



Market Day 2025: May 9-10



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cylburn Arboretum's Beloved Market Day Returns with a Special Garden Reveal

Baltimore, MD — Cylburn Arboretum Friends is thrilled to welcome visitors back for its annual *Market Day* on **Saturday, May 10 from 8 AM to 2 PM**, a free, family-friendly event that draws over 3,000 attendees each year in celebration of plants, crafts, and community. This year's Market Day promises all the festive charm guests know and love—with an exciting new twist.

Market Day visitors will get a first look at *Cylburn's City Demonstration Gardens*—five newly designed, residential-scale gardens aimed at inspiring sustainable gardening in Baltimore's urban neighborhoods. Freshly hardscaped and creatively constructed using reclaimed materials, these unique spaces are now open for public viewing as part of the Arboretum's ongoing partnership with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks and a team of pro-bono designers. Planting will occur in the fall.

Gardens are born from persistence—of people, of place, and of purpose. Whether carved from a narrow city lot or tucked behind rowhomes, gardens speak to our impulse to make beauty, create refuge, and engage directly with the land beneath our feet. The City Demonstration Gardens at Cylburn embody this spirit. Designed to reflect and respond to the unique conditions of Baltimore's urban environment, these five rowhome-scaled gardens offer practical solutions to common challenges: small space design, water management, repurposing existing materials, and choosing resilient native plants. They are gardens that meet the moment—adaptive, inclusive, and rooted in the idea that everyone deserves access to green space, no matter where they live.

The reawakening of these gardens is a testament to Cylburn's long-standing role as a laboratory for horticultural experimentation and demonstration. Originally conceived in the 1980s as "Idea Gardens" by volunteers and city partners, the spaces were intended to spark imagination and show what was possible in any backyard. Though time and weather took their toll, the underlying intent never disappeared. Today, that vision has been rekindled. With the City Demonstration Garden Project, Cylburn is once again planting seeds—not just in soil, but in community imagination. Visitors can look forward to hardscape installations concluding this spring and the full unveiling of planted

gardens in on Market Day 2026, with opportunities throughout the year to explore the process and connect with the designers and gardeners behind the transformation.

Those eager for an exclusive experience can attend *Party on the Porch* on **Friday, May 9 from 5 PM to 8 PM**—a paid preview party and fundraiser featuring live music, complimentary drinks, and a behind-the-scenes garden tour led by Head Gardener Brent “Fig” Figlestahler, joined by several of the garden designers.

About the Weekend Events:

Party on the Porch (Friday, May 9, 5–8 PM)

A lively, adults-only fundraiser with music, wine and beer, and a private garden tour. *Tickets required. The Arboretum is closed to the public during this event.*

Market Day (Saturday, May 10, 8 AM–2 PM)

A free, festive plant and craft market featuring:

- Dozens of regional vendors offering plants, pottery, jewelry, and gifts
- Children’s activities, face painting, and a maypole dance (11 AM)
- Food trucks and beverages
- Champion Tree Walks (9 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 PM)
- \$10 on-site parking (cash only), free parking on Cylburn Ave with shuttle service
- \$10 wagon rentals for convenient shopping

This year’s Market Day will not only celebrate springtime and community but also serve as a platform to spark inspiration and action in home gardens across the city.

For more information about Market Day or to purchase tickets to Party on the Porch, visit <https://cylburn.org/programs-events/market-day/>

We are so grateful to our sponsors: Lewis Contractors, DLA Piper, Lifebridge Health, FORM Garden Design and more. Thank you all for making this event possible!

Cultivating Community. Growing Inspiration.