EVERGREEN PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Computer and Internet Safety Policy

Purpose

The Evergreen Park Public Library seeks to ensure the community has access to its information needs, both in print and digital, in order to support the Library's mission as an institution of lifelong learning. In order to provide access to digital resources and services, the Library provides the public access to computers and the Internet. Public computers come equipped with various software applications and access to the Internet. The public can also access the Internet by using their personal devices to connect to the Library's wireless network.

Library Responsibility

The Internet provides access to many valuable sources of information, but not all sites are accurate, complete, or current, and some may feature content which a user of the Library's computers/network may find objectionable or offensive. It is necessary for all Library users to cautiously analyze data and information sources, whether printed or electronic, before accepting their validity. The responsibility of the Library is to provide access to information, not endorse it. Although Evergreen Park Public Library employs technology protection measures as discussed below, it does not otherwise monitor or control the information accessed, and is not responsible for the content of any sites other than sites created by the Library and labeled with its name or symbol.

The Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment or device configurations, security, or data files resulting from connection to the Library's wireless network or the Internet, or liability for any consequent damage to hardware, software, or data. Personal software programs may not be used on any of the public computers. Patrons may not disconnect Library hardware without staff permission. If patrons wish to save files, they may use their own storage media.

Access

With respect to any of its computers with Internet access, the Library uses technology protection measures in order to (a) protect minors against access through such computers to visual depictions which are obscene, constitute child pornography, or are otherwise harmful to minors, and (b) protect all users against access through such computers to visual depictions that are obscene or constitute child pornography. While the Library uses its best efforts, it makes no assurances or guarantees that its technology protection measures are sufficient in all circumstances or will function as intended.

Parents and legal guardians are responsible to monitor their children's use of Library computers and the Internet as they deem necessary, and are encouraged to supervise their children's

Internet sessions. Parents and guardians who do not wish to authorize their minor children to use Library computers may so indicate in writing for their children under age 18, and the Library card issued will be coded to preclude use of the Library's computers.

The Evergreen Park Public Library also provides access to the Internet via an unsecured wireless network that users can access with their personal devices. This service is not to be used as a permanent connection. Signal strength may vary throughout the building. Users accessing this free wireless network, must agree to this policy in order to use this network. The user will be prompted to review and agree to the terms when they attempt to join the network.

While most personal devices will be compatible with the Library's wireless network, the Library cannot guarantee that a users' device will work with the Library's wireless network. Use of the Evergreen Park Public Library's wireless network is entirely at the risk of the user. Similar to Library computer access previously mentioned, parents and legal guardians are responsible to monitor their children's use of the Internet via the Library's wireless network.

Staff Assistance
The Library staff attempts to keep all computers and the wireless network up and running. Library staff will try to answer very basic questions related to the computers and Internet. As with any question, Library staff will do to the best of their abilities to assist with questions related to the computers or Internet, or troubleshoot technical issues.

Additional Guidelines
Use of library computers and Internet is governed by the Evergreen Park Public Library Code of Conduct. To maintain an atmosphere conducive to the best use of its resources, the Library has also developed the following rules regarding the use of its computers and the Internet:

1. Library patrons may not use the Internet for hacking, unauthorized disclosure of personal identification information about other individuals, or other illegal activities.
2. Users may not invade the privacy of others or engage in any activity that is harassing, defamatory, or threatening.
3. Users may not receive or display graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene or defined by law.
4. Users are responsible to comply with copyright laws and licensing agreements, and for payment of fees charged in connection with any fee-based service. Use of the library computers and Bit Torrent software or similar software to download copyrighted movies or other audio and visual files without authorization of the copyright holder violates US copyright and is prohibited by this Library.

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