

Orchard Park Public Library

Long Range Plan

2021-2024

Mission Statement: To enrich the lives of the individuals of Orchard Park and Erie County's diverse communities by creating and sustaining superior public library services through responsive staff, dynamic collections, appropriate technology and access to global information.

The following five goals have been selected for the plan of service period 2021-2024.:

Goal 1: COMMUNITY and OUTREACH

The Orchard Park Public Library will strengthen community through collaborative engagement through increased library awareness, inclusivity, relevance and value in the community.

- Make the Orchard Park Public Library a center for the community;
- Continue ongoing outreach programs to ensure the library's participation in the life of the community and the neighborhoods we serve;
- Establish the library as a versatile community center which will make neighborhoods thrive;
 - Promote usage of the library's meeting room to community organizations and other non-profit groups;

Cultivate partnerships to connect community members with information and the library's services:

- Collaborate with community organizations and schools to support the interests and needs of our stakeholders;
- Collaborate with schools, in particular working with school librarians, to promote programs both in the library and at the schools to encourage reading year-round;
- Ensure availability of resources in support of areas of study;
- Maintain a strong collaborative relationship with the Friends of the Orchard Park Library in support of library programming and resources;
- Support the Friends of the Orchard Park Library in facilitating the achievement of fundraising goals;
- Support collaboration with partners featuring relevant, timely information such as health related resources and instruction;
- Continue to engage with the Orchard Park Historical Society to provide attractive displays that reflect the rich history of the Town of Orchard Park;
- Continue to engage volunteers by partnering with the Orchard Park School district and numerous community groups;
- Engage with local leaders and elected officials to support community growth and development.

Support economic development:

- Assist job seekers by providing employment resources both print and online;
- Increase the visibility of our libraries through online/social media, and working with local businesses, public officials, and organizations to share our promotional materials;

- Continue partnerships with local groups and events, for example, ArtSplash!, Quaker Days, Holiday in the Park.

Goal 2: RESOURCES

Children, teens and adults will have engaging resources to satisfy curiosity, personal growth and expand informational opportunities:

- Evaluate collection resources for addition or retention to promote maximum use;
- Increase collections that reflect the wants and needs of the community;
- Increase community awareness of digital content (eBook, eAudiobook) available to download for free from the library web site;
 - Ensure staff knowledge of downloadable functions and services for patron assistance;
- Develop and provide inspiring and relevant resources to promote community engagement;
 - Provide equal access to all library materials;
 - Awareness of the availability of assistive technology devices;
 - Use digital communication and social media to engage with the local community and beyond;
 - Continue to provide family-oriented programs during days, evenings, and weekends;
 - Continue to aggressively promote programs and services.

Goal 3: GROWTH AND LEARNING

Learning – Children, teens and adults will have materials that will promote and expand literacy:

- The library will encourage young children (ages 5 and under) to develop an interest in reading and learning by providing early literacy services to children and their caregivers, as well as providing access to materials designed to make certain children will enter school ready to learn;
- Continue to offer relevant programming for school age children;
- Continue to offer teen volunteer opportunities for educational growth;
- Continue to offer quality programs for adults and provide appropriate supporting materials;
- Work with the Orchard Park Public School District to ensure the Orchard Park Public Library is providing access to current materials, services and programs designed to support the current curriculum;
- Maximize opportunities for lifelong learning, personal growth and well-being:
 - Foster a culture of books and reading;
 - Establish the library as a first source for information on daily life, living and learning;
 - Re-envision programs and services to ensure dynamic and relevant experiences.
 - Continue to utilize and develop the talents of library staff - support continuing education/professional development of staff;
 - Increase awareness and opportunity for professional development so that the staff maintains and enhances their skills;
 - Continue to ensure that staff are aware of new opportunities and encouraged to participate in them as appropriate;

Goal 4: INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

The Orchard Park Public Library will recognize and support the increasing demand for technology access and resources:

- In conjunction with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System resource sharing initiative, the Orchard Park Public Library will provide its patrons with the following:
 - Broadband internet access through public workstations with appropriate software and optimal performance platforms for patrons;
 - High-speed access to the resources available on the internet;
- Adapt to new and changing technology to address community interests and needs;
- Continue to provide updated technology classes and one-on-one technology training sessions to patrons;
- Maximize opportunities to increase digital proficiency, support emerging technology skills and increase exposure to new and innovative technologies;
- Increase staff's knowledge of technology programs that are used at local schools;
- Create engaging and interactive spaces to inspire innovation and imagination;
- Offer programs, with a particular focus on STEM/STEAM fostering creativity and exploration.
- Acquire updated technology equipment as appropriate to support emerging technologies.

Goal 5: SPACE

The Orchard Park Public Library will provide a welcoming physical and virtual environment:

- Provide an atmosphere that is safe, clean and well kept;
- Create comfortable and inviting environments - provide a stimulating atmosphere fostering growth and discovery;
- Optimize communication using traditional strategies and expand the library's social media presence;
- Maintain a visible and viable presence in the Orchard Park community and continue to plan for the diversification of the services and experiences offered as community needs evolve;
- Staff will keep current with service trends such as STEM/STEAM programming, Maker Spaces and literacy initiatives;
- Re-evaluate and adjust current staffing model as needed to adapt to the needs of the community and provide for optimal public service;
- Market the library as a destination;
- Provide gathering spaces that encourage positive community interaction;
- Explore green initiatives to promote environmental sustainability;
- Ensure ADA compliance;
- Explore installation of a sign on the front lawn (South Buffalo St.) to increase visibility for the library;
- Evaluate the Orchard Park Public Library interior physical space to assess how it can best achieve the greatest flexibility in collection display and to accommodate diverse functions while remaining a comfortable, attractive and open destination for the community;
- Explore construction of additional community meeting space:
 - Initiate a facility feasibility study for expansion of meeting space;
 - Solicit patron input for community needs;
 - Collaborate with the Town of Orchard Park to develop a viable construction plan;
 - Prepare a proposal for a NY State Library Construction Grant;

- Explore alternative funding opportunities.
- The Orchard Park Library will provide meeting spaces for use by community groups and for programs and activities of interest to the community.

Orchard Park Public Library Board of Trustee Goals

1. Secure adequate funding for the implementation of the goals as listed above.
 - 1.1 Support the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees in their ongoing effort to obtain funds in the annual Erie County budget and maintain and enhance library services to meet community need.
 - 1.2 The Board will keep current with emerging library trends.
 - 1.3 Encourage ongoing donations to the library, including memorials.
 - 1.4 Support the Friends of the Orchard Park Library in their fundraising and programming capacities.
 - 1.5 Promote community awareness of the services and needs of the Orchard Park Public Library.
2. Encourage community engagement with the library.
 - 2.1 Support and encourage library volunteers and the Friends of the OP Library.
 - 2.2 Support engagement with community partners.
3. Provide fiduciary oversight of the Orchard Park Public Library.
 - 3.1 Review and approve a written annual budget as prepared by the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.
 - 3.2 Review disbursements and receipts of the Orchard Park Library operating and donated account funds.
 - 3.3 Approve appropriate use of operating and donated funds.
4. Monitor condition of the building, grounds, access, parking and signage.
5. Advocate for library visibility and resources with the Town of Orchard Park and the greater community.

Approved by the Orchard Park Public Library Board of Trustees, in accordance with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

January 19th, 2021