



Milton Public Library

State of Library Services 2026

September 14, 2026

What are we going to cover?

- A look at statewide numbers from FY25
- A review of FY26
 - Usage
 - Digital vs. Physical
 - Programming
 - Highlights/Improvements
- FY27 Preview
 - FY26 Budget review
 - Priorities
 - Initiatives
 - Town topics



FY25 Usage - A Snapshot

Rank	Town	Population	Total Circ Activity	Circ Per FTE	Circ Per Capita	Total Municipal Operating	Appropriation per capita
1	Arlington	46,111	1,164,690	32,914	25.26	\$2,894,594	62.77
10	Falmouth	33,069	611,379	21,345	18.87	\$2,894,594	73.00
18	Milton	28,374 (41st)	396,460 (17th)	19,837 (14th)	13.97 (12th)	\$1,903,726 (17th)	67.09 (13th)
25	Dartmouth	33,419	329,822	33,419	9.87	\$1,316,852	39.40
40	West Springfield	28,424	186,593	10,433	6.56	\$1,153,346	40.58
50	Chelsea	38,319	35,502	3,665	0.93	\$473,776	12.36
	AVERAGE	33,945	376,194	16,483	11.21	\$1,,016,751	56.59

FY25 Usage - A Closer Look

As compared to the top libraries in our population cohort (51):

- Population - 41st
- Total Circ - 20th > 17th
- Circ per capita - 15th > 12th
- Circ per FTE - 16th > 14th
- Appropriation - 16th > 17th
- Appropriation per capita - 13th =



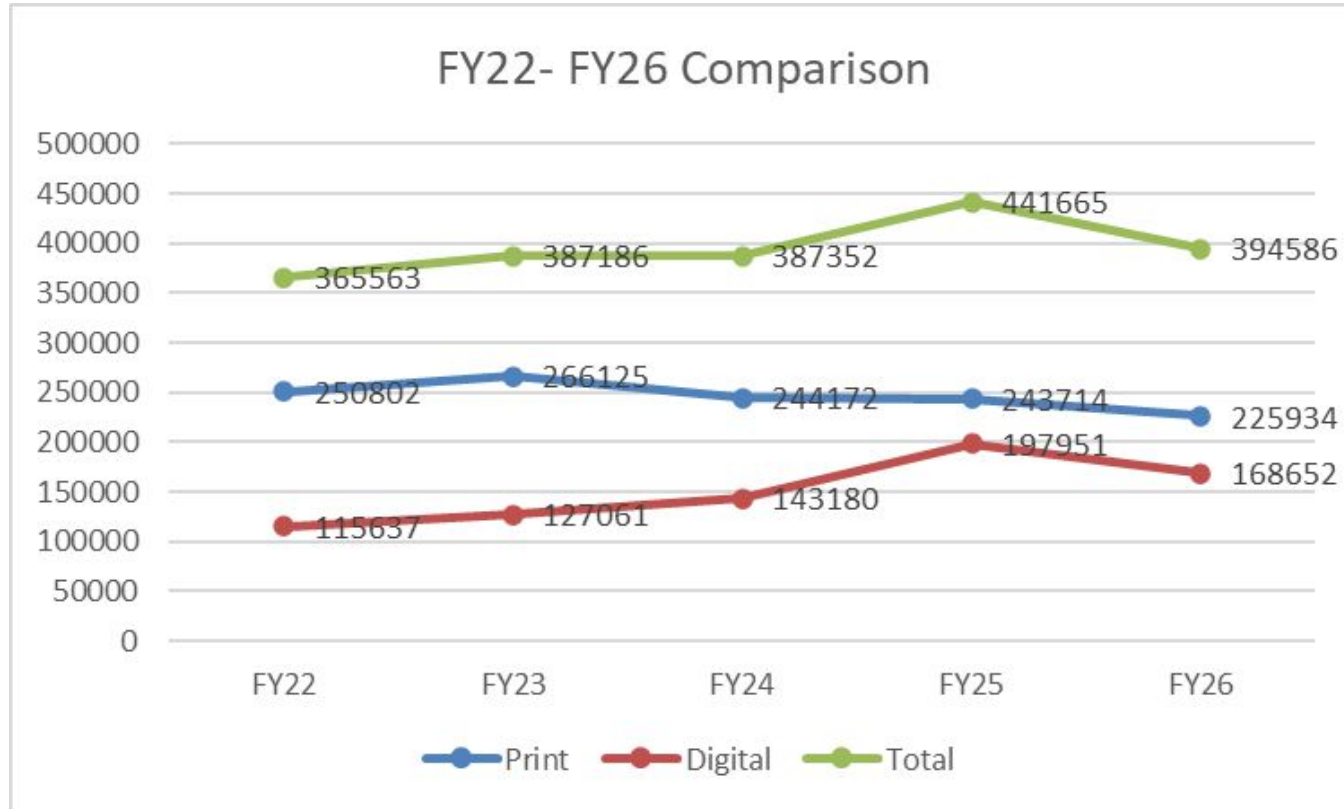
Shifting Gears: FY26 In Review

Fluctuations in collection usage:

- Numbers impacted by ILS migration
- Digital numbers
 - Down year over year (migration)
 - 46% increase over five years
 - Digital Audiobooks up 12% year over year and 101% over five years
- Increased spending on digital
 - ~\$100,000 on Overdrive and ~\$70,000 on Hoopla alone
 - Hoopla averages \$2.26 per use

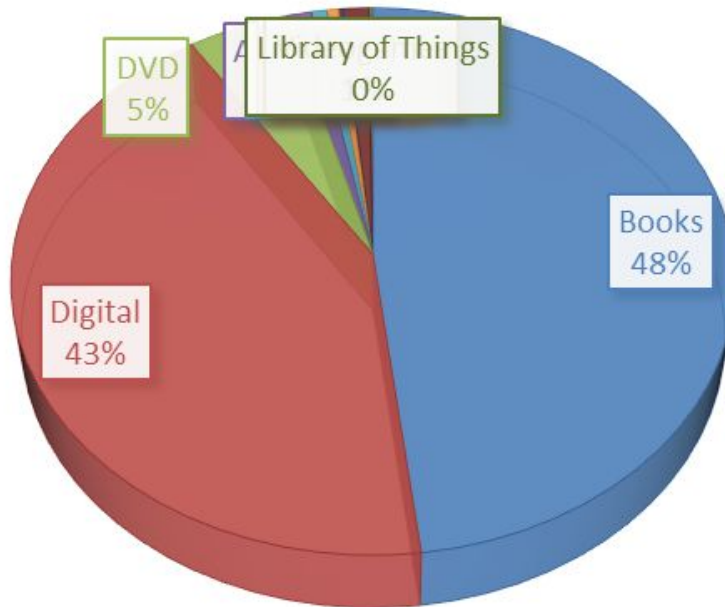


FY26 In Review: Circulation History



FY26 In Review

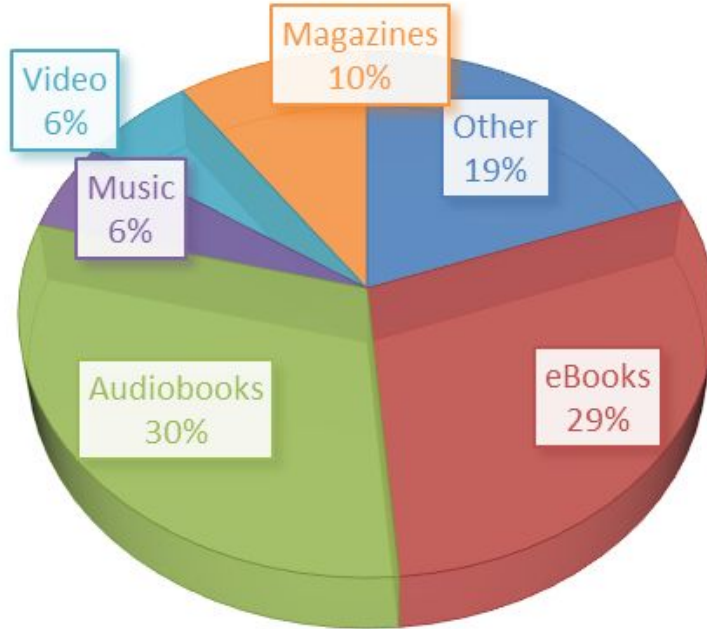
FY26 USAGE BY FORMAT



- Print 46% > 48%
- Digital 45% < 43%

FY26 In Review

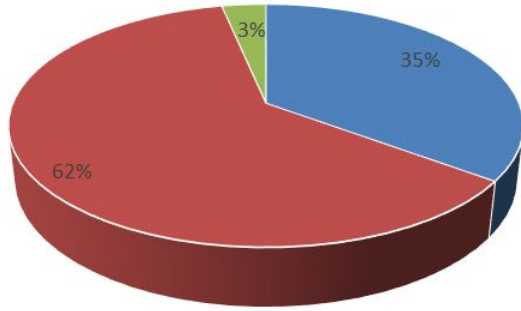
ECONTENT USE BY CATEGORY



- OTHER 31% < 19%
- eBooks 27% > 297%
- Audio 23% > 30%
- Mags 7% > 10%

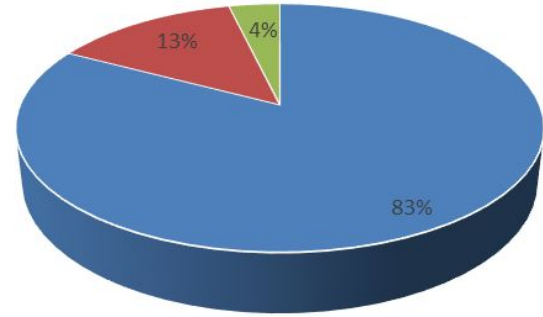
FY26 In Review

FY Print Usage by Age Group



■ Adult ■ Children's ■ Teen

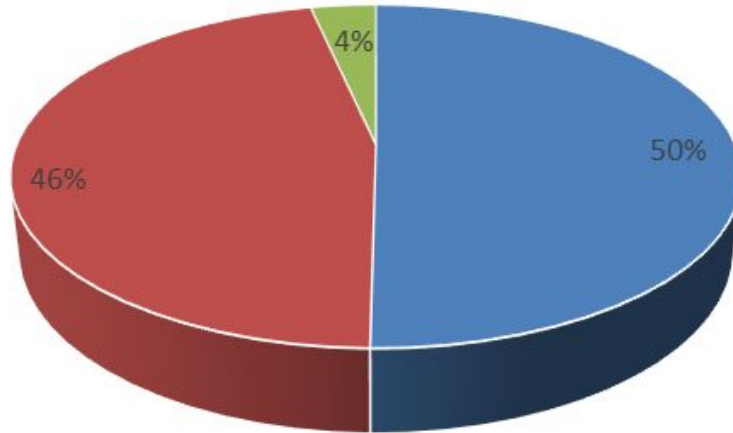
FY Digital Usage by Age Group



■ Adult ■ Children's ■ Teen

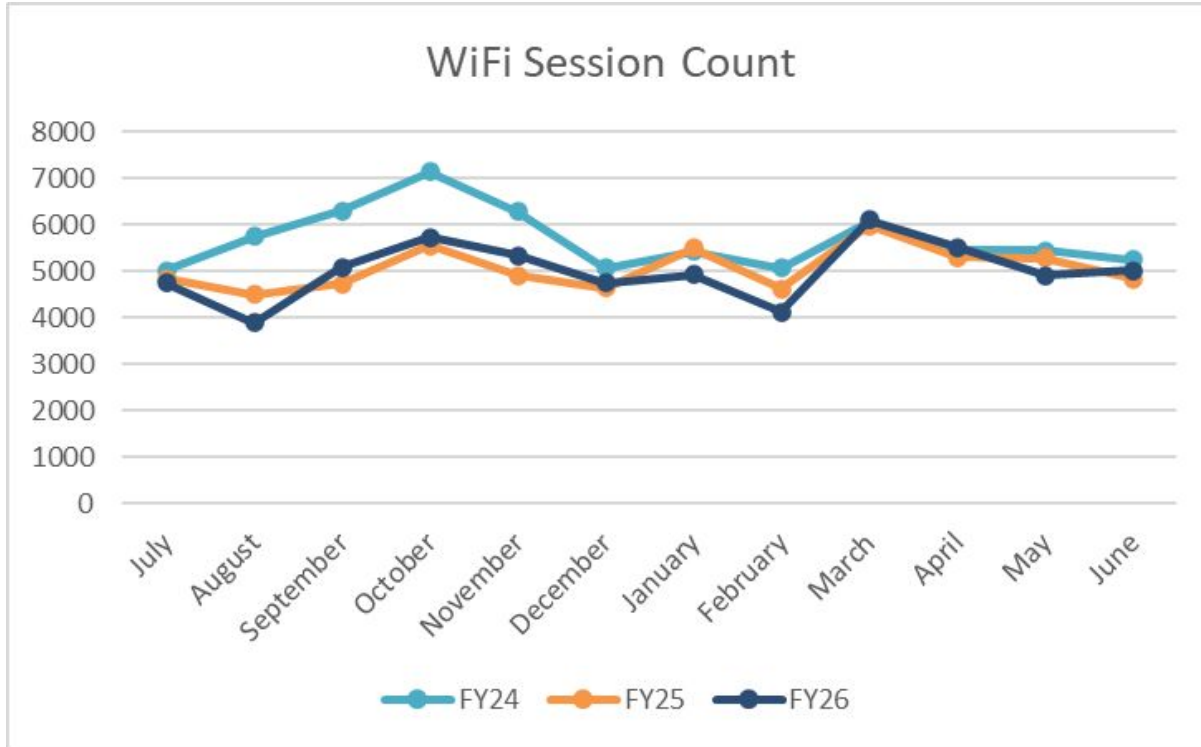
FY26 In Review

FY Usage by Age Group



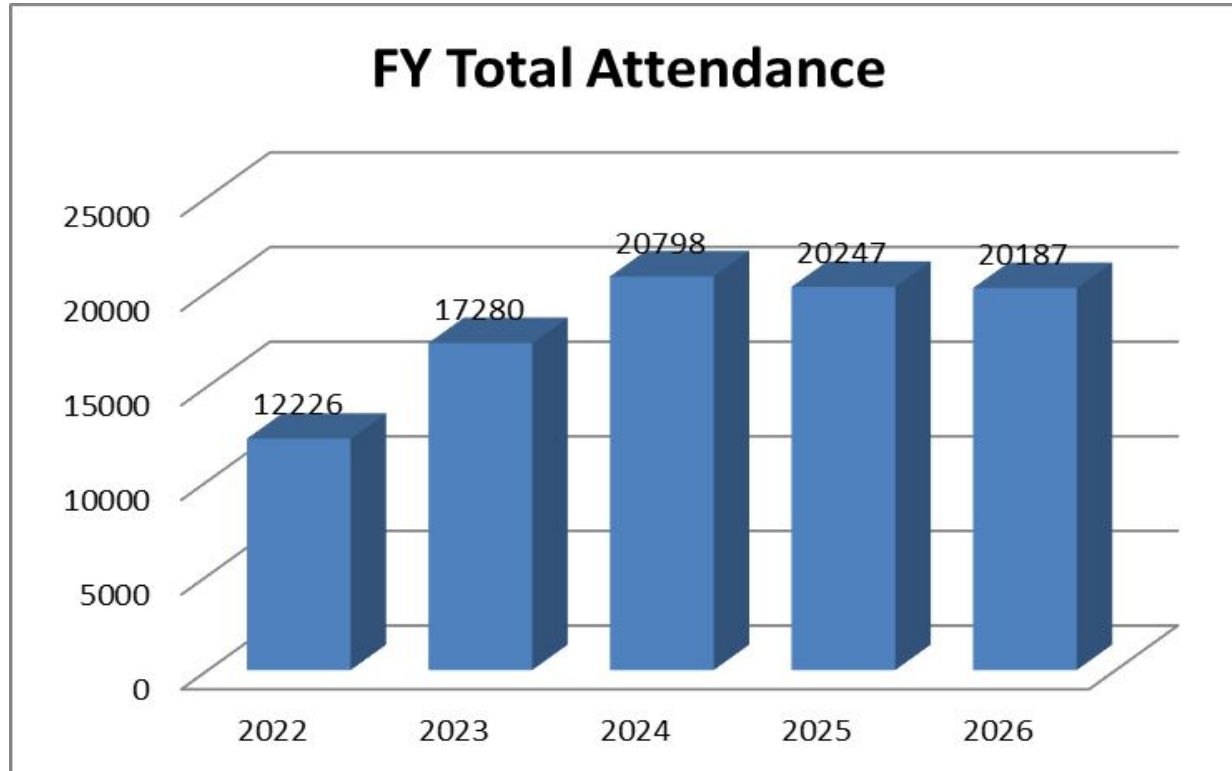
■ Adult ■ Children's ■ Teen

FY26 in Review

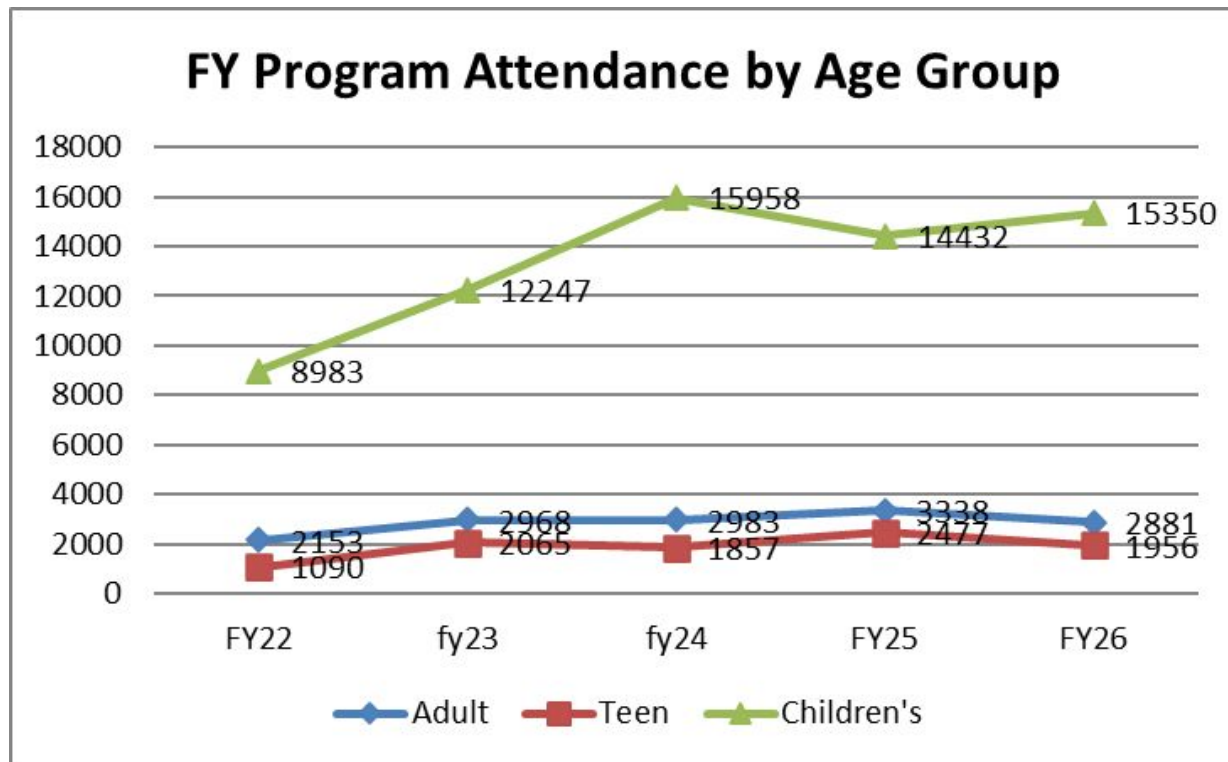


- 5000 sessions per month
- 60,000+ for the year

FY 26 Programming



FY26 Programming

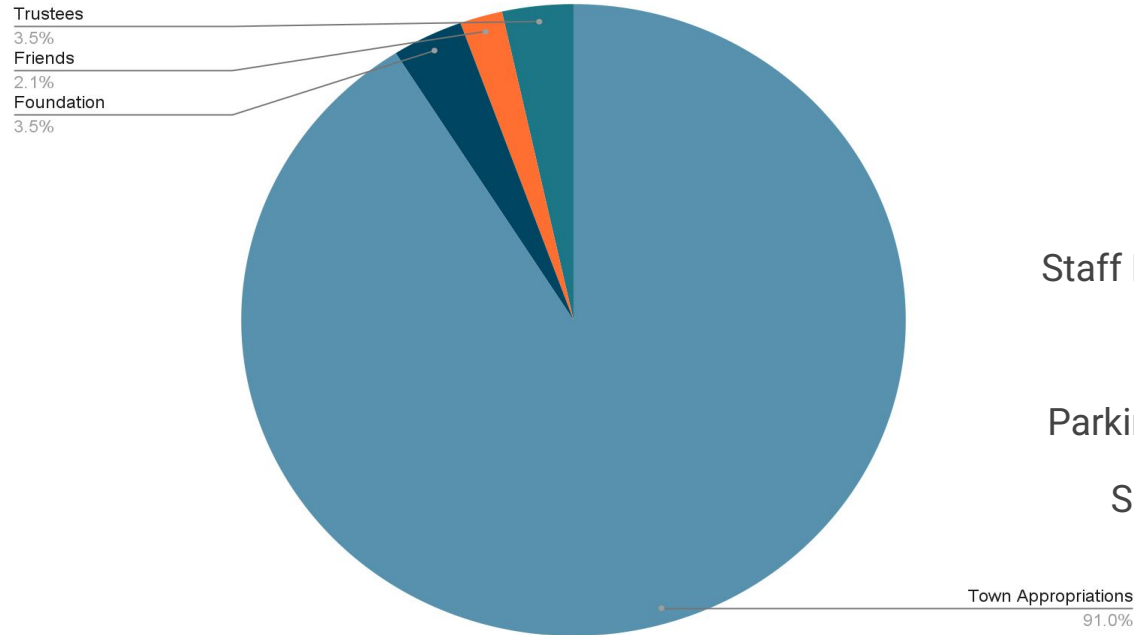


FY25/26 Highlights/Improvements

- OCLN catalog migration
 - Improved user interface
 - More robust software
- Writer in Residence - 4th term
 - Kim McLarin
- Speaker Series
 - Mac Barnett & Colm Toibin
- Outreach - 4th annual open house
- Upgraded online calendar & museum pass system



Looking Forward: FY27 Budget



Town Budget:

~\$1.99M

Additional Support:

~\$300,000

Staff Development, Programming,
Print & Digital Collections,
Parking Project, Museum Passes,
Speakers, Writer in Residence

Finances - Trustees or Capitol

1. 1.5 Library Positions > PT position funded in FY24; two remaining
 2. Town Capital Generator > approved at FY26 Town Meeting; installation ongoing
 3. Trustee updates (furniture, carpet, parking) - Overall cost: \$165,000
 - Parking conversations continue
 - Reading Room refurbishment
 4. Director and Staff development - \$10,000 annually
 5. Writer In Residence - \$10,000 annually
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Finances - Foundation

1. Speaker Series - \$50,000 annually
2. Books & Materials - \$75,000 annually
3. Other pilot projects & furniture - ~\$50,000 annually

Finances - Friends

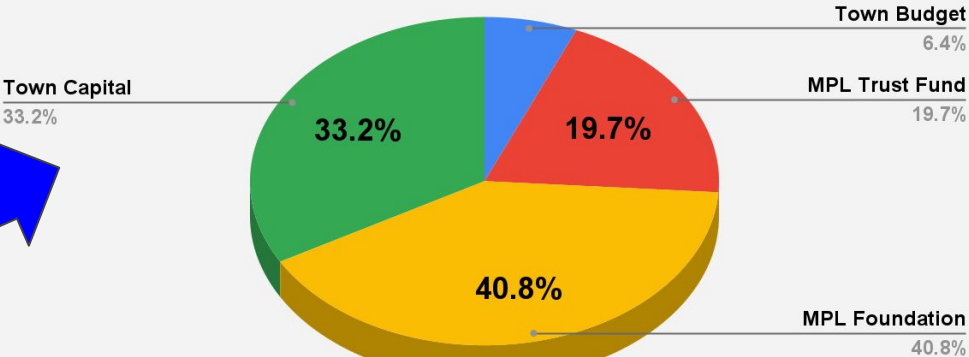
1. Museum Passes - \$7,500 annually
2. Library Programming - \$30,000 - \$40,000 annually



Overall MPL 5-Year Plan and Budget Summary

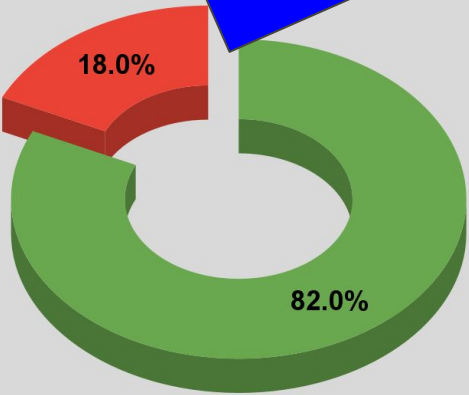
Funding Allocation MPL 5-Year Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027

*In addition to annual operating budget.



MPL Annual Budget Breakdown 2023-27

- Annual Operating Budget
- Strategic Plan Initiatives



FY27 Town Budget

- Maintains staffing at status quo
 - 1.5 position remain unfunded
- Completely funds books & materials to the State Minimum Requirement
- Final year of staff union contract (end June 30, 2025)
- Inflationary increases to utilities and other maintenance expenses



MPL's Strategic Priorities

1. The Library is Milton's Community Hub, offering a safe, comfortable, and user-friendly space.
2. The Library will provide excellent customer service and feature the expertise of its staff.
3. The Library will offer access to a wide variety of collections and services, while also promoting innovative ideas and initiatives to all members of our community.
4. The Library will be a destination for residents of all ages to explore programming activities for enjoyment, information, and increasing awareness.



FY26/27 Initiatives & Changes

- Speaker Series (MLF) & Writer in Residence
 - Library Open House events
 - Expand Patron Point / Welcome email system
 - Staffing Changes
 - Retirement - Diane Dunn & Rita Fontinha
 - Promotions - Chris Callaghan to Head of Tech Services & IT, and Fallon Heelen to full time Library Assistant
 - New Faces - Dorothy Brown, Young Adult Assistant and Lacy Stoneburner, Part Time Reference Librarian
 - Staff Development & Conferences
 - Parking
 - Yellow House
 - Statewide Advocacy - Freedom to Read & eBooks
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Library Trust Funds

- Continue to be invested with Bartholomew
- Recent expenditures include:
 - Patio Accessibility Project
 - Books & Materials
 - Staff development (classes, conference, etc.)
 - Infrastructure upgrades (IT)
 - Writer in Residence
 - Open House



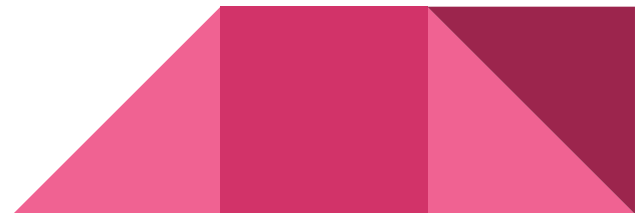
Milton Library Foundation

Update & Year in Review



Friends of the Milton Public Library

Update & Year in Review



Thank you

Thank you to the all of the members of the Milton Library Foundation and the Friends of the Milton Public Library for your continuous support. Your efforts allow the MPL to go above and beyond, and to strive to be a better library.

Thank you also to the dedicated staff of the MPL. They are the face of the Library. These are the people our residents know and many times the reason they keep coming back.

