

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

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What Is Little Free Libraries?

Little Free Libraries are a non-profit organization that is used to help motivate and inspire the love of reading, creativity, and build communities.

Little Free Libraries are a book exchange libraries you can find in your neighborhood where you can take a book and return a book.

These libraries are used not only across the country, but all over the world to provide free access to new books where a community's access to books may be scarce.



History Behind the Libraries

This project originated within Hudson, Wisconsin with Todd Bol building a model of a one-room classroom in tribute of his school-teacher mother who loved to read. Bol and his neighbors filled multiples "classrooms" due to community loving his idea.

"UW-Madison's Rick Brooks (retired from Little Free Library 2014) saw Bol's do-it-yourself project while they were discussing potential social enterprises. Together, the two saw opportunities to achieve a variety of goals for the common good. They were inspired by community gift-sharing networks, "take a book, leave a book" collections in coffee shops and public spaces, and most especially by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Around the turn of the 20th century, Carnegie set a goal to fund the creation of 2,508 free public libraries across the English-speaking world. (LittleFreeLibraries)"

The movement of sharing and exchanging books became popular throughout the region; the first little library was later placed on a Madison bike-path which sparked a large demand of these libraires." Some small grants and informal partnerships began to have an impact on Little Free Library's ability to keep up with demand. (LittleFreeLibraries)"

By the end of 2012, over 4,000 little libraries were funded, and Little Free Libraries became a registered non-profit organization.

Continued History of the Libraries

"In 2013, Little Free Library was honored to receive the Innovations in Reading Prize from the National Book Foundation, and Bol and Brooks were bestowed with the Movers and Shakers award from the American Library Association, highlighting them as thought leaders in the library industry. (LittleFreeLibraries)"

By 2014, the non-profit organization became nationally known with recognition from publishers such as The New York Times and Washington Post. And in 2015, *The Little Free Library Book* was published by Margret Aldrich; the organization also received the Library of Congress Literacy Award from their work,

Festivals of these libraries were held for thousands of people to celebrate the organization and their mission.

In 2018, Todd Bol passed away from cancer complications but remained dedicated to his project throughout his final days. *"I really believe in a Little Free Library on every block and a book in every hand. I believe people can fix their neighborhoods, fix their communities, develop systems of sharing, learn from each other, and see that they have a better place on this planet to live."* (Todd Bol)

As of 2020, there are over 100,000 little libraries in over 100 countries worldwide.

The Importance of the Libraries

In some cases, children do not have access to books at home, and those who don't academically end up three years behind than the average child who has access to books at home. In order to increase reading achievement in children, there needs to be an increase to the access of books.

Little Free Libraries provide access to free books in areas where there may not have been any access before.

The libraries provide increased access to books all around the world for people of all ages and backgrounds.

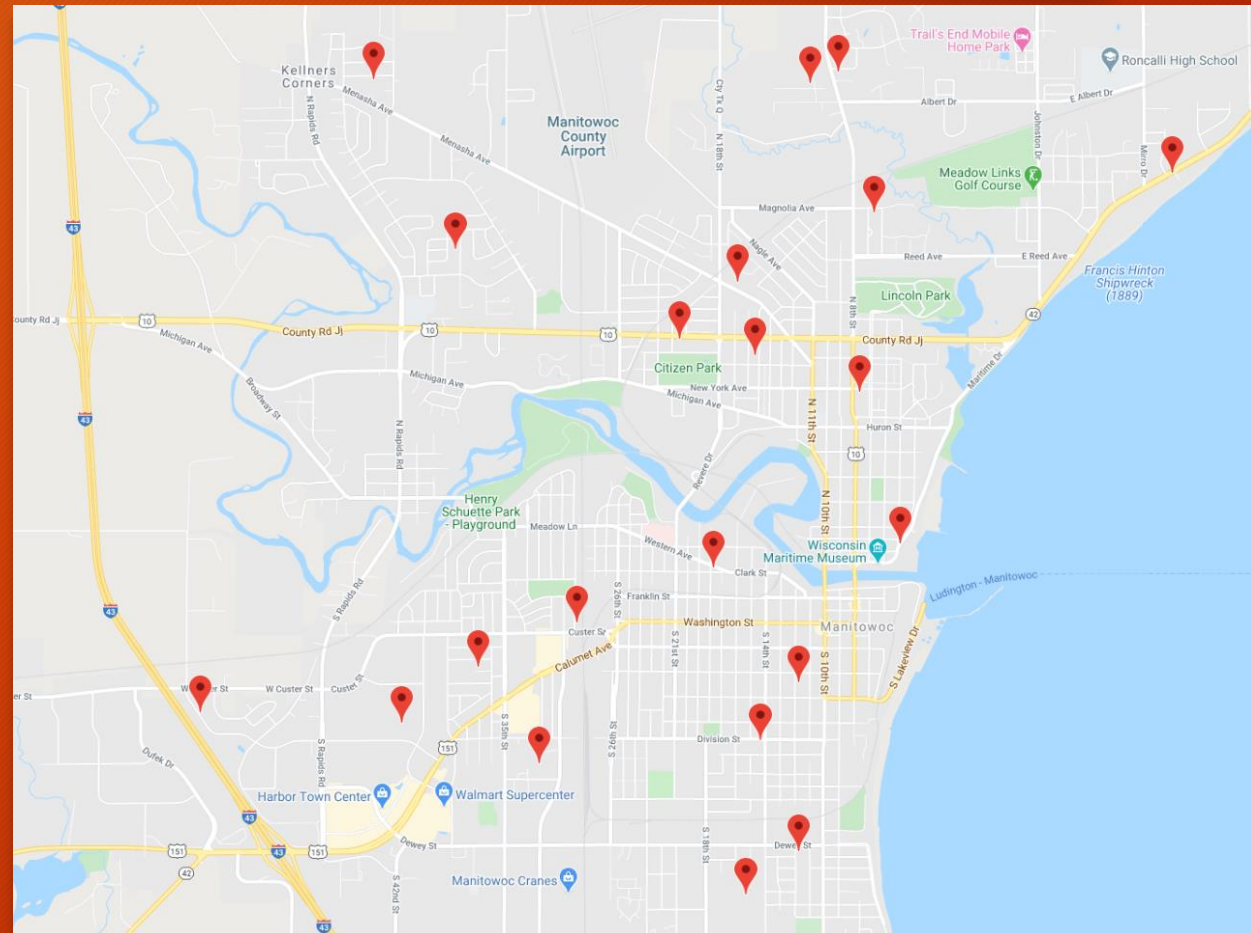
There are over 100,000 little free libraries open around the world, in over 100 countries where millions of books are exchanged every year.

Requirements

- There are no requirements to add or remove books from the libraries.
- You can build your own library by purchasing a charter sign and the materials
 - The charter sign costs between \$39.95 - \$85.95
 - The houses themselves cost between \$149.95 - \$499.95
 - The houses do not include the posts which are sold separately (ranging from \$79.95 - \$165.95)

Library Locations

- There are many locations of the Little Libraries all over the state of Wisconsin.
- Within the city of Manitowoc there are currently 21 registered Libraries.



Works Cited

“History of Little Free Library.” *Little Free Library*,
littlefreelibrary.org/ourhistory/.