

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Approved by the Library Board of Trustees

Theresa Renaldi, President  
Danielle Powers, Vice President  
Michael Donahue, Treasurer  
Joshua Kiem, Secretary  
Anita De Frank  
Kevin Haggerty  
Briana Jarnagin  
Gregg Rusk  
Deepika Thiagarajan

◀◀ P A R K R I D G E P U B L I C L I B R A R Y ▶▶

## OUR VISION

Inspire a future where knowledge, ideas, and connections empower every individual to grow, thrive, and succeed.

## OUR MISSION

At the heart of a vibrant community, the Park Ridge Library connects people with information, ideas, and one another.

## Presented by

Joanna Bertucci  
*Library Director*

Laura Scott  
*Adult Services Manager*

John Priala  
*Facility Manager*

Joan Wrenn  
*Finance & HR Manager*

Jennifer Healy  
*Marketing & Public Relations Manager*

Anastasia Rachmaciej  
*Patron Services Manager*

Lauren Bochat  
*Technical Services Manager*

Staci Greenwald  
*Youth Services Manager*











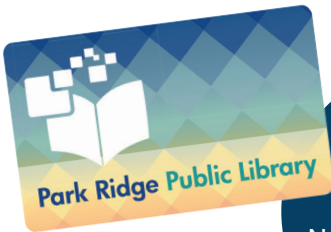
Park Ridge Public Library

[parkridgelibrary.org](http://parkridgelibrary.org)

# BY THE NUMBERS

## Park Ridge Public Library Collections

	Books .....	124,791
	Newspaper and Magazine Subscriptions .....	206
	eBooks .....	1,249,921
	eAudiobooks and Music .....	969,604
	Audiobooks and Music CDs .....	11,156
	DVDs .....	22,304
	Downloadable Video Content .....	11,744
	Exploration Library and Video Games .....	676
		<b>2,390,402</b>



**1,903**  
New Library Users



**306,097**  
In-person visits  
*Up 4% from 2024*

<b>633,961</b> .....	Wi-Fi sessions
<b>16,065</b> .....	Public computer sessions
<b>7,464</b> .....	Visits to our Study Rooms
<b>1015</b> .....	Visits to our Studio and Media Lab



**48,528**  
People reached via onsite and offsite Library programs and outreach visits



**569,130**  
Physical items checked out or renewed



**273,571**  
Digital items downloaded or streamed



**842,701**  
Library materials circulated

Through our membership in North Suburban Digital Consortium (NSDC), an eight-library consortium, patrons enjoy expanded access to books, eBooks, and other digital resources.



**35,724**  
Reference questions answered

In 2025, Park Ridge residents checked out more than **\$12.2 million** worth of Library materials.

# YEAR IN REVIEW



## Strategic Plan

In 2025, the Park Ridge Public Library undertook a strategic planning process to guide the Library's work over the next several years. The process included input from staff, the Board of Trustees, and community stakeholders through surveys, data analysis, and facilitated discussions. The resulting Strategic Plan establishes clear priorities and measurable goals to guide decision-making, resource allocation, and service development. Implementation began in 2026, with progress updates shared regularly with the Board of Trustees and the community.



## 40 Years of Battle of the Books

The Library celebrated the 40th season of Battle of the Books in February, marking four decades of this beloved community tradition. In a quiz-show format, fourth and fifth grade students are tested on their knowledge of a list of 50 books curated by Park Ridge Library Youth Services librarians. St. Andrew's earned 592 points across the five-week competition, claiming the 2025 championship. The win marks St. Andrew's first victory in 25 years, edging out defending champion Washington Elementary by just 11 points.



## HVAC Project

In late 2025, the Park Ridge Public Library began a major project to replace critical components of the building's aging HVAC system, much of which had reached the end of its useful life. The work is being completed in phases to minimize disruption to library operations. To date, the boiler plant has been repaired and replaced, the first-floor air handling unit has been completed, and demolition and preparation work for the third-floor air handling unit is underway.



## Picture Book Classification Project

In 2025, the Park Ridge Public Library reorganized the Picture Book collection to make browsing easier for families and young readers. The Youth Services team reclassified books into subject-based categories, such as animals, vehicles, and bedtime, helping patrons more quickly find books that match a child's interests. Staff updated catalog records, added new spine labels with visual icons, and refreshed shelving to clearly identify each category. The new system has made the collection easier to navigate and encourages children to explore books more independently.



## Doorstep Delivery

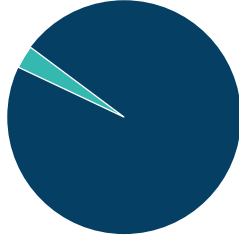
The Park Ridge Public Library continues to expand access to materials through its Doorstep Delivery service, which brings Library items directly to patrons' homes. The program supports residents who may be temporarily or permanently unable to visit the Library in person. Patrons can place holds through the Library's catalog or with staff and schedule a convenient delivery time. Doorstep Delivery reflects the Library's ongoing commitment to ensuring that all members of the community can access Library resources and services.

# 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.

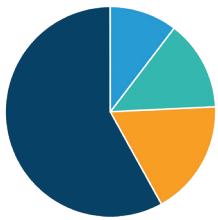
## Property Tax

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



## Revenue

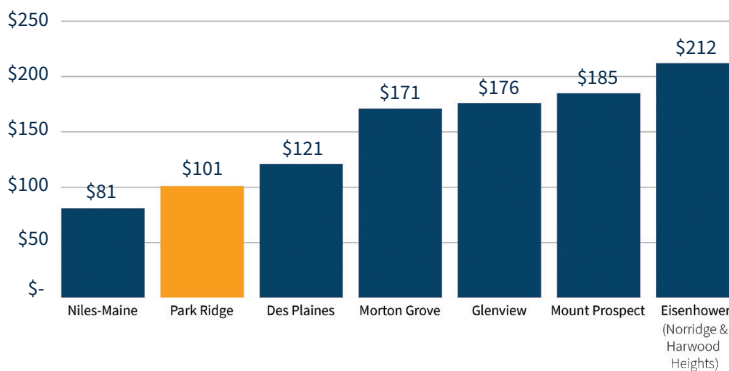
Due to delays in Cook County property tax distributions, the Library received only 52% of its anticipated tax revenue by December 31, 2025. The remaining funds were received in early 2026. In addition, the Library received \$58,500 from the Illinois Per Capita Grant and \$117,000 in gifts, fees, and other receipts.



## Expenditures

- Salaries and Benefits - \$ 3,205,943
- Building Improvements - \$972,530
- General Operating Expenses - \$767,297
- Library Materials and Resources - \$571,272

## Local Tax Allotment Per Resident



Source: 2024 Illinois Public Library Annual Report

## 2025 in Review

In FY25, the Library expended 92% of its operating budget. In 2024, the Library Board allocated \$1.8 million in excess fund balance to support the 2024-2026 HVAC replacement project. Construction began in summer 2025 and anticipated completion is summer 2026.

## 2026 Planning

In preparation for FY26, the Library Board approved a \$166,797 (4%) increase to the Library's levy. Over the past three 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 fee, and will incur these expenses moving forward. Coupled with the HVAC replacement project, the Library anticipates a spend-down of excess reserves by the end of 2026. 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.

## 2026 Assumptions for City Service

The Library is a financial component unit of the City of Park Ridge. The 2026 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)

# OUTREACH AND PROGRAMMING

## Preschool Fair Moves Back to the Library

More than **30** preschools and organizations providing enrichment programs participated in the annual Preschool & Enrichment Fair in January. For the first time in seven years, the event was held at the Library, divided between the First Floor Meeting Room and the Children's Department. The event drew more than **160** attendees.



## Outreach to Schools

Members of the Youth Services Team visited school classrooms **520** times engaging with over **19,000** students, preschool through grade 12. Most notably, Youth Services Middle & High School Coordinator Maddie Maguire established a new Lunch in the Library program at Maine South High School. She provides a craft and chats with the students, many of whom remember her from her school visits when they were in middle school.



## Support for Seniors

Brain Boosters is an interactive, collaborative program of brain puzzles and discussion starters. Another result of our partnership with the Center of Concern, Brain Boosters brings together up to **20** participants monthly. We also work with the Center of Concern to offer a monthly dementia caregivers support group, a safe place to learn, exchange strategies, and meet other caregivers coping with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia.



Park Ridge Public Library  
**BRAIN BOOSTERS**



## Family Puzzle Challenge

One of our first multi-generational programs, the Family Puzzle Challenge, drew a capacity crowd at three of its four iterations in 2025. At this program, families of grandkids, parents, cousins and grandparents compete against other families to see who can complete their 500-piece puzzle fastest.



## Community Events

In 2025, we were able to use the Community Tent and the Children's Tent at the Park Ridge Farmers Market to promote library card sign up and share stories and craft projects with the community. We also participated in the Memorial Day parade, Park Ridge Pride Fest, and National Night Out.



# 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 2025.

## BUY A BRICK

Barbara Brown  
Laurie Dombrowski  
Aggie Korzeniowski

Nadezda Palumbo  
Vanessa Tobin



## DONATIONS

20th Century Club Park Ridge  
Lynne Blanton  
Book Babes  
Century Readers Book Club  
William and Rosemary Cox  
DAR Twenty-first Star Chapter  
Susan and Stephen Grigalunas  
Peter and Karen Jorstad  
Garima Kumar  
Park Ridge Lion's Charitable Fund

PEO Sisterhood Chpt JF  
Donna Sitkiewicz/Marion's Mark  
Sue's Crew Book Club  
Tattered Readers Book Club  
Washington School Book Group  
Norma Wicke

Each year, the Friends of the Park Ridge 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](http://parkridgelibrary.org).

