



Hopkins District Library Strategic Plan – 2026

Using feedback from staff, board members, community members, community organizations, and community survey results, the library has set the following goals for the next 3-5 years. The goals are broken down into three categories.

Branching Out: to create new learning and exploration opportunities

- Offer new educational programming opportunities to patrons, ideally, once planning is completed, at least one program per quarter.
 - Connect with community members and organizations to find what expertise exists within the community, and who may be willing to present programs on their areas of expertise.
- Explore new and emerging library services to serve the community and fulfill the library's mission, including:
 - Makerspace (3d-printer, laser cutter, button-maker, etc)
 - New Databases and electronic libraries (Kanopy, CreativeBug replacement, etc).
 - New Library-of-Things items as needed in the community (tools/products for home improvement projects, safety and health needs, etc.)
 - New Educational Items to help kids and adults who learn differently (audio options, visual learning, etc)
- Investigate the best ways to inform the community about new library programs, materials, and services.
 - Begin a regular e-newsletter program to accompany print calendar/newsletter, and social media posts in promoting library programs and services.
- Invest in new outdoor, on-building, library-branded signage to help community members identify the library and beautify the exterior of the building.

Strengthening Roots: to embrace and enhance our community

- Focus on creating new partnerships (and expand existing partnerships) with local organizations and businesses.
 - Special emphasis on creating and maintaining a partnership with Hopkins schools.



- Investigate ways to help the library and community organizations provide information about events in the community.
 - Look into cost and feasibility of electronic signage on Main Street to display library activities and community events.
- Update and improve the library website to ensure it is a useful tool for library patrons, staff, board and anyone else searching for information about the library, its collections, and its programs.
- Regularly connect with library patrons for feedback on new and existing library services to ensure the library is meeting the needs of the community.
 - Discover the best way to get honest, actionable feedback from patrons and community members.
- Explore whether the community is happy with the current level of library services, or whether the community would prefer to expand library services through a millage increase.

Planting Seeds: to improve and expand our services, collections, and operations

- Ensure the library has up-to-date, useful collections that serve the needs of the community.
 - Complete a full inventory of the library collection to ensure what patrons see in library catalogs matches what's on the shelves.
 - Remove materials that are unused or in poor condition from all collections to ensure space exists for new, relevant materials (weeding).
- Explore ways to improve communication throughout the organization to ensure sound, collaborative, and transparent decision making.
- Review, update, and expand library policy manual to make sure all policies align with current practices and library values (including freedom of speech, expression, and thought), follow applicable laws, and protect the library, its patrons, its staff, and its board.
 - Ensure staff and board (and community members, when applicable) are familiar with, understand, and follow library policies when representing the library.
- Offer opportunities for staff and board training to improve knowledge of library services within the organization, improving library services to the community.

