

Farmers Market Spotlight

Tenino Farmers Market began in 2005 on a small lot in a city park with only six vendors. It was founded by a couple dedicated to getting it off the ground. When the couple retired, the market's future rested on its Board of Directors. The following year the market moved near the school district office, and in 2016 it relocated to its current location in downtown Tenino on Olympia Street. This location benefited the market in many ways. It strengthened its connections with local businesses, provided greater visibility, and allowed the market to expand its offerings both for vendors and consumers with an expanded schedule. The market now runs from May to September on Saturdays from 10am-3 pm.

Prior to moving downtown, the market's lack of foot traffic created some challenges. Sherry Bachmann, a vendor since 2009 and board member since 2016, said, "This has been a growing process. We would struggle every year to get and retain produce vendors." Last year, the market grew to an average attendance of 300 to 500 people per day with approximately 22 vendors.

TENINO FARMERS MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY 10AM-3PM
MAY - SEPTEMBER
Downtown Tenino

NO FARMS, NO FOOD
www.teninofarmersmarket.org



This expansion and success has brought produce vendors to the forefront of the market. "Not only do we have more produce vendors, we have more types of produce available now." At the start of the pandemic, essential vendors were the only booths allowed on-site, giving produce vendors more prominence in the market and providing them more stability.



Many passionate people worked to promote the market and continue its success. Sherry explained that part of the growth in the number of vendors can be attributed to affordability. For the first time, it has been necessary to hire a market manager.

The vendors at the market are like a family and really enjoy the time they spend together. On the second Saturday of each month, an adjacent community artisan market joins the farmers market. It showcases handmade goods and wares from local artists and crafters. The

Tenino Farmers Market's flow and vibe is brought alive by their volunteer site manager. "We are very blessed to have a wonderful site manager, Sean Broadbent," Sherry notes. He helps with set up, establishes the site map every Saturday, and plays great music for the shoppers and vendors.

Tenino Farmers Market offers a variety of programs for low-income individuals and families. In 2021, donations were provided through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and WIC. In addition, a grant from Timberland Bank provided \$4 tokens to children and seniors that helped to offset their purchases for the day. Farmers also donated leftover produce at the end of market day to the local food bank.

This year, the market would like to increase their food vendor options. Find their vendor policies and application online, teninofarmersmarket.org. Stay tuned on Saturdays for live Facebook videos of their vendors and what you can find at the market.



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