

  
**ARDEN HILLS**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** Sep. 19, 2023

**TO:** Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee

**FROM:** Kerri Seemann

**SUBJECT:** Books in Hazelnut (formerly Outdoor Classroom)

### **Background**

One of my goals for the Hazelnut Restoration project is to “create opportunities for community engagement and education.” One way I would like to work toward that goal is to provide books and magazines—primarily about natural sciences—for park visitors to read while in the park.

I have temporarily set up a book stand in the restoration area and the books and magazines have had some use. One young girl who spoke to me said that she was bored being forced to hang around the park while her sibling was playing soccer and that she enjoyed reading the children’s book I had set out. (She asked if I’d be bringing more.) However, the primary drawbacks to this temporary stand are that:

1. There's no protection from wind and rain, so I need to collect them every night and bring them back in the morning (weather permitting) and
2. only a limited number can be set out at any one time.

So, I would like to have an enclosed structure in the style of a “little free library.”



After discussing the issue with a couple committee members, I no longer feel that the location I had originally envisioned is the best choice. The two locations that I would now recommend are either:

- at the corner of the woods south of the tennis courts or
- near the playground area (preferably in a shaded location)

In either case, it should be in an area where it doesn't interfere with mowing. The advantage of having it near the playground is that there are more benches available in that area.

