



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greenwood library drops late fees

New circulation policy makes library access easier

The Trustees and leadership of the Greenwood Public Library (GPL) are excited to announce a major change to our circulation policy: the removal of late fees. Borrowers will still be responsible for replacement costs for lost items, but late fees will no longer be collected for items circulated at GPL.

One of the strategic initiatives outlined in GPL's soon-to-be-released Blueprint 2019/2023 is to "make library easy." For many people, the threat of late fees deters them from library use. Others find themselves with unexpectedly large fines and lose library privileges as a result. And although libraries have traditionally believed that late fees encourage the return of materials, research shows that late fees actually do more to discourage library use than they do to bring library materials back. GPL is proud to join a growing number of libraries across the country who are making the move to remove late fees.

If you are an Evergreen card holder and travel to other libraries to checkout materials, those items will be subject to the circulation policy in effect at that library. The new GPL Circulation policy applies to anything you check out at Greenwood Public Library, regardless of which library it came from. For more details please refer to our Circulation Policy.

The financial impact of this decision is estimated to be approximately a half of one percent of GPL's operating budget. Through careful stewardship, GPL is financially sound and healthy.

"We believe that the financial impact of this change will be far overshadowed by the opportunity it provides for us to make library easy for all of our patrons," states Director Cheryl Dobbs. "We have been looking forward to doing this for quite some time. If you have late fees on your account that are keeping you from coming back to the library, please come see us! We can help!"

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