

Revision Date: January 2025

Policy Type: Public Service

Approval Level: CEO

Review Schedule: 5 yrs. (or as required)

1. PURPOSE

Markham Public Library (the “Library”) strives to provide a welcoming, comfortable environment where our customers can imagine, create, learn and grow. We understand that while visiting the Library, customers may want to enjoy a drink or snack, and as such, have designated areas at all branches where this activity may occur.

2. DESIGNATED AREAS

Library branches allow the consumption of snacks and drinks in all areas except for the Children’s area, and the public access computer workstations. These restricted areas are chosen in order to preserve our computer equipment and ensure the cleanliness of our play-based learning areas (such as our children’s spaces in every branch).

3. GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been designed to balance customer convenience and comfort with cleanliness. We ask that customers follow the guidelines listed below in order to ensure a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for all.

- Snack foods are permitted, but not messy and aromatic foods (such as pizza, burgers, and other fast foods).
- Non-alcoholic drinks only, and in spill proof cups or bottles with screw caps.
- No food deliveries of any kind are allowed in the Library;
- All customers are asked to be considerate of others and clean up after themselves by placing all trash in receptacles provided. Please ensure all areas are left clean for use by others.
- The use of appliance for food/drink preparation is not permitted for safety reasons.

4. ALLERGIES

As a public facility, the Library cannot ensure an allergy-free environment. All caregivers are responsible for monitoring consumption of food and drinks by children under their supervision while using our facilities. As such, we advise all caregivers of children with allergies to remain vigilant at all times as in other public venues. We also strongly recommend hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers which are placed throughout the Library.

5. ACCIDENTAL SPILLS

In the event of an accidental spill customers are expected to:

- Clean up the spill promptly,
- Let a staff member know so that damaged materials are properly treated.

6. BREAST FEEDING

The Library supports a mother's right to breastfeed in all of its facilities.

7. FOOD AND THE LIBRARY

On the occasion food or drink is served, staff will ensure that all food and drink is nut-free. Staff will keep labels listing ingredients during the event to answer any questions. Feel free to decline any food or drink served.

8. MONITORING

The Library encourages customers to help monitor this policy. Customers not observing these guidelines may be asked to enjoy their food or beverages outside of the library.