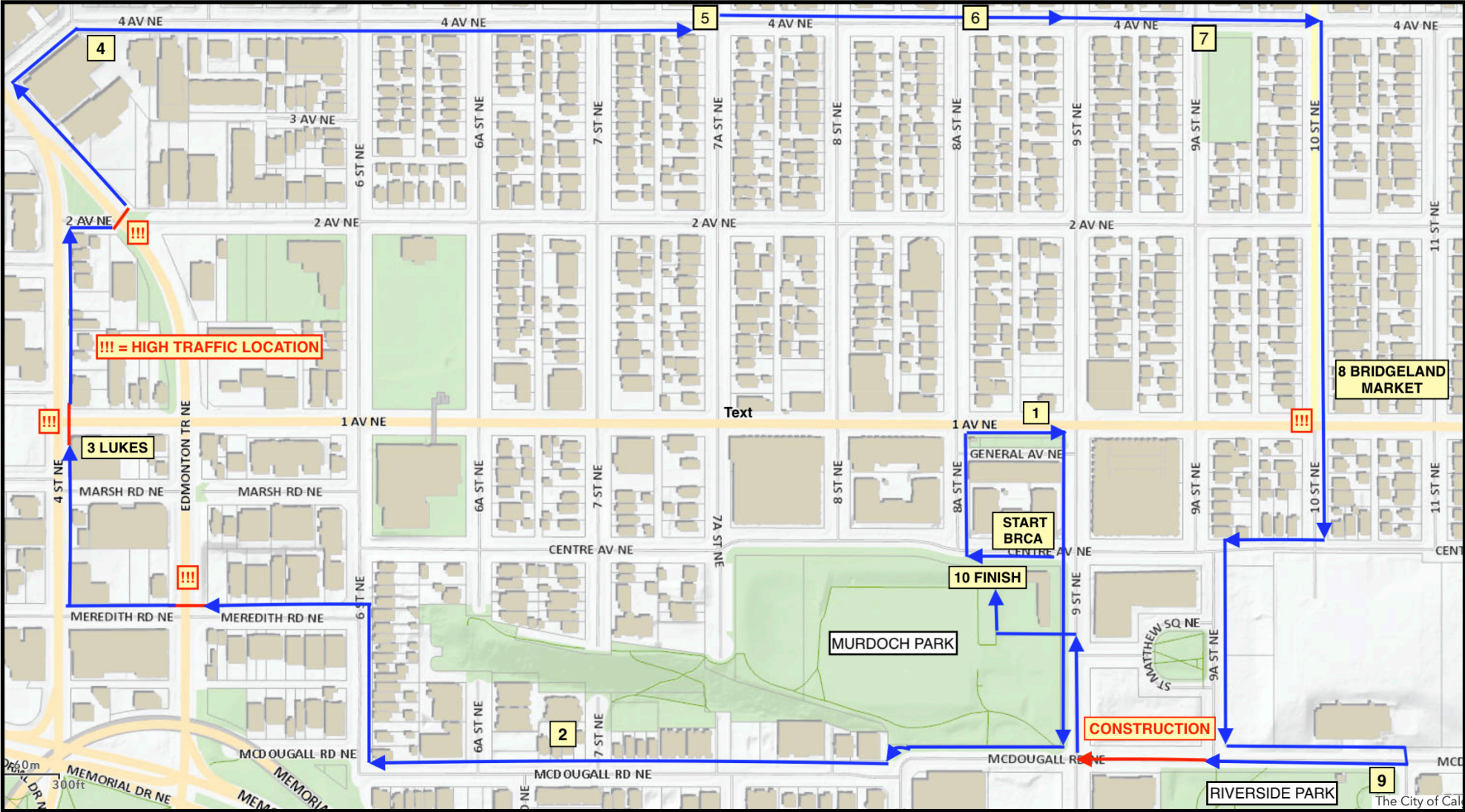


Bridgeland Walks Self Guided #4: Little Free Libraries



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Welcome to our walk to all of the Little Free Libraries in Bridgeland Riverside. The walk is 4.5 km long and follows smooth mostly flat sidewalks. There are two minor declines and a moderate incline between 2 Ave and 4 Ave along Edmonton Trail.

Note: the construction areas can be busy with traffic during workhours

The Little Free Library movement is a worldwide, non profit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighbourhood book exchanges. Todd Herbert Bol (1956- 2018) of Hudson Wisconsin was the creator and funder of the Little Free Library and using wood from his old garage door he made the first library-on-a-stick as a tribute to his mother. As of 2019, the project has grown to include 90,000 Little Free Libraries in 90 countries. Todd died of pancreatic cancer in 2018, but the LFL continues to ensure that millions of books are exchanged each year, greatly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Like other public book exchanges, a passerby can take a book to read or leave one for someone else to find. The organization relies on volunteer "stewards" to construct, install, and maintain book exchange boxes. For a book exchange box to be registered, and legally use the Little Free Library brand name, stewards must purchase a finished book exchange, a kit or, for a DIY project, a charter sign, which contains the "Little Free Library" text and official charter number. Registered Little Free Libraries – may appear on the [Little Free Library World Map](#), which lists locations with GPS coordinates and other information. Check out the complete story at their website www.littlefreelibrary.org

There are currently 9 little free libraries in Bridgeland – Riverside, covering all corners of the community. Each of them is unique. Not all are official registered with the Little Free Library organization and some are more active than others. Most are located on private property and stewarded by the owners of the homes. Now's the time, as you check out all our local libraries, to share/ leave a few of your books and perhaps find a book you're wanting to read,

Start from the community centre on Centre Ave and proceed West until 8A St and turn right, cross the avenue and walk as far as General Avenue and turn right into the plaza. The LFL is located at the East end of General Plaza near the Starbucks at 9 A St.

Stop #1. This is the first of three locations that were promoted by BRCA, under the leadership of Roseanne Penner. This is one of the LFL structures built at a community workshop that was installed in 2015 and is stewarded by a community volunteer. Adirondack chairs, picnic tables and nearby beverages and snacks make this a good place to pause.

Turn South on 9 St and walk South as far as McDougall Rd – turn right and walk along to 734.

Stop #2. This is a home you will have seen on previous self guided walks, featuring the Eyes on the Street fence mural and the Tinier Gallery. This LFL, built by the owner of old wood is one of the earlier ones in the neighbourhood,

Proceed West along McDougall Rd and turn right at 6 St and proceed North to the next road which is Meredith Rd. Cross the street and walk West- crossing Edmonton Trail at the crosswalk, until you reach 4 St.. Turn North till you get to 1 Ave and turn right – the entrance to Luke’s Drug Mart and the LFL is found next to the indoor post office.

Stop #3. The LFL was obtained by a Crescent Heights group called N2N (Neighbour to neighbour) who wanted to affirm their connection to Bridgeland - Riverside. It was possibly the first LFL in Bridgeland Riverside. (Lukes’ who kindly host the LFL has coffee, ice cream, snacks, if you wish to pause on your walk)

Crossing at the lights proceed North on 4 St until you reach 2 Ave and then turn right/ East, walk to Edmonton Trail and cross at the cross walk. Turn left and walk North, up the sloping sidewalk, past Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and turn right at 4 Ave. Walk East till you reach the corner of 4A St.

Stop #4. In 2018 the LFL was mounted and is stewarded by Dragonstein, a Co-Housing Group, that lives in the condo building to the South. The LFL is a replica of the building and has several storeys of books and magazines.

Continue East along 4 Ave till you reach 7A St. Turn left /North and stop at the second house #504.

Stop #5. The library was installed in 2015 – to celebrate the owner’s birthday. A former librarian and forever book lover, the LFL was constructed by Kevin Bentley and painted to look exactly like the 107 year old home.

Return to 4Ave and continue East to 8A St.

Stop #6. There, conveniently on the NE corner, you’ll find one of the neWest LFL”s in the ‘hood.

Continue East on 4 Ave., till you reach 9A St. and cross to the SE corner, where you’ll see the 9A St. park.

Stop #7. There is not yet a LFL here, but there is a post that is ready to host a suitable structure. This is the second of the BRCA sponsored LFL posts. Wouldn’t it be lovely to stop and peruse a book while the kids play in the playground, or read them a storybook from the LFL. It looks like 4 Ave is becoming the avenue of LFL’s, just like 2 Ave is the place of churches.

Continue East on 4 Ave. to 10 St. and cross the road, then turn right/ South, go as far as 1 Ave.

Stop #8. In the seating area beside the Bridgeland Market you’ll see a very uniquely painted library – what is the theme here? Its another great place to pause, grab a beverage, ice cream or snack from the Market and relax for a while

Cross 1 Ave and continue South on 10 St till you reach Centre Ave. Turn right/ West and proceed to the next intersection at 9A St, turn left and cross the street and proceed

down a slight slope to McDougall Rd and cross the road. Turn left/ East and proceed to 11 St and turn right – proceed under the arches of Riverside Park and on your left is the LFL.

Stop #9. This is the third LFL sponsored by BRCA and part of the original LFL construction workshop. It was painted by a local resident and is stewarded by a senior who lives in a nearby building. Now here's another place to stop for a while – you'll find shade trees, park benches, picnic tables and a garbage can and possibly live entertainment with a baseball game nearby.

Return to McDougall Rd and turn left, West and proceed to 9 St, cross the road and turn North, proceeding till you reach the road access to the parking lot and entrance to the lower hall. Proceed to the NW corner of this Hall area, in the location of the Tool Library.

Stop #10. Mounted on the wall next to the Tool Library is the last of the LFLs. It was installed in 2018 and often contains books about design, building and 'Do It Yourself' projects.

Return to 9 St and Centre Ave, where we started our walk.

Hope you've enjoyed the Little Free Library Walk and found some good locations for leaving and/ or picking up books.