

Katharine DeRossette  
2213 Cherry Street  
Vicksburg, MS 39180

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JUL 26 2016

July 26, 2016

City of Vicksburg  
Mayor's Office  
PO Box 150  
Vicksburg, MS 39181

Dear Mayor George Flaggs Jr., Alderman Michael Mayfield, and Alderman Willis Thompson:

I am writing to discuss the Little Free Libraries Vicksburg project that I have recently begun working on for our community. The purpose of this letter is to obtain permission to introduce this program to the board on August 1st, 2016. Little Free Libraries are free standing outdoor libraries where community members can take a bring books to share with others. Little Free Libraries are hand-crafted structures filled with constantly changing collections of books donated and shared by people of all ages and backgrounds. Most Little Free Libraries are placed in front yards, parks, gardens, and easily accessible locations. The Libraries are built to withstand weather of all kinds and hold 20-100 books. Some Libraries are located in coffee shops, in or near restaurants, and in community centers.

Little Free Libraries started in 2009 when Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin built the first Little Free Library. Since 2009 over 40,000 registered Little Free Libraries have popped up around the world. A non-profit organization was started to connect towns across the country participating in this literature sharing program. I was first introduced to Little Free Libraries while in Graduate School at the University of Arkansas. The town of Fayetteville, Arkansas has Little Free Libraries in various neighborhoods and the Ozark Literacy Council funded 25 Little Free Libraries placed at city parks, businesses, and even in the front yard of private homes.

It is my hope to bring the Little Free Libraries to Vicksburg and I would like to work with the City of Vicksburg to obtain permission to put these at public spaces across town. Locations include Washington/Crawford Street Intersection, Catfish Row/Depot, Jackson Street Community Center, Glenwood Circle, Kings Community Center, Vicksburg Housing Authority, YMCA, Community Garden, Old Porters Chapel Road Park, Park at McCauley Dr., and Drummond and Speed Intersection.

Therefore, I am asking to come and present this idea to the city in hopes of obtaining the City of Vicksburg's approval for this project. There is a \$47.95 fee to register each Little Free Library and I have already secured registration for 11 libraries.

Various cities have created guidelines for Little Free Libraries placed on public property. I would like to see the City of Vicksburg approve this project and create their own set of guidelines similar to those set forth by the City of Derby, Kentucky. I understand to get this type of project approved I will need to present my idea to the Mayor's council and board of Aldermen. I am writing this letter to obtain permission to speak to the board on August 1st, 2016. If you would like more information about Little Free Libraries visit their website at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon to clarify any questions you have about this project.

Best,

Katharine DeRossette  
[khdeross@gmail.com](mailto:khdeross@gmail.com)  
601-218-4948



*Victor Gray-Lewis*  
*Director*

# CITY OF VICKSBURG

*Community Development Division*

**Zoning / Historic Preservation / Privilege License**

819 South Street Vicksburg, MS 39180

(601) 634-4528 Fax (601) 638-4229

July 20, 2016

## City Of Vicksburg Guidelines for Little Free Libraries

Any individual or organization desiring to place a Little Free Library should be advised of the following: Little Free Libraries meeting the below listed conditions are not subject to permitting or licensing requirements of the City of Vicksburg.

Little Free Libraries are considered as a accessory use, and are permitted in any zoning district; provided that, all such libraries meet the following placement requirements:

Shall not be located within or overhang the public street right-of-way or any public easement;

Shall not obstruct vehicular, bicycle or pedestrian traffic, either physically, or by a person utilizing the Little Free Library:

Shall not obstruct access aisles or paths utilized by person in wheelchairs or ADA accessibility;

May be placed as a permitted obstruction in a required front yard (area between the front wall of a building and a public street right-of-way);

Enclosures shall be sized and arranged such that no person or child is able to enter;

Shall be anchored to the ground or otherwise securely attached to something having a permanent location on the ground;

The City Of Vicksburg encourages prospective operators of Little Free Libraries to submit proposed locations for review by City Of Vicksburg to ensure the above listed requirements are complete.

If you have any questions, please call us at 634-4528.

Sincerely,  
Dalton T. McCarty  
Zoning Administrator