



Bismarck  
Veterans Memorial  
Public Library

## Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Grounds Policy

Library grounds are defined as the Library plaza, green areas, and the perimeter of the building and the parking lots.

The Library strives to provide an environment that encourages all patrons to use its facility, services, and resources in a respectful manner. The Library believes in providing free access to, and communication of, ideas and information that reflect the broad range of interests in the community we serve. This policy prohibits certain activities and imposes reasonable restrictions on certain activities to prevent unreasonable interference with patrons' enjoyment of the Library.

### **Parking Lots**

Library parking lots are provided for Library users and staff **for the use of the Library facility, services, and programs**. Commuter and overnight parking, overnight sleeping in a vehicle in a Library parking lot, and any other use of parking lots by individuals who are not actively engaged in using the Library facility are prohibited. Misuse of the Library parking lots will result in ticketing and/or towing of the vehicles.

### **Sales and Solicitation**

Individuals, groups, or organizations are prohibited from selling or distributing any goods or services or soliciting funds anywhere on Library property, except in association with the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library, Bismarck Library Foundation, Library partnerships, or as a component of a Library-sponsored program or event.

### **Signs, Posters, and Displays**

All outdoor signs, posters, and displays other than those produced by the Library, are prohibited on Library property. Signs, posters, and displays posted on Library grounds will be removed and disposed of by Library staff. See also [Library Display Policy](#).

Applying graffiti anywhere on Library property is prohibited. Artistic mediums, e.g. sidewalk chalking, are allowed on Library property only if sponsored or produced by the Library.



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### **Tobacco Free Grounds**

The Library provides a tobacco free environment for all those who wish to utilize its grounds and facility, in the interest of promoting the health, safety, and welfare of Library patrons, employees, and volunteers. The use of tobacco products is prohibited on Library grounds, which includes the Library plaza, the green areas, and the perimeter of the building and the parking lots. The use of tobacco products is allowed on public sidewalks surrounding the Library building.

Tobacco use includes the use of e-cigarettes or devices that emit a vapor that contains nicotine and/or other chemical substances and smokeless tobacco, and is prohibited on Library grounds.

People in violation of the policy will be asked to refrain from tobacco use or move to an area off Library grounds.

### **Alcohol/Illegal Drugs**

Alcohol or illegal drugs may not be used or distributed on Library grounds. Persons under the influence of either alcohol or illegal drugs will be told to leave promptly. Police will be summoned if they fail to leave, and they will be trespassed from Library property.

### **Camping**

Sleeping, camping, or utilizing Library grounds for activities not related to Library services are prohibited. "Camping" refers to the use of Library grounds for lying down and sleeping, use of Library grounds that interferes with Library services and usage of the grounds and facility, use of Library grounds to store belongings, or use of Library grounds as a temporary shelter or living quarters. If Library employees or security personnel observe people acting in violation of this policy, they will be told to leave. Police will be summoned if they fail to leave, and they will be trespassed from Library property.

### **Animals**

All animals on library grounds or in vehicles are the responsibility of the owners. Pets outside of vehicles on library grounds must be on a leash and controlled by the owner. Pet owners must clean up after their pets. The Library will not be held liable for any pets that bite or attack any individual while on Library premises. Animals, other than service animals, are prohibited in the Library, unless in conjunction with Library programs.

### **Petitioners**

The Library is mandated by federal and state law to permit individuals to gather signatures, display hand-held signs, pass out fliers, and engage in other expressive activities protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, so long as the passage of Library patrons to and from the facility is not impeded and these activities are conducted



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outside only. These individuals shall be referred to as “petitioners.” This section outlines basic and reasonable content-neutral guidelines for petitioners on Library grounds.

A petitioner must not act in such a manner so as to hinder ingress or egress to the Library or to in any way intimidate, confront, or accost a Library patron entering or exiting the building. A petitioner shall not call out or shout to draw attention to the petitioner. All activity shall be conducted in a normal tone of voice, and the use of identifiable signage is encouraged.

Any petitioner utilizing a table and/or chair, which must be furnished by petitioner, shall be set up in an area that does not hinder ingress or egress to the building from any direction. This allows direct access to Library patrons without blocking or impeding patron traffic flow.

Any standing petitioner (without the use of a table and/or chair) is free to move about the plaza. However, a petitioner must not solicit in an area that hinders ingress or egress to the building from any direction. In order to preserve the quiet atmosphere within the Library, a petitioner must not solicit anywhere within the building.

Anyone violating this policy will first be warned by a Library staff member. If the conduct continues, the petitioner will be required to leave the Library grounds. Petitioners must comply with all other applicable ordinances, laws, and regulations.

The presence of petitioners does not constitute an endorsement from the Library of the opinions or points of view expressed or espoused by the petitioners, and petitioners will not suggest such is the case.

This Library Grounds Policy was prepared under the advice of the Attorney’s Office with the City of Bismarck.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees: 7/22/2021; amended 8/24/2022