

Outdoor Flags

Frequently Asked Questions

Every year, federal and state capitols and other government agencies recognize events, organizations, and people by flying various flags. Palatine Library has a board-approved [flag policy](#) (see: Policy 3, section 20). The Library flies the United States flag outside the Main Library building to represent our history, pride, and principles. With Board approval in 2023, we decided to fly four additional flags alongside the American flag: the POW/ MIA flag, the Intersex Progress Pride flag, the Juneteenth flag, and the Disability Awareness flag. We hope that these additions make our community feel welcome and raise awareness.

Read on to learn more about these flags and how we chose them.

Q: Why are you flying these flags? Will you consider flying other flags?

A: The Library's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee considered many different flags before recommending to the Library Board that these four flags be flown alongside the United States flag. This decision was based on careful research and thoughtful conversations. Contact us [online](#) to share feedback and suggestions or complete a comment card at any Library branch. Comment cards are forwarded directly to the Library's administrative team.

Q: Where were these flags purchased?

A: The Library purchased these four additional flags from [US Patriot Flags](#).

Q: Who can I contact with additional questions or comments?

A: We welcome your feedback. Contact us by phone, text, or email [here](#). You can also visit any Library branch to complete a comment card. Comment cards are forwarded directly to the Library's administrative team. You can also contact the executive director, Jeannie Dilger directly by phone at 847-907-3600 x209.

Q: What is the POW/MIA Flag?



A: This flag honors Prisoners of War (POWs), members of the armed forces who are Missing in Action (MIA), and their families. It was designed by Norman Rivkees and Newt Heisley in 1972. The flag shows the silhouette of a POW, a guard tower, and barbed wire in white on a black field. The abbreviations "POW/MIA" appear above the image. Below the image are the words "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN."

This flag will be flown on the Library's flagpole on the following dates:

- Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May)
- Memorial Day (last Monday in May)
- Flag Day (June 14)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- National POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September)
- Veteran's Day (November 11)

Q: What is the Intersex Progress Pride flag?

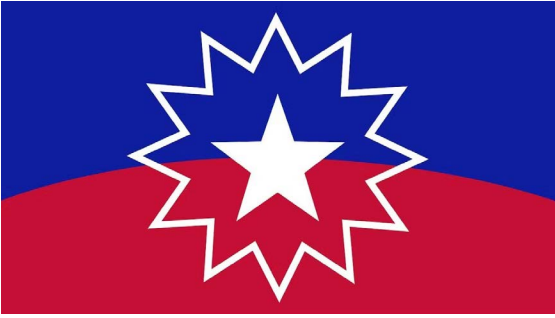


A: Pride Month is celebrated annually in June to honor the LGBTQIA+ community. This timing commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan and pays tribute to those in the LGBTQIA+ community who have died from hate crimes or HIV/AIDS (Library of Congress). Designed in 2021 by Valentino Vecchietti, the Intersex Progress Pride flag adds intersex inclusion to the rainbow Progress Pride flag. This new flag features:

- **Six rainbow stripes:** To represent diversity in nature.
- **Five-striped chevron:** To symbolize the transgender community, including black and brown stripes to acknowledge people of color within the LGBTQIA+ community.
- **A purple circle and a yellow triangle:** To honor the intersex community.

This flag will be flown on the Library's flagpole during June, except on June 14 for Flag Day and the week containing June 19.

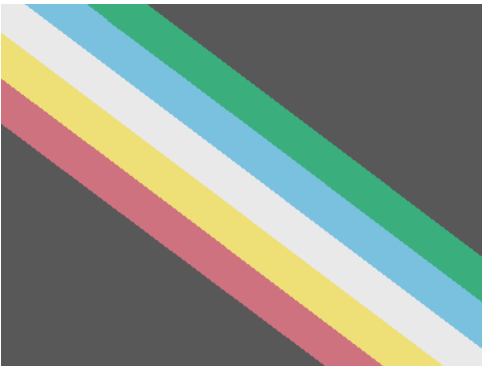
Q: What is the Juneteenth flag?



A: Designed in 1997 by activist Ben Haith the Juneteenth flag is purposely red, white, and blue like the American flag to recognize that Black American slaves were also American citizens. Juneteenth marks the official end of slavery and recognizes Black power, suffering, and resilience. This holiday also serves as a time to amplify Black joy, creativity, and community. In June 2021, President Biden officially recognized Juneteenth as a federal holiday. **Juneteenth is celebrated annually on June 19.**

This flag will be flown on the Library's flagpole during the week of Juneteenth.

Q: What is the Disability Pride Flag?



A: July is Disability Pride Month, a time to honor disability rights organizers, lift up the voices of those with disabilities, and reflect on ableism. Ann Magill, a woman with disabilities, designed the Disability Pride flag to raise awareness. The colors and symbols on the flag represent different aspects of the movement.

- **The black field:** For rage and mourning of victims of ableist violence.
- **Five colors:** To represent the variety of needs and experiences (including invisible and undiagnosed disabilities, physical disabilities, neurodivergence, psychiatric disabilities, and sensory disabilities).
- **Parallel stripes:** To demonstrate solidarity within the disability community.
- **Diagonal band:** To cut across barriers that separate people with disabilities.

This flag will be flown on the Library's flagpole during the month of July.