



# SATURDAY MORNING — AT THE — FARMERS' MARKET

Photography by Stephen Sproull





If you want to get a real feel for Bloomington, there's no better place than the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, held from April through November in Showers Plaza, alongside the B-Line Trail. Started in 1976, it's a must-attend destination for hundreds of people every Saturday morning. Here, businesspeople, bankers, and scientists rub shoulders with artists, hippies, and bikers as everyone seeks out the best our local farmers have to offer.



**I**n the earliest months, tender spring greens and over-wintered root vegetables are most abundant, but soon bright-red radishes, earthy mushrooms, and colorful bouquets of flowers fill farmers' stalls. Then come the hot-weather delights—fiery peppers, sweet peaches, juicy tomatoes, plump green beans, omnipresent zucchini, and more. The end of the season brings the much-anticipated Holiday Market, with its festive atmosphere and long-standing traditions, including downtown carriage rides and the Tuba Santas.

But there's more to the market than mere grocery shopping. Prepared foods are also on hand—everything from coffee and cool drinks to baked goods and sandwiches—and grabbing a bite to eat gives everyone a chance to socialize, too. The space in front of City Hall is reserved for special events—you can purchase local arts and crafts during A Fair of the Arts, held the second Saturday of each month; attend other happenings throughout the season; and meet (and possibly adopt) pets from the local animal shelter. Finally, keep an ear out for musicians and an eye out for dancers on the main stage. Others are scattered throughout the market. Some of the buskers are just starting out and others are professionals, but all are worth a few minutes of your time—and maybe a dollar or two. —*Carmen Siering*



Long before dawn, farm vendors begin setting up their stands in Showers Plaza.



While dogs aren't allowed in the farmers' market proper, they are welcome on the B-Line Trail and in front of City Hall. That's where market visitors can meet dogs from the Bloomington Animal Shelter—and maybe find a new furry friend.





