

Minneapolis Parks Library Steward

Volunteer Job Description

In the spring on 2017, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation donated more than 50 Little Free Libraries in Minneapolis parks. These Libraries were installed (or wheeled, if mobile units were preferred) at each Recreation Center. To help keep these “take a book, leave a book” free lending Libraries stocked and cared for, we are looking for volunteer Stewards.

Roles and Responsibilities

The primary role of a Steward is to care for one (or more) of the Little Free Libraries in Minneapolis Parks so that it becomes and continues a long life as a vital, engaging resource for the neighborhood or community. Stewards are the key local contacts for each Library—for users and donors. It is not the Steward’s responsibility to keep the Library full at all times (but it is helpful to continually work to secure books for your Library). Ideally, the goal is to welcome participation, create and maintain a friendly place in and around the Library, and encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to share responsibility for it. We encourage you, as an LFL Steward, to:

- Make sure your Library is orderly, in good repair, fun and interesting.
- Perform light maintenance on the LFL and if not able, to seek help from Park Staff or another Library Steward.
- Stamp books with “Not for Sale, Please Circulate in Little Libraries” stamper.
- Communicate with your park staff, neighbors and other Library users to get participation, advice and ideas.
- Protect the integrity of the Library itself, its contents and the overall mission of Little Free Library, Minneapolis Park and Rec, and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation.
- (hopefully in the future) Keep the us informed about how things are going via our Facebook page.
- Stay in touch with other Stewards.
- Be aware of opportunities to promote reading and literacy. Participate on behalf of your Library users whenever you can or find others who will.

Commitment

Depending on the demands on any given Park LFL, a Steward could expect to spend 1-2 hours per week. More hours if expanded programming is desired (hosting readings for example).

Support

Stewards can expect to receive: tools and resources to guide their work with their little Library; support from the MPRB and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation; and a contact person who will check in with them periodically to see how things are going with their little Library.

Understandings and Assumptions

In a very real sense, Stewards are like the parents of their Libraries. We know from experience that the most successful Little Free Libraries have Stewards who have actively engaged their neighbors and communities in nurturing and developing their LFL.

What’s more, the most effective way to avoid any potentially negative acts toward the Library is to have many eyes and ears watching over the care of this special asset to the park.

Benefits

LFL Stewards are key to the success of the Little Free Library concept. Without you, they are just cute little structures! With your active enthusiasm and engagement, they can become a real asset to not only your neighborhood park, but can also bring you new opportunities to connect with people that may share your interests (particularly your love of parks and books), and can provide a fulfilling experience.

Apply: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=1486751866>