



# MAPLE GROVE FARMERS MARKET

## 2026 Vendor Rules & Guidelines

### Summer Outdoor Market:

Thursdays, May 7 – October 15, 2026

3 p.m. – 7 p.m. (thru September) 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. (in October)

### Indoor Market:

Spring 2026: February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26 and April 9 & 23

Winter 2026: November 12 & 24 and December 10 & 22

All markets will be at the Maple Grove Community Center:

12951 Weaver Lake Road Maple Grove, MN 55369

[www.maplegrovesfarmersmarket.com](http://www.maplegrovesfarmersmarket.com)

763-494-6500

## **Mission Statement & Purpose**

The Maple Grove Farmers Market is an initiative of the City of Maple Grove. It serves as a gathering place for consumers to purchase vendor grown produce and vendor-made specialty foods and consumable items. The market promotes and supports healthy living, local agriculture, and community interaction all in an upbeat, welcoming atmosphere. Farmers and producers sell their products directly to the public, allowing consumers to have a direct relationship with the vendor.

## **Contact Information**

### Office and mailing address:

Maple Grove Farmers Market

12951 Weaver Lake Road

Maple Grove, MN 55369

Email: [farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov)

Website: [www.maplegrovefarmersmarket.com](http://www.maplegrovefarmersmarket.com)

Phone: (763) 494 – 6500

Market Manager direct line: (763) 494 – 5824

## **Important Dates**

Application due date:

- The vendor application will open in January 2026 and close April 30, 2026.
  - Priority acceptance will be given to return vendors in good standing. All other applications will be considered based on space and product offering.
- Vendor fee due dates:
  - Indoor spring market – February 28
  - Summer outdoor market – April 30
  - Indoor winter market – October 31
- Vendor orientation
  - April 30 – stay tuned for more details

## **Overview**

The Maple Grove Farmers Market guidelines and rules are intended to ensure:

- Residents and visitors may gather safely to purchase local food and farm products.

- The market and its vendors are in compliance with federal, state, county and local regulations.
- Vendors have a fair, equitable and respectful atmosphere in which to conduct their business.

This document seeks to set forth a basic set of rules and guidelines to provide for the successful operation of the Maple Grove Farmers Market but cannot contemplate every possibility.

***Therefore, the market reserves the right to do whatever may be additionally necessary to protect the intent and well-being of the market, it's patrons and vendors, as well as staff, volunteers, and the City of Maple Grove.***

## **Application Information**

- All vendors must submit a completed application to be considered for participation. Submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance. Incomplete applications may not be considered.
- Vendor applications are considered based on the following criteria:
  - Vendor history with the market.
  - The number of vendors in each product category.
  - Does the vendor source ingredients locally?
  - Applicant's care and attention to detail when completing the application.
- An application fee of \$25 will be applied to new vendors accepted for the first time.
- Only one applicant per household, farm or business will accepted.
- Applicants are required to select the specific dates they wish to participate during the market season. A minimum of three market dates is required for your application to be considered.
- During the selection of a vendor, the City shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, or status with regard to public assistance.

## **Market Goods**

- The Maple Grove Farmers Market encourages all vendors and food trucks, except vendors with home-grown produce or farm-raised products, to source and purchase at local ingredient when making their products.
- The following items may be accepted for sale at the market. All products must be made in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
  - Home-grown produce including herbs and spices, bedding plants, hanging and potted plants, perennials and cut flowers.

- Farmstead products such as cheese, meat, honey, maple syrup, etc.
- Home-made artisanal items such as baked goods, canned foods, smoothies, kombucha, etc.
- Wild-caught, wild-harvested or foraged food items.
- Non-consumable items that contain farm products (ex. soap made from goat milk).
- Ready to eat food stands and mobile food trucks.
  - i. Priority will be given to food vendors who source local ingredients and use compostable serve-ware.
  - ii. The Maple Grove Farmers Market reserves the right to limit food truck vendor participation in an effort to focus on farmers and vendors with home-made products.
- Arts and craft vendors may be accepted at the discretion of the market based on product offerings. Please email [farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov) for more information.
- Applicants must be actively involved in the planting, growing, harvesting and/or making of the products they sell.
- Vendors may sell only the products listed in their application and approved by the market. Vendors may request permission to add new products to their offerings at any time.
- No live animals may be displayed, sold or given away at the market.
- Market staff reserves the right to inspect a vendor's greenhouse, garden, farm, field or other place of production to verify that the products being sold meet market qualifications.

## **Payment Process**

- Vendors who are accepted to participate will receive an email with their invoice and instructions on how to make payment. Vendors may not begin selling until all vendor fees have been paid.
- Vendors will not be reimbursed for market dates they cancel.
- No refunds will be given if the market is cancelled, delayed or closed early for any reason. Any form of refund would be through a documented unusual hardship or compassionate reason with approval by market staff at their sole discretion. Such refunds will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## Fee Structure

Stall Size	Price per market day
<b>Outdoor Market</b>	
Small Stall 18' wide; fits one 10'x10' tent	\$21/day
Medium Stall 27' wide, fits two 10'x10' tents	\$26/day
Large Stall 36' wide, fits three 10'x10' tents	\$31/day
Food Stand/Food Truck	\$50/day
<b>Indoor Market</b>	\$22/day
<b>Electrical Fee</b>	\$2/day
<b>New Application Fee</b>	\$25 (applies only to newly accepted vendors)

## Attendance

- Vendors are expected to attend all market dates selected in their application.
- Vendors must notify market staff if they cannot attend a market. Notice must be given in one of the following ways, and no later than 9:00 a.m. on market day:
  - Call or text the farmers market cell phone (763) 442 – 7441.
  - Email [farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov)
- A no-call, no show, unexcused absences and/or repeated late arrivals may result in:
  - Verbal and/or written warning from market staff.
  - Dismissal of participation at the market. Vendors with chronic attendance issues may not be invited back the following season.
- If a personal emergency arises during the market and a vendor must leave, the vendor must notify market staff who will facilitate safe departure.

## Market Operations

### Indoor Markets:

- Vendors may begin setting up at 1:30 p.m. on market day. A Market Manager will be on site to check-in vendors and assist with questions.

- Vendors may not begin selling until 3 p.m. No pre-sales are allowed. A bell will sound to begin selling.
- Vendors must exercise caution with their vehicles in the community center parking lot. Do not block the main entrance as you load in and out.
- Vendors must be unloaded and in their space by 2:45 p.m.
- Vendors may not tear down their displays until the market closes at 6 p.m. (even if sold out).
- Vendors are responsible for removing and disposing large amounts of debris and trash resulting from their business or operation.

#### Summer Outdoor Market:

- Vendors may begin setting up at 1:00 p.m. on market days. Vendors must wait for market staff to remove the parking barricades to enter the market lot. A Market Manager will be on site to check-in vendors and assist with questions.
- Vendors may arrive no later 2:40 p.m. The market lot will be closed to all moving vehicles from 2:40 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  - If you arrive after 2:40 p.m. you must park in an adjacent area and walk your products and supplies to your stall.
- Vendors may not begin selling until 3:00 p.m. A horn will sound to begin selling.
- Vendors may not tear down and must remain at the market until 7 p.m. even if sold out.
- Restrooms are available inside the Maple Grove Community Center.
- Vendors are required to use the market’s electrical plug ins. A nominal daily fee will be applied. Generators are now allowed.
  - It is the responsibility of the vendor to ensure that their equipment/electrical needs are compatible with the market’s electrical outlets/output.

#### Stalls & Set Up

- All vendors are required to use a tent with the appropriate weights. ***Vendors assume full responsibility for any injury, loss or damage of any kind that results from improperly or insufficiently securing tents, awnings, display equipment, products or other items.***
  - Tents and canopies must be weighted at all times, regardless of weather conditions.
  - Each tent leg must be secured with a minimum of 25 lbs.
  - If your vehicle is parked in your stall, it is recommended that you use rope or bungees cords to secure your tent to your vehicle for extra security.
  - Vendors may be asked to take down their tents due to high wind conditions, or if you do not have adequate weights.

- Broken or compromised tents are not allowed and vendors will be asked to take them down.
- If you plan to park your vehicle in your stall, you must request a stall size that will fit your vehicle or allow you to park with ease. Larger vehicles are harder to park when neighboring vendor tents are fully in place.
- Vendors may request one of the following stall options:
  - Small stall (18' wide, fits one 10'x10' tent)
  - Medium stall (27' wide, fits two 10'x10' tents)
  - Large stall (36' wide, fits three 10'x10' tents)
- Having a stall in one season is no guarantee that a vendor will have the same stall space in any subsequent season.
- Stall space is assigned by market staff to allow for the best product mix, traffic flow, electrical needs, etc.
- Every effort will be made to keep full season vendors in the same location throughout a market season. However, vendors may be temporarily or permanently re-assigned at the sole discretion of market management.
- Vendors may not transfer, sell, rent or lease their stall space. Transfers within a family household or to a new business owner may be allowed at the discretion of market management.
- All items must be contained within a vendor's assigned space. Market staff may ask that unsightly, inappropriate, unauthorized, or unsafe materials be removed.
- If a vendor sets up in the wrong location, market staff will make the decision on what occurs depending on how many other vendors are present and set up.
- No stakes may be pounded into the parking lot.

## **Displays**

- Vendors are responsible for providing all tables, chairs, canopies, signs, tent weights, cash and all items needed for their display.
- Vendors are encouraged to post clear, visible, professional-quality signs with their business name.
- Display signs, a-frames or flags may only be related to the products for sale or the vendor's business.
- All food must be displayed 6" off the ground to eliminate ground contamination.
- Prices must be displayed prominently and clearly. Signs with product prices may not be larger than 8"x11".
- The general cleanliness of the market area is everyone's responsibility. All vendors must keep their area neat while selling and make certain that the area is clean before leaving.

## **Vendor Behavior**

- Vendors, their family members or paid staff may attend the market to sell products. Everyone who sells is expected to understand and follow market rules, procedures and guidelines.
- Vendors must represent themselves in an appropriate manner, dress and state of cleanliness. Shirts and shoes must be worn.
- No one under the age of 18 may sell or maintain a stall without adult supervision.
- Vendors are not allowed to have pets/animals at the market. Only service animals are allowed. It is against Maple Grove Park Board policy as well as Minnesota Department of Agriculture regulations.
- Alcohol, smoking, drugs (unless used with prescription) and cannabis use are prohibited at the market, including in a vendor's vehicle or stall. Vendors must be drug-free and sober upon arriving at the market. Violation of this policy is grounds for suspension or immediate revocation of a vendor's participation at the market.
- Sexual harassment by any market vendor or participant is prohibited. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome advance, sexually suggestive or lewd comment, or physical contact of a sexual nature which creates or has the tendency to create an intimidating hostile, or offensive environment, whether any such conduct is directed at market staff, vendors, or participants. Market management has the authority to investigate and make final determinations regarding any claims of sexual harassment as they may see fit. Market management may take appropriate action, in management's sole discretion, to prevent any reoccurrence of sexual harassment, including by removing the perpetrators of sexual harassment from the market, prohibiting their re-entry to the market, or contacting appropriate authorities.
- Vendors are expected to treat other vendors politely and use a problem-solving approach to any problems that arise. If a vendor is experiencing a problem with a fellow vendor or customer, they must notify market staff immediately. In the event that vendor behavior is offensive or threatening to other members of the market community, management reserves the right to permanently reassign the vendor to a new space or remove the vendor from the market.
- Music, news broadcasts, or other audio may not be played at any booth or in the general market area.
- Vendors may be asked to distribute printed Maple Grove Farmers Market information.

## **Permits & Licenses**

- The market may be inspected by City, Hennepin County or State inspectors on any day without advance notice. Inspectors may have the authority to temporarily close vendor businesses. To avoid disruption or lost of income, it is important to seek all appropriate licenses and permits prior to the beginning of the market season.
- All permits and licenses, and any costs associated with them, are the sole responsibility of the vendor. Any required sales tax collections are also the sole responsibility of the vendor.
- There is a table at the end of this section intended to guide vendors when determining which forms, licenses or permits are required for their business. This is a guide only and does not cover all business types or products sold. We recommend you contact the appropriate licensing agency to confirm your licensing requirement.
  - Hennepin County Environmental Health: (612) 543-5200
  - Minnesota Department of Health: (651) 201-4500  
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/food/license/index.html>)
  - Minnesota Department of Agriculture: (651) 201-6000
  - The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Food Licensing Wizard  
(<http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/foodlicensingwizard/>)

<b>Vendor Permit, License &amp; Insurance Guide</b>	MN Revenue Form ST-19	Proof of Insurance	MN Dept. of Ag Cottage Foods Producer Registration	MN Dept. of Ag Wholesale Food Manufacturing License	MN Dept. Ag Retail Mobile Food Handler License	MN Dept. of Ag	MN Dept Health License OR Henn. Co. Reciprocity	Maple Grove Fire Dept. Food Truck Inspection
100% products of the farm such as fresh produce, pure honey and maple syrup	X	X						
Meat, dairy products, baked goods, products not registered as CF, farmstead products with added ingredients (flavored honey)	X	X		X If more than 50% of sales are from wholesales	X			
Cottage Foods (non-potentially hazardous homemade foods)	X	X	X					
Seasonal Temporary Food Stands - STFS (ready to eat food served from tent)	X	X				X If licensed with MDA as STFS, no further license needed	--OR-- X If licensed with MDH as STFS, apply for reciprocity with HC	
Food trucks or mobile food units - MFU	X	X				X If licensed with MDA as MFU, no further license needed	--OR-- X If licensed with MDH as MFU, apply for reciprocity with HC	X If your MFU produces smoke or grease vapors, you will need to be inspected by the MGF

## Insurance

- The City of Maple Grove and the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board are not liable for any injury, illness, theft, loss or damage of any kind to either the buyer or seller, or their property, arising out of or pertaining to the preparation for, participation in, or use or consumption of products bought, sold or provided at the Maple Grove farmers Market; whether such injury, illness, theft, loss or damage occurred prior, during, or after the Maple Grove Farmers Market. By participating in the Market, seller further agrees to indemnify and hold the City of Maple Grove and the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board harmless for and against any claims for such injury, illness, theft, loss or damage.
- Each vendor is required to carry General Liability/Product Insurance as outlined below. A certificate of insurance is required as part of your vendor application.
  - \$1,000,000 each occurrence
  - \$1,000,000 aggregate general liability
  - The City of Maple Grove must be listed as an additional insured on your policy for the dates of the Maple Grove Farmers Market and shown on the certificate of insurance as such.

## Weather Policy

- While the market is rain or shine, instances of severe weather can affect market operations. The manager will decide whether to hold the market, delay opening, or cancel. This determination will generally not be made until set-up time at 1:00 p.m. on market day.
- The following weather conditions may cause the market to be delayed, suspended, or cancelled:
  - Audible thunder/visible lightning
  - Thunderstorm or tornado watch/warning
  - High winds/heavy rain or snow
  - High heat index (103 degrees and above)
- Every effort will be made to provide ample time for vendors and customers to safely respond to hazardous weather conditions. It is the vendor's responsibility to keep their contact information up to date so they can be contacted in the event that a market is cancelled.
- It is acceptable for a vendor to cancel their participation if they are uncomfortable attending because of the weather, or if conditions are not good for their products.
  - Vendors may call/text market staff at (763) 442-7441 or email [farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov).
  - No refunds will be given if the market is cancelled or delayed due to weather.

## Sampling

- Sampling can be a good way to engage shoppers to share information about your business and products.
- Sampling requirements:
  - If your samples are prepared on site or not individually packaged, you are required to have a hand-washing station.
    - Vendors must bring their own water, soap, catch bucket and paper towels.
    - Washing station must have a toggle type spigot.
    - Samples must be less than 3 oz. and free of charge.
  - If your samples are prepared at home and packaged in individual sample size portions (3 oz. or less), you are not required to have a hand-washing station.
  - “Open”/”Self-serving” sampling is not allowed at the market. This is when samples are left out in the open, not in individual portions, and customers are serving themselves. Vendors must serve/give the samples to the customers.

## Market Staff Responsibilities

- The City of Maple Grove hires staff to manage and oversee the operations of the Maple Grove Farmers Market.
  - The Market Manager (Recreation Supervisor – Farmers Market) supervises operations and plans for development and promotion of the market.
  - The Assistant Manager (Recreation Coordinator – Special Events and Farmers Market) supports all aspects of the market and may be designated the on-site market manager.
  - The Market Cashier coordinates sales and reimbursement of all market tokens and secures the safety of market currencies.
- The Market Manager and Assistant Market Manager are the final authority on market day, are responsible for public and vendor concerns and serves as liaisons between vendors/customers and the City of Maple Grove staff and officials.
- Any and all changes to the market’s rules and guidelines will be communicated to vendors through Market Staff.
- Market staff have the authority to request any person to leave the market operating area and, if necessary, call the police for assistance.

## Enforcement of Market Rules

- Market staff values a good relationship with vendors and will make every effort to educate vendors about market rules and guidelines before and during the season.

- Staff reserve the right to suspend or revoke the selling rights of any vendor who repeatedly disregards one or more of the rules outlined in these guidelines.
- The rules, policies, and guidelines are determined, and may be changed, by the market staff with approval of the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board. Vendors will be notified of any significant changes and the date they become effective.
- No person or entity other than the City of Maple Grove, Maple Grove Farmers Market or agents thereof may make use of the Maple Grove Farmers Market name or logos without the express permission of the City of Maple Grove.

## **Dismissal & Grievances**

- Vendors not in compliance with the rules and regulations outlined in this guide may be dismissed from the market.
- Vendors who misrepresent their product or bring products they are not approved to sell may be asked to remove such products and may be dismissed from the market.
- Any vendor-to-vendor issues may be brought to the attention of the Market Manager.
- Any vendor to Market Manager issues may be brought to the attention of the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

## **Feedback**

- The City of Maple Grove encourages feedback about the farmers market. Both positive comments and constructive criticism about all aspects of the Maple Grove Farmers Market may be sent the following ways:
  - By email: [farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:farmersmarket@maplegrovern.gov)
  - By mail: Maple Grove Farmers Market, 12951 Weaver Lake Road, Maple Grove MN 55369

## Maple Grove Farmers Market Token Program

- Tokens are an important part of the market’s promotional strategy. All vendors are required to participate in the token program.
- Additional Promotional Programs: The Maple Grove Farmers Market reserves the right to participate in other “promotional currency” programs and will provide detailed information to all vendors about the use and redemption of tokens, coupons, or other promotional currency.
- Please review this important information about token and payment programs at the Maple Grove Farmers Market. The Maple Grove Farmers Market offers shoppers the convenience of using their credit, debit and EBT cards to purchase tokens at the Market Information Booth.
- Why offer tokens? Shoppers don’t always carry cash or sometimes run out. Offering tokens provides a source of currency at the market and allows folks to make larger and/or impulse purchases. It also allows our customers who participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase fresh and local goods at the market. Token sales increase the amount of money in circulation, which means that you can sell more!
- Vendors will be reimbursed for Maple Grove-issued tokens every two weeks. Other markets may issue their own tokens. We will only reimburse tokens printed with “Maple Grove Farmers Market” (see next page for examples). The exception to this rule is Market/Produce Bucks, which you may redeem at any participating market.

***Vendors cannot use tokens as change for a customer’s purchase (you should provide change ONLY in cash) nor should a vendor use tokens to make their own purchases or transfer tokens to another vendor for any reason.***

**All vendors are REQUIRED to accept the \$5 and \$2 tokens. You may only make change in cash.**



\$5 Tokens are issued when a customer swipes their credit or debit card at the Market Information Booth. *Per your signed vendor application ALL VENDORS agree to accept these tokens, even if your business accepts credit/debit cards. As noted on the token, you may make change in cash.* \$5 tokens do not expire. Vendors will be reimbursed for \$5 tokens.



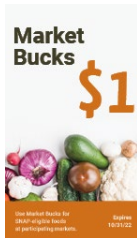
\$2 Tokens are Maple Grove Farmers Market promotional tokens and are given as customer loyalty rewards. *Per your signed vendor application ALL VENDORS agree to accept these tokens, even if your business accepts credit/debit cards. As noted on the token, you may make change in cash. \$2 tokens do not expire.*

**Vendors with eligible products may choose to accept \$1 EBT tokens. You must sign an EBT agreement form if you wish to participate in the EBT program. *Change may not be given.***

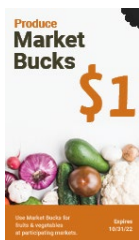


**\$1 Tokens** are issued when a customer swipes his or her SNAP/EBT (food support) card. \$1 Tokens may be used to purchase any grocery item that is intended to be prepared at home (fresh or preserved produce, meats, eggs, cheese, breads, sauces, pickles, jams, juices, prepared foods that are packaged to take home, etc.)

\$1 EBT Tokens may **NOT** be used for items that will be consumed on-site at Market (prepared drinks, hot foods, single cookies or snacks). They may **NOT** be used for decorative items such as non-edible pumpkins or gourds, decorative corn or non-edible flowering plants. DO NOT use



*Market Bucks are a special incentive for SNAP/EBT customers. These shoppers will receive a FREE match of up to \$10 when they use their EBT card at market. Market Bucks are worth \$1, and can be used to purchase EBT-eligible products. They follow all the same rules as the EBT \$1 tokens and you will be reimbursed for them. Unlike tokens, they have an expiration date.*



***Market Produce Bucks** are another incentive for SNAP/EBT customers. These shoppers will receive a FREE match of up to \$10 when they use their EBT card at market. Market Produce Bucks are worth \$1, and can be used to purchase only **FRESH PRODUCE ITEMS**. They look similar to Market Bucks but Market Produce Bucks have a “bite” removed from them the upper right hand corner. Market Produce Bucks have an expiration date.*

**Vendors who sell fresh produce or food-bearing plants may accept \$2 Power of Produce Club tokens. Change may be given.**



Power of Produce (PoP) tokens are issued to children during the outdoor market season. They should be accepted ONLY for fresh vegetables or fruits or food-bearing plants. PoP tokens are larger than other tokens and state “produce only.” As the token states, you may make change—but we prefer that you sell young customers the full \$2 in produce.

### **Vendor Reimbursement Process**

- Accept the various tokens you are allowed based on your products.
  - a. You **MUST** accept \$5 and \$2 tokens.
  - b. If you sell fresh produce, you **MAY** accept the \$2 PoP Club tokens.
  - c. You may accept \$1 EBT tokens and Market Bucks if you sell qualifying products—edible items for home consumption—and have a signed agreement on file with Maple Grove FM.
- Each vendor will receive a token kit and daily submission form. Tokens must be sorted and pre-counted and the form completed before they will be accepted by market staff.
- Tear off and retain the back copy of the token receipt form for your records. Market staff will contact you within 3-5 business days if there is any discrepancy between your form totals and the number of tokens in the bag.
- Vendors are reimbursed every two weeks via a paper check mailed to their address in their vendor application, or through ACH direct deposit if the vendor chooses to sign up.