

The Hayner Public Library District
5 Year Long Range Plan
August 25, 2021

Introduction

The Hayner Public Library District's history is as rich and enduring as our mission to support lifelong learning to members of our community. Created in 1852 as the Alton Library Association, the library has evolved over 170 years to become The Hayner Public Library District, a vibrant, inviting community resource which provides informational, cultural, educational, and recreational resources to our patrons.

In 2020 and 2021, our country and the world faced challenges never before imagined. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, everyday life was disrupted in ways few generations have experienced. Everything changed abruptly and dramatically—from the ways we went to work, bought groceries, educated our children, cared for the elderly, conducted meetings, celebrated holidays, and socialized with family and friends. A mandatory stay-at-home order closed the doors of most businesses, including The Hayner Public Library District. During the closure, our Board and staff got to work to develop innovative, creative ways to continue serving our public while meeting new health and safety guidelines. We implemented new policies and procedures that enabled us to meet the needs of our community while still safeguarding the well-being of our patrons and staff. We prioritized reaching out to the underserved and finding new ways to communicate. We increased our online offerings and began virtual programming. We added new homeschooling tools, as well as health and financial resources. Living through a pandemic and quickly adapting to constant change reinforced the notion that the modern public library district goes far beyond books on shelves in buildings.

As challenging as the past eighteen months have been, we had the unprecedented opportunity to take a step back and reassess how a public library district should do business. As technology adapted to the changing demands of a country under quarantine, so too did the staff and Board of The Hayner Public Library District. We embraced those new technologies and developed programming that not only enhanced current offerings but also added new opportunities for us to reach further into our community. We learned that the Long Range Plan for 2021–2026 must shift in a more outward direction, seeking to connect with our public in community spaces, rather than waiting for them to come to us in our buildings.

This plan strives to bring more of our services directly into the community, whether it be via a bookmobile, through the circulation of patron hotspot and internet connectivity technologies, or by hosting remote classes and seminars in partnership with various community organizations. As technologies continue to improve and advance, we must take advantage of new opportunities to collaborate with others and to creatively engage with our public. We must reconfigure our physical library locations to facilitate more flexible, efficient services and operations.

The implementation of this long range plan will undergo constant review and revision. The plan will be used to provide structure and checkpoints to our progress as we strive to effectively meet the changing needs of our community. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Alton, Godfrey, and Foster Township by strengthening the educational, economic, and social services we provide.

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Categories

- Community
- Literacy
- Services
- Technology
- Facilities

Community

THPLD will work to improve community involvement and engagement:

- Community organizations
 - Continue existing partnerships
 - Alton School District
 - LCCC
 - Oasis
 - IMPACT
 - Riverbend Head Start
 - Boys and Girls Club
 - Develop new partnerships
 - Provide more consistent updates to partnering organizations (i.e. agenda item in Board meetings)
- Engagement
 - Develop participation targets for existing programs
 - Involve library management in annual planning for programs

Literacy

THPLD will continue to promote literacy:

- Raise awareness of the materials that are available
 - Evaluate the cost vs. return of materials vs. assistive technology
 - Increase high interest/low vocabulary collection
 - Assess English as a second language resources
- Expanding satellite (pop-up) locations
 - Implement library services into the community through events, a bookmobile with a regular route to bring books back to communities, computer labs, Wi-Fi access

Services

THPLD will continue to improve upon services offered to the community:

- Continue to develop career center partnerships (County)
 - Determine the need for satellite/complimentary services
- Introduce mobile circulation (Service/Facilities)
 - Technologies for a better patron experience

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- Reestablish bookmobile
 - Determine a regular route or schedule to standardize circulation
 - Participate in community events
- Conduct a survey—identify how the library collection and programming can better serve the community
 - Utilize to evaluate community needs over time
 - Create multi-platform surveys
- Begin a special event/speaker series
 - Ties to the mission of the library to the community

Technology

THPLD will continue to maintain and improve technology:

- Continue to evolve by:
 - Offering Wi-Fi printing
 - Upgrading hardware and software
 - Keep up-to-date with new technologies
 - Include security, phone, PC, servers, etc.
 - Establishing technology accessibility in the community
 - Remote Wi-Fi/hot spots
 - Remote printing
 - Mobile app for library services
 - Offering public training classes for technology

Facilities

- Identify known maintenance needs for next five years
 - Mall lease expires 2023 (five years)
 - Admin Building/Genealogy Library (State Street) must remain a library
 - Windows (State Street)
 - Tuck Pointing (State Street)
- Conduct feasibility study
 - One location, multiple, or other
 - Where?
 - Exterior entrance
 - Drive-up window
 - Auditorium
 - Community room
 - Computer room
 - New ideas for existing footprint(s)
 - Flexible floor plan
 - Renovate/redesign
 - Meeting spaces for quiet and loud
 - Bookmobile