



Middle Country Public Library's Let's Eat: Farm to Table Exhibit

**From Farm to Table: Middle Country Public Library and the Foundation
Bring Healthy Habits to Life**

Inside [Middle Country Public Library](#) on New York's Long Island is a mini, pretend Sprouts Farmers Market where kids can get a feel for what "farm-to-table" actually means. The hands-on play-learning exhibit allows kids to harvest produce, shop at the miniature market and then cook what they bought, learning healthy habits that will serve them throughout their lifetimes.

An engaging and interactive experience, the exhibit encourages kids to actually pluck cabbages and carrots from the field, engage with a roost of hens, visit the cash register at the mini Sprouts and prepare their healthy haul inside the pint-sized kitchen.

Hands-On Nutrition Education Programs Take Root

The "Let's Eat: Farm To Table" experience is just one aspect of a new, three-year partnership between the library and the [Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation](#), which recently [donated \\$325,000 to the library's foundation](#). The donation coincides with the opening of the first Sprouts Farmers Market in New York, which opened in Centereach in early 2026.

Sophia Serlis-McPhillips, the director of the Middle Country Public Library, said the partnership and the programs associated with it will equip library visitors with tangible skills that will help them make healthier lifestyle choices.

"Sprouts' investment is transformational and will allow us to scale our gardening and nutrition education programs in a way we've never been able to do until now," Serlis-McPhillips said.



(photos taken at the first annual Fall Festival – October 2025)

Sprouts Foundation x Middle Country Public Library Partnership

In addition to the child-sized Sprouts market, the donation supports the development of a 600-square-foot educational greenhouse that the library will use for hands-on gardening, nutrition and environmental education programming. Classes will include opportunities for participants to learn how to compost in small spaces, start an edible garden at home or learn about seed starting.

The garden area will include indoor and outdoor beds so that growing and harvesting is available all year. Cooking classes offered through the partnership will include a mix of produce harvested from the garden, along with fresh ingredients from the new Sprouts store nearby.

While the partnership with Middle Country Public Library is exclusive and novel in its programming, it reflects the greater community-building investment that Sprouts Farmers Market and the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation are committed to across the country. Sprouts communities from coast to coast are supported not only with grants and programming development assistance from the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation, but they are often also supported by Sprouts employees offering up their time [as volunteers](#).

The partnership will also help fund the library's annual Spring Jubilee and Fall Festival, each of which offer seasonal, hands-on activities for the community. In fact, Sprouts provided healthy snacks to more than 1,000 Centereach residents who attended the most recent Fall Festival in October.

In 2026 alone, an estimated six million youth and two million adults will participate in programs supported by the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation.

"Our whole mission is focused on sprouting healthier communities. The programs and community organizations we support reflect that across the entire age spectrum, from preschool students to seniors," Lyndsey Waugh, executive director at the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation, said. "This partnership with Middle Country Public Library is just another example of our desire to help community-based organizations build healthier communities by instilling healthier habits."

In addition, community members will also have an opportunity to participate in gardening, nutrition and cooking workshops co-hosted by Sprouts. The partnership will also support Green Teens, a youth engagement group that will help with planting trees, maintaining the library's butterfly garden and supporting greenhouse events.

To learn more about the upcoming events at Middle Country Public Library, visit www.mcplibrary.org. For more information about the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation, visit www.sprouts.com/foundation.

