

Three “Little Free Libraries” in Remington

A Little Free Library is a “take a book, return a book” free book exchange. The libraries come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share.

There is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community; Little Libraries have been called “mini-town squares.” "They're building community. They're putting books just on our every day path as we're walking down the sidewalk. And they're really letting people be more creative," said Margret Aldrich, author of a new book on the Little Free Library phenomenon.

The idea was popularized in Hudson, Wisconsin, in 2009 when Todd Bol mounted a wooden container designed to look like a school house on a post on his lawn as a tribute to his mother, who was a book lover and a school teacher. Part folk art revival, part sharing-economy and part book club, the idea took off. Bol started a non-profit in 2012, funded by sale of the libraries and accessories. Today there are more than 25,000 worldwide, many in rural communities.

In Remington, the Remington Community Partnership is sponsoring three Little Free Libraries, built by Jim Gillman of Ritchie’s Millwork in Remington - one for **Downtown**, one for the **Community Garden**, and one for the **Margaret M. Pierce elementary school**. Permissions were received from the trustees of the Remington Methodist Church for the Community Garden, the Remington Town Council for downtown, and the County School Board for the one at the school. All sites were blessed by Miss Utility.

The downtown library was painted by Mary Root to replicate Remington’s Town Hall, the Community Garden library is being allowed to weather naturally, and students painted the third library. Tom Broccato and Ray Root installed the libraries, with assistance from John Waldeck at the Community Garden site and Dawn Ashby at the school site.

They are maintained by the Remington Community Partnership and friends all over town.