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MADBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY to receive NH State Library ARPA grant funding
Madbury Public Library is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$14,052 in funding through the Institute for Museum and Library Services' "Grants to States" program. The grant program is part of the American Rescue Act Plan of 2021 and is being facilitated by the N.H. State Library.

Madbury Public Library will use this grant award to install a natural preschool playground in a wooded area next to the building. The library has benefitted from the partnership of the Oyster River Parents of Preschoolers and the Master Gardeners of Strafford County.

In the grant application, Madbury Public Library detailed that it would use grant funds to "create a link between what takes place inside the library building and the possibilities for playful learning that lie in the wooded area just beyond the door. Our hope is that those who come only to play outside will also venture inside and begin to make their playground visits complete learning and literacy experiences."

According to Library Director Susan Sinnott, "an outdoor play and learning space near the children's room was part of the early plans for our new library building, which opened at the end of 2019. But it seemed a dream for the future. The pandemic added urgency to this need and so we are thrilled that, thanks to ARPA funds, it's going to happen in 2022."

"New Hampshire's strong relationship with its public libraries was made even more evident during the past two years, when librarians and their staffs were able to adjust services nimbly in order to continue to meet the needs of their communities," said N.H. State Librarian Michael York. "The innovative programs funded by these grants will continue to strengthen not only public library services, but also the communities in which the libraries reside."

"As pillars of our communities, libraries and museums bring people together by providing important programs, services and collections. These institutions are trusted spaces where people can learn, explore and grow," said IMLS Director Crosby Kemper. "IMLS is proud to support their initiatives through our grants as they educate and enhance their communities"

MADBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY's goal is to have our natural playground ready by early July 2022.

Part of the N.H. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, the N.H. State Library promotes excellence in libraries and library services to all New Hampshire residents, by assisting libraries and the people of New Hampshire with rapid access to library and informational resources

through the development and coordination of a statewide library/information system; by meeting the informational needs of New Hampshire's state, county and municipal governments and its libraries; and by serving as a resource for New Hampshire. For more information, visit nh.gov/nhsl.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow IMLS on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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