



Why Did We Need to Change Our Entry Door?

"We shape our buildings, and afterwards, they shape us."

- Winston Churchill

There has been a lot of talk about our new revolving door since we started using it at the beginning of the year. We know it has been an adjustment and we thank you for your patience.

But first, did you know that the first U.S. patent for a revolving door was issued to Theophilus Van Kannel of Philadelphia on August 7, 1888? The patent states: "[The door] possesses numerous advantages over a hinged-door structure ... it is perfectly noiseless ... effectually prevents the entrance of wind, snow, rain, or dust ..."

Van Kannel's first revolving door was installed at Rector's restaurant in Times Square in 1899. One can only imagine how it helped keep the dust, noise, and odors of the day out of the dining room.

There were a lot of important reasons we decided to change the door. On average, more than 1,000 people visit the Library each day and each time the old sliding doors opened, a wind tunnel of warm or cold air entered the building. This may not have been noticeable to patrons who stayed only a few minutes, but those who lingered longer could feel the effect. It became stressful and costly for the building's HVAC system to try to make it warmer or cooler.



The reviews on the new door have been mixed and we get it, change can be difficult. But we would not be good stewards of your library building—or budget—if we had not addressed this situation.

The Library received a grant from the New York State Aid for Library Construction Program for the door and front entry project. This also included removing the pavers in front of the door and replacing

them with stamped concrete. Crumbling pavers were repaired and all of the engraved pavers were relocated to under the overhang.

The speed at which the new door rotates has been calibrated to make sure it is safe for all and we also have the ability to adjust it further so it is handicap accessible (simply hit the blue handicap button before you enter) or in case of an emergency.

Benefits of a Revolving Door

- As an LEED Certified building, we strive to reduce our carbon footprint and be a sustainable resource for the community. The revolving door helps conserve heat in the winter and keeps the building cooler in the summer. This cuts down on heating and cooling costs.
- Prevents dust and noise from entering the building.
- It is easy to use—you never need to push it. You don't need to worry about walking in or out with your arms full of library materials.

Library Team Leads Sustainability Efforts

You may have noticed a focus on nature and the environment at the Library recently:

- On-demand due date receipts from Circulation
- Use of a QR code to access our program brochure online
- A Seed Library
- An Earth Day Bingo Challenge
- Increased recycling containers
- Guided Nature Walks
- Informational talks by experts
- Increased sustainability awareness to staff and patrons.

These are all part of the Library's efforts to become certified through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI), a nationwide program that helps the Library save money, reduce waste, and become more resilient— all important factors that help create a robust center of discovery, knowledge, and creativity for patrons.

“Libraries play an important role in communities, helping to strengthen social bonds, create a safe and enjoyable third space, provide information and resources, and guide the community towards sustainable practices,” says Kaity Stefanidis, a Librarian and Sustainability Committee Member. “All of this will help prepare the community for the impacts of climate change; severe weather, lifestyle changes, and population



Trash audit in progress.

changes due to climate refugees.”

A cross-section of staff from multiple departments came together to form a Sustainability Committee in March 2024 and are working on certification from SLI. The team is addressing the three pillars of sustainability as defined by the SLI plan:

- environmentally sound
- economically feasible
- socially equitable

The first two are fairly straightforward and often go hand-in-hand. If we repair or repurpose something, we can save money and waste, which helps us sustain our organization and the environment.

You may not think of social equity

as sustainability, says Chrissie Morrison, a Children's Librarian on the team, but serving all patrons makes for a healthy library.

“Our community will thrive and we will better meet the needs of everyone—thereby prolonging our viability—by actively seeking to understand all segments of our population,” she says. “By offering English Language Learning and citizenship classes, adding a dedicated Sensory Room, and providing outreach services—we are already practicing social equity.”

The SLI certification typically takes about 18-24 months; the team is completing the first of 13 required sections, according to Tenaya Bannon, a Local History Librarian and Sustainability Team member. The Board of Trustees also emphasized sustainability as one of its goals in the [2025-27 Strategic Plan](#) (you can also find a copy at the Ask Desk).

Plans for the future include a focus on the Library's indoor and outdoor spaces, a look at the Library's water and material usage and its impact on the community, and more sustainability-themed programs and displays.

“The Library and everything we do exists for the benefit of our patrons, so it is important for them to know how—and why—we are spending our time,” Stefanidis says. “We want them to know what we are focusing on for the future of the Library.”



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

To learn more about the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, visit sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org

DISCOVER. LEARN. DO.

475 Moe Road, Clifton Park

518-371-8622

www.cphlibrary.org

