

Peoria RiverFront Market

2026 Rules and Regulations



2026 SCHEDULE: May 23 – September 26, 2026
Saturday mornings 8 – Noon
Set-up Time: 6:15 am - 7:45 am.

All vehicles (unless in a designated space) must be moved from the parking lot by 7:50 am.
*July 4, 2026 Market is to be held in the Peoria Civic Center parking lot.

**REGISTRATION:
& MANAGEMENT** Peoria RiverFront Association
Peoria RiverFront Market
401 SW Water St, Suite 201C
Peoria, IL 61602.

PRODUCERS ONLY MARKET: All products must be handmade, grown or created within the State of Illinois by the vendor selling the item.

An application must be completed and submitted to the Peoria RiverFront Association office each year. If approved, the vendor must prepay the appropriate fees: Seasonal by May 23, 2026; Daily at least one week prior to first Saturday at the Market.

Due to increasing interest, vendors that have participated in previous seasons must submit an application by April 3, 2026, to be guaranteed a space for this year. New vendors will be placed on a waiting list until it is determined how many spaces are available.

PERMITS AND LICENSES: Health Department Licenses may apply and are the responsibility of the vendor to obtain proper licensure. **For licensing requirements, call the Peoria County Health Department at 309-679-6161. Health Department and other officials will visit the market to assure compliance with regulations.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMIT: All approved food/drink vendors must obtain an annual permit from the Peoria Fire Department. This includes food vendors selling cottage foods, prepackaged items, baked goods, value-added, and ready-to-eat products. There is no cost for the permit. Contact Brad Pierson at 309-494-8734 or bpiereson@peoriagov.org for an application.

VENDOR ELIGIBILITY:

- **Produce vendors:** Fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, plants grown by the vendor within the state of Illinois.
- **Retail Food:** Foods prepared and packaged in a licensed facility within the state of Illinois. Retail businesses must provide proof of license from County Health Department.
- **Potentially hazardous foods:** Must meet proper requirements and be licensed by the Peoria County Health Department.
- **Meats:** Must be USDA inspected
- **Cottage food operations:** Non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in home kitchen must meet all requirements of Public Act 097-0393 (IL State Bill 840). All cottage food vendors must register with the health department in the county of residence and provide proof of registration.
- **Ready-to-Eat Food (hot/cold items not packaged to take home):** **A limited number of vendors will be allowed to sell prepared foods on-site.** Vendors wishing to sell Ready-to-Eat foods must receive approval from the RiverFront Market Board. Approval in previous years does not guarantee approval for current year.
- **Art:** Items must be original works of art created by the vendor within the State of Illinois. See application for further regulations.

GENERAL MARKET INFORMATION:

- There will be no re-selling of any product or produce at the RiverFront Market.
- Third-party sellers, including direct/party sales or multi-level marketing consultants and distributors, will not be considered.
- The RiverFront Market does not offer exclusive rights to any one vendor to sell any one product, however, if Market Management believes the number of vendors offering the same or similar products is excessive, duplicate products may be denied entry.
- Subletting seasonal vendor space is prohibited.
- RiverFront Market Management considers many factors when evaluating vendor applications and reserves the right to refuse any application and has final approval on all submissions.

- All vendors agree to allow the Market Manager to make site visits, as needed, and to inspect any product sold at the Market. Vendors will be notified prior to a site visit.
- Market Management has the right to remove any vendor from the Market or refuse service to any vendor who does not comply with the Market Rules and Regulations.

VENDOR SPACE: Vendor space size may vary depending on location within the market footprint. No space will be smaller than 12' x 12'. Spaces are assigned upon approval of the application. No permanent structures will be provided or allowed; tents and tables are not provided. **A tent is recommended and must be properly anchored with weights (not stakes) each week, regardless of weather conditions. (Fire Dept Regulation)**

Only designated spaces allow for vehicles to remain parked throughout the morning. **All others should unload and move their vehicle prior to setting up tent/display to allow for traffic flow during set up.** Everything brought to the site must also be taken away including but not limited to all trash generated, tents, chairs and vehicles. Gas generators are not permitted unless approved by Management.

The Market Manager determines vending location and reserves the right to adjust seasonal reserved spaces if warranted. **Vehicles parked overnight may adjust the Market layout and will require your flexibility. The Market Manager determines vending location each week with these variables in mind.**

- **SEASONAL VENDORS:** Seasonal vendors are provided the same reserved space each week. They are required to notify the Market Manager if they will be absent on any given Saturday. **A Seasonal Vendor who is absent for more than 6 Saturdays throughout the season – or more than 2 absences in the month of September - will be required to pay the Daily Rate next season and may risk losing their seasonal space.**
- **DAILY VENDORS:** Daily Vendors provide a week-to-week variety to the Market. The Market Manager determines vendor location. Each daily vendor will be placed based on vendor product, space availability, and strategic market balancing. Daily vendors must price their products competitively in keeping with seasonal vendors. Approved Daily Vendors must contact the Market Manager by the prior Monday to check for availability and to reserve a Saturday space.
- **LATE VENDORS:** Spaces of vendors who do not arrive by 7:35 am may be reassigned to another vendor. If you arrive after 8:00 am, do not attempt to enter the Market area with your vehicle. This is a safety issue and will not be tolerated. **Under no circumstances may you drive into your space after 8:00 am.** You may park your vehicle and hand-carry your product to your space. Or you may be designated to an outlying space that does not put our customers at risk. You may also choose not to participate that day but will not be refunded any fees paid in advance. This is for the safety of our customers and is not negotiable.
- **EARLY DEPARTURES:** Vendors are expected to participate each week until the stated closing time of 12:00 pm. If a vendor is completely sold out of product, he/she may hand-carry supplies out of the Market area. **No vehicles will be allowed in or out of the Market area 8:00 am - 12:10 pm OR prior to safety barricades or parking cones being removed by Market staff – strictly enforced!** Exceptions may be made in emergency situations or drastic weather conditions at the discretion of the Market Manager.

PERSONS ALLOWED TO SELL AT THE MARKET: Persons selling a vendor's products must be a member of the vendor's family or a paid employee who participates in the production of products sold at the Market. Persons selling at the Market must be able to accurately answer questions about how products were grown and harvested or how they were prepared, processed, or created.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Vendor behavior, personal appearance, and maintenance of sales area should reflect positively on the Market's overall appearance, quality and reputation. Vendors are expected to:

- Maintain safe, clean conditions in and around the sales area
- Maintain a professional and tidy personal appearance; shirt and shoes required
- Maintain cordial relations with customers, market staff, and other vendors
- Refrain from smoking in and around the sales area
- No crying out, "hawking," or other aggressive sales techniques are allowed.
- Maintain clear access for pedestrian traffic

SIGNAGE: With the goal of a pleasant shopping experience for all, the Market requests that only signage relevant to the business and/or products being sold be posted in, on or around the vending space. Sandwich boards should be kept as far out of pedestrian walkways as possible.

SEVERE WEATHER: The RiverFront Market is a "Rain or Shine" market, but in case of severe or threatening weather or other emergency, Market Management may choose to cancel or close the market. If the Market is canceled before setup, an email will be sent out to all vendors alerting them of the closure.

In the event of severe weather (lightning, hail, tornado) during market hours, please evacuate the Market space and seek nearby shelter. Do not return to the Market site until directed by Market Staff or public safety officials.

Some weather events may not be severe enough to evacuate or cancel the Market, but should you feel your personal safety is in jeopardy you have two options:

- Leave your booth to find adequate shelter until such time you feel safe returning.
- Pack up your materials and leave.

In either case you will need to notify Market Staff of your intentions. If you desire to leave the Market, you will need to pack up your materials and lower your tent prior to pulling your vehicle into the Market area. Staff will escort your vehicle to/from your area.

WASTE DISPOSAL:

All vendors are responsible for removal and disposal of their own boxes and waste product, including old or damaged produce. Ready-to-eat food vendors must provide at least one trash receptacle and are responsible for taking that receptacle with them. Trash (securely tied in sturdy bags) may be left at one of four designed trash pick-up points. **Do not put vendor garbage or produce waste in Market garbage containers. Vendors are prohibited from disposing of vendor trash in dumpsters that belong to surrounding businesses.**

TAXES, LICENSES, AND INSURANCE: Vendors are expected to familiarize themselves with local and state laws related to their business and are responsible for compliance including but not limited to laws related to health regulations, sales tax, and insurance. **All food vendors are required to have product liability insurance and must submit a copy to be on file with the Peoria RiverFront Association prior to selling at the Market.** Questions regarding general liability insurance should be directed to the agency that provides your farm coverage or personal insurance. Vendors are required to comply with Illinois and Peoria County Sales Tax law and Peoria County Public Health Department regulations governing the preparation, handling and presentation of food. It is the responsibility of every vendor to know if they are required to collect and remit Illinois Sales Tax.

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE: All vendors participating in the RiverFront Market shall be individually and severally responsible for any loss, cost, expense (including court costs and attorneys' fees), bodily or personal injury, death, and/or property damage that may arise as a result of the actions or negligence of the vendor or any of the vendor's servants, agents or employees. By signing the 2026 RiverFront Market Application, each vendor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Peoria RiverFront Association, the City of Peoria and their respective officers, agents, members and employees from and against any and all loss, cost, damage, injury and other expenses (including court costs and attorneys fees) suffered or incurred by reason of the actions or negligence of such vendor or its servants, agents or employees at the Peoria RiverFront Market. All vendors expressly acknowledge that no insurance is provided by the Peoria RiverFront Association or the City of Peoria for the benefit of participants or vendors in the RiverFront Market. If vendors wish to have the benefit of insurance coverage, they must maintain a policy of insurance covering their obligations under this agreement.

2026 MARKET FEES:

Full Season: \$475 with a commitment to the entire season (equates to \$25/Saturday) Seasonal vendors must pay in full and in advance prior to opening day.

Ready to Eat Food Vendors – Full Season: \$760 (equates to \$40/Saturday)

Daily Rate: \$40 per space

Mid-Season Produce Daily Rate: \$50 per space

Please make checks payable to Peoria RiverFront Market

Weekly payments from Daily vendors will be accepted at the Market and must be paid when entering for set up. All cash payments must be in an envelope marked with vendor's name.

Contact information:

Sharon Gramm, Market Manager
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Peoria, IL 61602
Ph: 309-671-5555
Email: info@peoriariverfront.com
www.VisitDowntownPeoria.com



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