



News

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LIBRARY HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING EVENT FOR READING GARDEN AT SLIDELL BRANCH

SLIDELL, LA – The St. Tammany Parish Library will hold a groundbreaking event to kick off the start of an upcoming project, the beautification of the Slidell Branch Reading Garden.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 5, at 2 p.m. with the planting of a magnolia tree. Keep Slidell Beautiful will be donating the ceremonial groundbreaking tree for the event. The groundbreaking will be followed by indoor and outdoor activities for children and families until 4 p.m.

The event also kicks off Keep Louisiana Beautiful’s week-long “Love the Boot” celebration in Slidell. The Library is hosting children’s activities to remind kids about the importance of keeping our community litter-free. The Slidell Branch and the South Slidell Branch were both selected to receive trash receptacles as part of the 2024-25 **Keep Louisiana Beautiful Trash Receptacle Grant Program**, made possible with funding from the State of Louisiana and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. The trash receptacles will be installed later this spring.

The Friends of the Slidell Library generously hired a landscape architect to design an interactive garden with local plants, places to study outdoors, places for quiet reflection, and replacement of trees that were lost during Hurricane Ida. Landscape Architects Christy Kervin of Colline Design and Professor Emeritus Buck Abbey of LSU’s School of Landscape Architecture teamed up to create a plan with features that include a walking path, a wooden deck for outdoor programming, a wildflower garden, fruit trees, and a camellia garden, among other features. The garden was designed with input from a committee of Friends of the Slidell Library and local members of the Louisiana Master Gardener program.

“The Reading Garden is truly a community partnership and will be an extension of the Slidell branch for everyone to enjoy,” said Library Director Kelly LaRocca. Development will begin this spring with the installation of the walking path and some curb work. Once the work is completed, an interactive musical

cattails sculpture will be installed. The sculpture will be donated by the St. Tammany Library Foundation. Other areas of the garden will be completed in stages through donations, partnerships, and as funds are available.

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The St. Tammany Parish Library has been serving the citizens of St. Tammany Parish for over seventy years. Our twelve branches offer over 542,000 loanable items including books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, and magazines. The library's website offers 24/7 access to downloadable audio and e-books, music downloads, research tools, magazines, and newspapers. Our programs and services are designed to meet residents' cultural, informational, educational, and recreational needs.