

# FARM MARKETS



## What is a Farm Market?

Farm markets are typically re-occurring markets (weekly, biweekly, or monthly) that take place either indoors or outdoors. A wide range of items are typically sold, including a variety of foods, handicrafts, and other items that vendors make, bake or grow. Farm market events may offer food trucks, live music, and other forms of entertainment.

## Where are Farm Markets permitted?

The District of Saanich permits temporary farm markets at Saanich Parks, Recreation Facilities, and the Municipal Hall parking lot, depending on market requirements, operational capacity, and specific site characteristics.

**Saanich Park** → Apply for a District of Saanich Park Permit.

**Saanich Municipal Hall** → Complete a Saanich Special Event Application.

**Recreation Facility** → Book with the respective facility.

Try to identify a location that can accommodate the scale of your market. Some characteristics Saanich staff may consider when determining if a location is suitable are:

- ▶ Is there limited conflict with other user groups, including sports teams and clubs, during proposed hours?
- ▶ Is the location large enough to support the farm market?
- ▶ Does the location include adequate parking for vendors and customers?
- ▶ Is the location able to support desirable ancillary market activities?
- ▶ Will neighbourhood impacts and disruptions be low?
- ▶ On-site facilities such as washrooms are recommended.



## What types of items can be sold?

A variety of items are permitted for sale at farm markets, including local agricultural products, meat and seafood, dairy and poultry products, apiary products, plants and horticultural products, homemade baking, liquor, ready to eat foods, and arts and crafts. It is the responsibility of the market operator/ manager to ensure that food vendors have obtained approval for any higher risk food items, and the proper permits for any alcohol sales.

See BC Centre for Disease Control's guideline for a list of food products that require permits: [Guidelines - Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets\\_current.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](https://www.bccdc.ca/guidelines-sale-of-foods-at-temporary-food-markets-current.pdf)

Mobile food vendors and live entertainment are permitted as ancillary to the sale of above goods.

## Business Licence

- ▶ An annual Saanich business licence is required to operate all farm markets.
- ▶ Only one business licence is required per market.
- ▶ The cost of a business licence for a temporary farm market is \$50.00/ year.
- ▶ A business licence is required to apply for a Park Permit or Special Event Application.
- ▶ More information on obtaining a business licence can be found at: [Business Licences | District of Saanich](#)

## Special Event Application

- ▶ A Saanich Special Event Permit is required to operate a temporary farm market at the Saanich Municipal Hall.
- ▶ More information on obtaining a Special Event Application can be found at: [Microsoft Word - Permit - Special Event Application Form 2017.docx \(saanich.ca\)](#)
- ▶ **Questions regarding a Special Event Application?**  
e: [sarah.faria@saanich.ca](mailto:sarah.faria@saanich.ca)  
t: (250) 475-5558

## Park Permit

- ▶ A Saanich Park Permit is required to operate a temporary farm market in Saanich parks.
- ▶ More information on obtaining a Park Permit can be found at: [Park Permit Application | District of Saanich](#)
- ▶ **Questions regarding a Park Permit?**  
e: [parks@saanich.ca](mailto:parks@saanich.ca)  
t: (250) 475-5522

## Recreation Facilities

Hosting a temporary farm market indoors or outdoors at a Saanich Recreation Facility requires booking with the respective facility:

1. [Saanich Commonwealth Place](#)  
250-475-7600
2. [Gordon Head Recreation Centre](#)  
250-475-7100
3. [Cedar Hill Recreation Centre](#)  
250-475-7121
4. [G. R. Pearkes Recreation Centre](#)  
250-475-5400

**Other Questions? Contact Saanich Planning.**

e. [planning@saanich.ca](mailto:planning@saanich.ca)  
t. 250-475-5471

