



**LAKE
REGION**
public library



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



LAKE REGION PUBLIC LIBRARY GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors

Jessica Fish
President

Daniel Howell
Vice-President

Paulette Paulson
Secretary

Cali DeMarce
Member

Lee Gessner
Ramsey County Commissioner

Ben Scallon
Member

Lisa Uhlenkamp
Devils Lake City Commissioner

The Lake Region Public Library Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 5:00 pm in the Lake Region Public Library's Heritage Room and via Zoom. The Board is comprised of volunteer and appointed members that serve as the governing body of the Lake Region Public Library according to North Dakota Century Code 40-38-04.

The Lake Region Public Library Board adopted a Strategic Plan for 2024-2026 that has four main areas of focus: to position the library as an anchor institution in the region, to meet the needs of underserved teens, to improve the library's financial position, and to expand marketing and outreach.

Library Staff

Maddie Sharpe	Library Director
Trista Beatty	Assistant Director
Sam Bischof	Children's Librarian
Erin Saldarini	Circulation Assistant
Isabelle Serumgard	Circulation Assistant
Rachel Willey	Circulation Assistant

Devils Lake City Commission

Jim Moe, Mayor
Rob Hach
Joe Knowski
Jason Pierce
Lisa Uhlenkamp

Ramsey County Commission

Lee Gessner, Chair
Jeff Frith
Bill Hodous
Paul Wilhelmi
Blaine Volk

— 99 —
"Love coming to the library. Awesome every time." -Amy H.

INTRODUCTION



Hello, Lake Region neighbors! My name is Maddie Sharpe, and I am the Director at the Lake Region Public Library. I want to give you a quick overview of what 2024 looked like for our library, and what we're looking forward to in 2025 and beyond.

The year 2024 will henceforth be affectionately known as the year the building got a much-needed refresh. Thanks to a generous grant from the North Dakota State Library, we were able to **paint the interior of the library** a fresh off-white with blue accents. Library users tell us again and again how clean and bright the space looks with this change! Again with contributions from the North Dakota State Library, and with a grant from the Devils Lake Area Foundation, we also **replaced the blinds in the Community Room with a fully motorized system**, meaning that the 15+ foot window treatments are now fully accessible and secure, since the blinds are fully opaque. The Lake Region Public Library now features a **remote access point at the east door** off the parking lot for patrons to use

the building outside of regular hours: this allows our meeting spaces to be utilized more for community groups, organizations, and individuals, and to allow individuals the use of restrooms and access to water if needed.

Arguably the most important upgrade the Lake Region Public Library received in 2024 was a **brand-new HVAC system**. It was determined at the end of 2023 that the geothermal system that had been in place since before the building opened 22 years ago needed replacing. **The project was launched into action at the beginning of 2024 and completed in three phases for a little over \$56,000 by our new best friends Terry and Steve from Total Heating & Air.** Since the HVAC was replaced, not only can we control our temperature and humidity in-house, but our monthly electricity costs have decreased by an average of almost 30%. **This could not have been possible without community partners, private donations, and the Lake Region Public Library Foundation, to whom we are eternally grateful.**

Other than the building, 2024 once again saw an increased usage across the board. We offered 232 programs in 2024 compared to 176 in 2023, and saw just under 5,000 people at these programs. Yearly visits increased by over 7,200- the equivalent of the population of Devils Lake. Being fully staffed, we were able to expand library hours to open every day at 9:00 am instead of staggering to open at 10:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This seemingly small change means we were open for an additional 150+ hours in 2024, and it is a dream of mine to again expand library hours to be open on Sundays before the end of 2025.

This year, we have the first ever full-time Children's Librarian, Sam Bischof! Her energy, passion, and creativity have already transformed the children's library into a lively and sensory-friendly space, and this year's Summer Reading Program will be one for the books.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report, and I hope to see you in the library soon!

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

MISSION

The mission of the Lake Region Public Library is to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, and inspiration.



VISION

To be a welcoming hub where all individuals, regardless of age, background, or ability, can access information, resources, and opportunities that inspire lifelong learning, foster innovation, and build stronger, more connected communities. We envision a future where physical and digital access to knowledge and services is seamless, empowering every person to thrive.



To achieve our mission and vision, the Lake Region Public Library does not charge daily late fees for overdue items and offers countless programs, services, and resources at no cost, including the use of two community meeting spaces, technology resources, non-traditional library items, and the latest in physical and digital books, media, and more.

— ” —

“Thanks for being a safe place for so many.” -Megan S.

— ” —

PATRON & TECHNICAL SERVICES



2,512

Total open hours

from 2,355



2,337

Active cardholders

from 1,914



42,204

Total yearly visitors

from 35,573



232

Total programs offered

from 176



4,944

Total program participants

from 3,074



38,878

Physical items in the collection

from 34,940



60,193

Digital items in the collection

from 56,351



5,371

Sessions on public computers

from 5,572



12,621

Digital items circulated

from 10,479



25,182

Physical items circulated

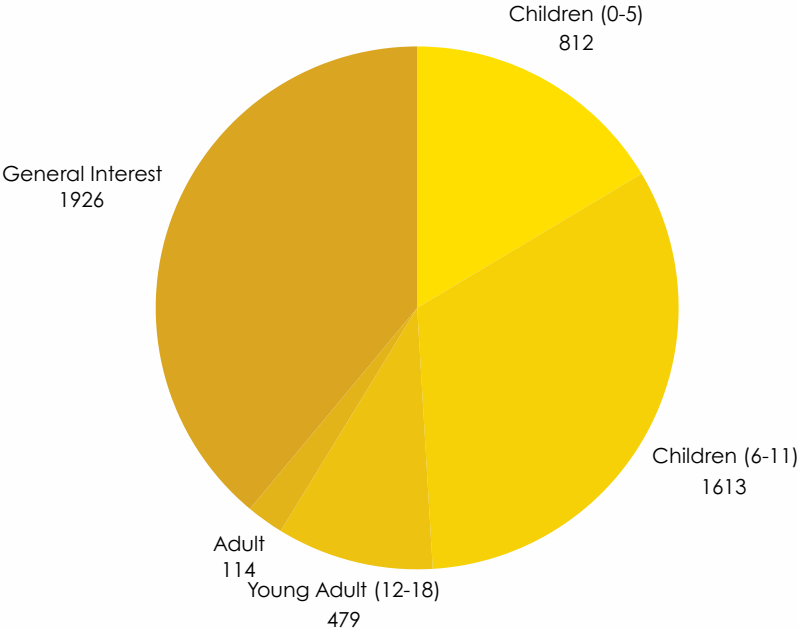
from 22,607

Public Meeting Spaces

The Lake Region Public Library Board voted in 2022 to make usage of the Community and Heritage Rooms free to individuals and organizations. In 2024, we took stock of how many unique groups and individuals were utilizing these spaces once or more per month. The results speak for themselves!

Unique Groups/Individuals	Avg Groups/Month	Number of Uses	Avg Uses/Month
122	10	243	20

PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Total Programs:
232

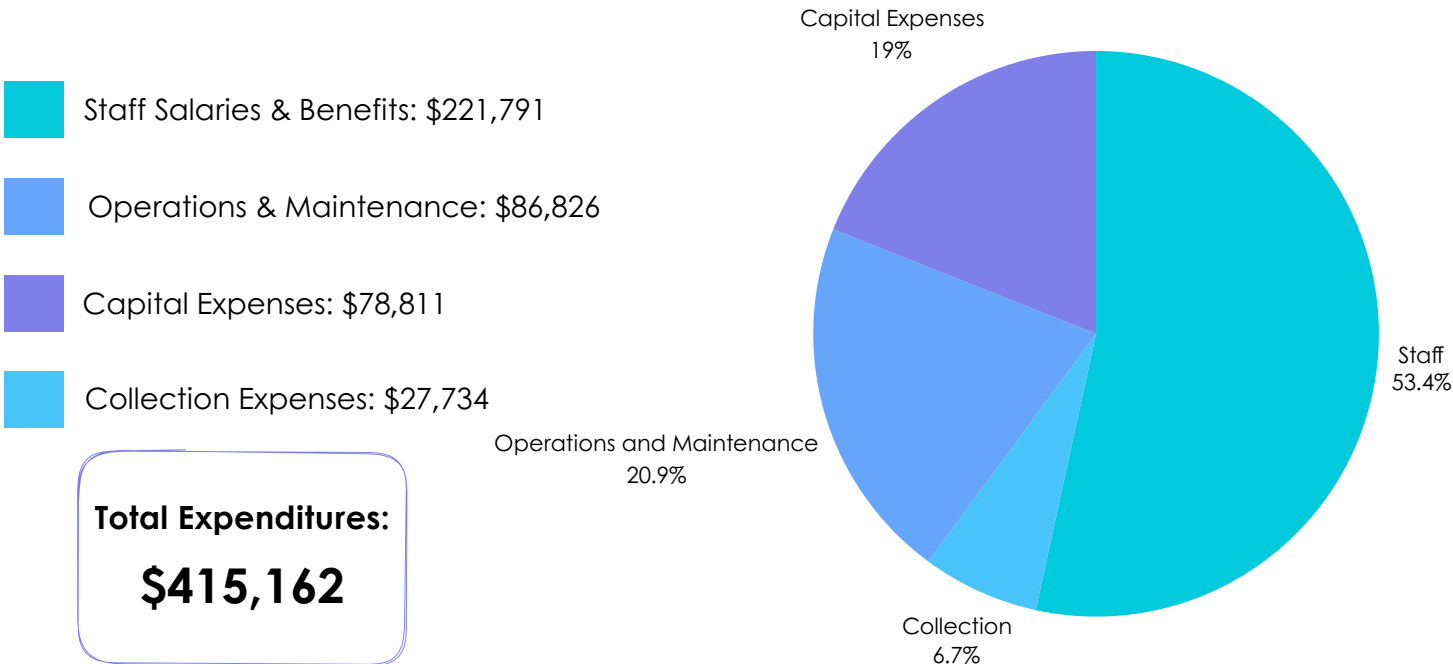
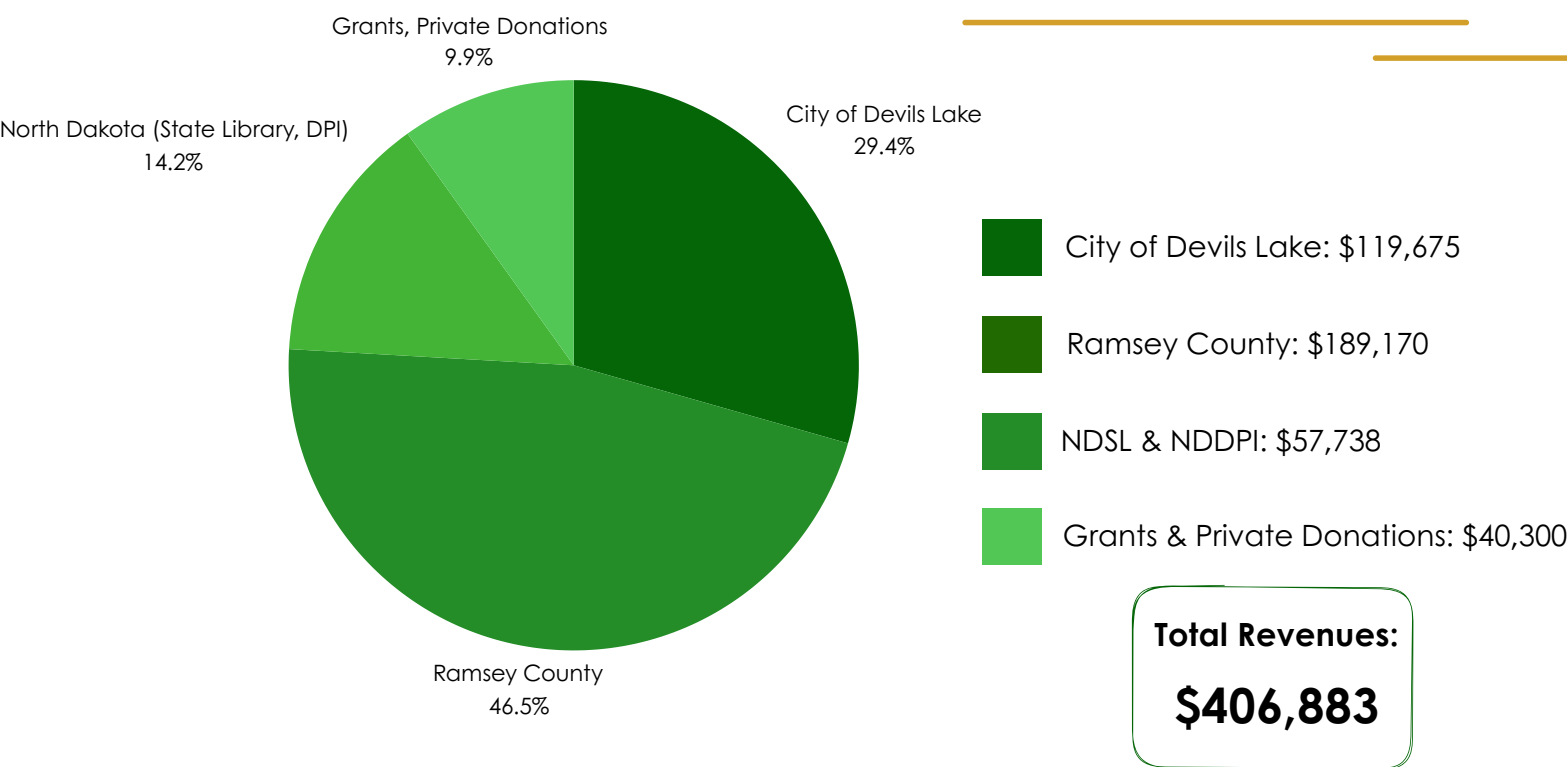
Total Attendance:
4,944

Thank You to our Community Partners!

- The Arts Council of the Lake Region
Bremer Bank
Cenex One Stop
City of Devils Lake
Clinic Pharmacy
Ramsey County
Devils Lake Area Foundation
Devils Lake Cars
Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce
Devils Lake Fire Department
Devils Lake Doughnuts
Devils Lake Journal
Devils Lake Kiwanis Club
Devils Lake Rotary Club
Dollar General
Drs. Enderle, Moen, & Johnston
DVL Insurance Agency
First Community Credit Union
First United Bank
Foundation for Rural Service
- Gate City Bank
IF LaFleur's
Jim & Marsha Samson
Johnson Family Dentistry
Krantz's Floral
Lakeside Smiles
LaMotte's Properties
LR Radio Works
MaryAnn's Place
Midco Foundation
NDTC
NDSU Extension
North Dakota Council on the Arts
North Dakota Department of Public Instruction
North Dakota State Library
Odd Fellows
Ottertail Power Company
Spirit Lake Casino & Resort
Western State Bank
Xtreme Sign & Graphix



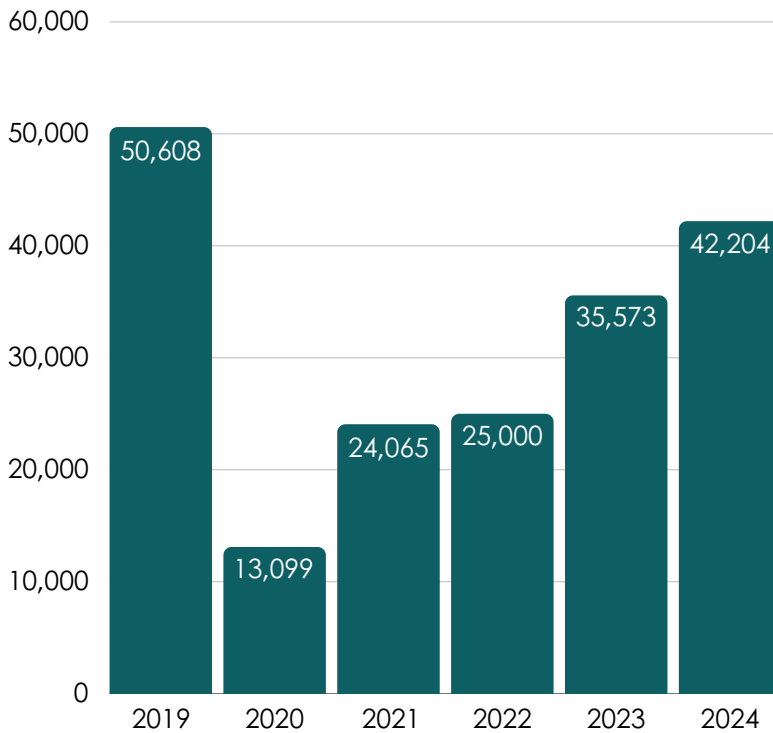
FISCAL REPORT



“I truly don’t know what we would do without access to the library. As a rural SAHM [Stay-At-Home-Mom] who homeschools, the library is so many things for my family. It’s an escape from my house, it’s socialization for my kids, it’s an opportunity to learn new things, and have so many new experiences each week. It’s a safe & cool place to hang out between summer activities, and a great place to craft and create during these brutally cold months. Storytime is 9 times out of 10 the highlight of my daughter’s week. We love you, LRPL!” -Kali M.

5(ISH) YEARS OF GROWTH

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY

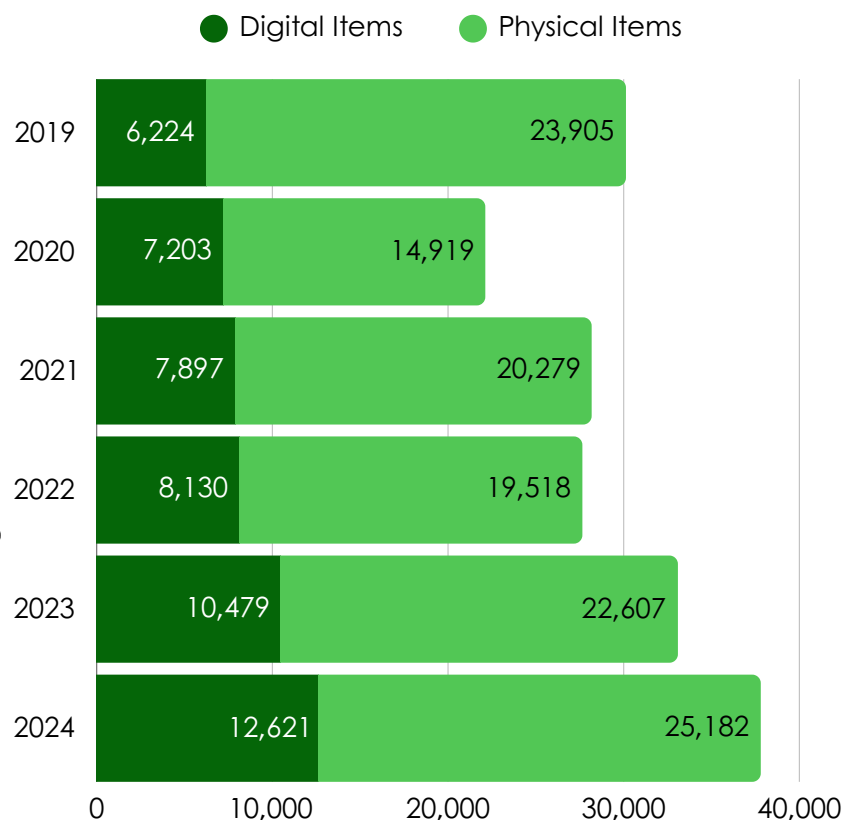


**190,549 VISITS
SINCE 2019**



**178,964 MATERIALS
CIRCULATED
SINCE 2019**

CIRCULATION BY MATERIAL TYPE



LAKE REGION PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



WHAT IS THE LAKE REGION PUBLIC LIBRARY (LRPL) FOUNDATION?

The LRPL Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that supports and provides for the activities and ongoing maintenance of the Lake Region Public Library – its staff and facilities. It is a completely separate entity from the Lake Region Public Library.



WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THE LRPL FOUNDATION HAS SUPPORTED?

The LRPL Foundation has supported a number of capital projects around the Lake Region Public Library since its creation in 2018. Most notably, the **self-check kiosk**, **Barbara McCormick Reading Garden**, and most recently the **completion of interior painting and updated signs** have been directly funded by the LRPL Foundation.

In 2024, with the replacement of the HVAC system, the Lake Region Public Library was able to cover \$44,625 of the \$56,430 project from yearly budgeting and by writing and receiving grants. **The remaining \$11,805 was supplied by the LRPL Foundation** through participation in Giving Hearts Day, book sale fundraisers, and more.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR THE LRPL FOUNDATION?

New to the Lake Region: a friends group for our public library! **Under the umbrella of the LRPL Foundation, the Friends of the Lake Region Public Library is a brand-new volunteer organization that seeks to:**

- Build an active membership of citizens who support the Lake Region Public Library
- Enhance and expand the library's capacity as a community resource through fundraising and volunteering
- Promote awareness of the library's services and spotlight the value of the library in the Lake Region
- Sponsor programs, cultural activities, and personal enrichment opportunities for citizens of all ages

Learn more about this exciting new initiative to support the Lake Region Public Library! Search "Lake Region Public Library Foundation" on Facebook or scan this QR code for more information.





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THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to read our 2024 Annual Report and for your continued support of the Lake Region Public Library.

CONNECT WITH US

www.devilslakendlibrary.com



@LakeRegionPL

Contact Us

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Devils Lake, ND 58301
(701)662-2220
circulation@lrpubliclibrary.org



Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Thursday

9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am - 3:00 pm