

Duluth Public Seed Library Values and Goals

The Duluth Public Seed Lending Library is open to everyone in the Duluth community, at no charge. We provide, in addition to seeds, education and resources about growing and saving seeds and organic gardening. It is our hope that seed library patrons will return some seeds from their harvest to make the library self-sustaining.

Values

Public libraries play a vital role in communities as a repository for a diversity of ideas and shared knowledge for the public good. Similarly, seed is a public resource and shared legacy – it must be managed in a manner that benefits the public good. People have saved, selected, and improved seed for thousands upon thousands of years. Seed is the repository for crop diversity, the foundation of agriculture, and by its nature provides the foundation for healthy and resilient communities.

1. Plant genetic diversity must be maintained and improved to sustain farming systems that meet the evolving food, feed, and fiber needs of communities around the world.
2. It is critical to protect citizen gardeners and farmers' rights to save, plant, improve, and sell seed as a foundation of crop genetic diversity and food sovereignty – the right of people and their communities to define and develop their own food system.
3. Seed is a public resource. Public and private sectors have a social responsibility to promote activities that support the viability and long-term resiliency of seed systems.
4. A seed library provides access to seed for all and reduces the economic burden on all Duluthians encourages food literacy and is consistent with the City of Duluth's support of the Lake Superior Good Food Charter.

Goals

1. Instill the important principle of public ownership of seed and plant materials
2. Provide a public source of seeds for all citizens of Duluth so they may grow their own healthy food
3. Increase knowledge of gardening and home horticulture
4. Increase consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables
5. Enhance the social capital of Duluth by engaging community members in a positive activity
6. Contribute to developing a regionally-adapted seed stock