



AGENDA

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 4:00pm
McGuire Community Room
610 Woodmere Ave., Traverse City, MI 49686

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Public Comment***
5. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – November 20, 2025
 - b. Department Reports
 - c. Finance and Facilities Committee Report – did not meet in December
 - d. Policy and Personnel Committee Report – did not meet December
 - e. Financial Report
 - f. Member Library Communications – FLPL | IPL | PCL
 - g. Friends of TADL Report – Jud Barclay, President
 - h. Correspondence
6. **Items Removed from the Consent Calendar**
7. **Director Report**
8. **Old Business**
 - a. Strategic Plan
9. **New Business**
 - a. Resolution - 2025 Final Budget Amendment
10. **Acknowledgement and Celebration of Trustee Joseph Jones Service to Libraries**
11. **Public Comment***
12. **Trustee Comment**
13. **Closed Session (if needed)**
14. **Adjournment**

* If you wish to speak during the Public Comment section of the meeting, please (1) wait until you are recognized; (2) approach the podium and use the microphone; (3) state your name and the county and township or city in which you reside; and (4) limit your comments to 3 minutes. Please sign in at the podium.



Board of Trustees Regular Meeting & 2026 Budget Hearing MINUTES

Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 4:00pm
McGuire Community Room
610 Woodmere Ave., Traverse City, MI 49686

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Pakieser at 4:00pm. Present were: Pakieser (President); Deyo (Vice President); Odgers (Treasurer); Vickery, Jones, and Beuthin (Trustees). Gedman (Secretary) and Howard (Director) were absent. Also present were: Morey (standing in for Howard); Baldwin, Brady, and Carpenter (Staff).

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

All members in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Deyo, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED.

4. **Public Comment**

President Pakieser opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

On behalf of the trustees, President Pakieser recognized Heather Brady, Marketing and Communications Manager, as the 2025 Michigan Library Association Support Staff of the Year award recipient. She gave thanks and appreciation to Brady for all that she does for the library and presented her with a flower arrangement and card.

It was then MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Deyo to open the 2026 Budget Hearing. Motion CARRIED.

5. **Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget**

a. *Introduction of the 2026 Budget – President Pakieser*

b. *Budget Overview and Details*

Baldwin, Finance and HR Manager, provided a brief overview of the 2026 budget figures, noting that it is a balanced budget of \$9,325,820. She also answered questions from the trustees.

c. *Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

6. **Discussion and Action to Adopt the 2026 Budget**

Jones read from the budget resolution indicating that appropriations from the total budget be made in the following categories: \$5,162,936 for Personnel Services; \$1,414,483 for Supplies; \$2,414,401 for Other Services and Charges, and \$334,000 for Capital Outlays. A roll call was taken with the following results:

Odgers – aye

Gedman – absent

Jones - aye

Beuthin – aye

Deyo – aye

Vickery – aye

Pakieser – aye

Motion CARRIED with 6 aye and 1 absent.

It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Deyo, to close the 2026 budget hearing. Motion CARRIED.

7. **Consent Calendar**

a. *Approval of Minutes:*

Regular Meeting of October 16, 2025

Closed Session Minutes of October 16, 2025

b. *Department Reports*

c. *Finance and Facilities Committee Report – November 4, 2025*

d. *Policy and Personnel Committee Report – November 11, 2025*

e. *Financial Report*

f. *Member Library Communications – FLPL | IPL | PCL*

g. *Friends of TADL Report – Jud Barclay, President*

h. *Correspondence*

It was MOVED by Beuthin, SUPPORTED by Deyo to accept and affirm receipt of the Consent Calendar items as presented. Motion CARRIED.

8. **Items Removed from the Consent Calendar**

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

9. **Director Report**

Morey, reported in Howard's absence that the second Repair Café was a huge success and value to patrons. He also noted that he hosted a soup season Instant Pot program with great attendance and delicious soup samples were enjoyed by all.

10. **Old Business**

a. *Building Control System – Variable Air Valve Project*

Boulter, Facilities Manager, noted that while the budget for a two-phased VAV project had been approved in 2023, costs have risen since then for the second phase. Of the quotes received, Trane was able to provide optimal phase two completion and value. It was MOVED by Jones, SUPPORTED by Deyo, to authorize the Director to pay Trane, Inc. to upgrade the Building Control System and replace all Variable Air Valves for a cost not to exceed, \$88,675. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Odgers – aye

Gedman – absent

Jones - aye

Beuthin – aye

Deyo – aye

Vickery – aye

Pakieser – aye

Motion CARRIED with 6 aye and 1 absent.

b. *Policy Revision: 4.6 Meeting Room Policy*

Beuthin noted that the policy revisions were in response to adjustments that needed to be made to ensure that the room is not misused. It was MOVED by Beuthin, SUPPORTED by Vickery, to approve the revisions to 4.6 Meeting Room Policy as presented. Motion CARRIED.

c. *Policy Revision: 4.1 Behavior Policy (Recommended changes by TADL attorney)*

Beuthin reported that the revised behavior policy was a result of Howard working with TADL's attorney, Anne Suerynck, regarding specific behavioral issues and changes. The attorney recommended a comprehensive policy revision that is consistent with current practice and requirements. Odgers inquired about prohibiting library materials in restrooms and Morey

provided an example that clarified her concern. It was MOVED by Beuthin, SUPPORTED by Deyo to accept 4.1 Behavior Policy as presented. Motion CARRIED.

d. *Policy Removal and Number Re-assignment: FROM 4.2 Smoke, Tobacco, alcohol and Drug Free Campus Policy TO 4.2 Library Violations and Appeal Policy*

Beuthin noted that this policy removal, number reassignment, and new policy would provide streamlining and clean-up of the policies. It was MOVED by Beuthin, SUPPORTED by Jones, to approve the removal of the Smoke, Tobacco, and Drug free Campus policy now covered in policy 4.1, and to reassign policy number 4.2 to the supplemental appeal portion of policy 4.1. Motion CARRIED.

11. **New Business**

a. *Resolution: 2025-26 Health Insurance Contributions PA 152 Opt Out*

Baldwin explained that in years past TADL elected to comply with the hard cap requirements of the Publicly Funded Contribution Act. This year the state did not include 4.2% for inflation and insurance rates also went up 17-18%, resulting in exceeding the hard cap. Opting out of the hard cap will serve the Library and employees well, especially since agreements have already been reached with the bargaining unit. She recommended that TADL elect to adopt the opt-out of the cost sharing model requirements as set forth in PA 152. Some discussion ensued. It was MOVED by Beuthin, SUPPORTED by Deyo that the Board of Trustees elect to comply with the requirements of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act by adopting the opt-out of the cost sharing model as set forth in PA 152 as presented. Motion CARRIED.

12. **Public Comment**

President Pakieser opened the floor for public comment. The following people addressed the board: Bret Boulter, TADL Facilities Manager, highlighted how successful and well received the 2nd Repair Café was and hopes that Green Door School and TADL partner again for more cafes in the future.

13. **Trustee Comment**

Beuthin congratulated Brady on her MLA award and thanked her for sharing her library background story and also thanked Baldwin for her incredible work in the area of finance. In response to several civics class students in attendance she read the library's mission and statement and discussed how the information that they had heard at the meeting reflected a cornerstone of civic engagement.

Odgers echoed Beuthin and noted that TADL is always interested in what teens need and want in their community and library.

Deyo thanked Howard for standing up for Freedom To Read in her piece in the Record Eagle newspaper.

14. **Closed Session**

A closed session was not needed.

15. **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Jones, supported by Odgers, for adjournment, President Pakieser adjourned the meeting at 4:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by board vote on December 11, 2025

V. Carpenter, Recording Secretary

S. Gedman, Board Secretary



Departmental Reports
for the month of November
(December 11, 2025 Board Meeting)

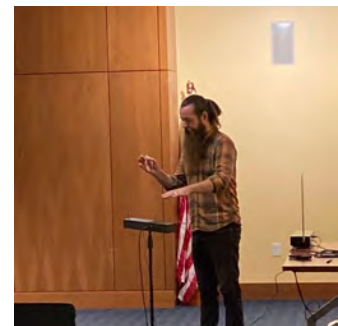
Adult Services

- In November, Melissa put her Outreach hat on and joined Heather Brady for three Book Fair events in the farther out locations in TADL's service area. This was an idea Heather had for helping to engage those communities with TADL and to get books into peoples' hands before the snow falls. We provided books for all ages, TADL swag, and information about the library, plus the opportunity to get a library card. The numbers might look smaller than you'd expect, but every contact was valuable to help these communities know that their library is here for them. At the three fairs (in Long Lake, Williamsburg, and Buckley) we connected with 40 people, mostly families, and we gave out over 100 books, 3 new library cards and renewed 3 others.
- Our programs this month included all of the usual events and partnerships, but we started the month very strong on November 1st with our second Repair Cafe in the morning and a fascinating program with Skegemog Raptor Center about the dangers of hunting with lead bullets for eagles (and humans!) in the afternoon. The Repair Cafe built on the success of the first with almost double the number of people attending and more than double the number of things fixed. By far the biggest need we saw was for fixing lamps. Who knew?? We hope to hold our next Repair Cafe with partners Green Door Folk School in the spring of 2026.
- Adult Services Statistics at a glance:
 - Programs - 23 & Attendance - 345
 - Outreach - 3 & Attendance - 40 (Book Fair visits with the Bookmobile, as described above)
 - Questions Answered - 1944
 - Notary Signatures - 65
 - Craft Kits Distributed - 80 (Crochet Mushroom Chapstick Holder)
 - Study Room Usages - 226

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa McKenna
Assistant Director for Outreach & Adult Services

Sight & Sound

November passed like a flash in Sight and Sound! The month started off with the Traverse City Repair Cafe and the Skegemog Raptor Center in the McGuire Room. We partnered with Interlochen Public Radio to present a program on the music of the Theremin, one of the



earliest electronic musical instruments. Patrons were able to experiment with the library's theremin from the Library of Things along with other synthesizers, a local theremin expert performed, and everyone watched the science fiction classic, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

Other programs included author events with Chris Hagstrom, a presentation on the history of the Clinch Park Zoo with the Traverse Area Historical Society, and the annual Art of Recovery installation, an art show created by Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority.

We have some new arrivals in the Library of Things as well! We have added a Yamaha Portatone keyboard and a Korg microKORG2 synthesizer, along with a Shure SM58 vocal microphone. We also added a second sewing machine due to high demand.

The McGuire Community Room was also used as a voting location for Precinct 7; it is a great honor to be a part of this civic process!

Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Denby
Department Head, Sight and Sound

TADL Meeting Room Stats November 2025

Total: 192
TADL meetings: 56
Personal/Outside Group Meetings: 136
Paid Meetings: 5
Unpaid Meetings: 187

Walk-ins: 29
Advance Reservation: 163

Number of Meetings by Room November 2025

McGuire Room: 37
Thirlby Room: 74
Study Room D: 81

November Reference Questions

Digital: 75
Phone: 234
Walk-in: 969

Circulation

November Circulation Numbers

New patron accounts created: ↓208 (vs 209 last year) - *Combined Branches (Woodmere, Kingsley, East Bay)*

Curbside pickups for November 2025:13

Circulation Statistics for MeLCat, November 2025:

- TADL items sent to borrowing institutions: ↓1137 (vs 1359 last year)
- TADL items received from lending institutions: ↑2138 (vs 2076 last year)

Respectfully Submitted,
Christina Meyers
Head of Circulation

Marketing and Communications

November was a busy month with lots of outreach and activity. Melissa and I toured the far reaches of Grand Traverse County with three book fairs geared toward non-cardholders, to try and get books in hands before winter. [This was part of the expanded literacy effort in the budget.] Attendance was light but we did make some good connections - all three areas (Whitewater Township, Buckley area, and Long Lake Township) asked us to come back again. I also delivered the first TADL-branded Little Free Library, to the new Upnorth Pride community center on 8th Street. These LFLs have a QR code on the side that links to tadl.org/getacard. I'll continue with more outreach over the winter months, to get the books out into the community.



I also wrapped up some additional end-of-year advertising, and our first billboards are going up (two in the month of December) to promote how community members can save money by using the library (tadl.org/save). This is our first try with billboards and while I've heard good things about them from other libraries I'll be interested to see how they work locally. I also had a second volunteer happy hour (many of the snowflakes in our windows are made by our volunteers!) and the Fill-the-Bookbike food drive has been a roaring success - necessitating weekly trips to Father Fred.

Fun fact: The Halloween costume photo of staff that I posted online has been viewed over 25,000 times!

Press - We were represented online or in the media for 21 of the 30 days in November, including several tv interviews (two on the Bookbike food drive and one about library funding updates + tadl.org/save).

Website - Users: 59,732; Pageviews: 97,041

Heather Brady
Marketing & Communications Manager



Human Resources

Please join us in wishing congratulations to our new hires and internal transfers/promotions, and best wishes to employees leaving TADL.

Newly Hired Employees and Position Transfers/Promotions:

- None

Employee Departures:

- Katheryn Carrier, Retirement
- Angela Morgan, Resignation

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Baldwin
Finance and Human Resources Manager

TADL Talking Book Library

I want to thank Michele Howard and Christina Meyers for covering my outreaches while I was on medical leave.

Programs:

- Ageless Grace- 22 people attended both programs in November
- Chair Yoga- 9 people attended
- Tuesdays @ Two read *The Camel Club* by David Baldacci. 14 people attended

We didn't visit all of our regular monthly outreaches, but we did help 87 patrons at the ones we did go to.

I got to drive the Bookmobile in the Light Parade this year. It was fun and I loved hearing people yell I love the library!

Anita Chouinard
Talking Book Library Manager

East Bay Branch Library

November went by in a blink, but we had some fun along the way! In addition to our regular monthly programs, we welcomed back local art therapist Barbara Greenwood for a creative zendoodle session. We held our first occurrence of a book club for kids ages 5 - 8, participants discussed *Elephant & Piggie*, did crafts and played a game. We celebrated Native American Heritage month with multiple displays, thematic storytimes, and our book club read Angeline Boulley's *Warrior Girl Unearthed*. Matt led his monthly Cardio Drumming for staff directly after the in-service,



Participants with their zendoodles

which 15 staff attended, it was a blast!

Respectfully submitted,
Chantel Lentz
Branch Manager

Kingsley Branch Library

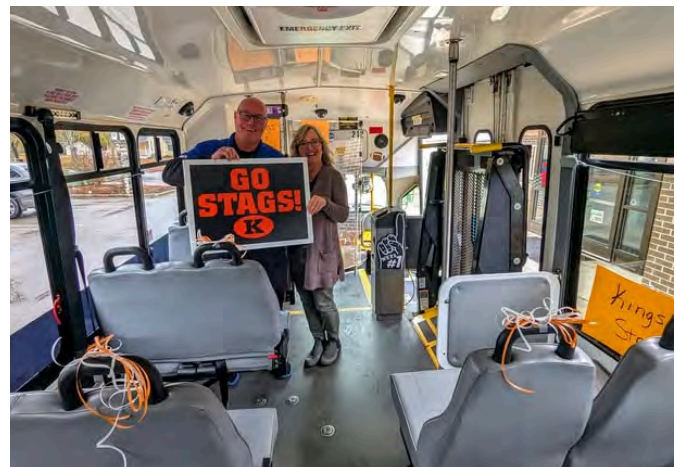


November was a month of community connections for KBL! Our Big Kids' Storytime collected hygiene and food for families in need and donated them to the Kingsley United Methodist Church. They took their donations over themselves and got a tour of the food pantry. They learned a lot about what it takes to keep a community healthy and fed in tough times. Congratulations on all your success and big hearts, Big Kids!

The Kingsley Stags Football and Volleyball teams both made it into the State Championships this season, so all of Kingsley was decked out in support! We helped our BATA Bus driver, Bryan, get the Loop 13 (the Kingsley Route) bus all decorated, too! In case you didn't know, the BATA bus made our Library a stop, so you can get dropped off right at our front door. It's a great day to be a Stag!

It's also
a great
day to

be a part of Kingsley! Many congratulations to the Village of Kingsley, which was awarded a Municipal Excellence Award at the Grand Traverse County Chapter of Michigan Township Association Awards Banquet on November 6th, recognizing our community's hard work on the revitalization of Brownson Memorial Park! We are especially thankful to our Village President Mary Lajko, and Village Manager Charlie Jetter, who made this project possible and allowed the Library to be so integrally involved.



Finally, Jackie Davidson and Gary Brandt, our favorite singer-songwriter traveling duo, visited us on November 10th, 2025, to help us honor the men lost in the Edmund Fitzgerald tragedy. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the event, and Jackie & Gary played for us all a moving rendition of Gordon Lightfoot's iconic "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." But, with those two, it's hard to keep a somber atmosphere! The evening was filled with stories and sing-alongs

from all our favorite folk singer-songwriters of the past, and the staff finally had to usher the crowd out after the third encore! There was so much joy and laughter, and several friendships were forged that evening. You never know what'll happen at a library program, so please join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Monette
Branch Manager

Facilities

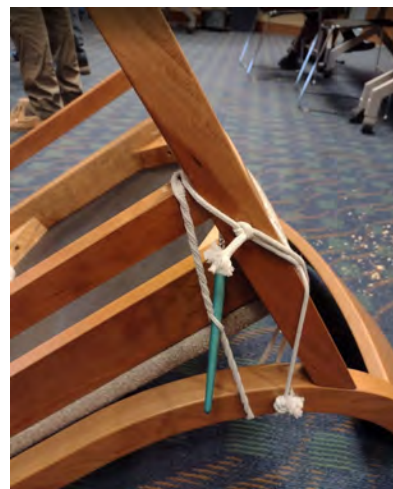
November saw our second Repair Cafe, as well as gathering significant food donations with our Book Bike in the lobby. Other more mundane Facility activities were to:

- Monitor after-hours vote count (Library is a polling location)
- Finalize new Building Control System/VAV project alternatives
- Prepare and send revised floor plan layouts to Library Design Associates
- Contact and meet with additional contractors for front paving project (incl. bollards)
- Coordinate automatic door openers at East Bay and Kingsley
- Decorate Bookmobile for Light Parade, participate in parade
- Research/schedule bed bug inspection
- Change all clocks for the end of DST
- Repair outdoor bicycle pump

Respectfully Submitted,
Bret R Boulter, Facilities Manager



Successful Repair Cafe,
with example of new clamping
technique learned by
Facilities Manager:



Revenue

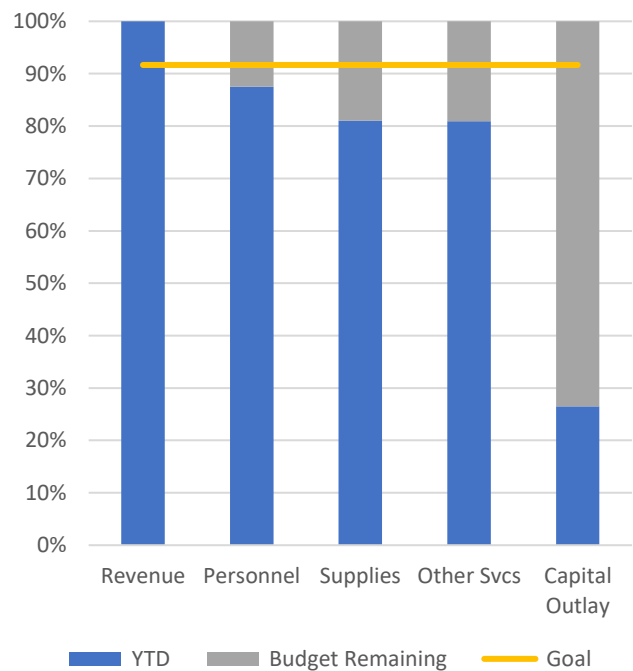
As of 11/30, our revenue for Overdue Fines, Sales, and Meeting Room Rentals are all trending well above our YTD budgetary goals. We received \$12,500 in contributions from the TADL Friends of the Library and \$14,700 in donations, most of which (\$12,500) came from four donors. Thank you to our generous donors! Investments gained \$3,814. An invoice has been submitted to Suttons Bay Bingham District Library for Fees/Services, which will bring this line item up to 100%. We are still awaiting payment as of this writing.

Expenditures

Note that percentage of budget completed is 92% as of 11/30/25. Line item details of note are below.

- Personnel**
 Our Goal percentages are different for this category with all payroll related line items (Salaries, FICA, retirement) having goals of 88.5% and all health benefits having goals of 100%. We are meeting these YTD goals well.
- Supplies**
 In both the General Operating Supplies and our Materials line item (Books/Media/etc), we are within our budget goal of 92%. Our Maintenance Supplies line item is above budget for the year. A budget amendment will be needed at year end to account for this.
- Other Services/Charges**
 With the Member Library payments, Insurance payments, and other once-per-year items that we often pay at the beginning of the year that usually impacts our adherence to our goal budget percentage each month, we have caught up for the year. This category shows at 81% of budget, with our goal being 92%. With the exception of the items previously mentioned, all line item budgets are within this budgetary goal.
- Capital Outlay**
 No expenditures in this category were made this month.

TADL Budget as of 11/30/2025



Respectfully submitted,
 Danielle Baldwin
 Finance and Human Resources Manager



Traverse Area District Library

Budget Report Group Summary

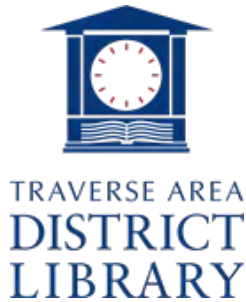
For Fiscal: 2025 Period Ending: 11/30/2025

RevenueCategory;SubCategor...	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Used
Revenue						
400 - Property Taxes - Current/Delinquent/Pilt	8,410,868.00	8,410,868.00	2.12	8,411,471.59	603.59	100.01%
500 - Grants - Federal/State/Other	30,314.00	30,314.00	0.00	43,663.07	13,349.07	144.04%
540 - State Aid Grant - Library	114,407.07	114,407.07	0.00	115,949.02	1,541.95	101.35%
541 - State Aid Grant - TBL	41,073.00	41,073.00	0.00	41,072.00	-1.00	100.00%
581 - Penal Fines	148,900.00	148,900.00	0.00	184,844.80	35,944.80	124.14%
602 - Fees/Services	29,650.00	29,650.00	0.00	20,950.00	-8,700.00	70.66%
607 - Overdue Fines/Replacement Fees	18,000.00	18,000.00	2,168.01	24,404.88	6,404.88	135.58%
642 - Sales	22,650.00	22,650.00	3,223.39	35,567.48	12,917.48	157.03%
653 - Meeting Room Rental/Equip Fees	2,000.00	2,000.00	620.00	12,340.00	10,340.00	617.00%
665 - Interest & Gains/Losses	7,504.00	7,504.00	3,813.73	59,032.09	51,528.09	786.67%
674 - Donations/Contributions	26,200.00	26,200.00	27,205.19	112,526.44	86,326.44	429.49%
676 - Misc Revenue & Reimbursements	500.00	500.00	230.33	3,937.11	3,437.11	787.42%
Revenue Total:	8,852,066.07	8,852,066.07	37,262.77	9,065,758.48	213,692.41	102.41%
Expense						
Category: 70 - Personnel						
700 - Salaries & Wages	3,420,922.87	3,420,922.87	312,900.66	2,952,244.54	468,678.33	86.30%
710 - Social Security/Medicare	83,114.95	83,114.95	7,338.38	73,745.21	9,369.74	88.73%
712 - Medical Insurance	520,813.11	520,813.11	46,715.61	506,678.13	14,134.98	97.29%
713 - Dental Insurance	44,278.64	44,278.64	3,914.22	43,290.60	988.04	97.77%
715 - Vision Insurance	6,329.26	6,329.26	544.14	6,005.90	323.36	94.89%
716 - Life Insurance	11,434.20	11,434.20	776.27	9,104.63	2,329.57	79.63%
717 - Disability Insurance	19,522.63	19,522.63	1,518.46	17,832.52	1,690.11	91.34%
720 - 401K Retirement Contribution	164,775.43	164,775.43	12,285.83	120,759.46	44,015.97	73.29%
721 - MERS Defined Contribution Retirement	217,592.95	217,592.95	20,951.86	193,519.10	24,073.85	88.94%
722 - MERS DB Unfunded Liability	120,000.00	120,000.00	10,000.00	110,000.00	10,000.00	91.67%
723 - Worker's Compensation	8,600.00	8,600.00	0.00	6,209.98	2,390.02	72.21%
724 - Unemployment Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,814.00	-1,814.00	0.00%
Category: 70 - Personnel Total:	4,617,384.04	4,617,384.04	416,945.43	4,041,204.07	576,179.97	87.52%
Category: 72 - Supplies						
728 - General Operating Supplies	468,029.74	468,029.74	41,612.17	307,385.34	160,644.40	65.68%
736 - Repair & Maintenance Supplies	8,750.00	8,750.00	1,251.53	11,861.78	-3,111.78	135.56%
741 - Books/Media/Online Resources/LoT	986,380.00	986,380.00	71,944.20	866,481.60	119,898.40	87.84%
Category: 72 - Supplies Total:	1,463,159.74	1,463,159.74	114,807.90	1,185,728.72	277,431.02	81.04%
Category: 80 - Other Services and Charges						
801 - Professional & Contractual Services	588,030.45	588,030.45	60,399.13	428,241.72	159,788.73	72.83%
804 - Advertising & Outreach	58,240.00	58,240.00	6,440.60	28,868.72	29,371.28	49.57%
807 - Insurance & Bonds	33,221.43	33,221.43	0.00	31,823.00	1,398.43	95.79%
809 - General Equip/Building/Grounds Maintenance	546,121.03	546,121.03	18,464.62	327,063.13	219,057.90	59.89%
850 - Communications	30,900.00	30,900.00	6,029.87	25,981.82	4,918.18	84.08%
921 - Utilities	118,773.00	118,773.00	1,832.79	97,811.61	20,961.39	82.35%
955 - Education & Travel	152,601.38	152,601.38	12,444.75	117,250.03	35,351.35	76.83%
959 - Member Library Allocations	962,835.00	962,835.00	0.00	962,835.00	0.00	100.00%
961 - Misc	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%
964 - Property Tax Reimbursements	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	2,971.25	3,528.75	45.71%
Category: 80 - Other Services and Charges Total:	2,498,722.29	2,498,722.29	105,611.76	2,022,846.28	475,876.01	80.96%
Category: 97 - Capital Outlay						
971 - Capital Furniture/Equipment/Building	272,800.00	272,800.00	0.00	72,355.77	200,444.23	26.52%

Budget Report

For Fiscal: 2025 Period Ending: 11/30/2025

RevenueCategory;SubCategor...	Original Total Budget	Current Total Budget	Period Activity	Fiscal Activity	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Percent Used
Category: 97 - Capital Outlay Total:	272,800.00	272,800.00	0.00	72,355.77	200,444.23	26.52%
Expense Total:	8,852,066.07	8,852,066.07	637,365.09	7,322,134.84	1,529,931.23	82.72%
Report Surplus (Deficit):	0.00	0.00	-600,102.32	1,743,623.64	1,743,623.64	0.00%



Board of Library Trustees Regular Meeting
Library Director Report
Meeting Date: December 11, 2025

Library Activity

For a graphical presentation of the statistical information included below, please visit the link: [online TADL dashboard](#).

<u>Year to Date Circulation Activity</u>			
<u>End of Month</u>	<u>Print/Audio/Video</u>	<u>Electronic Books/Audio/Video</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
November 2024	938,940	305,575	1,244,515
November 2025	950,115	395,497	1,345,612

Lending

Demand for materials continues to increase over last year. Physical Circulation is up 1.2% from last year. E-materials circulations has increased 25.7% from last year.

Visitors – Woodmere, East Bay, and Kingsley Facilities

In November, library visits slowed slightly. The busiest day for October was Tuesday, the 4th, with 1,203 patrons. This was the election day. In November there were 29,618 visitors at East Bay, Kingsley and the Main library. In November 2025, TADL added 228 new patrons district-wide.

Public Computing

The computing services (1,879 uses in November) are about the same as last year (1,857) and lower than last month (2,388).

Additions to the Collection

In November 2025, 2,499 items were added to the district. November ends the purchasing time in order to have all orders final for the end of year budget amendment.

Behavior Issues

There were 8 incidents resulting in 1 suspension in October. This includes 1 incident at Kingsley and 1 incident at Fife Lake. The 1 suspension was a result of intoxication.

Community Help During the Holidays

This year TADL launched a new website: tadl.org/saves. This website explains the many ways that using your library card can help people save money this holiday season and year-round. Additionally, we

have dropped off over 1,500 pounds of food to Father Fred so far during our food drive. Thank you to our generous patron who are helping those in need!

3-D Printing

November 2025	October 2025
51 Regular Patron Orders 5 multicolor 0 resin 3 3D scans 7 cancelled 0 Free 3D Assistive Device Orders 0 Free 3D Fidgets for Local IBCCES Partners Orders Quantity: 66 Unique Items: 40 Amount of filament: 11,907 g Amount of resin: 0 mL	77 Regular Patron Orders 10 multicolor 2 resin 4 3D scans 17 cancelled 0 Free 3D Assistive Device Orders 0 Free 3D Fidgets for Local IBCCES Partners Orders Quantity: 82, 4 resin Unique Items: 57 Amount of filament: 8,991 g Amount of resin: 24 mL

TADL Staff In-Service

On Friday, November 14, 2025, we held the annual TADL Staff In-Service. Staff from Woodmere, East Bay, Kingsley, Peninsula and Fife Lake enjoyed a day of learning and camaraderie. Speakers included:

- Global speaker, Princess Castleberry, who talked about leading and wellness.
- Aaron Witt, from A-Train Tactical, trained us what to do in case of an active shooter or aggressive event.
- Mary Morgan and Zoe Schwartz talked about TADL's preservation efforts of local history.
- The Wellness Committee did a presentation about joy and keeping joy in the workplace.

Thank you to Vicki Carpenter and Danielle Baldwin for always playing a vital role in organizing the day and the speakers.

Literacy

I was invited to a conversation with Michele Richard, Senior Literacy Advisor for Governor Whitmer, tasked with boosting literacy. The meeting also included MLA President Jenny Marr and MLA Interim Executive Director, Dillon Geshel. We were all subsequently invited to the Governor's first literacy conference scheduled for December 13, 2025.

Director Out and About

- Held a Donuts with the Director and talked to 5 patrons.
- Filled in for Anita Chouinard on her outreach to Orchard Creek and Bayridge Senior Living Facilities.
- Decorated a tree for the Festival of Trees.
- Helped at the Super Hero Night dressed as Super Librarian. (Cape pictured on the right.)

Respectfully submitted,
Michele P. Howard, MILS





TRAVERSE AREA
DISTRICT
LIBRARY

Strategic Plan 2026-2028

Strategic Plan Consultant:
Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
Jan Davidson

Adopted by the Traverse Area District Library
Board of Trustees December 11, 2025

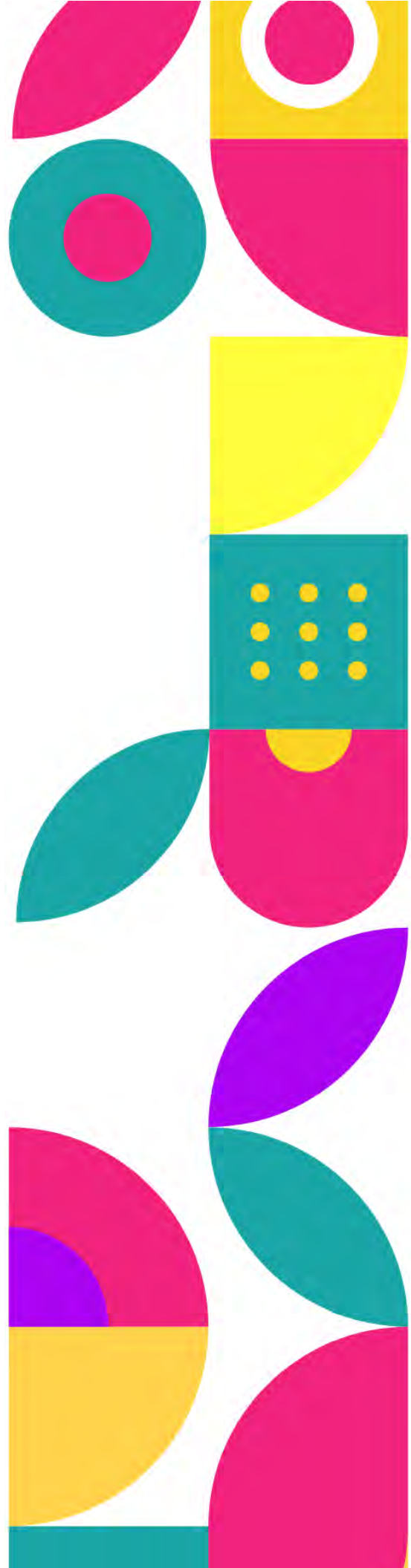




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Acknowledgements

The development of the strategic plan took many hours and the dedicated efforts of many people. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who helped make this plan a reality:

- The library staff for their contributions to the process, and who will ultimately make this plan succeed
- The members of the Library Board of Trustees for their participation and support of the process
- The members of the Strategic Planning Committee for their time and expertise in interviewing community leaders and participating in multiple planning meetings
- The community leaders who agreed to be interviewed for this process and the community members that took the time to complete our community survey and shared their aspirations for the community

If you would like to review the Community Engagement Report you can find it online at tadl.org/strategic-plan. We posted it October, 2025. Together, we continue to build a library for today, tomorrow and beyond.



Michele P. Howard
Library Director



*Photo: Extreme Duct
Tape Workshop
(Woodmere)*



TADL Board of Trustees

Marylee Pakieser, President
 Paul Deyo, Vice President
 Susan Odgers, Treasurer
 Sam Gedman, Secretary

Jennifer Beuthin, Trustee
 Joseph Jones, Trustee
 Micheal Vickery, Trustee



2025 Strategic Planning Committee

Front Row (left to right): Jennifer Beuthin (TADL Trustee), Melissa McKenna, Heather Brady, Michele Howard, Christina Meyers, Scott Morey, Josh Denby

Back Row (left to right) : Andy Schuck, Marylee Pakieser (TADL Trustee), Danielle Baldwin, Kelly Maxwell, Amy Monette, Linda Smith, Chantel Lentz, Bret Boulter, Vicki Carpenter.

Executive Summary

To guide this effort, the Traverse Area District Library (hereafter, TADL) Board selected Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS) to facilitate a strategic planning process to help visualize future library services guided by the aspirations and needs of the community. Based on the work of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, community members were asked, “What kind of community do you want?” and “How can the library help?”

Based on a community survey, sector interviews, and focus group input, the Strategic Planning Committee distilled the information into four strategic service priorities for the period of 2026-2028. The priorities are:



Lead with Intention and Joy

Embracing public trust and supporting an informed and engaged community.



Optimize Physical Spaces

Developing and adapting our service spaces to best meet the needs of our community.



Foster Understanding

Inspiring life-long literacy by championing curiosity and access to knowledge.



Cultivate Connections

Sparking community engagement and connections.



2026 Strategic Plan Inspiration Statement

An empowered, joyful, and visionary library for everyone in our community that connects people to information, resources, and each other.





Mission Statement

TADL provides dynamic resources and innovative services to stimulate intellectual curiosity, facilitate lifelong learning, promote literacy, and nurture personal enrichment.

Our Core Values

Something for Everyone

Through our reliable, accessible, and comprehensive collections, expansive Library of Things, and variety of programs, we offer a broad range of resources and opportunities for our community.

Excellent Service

Our staff are knowledgeable, committed, and compassionate people who strive to provide services in a library where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Culture of Innovation

With creativity, curiosity, and adaptability we build an empowered staff to meet the unique needs of our community's ever-changing landscape.

Bold Leadership

Our Board of Trustees and leadership team hold themselves accountable to financially responsible use of funds to support the library's mission.

Collaborative Outreach

Through extensive initiatives and strategic partnerships, we proactively bring the library into the community.

Integration of Beauty

Our physical spaces blend with and highlight the beautiful environment we exist within, and we look for ways to unite indoor and outdoor elements.

Focus Areas, Goals, & Objectives

TADL's strategic goals address the priorities and aspirations identified by participants during the planning process. These goals will serve as a roadmap for the next few years. Although these goals do not cover all of the library's work, they are intended to set a strategic direction for the three-year life of this plan. The goals will remain constant while objectives and potential opportunities will evolve during the life of the plan.



Focus Area 1: Lead with Intention & Joy

Embracing public trust while supporting an informed and engaged community.

Leading with intention and joy will underpin all three years of the upcoming strategic plan.

Goal 1: Model enthusiastic and committed involvement in our community.

Objectives

- Be the community's gold standard of information.
- Embrace and share lifelong learning and enrichment.
- Expand an informed and engaged citizenry.
- Be seen as a positive change agent.





Focus Area 2: Optimize Physical Spaces

Developing and adapting our service spaces to best meet the needs of our community.

Goal 1: Evaluate existing space usage and consider how to create more and varied size meeting areas in our buildings.

Objectives

- Increase the number of meeting rooms available, including low to no cost for small groups.
- Create spaces for informal meetings.
- Maintain a dynamic and technologically current large meeting space for established non-profits, including civic, cultural, governmental, political, and/or educational groups.

Goal 2: Explore ways to creatively add joy to our spaces for both patrons and staff.

Objectives

- Create a variety of seating choices.
- Focus on staff wellness.
- Maintain a safe, relevant, and inclusive environment that is easy to navigate and comfortable for all ages.

Goal 3: Look for opportunities to bring the outdoors in, and to share our programming beyond our buildings and mobile library.

Objectives

- Evaluate outdoor spaces and improvements for gathering.
- Host and support more collaborative events.
- Refresh indoor spaces to feel connected to the outdoors.





Focus Area 3: Foster Understanding

Inspiring life-long literacy by championing curiosity and access to knowledge.

Goal 1: Identify types of literacy and develop programming to support learning for all ages.

Objectives

- Support families in educational preparedness and literacy.
- Increase literacy events for all ages and abilities.
- Broaden types of literacy tools.

Goal 2: Invest in experiences that encourage curiosity and a desire to know more.

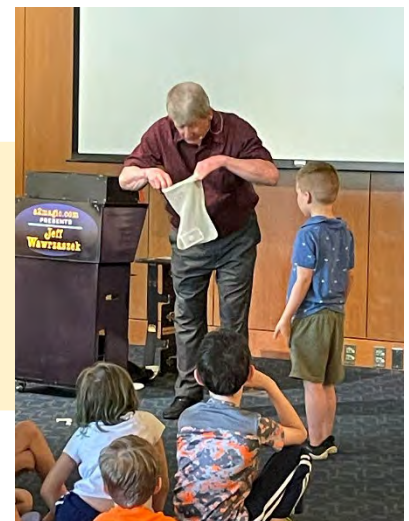
Objectives

- Leverage Summer Reading Club to increase engagement and curiosity.
- Utilize community members on topics of interest.
- Be a joyful and resourceful learning atmosphere.

Goal 3: Deepen partnerships with local schools and colleges on literacy and information literacy.

Objectives

- Participate in shared literacy goals and programs with K-12 schools
- Connect college students with TADL library resources.
- Position TADL as “your partner in lifelong learning”.





Focus Area 4: Cultivate Connections

Sparking community engagement and connections.

Goal 1: Act as a hub, connecting people to available community resources.

Objectives

- Strengthen civic conversations.
- Refine community partnerships to make more intentional connections with and for the community.
- Extend outreach to more rural areas.

Goal 2: Create opportunities for new experiences and exposure to a illuminate a range of information and people.

Objectives

- Create spaces for people to connect.
- Continue widening programming options including multigenerational and multicultural programs.
- Encourage connections between community members through programming.
- Offer social opportunities that are affordable, accessible, and fun.





Putting the Plan in Action

Implementation Plan

TADL has created an Implementation Plan in order to turn this plan into action and help the library accomplish the strategic plan's goals and objectives.

The implementation outline covers the potential roles and responsibilities, activities and decisions necessary to bring the strategy to life and drive success. It also ensures more buy-in from stakeholders and guidance when everyone involved knows what, when and who will be initiating potential projects.

TADL will review this document each year to incorporate the ever-changing opportunities for library, and the needs and interests of the community.

Measurement Plan

TADL will collect and monitor data at regular intervals to gauge how the plans goals are progressing. This monitoring will provide the library with the information needed to continually refine and enhance activities that reflect the changing needs and interests of the community.

Each strategy in the plan includes an intention, with both qualitative and quantitative data. Qualitative data will come from surveys and provide information on outcomes, or about how people feel about an activity. Quantitative data will be collected from the library's integrated library system or manual tallies.



Appendices

A: Additional Information

B: Process Overview/Timeline

C: Survey Comments



Appendix A – Additional Information

Communications Plan

- The Strategic Plan will be made available on the library's website (tadl.org/strategic-plan).
- A social media marketing piece will be created and shared on Facebook and Instagram.
- A print marketing piece which states the values, vision, mission, and key priorities will be distributed at the library and other locations.
- An announcement about the new strategic plan will be made in the library's newsletter.

Financial Resources and Sustainability

- Our Operating Fund Budget will be based on available sources of public funding and will not exceed the assessed value growth quotient for the budget year.
- State and Federal grants and grants from other institutions may supplement the budget.
- Collaboration with other groups in providing programs and services will enable cost-sharing.

Professional Development Plan

- The Library Director and Human Resources Manager will meet quarterly to assess staff training and discern areas of need.
- All staff will be encouraged to attend pertinent training, webinars, and conferences each year, and to take advantage of learning opportunities.

Collaboration

- We have memberships in the Michigan Library Association, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS), and Traverse Connect (formerly the Chamber of Commerce).
- We are members of the Northland Library Cooperative.
- We collaborate with all the local municipalities within our service area, which include: Grand Traverse County, City of Traverse City, East Bay Charter Township, Village of Kingsley, Village of Fife Lake, Interlochen, and Peninsula Township.
- Some of our key community partners include NorthEd, TCAPS, Born to Read, Traverse Area Community Media, and many others. We continue to grow our community partnerships.

Appendix B – Process Overview/Timeline

Winter, 2024/2025 – TADL Board approved selection of MCLS for this project.

Spring, 2025 – A 17-person Strategic Planning Committee was assembled, which included representatives from the Library Board and the TADL leadership team.

July, 2025 – Kickoff Meeting & Interview Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee brainstormed a list of community leaders to interview to encompass eight key sectors of the community for a wide range of views and input.



4) **It's planning time again!** We're starting out on another three-year strategic plan, and input opportunities are coming up - [reserve a Community Conversation spot](#) or watch for our online survey (coming soon).

August, 2025 – MCLS conducted five Community Conversations

Sessions took place at Woodmere, East Bay, and Kingsley. The sessions were widely advertised and open to anyone. Between these two efforts, 61 community leaders and members engaged with the process.

Community leader interviews and Community Conversation input was used to create the Community Engagement Report, including a “Community Narrative” to summarize the public knowledge gathered.

September, 2025 - MCLS and TADL created a public community survey that was offered through the TADL library website (and on paper) at all three TADL branch locations. There were 471 responses to the survey, and MCLS created a Survey Report of the anonymous data.





Appendix B, continued

September 18, 2025 – Study Session with TADL’s full board (at Peninsula Community Library). Board members received an overview of the community engagement process and were asked to respond to the Community Engagement Report findings from their perspective.

September 19, 2025 – Staff member focus group session, offered to all staff members who were not already serving on the Strategic Planning Committee. Seventeen staff members opted in to receive an overview of the community engagement process and were asked to respond to the Community Engagement Report findings from their perspective.

October 15, 2025 – The full Strategic Planning Committee attended a Planning Retreat at the Woodmere library. They participated in a SOAR analysis of the library, identifying strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results. The strengths became the basis for the library’s core values; the aspirations became the basis of the plan’s vision statement; and opportunities resulted in the identification of key service priorities.

October 22, 2025 – The MCLS consultant facilitated a retreat with an Operational Committee made up of many of the library’s management staff. Work included a tactical plan to address the four key focus areas that were identified at the 10/15/2025 Strategic Planning Retreat.

Teams considered the following questions for each focus area: “How will the patron benefit?”; “How will the community benefit?”; “What activities might occur?” “What will success look like?”; “What organizational issues will need to be addressed, including facilities, technology, policies, staffing, etc.?” This work created the basis for the development of goals, objectives, and activities that make up this final strategic plan.

November, 2025 – MCLS returned a final draft of this strategic plan. Library staff continued to refine goals, objectives, and activities. Library managers created an initial implementation plan that addressed potential activities and assigned a target date for startup and/or completion, and which department(s) or people would be assigned responsibility. Assignments and work related to each new initiative will reveal a plan that is flexible and evolving, in order to adapt to changes that may be needed along the way. A measurement plan was created to track the progress of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan.



Appendix C – Survey Comments

Survey comments are included on the following pages.

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



Completed by 471 people, not every person chose to answer every question that was presented to them.

Open-answer questions are unedited to maintain authenticity of the comments. In some cases (where noted), they remain unedited but are loosely grouped to help the reader see patterns.

Q1: Do you or anyone in your household have a TADL library card?

97.45% of those who took the survey either had a Traverse Area District Library card or someone in their household had a TADL card.

Q2: If the answer is no what is preventing you from getting a card?

The top choice for what is preventing (12) respondents from getting a library card is a tie between “preferred to buy their books and materials” and simply not making it a priority (which was not a choice offered, but three people listed that in the Other responses as follows):

- Even though I grew up in TC and had card for the Sixth Street library, I haven’t gotten one since I moved back! I need to!
- I'm new to the area, travel often, still work part time and just haven't made it a priority to get to the library
- I'm thinking about getting a card, just haven't done so yet

Two respondents each noted they were not interested in what the library had to offer and that they use the space or attend events, but don’t need a card to do that. One respondent each noted they were too busy, that the location was unknown or not convenient, and that they don’t live in Traverse City.

Q3: What city/twp/village do you live in?

Range of answers in northwest Michigan provided.

Q4: What is your age? (Asked in an effort to make sure we reach all demographic groups)

Those aged 65-74 accounted for almost a third (29.19%) of respondents to this question. Almost even were 35-44 years at 16.97% and 75+ years at 16.74% of respondents. Less than 1% of respondents were under 18, but it is noteworthy that there were respondents from every age category.

Q5: How often do you visit the library?

Survey respondents are mostly library users, with the highest number (39.05%) visiting the library 4+ times per month, 30% visiting 1-3 times a month, and the amounts of answers

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



going in order down the scale. Four respondents have never visited the library. While it would be helpful to hear from non-users, this is typical as most people who will know about and take the time to respond to a library survey are those who already have some interest in the library and its services.

Q6: How do you use library services? (Choose all that apply.)

Note that people could – and did – choose more than one answer (all that applied for them.) Answers in order of popularity:

- Borrowing physical items at 86.82%
- Attending programs and events
- Borrowing digital items
- Receiving help from library staff.

Next was using the library as a safe, free, public space. Several “other” responses were noted as well, as follows (unedited but loosely grouped with like answers):

Other:

- MetCal
- Melcat
- A big user of MelCat book delivery
- MeLCat is awesome!
- melcat library loans, which technically is borrowing physical items but is more specific, in my opinion
- ILL; Melcat; Worldcat; Asking @ill for help; Using workrooms for quiet space and work
- Reading newspaper and magazines
- restroom, or soaking up sunshine upstairs and reading magazines, or seed library. Thank you!
- Browsing the collection and the magazines and newspapers, occasionally use Chat
- reading Record Eagle
- yoga classes
- Group card playing
- Meetings
- Meeting room
- Renting space for Indivisible meeting. Your staff is wonderful. Thank you for the work that you’re doing to support our community!
- Programs
- The childrens events are terrific - thank you!
- Kids events/programs
- Children’s play area
- Kids areas!
- Children’s area-play & computers, garden too
- Playing in the kids area & outside
- great place to take our 6 y o grandson!

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



- Allowing my daughter a place to interact with others her age.
- Borrowing printed materials
- Check out books
- Physical items meaning books
- Reading enjoying the quiet with the community
- 3D printing
- We stopped going when the homeless situation inside tadl got bad. Haven't been since. Maybe time to try again.
- Using the 3d printer
- am an employee, present 5 days a week
- Working here
- Part time volunteer
- Volunteering in the archives
- Book Club
- Using book club materials
- Going to a home like feel place
- finding joy
- free puzzle exchange, using small private rooms
- Jigsaw puzzle exchange
- Puzzle exchange!
- getting a puzzle
- buying discard books and puzzles
- Visiting garden
- Enjoying the outdoor garden
- Specifically, large print books
- Books for the blind
- Research items in library
- Historical Phone Book Look up...
- Libby and Hoopla
- On line bookd
- viewing art displays
- Have used and appreciated your notary services in the past
- Music
- Simply Delicious with Chef Tom
- Train outside
- Drawing books at a whim and reading, learning, growing while there
- Old school. love the environment, research opportunities being surrounded by books.
- Supervising foster child visits for Child & Family Services
- I do request book titles for when they order books.
- I haven't yet, but probably to attend programs and events
- I don't use the library

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



Q7: Which location do you use most often?

81.37% of respondents used the Main Library most often.

Of the smaller locations, Kingsley was chosen as a primary location most often, then East Bay. Next was online service with 3.07%. There were single-digit numbers of respondents from each of the member libraries as well. No one selected the Mobile Library as their most used location.

Q8: Considering the location you visit most, are the facilities welcoming, accessible, and well-maintained?

Overall, most respondents answered “Yes, very” regarding the physical buildings and grounds being welcoming, accessible, and well-maintained for the location they visited most. Only three individuals (all regarding Main Library) answered “Not really”, and no one said “No” for any location. As a whole, the community seems very pleased with the physical library spaces.

Comments about the Main Library:

- Well used and looking like it. Kept neat and tidy but wearing down and dated. Also, larger and increasing homeless presence last 5 years.
- Too many vagrant-type people around ... it is not safe in that area anymore
- Homeless people can be a problem. People talking loudly is also an issue.
- I stopped visiting the library when it became a hangout for people without housing. I'm sympathetic to that population but I saw behaviors that made visitation uncomfortable. I was told by management that all were welcome. My thought was that evidently not me.
- Building exterior & grounds need better maintenance - grounds behind building are in poor condition
- some areas have smells; there is moisture/mold/mildew scent along the west wall facing the lake toward the north end of the building. why weren't things like furniture updated vs paying for a not-needed bathroom remodel?
- Snow removal in parking lot & on curb cuts/sidewalk
- The atrium counter is messy and the paneling is flaking off. The ceiling has evidence of water damage in places.
- The new restrooms are pretty but not really any better than before excepting the push button entry/exit.. the floor looks dirty, the toilet paper dispensers are too low and that's not an ADA issue and do not cut the roll properly and it's still hard to turn around in the regular stalls, eliminating just one would have allowed the others to be just enough bigger so people didn't use the handicapped stall sometimes making the handicapper wait and the foaming soap is good the soap dispensers however are terrible; there is no designated nursing area for new moms either; people still smoke in their cars making the surrounding air hard to breathe; thanks for the water bottle dispensers; need to knock off some of the noise of people on their phones and having zooms or tutoring or whatever in the reading

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



areas, they forget where they are and talk as if they are outside, on a playground; seasonal decorations have been very nice, especially this summer; thanks for melcal; what happened to the Reference books, some of them I use all the time are not there and I can't find them anywhere; not enough parking; the clock tower time is off--different time each side; genre the fiction collection and cut the trees in the back they are blocking that beautiful view I paid for

- Carpeting and furniture seems worn and dated. It is nice to have the variety of social spaces to choose from like couches, chairs, and tables.
- Signage in entry lobby needs beefing up. Eliminate the charging stations--limited use.
- The de facto homeless shelter nature of the library makes it less welcoming and accessible than it would otherwise be
- The parking area has a lot of blind spots and can be difficult to navigate safely with small children in tow.
- The parking lot makes me a little nervous...So many cars coming and going...
- Generally good, but have noticed a rougher crowd lately and I would like to recommend that enforcement start to enforce loitering on all the grounds if these individuals will not be making positive use of our tax payer dollars by means of learning and giving back to this community in a positive way.
- Parking is terrible
- Homeless population in nearby areas can make visiting uncomfortable
- If possible, some updates to things would be nice, but that's more appearance-wise. I think the library does everything they can to be accessible to everyone and they do all they can to keep the grounds and building maintained.
- Parking can be a problem
- Security concerns inside the library and surrounding property 🙄
- Ice/water in the winter is bit worrisome. Great bathrooms. Comfortable light and seating.
- Always clean and neat inside the library and outside. Thank you for the nice, clean bathrooms and water bottle refilling station.
- I love this library and appreciate the services and accommodations provided! From WiFi to meeting spaces to the book reservation system, this library system is top notch
- Snow/slush is often an issue in winter.
- Like seeing the protesters out in front
- Absolutely love the gardens out back!
- Love the flowers outside. The sunny environment upstairs (especially in winter)
- The little free library needs paint.
- Parking sometimes is an issue especially if an event is going on.
- The main library is clean, well kept. The children's section is well-organized, engaging, and welcoming.
- Beautiful building and seems well maintained. Lots of quiet places to sit and read in comfortable chairs.

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



- It's the most beautiful library around!
- very friendly, helpful staff
- The parking lot is often full in the summer and during popular events. I don't know if it's possible to expand the parking lot, but it's something that should have some thought into. If impossible, maybe a paved walkway or some sort of trail from Hull park? People may park there but have to cross the railroad tracks to get to the Library
- Easier access from north side to children's garden.
- Parking can be "tight" occasionally
- Sometimes I avoid areas where (apparently) unhoused people are resting (due to my own nervousness about their behavior, or smells), but I'm glad that they have a safe place to be in our library.
- Occasionally the parking lot has nearly been full, but I've always gotten a spot.
- They have LIBRARIANS there!
- I wish there were a way to access the children's garden from the back of inside the building. When visiting the library with little children, that extra walk all the way around the building to get to the garden is often too much for them. The pathways on the sides of the building are also not very welcoming.
- Love the welcoming feeling I get when entering the library!
- It's like a second home
- More parking. Access with Woodmare; traffic congestion, dangers of making a left.
- I think some people might comment negatively on the presence of unhoused people in the library but I am proud of our library for allowing a safe warm (or cold depending on the season) place for all people to exist.
- The environment is fantastic. Safe, clean, a quiet respite that allows the joy of stories.
- I love the train area with the flowers and walking story. It's beautiful
- Would love an upgrade to the indoor and outdoor kids play areas.
- We love the children's garden and area!
- I mostly arrive on a bicycle and am grateful for plentiful, solid bike racks near the front door.
- Less congestion in the front lobby and through to the stairs and departments would be nice.

Comments about the East Bay branch (18 responses):

- Many improvements have taken place and I applaud the changes. It is an old building with minimal outside grounds and a shared parking lot.
- They are welcoming and maintained but it's so old and too small. I always worry about the parking lot, it's so tight, especially in winter. I wish the door had a handicap button, it's hard when carrying a child and books to open the door. I wish I could return my books from my car and not get out. I am thankful that the staff will do curbside delivery during operating hours. So helpful with young children. I know other branches are limited in their hours of curbside, which is very inconvenient. They utilize the clerks office for programs but it's too small. Sing and stomp has embarrassingly outgrown that room. I know they try and go

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



outside on nice days but then you have toddlers running into the parking lot. Hard to hold onto two toddlers when it's just an open grassy field. At least inside the doors close.

After sing and stomp they invite us over to the library for snacks and crafts but that library sure does fill up fast. I'd love to let my girls play but there's too many people and not enough space or toys. East Bay needs a larger building. I get the historical significance of the building, wasn't it the original one? But it's time to embrace the future!

- It's accessible, the parking lot is small. They make use of the clerk for sing and stomp but both buildings are getting to small for the amount of people they serve. Sing and stomp has maxed out the clerks office space, parking is difficult. And afterward they welcome everyone to the library for crafts and snacks but we all don't fit especially with all the kids running around. East Bay Branch needs more space! It's a great location, it just needs to be bigger. I also wish there was a way to return books without getting out of the car. Especially when I have young children. I used to live in Indiana, and the library had book drop offs at the major grocery stores. It was amazing! Go to the grocery to pick up milk and drop off all your books too, and it was drive up. So helpful. I am lucky East Bay does curbside delivery during open hours. I know the other branches are selective about what times the curbside delivery is, that's difficult when you have small children.
- East Bay is well maintained but is somewhat dated and cramped.
- It seems the library building could use some repair
- The staff at East Bay are all very sweet and knowledgeable
- Yes. Cozy.

Comments about the Kingsley branch (23 responses):

- I would love to see even more books offered in the Kingsley location!!
- They know me. They are wonderful.
- Always clean & well taken care of!
- Great welcoming space - like home
- :)
- Make it bigger and door to access the garden
- beautiful garden, comfortable seating
- My family and I love the new changes to the Kingsley library; the larger children's area and updated shelving and puppets. I don't know if this was the library's doing, but the park really makes it a place for the whole community to enjoy.

Comments from those who primarily use Online Services 24/7 (13 responses):

- The librarians are a big part of our community. Very active in engaging the young and old to enjoy the library
- More parking
- Staff are very welcoming/personable - enjoy seeing everyone & sharing pieces of our lives/the children accomplishments over the years!

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- I have difficulty using the “filtering” feature in the online catalog.. I don’t find it very friendly

Comments about the Peninsula Library:

- Keep up the great work!

Comments about the Fife Lake Library:

- I love my library
- Just need more space for all activities

Comments about the Interlochen Library:

- *No comments were shared*

Q9: Thoughts on programming and events at location you visit most

Overall, 78.80% thought the library location they visited the most served the needs of its local community “Very well” through community services and programming, with about 21% answering “Somewhat” or “Neutral.” One single person thought their most-visited location rated “Not that well,” and no one answered “Not at all” for any location.

The following are the breakdowns of answers to this question about services and programming by specific location:

Comments about the Main Library (345 responses):

- Variety of programming with resources available. Love the seed library and the library of things and the historical/genealogy section partnered with the Library is lovely.
- I have not used the programming. I am concerned by the LGBTQ, etc group events.
- Library is providing services they should not be involved In
- I think I don’t know about what is offered — but that’s because I’m not looking.
- I do not utilize
- This is not something I pay much attention to so I have selected neutral.
- Interested in many services/groups, but they are only scheduled during the workday. More consideration of working people
- Thank you for continuing curbside service; the meeeting rooms are always taken when my group wants one
- Most programming is focused on children or seniors. There doesn’t seem to be much for folks in the middle.
- Most programming is for children or seniors.
- More events for single adults, please!

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- AS a homeschool family with young children it met our needs well. I'd love to see Homeschool opportunities at the Main library. Though we've enjoyed big kid story time for this purpose at Kingsley Library.
- More adult arts and crafts classes
- I'd like to hear more about programming
- remove any and all political signage
- Encourage programming schedules for working people. Most of us can't attend a class/workshop/group during the workday.
- I would like more programs for adults
- I wish there were more times for certain events later in the evening. For example, I'd love to go to Thai chi but I work during every meeting time
- The library does offer basically what I want and use but others may have different needs.
- I like the meeting and exhibit space.
- I think they offer a good range of services for all ages
- The main library has a plethora of programs offered to the community that are free of charge to patrons and users. I think if someone finds the programming lacking, they are more than welcome to submit a comment in the suggestion box.
- All are welcome!
- The wellness classes are wonderful and I really appreciate these offerings. Ageless Grace is fantastic, as is chair yoga and Tai Chi - please continue them!
- I find the Main Area Library very suitable for all ages of the community.
- I attend the Traverse Indivisible meeting there
- Ageless Grace, chair yoga, going to parks together. Travel Tuesday was a blast last year. So was the bus trip to the bird watchin place in Benzie Co w/a docent.
- I just visited the public library in Helsinki, Finland. They had 3-D printers. My fellow travelers were impress. I told them we had one in y library in TC. They were very impressed. Helsinki did have other things like decal shirt printing and a kitchen to sign up and use.
- Maybe drop in lawyer hours?
- I don't take advantage of programming, but it looks like they have alot.
- The boards are were I go to find current things to do and would like to see even more of this information, such as Sr. Center and NWS schedules, etc.
- they have added a great deal of services and activities
- With that said ("Very well") I need to mention that as a long time resident & supporter of the library, over the years since new management arrived I have sadly seen many good long time workers there gone, either voluntarily or not with some lv'e know well just let go. Was not happy about that and though I certainly admire the dedication of the current staff I want to especially give kudos to the whole staff at the audio & sound department which offers some much in education, entertainment & music etc... so my hope is that the current manager in charge will continue to support this department, making sure that they have the necessary tools & financial needs to operate & function for our community.
- Every single time I come in (x3/month), I'm impressed with the broad array of services offered. I keep finding new options.

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- covered outdoor eating area, meals for kids have been great! maybe reach out to that free meal service over at j&s south airport for a fridge so you can do it for adults as well!
- My son is teaching himself to play a guitar borrowed from your library of things. He loves the monthly Bricks n' Build, we're steadily working our way through the entire graphic novel collection, and we've been venturing into your 3D print services. We couldn't be happier with the TADL Main Library!
- I think most people don't even know how much programming the library does
- Although I don't use it, I'm glad you offer free food for those who need it.
- As far as I know... the variety seems excellent, but as an individual, it's hard to judge how well the library serves the community overall.
- There are a lot of programs for seniors and taxes/wealth management/finances in general, but I think it would be beneficial to teach younger people (ex. teenagers w/ a first job, or college students) money management as well. I wasn't taught this in school (granted, this was years ago, but I doubt a lot of people were either) and I think there's probably an audience for this kind of thing.
- I'd like to be more involved in the book clubs, especially the literature into film group, but haven't taken the time.
- All are welcome
- Would love to have toddler programs on weekends.
- Greater publicity or perhaps a library Speaks in the paper or other awareness building strategies.
- I was VERY impressed that they were a lunch program for kids this summer.
- I enjoy attending concerts, retirement seminars, poetry readings, improv shows, etc.
- I am always interested in the events and programs that are offered! I have not built up the courage yet to attend the ones that I want to, but I love that they are there as options.
- More activities for young children ages 10-13
- The Library does too much already. Books. Just have books.
- Activities in the evening or on weekends
- More access to local history resources
- I also love the East Bay library(Chantal) and Peninsula library(Vicki)
- I don't know enough to answer this fairly
- I'm not sure
- can't really comment

Comments about the East Bay branch (18 responses):

- The kid class is very popular sometimes feels too crowded and not enough space for everyone. Sometimes I think have a toddler specific group and then maybe a preschool age group might be better
- Again, there is limited space for expansive programs. Still, East Bay does a great job with promoting a sense of community and offering activities and programs for the local small community.
- Interlibrary sharing makes up for what the branch lacks in size and resources. The events for kids are great!

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- The summer programming is amazing
- We LOVE our library. Our librarians are so friendly & helpful. We love going there.

Comments about the Kingsley branch (23 responses):

- There is not as much for the Adult book worm ladies
- Would like to see more programs for older kids/teens, and adults.
- LOVE the Kingsley Library. They are helpful, friendly, and always welcoming!
- Great variety of quality programs! Our library is a vital part of our Kingsley community.
- The programming is AWESOME for our needs!
- events for children and adults are entertaining and education
- There's always something going on at our library!
- Would like to see more community stuff in Kingsley.
- Can't say for the rest of the community but it's like home.

Comments from those who primarily use Online Services 24/7 (13 responses):

- Better selection and more digital books would help a lot.
- Variety of events through the year as well as monthly events for all ages
- More variety (ages, interests) than any other library I've been in!

Comments about the Peninsula Library:

- Sunday hours would be nice
- Not interested in most of their programs.

Comments about the Fife Lake Library:

- More meeting space - small mtg rooms, study spaces, larger event space, more parking spaces

Comments about the Interlochen Library:

- I have only participated in one community event in the 2.5 years I've lived within 3 miles of the Interlochen library. I think this is because there is not much programming that isn't during the work day or geared towards young children.
- The website recently saw a major update and the calendar is much more use friendly! But I still find that information for events is often only posted in person or advertised only weeks before an event. It would be helpful to have more advance notice. I also noticed that IPL events are not included in the primary TADL newsletter which is disappointing.

Q10: Areas where you would like to see another branch or additional outreach services?

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11.57% of respondents answered that they would like to see another branch or additional outreach services added in the community. About half of respondents were unsure.

When asked to specify areas where they would like to see another branch added or additional outreach services added, respondents shared the following (unedited but grouped to help the reader):

- Branch - Acme/Williamsburg
- Acme/Williamsburg
- Williamsburg/Acme
- Acme/Williamsburg area
- A branch in the Williamsburg/acme area. Maybe only physical items
- Library branch in Acme/Williamsburg area
- I hear people from the Acme/Williamsburg area wishing they had one out there relatively often (several times a year)
- Acme/Whitewater township
- Acme
- Acme Township
- Maybe Acme could use a branch?
- Acme book drop
- New library building for East Bay
- East bay to expand - main library doesn't ever feel safe with all the homeless in the area, so we tend to avoid. Would love east bay to be more kid friendly/ expand library offerings
- I don't know if another branch is necessary yet, but I really think the East Bay Library needs some updates and maybe expansion, or even a new facility built in the township. They're located right near my kids' school, and we love the librarians there; we think they need more space to host family programming. We'd probably frequent there more often than Kingsley if the space reflected the community needs.
- East Bay Branch- Would love to see more programs and services
- East side of Traverse City with a water view, particularly a BaySide view. Would prefer making use of historic type buildings if at all possible.
- East side of town.
- Grawn
- Grawn area, new branch
- Long Lake. We were promised a branch 31 years ago.
- About 25 years ago we were told that there would be a branch library built in Long Lake Township. I'm still waiting!
- The amount of libraries rn seems pretty good but if I were to pick a place for a new one I would say long lake township
- Long Lake Township
- West side of Traverse City, long lake township area
- Seems like the west side needs a branch. Long Lake or by Oleson's?
- Another branch in TC West.
- West Side location
- West side

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- We are happy to go to the Main Branch, but we live near Silver Lake (west side) about equidistance from the Main and Interlochen branch's. If there is interest a West Side library would be welcome in this area.
- The Main and Interlochen branches are about the same distance from our house. A closer library would be nice but not necessary.
- A branch on the west side of town/Garfield Township would be very helpful
- west side of Traverse City, Interlochen is too far
- Elmwood Township but I am biased, I live there.
- Leelanau County
- Love the idea of the historical society moving back to the 6th st library - would love more programming to deepen their contribution to the community (historical tours, etc.)
- It would be wonderful to see the library reoccupy the Sixth Street location!
- it would be great if the history collection was returned to the sixth street building so that it could be available again as it once was.
- Return the Carnegie building to library use plus a local history museum.
- I would love to see the Carnegie Building on 6th st. back under the library's control
- Carnegie Building
- The Carnegie building and collection
- Back in central neighborhood again. We loved that location and old building
- I think a mobile location would be awesome. Could be at major events (like the Cherry Festive) or doing your own events (like an event showing off the library of things, how they work, test them out, ect.)
- Increase Bookmobile services.
- Mobile library come to YMCA West
- Generally, I'd love for the library of things and the ability to pick up items from various branches to be expanded!
- book returns at the major shopping areas--Walmart, Meijers, Toms, etc.
- Would like it but don't think it's absolutely necessary
- Please stop trying to take over Crooked Tree Art Center, it has a very useful place in the community in conjunction with our current library.
- More digital offerings
- digital access to NYT; digital access to other paywall sites like Financial Times; Mlive; etc
- Lake Ann! I would love to see more events in Lake Ann proper. Lake Ann has a tiny (unaffiliated) library but they do not coordinate community events and the hours are atrocious. As an Almira Township resident, I have access to many TADL resources, but having to drive to Interlochen or Traverse City is a barrier. Alternatively, expansion of IPL hours would be helpful. Closure on Sunday's makes it difficult to access resources and the lack of evening hours is also disappointing.
- homeless outreach, invite them to get library cards and teach about our services
- Concerts in Hull Park
- I don't have additional needs, but I would love more opportunities to be involved in activities.
- not like a library branch per se. But you guys know those free little libraries you do? Placing them in mobile home parks could be a good way to expand book sharing among the lower income who don't get into the main part of traverse city as much.

Q11: Best ways for the library to communicate with you about resources and programs?

This question asked for “all that apply”, so respondents could choose multiple answers.

Monthly eNewsletter emails was the top choice for how respondents felt the library should communicate with them about resources and programs with 80.64% selecting that. Just over half (54.66%) selected the Library website and just under half (48.53%) selected In-library advertising such as posters and flyers. Next were Social media and Community calendars.

All suggested communication methods were chosen by 49 or more people. Just one person indicated that none of these communication methods would work for them, and that individual did not offer a better method.

Suggestions typed in were (unedited):

- Notices shared by partner agencies/groups.
- via neighborhood associations?
- The Ticker (2)
- For social media, specifically Facebook. For community calendars, specifically, the Ticker. For local newspapers, specifically Northern Express.
- I love the posters in the lobby. I take a picture with my phone then transcribe to my calendar so I don't forget the fun and educational stuff.
- not subscribed but would like to
- App
- The app
- Texting would be great.
- text messages
- emails
- N/A

Well over half of participants in the survey were already aware of ALL the listed services.

The three services with the highest awareness were Audio books, Loan of videos and music, and eBooks. 81.13% knew about the Library of Things.

When asked for suggestions for additional services to be offered by the library, respondents shared the following:

- Cardio drumming class - It is a great class & offered at EB library, but only once a month. Maybe offer it here? (Note: Main Library)

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- Please add cardio drumming to Woodmere Branch. I got to East Bay. Matt does such a great job! I love it!
- It would be great to have a cafe inside, or a food truck with coffee and snacks in the parking lot! I would make more use of the library at times of the day when I need a break or a snack.
- Coffee shop
- More public access to the Kingsley community room.
- MakerSpace to use a Glowforge or have someone help me use a Cricut die cut machine
- A Maker's space including a sewing machine and other crafty things like the 3D printer, laser cutting/etching, etc.! I did not know there was 3D printing and scanning, so perhaps I need to check this out first :)
- St. Paul, MN, downtown library has a maker space with sewing machines, sergers, donated textiles, etc., for people to practice in the library where a library attendant is available to assist users on-site. It was a motivating space for people launching a business or just learning.
- other genealogy databases such as Fold3 and newspapers.com which has papers from all the states
- If library staff worked reached out to the people doing serious historical work for suggestions of how to provide access to primary sources, links to resources, and to research being done of relevance, instead of relying on the insular TAHS leadership, you could provide much better information.
- Games is missing from this list! Would love to see this expanded, especially the backpacks with stem.
- Love the board game rentals, please expand!
- More tools in Library of Things.
- More items at the library of things. Specifically, a photo digitizer (Epson Fast Foto) for digitizing print photos.
- A Library of People! Interesting / Diverse people from the community you can connect with for a conversation. I think I read about Denmark doing this. Speed Dating for Friends - things to combat the loneliness epidemic.
- Social worker able to connect patrons to community resources.
- I would appreciate more large-print books at all branches.
- I enjoyed taking large print books to local retirement facilities from the East Bay library for many years. Continuing this is important and having books made available to all the many senior housing residents not now covered would be a welcome service. (mobile library van ?)
- I liked the yoga that went away ...
- The electronic book selection seems to be reduced or have less and less selection or items available - please keep putting resources to this program.
- How about rotating a small display of the woodturners to other branches?
- Knowledge learning on a day each month as Traverse City continues to grow. Example: How to use RoundABOUTs properly; Biking Safety; Swimming safety, Slippery Roads Safety Reminders.

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- I wish the State library would add the OED (the online Oxford English Dictionary) to the bundle of online resources.
- Do you have a notary public?
- Fruit trees outside the buildings for free food for whoever when they grow fruit
- You have done a remarkable and critical job of keeping up with the changing culture of TC. Thank you.
- Keep up the good work! We love our library! Thanks!
- Pls pls pls offer more sessions for people to learn about their various devices and how to maximize their use!
- more hands on/participation programs for adults at the Main library
- I love the seed library. I would also like to see more sewing books and resources available.
- I hope you charge for the printing, copying, 3D printing, musical instruments, etc.
- Aren't you competing with businesses that pay taxes for your support when you offer printing and copying?

About one-half of respondents designated Quiet reading/study areas to be of High importance. About one-third of respondents designated Large group meeting rooms to be of High importance. Next for High importance was Small group meeting space with just under one-fourth choosing that.

Makerspace was chosen by 50.42% for Low importance though about one-third listed that as Medium and 15.32% listed that as High for importance. More library outreach was chosen by 35.00% as being of Low importance.

Other:

- large room - for Ageless Grace and Chair Yoga
- I would not use a dedicated teen space, but would support a dedicated space and funds to run it.
- I don't personally have a teenager in my life right now but I think as a community it's of paramount importance to have a strong space for them. I love that I've seen snack items for those that are hungry. You guys are the best.
- As my child grows, I'm sure my responses will change. As she is two, my priority would be an updated and enlarged play space. With focus on activities that can be attended by working families.
- kids play area is very very beneficial
- Kids section/selection; activities in the kids areas (scavenger hunts!); the beautiful kids area in general! the outdoor kids area (garden, train, moon garden)
- Audiophile listening area with turntables, CD players, and high-quality headphones
- 3D printers are so loud and now on both floors.
- The library has gotten away from being a quiet place to read, hangout, etc. If the library wants a place for people to hangout to talk I think it should be in the McGuire room and not just make one end of the library a quiet space. All of the main spaces should be a quiet

area. That's what I have loved in the past so I don't spend as much time just being there anymore. I just go and do my business and leave. I miss that.

- More quiet areas for working and more comfortable seating.
- I believe the uses I marked as medium and low are important and valuable. They don't, however, impact my use of the library
- magazines and newspapers going back more than just 2 years, magazine indexes such as the Readers Guide, whatever happened to it, nothing online goes back far enough
- Resources to borrow! - High
- Parking seems to be an issue when there are large meetings.
- love the library where ever it is un our community
- don't know what makerspace is
- I don't know what Makerspace is.
- These are my personal needs/observations, and probably don't reflect all (or any!) community needs.
- Not the library's problem to solve alone, but free or low cost meeting space for clubs and non-profits without physical offices or buildings is very hard to come by in this area. Appreciate what the library offers and would love to see more availability.
- I use the library to teach myself how to do things. Gardening. Design. Sewing.

Q14 What area of needs or wants in your community might the Library help address with resources, services, or programs? Please choose all that apply and provide specific details in the space provided.

Answered: 362 Skipped: 109

The top choice, with 63.81%, for what respondents are looking for at the library is Hobbies such as gardening, baking, cooking, bike repair, sewing, etc. Next is Author talks with 54.97% choosing that. This is followed by Social/gathering opportunities with 52.49%.

There were many other things that respondents are interested in as well.

When asked other ideas or to provide specific details about topics of interest, respondents shared the following:

- Technology class for VERY beginners - real basics about how to use phone and computers. An individual one-on-one session for tech help in addition to the Tues. AM tech help - I need lots of help and don't want to tie up the 2nd floor staff on Tuesday AM for a long time. Speakers on topics about wellness/nutrition. Last summer (224 I think) Peninsula Library had speakers from U of M hospital about skin cancer, cardiology, etc. and the were great programs, so programs similar to that would be wonderful.
- Regular/drop in sessions for help with iPhones, tablets/iPads, laptops. Financial - monthly 30 minute talk about various aspects like insurance, filing for SS, budgets, etc.

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- Library should not compete with entertainment venues, but could address technical needs, such as access to health/social service/technology resources
- I would like classes on using computers - editing videos, making posters, excel, etc.
- board games
- Hosting an evening Toastmasters club would benefit the community--most clubs need a free or nearly free space. Before we moved to TC, we were active in the Dallas Genealogical Society, and thus spent a lot of time at the downtown library. That library ended up embracing a part of homelessness services; an minimally used book resale shop was repurposed as a place to get unsheltered people connected to social services. As long as people behaved, they could spend the day (in air conditioning). It is worth noting that some of the upper floors were pretty lightly used and this didn't create much of a problem.
- None of the listed issues affect me directly, but I am aware that there are serious community issues that are currently having an impact on the library (e.g., unhoused people, mental health issues of some community members). Some of these probably need to be addressed early before they become (more) problematic.
- I would like to emphasize keeping the library a neutral welcoming place where all are welcome - respecting each other and pouring into the community that will help future generations. Some topics may be too complex to tackle without more resources (time, expertise, and money) As for skills training and career support, there are several government programs that already exist doing this work - connect people with those resources - no need to recreate something that already exists. Same with environmental issues, many organizations already doing this - connect people to those programs/groups.... Several of these topics could be referred to existing programming in the area.
- No need to recreate existing services - please partner with those already doing things on this list. Michigan works for job search, SBDC for business support, MiSTEM for STEM education, Great Start Collaborative for parenting and early childhood programs, NorthEd/Michigan Works Adult Ed program for skills training, financial literacy, and digital literacy, etc
- People need more access to mental health resources. Also need to be better informed about environmental issues
- Environmental issues especially in conversation with our local parks in the area, such as Sleeping Bear Dunes or Grass River Natural Area. Ways we can help the local ecology and promote others to help and think about it.
- I think people in this area should be more aware of environmental issues
- Hobby: Model Railroads; Legal: Anti-discrimination; Health/ Social Gathering for Men; Mental Health: Advocacy; Genealogy/History: Foreign databases access.
- Summer support for school children
- Informal meetings or Q&A w/local govt officials re: current events or policy discussions.
- I think one of the most valuable things that the library can offer is a safe, free community space (in addition to all the wonderful services you already provide). It just seems like there are so few community spaces right now for people and the libraries should be cherished
- Vicki and staff in Peninsula Library have a very good understanding of what the community wants and needs. As an example even though the township is an old demographic the children's area is fabulous. You see parents and grandparents working with young people every time you walk in. thank you

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- The library has become our community's Third Space. I'd like to see it provide skills and resources for healthy and safe lifestyles while contributing to a diverse and inclusive community
- Staff dedicated to multi-faceted, customized, in-depth, possibly long-term, assistance for at-risk people getting their life together.
- I appreciate the work put in here, and encourage the continuation and expansion of these.
- All of these are important and deserving in our community.
- Any of these topics would be great. We love the children's programs.
- Honestly, all of that list is important for a community.
- All of these would be beneficial to our community!
- In truth all of these things are part of what make a library the cornerstone of a community -- I have selected those that most appeal to me or that I believe would serve best in the current climate that we are experiencing. Literacy and critical thinking skills are so important, as is the ability to function and survive in the world, so those are the areas that I selected.
- Thank you for all that you do. The library is a safe space - armed with topics/guidance/tools and stories that can sustain and grow any individual.
- Everything you already offer is so thoughtful!
- Everything! I love our library and all the resources you already provide! I see you as a community center open to all! Thank you for all you do!
- You are already doing a great job with all of these.
- I feel that the library addresses all of the above pretty well
- These are all great services for the community. At this time, I find that the library offers far more than I find the time to attend/utilize personally!
- All of the above sound like they do and/or would contribute to the vibrancy of our community. Personally, I appreciate the Ageless Grace classes as well as numerous meetings and presentations in the McGuire room.
- All of the above are great, but I am thinking of the governmental and financial issues that life throws us into that we do not necessarily know how to navigate, like social security or taxes, etc.
- I am amazed at all of programs and services the TC library already offers. Perhaps a program introducing the community to all of the volunteer opportunities available - presentations as well as detailed takeaways. Also - not sure how this would happen but some sort of outreach program for shut-ins. Free tutoring to kids of various ages to help improve reading and comprehension skills.
- I'm always surprised by how many subjects you have talks or groups meeting about and I think this enriches our community.
- Stick to core business. Trying to do more would lead to distracting from primary business
- Why on earth would you do all of these things?
- For heavens sake. The library should stay out of all of the above. Stick to library issues. I don't appreciate you looking for additional ways to spend my tax dollars.
- be careful not to 'spread yourself too thin' by trying to be all things to all people
- I am uncertain about asking my library to do too much in the current political climate. I would rather the library exist than be shut down completely. I am proud of how our library has stood with the causes they are, but do not want to add new risk, as unfortunate as that is.

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- Reports by governmental officials on current topics and actions
- How township government functions and its importance. Basic civics.
- A guide with links of resources available for politics concerning local, federal, and state legislation, activities, & concerns.
- More awareness of all that is available in blind, vision impaired department
- Especially health and wellness!!!!
- Reading awareness and education. Increase the rates at which parents read to children. Get kids and adults off of screens.
- It's great that you offer an adult movie the first Sunday of the month. But it would be great if it was twice a month, minus June-August.
- I often miss movie nights when they are on Saturdays - possibly other days?
- Can you imagine a movie night out under the stars overlooking the lake?!
- Immigration/ English as a second language/ adult learn to read programs
- Computer classes, photo and document scanning for preservation and publication, history of my house, with photos
- beautiful garden can help educate children about environment and gardening. Kingsley has very little "hang out" sports. Library is very important.
- Gardening. Local Wildlife. Art and design.
- book club for my 9 year old
- Spanish, yoga, book clubs
- book clubs; LGBTQ+ events
- I've always grown up with the library as a community space, so more events that include all ages for socialization, skill building, or enrichment would be what I'd enjoy most.
- I would like a way to connect with qualified and reliable repair people or handy people to help with minor repairs, etc. in my home. I'm also involved with a group called NoMi Neighbors that helps immigrants with needs. I don't know how the library could be of help, but maybe. Confidentiality is extremely important due to the nature of the work involved.
- Enjoy the authors talks. Especially helpful during the winter months when they are on zoom or some thing similar.
- I think the library is an important place to learn about a variety of things; from hobbies and novelties to life skills, it needs to (and does) cover a wide range of topics. If I had to suggest a specific area that should be focused on-- I think it's especially important for the library to serve the less fortunate and people that may not have had the same opportunities as others. Helping provide support in areas such as finances and career skills is beneficial to the health of the community as a whole.
- I taught Literature into Film for years and would be willing to lead discussions sessions.
- TADL should support awareness of and research into local history because that subject should be a unique source of pride for residents. It should do the same for parenting and the local environment because those are significant concerns in our area.
- Evidence-based consumer health information — what & where is it?
- Most other places I've lived, the libraries have had concerts regularly from local or regional bands of all different genres. It would be cool to see something like that here.
- Some programming or services I would love to see:
 - Social services navigation support AT TADL Main. It would be great if DHCS staff could have ""office hours"" at TADL to assist folks with SNAP or other benefit applications on a walk-in basis.

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- Would love to see more movement classes, especially in the early am or evening. Yoga, meditation, etc. Would be great to have indoors year round or on the lawn.
 - Allowing groups like NAMI or AFSP to host support groups/classes at the library would be great!
 - More arts and crafts tutorials - especially if low cost. Would be great to have Clay Space community crafts at the library. I'm sure similar groups would be happy to host as well.
 - Movie nights at the library or on the lawn would be fun!
- Can any of the above be done by zoom for those homebound?
- Libraries are such an amazing resource, and it's especially impressive when they can offer things that help people in the community learn new concepts and skills that improve their lives.
- Love having multiple opportunities to learn and grow in different subjects. We absolutely LOVE the children's programs!
- I was not able to attend the recent repair clinic (forget what it was called), but I hope the library, and community volunteers, can make that a more regular event.
- I only checked ones that might pertain to me but I think they are all beneficial to our community and would encourage the use of those resources

Q15 We'd love to hear your stories! Can you share an experience where the library had a positive or negative impact on you? Please describe the situation and how it affected you.

Answered: 144 Skipped: 327

- I am in Direct Education frequently needing children's books directed toward healthy eating and benefits that plants provide. Staff is always friendly and accommodating
- Positive impact - wellness classes (Ageless Grace, Chair Yoga, Tai Chi) keep me moving and are fun and free, so I can participate but not hurt my budget. Have also learned a lot when the League of Women Voters has information programs before elections.
- Love chair yoga! So good for the soul and body
- Cardio drumming at East Bay. Feels so good to laugh. We don't laugh enough as we age. I also love Ageless Grace for that uplifting experience. It brightens my day.
- We love sing and stomp with Mr. Matt! We love how friendly everyone is and how the library is trying to be where people are and what people need.
- The East Bay Branch staff is amazing. They learn your name and get to know you. It feels very community driven and not just check in and check out. Mr. Matt is amazing at sing and stomp. All the kids love him. I've made friends at these events and my kids are engaged. We love it.
- As a Traverse Area Historical Society member, I really appreciate the partnership with have with TADL and our ability to hold programming in the McGuire Room.

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- I was very surprised to learn that the library lent out a metal detector. I was recently looking for travel material & the attendant went above & beyond to help me find additional material. The option for curbside pick up is the most valuable to me, since I'm disabled.
- Love that you have puzzles to borrow. Also I sometimes stop & work on a puzzle if I have time between appts.
- I DM (dungeon master) as part of a library program, and this single event constitutes a large part of my social life.
- I love digital and audio books for traveling.
- LGBTQIA+ information has saved lives.
- The library has brought endless joy to my partner and I. We go near weekly to check out books, CDs, comics, movies and shows. When we finish a book we swap them with each other, discussing our thoughts on the narrative and exchanging our perspectives. We check out CDs and listen to them on long drives. Often we pick a movie or two at random and have a movie night. Even though we are both grown, we often walk the 'story walk'. We read the new story on display while checking in on the fish in the pond and the bees on the flowers. I can't imagine a life without the library as it enriches our lives beyond belief.
- My family and I always feel safe, welcomed, and connected when we're in the library, which is often. One of our favorite things is when everyone helps clean up together at the end of Build and Create.
- I've had a blast borrowing the Birding Backpack, which contains binoculars, plus maps and guides that got me into nature, exploring, and birding.
- We love the summer reading challenge. My kids look forward to it and talking to friends about it. The librarians are always helpful and kind to the kids. I love the my kids know the library is a fun, safe, helpful place for them always.
- Back when I did day care for a relative we attended toddler programs at the main branch. My young charge was very reticent to participate and we attended for almost a year before she would willingly participate. The staff were very accommodating and patient and let her blossom in her own time.
- I have very fond memories of checking out ALL the Beverly Cleary books as a child.
- It's had many positive impacts. When I was in my late teens/early 20s, having a place I could drive to and just spend time chilling and reading comics was huge for my mental health. In the modern day, being able to get things 3D printed makes my life easier. Throughout my life the traverse area district library has been a place of peace and healing for me.
- My kids love going to kids area and the new activities every month
- We recently formed a writing group and the library has been able to host our meetings, allowing us to stay engaged with each other and workshop writing in a free, private, reservable space.
- I enjoy observing the young people's reactions to the events offered-to see such joy and excitement makes a person's day. Ms. Beth's interaction with the children warms the

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heart. Amy's ability to juggle so many responsibilities but still can take the time to welcome everyone. Brian and Erin do the same.

- I have never felt quite at home here, there was a time where I could find quiet areas to work. The library has become more than just a place for studious or readers, it is now a home for many who do not have a home of their own. I would say, there needs to be a balance between these two groups, to make it comfortable for everyone, including staff. I no longer think of the library as somewhere that I will be undisturbed for hours, a cafe has more security than that, which is where I now go to study or work on my computer. Everyone deserves to be at the library, but the library can only do so much and the onus falls upon the local government of Traverse City to support unhoused and mentally ill individuals.
- Kindness always makes my day
- The library has always provided caring, compassionate help.
- I love it when you offer adult events so I can connect with more single people within the community.
- The 155 reading challenge was fun, getting the millage passed was a win for everyone, too bad it's not perpetual; are there more library trading cards?
- Love the Library!
- The library has helped with questions and topics I have wanted to research. Staff input, books and online resources.
- Our kids, ages 8 & 10, love the library and librarians. They are so friendly and patient.
- I frequently run into old friends that I haven't seen in years or even decades.
- I told myself when I retired I wouldn't be buying so many books,, but using the library more. Now instead of waiting for a book to come out in softcover (less expensive) I now can read it right away in hard cover from the library. It's great. Also staff helped me with downloading and setting up my device, way back when, for digital books for when I travel. Now it's so much easier with the Libby app. I also use the Michigan Library source for when you don't have what I want, especially current travel/tour books.
- During Covid using Libby app was very much needed and currently I'm caregiving for my husband and can't leave him alone so I'm very grateful for Libby.
- Great staff helping to set up library card and "Libby".
- 1. Learning first about Hoopla and, lately Libby has been a gamechanger. I love being able to listen to books while doing other things. What a wonderful service! 2. I'm glad I can use my card number to check out items. It is much easier than using my physical card or license. Thank you
- Access to hoopla and Libby is extremely useful to me, but may require a little technical support for others who are downloading and using it for the first time.
- It's where I go when I am stressed and need perspective. It inspired me to learn something new.
- weekly date with hubby...mostly read mags/newspaper. sale book area. then lunch

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- I came in one day to print off communication cards and laminate them (I am autistic). The person running the tech room was very kind even though I was embarrassed and very shy.
- I have not specific stories but I have appreciated the book clubs and help I have received when needed at the desks.
- Everytime I visit the Kingsley Branch Library the staff is so friendly and welcoming. My kids and I LOVE visiting the library. The kids love the large kids play area.
- I LOVE Miss Beth at Kingsley! Greatest children's librarian ever.
- Ms. Beth - she's always been an amazing librarian- she's had a role in making reading/library exciting for my son & we enjoy seeing her when we stop in!
- Oh, so many! Most recently the Big Kid storytime at the Kingsley Library has been a valuable resource for our family. They enjoy getting to do engaging activities in the garden with Ms. Beth, neat stories, and dance and do crafts with friends of similar age (6 year old and 9 year old)
- The staff at the Kingsley library is AMAZING! My 7 and 9 years old love coming to programs and the staff is always great! They know us by name and make them feel so comfortable when we come! Such an amazing thing in our community!
- I just loved taking my kids there when they were little. It was a great space for them.
- Always positive. This is my Happy Place.
- Every time I visit the library I feel a sense of peace and calm, almost like entering a sanctuary.
- A place to go when life is too much and just take time to read or look at the lake and find center again
- Everybody is so helpful there I always feel welcome when I come to the library. It is a wonderful place to be
- Help finding book for book reports. The summer reading program and all the fun activities
- I assist people with their income tax returns, and have used the library as a central meeting place, especially when the tax season is complete.
- I work for a nonprofit and we often use the library to print out materials, hang flyers of community-based events that we are hosting and borrowing items such as the projector screens from the library of things.
- I am within walking distance of the main library. I wish there was a way I could walk into the entrance area with my dog to pick up a book on reserve. I understand the idea of only having service dogs at the library, but it would be nice to be able to walk in for a couple of minutes just to check out materials
- Personally, I love the jigsaw puzzle exchange. It is a way to recycle and know that my items are still being used and enjoyed and staying out of the landfills.
- After moving to the area, my two-year-old son was very nervous visiting new places. Except for the library. He was always welcomed by Mrs. Kate, and made to feel at home

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- When my youngest grand sons were both 7 we started doing the summer reading club together. I would pick them up after work on Tues, we would go do our club thing and get more books and go for tacos, only for two years...they still talk about it at age 12 and both are insatiable readers! Also, the one still here in TC has taken advantage of the musical instruments, checking out a ukulele, banjo, and most recently the electric guitar and mastered them all via YouTube!
- Reference librarians are great! Many times they have helped me find a book at another library in Michigan. Children's librarians equally good at recommending books for pre-school children.
- I arrange to meet so many people "by the puzzles, overlooking the lake" and I love to see them look at Boardman Lake with awe. Thank you for making space for our inhouse neighbors.
- I've never had a negative experience. Our family moved to TC in 1980 due to a job transfer. One of the first things I did was register our family at the Library.
- We don't have internet access at home at the moment, so my teenager is doing his homework at the library.
- I moved here one year ago and the library has been crucial to helping me and my toddler integrate into the community. The story times at the Woodmere branch are wonderful!!!
- I was born in 1969 in Traverse City and grew up here. My library was the Sixth Street building. In the basement of that building in the early 1980s was a personal computer that you could use by reserving it by the hour. Using that computer was my first experience with that form of technology that would go on to become the major event of my life. I didn't know at the time, but those experiences really shaped me in ways that I am still unpacking.
- I rely a lot on the internet-library loans and the ability to pick up books at the main library.
- Recently I wanted to read a German novel, which is only available in German. The library organizes a copy from UoM.
- TADL has some very Outstanding people on staff. I've always felt welcome and relaxed in the various libraries I've visited.
- I'm in my 70's. My dad was using the Flint Public Library when my brothers & I were very young (pre-teen). We were each seated in a booth with headphones, a record player and access to hundreds of records.... While our Dad studied in the Reference Area... learning about these New automated transmissions in cars. Back 1960... 😊
- After my mother died I found respite in reading charming cottage mysteries because they were unlikely to feed into my grief. That's when I discovered the electronic lists on my account page and the hold option. You guys got me through that first year.
- I've been going to the main library since before I could talk, I remember what a godsend this place was when my father was job hunting, me and my sister would wait in the computer queue so we could play games next to him. we would spend hours here a day reading, playing, and having fun. I'm glad I can visit this place and be reminded of what was and what can be.

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- The library is one of our favorite places, personally. It has also provided space for our Biss and Littles from Big Brothers Big Sisters to meet, receive tutoring, and enjoy time with each other. I appreciated so much the lunches that were provided over the summer and made sure each of my families that could benefit knew this. Thank you for all you do.
- When we first moved here (July 2020) we visited the East Bay library to sign-up for library cards. I had my young children in the car, and a librarian came out to greet us (in a social distance responsible way) and had brought with her at-home craft kits for my children. It was such a thoughtful touch that it made me tear up. Libraries really add color to our lives.
- We moved here from an area that had a robust library system, and we were able to access two major metropolitan area libraries as well. We've been delighted with the services provided by TADL, and while we sometimes wish that the selection of newer books was better, the children's STEAM programming, library of things, and 3D printing services are all top notch!
- The auditory book person is very helpful
- My granddaughters, ages 9 and 6, live in Grand Rapids, but when they visit me they regularly visit the children's room at Woodmere where they are very much at home.
- We love the puzzle competition - more fun events like that would be wonderful.
- I have a great time every visit. I am a book addict, but also love access to movies/TV shows because we can't stream. Our lathe Club displays in October - I love being a part of that!!
- Again, the homeless population within the facility ... as well as along the Boardman ... is a huge negative. I do not like going into that area any longer.
- homeless should not be allowed. library is not a homeless shelter
- I've attended many events held in the McGuire Community Room that have expanded my knowledge of the community and its history, as well as improving my understanding of political and social issues. Also, the library of things has been a great way to try out new technologies and musical instruments.
- MELCAT: Michigan E Library has been so amazing. We hope the funding stays and a suggestion is if the funding has to stop this is continued and just limited. As an example: limit amounts someone can use instead of eliminating all together.
- Using MEL is great
- I like MeLcat. I don't really read unless it's a physical book and our library often doesn't have what I'm looking for, but others do and it's nice to get it delivered to one I have access to.
- Book delivery has been outstanding. If I am reading an article with a book reference or review, I can immediately check the library via the catalog search, online resources, or request from MelCat for a physical or an online (audio/print) copy. Seldom, has my search not been completed. Thank you for the ability to access such a wide variety of resources.
- absolutely love the fact that I can email ill@tadl and Betsy replies helping me get any book in the world via MelCat or Worldcat -- sometimes even purchasing a copy if the library's budget can support it. this is outstanding and appreciated. thank you

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- When I moved here two years ago, I didn't know anybody. I brought my kids to the story time at the library and everyone there was just so kind and welcoming. Now the library is one of the places we feel most comfortable in traverse city. The kids programming is great and the amount and variety of books in the kids room is awesome. I also love the ability to use Melcat to get books that our own library system doesn't have.
- Everytime I see a child running toward the Children's area it makes me smile. Seeing that level of excitement and enthusiasm for being at the library is a wonderful part of the foundation upon which they are building their life. Getting a text that my MelCat request is in is also fun :)
- The library has been a primary source (in part through MeL), along with the internet, in my self-care/treatment of my complex-PTSD over the past several years. I've also learned about various somatic practices for other physical issues, listened to songs on CDs for musical inspiration, and brushed up on languages by watching foreign language films on DVDs.
- I am ever grateful for access to books that I wish to read. So far the Michigan library system has not failed to find even my most obscure requests!
- I love the inter-library loan program. We have a great collection but if there is a less popular book I want to borrow I love having access to that too. I use this feature often!
- One of your staff members helped me borrow a book from an out of town library through the State system. I appreciated the help obtaining a copy because it allowed me to read the only book I had not read by this author. Staff was very helpful and kind.
- during covid we loved that you kept us in books
- The positive impact is how much money you save me every month. Thank you
- My husband is an independent chef and has benefited greatly from your vast collection of cookbooks! Being able to borrow those as well as fiction for fun reading has saved us so much money vs. buying books, and we also like the sustainability aspect.
- I work at the Woodmere location. I've learned so much from the material I work with, of course, but also the people I interact with. I see things from different perspectives and think of things that never crossed my mind before. It's an enriching and meaningful experience for me.
- This is probably a bit of a strange thing but it's by far the most memorable time I've had at any library. There was a time when I was in college and I was studying for most of an afternoon at the main library, on the second floor at the tables by the windows that look out over Boardman Lake. I was prepping for a test for an underwater archaeology class I was taking and by some wild coincidence an actual underwater archaeologist was doing research on some local shipwreck history in the library that day. We sat across from each other for a good twenty minutes absorbed in our work before realizing we were researching the same subject, and then we had a little chat in which he gave me some wonderful advice. I think my favorite part of the library is the sense of community it creates and the connections it provides, even just by simply being a shared space.
- Libraries are my favourite community spaces. They are essential to a healthy democracy and inclusive society.

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- Every trip to the library is positive, whether it's finding a wonderful book or recording to lend or purchase, or reading a magazine (that's what I use the library for).
- A lot of my affection for the library is based in nostalgia - I have fond memories of visiting regularly as a child, attending story times and exploring the stacks. The library was instrumental in creating my love of reading and learning.
- When I moved to East Bay Township almost 8 years ago I had the need to go look for a book for work. I went to the main library branch and was getting assistance from one of the librarians. They shared with me that I could search the library system and have books brought to the east branch for me to pick up rather than having for me to go into town to get them. This was a great time saver and I use this all the time. I've also used the app to find books that might be hot reads and if I'm going to be near that library branch, I'll just stop in there and grab the book to check out rather than wait for the hole to come in. The library staff at the East Bay branch is top-notch! They are friendly knowledgeable and very kind. I love the tools lending library. And have recently discovered the audiobook lending library. Thank you for all you do for our community. Continue the good work.
- Every time we come to the library, my two kids and me, we have a good experience. There is always a great selection of books, STEM kits, items from sights and sounds. My kids have developed a love of the library.
- We are new to Traverse City and the library has helped us become members of the community. The summer kids activities, the many different resources, and the friendly & helpful librarians have all been a big part of our new life here. We visit the library weekly and run into new friends almost every time. My child begs to go to the library! Thank you for being such a welcoming & useful community resource!
- After retirement I looked forward to visiting the library to read national news papers and magazines. While visiting I noticed a considerable amount of people who were indigent and exhibiting behavior that I found distracting. The furniture seemed shabby and unkempt. When I spoke to management they curtly replied that the library is for everyone. I felt dismissed and unwelcome. I now only use the library online, pick up my materials and leave. I haven't physically visited and sat in the library since. Probably eight years or so.
- Homeless, especially on second floor, got out of control. Frankly disgusting. We stopped going.
- Going into the bathroom and finding a homeless man taking a sponge bath at the sink, with his belongings scattered about. This disgusted and frightened me.
- I used to roller skate to the local library when I was a young child and the love of reading is still with me!
- All staff goes over and beyond to help customers find what they need
- My family loves the library, the librarians in the children's department are fabulous. When searching out books they offer such great recommendations.
- Friendly service
- Every experience at the library with my daughter is amazing. Staff love to engage with her.
- I used my first library in 1960. I checked out Blue Willow.

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- I am usually in and out of the library quickly - I like to reserve books online and then come in and pick them up. But I do always come to the Friends of the Library book sales, which are well run. And I once had to use the services of the notary - which I didn't realize the library offered and was a huge help on short notice!
- I would like to understand how PCL selects books for the collection. It seems they focus on "light " reading - very little literary fiction or current nonfiction. I tend to use the main branch for checkout and PCL for returns and logistical issues. A bit disappointing.
- The kids area is so welcoming, we bring our kids there to check out books, use computers (we choose not to have kid computers our home to limit screen time), and play in the safe space. We love it and I look forward to it even more than once a week after school hours
- Multiple experiences: Poetry readings and Michigan Writers gatherings. These are always stimulating and engaging. Small-group interactions such as these, based on creativity, inspiration and imagination, promote intellectual growth and appreciation.
- I love our library. The staff are so helpful when ever I can't find something or have a question
- I come at least once a week with my 4 year old daughter. We get tons of books and it has really sparked her love of reading and books, being able to access them so quickly and easily and without restriction (getting as many as she wants). She loves the puppets and the play area. We love utilizing the outside space and we love the puzzles, playing after school. There's always a kind group of parents doing similar things.
- My son loves the seek and find programs in the kids area - he particularly liked the bird finding mission. The librarians are always very sweet if he gets stuck on one. We also loved the Christmas men's chorus that came last winter.
- I don't have space to keep books so I like being able to borrow them instead.
- Over the years, the library has brought some amazing authors to TC including Billy Collins, Loren D. Estelman, Larry Watson and Charlie Baxter. These visits are vital to encourage people to read.
- i love that librarians are fiercely protective of human rights and protecting access to high quality information
- My Son really enjoyed the programs at the Old Mission branch this past summer. Great way to engage for free when affordable summer programs are few
- A special place. One of the best addition to the area
- I used the library meeting rooms to put together a real estate transaction that was eventually successful.
- When I found out you can rent out music equipment it created a way for me to pursue music as a hobby in a much more financially responsible way. Thank you for offering this service!
- I was in the library Teen Sages (now the volunteer club I think) for years. It was a great way for me to connect with other teens and earn volunteer hours in the process.
- Popular books are hard to get

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- Story times with my grandchildren and also the farmers market program at East Bay. Love the mobile library at Sarah Hardy market days. All positive!
- I'm auditioning to be on Jeopardy, so I went and rented a big children's encyclopedia -- which they say is a great way to learn a little bit about a lot of things -- and it's been really fun to just learn all sorts of new little things about the world about me.
- I can't think of a specific situation - just so many visits to check out so many wonderful materials with my kids and for my own use! We also love the outdoor space - the train has been a venue for so much play over the years, and the location by Boardman lake makes for a nice bike ride from central neighborhood.
- A library employee helped us as we began searching for information regarding our 1905 house history.
- All the supervisory visits I do for childhood family services are a huge positive in our foster children's lives. If a parent is not well-versed in How, library can provide resources, the staff are always cheerful and helpful.
- Discussed books with another patron while waiting to get help from the front desk. I enjoyed being able to talk to strangers in a safe and happy environment.
- TADL is one of many reasons we're happy to live here. I can't think of a single negative experience. I belong to the Friends group and it is a joy to see families and seniors come to the book sale where they select piles of resources for under \$10. Everyone leaves excited for their treasures.
- My kids love to read and very rarely turn down a trip to the library. My oldest reads while my youngest plays, does the search & find and/or uses the computers. We love the Battle of the Books Kick Off. The children's area supports all ages for kids nicely.
- All my interactions with staff have been very pleasant
- I've started transitioning away from streaming and using more physically media, I love using the library to get DVDs and CDs so I can get new and old media without spending exorbitant amounts of money
- My children love going to the library. The staff are amazing. We love our cozy library.
- I grew up in libraries, and they were always sources of wonder, but the first time I stepped into the Woodmere branch, I was in awe. TADL stands as an example of everything a library can and should be, both as a source of books, entertainment and learning, as well as a source of support for the local community.
- I love all of the people that work at my library!! I really wish I could work there as well. However I didn't go to school to do so
- I love going to the main branch. Your staff is so friendly and wonderful. It's clear their goal is not only help the patrons but put a smile on their faces before patrons leave.
- The library has immeasurably helped me raise my child to adulthood with an abundance of resources that I could not provide or afford all by myself. That is priceless.
- The library has been an INCREDIBLE resource for me as a parent of a young child. We can go to the library for hours — doing scavenger hunts or block day, computer play, play area,

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getting books, doing puzzles, playing outside. We almost never spend less than 1-2 hours there together. It's such a great resource for me as parent, especially on rainy days, winter days, and days where my only child needs to be around other kids.

- I love seeing kids taking books out and returning them. Thank you!

Q16 Do you have any final comments or ideas you'd like to share with us?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 341

- Continue to welcome the poor and the rich.
- Thank you for all the wonderful services you provide. Your hard work is greatly appreciated. The library is one of the the most beneficial assets TC has. Keep up the great work! :)
- I hope the Library will be able to expand its services to the Carnegie Building so the City can better display the Con Foster collection and we have greater space for the local history collection.
- Thank you for this wonderful facility. I especially enjoy seeing the children using the library
- Just that TADL is fantastic.
- Thank you
- We love the library!
- I really treasure the services the local library provides. Thank you.
- I think the library is doing a darn fine job for all of us. Bravo to the loyal, dedicated, friendly, helpful staff!
- Keep up the good work! I appreciate you!
- Proud of TADL library, its programs, and its non-discrimination stand against oppression/erasure.
- Every time I walk through the children's garden I see beautiful plants I'd love to incorporate into my own native garden at home, but I'm unable to identify it. It would be wonderful to have small signs indicating native plant species not only for educational purposes but to help native gardeners as well!
- Thank you!! We love the library. It is a pillar to our community and we are so grateful for it!
- Thank you for all you do!
- The Human Library program style of event or scheduled opportunities to meet neighbours and have 1:1 conversations would be so interesting and timely, in this polarized world
- Our small library works with other programs and local groups which builds community.
- The facilities and furniture need updating, there needs to be more resources for older people needing help with technology. More private quiet spaces, for example privacy lounge chairs or desks with chairs.

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- I am grateful for all of the programs you have here. Erica O'Neal's pelvic floor presentation. Longevity. Money management. All good stuff. Used book sale. Very important. Also books under the stairs. I have found a couple books I was looking for there as well.
- A coffee shop in a small area by a set of windows would add such a welcoming and cozy environment to peruse a newly borrowed book. Many libraries offer such a space.
- Thank you for the excellent service that you provide to all community members!!!!
- I've visited many libraries in my time and this is one of the best
- Thank you!
- You're doing great! Just reaching more people would be helpful.
- I love being about to request holds online through my account, they're pulled and waiting for me on the hold shelf. Such a great service.
- Our library is a fantastic resource for the public. What a unique and special place. So thankful!
- libraries are so vital for community, friendship, learning. was a favorite date with my daughter when she was a child.
- I love having such a big library! It's one of the reasons I chose to move to TC.
- I am very pleased with the local library. It looks nice and has so many resources which are provided in a great way so that all can learn, grow and become better.
- You do a great job. 've been to all the branches except Interlochen. and they're all wonderful. Staff is always friendly and helpful.
- Love the new renovations and the addition of the raised bed garden for the community!
- I love that you are trying to offer more and be a great third space option for people.
- Thanks!
- Again, LOVE the library and am so grateful for it - I don't use it that much but I know people who do!
- The Traverse Area District Library has been a meaningful part of my kids childhood from Mr. Matt ad Ms. Rosie as babies/toddlers, to Ms Linda storytime, and now Ms. Beth. We love the summer reading program, make tie dye shirts, going to Dennon's museum, sword fighting at Kingsley. We are so blessed by our library. We love he staff! Melct has been invaluable for enriching my children's homeschool curriculum.
- I love the Kingsley library. I live in TC, but my sister lives in Kingsley, so we generally meet for coffee, etc., when it's time to go to the library. The staff there are always friendly and never too busy to spend a little time at checkout Great selection of books, and what isn't available there, staff will order. Kingsley library is worth the drive from TC!!
- I appreciate all that the library staff and volunteers do - thank you for your hard work and for keeping up the good fight during these challenging times!
- The TADL system is the best of anywhere I've ever lived. Keep up the great work!

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



- The staff at the Kingsley branch are ALWAYS smiling, helpful and knowledgeable. I appreciate them so much!
- Love the easy checkout process and all the programming the library provides to this community
- I love being able to have books on reserve so I can just pop in to get a book. Thank you to your warm and welcoming staff.
- I love my library
- TADL is a vital and essential community resource - as important to me as the Road Commission and others. Traverse City is a wonderful place to live because of the community that gathers at the library and the amenities available there.
- Keep getting better and better. My spouse and I would be so lonely and broke if we did not have a wonderful library. We read all the time. We would be drowning in books if we had to buy them. So much better going to the library we always find something interesting to read.
- Please be good stewards of what I consider our greatest local resource...and this is an area abundant with great resources.
- I think the library is a fabulous resource for the community. Also, the staff members I have interacted with over the years have always been very warm, friendly and helpful.
- Promote displays periodically of Nobel Prize Award books and authors. Same with Pulitzer Prizes. Science collections needs updating and improvement. Forgotten best sellers of the past that still deserve a read. Publish circulation figures--totals, plus novels circulated, mysteries, biographies. Difficult to judge collection without numbers. Magazines and newspapers--how are subscriptions and usage determined? (My comments probably reflect by being a public library trustee for eight years in a North Shore suburb of Chicago. Keep up the good work.
- The library is a great asset to our community
- Librarians are heroes. Keep on giving us information!
- Thank you for being an Important part of our community.
- We love our Kingsley library and its amazing staff!
- Thank you for being a great library!!
- I love our library. Don't ever give in to book banning.
- Keep doing great work. We love Libraries!
- I admire the library for making local history a priority and establishing a home for the local history archive. It's a critical resource and service, although it isn't always a library that stewards those materials. It would be wonderful to see that element of the library expand and to create a dedicated physical space for those materials to be accessed and, if possible, displayed. Thanks for all you do!
- I wish the library was generally a quiet area. It amazes me the number of crying babies and adults speaking out loud there are there. Makes it difficult to concentrate at times.
- Keep doing what you are doing; this library is FANTASTIC!

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- The library is one of the pillars of civilization. (As described in Sinclair Lewis "Main Street") It will play a crucial role in maintaining civilization.
- There weren't any questions about pre-school or the children's section, but I think it is one of the most important part of our library. the kids section is where the kids figure out what to read and where parents don't feel the pressure of buying something. This is where we develop the life long readers of books. The library is the best resource for the community. Thank you.
- Thank You.
- Provide a platform for parents who bring knee-high kids into the wash rooms... neither sinks in either wash room are accessible to children.
- Yes I hope the library will stand up to those small groups of people & organizations that try to limit, ban or dismay others from reading or watching books & media content that interests them. The freedom for one to read or watch any subject that interested them should always be a personal choice and not dictated by a small minority of folks who don't really care about others peoples interests but their own. The Library must ALWAYS stand up to this kind of close mindedness and bullying from that small group that want to impose their will.
- TADL is an awesome library. Thank you all so very much.
- My husband and I moved to TC four years ago and it took us 3.5 to get our library cards! Since getting them, we've been so impressed with the quality of our library on Woodmere and the resources that are available to us to borrow for free. We wish we had gotten our library cards sooner! Every visit leaves us feeling grateful and excited to dig into our new books, movies, instruments, etc.
- Thank you for all you do! We especially love the diverse array of childrens' materials and events. Our kids love coming, learning, and checking things out from books to magnatiles to animal play sets :)
- Wonderful Library!
- Great Job!
- LOVE the library!!!
- We love TADL, but I'd love to see more equity between all the branches, not just the main library downtown. It feels like East Bay and Kingsley are not mentioned in the library's social media when I try to find events for them. Same with the newsletter we get every month.
- I understand that ebooks and digital media is a changing landscape, and that libraries are now being charged differently than in the past for digital copies of books. That being said, I wish the selection was better, particularly for newer books, in the categories of fantasy, science fiction, romance/erotica, and children's fiction.
- We enjoy frequenting the East Bay and Peninsula branches. The main branch has fantastic resources, however we don't tend to go with our kids because it frequently doesn't feel safe. The amount of homeless individuals on and around the property is not safe for young families. There are other hubs for services for these people without the library turning into a daytime homeless facility.

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



- The director has done a wonderful job in making the library more diverse with programs, etc.
- Keep up the good work!
- Love the East Bay branch and almost never go to main library. EB librarians are great and always helpful and friendly. Love that I can walk into library and they know my name 😊
- Consider adding a mahjong set to the library of things
- I feel like the TADL marketing stuff has taken on a bit of a juvenile / clip art style. I don't think it suits the amazing services that you provide!
- I am so grateful to a wonderful library in my community that has grown with me and my kids!
- Great staff! Some of my favorites have moved on, or promoted (Kristy!!) but always friendly and helpful. In a perfect world you would get LOTS more Sci-Fi...
- Love the library. I give anyone that doesn't go to the library a lot of grief. "You pay for it and they have so much to offer."
- Thank you for your hard work in behalf of the community.
- keep up the good work!
- We live half of the year in Southwest Ohio and half of the year here, and love the TADL. Friendly, welcoming, and lots of great books!
- More study rooms and meeting spaces
- Of all the places I've lived, I think that TADL is the best library system by far. Keep up the good work!
- Libraries are so vital to communities on so many levels. The times we are living in are unpredictable and dangerous, and libraries are often places that face difficult/nuanced topics. There's probably going to be people that have negative things to say about this. I think, though, that this library has handled them well, and I hope potential criticisms aren't taken to heart.
- I would like more tech support.
- Even when no one else has got me, I know my local library has got me, love y'all <3
- Thank you for all you do. Please let your community know how we can support librarians and library workers, too.
- The music section is outstanding. Please continue to give the designers of that area free reign.
- Thank you so much for everything that you do for the community!
- I'm a library supporter and believe in the worth of public libraries and am sad that I don't feel welcome or comfortable in my branch.
- TADL has a fabulous director and staff and know they will continue their excellent work for making the library a community hub.

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



- It's not a building with books, it's a building with community
- Thank you so much!
- I love that you are there.
- I love my Library, keep up the good work!
- You guys are doing a great job! We really appreciate all that the library does for us!
- I was outraged last spring when the historical society attempted to dislodge Crooked Tree Arts Center from the old Carnegie building. Seriously: What does it say about "community" when one non-profit, based within the library system, attempts to harm another non-profit-- and a creative one at that, dedicated to one of the arts? Back down. Non-profits, including publicly-supported libraries, need to be working TOGETHER, not in opposition to one another. Almost unbelievable such a thing would happen; please don't allow it to ever be raised again until the historical society can work COLLABORATIVELY WITH, and not in OPPOSITION TO, Crooked Tree Arts Center.
- When are your plans to update the east bay library? Since we pay taxes toward all the buildings, something needs to be done soon!
- I really appreciate what the library does! Thank you!
- We appreciate all you do for our community!
- Thanks for making my life better!
- It's a great library. I brag about it to relatives, out of towners. We are lucky to have it.
- Love the library, feel so fortunate to have such a wonderful resource so close.
- Now more than ever we need to bring more volunteers to support the libraries goals, that is why I became involved.
- how can we combine human rights with the rights of nature?
- Dedicated summer programs for youth would be a plus.
- I'm embarrassed how little I use such a vital community resource. My parents used it to the maximum. I should be more like them.
- Please stop looking for ways to expand the library services. You obviously have too much money available to you. I'll remember to vote NO on your next millage renewal. Thank you for your time.
- Please keep up the great work!
- Thank you for holding firm on having a diversity of resources and materials available to all users.
- My daughter (starting 6th grade) participated in Battle of the books for the past 2 years and I helped coach her team - that was such a fun experience and we appreciate TADL's role in making that event happen! She is lamenting that she's done with it and would love further opportunities to engage that way. I'm looking forward to doing it again with my younger child in a few years.

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



- I'm not a high-intensity user but I've always been impressed by the atmosphere at the library. The facility and staff strikes an appropriate balance in its efforts to serve the needs of a wide range of users.
- So many people in my age group are downsizing. So any monthly series that could be set up that would help people organize their belongings and find ways to purge these things (especially collectibles) would be helpful.
- The library rocks! Keep up the great work.
- Thank you! And thank you for keeping a variety of culturally relevant books in the kids section. Keep standing up for the rights of our diverse community to read books about families like themselves and about other world cultures too. You have our unwavering support for inclusion at the library.
- Huge thanks to all the staff! I have only ever had positive interactions with staff members at any of the branches I have visited. It is a positive, vibrant community asset! I am sad that MelCat is likely going away due to decisions at the federal level. It is a tremendous resource! I believe libraries are critical and integral to the health of all communities. Thanks again for doing what you do and doing it really well!
- Thanks for all you do. The library is such an important part of our community and has a positive impact on the life of my family
- I have lived in many places in my nearly 50 years and the TADL library system is the BEST I have ever used. Thank you for all that you do!
- I am truly so grateful to have this library system so close by.
- improvements to building: ergonomic furniture and desks and chairs suitable for work or study use. correcting the mold/mildew odors along the west wall and in other areas of the library
- I would like to see the adult collection expanded. So often I am not able to obtain books I am interested in from TADL.
- Again I love my library, but I would love it more if there were more romance books for me to go in & actually look through. I don't especially in winter drive into Traverse City & I miss getting to go to hunt for my books instead of just picking them up & with Kingsley not having as much room I kinda for the most part know where everything is already
- Keep doing what you guys have been doing in all areas. because you guys are doing awesome!@
- Please keep more physical books at the library.
- Please enhance the Libby collection. Books I want are there only very rarely.
- I regularly use the library and am impressed with the resources it offers. I'm very proud of our children and youth library and love to see it being used by our young community. The video and recordings department has been a great asset for things I've wanted to watch/hear. I regularly reserve books and the TADL catalog is extensive. I very much appreciate the Main Library and all it has to offer. As a senior Traverse City resident I'm grateful for this resource that I have visited frequently for years!

Traverse Area District Library Strategic Planning Survey Results – 2025



- I would like to see the library partner with local orgs who can assist with sustainability and environmental needs in the community. A role model for others in the area.
- The library staff are SO incredibly kind and helpful. I'm grateful we have such a well resourced library so close by. Mending library, book sales, curated monthly tables, puzzle trades and open puzzling. All the things you all do are really wonderful.

Traverse Area District Library 2025 Final Budget Amendment Resolution

It is resolved, that the estimated revenues and total available to appropriate for 2025 are amended as follows, have arrived and are deemed to be within expectations:

	General Fund			
	Original Budget	Prior Amendments	Final Amendment	Final Budget
Estimated revenues	8,852,066	-	225,692	9,077,758
Operating transfers in	-	-	-	-
Appropriable fund balance	-	-	-	-
Total available to appropriate	8,852,066	-	225,692	9,077,758

Further, it is resolved that as expenditures may exceed appropriations in some categories, the following amounts are to be amended to reconcile these differences:

Personnel	4,617,384	-	201,353	4,818,737
Supplies	1,463,160	-	166,498	1,629,658
Other services and charges	2,498,722	-	20,353	2,519,075
Capital outlays	272,800	-	(175,444)	97,356
Transfers to Restricted Funds	-	-	12,932	12,932
	8,852,066	-	225,692	9,077,758

Further, that the Library Director is authorized to reallocate detail line item amounts as listed on the above budget so long as the amounts appropriated in the above categories are not exceeded.

Further, that any funds contributed specifically toward Adult Services, East Bay Branch, Kingsley Branch, Local History Collection, Sight & Sound, Talking Book Library, and Youth Services, be transferred to the Restricted/Assigned Funds to use for projects in future fiscal years.

	Restricted/Assigned Funds		
	Original	Change	Final
Following funds designated for			
Restricted Fund - Department Donations Aggregated	26,450	12,932	39,382

Motion to adopt the resolution was introduced by:

and supported by:

Motion adopted on December 11, 2025 Y / N

Sam Gedman, Board Secretary

Further Clarification on the Proposed 2025 Final Budget Amendment

	General Fund						
	Original Budget	Fiscal Activity through 11/30/25	Difference in Amounts	Estimated Activity for December	Contingency Amounts	Final Amendment	Final Budget
Estimated revenues	8,852,066	9,065,758	213,692	12,000	-	225,692	9,077,758
Operating transfers in	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriable fund balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total available to appropriate	8,852,066	9,065,758	213,692	12,000	-	225,692	9,077,758

	General Fund						
	Original Budget	Fiscal Activity through 11/30/25	Difference	Estimated Activity for December	Contingency Amounts	Final Amendment	Final Budget
	A	B	C (B - A)	D	E	F (C + D + E)	(A + F)
Personnel	4,617,384	4,041,204	(576,180)	520,174	257,359	201,353	4,818,737
Supplies	1,463,160	1,185,729	(277,431)	315,250	128,679	166,498	1,629,658
Other services and charges	2,498,722	2,022,846	(475,876)	238,870	257,359	20,353	2,519,075
Capital outlays	272,800	72,356	(200,444)	25,000	-	(175,444)	97,356
Transfers to Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-	12,932	12,932
	8,852,066	7,322,135	(1,529,931)	1,099,294	643,397	225,692	9,077,758