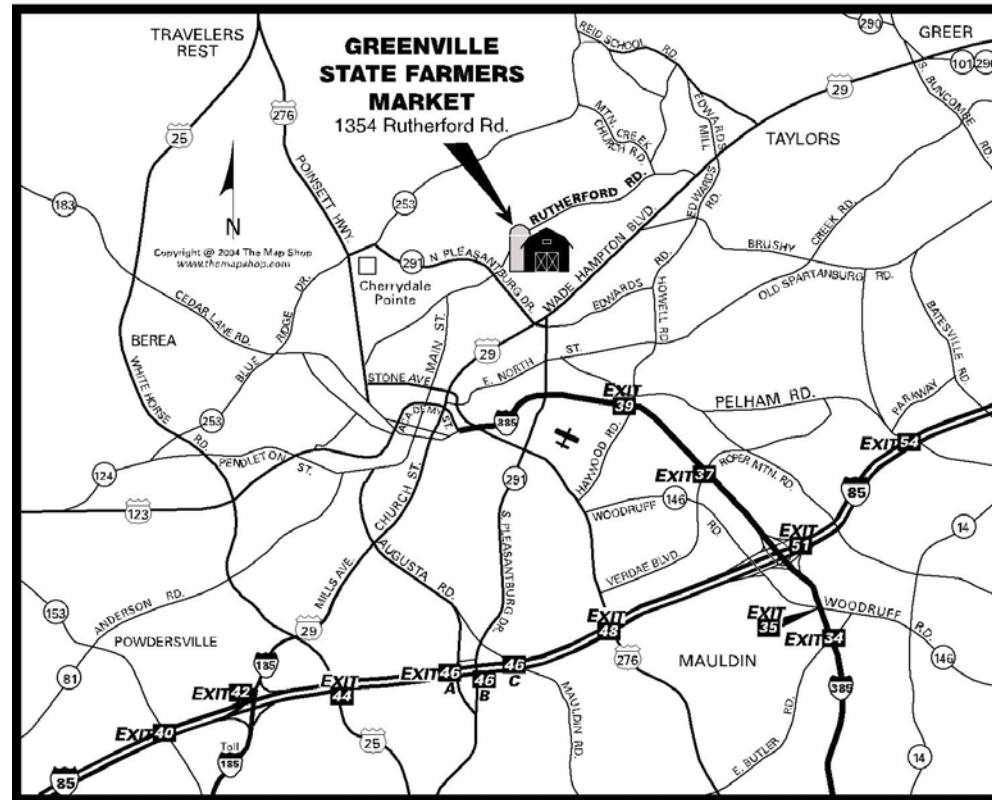


Greenville State Farmers Market

The Greenville State Farmers Market includes a 14,400 square foot retail sales building and a 10,000 square foot drive-through farmer-trucker shed that have been added to the facility since the Department of Agriculture's acquisition of the market.

Both quality and variety are standards for the volume of products offered for sale at the Greenville State Farmers Market.

Farmers markets are not only an essential source of income for family farmers, but they also provide locally-grown, nutritious fruits and vegetables, fresh plants and flowers as well as other farm products for many people---especially those living in urban areas. They bring more people into downtown areas, have a rejuvenating economic effect upon nearby businesses, and play an important role in urban development.



Greenville State Farmers Market

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G·R·E·E·N·V·I·L·L·E

State Farmers Market





History

From its beginning as a tailgate produce market along the Court Street curbside in the heart of downtown, the Greenville Farmers Market has been an integral part of the community. After being made aware of the need for more space and better facilities, the South Carolina General Assembly created the Greenville County Marketing Commission "to plan and establish proper facilities for the efficient handling and sales of farm and other food products in the interest of farmer, consumer and the general public..." This purpose was recognized with completion and opening of the Greenville Farmers Market at its present location on June 1, 1949. Within one year, it was necessary to double the warehouse space, add a poultry processing plant, sweet potato curing house, rail access and an administration building, doubling the size of the original market.

The Greenville Market continued to operate under the oversight of the Greenville County Marketing Commission until 1980 when by mutual agreement, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture assumed operations of the facility. Today the Greenville State Farmers Market continues its proud heritage of service to the Piedmont region of South Carolina.

Providing Service

While the Greenville Market still provides facilities for sales of local farm products and wholesale distribution, its role has changed from that of a gathering place distant from downtown to a multiple service agricultural facility surrounded by an urban environment. In addition to offering farm fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables for which it is renown, participation in the global economy is represented through sales of fresh produce from sources throughout the world.

Staples of the fruit and vegetable industry are complemented by custom pre-cut kitchens which chop, dice, juice, shred or slice fresh products into their most convenient form for use by institutional and local customers.

Direct or retail sales have taken a prominent place in the mix of activities at the market. Modern retail facilities provide individuals and families a source of virtually any fruit, vegetable or dairy product throughout the year. Organic products from local certified growers are also featured throughout the season. The retail area is a popular gathering place in season as local farmers return with their farm fresh products. It is often difficult to determine whether the most wholesome offering is the nutritious fruits and vegetables or the social atmosphere which characterizes a day at the market.

Surrounding counties in South Carolina, North Carolina and Northeast Georgia contribute some of their freshest and best to the variety offered at the Greenville Market.

Festivals

Produce sales maintain the top priority at the market however, the growth in floriculture and ornamental horticulture at the production level and with homeowners has had quite an impact. Seasonal festivals in the spring and fall feature local greenhouse growers and producers of plants and gardening products from across the state. The Piedmont Plant and Flower Festival in early May and AutumnFest in late September have become priority appointments on local calendars. Visitors by the thousands from throughout the state and region anticipate these events to the extent, some schedule vacation time around the festivals. They represent one of the largest selections in varieties of plants, flowers and gardening products for home beautification to be found.

Master gardeners, plant clinics, beekeeper products; aquatic, native and hydroponic plants; quality crafts and many more items round out the offerings. This has added new opportunities to the ever-changing agricultural economy of the upstate.

Hours of Operation

Market operations continue daily, all year long, ceasing for only two holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. At any other time wholesale activities begin during early morning hours and last through mid afternoon, seven days a week.

Retail hours are 8 am through 6 pm, Monday through Saturday. Admission and parking are free.

Authority

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture operates the state farmers markets through its Marketing Division. For additional information on state farmers markets or services of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, please visit our website at www.agriculture.sc.gov or contact us at (803) 734-2210.

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