

Charleston Leads SC in Library-Led Community Engagement

Free events, seed swaps, and intergenerational programs fuel local connection.

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THE DATA

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Seed Packets per Day

Patrons can check out up to three seed packets daily at the Hurd Library in West Ashley.

This policy reflects a deliberate, scalable strategy to promote urban agriculture and civic participation. By treating seeds as library resources—like books—Charleston County Public Library (CCPL) is normalizing sustainable living as a public good. The program is not limited to one branch; it's a system-wide initiative across nearly 20 CCPL locations.



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Source: The Post and Courier · Published November 11, 2026
https://www.postandcourier.com/charleston_sc/charleston-county-public-library-free-events-sc/article_65e8609e-e3d0-46c7-a316-922a012c6761.html

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Libraries as Urban Commons

The Seed Library, in particular, exemplifies how public institutions can seed long-term community health—literally and figuratively. It’s not just about growing food; it’s about growing trust, shared purpose, and neighborhood identity.



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Free Access Drives Equity

Unlike gated community gardens or private seed suppliers, CCPL's model is open, transparent, and universally accessible. It demonstrates how public institutions can deliver measurable social returns without relying on private funding or membership.

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