

The BTV Market

Frequently Asked Questions

We are pleased to provide this FAQ to help answer some potential questions regarding The BTV Market this summer. As always, reach out to us at BTVMKT@Burlingtonvt.gov if you have a question that isn't addressed below. Thank you!

General Questions

1. How big is the market?

We are planning on presenting 40 vendors each week. We may have some community groups join us on certain weeks as well. All vendor tents will be on hardscaped surfaces and not on the grass. The grass will be available for patrons.

2. Why isn't the Farmers Market back in City Hall Park?

The Burlington Farmers Market had to re-locate to Pine Street in summer 2019 and 2020 when City Hall Park was closed for renovations. With Covid social distancing in mind, they stayed in this location for the summer of 2021. With summer 2022 on the horizon, the market has decided to stay on Pine Street for another season.

BCA and Love Burlington recognized that the downtown needed a summer market. Building off of the long-running BCA Artist Market, The BTV Market was created to support artists, makers, and small prepared food vendors with a chance to thrive in City Hall Park. Our intention is to create more opportunities for local creatives to share their work with the community while supporting the downtown's local businesses. We are excited to join the Farmer's Market in activating Saturdays in Burlington. Please continue to support the Burlington Farmer's Market as you always have!

3. What about COVID?

The BTV Market will follow all current federal, state, and City guidelines in regards to the health and wellbeing of our vendors and patrons. We will make any changes needed as new guidelines are presented, but we do feel good that we are outside in a large space.

4. Will there be live music?

For sure! We are programming music to help create a fun market environment. There will be an hour of live music from a variety of duos and trios, followed by a two-hour edition of Splash Dance, BCA's DJ dance party for kids at the park's wheelchair-accessible splash pad.

Vendor/Applicant Questions

1. Are food trucks allowed to participate?

Per a city ordinance, no food trucks are allowed to operate in the Central Peddlers District in Burlington. Because of this, food trucks are not allowed to participate in this market.

2. Are food trailers allowed to participate?

In short, yes. While trucks are not allowed, non-motorized trailers or food carts are allowed. However, please reach out to us with specifics, as parking these units into vendor slots could be challenging. We are happy to work with you to see if we can make it work.

3. Are all vendor spaces the same size?

All of our vendor spaces are 10'x10'. If you have any specific needs, please let us know in your application or via email and we will try to work with you.

4. Does each vendor need to have a tent?

Yes. To help with any light rain, too much sun, and to unify the market look and feel, we are asking every vendor to bring their own 10'x10' pop-up tent. Each tent must come with a weight on each tent leg. Weights must be at least 10 lbs each. This is to be sure that our market is safe and that no tents will move in the wind. If this presents a challenge to any vendor, please reach out to us at the email above and we can talk about equipment grants and supplemental funding.

5. Will electricity be available? What about cooking?

In general, yes, City Hall Park was developed with significant infrastructure to support events and markets. If you need a reasonable amount of power, we will plan to locate you in a position where it is available. Please note your power needs on your application. We encourage using a power source from us and not a generator, as Burlington is a Net-Zero city and generators are noisy and polluting.

Grilling or cooking with wood or propane is allowed, as long as you bring a fire extinguisher. Please note any on-site cooking in your application so we can place you appropriately and consider nuisance smoke.

6. Is the market rain or shine?

Like the Vermont weather, it's complicated. With a market that is four hours long, the weather can vary over that time frame. Here's the plan:

- The market is by and large a rain or shine event, with the exception of extreme weather (heavy rain, high wind, or lightning). We suggest you travel with tarps, even when the weather looks to be decent.
- If there is extreme weather at 9 am on Saturday, we will delay the market by one hour, with a market start at 12 pm instead of 11 am. At 10 am, if the forecast is still looking unfavorable, we will cancel the market.
- We will track any potential lightning during the market. Any strike within 8 miles requires that the market cease operations, and we will encourage everyone to seek cover. We realize this is hard, given that you have your merchandise to look after. Make the best decisions you can at the time. The market will then be paused until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike in our 8 mile radius. This is standard life safety for outdoor events.
- If NOAA issues a severe weather warning for our area, we will follow the same procedure as noted above. This is only for a warning, which means the severe weather is imminent (as opposed to a watch).
- All market communications will be via email, including weather alerts and information. We are also looking into a mass text system for more immediate contact regarding weather.

7. Load In, Load Out, Parking

We recognize that having a 40-vendor market load in at the same time is a challenge. With that in mind, anticipate that City Hall Park might be congested. Please plan ahead. We will have a temporary parking loading zone on Main Street, St. Paul Street, and College Street. You can unload and load up here for a maximum of 10 minutes in each direction. Please use these spaces with others in mind.

You can park temporarily in spaces with orange meter bags or along St. Paul Street only. The other spaces are traditional paid metered spaces.

Load in will be from 9:30-10:30 am. The market runs from 11 am to 3 pm. Break down and load-out will be from 3-4 pm.

Once you unload, you will need to find garage or street parking as available. The Lakeside Garage on College Street is nearby.

8. Is there WiFi in the park?

Yes! Look for Burlington Telecom Guest and log on.

9. Can I store anything with you?

Sorry, but no. We barely have space to store our own stuff!

10. Insurance—really?

Getting insurance to cover you and your merchandise in the park may seem like a big step, but insurance is a good idea for all involved. It helps protect you and your merchandise in the event of a mishap. Getting liability insurance isn't always as expensive as it seems and it can be used in any other endeavors of your small business. We are happy to share resources or assist you in getting insurance. We are requiring proof of insurance for participation. Please reach out with further questions or if this presents a challenge.

11. Community Panel, Selection Process and Scheduling

A six-person community panel will review all applications and create a pool of diverse vendors for the BTV Market. Once approved, applicants will be notified. People in this approved pool will have the opportunity to sign up for market dates at that time.

Finally, we will look at all of the date requests and program each market to have a good range of offerings, working within the date selections each vendor made. We are interested in consistent vendors, so those who pick multiple or all dates will get priority (and also get a slight discount!). See the application for more information.