

**Inclusive, informed,  
impactful:  
Public libraries as partners  
on the route to recovery**



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Let's Move in  
**Libraries**

# Ripped from the headlines

‘We aren’t abandoned’: Hartford’s Community Hope Garden initiative helps residents memorialize those lost to COVID-19

Photo taken at **Hartford Public Library's Albany branch.**

The heart is in memory of loved-one Cyril Rookwood.

(Brad Horrigan/The Hartford Courant)

<https://bit.ly/35uO8OS>





# Two questions to answer in the chat:

1. Who are you?
2. Why are you here at this session?

1. Quick overview of ‘Why Libraries?’
2. The view from Blount County TN
3. The view from America Walks
4. Moderated discussion of ‘What next?’

"If I don't walk, it's really not a great day" - Seattle Public Library's Nancy Pearl

"Last year, Pearl started combining her two greatest pleasures — reading and walking."



HERALDNET.COM  
America's action figure librarian walks a good book for exercise | HeraldNet.com

**CONNOLLY BRANCH LIBRARY** **Connolly Branch of the Boston Public Library**  
 October 30 · 🌐

Snow can't stop the Story Walk! The Story Walk will stay up until Wednesday, November 4. Stop by the branch during BPL to Go hours for an activity kit.

¡La nieve no puede detener el Story Walk! El Story Walk permanecerá activo hasta el miércoles 4 de noviembre. Pase por la biblioteca durante las horas de BPL to Go para obtener un kit de actividades.

[See Translation](#)

**America's 17,000+ public libraries employ nearly 145,000 individuals.  
 ALL OF THEM ARE POTENTIAL PARTNERS**



Grant # RE-246336-OLS-20

	# Interviews
Library front-lines	44
Library leadership	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>

Sector	#
Non-profit	15
Hospital	6
Parks and Recreation	5
Health Department	5
Cooperative Extension	4
Individual Volunteer	4
Business	4
SNAP-Ed	3
K-12 School	2
United Way	2
City Government	2
Senior Agency	1
Boys and Girls Club	1
Community coalition	1
YMCA	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>

Semi-Structured interviews with individuals from organizations that have worked with public librarians on community-based **Healthy Eating and Active Living** initiatives



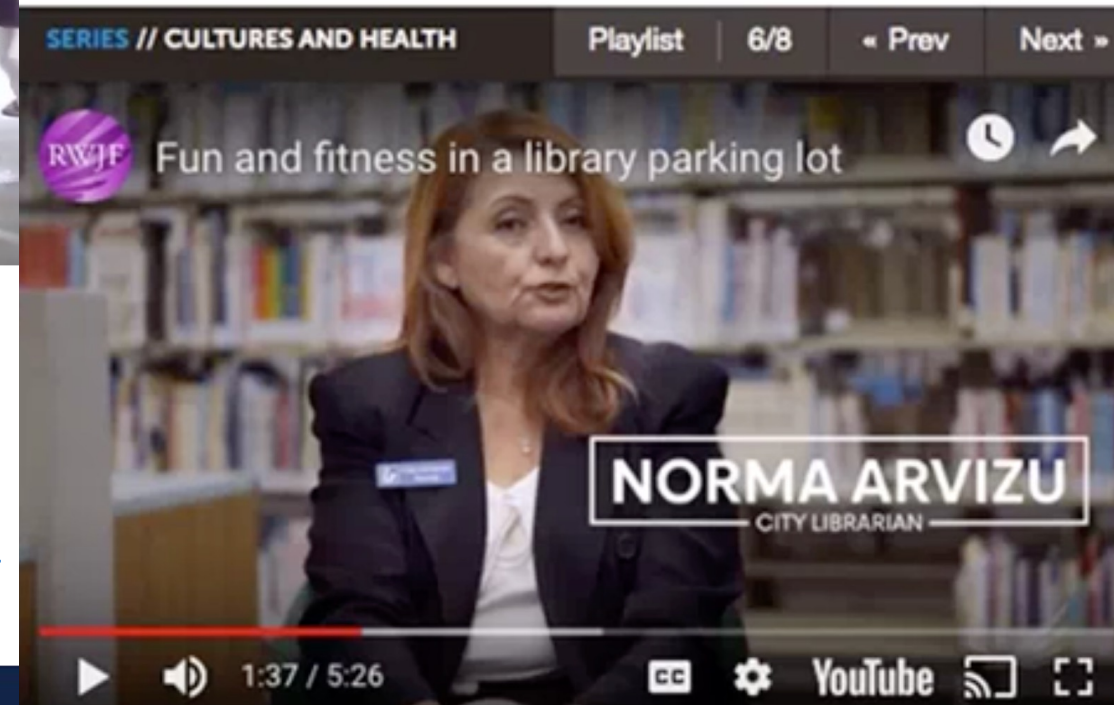
## Trends: Shared use

# Embracing the SHARED USE of the library



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. (2017).  
“Achieving Health Equity: Fun and Fitness  
in a library parking lot.”

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/features/achieving-health-equity.html>





# Pandemic: Looking outside



 **FC Public Library**  
@FCPublicLibrary

What a great day for gardening! Jessica and her son Patrick came to the Walkertown Branch library today to harvest sweet potatoes from their plot and to plant collards for the Fall. They enjoy being part of the Library Community Garden. Library is for growing!



2:13 PM · Oct 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App



## Trends: Trusted Models

“[When] the book bike comes, people are reminded that we have a bike trail system that allows the library to come see us using their bike.

Having a librarian ride their book bikes: They're wearing their bicycling gear - really helps remind the public that everybody can be healthy”

Head of Main Street Organization





✓ **BORROW**  
 ✓ **RIDE**  
 ✓ **RETURN**

**A FREE program operated by the  
 Bethlehem Health Bureau & partners.  
 Bring ID to borrow a bike and lock.**

**Explore the city, run errands, and enjoy the outdoors!**

**LOCATIONS**

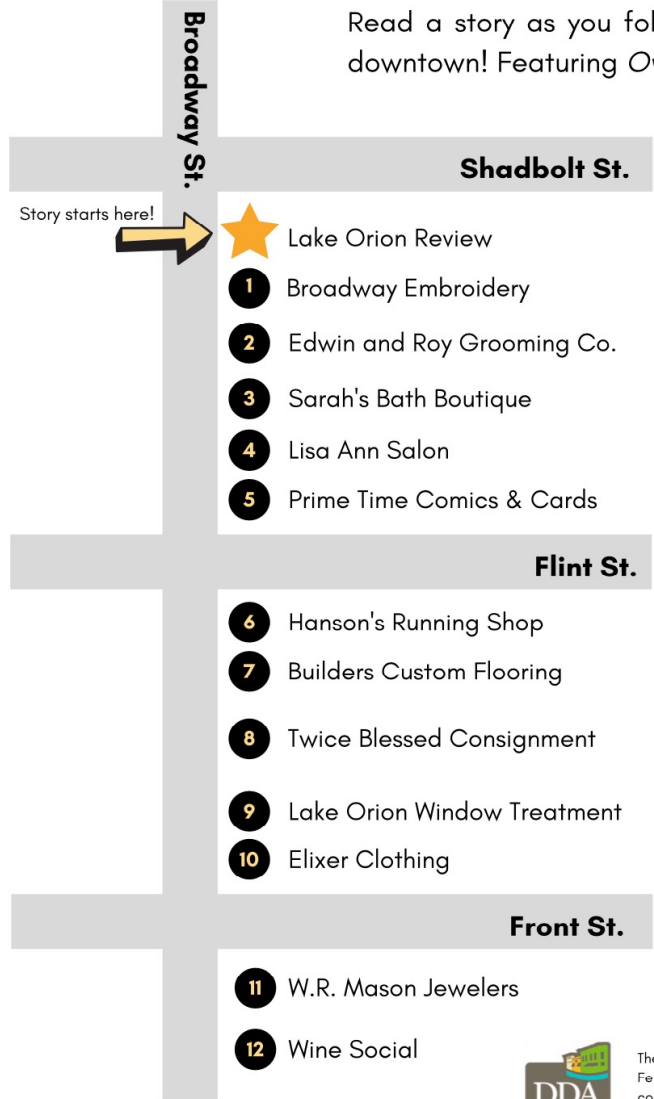
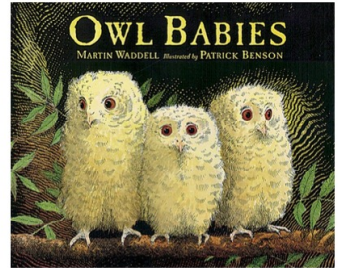
Comfort Suites  
(3rd Street)

Bethlehem Area Public Library - Main



# LAKE ORION STORYWALK®

Read a story as you follow the path and explore downtown! Featuring *Owl Babies* by Martin Wadell



The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Storywalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.





## Partner Evolution in thinking about public libraries

- Stage 1: Library => Book Repository
- Stage 2: Library => Trusted Resources
- Stage 3: Library => Space to use
- Stage 4: ***Librarian*** => ***Trusted Partner***  
(We work **together** to figure out what to do in our community)

**How can you get to Stage 4 faster????**



# Let's Move in Libraries



Main Street America  @NatlMainStreet · Mar 16

"Within the simple idea of combining reading and public space, a myriad of opportunities are available."

Dr. Noah Lenstra, Founder & Director of [@LetsMoveLibrary](#), explores the impact of [#StoryWalks](#) in downtowns & shares tips to make your own: [ow.ly/e1vq50DUFvB](https://ow.ly/e1vq50DUFvB)

America Walks [@americawalks](#) · Aug 26, 2020

[@NoahLenstra](#) thinks public libraries may be the most critically underutilized partner in grassroots efforts to help make our communities more walkable. After reading his awesome blog making the case, you might agree: [americawalks.org/make-america-a...](https://americawalks.org/make-america-a...) [#Walkable](#) [#walking](#) [@LetsMoveLibrary](#)



**NRPA** National Recreation and Park Association

*Because everyone deserves a great park*



## Can Parks Leverage Libraries?

How park and recreation agencies can enhance services by working smarter with libraries

By Noah Lenstra, Ph.D., MLIS, and Teresa L. Penbrooke, Ph.D., CPRE



Join us!



# PAPREN

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY RESEARCH  
AND EVALUATION NETWORK



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- Rural Active Living Work Group focusing on “public libraries as physical activity promotion partners”
- Monthly meetings – all welcome to join – [lenstra@uncg.edu](mailto:lenstra@uncg.edu)

<https://papren.org/papren-work-groups/rural-active-living-work-group/>

Thank you!

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<http://letsmovelibraries.org/>





1. Are public library partnerships already happening in your community?
2. If yes, what do they look like?
3. If no, why not? [We'll discuss at end!]