

FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Internet Access Policy

INTERNET, which is a natural extension of traditional library service, is available at the library. It will provide access to the same type of materials already found at the library, but access will be much broader and in some cases much faster. We are also pleased to provide wireless (“Wi-Fi”) access for our patrons.

WAIVER. The Internet is a global entity with a highly diverse user population. Just as we do not restrict an individual’s access to printed information, we cannot refuse access to the Internet content that someone else may deem objectionable. The principles of intellectual freedom that apply to the traditional library also apply to this new “electronic” library. Although the Library does use an Internet filter, Library patrons use the Internet at their risk.

Wireless networks are transmitted via radio waves, and are therefore susceptible to potential ‘eavesdropping’, so patrons should be aware of what they are transmitting over this open network. Wireless patrons are responsible for maintaining up-to-date antivirus software, firewalls, etc. Wired access to the Internet is filtered, wireless is not.

To be more specific:

Fertile Public Library does not filter to censor your access to materials but to be compliant with a federal funding source. There may still be sexually explicit material and other informational resources, which you may find controversial or inappropriate.

Not all sources on the Internet provide accurate, complete or current information. You need to be a good consumer and question the validity of the information you find.

The Library cannot guarantee confidentiality on the Internet.

COPYRIGHT. Using library computers to copy and distribute copyright-protected works may be an infringement of the copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code).

INTERNET ACCESS FOR MINORS. Parents or guardians, NOT the library staff, are responsible for the Internet information selected by their children.

Parents—and only parents—may restrict their children—and only their children—from access to Internet resources accessible through the library. Parents are advised to supervise their children’s Internet sessions.

Parents/guardians/babysitters must supervise children ages 7 and under.

Minor children ages 8 and up may use the Internet alone.

Patrons not abiding by these policies will be subject to banning from the Library Internet Access. The first offense will result in a written warning, the second offense will result in a ban for a time of 1 week, the third offense will result in a 1 month ban. Further offenses will result in a ban up to a permanent ban, as decided by the director, with the consultation of the library board.

Reviewed 9/2025.