

# **BANCROFT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## **BEHAVIOR AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

The Bancroft Public Library encourages people of all ages to visit the library. Those using the library and its staff have the right to expect a safe, comfortable environment that supports appropriate library services, and that the materials and facilities are in good condition.

The library requires that patrons and staff maintain an environment conducive to study. All people on the library premises are expected to be engaged in suitable educational, informational, or cultural activities. Conversation should be conducted as quietly as possible. Any behavior that disrupts the orderly use of the library is prohibited, including behavior that constitutes a nuisance or presents a safety and/or a security hazard or affects the ability of the library staff to provide service to its patrons.

On the premises of Bancroft Public Library, federal, state, and local laws are applicable, especially those related to "Public Order" and "Criminal Mischief" (NYS PENAL LAW, Articles 145&145 & 240) and to "Injuries to Property" (NYS Education Law, Article 264). Accordingly, no person shall engage in violent behavior, make unreasonable noise, use abusive or obscene language, physically or sexually harass others, obstruct pedestrian traffic, loiter, steal or damage library property, gamble, litter, or create a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act that serves no legitimate purpose.

Patrons may not deface or in any way destroy or damage library materials, furnishings, walls, machines, or any other library property either inside or outside the library. Patrons who violate any of these guidelines will be given notice of this policy. A violation may result in a patron's expulsion from the library, suspension of library privileges, criminal prosecution or other legally appropriate action.

Any library materials removed from the building must be checked out on a valid library card and returned by item's due date. Removal of any library property in any other fashion is illegal and will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Fines will be levied for overdue materials (see Circulation Policy).

Other prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to: soliciting, sleeping, intoxication, smoking, vaping, littering, making excessive noise, using offensive language, eating, drinking, talking on a cell phone, and behaving in a manner which unreasonably interferes with other patrons' use of the library.

Alcohol and illegal drugs are not permitted. Shirts and shoes are required attire.

No animals are allowed in the library except for those identified under federal guidelines as service animals.

Distributing or displaying pamphlets, surveys, flyers, signs or posters on Library premises is permitted only with the approval of the Board of Trustees of Bancroft Public Library.

To ensure the security and comfort of people entering and exiting the building, people are not allowed to congregate at or near the entrances. Blocking the entrances is not permitted.

For the safety of all, the following are prohibited in the library and on library grounds: roller skating, rollerblading, skateboarding, bicycling, and using a scooter. A bike rack is provided outside the library

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for patrons' convenience. Patrons are encouraged to use bike locks since the library is not responsible for any stolen property.

**Adopted:** July 11, 2017

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