaser, if requested.
- 4.11. All products offered for sale must conform to the federal and state grading laws and federal, state and local health rules.
- 4.12. Products offered for sale must not be over-faced, misbranded or misrepresented in any way.
- 4.14. No animals are permitted on the Market except to assist individuals with disabilities. Vendors may not bring their pets to the market. Violators will be suspended or will lose market privilege.
- 4.15. No materials may be attached to the market stalls without permission of the Market manager nor any permanent materials attached or alterations made to Market stalls without permission of the City. No signs or banners may extend past the furthest post of a stall.

5. Enforcement

5.1 Complaint & Enforcement procedure

1. Rule is violated by vendor
2. Complaint is made to Market Manager or to a member of the Market Committee by another vendor or a customer
3. Vendor in violation is notified and enforcement is taken by Market Manager

5.2 Any seller, daily or seasonal, in violation of these rules is subject to suspension as determined by the Market Manager and/or Market Committee. Violators shall forfeit rental of stall(s) during suspension and may be reassigned to different stalls after the suspension is lifted. These reassigned stalls then become this vendor's seasonal stalls until such time that the vendor may change market location through application of his/her seniority to occupy previously vacated stalls.

5.3. The Market Manager, Market Committee, and other authorized representative of the City of Grand Rapids shall have the authority to cite violators.

- 5.4. **The directions of the Market Manager, his/her Agent, or the Fulton Street Farmers Market Vendor Committee must be complied within all matters pertaining to the operation of the Market. Complaints or appeals concerning the actions of the Market Manager or Agent may be made in writing or verbally to elected members of the Fulton Street Farmers Market Committee. The directions of the Market management must be complied with until the final resolution of appeals has been made.**

6. Market Committee

- 6.1. **A market committee shall be maintained through general elections by all vendors with at least a year's seniority at the Fulton Street Farmers Market. Six vendors shall make up the market committee. Also, a member from the Midtown Neighborhood Association and a member of the East Fulton Business Association shall reside on the board without voting privileges. Voting privilege will only go to those committee members that vend at the Fulton Street Farmers Market.**
- 6.2. **The market committee shall create a system of staggering terms of members. Elections shall be performed every three years. The next vote utilizing ALL seasonal vendors in a general election will occur in the Fall of 2009. Elected Market Committee members will assume duties in the Spring of 2010.**
- 6.3. **Vacancies on the committee shall be filled through nomination by the standing committee.**
- 6.4. **All decisions made by the committee must be approved by a majority vote. All six members of the committee are necessary for a quorum. Meetings may be called at any time by consent of all members of the committee. All other meetings must have at least a 15 day notice.**
- 6.5. **The market committee has final say in the rules of operations of the Fulton Street Farmers Market. Being experts with years of experience as to the operation of the Fulton Street Farmers Market, Rules of Operation may be amended by the Market Committee without approval of the Grand Rapids City Commission. The City of Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Department shall be informed of all changes made by the Market Committee.**