



# BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

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## **Benton Harbor Farmers Market Announces 2023 Opening Day, Seeks Additional Produce Vendors**

**Benton Harbor, Michigan, May 30, 2023** – The Benton Harbor Farmers Market will kick off its 13th year supporting local vendors and promoting fresh produce on Wednesday, June 21.

The market will run every Wednesday through Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dwight P. Mitchell City Center Park, 100 E. Main St.

Since 2010, the Benton Harbor Farmers Market has worked to provide affordable access to fresh, local fruits and vegetables, promote healthy habits and build relationships between producers and consumers. In addition to cash, the market supports a variety of food assistance programs including SNAP benefits, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC, Senior Project FRESH and Corewell Health Lakeland Prescription for Health.

“The Benton Harbor Farmers Market has been an effective tool to help us make fresh produce more accessible for community members,” said Health Officer Guy Miller. “We’re looking forward to another great year of building relationships and promoting healthy habits.”

As the market season draws closer, the Benton Harbor Farmers Market is seeking produce vendors. There are no vendor fees required to join the market and vendors are welcome to join week by week throughout the season as they have goods available.

The Benton Harbor Farmers Market welcomes five vendor types:

- **Agricultural** : Vendors with fresh produce, including those who grow, raise or harvest products such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meat and poultry, honey, grains and other crops.
- **Value-added food**: Vendors selling prepared foods made in a licensed facility or covered under cottage food laws.

- **Artisans:** Vendors who create and design handcrafted products such as jewelry or artwork.
- **Activity volunteers:** Organizations or individuals who lead hands-on activities at the market.
- **Educators or information providers:** Organizations or individuals who provide a service or demonstration of educational value.

Each vendor will be given a 10-foot-by-10-foot space free of charge. Vendors should plan to bring needed equipment for their booth, including tents, tables, chairs, tablecloths, etc.

Vendors who are interested in being part of the market should review the [Benton Harbor Farmers Market Vendor Handbook](#) and contact Carla Smart-White at [csmart@bchdmi.org](mailto:csmart@bchdmi.org) or 269.927.5637.

The Benton Harbor Farmers Market is operated by the Berrien County Health Department and supported by grant funding from Be Healthy Berrien through the United Way of Southwest Michigan.

More information about the market can be found on our [website](#).

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