



Ruskin Community Market

A project of
The Ruskin Community
Development Foundation
PO Box 549
Ruskin, FL 33573



The Ruskin Community Market is an open-air Farmers Market open to the public from 9AM to 2PM Saturdays, throughout the year.

The Ruskin Community Development Foundation was founded in 1994 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with the simple mission: “To develop and improve our community.” Current goals include supporting the award-winning Ruskin Community Plan that was formally adopted by the county into its Comprehensive Plan in 2005.

The Market is located in the Ruskin Town Center redevelopment district to promote sustainable economic development, create employment and income opportunities and provide the following specific benefits to the community:

- A place where local farmers and growers can sell directly to the public
- A convenient source of locally produced fruits and vegetables for the consumer
- An outlet for value-added agricultural products
- A sales venue for local artist and craft persons
- Create employment for market managers and helpers
- Encourage out-of-area shoppers and tourists to come into Ruskin
- Provide an “amenity” to local real estate developments
- Contribute to a “sense of place” for the Ruskin Town Center
- Support an RCDF business incubator program in conjunction with the USDA
- Fund other RCDF community projects
- Website to promote the market and Ruskin
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs for seniors and children
- Facilitate the Florida Farm to School fresh produce program with growers
- Help connect local growers to local restaurants
- Space for Extension environmental education programs
- Marketing and business workshops to help vendors succeed

Ruskin Community Market Goals and Philosophy

The Market has been established to be place where local produce, foods and hand-made products are offered to the community and visitors in a friendly outdoor market atmosphere reminiscent of an “Old Ruskin” where working for the commongood was a way of life

Creating & sustaining local employment and income is needed now more than ever. In addition to selling at the Market we hope to help provide our vendors a connectivity to a wider market of restaurants, stores and wholesalers.

We are looking to further a sustainable local economy based on local offerings.

Market Map



Market Rules and Guidelines

The Market Managers are Sandy Council 813 633-0069 and Fred Jacobsen 813 298-6028.

The Market Managers have the authority to deny any person the privilege of operation on the market who, in their judgment, is using methods that are detrimental to attendance at the Market or contrary to the Market policies or standards. The Market Managers have the right to deny any person the privilege of selling a particular item that, in their judgment, is detrimental to the attendance at the market, or contrary to Market policies. (The most current version is online at RuskinFoundation.org)

Sales tax proper licenses or permits where required are the responsibility of the vendor. The market managers will assist vendors with information about local requirements.

Smoking and alcohol will not be permitted.

The Ruskin Community Market will start very small with less than 12 vendors and grow to approximately 75 vendors within a year to 18 months.

The initial cost to the vendor will be \$25 per week. Changes to the weekly rate will be announced as far in advance as possible.

Preference will be given to local vendors who grow their own organic produce. Other vendors could include other local produce growers, value added agricultural products, resellers of locally grown produce, local artists and craft persons selling their own work, cut flowers and plants. Exceptions would include imported produce of a type not otherwise grown locally.

Food vendors with self-contained kitchens and necessary health permits will be allowed.

Used items and “flea market” products are not be allowed.

All vendors must be approved in advance by the Market Managers and are required to sign a Vendor Agreement prior to setting up and selling at The Market.

Eligible Vendors:

Preference is given to Vendors in the following order:

1. Local Growers of certified organic produce
2. Local Growers of other produce, flowers and plants
3. Local producers of value-added agricultural products
4. Local artists and craft persons selling their own work
5. Resellers of local produce, flowers and plants
6. Resellers of imported produce, flowers and plants not otherwise grown locally

Examples of Ineligible Vendors and items:

1. Flea market items
2. Used items and antiques
4. Products and produce imported from outside the area if otherwise available locally

Requirements of Vendors: All Vendors shall provide documentation that they meet all federal, state and local regulations. All Growers must provide the Market Manager the following documentation prior to selling at the Market:

- Product List and Grower’s Permit,
- Appropriate Certification,
- Registration or License through the appropriate governmental or supervising agency,
- Signed application and contract with the Market.
- All food vendors must show proof of a certified kitchen and any other food safety requirements as determined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, the United States Department of Agriculture or other appropriate governmental authority.
- Proof of liability insurance of \$1 million also naming Ruskin Community Development Foundation and the Ruskin Community Market.

All Vendors must submit a completed application and be approved by the Market Managers a week prior to setting up and selling.

The Ruskin Community Market reserves the right to refuse participation to any applicant for any or no reason. All complaints against Vendors shall be resolved by the Market Manager. Such complaints may, at the discretion of the Market Manager, result in termination of selling privileges. Market Manager shall designate all vending and parking areas.

Vendor's product and signage must be contained within the selling space unless otherwise approved by Market Manager. Nothing is to extend above the level of the umbrellas and signage should be appropriate to the space, product and theme of the Ruskin Community Market.

Vendors shall maintain a courteous and professional manner at the Market. Use of profanity or belligerence will be grounds for termination of selling privileges and immediate removal from the Market.

All products shall be clearly priced.

Scales for food or produce sales must meet Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services standards. Only Class 3 scales may be used.

A producer is defined as the person that grows or makes the product and may also include the producer's immediate family, partners, employees or designated agent upon prior review and approval. Producers may sell farm and food products including (but not limited to): fruit, vegetables, cut flowers, plants, cider, jams, jellies, relishes, honey, canned goods and baked goods. It is the responsibility of each producer to abide by all state and federal regulations which governs the production, harvest, preparation, preservation, labeling or safety of products offered for sale at the market.

Vendors are liable for their own products. The Ruskin Community Market and the Ruskin Community Development Foundation shall not be held accountable for the products offered by vendors. Product and liability insurance are the responsibility of the producer.

Vendors are encouraged to present their products in a professional and clean manner, including the display of such products. Selling spaces must be kept clean and neat. Market Managers will provide trash receptacles for use by the buying public, but it is the responsibility of each Vendor to control and remove all their own trash during and at the close of the Market. Vendors will be solely responsible at all times for the cleanliness within their vending area regardless of the origin of the debris in that location. The Vendors must remove all residue or waste products, as well as signs, tents, tables, etc. at the end of each Market day. Failure to comply with these requirements may, at the discretion of the Market Manager, result in the termination of selling privileges. All products must be of high quality. Repeated complaints about quality of product may result in termination of selling privileges. A grower may secure an agent or employees to sell his/her produce.

The Market Manager prior to selling at the market must approve any grower/agent agreement. Growers who use the market for sale of produce are subject to field inspections to verify the source of produce offered for sale. Growers can only sell first quality products at the market. No one can buy products and sell it at the market without

prior approval of the Market Manager. All supplementation must be documented. Market Manager has authority to limit supplementation of any products. All art or craft must be handmade or original items by the artist. Photography is permitted. Replications will be allowed at the discretion of Market Manager. Local artists will be given priority. Two photographs representing the style and quality of work to be sold must accompany Vendor Application in order to be considered. Photographs will not be returned.

Sale, use or possession of alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants is prohibited. The Ruskin Community Market is a smoke-free environment. Solicitation of Vendors and customers is prohibited without prior approval of the Market Manager.

Each vendor space will accommodate a standard 10X10 fabric shade cover or large market umbrella. Spaces will be assigned by a Market Manager each week.

When available, more than one adjoining space can be requested. Spaces are assigned each week. Priority is given to Vendors who attend the market on a regular basis. The Market Manager will assign all selling spaces. The Market Manager or his designated agent shall have supervision and control of the activities of the market and the designated market area. There is no guarantee that any particular vendor will be allowed space from one week to the next. The continuing goal of The Market is a balanced, high quality offering each week.

The Market Manager has full responsibility for making certain that all rules and regulations as set forth by the Ruskin Community Market are followed by each Vendor and/or any agents or employees. Vendors must be fourteen years of age or older. Younger children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult responsible for the child's conduct and safety. Vendors are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.

Fraudulent, dishonest, or deceptive merchandising, disruptive behavior, or collusion to set prices among vendors may be grounds for forfeiture of the right to do business of any kind in the market for a length of time to be determined by the Market Manager.

It is necessary for all vendors to be set up no later than 8:45am and ready to do business when the market opens at 9am. No vendor shall set up before 7:00am or after 8:45pm without prior approval by the Market Manager.

Market trash containers and portable toilets will be provided by the Market. Toilets will be locked at night. Vendors are responsible for their own trash. Market trash containers are for the use of customers and not vendors. All trash and refuse will be removed from the site each business day within one hour of closing. Recycling containers will be located at the site.

At the beginning of each market day, vendors will check in with the Market Manager before setting up. Each Vendor is expected to stop selling by 2pm and have all produce, baked goods, boxes, containers, trash etc. loaded for removal by 3pm. The Market Manager will have the authority to change the market hours on special occasions. All Vendors are responsible for payment of any local, state or federal taxes, including sales tax. Vendor parking will be in designated areas only. Vehicles are not permitted in the market area once the market opens unless by prior approval by Market Manager

Vendor's Understanding and Acceptance of Rules and Regulations:

I have read and understand the above stated Rules and Regulations for the Ruskin Community Market and agree to abide by them. I will have met all local, state and federal health, inspection and licensing requirements prior to selling products at the Market. I do not hold the Ruskin Community Development Foundation or the Market Managers liable for any property damage or personal injury that either my representatives or I may incur while selling at the Market. I accept full financial liability for my actions and all products that either I or my representatives sell at the Ruskin Community Market. I further agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Ruskin Community Development Foundation and the Market Managers from and against any and all claims and actions for injury, damage or loss to persons or property or other liabilities or expenses whatsoever, including court cost and attorney's fees, related or arising out of my or my agent's actions, omissions and operations in connection with the Ruskin Community Market.

Vendors

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Describe items to be sold:

Authorized Representatives:

Market Manager _____ Date _____