

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees

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OUR VISION

The Park Ridge Public Library facilitates the goals and aspirations of the individual and our community. Our library creates the **intersection of engagement, information, tradition and innovation.**

OUR MISSION

We are the Park Ridge Public Library.

We are a trusted and valued community partner that engages and strengthens its community by fostering personal growth in learning by providing opportunities to connect, inform, innovate and grow.

Presented by

Joanna Bertucci
Library Director

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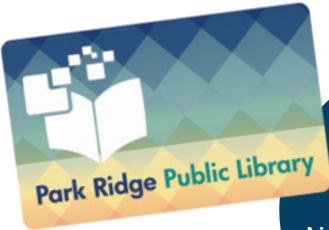
Park Ridge Public Library

parkridgelibrary.org

BY THE NUMBERS

Park Ridge Public Library Collections

	Books	131,470
	Newspaper and Magazine Subscriptions	203
	eBooks	1,235,699
	eAudiobooks and Music	793,768
	Audiobooks & Music CDs	10,772
	DVDs	22,898
	Downloadable Video Content	118,151
	Exploration Library and Video Games	775
		2,313,736



2,131
New Library Users



293,475
In-person visits

590,213	Wi-Fi sessions
15,850	Public Computer sessions
7,223	Visits to our Study Rooms
970	Visits to our Studio and Media Lab



47,527

People reached via onsite and offsite
library programs & outreach visits
Up 17% from 2023



596,779

Physical items checked
out or renewed

239,355

Digital items
downloaded or streamed



836,134

Library materials circulated



43,212

Reference questions answered

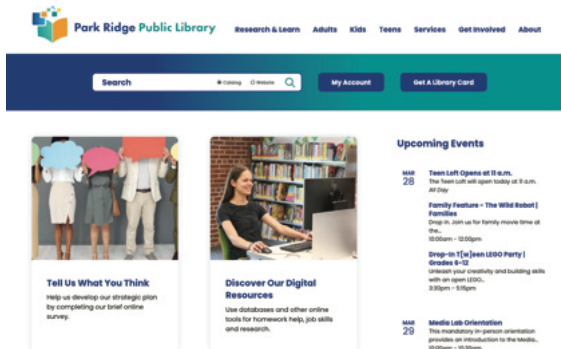
In 2024, Park Ridge residents checked out
more than **\$12.9 million** worth of
library materials.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Seed Library

In April, we celebrated the launch of our Seed Library, an exciting green initiative made possible through a collaboration with Eagle Scout Candidate Owen Hanba from Troop 1. The collection includes a diverse array of seeds for new or experienced gardeners. Members of the Park Ridge Garden Club were on hand to share tips at the April 6 Kickoff event. Kids in attendance were able to plant a seed and make a seed-inspired bookmark. The Seed Library is now housed in the Reference department and will be fully stocked each Spring and early Fall.



Redesigned Website

In Spring 2024, the Park Ridge Public Library launched an updated website, parkridgelibrary.org, designed to enhance user experience and accessibility. The new site features a modern, mobile-friendly design, improved search functionality for the catalog and events, and easier navigation to library services and resources. Patrons can create and manage event registrations, request personalized reading recommendations, and explore an expanded digital resources section. The updated website ensures a seamless experience for the community, making it easier than ever to discover and engage with all the Library has to offer.



100 Years of Summer Reading

The City of Park Ridge officially proclaimed July 2024 as Summer Reading Month in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Park Ridge Public Library's Summer Reading Program. Established in 1924 by Head Librarian Frances Holbrook, the program has evolved over the years but remains dedicated to inspiring a love of reading for all ages, now attracting over 3,000 participants annually. The program supports early literacy, prevents summer learning loss for students, and promotes the benefits of reading for adults, such as reduced stress and increased community connection. Mayor Marty Maloney encouraged all residents to take part in the Library's Summer Reading program and events to celebrate a century of fostering a love of reading in Park Ridge.



GoGreen Change Makers

Go Green Park Ridge recognized the Park Ridge Public Library as a Changemaker for its efforts in implementing sustainable initiatives as part of its strategic plan. Beginning in 2021, the Library has hosted a Green Reads book discussion series and secured funding from SWANCC for a thermal camera in the Exploration Library collection. The Library has also collected 150 pounds of packaging materials through a partnership with EcoShip Chicago. Additionally, in August 2023, the Library launched a staff composting program in partnership with Collective Resource Compost Cooperative. Go Green Park Ridge applauded the Library's commitment to sustainability and encouraged others in the community to take action through its Changemakers program.



Partner of the Year:

Center of Concern Award

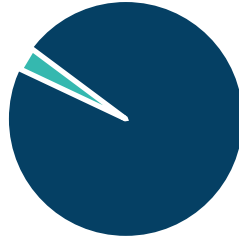
The Center of Concern named the Park Ridge Public Library its Partner of the Year ahead of its annual Fight the Loneliness Epidemic event on September 9. The Des Plaines-based nonprofit provided advocacy and resources for residents facing challenges related to aging, homelessness, and independent living. The Library supported the organization by offering meeting spaces and later hosting the Wits Workout program, which helps older adults maintain cognitive function.

LIBRARY FINANCIALS

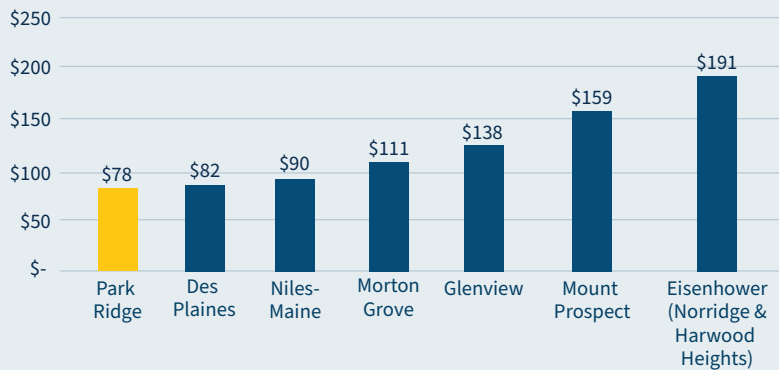
The Park Ridge Public Library is an excellent value for taxpayer dollars. We spend less per resident than the majority of our neighboring libraries while maintaining strong collections and stellar programs and services, for all ages.

Property Tax

- Library services account for 2.7% of total property tax bill



Local Tax Allotment Per Resident



Source: 2023 Illinois Public Library Annual Report

2024 in Review

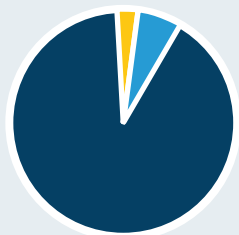
In FY24, the Library expended 92% of its operating budget. The Library Board approved the allocation of \$1.8 million in excess fund balance to support the 2024-2026 HVAC replacement project. Elara Engineering was retained as the project consultant, and the bid process was completed in early 2025. Construction is scheduled to commence in summer 2025.

2025 Assumptions for City Service

The Library is a financial component unit of the City of Park Ridge. The 2025 budget is based on the assumption that the City will provide the following services to the Library.

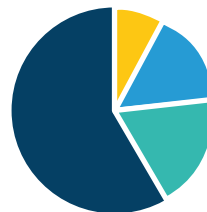
- Administers and pays for Library insurance coverage for excess workers compensation, employee accident, public liability (all City board and commissions), and excess liability and property insurance for the Library building and City parking lot adjacent to the Library
- Provides general banking for co-mingled funds in operating account only; provides check printing services and financial accounting software
- Administers employee benefits program including health, dental, vision, life insurance, 457 plans and employee assistance program
- Includes Library in City gas and electric utilities franchise agreements as well as any other benefits the City receives to the extent permitted by such franchises and applicable law
- Waives costs for water and sewer services
- Administers and pays for garbage removal
- Maintains City Commons (grounds surrounding Library building) including but not limited to: the drainage system, landscaping, fence and planters
- Provides snow removal services in City parking lot adjacent to the Library and public sidewalks including Library staff parking area
- Provides maintenance, gas and insurance for the Library vehicle (replacement would be purchased by Library)

Revenue



- Property Taxes - \$4,071,565
- Gifts, fees, etc. - \$207,230
- State Grants - \$58,889

Expenditures



- Salaries and Benefits - \$2,940,979
- General Operating Expenses - \$676,433
- Library Materials and Resources - \$599,232
- Building Improvements - \$181,868

2025 Planning

In preparation for FY25, the Library Board approved a modest 2% increase to the Library's tax levy — the first increase since 2022. Over the past two years, the Library has assumed approximately \$500,000 in employee benefit costs that were previously part of the City's budget, including payroll taxes, pension contributions (IMRF), and payroll service fees, and will incur these expenses moving forward. Coupled with the upcoming HVAC replacement project, the Library anticipates a spend-down of excess reserves over the next two years. To ensure long-term financial stability and continue providing excellent service to the community, the Library is projecting a series of modest levy increases over the next two to three years.

OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING



GLOBAL NEIGHBORS



The Marion's Mark-sponsored Global Neighbors program series was launched and drew capacity attendance. The events featured music and food from Peru, India, Norway, and the Arab World.



Members of the Youth Services Team visited school classrooms **520** times engaging with over **19,000** students, Preschool through Grade 12.



Library staff were around town promoting Summer Reading at schools and library card sign-ups at Back to School Nights in August.



With 100 vision or hearing tests conducted among approximately 80 patrons, on October 4, our location broke the (unofficial) record for most tests done at one site by the Lions of Illinois Foundation Mobile Screening Unit bus. The screening event was the result of our partnership with the Park Ridge Lions Club.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

In 2023 - 24 there were **130** students from eight schools (meets held in Jan/Feb 2024); **1,081** people attended the ten meets over the course of five weeks.

For more than 40 years, the Park Ridge Public Library has partnered with Park Ridge schools to offer fourth and fifth grade students a chance to test their knowledge of books.



2nd Place Carpenter Elementary



2024 Battle of the Books winners, Washington Elementary



3rd Place Mary, Seat of Wisdom School

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Every year, the Park Ridge Public Library is able to enhance the quality of its materials and services thanks to generous donations from individuals and organizations that support the positive things that libraries represent and offer.

The Library acknowledges the following donors who made contributions to the Library in 2024.

BUY A BRICK

A. Pryanokov
John & Lois Wagner

Kimberly Koenig
Sara Kepa Yukes

DONATIONS

20th Century Club Park Ridge
The Babusiak Family
Book Babes
BTW Book Club
The Cayemberg Family
John Cox
Cynthia Doloughty
Dorothy Du Sold
Flexible Book Club
Mr. & Mrs. Jayne
Peter & Karen Jorstad

MBC Book Club
Kathleen Michniuk
Diane Oppliger
Mr. & Mrs. John O'Sullivan
Robert & Shirley Roberts
Therese Shannon
The Slover Family
The Sitkiewicz Family/ Marion's Mark
Sue's Crew
Norma Wicke
Peggy Wagner



Each year, the Friends of the Library contribute financial support and volunteer hundreds of hours through seasonal sales and the Book Nook ongoing sale.

We offer our heartfelt thanks for their ongoing support and invite you to become a member at parkridgelibrary.org.

