



Library Grounds and Public Expression Policy

Purpose

The Public Library of Brookline's (PLB) collections, programs, and services support a broad range of interests that reflect our diverse community. As a public space, PLB works to ensure that the Library is a safe and welcoming place for all.

Statement of Policy

With the knowledge that portions of our buildings and grounds may be considered public forums this policy restricts sales and solicitation activities to those unaffiliated with the the Library and imposes reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on activities or expressions of free speech in accordance with local, state law, and federal law and to the extent needed to prevent unreasonable interference with others' enjoyment of the Library.

The Library operates in a neutral manner, independent of all organizations, political parties, or religious groups that may use our property to exercise their first amendment rights. While being required by law to allow these expressions, the PLB does not participate in or endorse any of these activities.

Library Grounds

Library walkways and grounds outside Library buildings may be used for the exercise of the right of free speech, provided the activity does not create dangerous conditions, interfere with access and use of the Library, damage property or create unnecessary maintenance expenses for the Library.

The following activities are **allowed** on Library walkways and grounds in designated spaces:

- Petitioning
- Leafleting
- Informational tables
- Campaign activities

Permission from Library Administration must be obtained in advance to conduct these activities.

The following activities are **prohibited** when exercising free speech rights:

- Failing to abide by the time, place and manner restrictions imposed by the Library
- Impeding or blocking the passage of Library patrons, employees, or visitors
- Interfering unreasonably with patrons' enjoyment of the Library
- Continuing to impose upon a person after learning of their desire to be left alone
- Inciting imminent acts of violence

- Presenting obscene materials
- Soliciting funds
- Promoting for-profit programs, services or goods

Violations may result in the revocation of the right to utilize Library property.

Voted by the Board of Library Trustees 12 September 2023