

Village of Oswego – Little Libraries Program Policy

Administered by the Cultural Arts Commission (CAC)

Purpose:

The Little Libraries Program aims to promote literacy, community engagement, creativity and access to books by offering Village residents the opportunity to host a Little Library on their property.

Program Overview:

- The Village, through the Cultural Arts Commission, will provide a limited number of Little Libraries to selected applicants.
- Libraries will be installed by the Village in coordination with the property owner at no cost to the recipient.
- Once installed, the Little Library becomes the property of the recipient, who assumes full responsibility for its upkeep.

Eligibility & Zoning Requirements:

To comply with Village codes and restrictions, the following conditions apply.

- Little Libraries are permitted only in R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 zoning districts.
- Libraries must be located in front or corner side yards on private property. They may not be placed in the public right-of-way.
- **Homeowners Associations (HOA) Requirements:**

Applicants are responsible for reviewing and complying with any applicable Homeowners Association (HOA) covenants, conditions, and restrictions before applying for or installing a Little Library. Written approval from your HOA, if required, must be obtained prior to being awarded the Little Library. The Village is not responsible for enforcing HOA rules.

Ownership and Maintenance:

- The recipient agrees to maintain the Little Library in a state of good repair and structural integrity, including:
 - Keeping it free of peeling paint, rotting wood, or other visible deterioration.
 - Ensuring it remains stocked with books and accessible to the public.
- The Village will not provide books or ongoing maintenance.
- The recipient agrees to keep the library available to the public for a minimum of three (3) years.
- The recipient is fully responsible for registering and setting up the [steward web portal](#).

- The Village is not liable for any damage, loss or maintenance needs after installation.
 - The property owner is responsible for contacting J.U.L.I.E for an underground utility inspection ahead of the installation.

Right of Entry & Removal:

- The property owner must grant the Village the right to enter the property for installation.
- If the library is found to be in disrepair, consistently empty, or not maintained in accordance with program expectations, the Village reserves the right to:
 - Notify the property owner and request corrective action.
 - Remove the library if the issue is not resolved within a reasonable timeframe.

Application Process:

- Interested parties must complete an application outlining their proposed location, maintenance plan and community benefit.
- Applications will be reviewed using a standardized rubric, with preference given to locations not currently served by an existing Little Library.

Installing Your Own Little Library:

Any Village resident may purchase and install a similar library at their own expense, provided the installation complies with all applicable Village codes and zoning requirements outline in this policy. No Village approval is required for privately funded installations that meets code requirements (See [Section 9.03 “Community Library Kiosks”](#) of the Unified Development Ordinance).

Questions:

For more information, please contact Events Manager Kelly Bertog: kbertog@oswegoil.org