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## **Mendon Public Library** ***Food and Beverage Policy***

Responsible stewardship of the Library's collection requires that care is exercised in allowing food and beverages in the library facility. Food and beverages are easily spilled on books, furniture, and equipment, causing damage. Particles of food left behind on books, furniture, or floors attract rodents, cockroaches, silverfish, and other unwanted pests.

The Mendon Public Library strives to create a welcoming, clean, and comfortable environment for the public. To meet this goal, the Library has adapted the *Leave No Trace* principle of outdoor ethics to its food and beverage policy for the consumption of food and beverages in the Library's facility.

### **Leave No Trace Food and Beverage Guidelines**

- Snacks and covered beverages are permitted.
- Messy or greasy foods that may damage library material and facilities as well as odorous and/or noisy foods that may be distracting to others are not allowed.
- No food or drinks in the book stacks.
- Only covered twist top style beverage containers are allowed at computer stations.
- No food is allowed at computer stations.
- Unattended food and/or beverages are subject to being disposed of by staff.
- Clean up any spills right away -- if additional assistance is needed, contact library staff at the desk.
- Properly dispose of all food and trash in the appropriate containers.

The Library reserves the right to ask any user to remove his/her food and/or beverage from the library if in the judgment of the staff it constitutes a violation of this policy. Allowing food and drink in the library during special events will be at the discretion of the Library Director.