



FY 2023-24 IMPACT REPORT



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About the Ellsworth Public Library



***Strengthen the
Community***



***Support
Literacy***



***Access to
Information***



***Foster Lifelong
Learning***

Mission

Ellsworth Public Library strengthens community, supports literacy, provides access to information, and fosters lifelong learning and enrichment.

Vision

The Ellsworth Public Library will be a recognized source of knowledge and information, a place to gather and discuss, encourage reading and the leader in cooperation with the city, businesses and organizations. The library will be the gateway to life-long learning, offering a full spectrum of services, materials and programming.



5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2024-2029)

A strong sense of direction is essential for growth and success in any organization. The Ellsworth Public Library's Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees on December 7, 2023. Below are our strategic areas of emphasis for the next 5 years.



The community will have an attractive and visually appealing library building front.

01

We intend to replace our sign, fill our garden bed, and repaint the front of the building.

The community will have access to the library beyond the library's physical walls.

02

We will purchase new promo materials, provide outside programming and update our website.

The library will expand programming based on community interests.

03

We intend to provide an after-school program at least one day a week, add teen programming, and expand adult programming.

Constantly listening and improving:

As a community service, we aim to be constantly listening to community feedback and making improvements. For more information about our strategic plan or to give constructive feedback, please contact us using the information on page 6.

THE LIBRARY AS A THIRD PLACE



How is the EPL a third place?

Libraries are common third places, and the Ellsworth Public Library is no exception. In fact, in a small town like Ellsworth, the library may be the most important third place. There is no coffee shop to work, movie theater to be entertained, store to shop or gym to work out with others. In a world and a community craving authentic connection, the Ellsworth Public Library fills a gap in the lives of its community members.

- Kids attend library programs to be entertained, socialize with kids their age and feed their need to learn and grow.
- School age kids invite their friends to play the Wii or computer games together and entertain themselves in a public place that accepts them.
- Adults come in to check out a book or magazine, work on the community puzzle and talk to the librarian and other patrons before they leave.
- Retired adults maintain a weekly routine of joining together to play cards on Tuesday afternoons. They bring each other treats and catch up on life as they play together.

These are just a few examples of how the Ellsworth community uses the library as a third place every day. As the library expands their program offerings, so too do the opportunities for connection grow.

What is a “third place”?

A “third place” was defined in a book published in 1989 called *The Great Good Place*, by Ray Oldenberg. A first place is where you live, a second place is where you work or go to school, and a third place can be almost any other location that doesn't fit in the first two categories. A third place is a public location where you go to relax and socialize. Having a third place is important to your overall wellbeing, as it can affect your sense of self-identity and social health. Connecting with others in a third place helps combat loneliness, which is so prominent in our digital society.

FY 23-24 IN A SNAPSHOT



Year in Review

We are dedicated to our community and are constantly adding new programs and materials to meet the needs of its people. This year was no exception. The Ellsworth Public Library added 379 new materials through its purchasing budget and community donations.

This year, we also created our strategic plan based on feedback from phone interviews of community members (see page 3). One of the highlighted areas of improvement is community outreach. As a step toward greater community impact and engagement, we joined Instagram. With increased social media presence and marketing efforts, we aim to attract more eyes to our services and share resources with a wider audience.

Items We Lend

- ✓ Books
- ✓ CD Audio Books
- ✓ DVDs
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Puppets
- ✓ STEM Kits



Patrons Saved \$17,542.94

EPL patrons saved almost \$18,000 by using the library this year.



298 Patrons

The EPL had 298 active patrons, or about 59% of the city's population.



9,059 Physical Items

The EPL holds 9,059 physical items for lending (books, puppets, puzzles, etc.).



49 Programs Provided

49 different programs were provided for various ages and interests.



320 Participants Attended

The EPL's 49 programs were attended by 320 participants.



954 WiFi and Computer Uses

The library's WiFi and computers were used nearly 1,000 times.



2,932 Visits

Patrons visited the Ellsworth Public Library almost 3,000 times this year.

NEW DIRECTOR

Karlie Hunter took over as the Director of the Ellsworth Public Library on May 1, 2024.



What You Can Donate:

- Books
- DVDs
- CD Audiobooks
- Craft Supplies
- Cash

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