



North Bend Farmers Market 2020 Season in Review

Strong communities work together through times of adversity. The 2020 North Bend Farmers Market at Si View Park was approved to operate as an essential service in the midst of a pandemic. While our operations looked quite different with limited number of vendors, restricted shopper access and new safety procedures, the market provided a sense of normalcy in times of uncertainty. Our staff navigated new guidelines to create the safest possible environment for shoppers and vendors alike. The community support was extraordinary with shoppers lining up to enter the market area and shop from as many vendors as possible. Our vendors developed new ways of serving customers and came prepared, rain or shine. Together we accomplished what seemed near impossible in March: a series of community events that brought together neighbors and vendors, building community, supporting the local economy and promoting healthy living.



For fifteen years now, the North Bend Farmers Market has been hosted at the scenic Si View Park framed by a spectacular view of Mount Si. Visitors appreciate this unique setting while shopping for fresh produce, specialty products, gorgeous flowers, tasty treats and handmade gifts. Families with picnic blankets, strollers and leashed pets are a familiar sight at the market and a perfect fit for the relaxed atmosphere with live music and plenty of activities for kids to do.

The Market doesn't just happen without effort. It takes know-how, commitment, and cooperation from organizers, the community and financial supporters to keep the market sustainable and strong. **This year our operations would not have been possible without funding support from the CARES Act.** Our team includes full-time Si View staff committing time throughout the year to planning, coordination, fundraising and management of the market. Additionally, part-time and maintenance staff assist with weekly operations during the season. Our team is committed to bringing the best possible community event each and every market day, greeting visitors with open arms and big smiles. Staff also educates consumers with seasonal recipes, food storage safety tips, recycling and composting info, and other helpful resources for shopping at farmers markets. Staff actively listen to shopper suggestions, collect ideas for future improvements and answer a variety of visitor questions.

North Bend Farmers Market is a member of the Washington State Farmers Market Association and the National Farmers Market Coalition prioritizing vendor spaces to farmers and local businesses and whenever possible. The market operates under permit from King County Public Health Department (KCPH), as do all participating food vendors. We are an authorized retailer to accept SNAP and EBT benefits and participate in the State Department of Health's SNAP Match program. The Market is also authorized by the Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board to allow sale and sampling of wine and beer by approved vendors. The North Bend Farmers Market isn't just about selling though, it is also about gathering and building community. A number of local non-profit organizations participate with messaging on volunteer opportunities and ways for community to get involved and support their locally focused missions. Non-profits have included environmental causes, church groups, event organizers, food security programs and more.

Live music is the perfect accompaniment to the market atmosphere. A variety of genres is selected to reach a diverse audience throughout the season. Entertainment is the single largest expense of the market and frequent applicant of grants and other external funding sources. Due to the pandemic, live concerts were not hosted in 2020.

North Bend Farmers Market's biggest challenge is the ongoing need for external financial support to ensure sustainability of operations. The market is primarily funded by Si View Metro Parks through vendor fees. External sponsorship and grant funding is pursued each season to help fill the gaps. We are proud to be an integral part of the community and look forward to your participation and support in 2021!