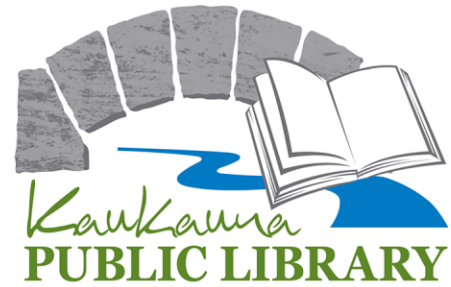


To: Kaukauna Public Library Board of Trustees
From: Library Director Ashley Thiem-Menning
Date: 5/20/2025
Re: Seed Library



This year we have had a number of requests again for a Seed Library. Seed libraries began popping up in public libraries around the country in 2010, the first known in 2004. So courtesy of the Friends of the Kaukauna Public Library, we started a small one, now located in the Adult Nonfiction area near the Little Free Pantry.

Seed libraries are a way for people to take seeds and donate seeds. The Kaukauna Public Seed Library provides information, resources, and seeds for members of our community in an effort to empower food sovereignty and support pollinators in our own community.

We had plans for this a while ago, but the green thumb staff member tasked with it ended up moving out of state resulting in project delay.

I have a meeting scheduled in June with Appleton Public Library and the Seed Guild (serving Northeast Wisconsin communities) for additional guidance, but in the meantime, we have been able to offer some vegetable and flower seeds for the community as a start.

Within the first week, we went through more than half the vegetable/herb seeds ordered. We are also already seeing seed donations come in as well, some from Oneida Nation, and some from patrons. We were excited to see a donation of milkweed seeds as well to help our local pollinators!

Our hope with the seed library is to make growing food and flowers more accessible to all! We are collaborating with Appleton Public Library (APL) to write a WiLS (nonprofit serving Wisconsin libraries) grant for seed libraries. If the grant is gifted, this will help us to purchase an abundance of seeds and a better set-up for distribution. This is also in anticipation of a great event we will be collaborating with APL on this fall.