

Library Landscaping Committee (LLC)



June 2023

Library Landscaping Committee (LLC) Volunteers

Cherrie Dubois - LLC's Vice-Chair; Library Trustee

Andrea Hogan - Senior Library Associate, Reading Public Library

Gena Pilyavsky - LLC's Chair; Climate Advisory Committee Member

Jake Soucy - LLC's Secretary

Elaine Stone - Reading Community Garden Member

Walter Talbot - Conservation Commission Member

Desirée Zicko - Communications Specialist, Reading Public Library



Figure: Reading Public Library

LLC Objective: Completion of the RPL's Landscape Vision

Engage with the community and stakeholders

- Meet with BOLT and the Library Staff
- Guide public survey(s)

Conceptualize outdoor environment

- Improve for learning activities & aesthetics

Guide future development plans

- Raise funding for the effort
- Work with landscape architectural firms



Figure: Garden outside the Sahara West Library and Fine Arts Museum (NV)

Current State

No dedicated stage or power source

- E.g., extension cords used during Edgar Allan Poe event

Limited seating for small groups

- Single picnic table and three granite blocks

Steep slope limits accessibility

- Visitors must provide their own seating
- Lawn is in subpar state and requires maintenance

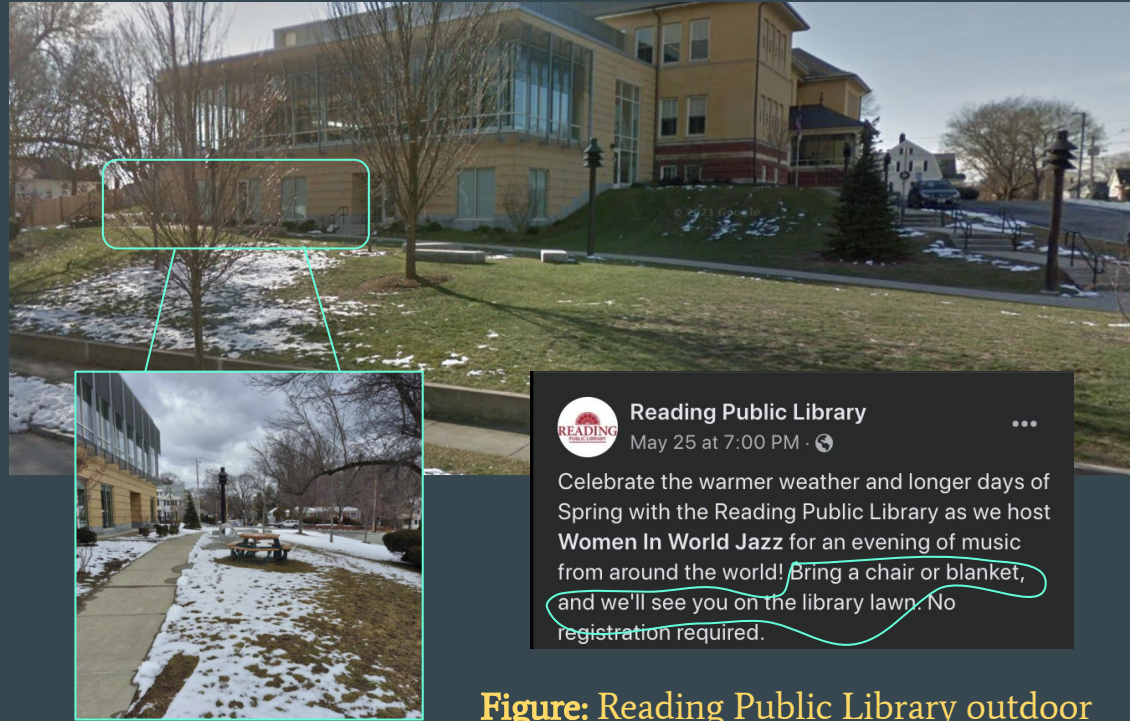


Figure: Reading Public Library outdoor event space

Supporting RPL's Core Mission:

Dedicated outdoor space for learning & engagement

- E.g., educational events about nature, plants & gardening, outdoors storytime, and other programs and events for all ages

Space for small groups

- Study sessions, book clubs, discussions
- Improved accessibility

...A center and resource for learning and civic engagement. We provide a place and platform of, by, and for the people who can benefit as individuals as well as contribute to the well-being of the community.



Figure: Camden Library Amphitheatre, Maine

Funding Sources and Activities

Funding Goal: Undertake the project without placing additional tax burden on the residents

Explore outside funding

- Nonprofits, grants, plaques, etc

Funding long-term maintenance (examples)

- Adopt an “island”, landscape maintenance
- Use low-maintenance, native plants for sustainability
- Establish an endowment



Figure: Outdoor seating at University of Newcastle

What's Next?

- Introduce Library Landscaping Committee and our objectives to the Board of Library Trustees
- Compile funding opportunities
- Solicit (free) presentations from landscape architects firms, including firms that submitted proposals for other town projects
- Allocate funding for a full study, community survey, and engagement
- Evaluate results and make recommendations on the next steps in the project



Figure: Amphitheater at the Walterboro Discovery Center, SC

Photo By Paul Cheney Photography

Library Landscaping Committee (LLC)



Thank you
Questions?

Cherrie Dubois, Andrea Hogan, Gena Pilyavsky, James Soucy , Elaine Stone, Walter
Talbot, Desirée Zicko