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

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‘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."

America's 17,000+ public libraries employ nearly 145,000 individuals.

ALL OF THEM ARE POTENTIAL PARTNERS
Semi-Structured interviews with individuals from organizations that have worked with public librarians on community-based **Healthy Eating and Active Living** initiatives

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<th>Sector</th>
<th>Non-profit</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Parks and Recreation</th>
<th>Health Department</th>
<th>Cooperative Extension</th>
<th>Individual Volunteer</th>
<th>Business</th>
<th>SNAP-Ed</th>
<th>K-12 School</th>
<th>United Way</th>
<th>City Government</th>
<th>Senior Agency</th>
<th>Boys and Girls Club</th>
<th>Community coalition</th>
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Grant # RE-246336-OLS-20

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<td>Library leadership</td>
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Pandemic: Looking outside

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!
“[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
BIKE BETHLEHEM!

✓ 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

Shadbolt St.
- Lake Orion Review
- Broadway Embroidery
- Edwin and Roy Grooming Co.
- Sarah’s Bath Boutique
- Lisa Ann Salon
- Prime Time Comics & Cards

Flint St.
- Hanson’s Running Shop
- Builders Custom Flooring
- Twice Blessed Consignment
- Lake Orion Window Treatment
- Elixer Clothing

Front St.
- W.R. Mason Jewelers
- Wine Social

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anna 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 used
- 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?????
Learn more!

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... #Walkable #walking @LetsMoveLibrary

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

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!

• Rural Active Living Work Group focusing on “public libraries as physical activity promotion partners”

• Monthly meetings – all welcome to join – lenstra@uncg.edu

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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!]