

Leavenworth Public Library

Strategic Plan 2022-2027



Introduction

Libraries and stories always go together. This report tells our story. It relates where we are today, the principles that guide our actions and how we will meet community expectations in the future.

Strategic Plan 2022-2027 represents months of fact-finding, analysis and discussion. Information was gathered through a survey of the community at large and in-depth interviews with a focus group. Hundreds of people shared thoughtful insights about the Library. We learned what the community wants us to keep, what to change, what works and what does not.

The Board of Trustees and staff used this input as the starting point for shaping broad general statements as well as a timeline of measurable goals.

We are humbled and inspired by how much Leavenworth cares for its Library. We are excited to have fresh, meaningful directions. We are eager to turn ideas into action.

Board of Trustees

Lisa Weakley, *President* • Pauline Graeber, *Vice President*
Patricia Barnhardt, *Secretary* • Melissa Davis, *Treasurer* • Rebecca Kellogg
Erin Sack • Irene Spiller • Camalla Leonhard, *Mayor*

Library Staff

Matt Nojonen, *Director* • Valarie Lamoreaux, *Assistant Director*
Traci Valdovinos, *Youth Services Manager* • Cindy McGuire, *Program & Marketing Manager*
Natasha Wright, *Youth Literacy & Program Coordinator*
Robin Hafen, *Patron Experience Assistant*

Where We Are Today

The Leavenworth Public Library is for everyone. With this in mind, the Library offers a variety of services, collections and programs.

Services are offered with as few barriers as possible. Collections are developed to represent a wide range of views.

Library programs are created to stimulate interest, inform and entertain the community.

Library Resources



Library Collections

We maintain relevant collections by regularly adding new material and evaluating use and condition. The Library encourages suggestions for the collection to reflect local interests.



Digital Content

Demand for digital content continues to grow. We offer digital services for books, movies, newspapers, audiobooks, genealogy, music, research and graphic novels.



Material Sharing

Patrons can access nearly a million items through the Next Search Catalog. Interlibrary loan allows patrons to borrow material from nearly every library in Kansas and libraries outside of the state.



Meeting Rooms and Programs

Meeting rooms are used for Library programs and are available for public use. In 2022, we upgraded our online calendar and room reservation system to improve access and use.

Library Collections



\$376,600 invested on physical material like books, audiobooks and movies from 2018 to 2022

26,751 physical items added from 2018 to July 2022

Average of 1 item checked out every 30 seconds during Library hours January through July 2022

Material Sharing



51 libraries in northeast Kansas share their collections in Next Search Catalog

Longest distance a book traveled for a Leavenworth patron: 3,727 miles from Homer, Alaska

Since 2018 Leavenworth patrons have borrowed 84,958 items from other libraries

Digital Content



Overdrive/Libby launched in 2011: 85,738 checkouts and counting

hoopla launched in 2014: 98,512 checkouts and counting

Coming in 2023: Freegal Music

Meeting Rooms & Programs



158 organizations used meeting rooms from January through July 2022.

2,395 kids attended 210 youth programs from January through July 2022

Online collaboration with National WWI Museum drew record program attendance of 2,934

Strategic Planning Process

In March 2022, the Board of Trustees contracted with SBrand Solutions to:

- Identify community needs/expectations for library services; input from non-library users is important
- Identify alternative means/methods of acquiring library-type services in use among non-library users
- Identify strengths/weaknesses in library communication to the community
- Identify how library can effectively expand presence in the community

Phases of the Process

Phase 1

Research and review library history, documents and statistics and trends



Phase 2

Engage the community with personal interviews and surveys to determine impressions of library and gather input on ideas for the future



Phase 3

Use community engagement feedback and work with board and staff in facilitated meetings to reach consensus on strategic priorities, goals and outcomes

What We Learned from the Community



20 personal interviews



364 surveys



Survey Respondents:

Lived in Leavenworth

Less than 1 year	13
1-3 years	26
3-5 years	21
5-10 years	28
More than 10 years	185

Used the Leavenworth Public Library

Once a week	143
Once a month	118
3-4 times per year	65
Once a year	20
Never	18

People Said:



Love of physical books



Library as community hub



Engage with community



Stimulating programs for all ages



Library as accessible, free and welcoming



More effective communications



Balance collection of physical and digital

People Love:



Books of all kinds



The staff



Child, youth and adult programs



Interlibrary loan



Digital services



Access to technology



No late fees

What We Learned from the Community

What people like the best about the library

1. Collections
2. Caring staff
3. Programs
4. Borrowing from other libraries
5. Libby, Hoopla, other digital choices

Greatest opportunities

- "Go to" place for all
- Update facility
- Reflect all points of view in physical and digital collections
- Expand partnerships to bring services outside Library walls
- Increase awareness of services and resources

What people like the least about the library

1. Appearance of facility
2. Collections
3. Hours of operation
4. Condition of parking lot
5. Library floorplan

Greatest challenges

- Technological change will affect needs and budgets
- Funding
- Aging population
- Economic factors like poverty and inflation may increase need
- Competition with other ways to read, watch and listen

Notable Comments from the Survey

"How active and vibrant it is."

"Friendly staff eager to help."

"More of everything."

"Availability of public meeting rooms."

"Free internet for those that cannot afford it."



Who We Are

Vision

We are a thriving library enriching the community.

Mission

The Leavenworth Public Library is a gathering space for everyone that stimulates discovery, understanding, and enjoyment.

Values

Community
Openness
Service
Discovery

Guiding Principles

Operate ethically
Respect different points of view
Seek ways to improve

Focus Areas



Contemporary
Facility



Effective
Communication



Community
Engagement



Exceptional
Service

Focus Areas



Contemporary Facility

- Research and plan for a site and facility that meets the needs of the community
- Investigate and secure funds for updating facility



Effective Communication

- Improve targeting of communications
- Increase awareness and use of library services and programs
- Develop new branding and marketing strategies



Community Engagement

- Expand outreach opportunities
- Develop and maintain mutually beneficial relationships
- Establish the Library as the go-to community hub



Exceptional Service

- Hire, train and retain quality staff
- Develop and implement engaging services and programs
- Curate a balanced collection of physical and digital resources

Community Benefits



Contemporary Facility

- Attractive library spaces that meet user needs
- Long-term operational efficiency
- Long-term financial sustainability



Effective Communication

- Establish a recognizable Library brand
- New website
- Increase use of Library services and programs



Community Engagement

- Stronger community partnerships
- Increase awareness of the Library
- Appeal to a wider range of community members



Exceptional Service

- Capable and confident staff
- Services respond to changing needs
- Collections reflect varied community interest

Next Chapter

The story of the Leavenworth Public Library is one of sustained and effective community collaboration.

A citizen's group founded the first library. They advocated for the Carnegie facility and a local tax to fund service. Voters approved that funding and the City has maintained it for 122 years.

The current facility was donated by a local businessman and voters demonstrated their support again, approving a bond issue to convert the former grocery store into a functioning library. At the same time, a volunteer Foundation raised money for furniture and equipment.

The Library has heard from the community and developed an ambitious plan based on that input. Every effort will be made to meet challenges and embrace opportunities.

The next chapter in the story starts now and we invite you to take part in making it a success.



Community Discovery
Facility Hub
Outreach Partnerships
New Bright
Together Grow
Variety Connection
Awareness



Leavenworth Public Library

417 Spruce Street

Leavenworth, KS 66048

leavenworthpubliclibrary.org

913-682-5666

Fax: 913-682-1248



LvPublicLibrary



@LeavenworthPL



leavenworth_public_library