

A Day in the Life of a Farmers Market Manager



Local produce, flowers, baked goods, honey and volunteers - that's a recipe for success at Fairfax County Farmers Markets. These markets are overseen by a dedicated team of volunteer market managers. Every market day is an adventure. Just ask a Market Manager!

Market day starts early. Managers assist vendors, gather supplies, ring the opening bell, welcome customers and answer questions. Dedicated customers themselves, they always find time to shop for local foods and interact with vendors and customers.

Serving as a market manager takes commitment, but collectively managers note the job gives back more than it takes. "When you are doing something for the community you live in you feel like you are doing positive work in the neighborhood," said Fran Lovaas, manager at Reston. Interacting with residents, trying new foods and supporting local farmers and impacting community health make this position extremely rewarding.

Local farmers offer unique perspectives. "One of the best things is getting to know the vendors", says Bob Varela, manager at the McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon farmers market. "It's a matter of taste - literally and figuratively - you can taste the difference between produce bought at the grocery store and local produce picked at peak ripeness."

Managers recognize the positive impact they make on the community. Annandale Manager Michael Fay notes, "People love their farmers market. It's nice to play a role in facilitating something the community really values." Markets play an essential role in the community. "Making the farmers market welcoming and consistent is the best thing you can do for the community", adds Nick Nahas, manager at Oak Marr Farmers Market.

The Park Authority is looking for eager volunteers to fill the market manager ranks. Visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets to learn more about the markets and volunteer opportunities.

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4-H Fair & Carnival

Have some old-fashioned fun with carnival games, rides and exhibits at Frying Pan Farm Park August 4-7, 2022! Plus watch live entertainment, enjoy fair food and try farm activities!

4-H fairs have been a tradition for many families at this Herndon location for generations.

"4-H stands for head, heart, hands and health. It's a national organization that has served young people for more than 100 years," said Frying Pan Manager Nicole Mitchell. "We're happy to give families the opportunity to see fascinating 4-H projects as part of this fun community event!"

Get 4-H Fair and Carnival details at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair.

