

Bedford Public Library Food and Drink Policy

Policy Statement

The Library strives to create a welcoming, clean, and comfortable environment for all to enjoy. Consistent with this goal, food and drink are allowed in the library on a limited basis and should be consumed in a considerate and responsible manner. Food and drink pose a potential risk to library collections, equipment, carpet and furnishings.

Regulations

- 1.1 Water bottles are allowed in designated areas within the library.
- 1.2 Water bottles may not be used near library computer equipment.
- 1.3 Infant bottles are allowed for children under the age of 1.
- 1.4 Consumption of drinks (other than bottled water) and food are allowed only in the lobby and patio area of the Bedford Public Library.
- 1.5 Food and drink should not be left unattended or uncovered.
- 1.6 Patrons are expected to clean up after themselves by placing food refuse in the receptacles provided for that purpose.
- 1.7 Major spills should be reported immediately so arrangements can be made for clean up.
- 1.8 No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Library with the exception of after-hours fundraising events by the Bedford Library Foundation or Bedford Library Friends.
- 1.9 No group meals (e.g. pizza parties) are allowed in public areas.
- 1.10 Food and drink are permissible for special functions authorized by the Library.
- 1.11 Food and drink are allowed in Meeting Room North, Meeting Room South and the Bonnie Finn Room per the Meeting Room Policy regulations.

Enforcement

Staff members are authorized to issue a verbal warning to patrons eating or drinking in the library in a manner that does not follow the food and drink policy.

If the offender refuses to cooperate, they will be asked to leave as quickly and quietly as possible. Acting abusively with verbal or physical threats or failing to cooperate with staff may result in immediate suspension of library privileges.