

Food in the Library Policy (*Board of Trustees Approved: November 2019*)

The Forest Park Public Library strives to create a welcoming, clean and comfortable environment for the public. The Library designates an area for eating and drinking: The Commons space on the main floor of the building adjacent to the Main Desk. Food and drink may not interfere with others' use of the library, or damage or threaten damage to library property. Staff may provide food and beverages in public areas of the library for approved programs and events. We ask that patrons and visitors follow the following guidelines when consuming food and beverages in the building:

- I. Lidded non-alcoholic beverages are allowable throughout the building

- II. Food may be consumed only in The Commons or during designated special events
 - A. Allowable foods in The Commons are limited to pre-packaged and/or simple snacks or wrapped cold sandwiches and lidded non-alcoholic beverages.
 - B. Hot, greasy, messy, or sticky foods like pizza, burgers, and fries are not allowed. Additionally, foods with odor that can be smelled from outside The Commons space are prohibited.

- III. Group meals and food delivery are not allowed in public areas except for pre-arranged and approved meetings in designated spaces.

- IV. Spills should be reported immediately to staff. All trash should be properly disposed of before leaving an area. All individuals and groups are responsible for their own clean up.

- V. Unattended food will be discarded.

- VI. The Library is aware that reaction of individuals to food allergies may result in serious medical conditions and reminds all persons with food allergies that:
 - A. From time to time, food is served during library programs and activities.
 - B. Persons with food allergies are responsible for monitoring food served by the library.
 - C. Responsibility for monitoring minors rests with the parent/guardian/caregiver.
 - D. The Library does not monitor ingredients on food brought in by outside groups.