

GOODBYE FINES, HELLO LIBRARY! 9/12/22

Why is the library going fine free?

This policy change will remove any financial barriers that may have kept people from using the Library. This change will increase access to Library resources for all Greenwich residents, students, and employees.

When is this happening, and will everything be fine-free?

Perrot Library will no longer charge fines on overdue materials effective September 12, 2022.

Everything will be fine-free except special items, specifically museum passes.

Will past fines be forgiven?

Yes, overdue fines will be removed from your library card.

Will there still be due dates?

Yes. Items will still have loan periods with a set number of renewals (except in the case of holds).

What happens if my item is lost or damaged?

If an item is lost or damaged, you will be billed the cost of the item. This policy has not changed.

Won't people just keep books? Will things be returned on time?

Research on fine-free libraries has found that eliminating overdue fines does not lead to significantly slower returns. Libraries that have gone fine-free report increased library usage and a return of items people were reluctant to return.

Why do I still owe money?

You may have been billed for a lost or damaged item. Stop by the Circulation Desk, and we'll be happy to answer any questions.

Will this affect the library's budget?

Revenue from overdue fines reflects a tiny percentage of our budget and continues to shrink every year due to digital borrowing (which is fine-free) and generous renewal periods.

Will I have to wait longer for my hold?

Libraries have reported that, since going fine free, hold times have remained virtually unchanged.

Are other libraries doing this?

YES! This is a growing trend across the country. Over 80 libraries in CT have eliminated all or most fines. Large national libraries including NYPL, Boston Public, and Chicago Public no longer collect fines.