

Elwood Public Library

Long Range Plan 2022-2027

Mission Statement

Elwood Public Library is dedicated to providing the community with a center for information, education, culture, recreation, and social interaction. Your Library will strive to accurately represent the collective values of a unique and diverse community in a setting that is inviting and accessible to every resident.

Philosophy of Service

Elwood Public Library is committed to providing quality library service. To aid in achieving this, the Library embraces the following philosophies:

We strive to be a warm and welcoming place for community members to discover, connect and imagine.

We are committed to intellectual freedom. Individuals are responsible for making their own choices regarding appropriateness of materials, and parents/guardians are responsible for the choices they make for their children.

We respect diversity and seek to represent diversity in our collections, programs, services, and staff.

We are committed to supporting formal education and fostering lifelong learning.

We are committed to providing library services cost effectively.

We view technology as a means to achieve greater accessibility to information. The Library is committed to providing training and educational opportunities in the use of these new technologies.

We are committed to maintaining and developing cooperative relationships and partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, and community leaders.

Long Range Plan

This plan is meant to be a continually evolving, living document that provides flexibility to adapt to the changing needs of our community. It is arranged by our 3 core values:

- Goal #1: Discover
- Goal #2: Connect
- Goal #3: Imagine

Goal #1: Discover

Objective: Promote reading and literacy as a core value of the Library.

Action: Create opportunities to discover new authors and books through book displays, programs, emails, and social media posts.

Action: Promote the library as a resource for non-library sponsored community book discussion groups.

Action: Provide training to librarians to help them provide excellent reader's advisory services.

Objective: Create a warm and welcoming place for the community to gather and discover.

Action: Provide rotating themed decorations, book displays, and educational displays.

Action: Create ongoing interactive activities for children, teens, and adults to engage in any time they visit the Library.

Action: Update paint and furnishings.

Objective: Provide educational, cultural, and informational programming for children and teens that inspires them to explore and engage with the world around them.

Action: Create and experiment with new and innovative children's and teen programming and services.

Action: Provide ongoing clubs or groups based on community interest.

Objective: The Library will offer opportunities for family engagement.

Action: Implement more programs and activities for families on evenings and weekends.

Action: Promote the Library as a destination for families by offering large library-wide activities for all ages.

Objective: The Library will offer opportunities for adults to enhance and improve their lives.

Action: Use market research techniques such as online and in person surveys to determine the type of programs and services that will best serve all segments of the Elwood community.

Action: Create and offer programs that foster health and safety.

Action: Create introductory classes that inspire adults to try new hobbies, activities, and interests.

Objective: Embrace cultural diversity through programming, collection development, and resources.

Action: Create programs for all ages that help patrons understand and appreciate holidays and customs of cultures other than their own.

Action: Highlight diverse cultures using the library display case.

Action: Increase foreign language offerings.

Goal #2: Connect

Objective: Engage with our community to promote and provide library services outside the library.

Action: Research providing digital literacy services to 55 plus communities.

Action: Provide children's literacy activities and story times to daycare centers and camp groups.

Action: Facilitate book discussions at nursing homes, 55 plus communities, and other organizations.

Action: Provide the opportunity to participate in bus trips.

Objective: Comprehensively inform the public about library programs and services using social media, email, and printed materials.

Action: Create a social media and brand style guide.

Action: Create a team that meets regularly to promote and advise the community about programs and services.

Objective: Library staff connect with local community groups, businesses, and other partners to benefit the Elwood community.

Action: Promote community groups via the Elwood Bulletin Board on Facebook.

Action: Enhance current programming using the expertise of our partners.

Action: Promote the availability of meeting space for community groups.

Action: Involve local businesses in Library initiatives and events such as Halloween.

Objective: Library staff will continue to foster an excellent relationship with the Elwood School District.

Action: Reinstitute yearly meetings with school librarians.

Action: Collaborate with school district teachers, librarians, and administrators on projects to enhance student learning.

Action: Library staff will attend school district events to provide outreach to parents and students.

Objective: Maintain and enhance cooperative initiatives with the Friends of the Library.

Action: Meet with Friends of the Library board annually to plan events and discuss goals.

Objective: The Library provides technology training and resources that keep our members and staff connected with modern resources and applications.

Action: Provide one-on-one technology training to community members.

Action: Provide staff training in new and existing technologies.

Action: Create a "Preserve Your Memories" project to assist patrons with digital preservation.

Goal #3: Imagine

Objective: Become a leader in sustainability education using the triple bottom line of becoming environmentally responsible, economically feasible, and socially equitable.

Action: Complete the Sustainable Library Certification Program.

Action: Provide library services as cost effectively as possible by exploring opportunities for a permanent home that meets the needs of our expanding and changing community.

Action: Make equity, diversity, and inclusion an integrated part of organizational culture and approach to all services.

Adopted June 16, 2022