

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 6, 2015

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair),
Tiffinni A. Young (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Mark Clayton, Philip T. Kingston, B. Adam McGough

SUBJECT **Little Free Library**

On Monday, November 9, 2015, you will be briefed on Little Free Library. The purpose of this briefing is to receive direction from the committee as to possible regulations. A copy of the briefing material is attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan S. Evans".

Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

Little Free Library

Quality of Life & Environment Committee
November 9, 2015



Purpose of Briefing

- Update the Committee on little free library issues
- Get direction from the Committee on possible regulations

History of Little Free Library Organization

▪ Little Free Library Organization

- In 2009, first little free library was built in Wisconsin
- Simple concept “Take a book, leave a book”
- The Little Free Library national organization has over 32,000 registered little free libraries in all 50 U.S. states and over 70 countries

Source: littlefreelibrary.org



9614 Vista Oaks Drive

Little Free Library/Libros Libres Dallas

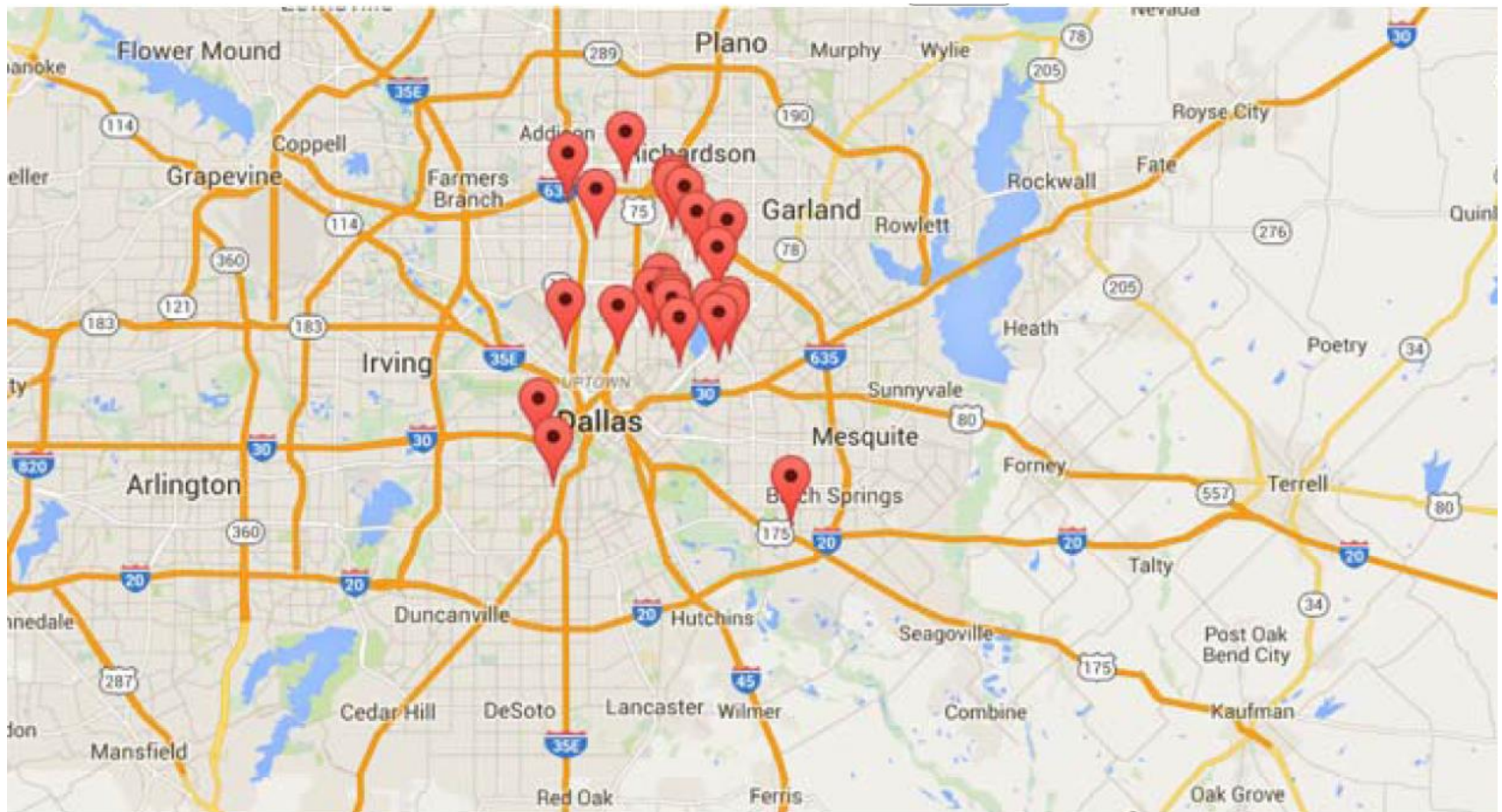
■ Little Free Library/Libros Libres Dallas

- A collaboration between the Wisconsin-based nonprofit Little Free Library, Big Thought, bcWORKSHOP and the Dallas Public Library
- A community driven project to build little free libraries in West Dallas, SouthDallas/Fair Park, and south Oak Cliff
- These little free libraries have been mainly associated with multifamily developments and community centers. They are now branching out into single family neighborhoods



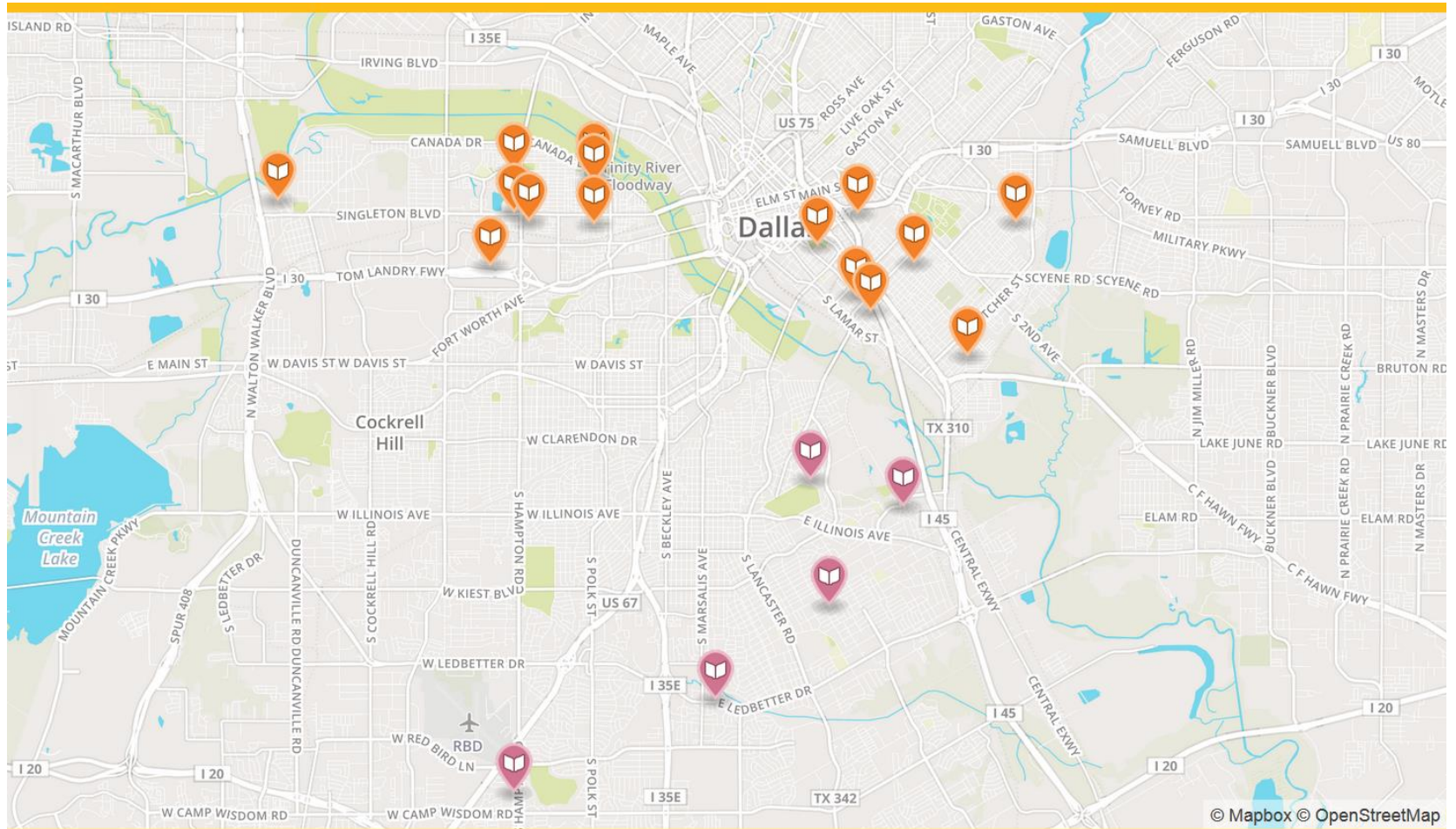
Village Oaks Apartments Little Free Library

Locations registered with LFL.org



- Approximately 25 little free libraries registered with LFL.org

Little Free Library/Libros Libres Dallas



- Little Free Library/Libros Libres locations
- Source: www.lfldallas.org

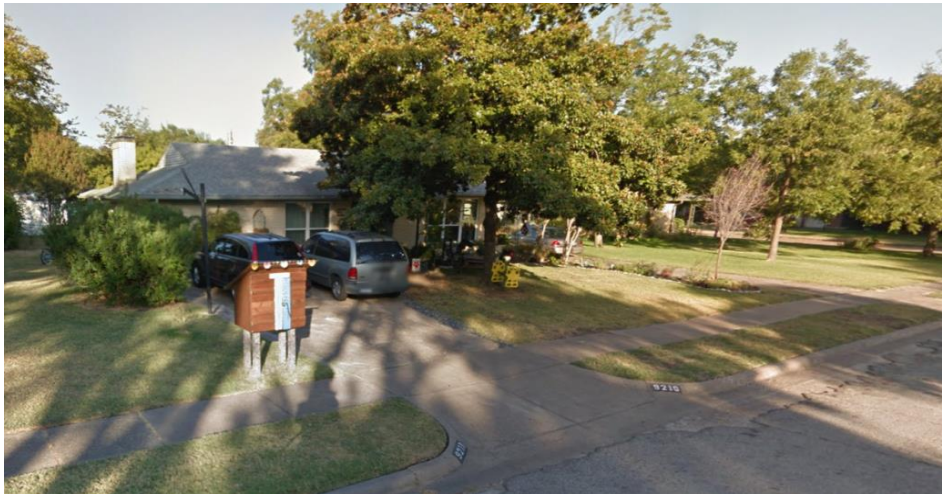
Little Free Library in Single Family Neighborhood



3236 Basil Court



4830 Silver Ave



9210 Lynbrook Drive

Little Free Library in Non-Single Family Areas



Village Oaks Apartments Little Free Library



Oak Cliff Family YMCA - 6701 S. Hampton Road

Information from littlefreelibrary.org

Little Free Libraries in Surrounding Cities

	Does City have a program for Little Free Library?
Allen	No
Arlington	No ¹
Cedar Hill	No
Duncanville	No
Fort Worth	No
Garland	No
Grand Prairie	No
Irving	No
Mesquite	No
McKinney	No
Plano	No
Richardson	No ²

¹. Arlington Proud Little Free Library program a public private partnership

². Little Free Library Sponsorship Program by Friends of the Richardson Public Library

- None of these surrounding cities have specifically addressed the little free libraries in their zoning code

Little Free Libraries in Index Cities

	Does City have a program for Little Free Library?
Austin	No
Baltimore	No
Boston	No
Columbus	No
El Paso	No
Fort Worth	No
Philadelphia	No ¹
Phoenix	No

1. West Philadelphia Alliance for Children (WePAC)

- None of these index cities have specifically addressed the little free libraries in their zoning code

Regulations for Little Free Libraries in other Cities

Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin:

Little free libraries are defined as small enclosures used solely as a means of the free exchange of literary material, and recorded performing arts. Little free libraries may be established in front yard setback subject to the following requirements :

- Maximum 3 feet wide by 3 feet deep by 3 feet tall on a single post
- No taller than 6 feet
- May not be located in the public right-of-way or on public property without the consent of the appropriate State, County, or Village authority
- No more than one little free library per side of linear block of street
- Little free libraries shall be installed and maintained in a neat and orderly fashion
- Not constitute a public nuisance
- Not obstruct the vision, of pedestrians, motorists, or bicyclists in a way that risks public health or safety
- Not impede drainage, snow removal or other public works or utility functions, operations, or maintenance
- Has the authority to order the removal of little free libraries that fail to comply with any of the regulations for a period greater than thirty (30) days after notice

Issues with Little Free Libraries

- May have “strangers” visiting your neighborhood
- Location of the little free library in relation to neighbor (near side property line)
- City cannot regulate content in a little free library
- Proliferation of little free libraries in a community
- Garbage, vandalism, illicit materials
- Ongoing maintenance

Options

1. Amend the Development Code to establish Board of Adjustment special exception to allow a Little Free Library in the front yard setback
2. Amend the Code to define Little Free Library and allow as an exception to the front yard as lawn furniture and landscape elements are allowed
3. Amend the code and allow in the setback by a neighborhood petition (similar to the Road Hump Program)
4. Allow in the right-of-way when a license is granted
5. No change to the Code
 - If portable, similar to basketball goals, moved in and out of setback.

Next Steps

- Receive direction from the Committee on next steps

Appendix

Current Code

Front Yard Regulations - – 51A-4.401

- Required front yards must be open and unobstructed except for fences. Except as otherwise provided in this section, ordinary projections of window sills, belt courses, cornices, and other architectural features may not project more than 12 inches into the required front yard. A fireplace chimney may project up to two feet into the required front yard if its area of projection does not exceed 12 square feet. Cantilevered roof eaves and balconies may project up to five feet into the required front yard.
- In an A(A), multifamily, MH(A), office, retail, CS, LI, IR, IM, central area, mixed use, or multiple commercial district, the board of adjustment may allow a special exception from the front yard requirements of this section to permit the erection of a permanently constructed porte-cochere, covered walkway, or canopy if the structure is rectilinear in shape and does not exceed 25 feet in width at the building line, and if the board finds that the structure will not adversely affect neighboring property.

Little Free Library/Libros Libres Dallas

Libros Libres is a Dallas based community design initiative that pairs neighborhood residents and community organizations with local designers to create a Little Free Library.

Little Free Libraries Supported by Libros Libres in Dallas:

PROJECT/SITE	Address	Zoning	Use	LFL Locations
Moorland YMCA	907 E Ledbetter Dr	R-7.5(A) (SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT 7,500 S)	Recreation Building	Near build entrance, well away from the street
Gardner Prep School	100 N. Houston School Road, Lancaster, TX	SPECIFIC USE DISTRICT (in Lancaster)	Pre-School use	Near arrival area, away from street
Oak Cliff YMCA	6701 S. Hampton Road	R-10(A) (SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT 10,000)	Recreation Building	Near build entrance, well away from the street
McCarty Maathai Garden	2331 Custer Drive	R-7.5(A) (SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT 7,500 S)	Community Garden	Within cmty garden, structures allowed in urban gardens
Village Oaks	3550 E Overton Drive	MF-2(A) (MULTIFAMILY DISTRICT 2)	Apartment Complex	Near apartment complex community garden
Mark Cuban Heroes Basketball	1800 Bonnie View Road	R-7.5(A) (SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICT 7,500 S)	Recreation Building	Indoor Bookshelf/Trophycase
Belay House	4830 Silver Ave	INDUSTRIAL/MANUFACTURING DISTRICT	Afterschool / Rec Center	In planning
St. Phillip's School	1600 Pennsylvania Ave	COMMERCIAL SERVICE DISTRICT	School & Community Center	In planning

- Source: www.lfldallas.org

Arlington Free Library Sponsorship Program

The Arlington Proud Little Free Library program:

- Was initiated in September 2015
- Based on the national LFL concept “take a book, return a book”
- Provides open access to books and a venue for community gathering
- Encourages Little Free Library in public spaces like the UTA campus, schools, and at a church
- Public private partnership to encourage local artists and young readers

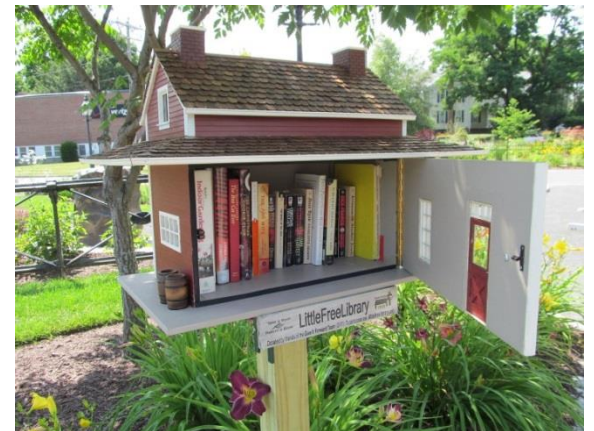


<http://www.arlington-tx.gov/news/2015/10/15/arlington-proud-introduces-little-free-library-program/>

Richardson Free Library Sponsorship Program

Little Free Library Sponsorship Program by Friends of the Richardson Public Library :

- Assists neighborhood associations/homeowners/similar groups to establish a Little Free Library at no cost by an application process
- Selected/successful applicants are responsible to:
 - Following local codes (municipal code or Home Owner Association)
 - Assemble and install the LFL kit
 - Maintenance of the libraries on an ongoing basis



<http://www.richardsonfol.org/Little-Free-Library>