

Market History:

The Market was started by John Whitaker and Dorothy Knitter in 1990 when Issaquah was home to under 8000 citizens and was sponsored by the Issaquah Kiwanis Club. The first location was a spot on Rainier Avenue & Front Street - 20 vendors participated. From 1991 - 1996 the Market was held at Gibson Hall with 24 vendors.

In 1995 the Issaquah Parks & Recreation Department claimed sponsorship and by 1997 the Market location was moved to the Issaquah Community Center lawn with 20 vendors on a sunny day. In 1998 the Market was invited to use the partially restored Pickering Barn which turned out to be a rousing success. Some 70 Vendors took part in the Market. In 1999 because of the controversy surrounding the Pickering Barn re-construction, the Market was not allowed to operate for the season. But, in 2000 the Market was reborn at the Pickering Barn and will now be celebrating its 9th year there under Issaquah Parks & Recreation Management.

The Market now continues to grow each year in vendor participation, public attendance and event activity. With as many as 110 vendors participating on a Saturday, an estimated 3500 people visit each week. The opportunity to purchase the hand-crafted and farmed products sold, attracts shoppers from Issaquah and beyond. The increasing scheduled special events, entertainment and demonstrations have created a popular meeting place for the community and its visitors.