

## Wallingford Featured Library



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The Wallingford Public Library was organized in 1882 and was originally named “The Ladies Library and Reading Room Association.” By the 1960’s, it became evident that the original building located at 60 N. Main Street was insufficient. In the 1970s, Margaret Tibbits Tabor donated her family’s plot at 200 N. Main Street to the town to use as a public library. The new library opened in 1982 and was expanded again in 2008.

In 2016 the Library opened “the Collaboratory,” a 2,400 square foot maker space, digital media lab and co-working space. *The Collaboratory* contains a variety of state-of-the-art technology as well as traditional handcrafting tools. It has a bookbinding machine and a bicycle repair station. In 2019 they celebrated the opening of the “Wonder Room”, which offers opportunities for children to learn about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through special programs and gadgets.

In the fiscal year 2019-2020, Wallingford Public Library welcomed 259,232 visitors to its building and 422,942 visitors to its website, while offering a physical collection of 223,615 items and 405,925 digital items. It hosted 675 programs and classes that were attended by 17,036 patrons; the Library logged 38,113 sessions on its public computers and 49,749 sessions on its public wifi network. The Library also offers nontraditional materials to borrow including tech

devices, puzzles, games, and sewing machines. In 2019 a seed library was opened thanks to an Eagle Scout project.

*All Wallingford residents are eligible for a free card, although a library card is not required to attend programs, use computers, or visit the facility; residents from other communities are welcome.*

The Wallingford Public Library is overseen by director Jane Fisher. She works closely with a supportive Board of Managers and a terrific staff.



