

Mission: The mission of Manitowoc Public Library is to promote a culture of reading and to provide access to information. Through services, we strive to foster an environment that meets the educational, recreational and cultural needs of the community.

January 2026



- Beginning January 2, 2026, MPL became a fine free library! The timeline for checked out items to be considered “lost” (which means the patron is billed to replace them) was moved up to 14 days after the Due Date. This change in timeline caused flurry of lost item activity at the beginning of the year, but that has settled down now as standard operating procedures.
Fine Free information can be found here: [Fine Free | Manitowoc Public Library](#)
- Patron Personal Belongings: In November and December, we saw a large increase in the amount and spread of personal belongings that patrons were bringing in with them, causing a hindrance to other people’s space and safety. To ensure the Library is safe and inviting for everyone, we need all patrons to manage the size and space footprint of their personal belongings. Here is a look at the public communication I implemented at the beginning of 2026:
 - Effective January 2, 2026, Manitowoc Public Library will more stringently expect library patrons to adhere to the Code of Conduct Policy related to personal items: *“Bringing in personal items of an excessive size or quantity, such as shopping carts, garbage bags, or large pieces of luggage; blocking of aisles, seating, shelves, or any thoroughfare with personal items; or leaving personal items unattended at any time.”*
 - Criteria for Personal Belongings:
 - Must be contained to a receptacle no larger than a wheeled stroller or pull-wagon, and not stacked with items so high that pose a safety hazard;
 - Must be able to be moved - without assistance - by one person to and from destination;
 - Must be kept neatly next to an individual or where they are sitting without spreading into aisles or other thoroughfares.

Business Center Re-opens!



We officially opened the newly renovated Business Center on January 19! The area has new carpeting, new public computers and computer furniture, and a new staff desk with availability to the printing, faxing, scanning and photocopying machines. This renovation was made possible through a West Foundation Grant.

Coming Up

- Library Legislative Day in Madison on February 10.
- O365 implementation for Library Trustees and staff.
- Winter Reading Program runs through February 28.
- Spring is coming with MPL's Seed Swap on February 28, 9am – Noon.