



The BTV Winter Market Frequently Asked Questions

We are pleased to provide this FAQ to help answer some potential questions regarding The BTV Winter Market. As always, reach out to us at BTVMKT@Burlingtonvt.gov if you have a question that isn't addressed below. Thank you!

General Questions

1. How big is the market?

We are planning on presenting 20 vendors each week. All vendor booths will be on hardscaped surfaces and not on the grass.

2. Is this the BCA Holiday Artist Market?

No, following the success of the BTV Summer and Winter Markets, BCA and Love Burlington are joining forces again for another season of the BTV Winter Market. The BTV Winter Market blends together the 20+ years running BCA Holiday Artist Market and the Love Burlington Winter Market for a magical month-long event that supports both emerging and well-established vendors and artists. This will be the fourth year of the BTV Winter Market which began in 2020.

3. Are food trailers allowed to participate?

In short, yes. While trucks are not allowed, non-motorized trailers or food carts are allowed. However, please reach out to us with specifics, as parking these units into vendor slots could be challenging. We are happy to work with you to see if we can make it work. We will have a limited number of spaces available that could accommodate a food trailer.

Per a city ordinance, no food trucks are allowed to operate in the Central Peddlers District in Burlington. Because of this, food trucks are not allowed to participate in this market.

4. Are all vendor spaces the same size?

Yes, all vendors will get an 8'x6' market stall that has three sides and a roof. Each stall has 5 amps of power (unless specified), basic lighting, basic decorations (lights and garland) and a basic heater. Market stalls will need to be emptied at the end of each day. Materials should not be left overnight as we cannot guarantee security for these items.

Vendors are responsible for their own displays, additional lighting or décor, table (s), chairs and any materials needed for setting up your display such as a hammer or command strips. Stall sidewalls are made of chloroplast and the back wall is made of wood. Vendors should plan to only be able to hang items with nails on wood areas.

5. Will additional electricity be available? What about cooking?

In general, yes, City Hall Park was developed with significant infrastructure to support events and markets. If you need a reasonable amount of additional power, we will be able to accommodate a small number of requests and ask that you please note your power needs on your application. Food vendors will receive an additional 20-amps of power in addition to the 5 amps provided.

Cooking with wood or propane is allowed, as long as you bring a fire extinguisher.

Please note any on-site cooking in your application so we can place you appropriately and consider nuisance smoke.

6. Is the market rain or shine or snow?

Like the Vermont weather, it's complicated. With a market that is between four to six hours long, the weather can vary over that time frame. Here's the plan:

- The market is by and large a rain, shine or snow event, with the exception of extreme weather (heavy rain, high wind, below zero temperatures, winter warnings or lighting). We suggest you travel with tarps, even when the weather looks to be decent.
- If there is extreme weather an hour before scheduled load in, we will delay the market by one hour. If the forecast is still looking unfavorable after the delay, we will cancel the market.
- We will track any potential lightning during the market. Any strike within 8 miles requires that the market cease operations, and we will encourage everyone to seek cover. We realize this is hard, given that you have your merchandise to look after. Make the best decisions you can at the time. The market will then be paused until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike in our 8 mile radius. This is standard life safety for outdoor events.
- If NOAA issues a severe weather warning or winter storm warning for our area, we will follow the same procedure as noted above. This is only for a warning, which means the severe weather is imminent (as opposed to a watch).
- All market communications will be via email, including weather alerts and information.

7. Load In, Load Out, Parking

We recognize that having a 20-vendor market load in at the same time is a challenge. With that in mind, anticipate that City Hall Park might be congested. Please plan ahead. We will have a temporary parking loading zone on College Street. You can unload and load up here for a maximum of 10 minutes in each direction. Please use these spaces with others in mind. You can park temporarily in spaces with orange meter bags. The other spaces are traditional paid metered spaces. Load in times will be an hour and half ahead of the market opening. Break down and load-out will be for an hour following the close of the market. Once you unload, you will need to find garage or street parking as available. The Downtown Garage (formerly Lakeside Garage) on College Street is nearby and offers the first two hours of parking free every day and free parking on Sunday.

8. Is there WiFi in the park?

Yes! Look for Burlington Telecom Guest and log on.

9. Storage onsite?

No, we require that you load-in and load-out all of your product and display materials each day as we cannot guarantee security for these items overnight.

10. Insurance—really?

Getting insurance to cover you and your merchandise in the park may seem like a big step, but insurance is a good idea for all involved. It helps protect you and your merchandise in the event of a mishap. Getting liability insurance isn't always as expensive as it seems and it can be used in any other endeavors of your small business. We are happy to share resources or assist you in getting insurance. We are requiring proof of insurance for participation. Please reach out with further questions or if this presents a challenge.

11. Community Panel, Selection Process and Scheduling

A four to five-person community panel will review all applications at the same time and create a pool of diverse vendors for the BTV Winter Market. Once approved, applicants will be notified the week of October 9th on or before October 13th on their acceptance and schedule. Finally, we will look at all of the date requests and program each market to have a good range of offerings, working within the date selections each vendor made. See the application for more information.

12. Will I be cold?

There's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes! It is important to remember that this is an outdoor market and you will need to dress appropriately with lots of layers. The heater provided gives off heat but will not be comparable to being indoors. We encourage everyone to embrace the season and get cozy! Bring blankets and hand and foot warmers.

We will also have standing heaters and propane fire pits available for guests (and vendors) to warm up with. City Hall will be open till 4:30pm to get out of the cold. The BCA Gallery will be open from noon to 5pm on Friday, noon to 8pm on Saturday, and closed on Sunday.

13. Sessions?

Yes! Instead of signing up for a single day of the market you will be signing up for session. This means you are signing up to vend either a two- or three-day period. The pricing reflects the full session, not each day. For example, a 3-day session is \$225.

We will allow two vendors to **split a session** if both vendors coordinate with each other and let us know ahead of time. Please email abacher@burlingtonvt.gov if you plan on doing this.

14. Will there be security on-site?

The City is actively trying to arrange for event private security for BTV Winter Market. Due to staffing shortages, we are not able to confirm full coverage at this time. Stay tuned for an update.

15. Why has the fee increased?

Increased pricing for the extensive set-up the BTV Winter Market provides (stalls, heat, lighting, decorations and marketing materials) has led us to adjust the fees to be \$150 or \$225 per session for all vendors. We understand this may be a challenge for some vendors. If these fees present a considerable barrier to your participation in the market, please reach out to BTVMKT@Burlingtonvt.gov

16. Restrooms in the park?

There is one outdoor restroom located between the College Street terrace and the BCA patio area. If the restroom is occupied or out of order, City Hall has available restrooms between 8 am – 4:30 pm.