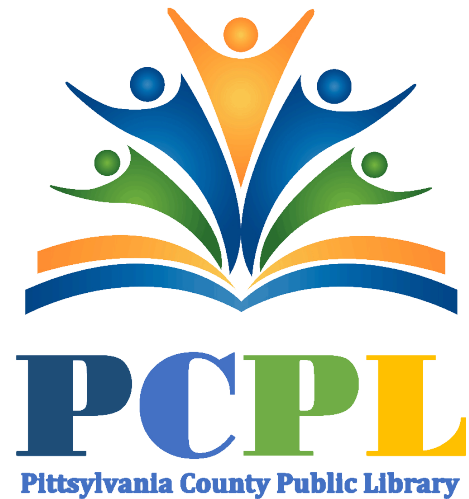
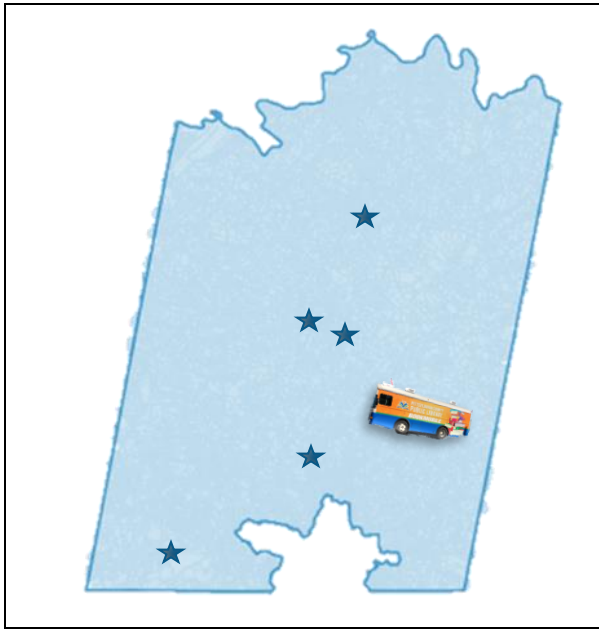


Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Pittsylvania County Public Library





Engage. Enlighten. Empower. Expand.

Since its establishment in 1939, the Pittsylvania County Public Library has provided the citizens of our county with information, entertainment, small business and student support, and community engagement through literature, programs, and services for all ages and interests.

The Pittsylvania County Public Library has grown since 1939 from a single small building and a Works Progress Administration bookmobile into a library system of four branches, a history research center and library, and a bookmobile.

Our collections have expanded to include audiobooks, large print, DVDs, and a vast array of digital offerings and databases. Thousands of hours of internet time are provided annually on public access computers. Multiple programs offered daily, from early literacy story times, craft and education classes, thoughtful adult discussions, and food and exercise classes.

In March 2018, we relocated the Mt. Hermon Branch Library. The Mt. Hermon library inspired a vision for our future: a vibrant community hub with indoor and outdoor areas that provide meeting, learning, reading, and working spaces for young children and families, teens, adults, and community groups.

In June 2018, a small working group of interested citizens and library staff produced a report, *Expanding the Reach*, which outlines a vision for expanding library services to the underserved areas of the county. The first phase of this plan included renovating and expanding the existing Gretna branch, which began with fundraising efforts in 2018 and is expected to be completed and fully open to the public in the summer of 2023. The plan also

highlights the need to improve the Brosville branch and establish three new library branches in the Banister, Dan River, and Staunton River districts. The goal of the expansion effort would be to extend the benefits of library materials, programs, and services to underserved communities. Additional needs include replacing the bookmobile and renovating the Chatham Main Library.

Supporting early and family literacy, promoting digital literacy and access, and meeting the informational and entrepreneurial needs of underserved communities supplement the vision and future of the county. Libraries can empower communities and build civic engagement.

This five-year plan builds upon these goals with many years of library service to better connect people to the information, experiences, and resources they need to enhance their lives and strengthen our community.

We will measure our progress toward these goals through collections of meaningful statistics on library usage and the continuous solicitation of feedback from our patrons and the public. The library director and staff are grateful for the guidance and support of our Library Board of Trustees, PPL Foundation Board, Friends of the Library groups, and the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and county administration.



Engage with our community through collaborative efforts and the provision of services, materials and facilities that meet community needs.

Engage

Engage with the community through outreach, collaboration, and provision of services, collections, hours, and facilities that meet their needs.

Work with the Pittsylvania County Public Schools and local private educational facilities and organizations to support literacy throughout the county. Interaction with the school system has begun to increase since COVID, including several in-person programs at the schools, Pop-up Bookmobile programs at various schools, the Youth Services Coordinator reaching out to the Superintendent and presenting to the School Board, and a new initiative sponsored through the Danville Regional Foundation with local educators, grantors, tutors, and other partnering agencies, including the library. Expectations are that these collaborations will continue to grow and expand.

Continue collaboration with the Cancer Research and Resource Center, the Pittsylvania County Health Collaborative, the Bloodmobile, the Extension Office, and other groups to promote healthy living and awareness of health and wellness programs and resources in our area.

Work with civic groups such as the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Chatham First, Revitalization for a Greater Gretna, the Pittsylvania Pet Center, God's Storehouse, the Northern Virginia Food Bank, and local garden clubs on projects to improve local communities and support individuals and families in need.

Maintain the Little Laundromat Libraries to put reading opportunities and materials in locations to engage new readers and support literacy.

Promote local history in collaboration with the Pittsylvania Historical Society and other groups. Create a digitization station for individuals and groups to preserve local history; provide public access to digital history materials through a library portal.

Provide inviting and accessible meeting and tutoring spaces where small groups and students can collaborate and study.

Engage remote library users with excellent Bookmobile service and library website and social media pages that are informative and easy to navigate.

Increase the vitality and engagement of the Friends of the Library groups.

Enlighten

Offer lifelong learning opportunities through programs that build skills, encourage creativity, satisfy curiosity, and build community.

Provide a variety and diversity of materials in formats that meet the needs of our community by selecting a wide range of topics without bias.

Expand and enhance our Open Educational Resources web portal with free educational materials.

Create a Useful Links web portal to curate government and scholarly resources and agencies for community references, such as tax and legal information, student aid, health resources, and government services.

Provide programs and displays on a variety of topics and materials, incorporating annual events and programs such as Black History Month or Women's History Month.

Promote STEAM programming in children's, teens, and adult activities.

Empower

Continue to provide early literacy story times to build the foundations of reading in young children in the library, schools, and daycare facilities.

Promote Family Literacy through family story times, social media and in-library campaigns, and through Little Laundromat Libraries.

Provide out-of-school programs, including afterschool and Summer Reading Programs, fostering a love for life-long learning and helping prevent "summer slide".

Promote digital access and literacy in the community through free WiFi, public access computers, one-on-one computer support, and low-cost printing.

Provide free meeting space with equipment for presentations, internet access, and virtual meetings.

Promote authenticated online resources provided through Find it Virginia.

Add to branch STEAM materials and offerings to support creativity and hands-on learning.

“Everything you need for a better future and success has already been written. And guess what? All you have to do is go to the library.”

-Henri Frederic Amiel

Expand

Expand public awareness of library programs and services through new and existing venues.

Offer innovative services and programs to meet patron needs at all ages and skill levels.

Improve existing library facilities by:

- Increasing parking for patrons

- Renovating the existing libraries

- Maintaining and upgrading comfortable patron spaces.

Collaborate with community groups to create eye-catching outdoor art and garden spaces.

Implement *Expanding the Reach* to identify and create new library facilities in the Banister, Dan River, and Staunton River districts.

Expand opportunity through greater access.



Pittsylvania County Public Library Strategic Plan 2023-2028

Our mission: to connect people to the information, experiences, and resources they need to make their lives, and our community, better.

ENGAGE with the community through outreach, collaboration, and the provision of services, collections, hours, and facilities that meet their needs.

ENLIGHTEN by providing informative and entertaining materials in a variety of formats that meet the diverse needs of our community.

EMPOWER our patrons and the public by promoting literacy in all forms, encouraging creativity, fostering lifelong learning, supporting healthy living, and providing support to students, businesses, and entrepreneurs.


EXPAND our services and offerings continuously to serve our community better, in both the physical and digital realms.



Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.

-Laura Bush





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