

# Omaha Public Library (OPL) Outdoor Spaces Policy

## PURPOSE:

The library's outdoor spaces are designed to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for reading, studying, community engagement, and relaxation. This policy ensures that all patrons enjoy these spaces while maintaining safety, cleanliness, and respect for others.

## POLICY:

Groups and individuals who use the outdoor space are guests of the library and their use of the space should reflect that understanding. Persons in these spaces are subject to all library policies. Use of the space should not disrupt other library patrons or the community.

## Guidelines

1. Public Access – Outdoor spaces are open to all library patrons during regular library hours. Special events may require reservations or restricted access.
2. Respect for Others – Noise levels should be kept at a reasonable volume. Headphones are required for audio devices, and disruptive behavior is not permitted.
3. Respect for the Environment – Patrons must not damage or remove plants, flowers, or garden decorations unless approved by library staff.
4. Cleanliness & Waste Disposal – Patrons must dispose of trash and recyclables in designated bins. Littering is strictly prohibited.
5. Furniture & Equipment – Library-provided seating and tables must remain in designated areas. Personal furniture is not allowed unless approved by library staff.
6. Wi-Fi & Technology Use – Public Wi-Fi is available; however, patrons must adhere to the library's Internet use policy. Power outlets, if present, should not be used for personal use.
7. Pets & Service Animals – Service animals are permitted inside or outside the library. Pets must be leashed and remain outside. Owners must clean up after their animals.
8. Smoking & Vaping – The library is subject to the State of Nebraska's Clean Indoor Air Act and is a smoke-free environment. Smoking, vaping, and tobacco use are only allowed in designated outdoor areas.
9. Food & Beverages – Light snacks and covered beverages are permitted. Patrons must clean up after themselves and avoid bringing strong-smelling or messy foods.
10. Events & Gatherings – Group activities, performances, or organized events must be approved in advance by library administration.
11. Children's Supervision – Parents, guardians, or caregivers must supervise their children at all times. The library is not responsible for unattended children.

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12. Safety & Security – Patrons should report any suspicious activity to library staff. The library is not responsible for lost, stolen, or unattended personal belongings.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

All OPL personnel shall be responsible for enforcing this policy. Failure to comply with this policy may result in patron removal from library premises or loss of outdoor space privileges.

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
of the Omaha Public Library, January 21, 2026