

2024 Lowell Area Farmers' Market Rules

Mission Statement

The Lowell Area Farmers Market is here to serve the Greater Lowell Area by providing locally and regionally grown fresh, high-quality produce and products, and to provide an opportunity for local farmers, producers, and artisans an economic outlet within the Greater Lowell Area.

Location

- Downtown Lowell, Boat Launch lot and Riverwalk as needed, north of the KDL-Englehardt library.
- Booths will be in grass (use tent weights, not stakes)
- Public restrooms available across from the Lowell Showboat VI and a handicap portable restroom near the boat launch

Days and Dates of Operation

- Thursdays
- **June 6 – September 26, 2024. NO Market on Thursday, July 11, 2024, during the Riverwalk Festival. If you'd like a booth during Riverwalk, visit www.riverwalkfestival.org to learn more.**
- Bonus – Seasonal Vendor rate = You save \$80
- Bonus #2 – Chamber Member rate \$120 for the season = You save \$120

Hours of Operation

- Market Hours: 2 PM–7 PM (inclement weather may force the market to close early).
- **FOOD TRUCKS/TENTS allowed hours are 2 PM–6 PM** from June 13–August 15, 2024, and no market on July 11. No exceptions. This rule is in place as to not conflict with Summer Concert concession vendors and restaurant sponsors.
- **Assigned Vendor Set-up: 1 PM**
- If you know that you are going to be late, you must notify the Market Master ASAP. Your space may be reassigned.
- **VENDORS MUST NOTIFY THE MARKET MASTER IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE PRESENT AT THE MARKET.**
- Vendors may not pack items or remove their booths before 7 PM (unless inclement weather). Booths that close early hurt vendors that remain open. Repeated early departures may forfeit your spot in the Market. (Food vendors are the exception as noted above.)
- The Market must close and sales conclude at 7 PM so as not to conflict with the scheduled summer concerts along the Riverwalk.

Fees:

- Seasonal rental June 6 – September 26: 1 stall is \$160 / Chamber Member rate \$120
- Daily rate June 6 – September 26: 1 stall is \$15
- Product display area size is approximately 10'x10'. Additional space may be available but requires additional fees.

Space Assignments

- The Market Master will assign spaces.
- Renter may not move their space(s) without the Market Master's approval.
- Seasonal vendors will be assigned to spaces first, then Daily vendors.
- Vacant spaces will be assigned on a first come first-serve basis.
- We have a limited number of spaces that will allow you to work out of the back of your van or truck. Booth spaces will overflow to the Riverwalk, north of the library. There will be separate, designated vendor parking one block away for those placed along the Riverwalk.
- In the event one or more stalls become available, and a seasonal vendor would like to move to that available stall, vendors with seniority will have first option. If there are two or more vendors with the same seniority, a drawing would then be held.

Product Display

- Vendors will be responsible to furnish all tables for product display, signs, and any overhead coverings (tents, awnings, umbrellas, etc.).
- **All tents must be weighed down, on all four corners, with 25 lbs. of weight on each pole.** In the event a vendor erects a tent without weights as required, they will be asked to remove the tent and sell product without a canopy. NO stakes in the grass.
- All vendor-specific signs and other related structures (i.e., tents, etc.) shall be removed from the premises between market Thursdays.
- Vendors shall display products only within their assigned area.
- Vendors shall always conduct themselves in a pleasant and courteous manner with customers and other vendors.

Signage

- Vendors **MUST** display a sign with their business name and city clearly visible to the public. Sign should be a minimum of 8.5" X 11".
- Truth in Advertising:
 - all items for sale must be visibly priced.
 - any edible product sold as "homegrown" must be grown by and at the farm renting the space in the Farmers Market
 - any edible product sold as "organic" must be certified organic.

Product

- Product vendors may sell fruits, vegetables, flowers (fresh or dried) and foods (licensed).
- Baked goods must be from a licensed kitchen or comply with MI Cottage Food Law.
- In accordance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture Regulation Number 556 open-air municipal and farmers' markets, the sale of animals will not be allowed at market.
- Also welcomed are Arts and Crafts, Flea Market, Antiques and Estate sale vendors. Space availability to be determined by the Market Master, and the Market Master retains the right to limit the number of vendors.

Vendor Performance

- Taxes are the sole responsibility of the vendor.
- The Lowell Farmers Market does not intend to set vendor prices. However, vendors will keep in mind that this is a retail market, not a wholesale market. Please establish a fair retail price. Vendors will not practice distress pricing.
- All Vendors are required to meet all applicable rules and regulations of the County of Kent, State of Michigan, and Federal laws (Michigan Department of Agriculture Food Division). Attach applicable license(s) to your application.
- Vendors must always keep their area clean.
- All vendor-generated waste, rubbish or trash must leave the market with the vendor.
- All disputes shall be settled by the Market Master.
- Any seller – daily or seasonal – in violation of these rules is subject to suspension as determined by the Market Master. Violators shall forfeit rental of stall.
- The directions of the Market Master must be complied with in all matters pertaining to the operation of the market. Complaints or appeals concerning the actions of the Market Master may be made in writing to: LACC, PO Box 224, Lowell, MI 49331
- If unable to attend market notify Market Master ASAP at (616) 552-3328
- There is **No Smoking** by vendor or staff in booth.

Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 224
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-9161

Market Master: David Stawasz, Better Place Farm, david@betterplacefarm.com, cell (616) 552-3328