

First View of the Farmers Market at IX Park

Gianni Strazzullo, staff writer

IX Park near Downtown Charlottesville on 2nd Street is primarily known for its cultural art murals and sculptures representing multiple generations of art styles and is always open, free to the public. For the park, there is always one weekly event that brings in hundreds of residents from Charlottesville and surrounding areas; the IX Park farmers market on Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to noon. Going to the weekly farmers market is a routine in my family because my mom usually goes there for fresh fruits and other delicious morsels. She usually goes by herself or takes one of my sisters, but this time, I decided to go with her.

When we arrived at the farmers market, it was packed with stands at nearly every corner of the park. I had thought that it was just about the locally grown food from around the county and state, but there was more to it than that. The market also had wooden antiques like trains and an antique clock shaped like the state of Virginia, a wide assortment of bumper stickers that represented Virginia, and even a cannabis company.

Throughout my life, I have never seen such a diverse range of fresh and locally grown food



**A rack of tie-dye shirts.
Photography by Gianni Strazzullo**

from anywhere in the state, even at other farmers markets, they served really cool desserts with different kinds of bread and very interesting vegan food. All the food looked pretty appetizing, and any traveling foodie would most likely feel like they were in heaven from what each food stand had. The food ranged from fruits, vegetables, baked goods, confections, and internationally-influenced food from Mexico, Jamaica, and many other countries. While there, my mom and I bought some apples from Crozet's Henley Orchard company, a pot pie, and some bread for my sisters.

I have to admit that although I thought the experience was going to be really boring, I found it to be quite pleasant.. I really enjoyed looking at all the different tents that featured where each of the products and companies came from, along with what they had to offer. I also appreciated the market being at IX Park because I understood doing it at a place that has had a lot of cultural influence on local art in Charlottesville and Virginia because I believe that the area of the park was a good setting for the market and the tents and food really blended well with the surrounding art. I would recommend going to an event like the IX farmers market in Charlottesville, even if it means getting up early in the morning.



**A look at commemorative Virginia stickers.
Photography by Gianni Strazzullo**