

Starting June 1, we are a fine free library!

What does it mean to be fine free?

The Black Creek Village Library will not charge a daily fine for items returned past their due date.

Are all items fine free?

All items checked out from the Black Creek Village Library will be fine free.

I have overdue fines on my account. Do I need to pay those by June 1?

No. All current overdue fines for Black Creek Village Library cardholders will be forgiven as of June 1. If your fines haven't been forgiven on June 1, please contact the library for assistance.

Exception: if your fines and fees exceed \$5, you will need to pay enough of the balance to reduce the amount owed to under \$5 to use your card through May 31.

Why is the library going fine free?

We understand that everyone has a lot to keep track of and would like to remove the financial penalty of returning your items late. We want to be sure everyone has access to the library and do not want fines to be a barrier. Financially, fines are less than 1.0% of our annual budget, and collecting fines requires staff time, which costs money.

What if an item still isn't returned after it is overdue?

When the item is 28 days overdue, we'll bill you for the cost of the item. Once an item is returned in good condition, the bill will be removed.

Can I renew an item before the due date or after it is overdue?

All of our renewal policies have stayed the same. You can still renew items as before and are encouraged to do so you don't accidentally end up being billed for the item after 28 days overdue. Renewals also give the library an accurate accounting of what materials are circulating.

Will the lack of fines impact the availability of popular items?

While most fine free libraries have no problem meeting the demand for popular items, we will be keeping a close eye on this. Studies have shown that removal of fines does not lead to an increase in materials not being returned on time. We are optimistic that library users will be considerate of other users on the holds list and return their items in a timely manner.

What if I use my InfoSoup library card to check out an item when at another library in the system?

If you check out an item at library that does charge fines, you're still responsible for paying any fines to that lending library.

What about old bills for lost or damaged items?

We cannot waive bills on lost or damaged items owned by other libraries. However, we will contact the library on your behalf to see if we can work out a solution.

My card is still blocked. Why can't I use it?

There are many reasons why your card may be showing as blocked or barred. The most common reasons include you have fees over \$5 for lost or damaged items, your card was reported lost, or we received returned mail from your address. Please contact Black Creek Village Library for assistance.