

WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

STRATEGIC PLAN

2023-2026

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Mission statement

Washington County Public Library, recognizing the power of information and the joy of discovery, will provide a variety of quality resources and programs to meet user needs.

HISTORY OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The nucleus of the Washington County Public Library was planted in September of 1955 by Miss Margaret Willis. Three counties shared “a green truck” with one driver, Mrs. Gertrude Smith, taking reading material to the public in rural areas. In April 1962, the “green truck” was exchanged for a larger bookmobile; however, the needs of the people could not be satisfactorily supported. In September 1963, a sample library was set up in two very small rooms at the old L&N Depot building.

Washington County, as of July 2, 1964, became an established Public Library District. The Library was moved to larger quarters in the Burns building on West Main Street, where it opened its doors on October 13, 1964.

Early in the year of 1965, the Library Board secured an option on a lot of East Main Street between Carey & Son’s Funeral Home and the Telephone Company office. On April 14, the ground was broken for a “one story Colonial type building with a basement room under the rear portion.” The total cost of this building, equipment, and lot was approximately \$119,000.

In 2012, Washington County Public Library purchased a parcel of land located between Fairgrounds Lane and Haydon Alley on US 150-West Main Street. The Library was awarded a Public Library Facilities Construction Grant from the State in 2015. On September 28, 2015, ground was broken at 333 West Main Street in Springfield for the new 10,360 square foot library. An official ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 15, 2017. As we enter a new phase of operation, service, and discovery, the people of Washington County are able to celebrate 60 years of having their own public library.

The lot that the Washington County Public Library now presides is plentiful enough for outdoor programming and future expansion.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

COLLECTIONS

Goal I: The library improves the quality and expands the collections to meet the changing needs of the community and its patrons.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

Goal I: Provide programs and services that meet the literacy and learning needs of the community.

Goal II: Create new programming for children to improve literacy and kindergarten readiness.

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Goal I: Deliver clear, relevant, and timely messages to patrons and the community through marketing efforts and communication platforms.

OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS

Goal I: Build and expand relationships with schools to fill resource gaps for teachers and students.

Goal II: Create new programming to increase programs for the Home School population.

Goal III: Create partnerships with local non-profits, schools, and governmental offices to increase community awareness of the library programs and services.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Goal I: Provide workforce development opportunities for patrons and the community to enhance employment and economic development for the county and region.

TECHNOLOGY

Goal I: The library will increase its presence as a technology hub that delivers digital information and resources to the community.

FACILITIES

Goal I: Seek to create library spaces that enhance learning, increase curiosity, and invite the public to take advantage of all programs and services.

Goal II: Provide a facility that is clean, comfortable, accessible, and well-maintained.

PERSONNEL AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

Goal I: Create and conduct ongoing staff and customer service training programs to better serve the public and patrons of the library.

Goal II: Utilize staff members' knowledge of library processes and procedures and maintain lines of open communication to continually increase the quality of programming and services for patrons.