



CIRCULATION POLICY

The Library is part of the Southeast Michigan-based library consortium, The Library Network (TLN). Membership in this consortium allows Novi residents the advantage of borrowing from more than 50 public libraries within Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. Patrons living within the legal service area of a TLN member library and who have a valid library card from their home library may borrow physical library materials subject to any rules, regulations or policies enforced by Novi Public Library (NPL) or TLN.

Library Card General Information

- A valid scannable NPL card is required for all services involving access to a patron account in the Library.
- To obtain a NPL card, residents must visit the Library in person and present valid picture ID and proof of Novi residency as outlined below. Residents of other TLN member library service areas must obtain a card from their home library.
- To obtain an eCard, which provides a digital library barcode number and access only to the Library's digital resources, residents must complete the online application. NPL eCards may be exchanged for a physical Novi library card by visiting the Library in person and presenting a valid picture ID and proof of Novi residency.
- Only one library card will be issued per patron.
- Within TLN, there is no option for a family card. A library card must be obtained by an individual.
- A patron may have only one library card in the TLN shared system.
- A NPL card may be used at any TLN shared system library without further requirements. A patron must contact each individual library in the TLN standalone system to inquire about their policy for reciprocal borrowing. For a complete list of member libraries of TLN and their shared system or standalone classification, see TLN's website or the Library's TLN Phone Directory.
- Novi Public Library residents may also use their library card at the Lakeshore Lending Library located in Lakeshore Park (601 S Lake Dr, Novi, MI).
- The library card of any patron may be disabled and access to the Library may be denied for violations of failure to adhere to Library and TLN policies.

Patron Responsibility

- Patrons are responsible for all materials borrowed on their library card. In signing the card, they agree to abide by the Library's lending rules and all policies and regulations. Possession of a library card by someone other than its owner (when not reported as lost) implies the consent of the individual named on the card for the holder's use of the card.
- Patrons will supply the Library with correct current contact information upon receipt of a card, and agree to inform the Library of any updates to home address, phone number, or email as soon as possible. If the Library has a reasonable belief that the patron is no longer a resident of Novi, the Library reserves the right to cancel the Library card.
- Patrons must report a lost or stolen card immediately and are held responsible for all materials checked out on their card until the Library is contacted.

Acceptable Forms of Identification

- **Examples of valid picture ID include:** government-issued photo ID such as a current driver's license, Michigan State ID card or passport.
- **Examples of proof of residency include:** government-issued ID with current address, a copy of lease agreement, property tax receipt, Address Confidentiality Program Participation Card or official mail received at the resident's Novi address within the last ninety (90) days. All documentation must show the resident's name and Novi address to be used as proof of residency.
 - **Novi Residency Verification Postcard:** If a resident cannot produce valid proof of residency, the Library will mail a verification postcard to the resident's Novi address, which can be returned in person to the Library as proof of residency.
 - **Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) Participation Card:** An applicant with an ACP card must also present a "letter of residency" from the ACP office demonstrating residency in Novi. The applicant may contact the ACP office while at the Library, and with the permission of the applicant, the ACP office may be able to verbally confirm over the phone that the person is a resident of Novi.

Types of Library Cards & Eligibility

The persons listed in this policy are eligible for the issuance of a NPL card.

Standard Cards

- **Novi Resident Adult**

Residents or taxpayers of Novi 18 years and older must present a valid picture ID and proof of Novi residency to the Library.

- **Novi Resident Youth**

For those under age 18, a parent, guardian or caregiver (guardianship papers required) must bring their valid picture ID and proof of Novi residency to the Library with the child in attendance.

If the parent, guardian or caregiver has a valid scannable library card, it must not be blocked to register their child for a card. Parents, guardians or caregivers who sign the child's card will have access to account information and are responsible for all materials borrowed.

- **Novi Resident Sponsor**

Residents of Novi who are affected by special circumstances (i.e. temporarily or permanently homebound, exchange student or temporary resident residing in a host household of a Novi resident, etc.) may be eligible for library cards when an approved sponsor is added to their account.

- **Exchange student or temporary resident residing in a host household of a Novi resident:**

- The hosted temporary resident must bring their valid picture ID, and the sponsor must bring their valid picture ID and proof of Novi residency to the Library. If the sponsor has a valid library card, it must not be blocked to register the hosted temporary resident for a card and to be added to their account. Sponsors who sign the hosted temporary resident's card will have access to account information and are responsible for materials.

- **Temporarily or permanently homebound Novi resident:**

- The sponsor must bring their valid picture ID showing their current address and the homebound Novi resident's valid picture ID and proof of Novi residency to the Library. If the sponsor has a valid library card within the TLN shared system, it must not be blocked to register the homebound Novi resident for a card and to be added to their account. Sponsors who sign the homebound Novi resident's card will have access to account information and are responsible for materials.

Non-Standard Cards (Valid Only at Novi Public Library)

- **Novi Business Owner**

Novi business owners may register for a library card that is valid only at Novi Public Library by presenting a valid picture ID showing their current home address and proof of Novi business ownership, which includes either (a) incorporation papers that list the owner and business name or (b) a current tax bill that lists the owner and business name. Business documentation must show the Novi address. A Novi business owner whose home library is a member of TLN may choose to keep their home library card for personal use and register the Novi library card in the business name only for business use.

- **Non-Resident City of Novi Employees**

Non-resident City of Novi employees may register for a library card that is valid only at Novi Public Library by presenting a valid picture ID showing their current home address and their City of Novi employee badge. A City of Novi employee whose home library is a member of TLN must relinquish their home library card in exchange for a NPL card. They can only have one library card in the TLN shared system.

- **Non-Residents Employed in Novi (Excluding City of Novi Employees)**

Non-residents who are employed at a business located in Novi may register for a library card that is valid only at Novi Public Library. They must present a valid picture ID showing their current home address and either (a) an official business letter on company letterhead showing the Novi business address and signed by a company or Human Resources representative dated within the last ninety (90) days or (b) a paycheck showing the Novi business name and address dated within the last ninety (90) days. Non-residents employed in Novi whose home library is a member of TLN are not eligible for a NPL card.

- **Non-Resident Library Card (Purchased) (Excluding City of Novi Employees and Non-Residents Employed in Novi)**

NPL cards are available for purchase for a period of one year based on the following criteria:

- **Non-Residents Whose Home Library is a Member of TLN**

Non-residents whose home library is a member of TLN may choose to purchase a NPL card that is valid only at Novi Public Library for an annual fee instead, as stated in "Borrowing Periods, Renewal Limits, Holds, Fees & Guidelines" and must relinquish their home library card. They can only have one library card in the TLN shared system. Non-residents must present a valid picture ID showing their current home address.

- **Non-Residents Whose Home Library is a Not a Member of TLN**

Non-residents whose home library is not a member of TLN may purchase a NPL card that is valid only at Novi Public Library for an annual fee as stated in "Borrowing Periods, Renewal Limits, Holds, Fees & Guidelines." Non-residents must present a valid picture ID showing their current home address.

Other Library Cards

- **Non-Residents Whose Home Library is a Member of TLN**

For a complete list of member libraries of TLN and their shared system or standalone classification, see TLN's website or the Library's TLN Phone Directory.

- Shared System Library

Non-residents whose home library is a member of TLN shared system can use their valid home library card at the Novi Public Library with limited access based on each home library's policies.

- Standalone Library

Non-residents whose home library is a member of TLN standalone system are eligible to register their valid home library card for limited access and guest privileges at Novi Public Library in the TLN shared system.

Northville District Library is a standalone library and not a member of the TLN shared system as of July 2025. Northville tax-paying residents are eligible to register their valid Northville home library card for limited access and guest privileges at Novi Public Library in the TLN shared system.

Library Card Renewal

Standard Cards

- **Novi Resident Adult**

- Novi Resident Adult library cards that are not blocked will automatically renew annually after the Library's third-party vendor system authenticates Novi residency and account status. A confirmation email is sent to let the patron know their card is valid for another year. At the time the system checks a patron's card (thirty-one (31) days prior to expiration), if their account is blocked or residency can't be verified, their library card will not automatically renew.
 - If a Novi resident card fails to automatically renew, the patron must renew annually in person with their valid scannable library card, a valid picture ID and proof of Novi residency. All fees must be paid in full prior to renewal. A patron will be sent email notifications to renew in person thirty (30) days before, seven (7) days before, seven (7) days after, and thirty (30) days after their card's expiration date.

- **Novi Resident Youth**

- Novi Resident Youth library cards do not automatically renew and must be renewed annually in person. The registered parent, guardian or caregiver listed on the child's account must present their valid picture ID, proof of Novi residency and the child's valid scannable library card. If the parent, guardian or caregiver has a valid library card, it must not be blocked and must be presented to renew their child's card. All fees must be paid in full on both the child's card and the parent's, guardian's or caregiver's card prior to renewal.
- If the parent, guardian or caregiver is not registered on the child's account, the child must be present and the parent, guardian or caregiver must present an acceptable form of identification and valid scannable library cards listed above.

- **Novi Resident Sponsor**

- Novi Resident Sponsor library cards do not automatically renew and must be renewed annually in person.
- Exchange student or temporary resident residing in a host household of a Novi resident:
 - The hosted temporary resident must bring their valid picture ID, and the sponsor listed on the account must present their valid picture ID, proof of Novi residency and the hosted temporary resident's valid scannable library card. If the sponsor has a valid library card, it must not be blocked and must be presented to renew the hosted temporary resident's card. All fees must be paid in full on both the hosted temporary resident's card and the sponsor's card prior to renewal.
- Temporarily or permanently homebound Novi resident:
 - The sponsor listed on the account must present their valid picture ID showing their current address and the homebound Novi resident's valid picture ID, proof of Novi residency, and their valid scannable library card. If the sponsor has a valid library card within the TLN shared system, it must not be blocked and must be presented to renew the homebound Novi resident's card. All fees must be paid in full on both the homebound Novi resident's card and the sponsor's card, if it is within the TLN shared system, prior to renewal.

Non-Standard Cards

- **Novi Business Owner, Non-Resident City of Novi Employee or Non-Resident Employed in Novi library cards** must be renewed annually in person. Cardholders must present a valid picture ID showing their current home address, their valid scannable library card and the valid documentation that was required at registration. All fees must be paid in full prior to renewal.
- **Non-Resident Library Card (Purchased)** is valid for one year with no renewal. Cards must be repurchased each year to maintain privileges.

Non-Residents Whose Home Library is a Member of TLN

- **Shared System Library**
Non-residents whose home library is a member of the TLN shared system must renew their library card at the home library where they were registered. Each library follows its own renewal schedule.
- **Standalone Library**
Non-residents whose home library is a member of TLN standalone system and who have been registered as a guest in the TLN shared system must be renewed annually in person. Non-residents must present their valid picture ID showing their current home address and their valid scannable home library card. All fees must be paid in full prior to renewal.

Borrowing, Renewing, Holds & Interloaned Materials

Library material loan periods and renewal and hold eligibility are listed in the current "Borrowing Periods, Renewal Limits, Holds, Fees & Guidelines," which is available at all service desks and is posted on the website. The Library Director has the authority to change the borrowing periods and fees information. The loan periods and renewal and hold eligibility of interloaned TLN materials is specified by the owning library.

Borrowing Materials

- Any materials borrowed from the Library must be checked out and fully processed on a valid scannable library card, which is required for all services involving access to a patron account in the Library.
- Patrons whose library cards are used by others are responsible for all charges and fees that may result from that use.

Renewing Materials

- **Automatic Item Renewal**

- Materials that are eligible for renewal will automatically renew three (3) days before an item's due date as long as the item does not have a hold for another patron, has not reached its limit of two (2) renewals, the patron's account is not blocked and the item is not a MeLCat interloan.
- Patrons may also renew materials in person, by phone or through the Library's online catalog.

Holds

- Patrons may reserve materials ("place a hold") in person, by phone, or through the Library's online catalog or app. Patrons will be notified when the hold is available and can view their holds and availability in their account through the online catalog.
- The library card used to place a hold must be presented at checkout. Items will be held for pickup for seven (7) days.

Materials From Other Libraries

- The above policies pertain to materials owned by the Library and not necessarily to materials obtained from other member libraries of TLN or other libraries that share their materials with the Library.

Fees for Damaged, Destroyed or Lost Materials

- The Library is fine free. Due dates are meant to be followed and are intended to encourage patrons to bring back materials within a reasonable period of time.
- Patrons are charged fees for lost, damaged or destroyed materials but not overdue fines on items returned past the due date. Overdue materials are considered lost and will be billed to the patron twenty-one (21) days after the due date.
- If a patron claims an item that is charged to their account has been returned, they should contact the Library. Staff will search for the item over a period of three (3) weeks. The patron should simultaneously search for the item, contact the Library if found and return the item. If the item is not located after three (3) weeks, the item will remain on the patron's account and the patron will be held responsible for the replacement cost of the item.
- It is the responsibility of the patron to return materials in good condition. At the Library's discretion, if an item is lost, or damaged/destroyed and deemed not to be shelf-worthy**, the patron must pay the replacement cost for the item. The replacement cost will be the original cost of the item as indicated in the Library's computer database. Replacement cost payments are non-refundable. If a lost item is found after the replacement cost is paid, it becomes the property of the patron.

- **Highlighting, stamping or coloring, writing, tears, soiling, damage by liquids, pet/child/insect damage, excessive odors or any other obvious damage as determined by staff. This list is meant to give examples and is not exhaustive of all types of damage that may occur.
- Once the replacement fee is paid, the destroyed/damaged material becomes the property of the patron. Due to space constraints and hygienic issues, the Library will keep billed, destroyed/damaged materials for thirty (30) days from the date the charge is added to the patron account. The Library reserves the right to immediately dispose of any materials in a condition deemed to be a risk of any kind.
- Interlibrary loan items that are lost, damaged or destroyed are subject to the policies of the owning library and/or the interlibrary loan network organization and must be addressed with the owning library.
- Failure to pay these fees may result in the suspension of borrowing privileges. Cancellation or suspension of borrowing privileges may also result from abuse of library materials, policies and procedures; repeated late return of materials; damage to or loss of materials by result of neglect or deliberate misuse or nonpayment of loss charges.
- All fees must be paid in full prior to library card renewal.
- The Library accepts payment by cash, check, debit card, credit card and contactless payment for fees. Payment may be made in person or in the patron's account through the Library's online catalog.
- The Library requires a patron's signature for all card and contactless payment transactions at the Circulation Desk.
 - When paying with a card or contactless payment, patrons must provide a signature on the Library's copy of the receipt, even when the receipt states that "signature is not required."
- Circulation Desk transactions involving contactless payments must be handled by patrons on the patron-facing PIN pad unit and finished by staff on the staff-facing main credit card unit.
 - If a patron requires the assistance of a staff member with contactless payment on a patron-provided device, staff must receive permission from the patron to use their device.

Approved by the Novi Public Library Board of Trustees: June 12, 2025 (to include policies P1: Library Card Issuance/Renewal, P4: Miscellaneous Provisions, and Fees for Damaged, Destroyed or Lost Materials Policy).

Amended: October 9, 2025
