



FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2034



CONNECT · DISCOVER · ENRICH

LIVINGSTON PARISH LIBRARY

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

MICHELLE PARRISH

On behalf of the Administration and staff of the Livingston Parish Library (LPL), I would like to thank the Livingston Parish community for its continued support and patronage of its library system.

As a result of the community's loyalty and trust, the Library has continued to grow and prosper since its establishment nearly 80 years ago, evolving from a small rural system into a robust, cutting-edge, and award-winning public institution.



The success of the Livingston Parish Library is directly connected to the citizens of Livingston Parish for continuously showing their passion for a vibrant library system.

I am honored to present the 2025-2034 Strategic Plan, which will serve as a road map to keep the Library on the path to achieving its goals and meeting the needs of a rapidly-growing parish. The Strategic Plan was developed, analyzed, and vetted by members of the LPL Leadership Team.

In the Library's ongoing effort to provide free, equal, and accessible services to all citizens of Livingston parish, LPL officials and personnel have identified three main goals and strategic objectives for reaching those goals, which include personnel, capital outlay projects, facility improvements, and service ideas.

The Library remains committed to providing all members of the community with resources and programs to fulfill their informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs. That mission was at the heart of the Library's inception when it opened inside a small room in the Livingston Parish Courthouse in 1946, and that mission will carry us into the future.

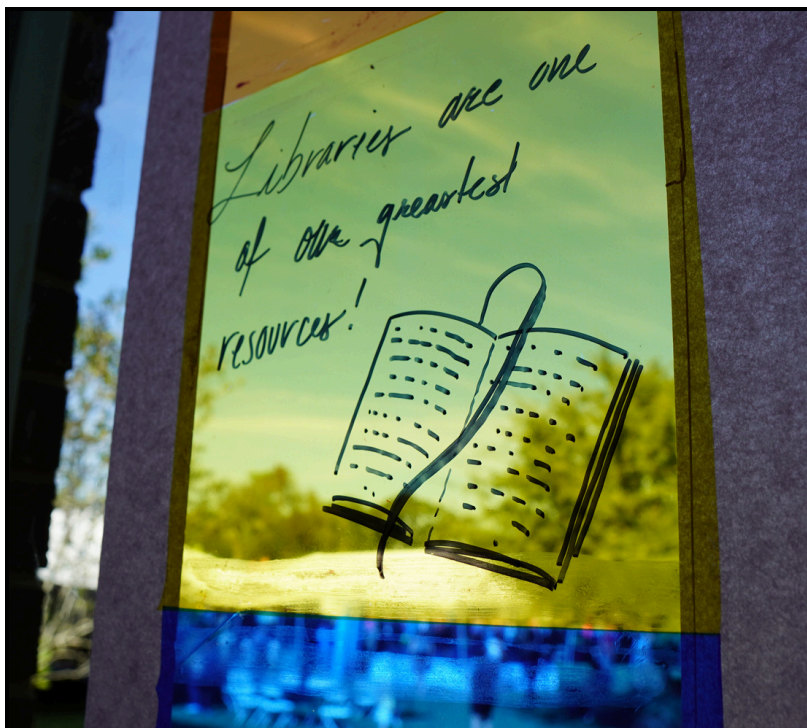
This Strategic Plan will enable us to fulfill that mission and our new motto: CONNECT. DISCOVER. ENRICH.

The Livingston Parish Library Board of Control, Administration, and staff would like to thank all the citizens of Livingston Parish for their love and support of libraries, reading, and learning.

AS A LIFELONG RESIDENT OF THIS AMAZING COMMUNITY, IT IS AN HONOR TO SERVE LIVINGSTON PARISH, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE YEARS OF SERVICE TO COME.

WE ARE AND WILL ALWAYS BE...

A LIBRARY OF THE COMMUNITY,
FOR THE COMMUNITY.





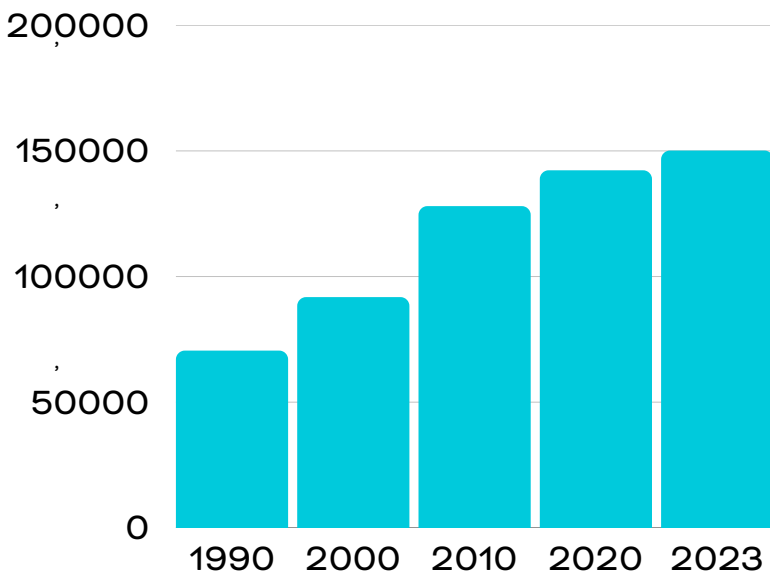
LIVINGSTON PARISH AND ITS LIBRARY



LIVINGSTON PARISH
LIBRARY

LIVINGSTON PARISH: COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

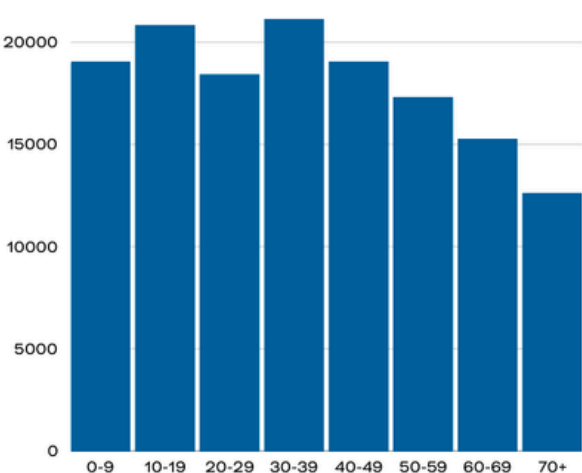
Population Growth



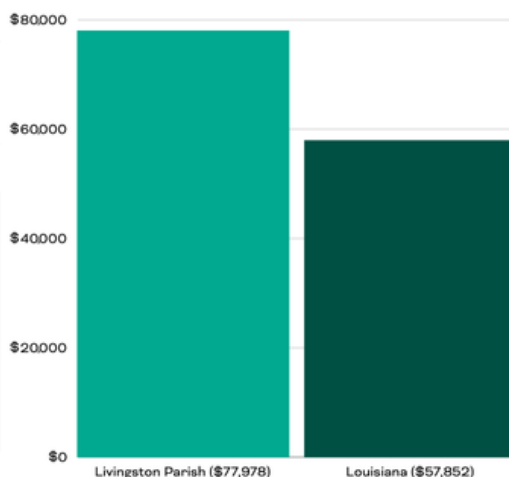
Noteworthy Facts

- Livingston Parish's population has more than doubled since 1990.
 - 1990: 70,523 residents
 - 2023: 150,145 residents
- In 2023, Livingston Parish was the state's fastest-growing parish, when comparing to the 2020 Census.
 - Livingston Parish: ▲ 5.5%
 - Louisiana: ▼ 1.8%
- Livingston Parish's population has grown by roughly 20,000 residents (15 percent) since the last LPL branch was built in 2012

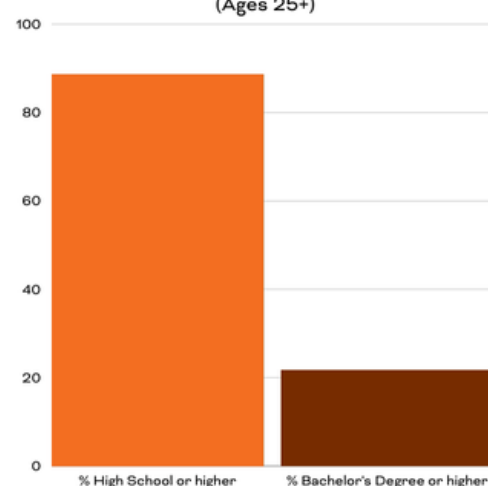
Age Distribution



Median Household Income

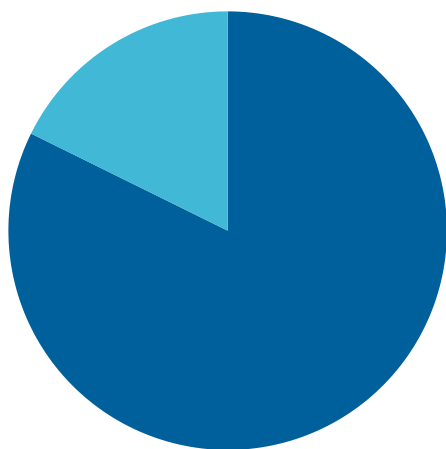


Education (Ages 25+)



% Renter-Occupied Homes

17.7%



% Owner-Occupied Homes

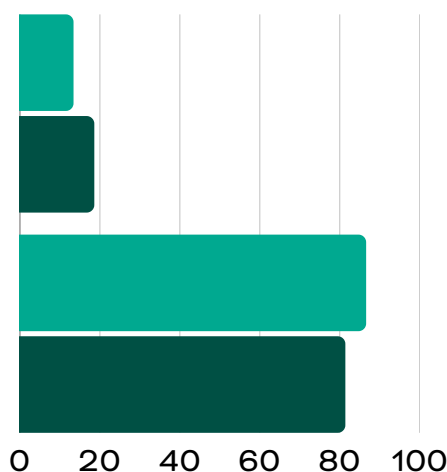
82.3%

● Livingston Parish

● Louisiana

% Persons in poverty

% Persons above poverty



YOUR LIBRARY'S HISTORY

In 1946, the Livingston Parish Police Jury established the Livingston Parish Library as a demonstration branch of the State Library, making Livingston the 24th parish in the state to establish parish-wide library services.

This first library occupied a small room inside the former Livingston Parish Courthouse on December 16, 1946. The system's initial collection totaled around 6,000 books.

Over the ensuing decades, small branches opened across the growing parish, including in Denham Springs, Whitehall, Watson, Albany, Walker, Springfield, Fourth Ward, Maurepas, French Settlement, Holden, and Killian. Typically, these "branches" were confined to small rooms with limited selections and services.

In September 1947, voters approved a 3-mill property tax to fund the system. That was the Library's sole source of funding until April 1995, when voters passed a 10-mill, 10-year tax dedicated to "acquiring, constructing, improving, maintaining, and operating the Livingston Parish Library." This tax has been renewed three times. In October 2003, voters approved a bond to build four new fully-modern branches. In 2024, that bond was paid off and taken off the rolls.

Today, the Livingston Parish Library provides high-quality, award-winning services to one of the state's most-populated and fastest-growing parishes.

The system currently operates from five state-of-the-art branches, an administrative building, and a Discovery Mobile (more than 92,000 square feet). The five branches in operation are: Main (Livingston), Albany-Springfield, Denham Springs-Walker, South, and Watson.

With a physical collection of more than 350,000 items and a digital catalog in the millions, Livingston Parish residents have free and easy access to traditional items (books, audiobooks, eBooks, eAudiobooks, online databases, movies, music) as well as non-traditional items (Cultural Passes, Learning Kits, Celebration Kits, Hobby Kits, Board Games).

Through the library system, parish residents can utilize public computers, laptops, and tablets as well as high-speed Wi-Fi, printing, 3D printing, copying, and faxing services. Residents can also use specialized areas such as the Idea Lab and Digital Media Lab, reserve meeting or study rooms, schedule a Book-a-Librarian session, find reading recommendations, or join a book club.

The Library provides regular programming for all age groups throughout the year in addition to large-scale community events, such as Book Festival, Comic Con, and Summer Reading. These programs draw thousands in attendance every year.

Ultimately, everything the Library does is centered around providing the entire Livingston Parish community with high-quality, engaging, and accessible services and resources in the most professional, transparent, and fiscally-responsible way.

2023 LPL STATISTICS



TOTAL CHECKOUTS

515,565

E-CONTENT

148,258

LIBRARY VISITORS

294,251

DATABASE USAGE

120,842

WIFI/COMPUTER USAGE

73,512



EVENTS

1,162

EVENT ATTENDANCE

48,710

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide all members of the community with the resources and programs necessary to fulfill their informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs.



VISION STATEMENT



To be our community's primary resource for information and learning opportunities, as well as be a leader for innovative library services that spark curiosity and inspire new ideas.

CORE VALUES

Connect

The library will **CONNECT** with Livingston Parish, our service community, to provide the resources and services that best serve our stakeholders.

Discover

By connecting with the service community, our stakeholders will **DISCOVER** the library's services and resources, allowing them to discover more about the world, their state, their parish, and their community.

Enrich

By connecting with the community and helping it discover the library's services and resources, we will **ENRICH** the lives of our patrons with educational, recreational, cultural, and informational resources and **ENRICH** the community at-large through literacy, collections, programs, and services.



DEVELOPING THE STRATEGIC PLAN



LIVINGSTON PARISH
LIBRARY

THOROUGH. TRANSPARENT. PROFESSIONAL.

The Livingston Parish Library's 2025-2034 Strategic Plan provides a thorough and flexible framework for the system to transform and grow to meet the needs of our parish community.

The process to develop the plan was divided into several subsections, including forming the Strategic Planning Committee; engaging the Board of Control; working with consultants; conducting studies, community surveys and meetings; and assessing future projects and expansion.

The Library is grateful to all patrons, staff members, community members, and officials who participated in the strategic planning process.

THE PROCESS

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: Comprised of LPL librarians, professionals of varying specialties and experience, and Board of Control members, the committee held regular in-person meetings to prepare, analyze, and develop the system's new Strategic Plan.

SURVEY: The Community Survey focused on subjects directly related to the system's future, services, and resources. Conducted in digital and physical formats, the survey was mostly completed by library users and visitors.

INDEPENDENT POLL: The Library commissioned an Independent Poll to get a better understanding of its status across the parish as well as what all stakeholders would like to see in the future.

TOWN HALLS: The Library held Town Hall Meetings to allow the public to share your thoughts, ask questions, voice concerns, learn about potential projects and services, and give their overall impressions of the system.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY: The SLU Business Research Center conducted an Economic Impact Study to provide an objective analysis of the Library's economic benefits to the parish.

PATRON SURVEY

The Library conducted a survey of active users May 20 - August 4, 2024. The dates for the survey coincided with the Library's 2024 Summer Reading Program to maximize participation.

This survey consisted of 10 questions, with all allowing for multiple selections. The questions pertained to the following topics:

- Physical Expansion
- Outreach
- Special Services
- Public Information
- Material Collections
- Physical/Digital Collections
- Community Engagement
- Databases

This survey was open to library patrons with a registered email address as well as library visitors going to one of our branches.

Respondents had the option of completing the survey electronically or filling out a physical copy at their local library.

In addition to completing the multiple choice questions, respondents were given space to leave comments at the conclusion of the survey.

SURVEY RESULTS - QUESTIONS 1-5

Physical Expansion: What would you like the Library to focus on in the future? (Select up to 2)

- Construct one new traditional branch in a populated area - 13.8%
- **Construct one or more satellite branches in rural areas lacking library access - 49.5%**
- Partner with the parish government to construct one new branch attached to an activity center - 19.8%
- Purchase and install Book Lockers at easily accessible points across the parish - 19.1%
- Renovate or expand existing facilities to include outside seating, pavilions, study rooms, or larger meeting areas 47.0%

Outreach: How should the Library expand Outreach services throughout the parish? (select up to 2)

- **Purchase a second Bookmobile, dedicating one Bookmobile to children and one Bookmobile to adults - 66.2%**
- Construct a garage to house the Outreach vehicles, supplies, collections, and office space for staff - 35.5%
- Purchase additional vans to allow multiple visits at once while retaining only one Bookmobile - 28.0%

Material Collections: What types of collection items matter the most to you? (select up to 2)

- **Physical books - 69.5%**
- Movies (DVDs & Blu-Rays) and Video Games - 10.6%
- Library of Things collections (Learning Kits, Cultural Passes, Game Kits, iPads, etc.) - 32.9%
- eBooks - 31.3%
- eAudiobooks - 29.4%
- Streaming music and movies - 6.9%

Physical Collections: What would you like to see the Library do? (select up to 2)

- **Increase the number of books for all ages - 49.7%**
- Increase the number of copies of popular books to shorten hold times - 36.8%
- Increase the number of large print books - 20.3%
- Increase the number of books in languages other than English - 7.6%
- Increase the number of serials (newspapers, magazines, etc.) 5.1%
- Expand the Library of Things (Learning Kits, Cultural Passes, Game Kits, iPads, etc.) - 42.2%
- Increase the number of Movies (DVDs & Blu-Rays) and Video Games - 13.0%

Digital Collections: What would you like to see the Library do? (select up to 2)

- **Increase the number of books for all ages - 47.5%**
- Increase the number of copies of popular books to shorten hold times - 34.8%
- Increase the number of checkouts for eBooks and eAudiobooks - 42.1%
- Increase streaming for music and movies - 19.4%
- Increase digital collections of newspapers, magazines, comics, etc. - 23.0%

SURVEY RESULTS - QUESTIONS 6-10

Databases: Which types of databases matter most to you?

(Select up to 3)

- **Educational for K-12 - 46.4%**
- Educational for college/adults - 27.5%
- Skill learning - 36.4%
- General reference - 20.6%
- Online Encyclopedia - 7.2%
- Health information - 16.1%
- Language learning - 13.3%
- Jobs and career - 14.2%
- Vehicle repair - 4.2%
- Self-improvement - 13.6%
- Crafts and DIY - 28.9%
- Food and recipes - 19.4%
- Travel and geography - 10.3%
- Business and finance - 6.7%

Special Services: Which special service matters most to you?

(Select up to 3)

- Idea Lab - 45.8%
- Digital Media Lab - 16.2%
- Study/meeting rooms - 33.8%
- **Computer/Wi-Fi usage - 46.9%**
- Genealogy/Ancestry Assistance - 26.0%
- Book-A-Librarian - 9.2%
- Readers Advisory - 18.4%
- Bookmobile visits - 21.8%
- Readers Club - 26.3%

Community Engagement: Which types of events interest or matter the most to you?

(Select up to 3)

- **Large community events (Summer Reading Program, Book Festival, and Comic Con) - 64.2%**
- Storytime or Wiggle Worms - 22.2%
- Book clubs - 29.4%
- Author events - 17.8%
- Guest presentations (Master Gardeners, cooking demonstrations, musical performances, etc.) - 56.7%
- Arts and crafts - 36.4%
- Do-It-Yourself programs - 33.9%

Community Engagement: Events for which age groups matter the most to you, or are you the most likely to attend? (Select up to 3)

- Ages 0-5 - 26.0%
- Ages 6-12 - 40.0%
- Ages 13-18 - 27.4%
- Ages 18-35 - 30.1%
- **Ages 36-59 - 47.4%**
- Ages 60+ - 40.0%

Public Information: How should the Library promote its services, events, and resources?

(Select up to 2)

- Library website (banners, online calendars, etc.) - 54.2%
- **Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) - 72.9%**
- Local newspapers (The Livingston Parish News, The Advocate, Country Roads, etc.) - 11.7%
- Radio broadcasts - 6.5%
- Podcasts or YouTube videos - 6.8%
- Roadside billboards - 9.5%
- Online advertisements or television spots (Google, Hulu, Channel 9, etc.) - 20.9%
- Paper fliers or signs at local businesses or community hubs - 10.0%

INDEPENDENT POLL

In order to gain a more complete understanding of its community, LPL officials believed it was beneficial and necessary to conduct an independent poll to reach a greater portion of residents.

JMC Analytics and Polling conducted the poll on the Library's behalf July 30-31, 2024. The poll was open to all Livingston Parish registered voters.

Voters were asked six questions pertaining to their impression of the library, their familiarity with library services/resources, the services/resources/programs they value most, their thoughts for the library to address the parish's growth, and actions the library should take to encourage use or continued use.

POLLING METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE SIZE

470 respondents - 70% cell phones (text), 30% landlines/cells (live dialed)

RACE/PARTY

91% White, 5% Black, 4% Other; 52% REP, 20% DEM, 28% IND

GEOGRAPHY

House Districts: D64 - 29%; D71 - 30%; D81 - 17%; D95 - 24%

POLLSTER'S SUMMARY

“In summary, the library system is well regarded in the parish, with current offerings being sufficient in the mindset of a plurality of parish residents.”

- John Couvillon, president of JMC Analytics and Polling

JMC Analytics and Polling listed two main takeaways from this poll.

Takeaway 1: The Library system has an overwhelmingly favorable rating.

Takeaway 2: The “status quo” mindset is fairly strong among respondents.

KEY FINDINGS

Voters have an overwhelmingly favorable impression of LPL

86% - Favorable



8% - Unfavorable

Female respondents had a higher “Very Favorable” rating than male respondents.

Female - 74% Very Favorable



Male - 58% Very Favorable

According to the poll, voters said lending/borrowing books was the library’s most important aspect. However, a large segment prioritized using physical library facilities.

Lending/borrowing books

43%

Utilizing physical library facilities - 33%

Computer, Wi-Fi, printer access — Programs, community events — Meeting, study, work space

13%

11%

9%

To address the parish’s growth, the top choice was to maintain/renovate existing spaces, followed by building small, rural branches. Those results were flipped in House District 81.

ALL FOUR HOUSE DISTRICTS

Maintain/Renovate Existing Spaces - 37%

Small, rural branches - 24%

HOUSE DISTRICT 81

Small, rural branches - 35%

Maintain/Renovate Existing Spaces - 29%

POLL RESULTS - QUESTIONS 1-6

Question 1: What is your overall impression of the Livingston Parish Library system?

- **Very Favorable - 67%**
- Somewhat Favorable - 19%
- Somewhat Unfavorable - 4%
- Very Unfavorable - 4%
- Undecided - 6%

Question 2: The Livingston Parish Library system offers various services, resources, and programs for all age groups throughout the year. How aware are you of these programs?

- Very Familiar - 29%
- **Somewhat Familiar - 47%**
- Unfamiliar - 22%
- Undecided - 1%

Question 3: Of the following services, resources, and programs that the Livingston Parish Library system offers, which one is most important to you?

- **Lend/borrow books - 43%**
- Public computers. Wi-Fi, printer access - 13%
- Programs/community events - 11%
- Electronic resources (eBooks, databases) - 10%
- Public spaces to meet, study, and work - 9%
- 1-on-1 assistance - 4%
- None of these are important - 11%

Question 4: Livingston Parish has grown exponentially since the last Library branch opened in 2012. What is the best way for the Library system to address the needs of the growing community?

- **Maintain/renovate existing spaces - 37%**
- Small branches in rural areas - 24%
- A 6th full-service branch - 14%
- Books lockers for 24/7 drop-off/pick-up - 11%
- Second Bookmobile - 7%
- Undecided (left blank) - 7%

Question 5: What actions by the library system would encourage you either to use the library or continue using the library?

- **Unlikely to change my habits - 34%**
- Programs or events that interest me - 19%
- Accessible/expanded electronic resources - 18%
- Having a library branch closer to me - 10%
- Accessible/expanded books/films - 8%
- Accessible/expanded 3D printing - 7%
- Undecided (left blank) - 3%

Question 6: To ensure survey responses are most accurate, are you male or female?

- **Female - 55%**
- Male - 45%

TOWN HALLS

The Livingston Parish Library hosted a series of community meetings over the summer to empower community members to have their voices heard.

These six meetings gave stakeholders the chance to share their thoughts, ask questions, voice concerns, learn about potential projects and services, and give their overall impressions of the library system.

Library officials were on hand to answer questions and take feedback. Attendees were also asked to complete a brief survey.

There was at least one meeting at each library branch, and two of the meetings were live-streamed on the Library's Youtube page. Additionally, all meetings were advertised on the Library's website, social media platforms, calendar, and newsletter, as well as through traditional media outlets.



ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

In order to gain an understanding of the estimated economic contribution of the Livingston Parish Library, the Southeastern Louisiana University Business Research Center conducted an independent economic study on behalf of the library system.

According to the study: “The direct economic benefits that communities receive from the libraries in Livingston Parish are significantly greater than the cost to operate the libraries.”

KEY FINDINGS

According to the Southeastern Louisiana University Business Research Center:

Key Finding 1: Livingston Parish communities received \$3.36 in direct economic benefits for each dollar (\$1) of cost.

Key Finding 2: The library’s salaries and expenditures generate an additional \$2.54 million in economic activity in the parish.

Key Finding 3: The total market value of the goods and services provided by the libraries in Livingston Parish in 2023 was \$8.83 million.



Livingston Parish Library GOALS



LIVINGSTON PARISH
LIBRARY

OUR GOALS

The mission of the Livingston Parish Library is to provide all members of the community with the resources and programs necessary to fulfill their informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs.

Our mission will be accomplished by achieving three goals.



GOAL 1

Expand library's reach into underserved communities.



GOAL 2

Maintain and expand current library services and resources.



GOAL 3

Maintain, renovate, and redesign existing library facilities.



= MISSION

Meet the community's informational, educational, recreational, and cultural needs.





STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES



LIVINGSTON PARISH
LIBRARY

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

GOAL 1

Expand the library's reach into underserved communities.



Construct
satellite
branches.



Acquire a
second
Bookmobile.



Expand
electronic
reach.



Implement
innovative
lending
services.

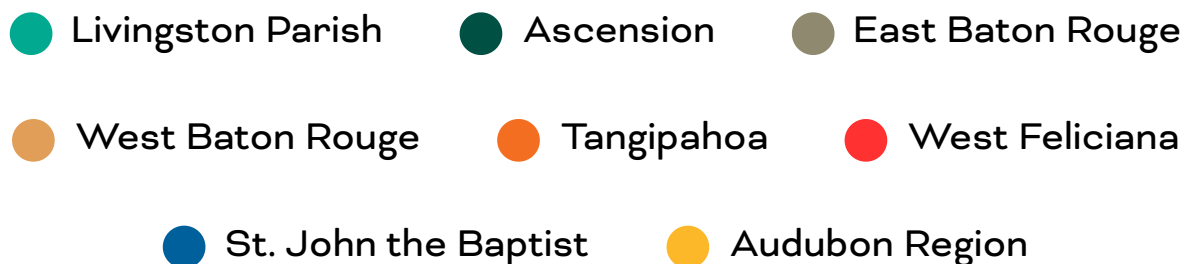
SATELLITE BRANCHES

BACKGROUND

The Library's newest branch was built in 2012. Since then, Livingston Parish has grown by 20,000 residents and is currently the fastest-growing parish in the state.

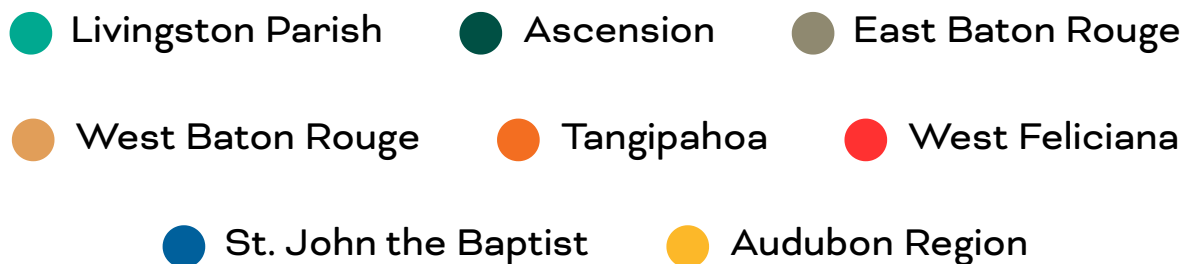
With a population exceeding 150,000, the five LPL branches serve an average of 30,029 residents. That is a higher resident-to-branch ratio than LPL's seven neighboring library systems.

AVERAGE RESIDENTS PER LIBRARY BRANCH



The total area in Livingston Parish is 703 square miles, giving each branch an average coverage area of 140 square miles. That is greater than all but two neighboring library systems (West Feliciana Parish and Audubon Region, which consists of East Feliciana and St. Helena parishes).

AVERAGE SQUARE MILES PER LIBRARY BRANCH



SATELLITE BRANCHES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Based on data gathered during the Strategic Plan process, LPL leaders feel the construction of SATELLITE BRANCHES would be an appropriate response to the parish's rapid growth of the last 20 years.

In both our patron survey and parish-wide poll, patrons and residents selected satellite branches as their top choice for physical expansion. This highlights the need for the Library to grow with the parish while also remaining fiscally prudent.

Each satellite branch would be roughly 3,000 square feet (one-third the size of South Branch, the system's smallest branch) and require one full-time, librarian and two part-time library associates.

Though smaller in size, these satellite branches would have a distinct look and feel from our traditional branches. These would be places for patrons to pick up/drop off checkout items, browse our Lucky Day collection, use public computers or free Wi-Fi, or utilize faxing/printing services. There would be greater space dedicated for work/study areas, which is especially important in rural areas that lack publicly available Wi-Fi.

SATELLITE BRANCH

*Estimates are subject to change.

	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
One-time costs		\$2.5-3 Million			
Salary/Wages		3 employees \$100,000	3 employees \$100,000	3 employees \$100,000	3 employees \$100,000
Other recurring expenses		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
TOTAL		\$2.6-3.1 Million	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

A SECOND BOOKMOBILE

BACKGROUND

The Library acquired its current Bookmobile (Discovery Mobile) in 2019, bringing back a service that the Library offered from 1947-1976.

Since its reintroduction to the public, the LPL's Bookmobile, under the direction of our Outreach Department, has become one of the Library's most popular services, averaging more than 30 visits per month and 6,000 checkouts per year.

However, the Outreach Department is unable to meet the high -- and continuously increasing -- demand for the Bookmobile's services, due to limitations with staffing, facilities, and vehicles.

BOOKMOBILE STATS (2023)

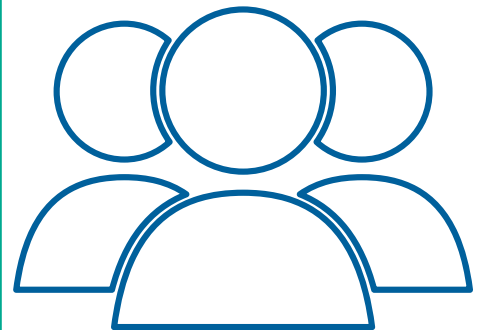
6,050
CHECKOUTS



391
LOCATIONS



9,731
VISITORS



A SECOND BOOKMOBILE

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Library leaders believe acquiring a second Bookmobile would enable the Outreach Department to better respond to the growing demand across the parish and increase efficiency within the department.

Acquiring a second Bookmobile would allow the system to dedicate one Bookmobile to children visits (schools) and one Bookmobile to adult visits (senior citizen facilities, retirement communities, etc.). By dedicating each Bookmobile to a particular age group, the Library will streamline its Outreach efforts.

The new Bookmobile will be dedicated to adult patrons who are unable to visit their local library. It will be handicap-accessible and be equipped with a mobile printer, laptops, checkout items, and high-speed Wi-Fi.

The new Bookmobile would require two part-time library associates, increasing the total employees in the Outreach Department to five.

NEW BOOKMOBILE

*Estimates are subject to change.

	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
One-time costs	Bookmobile \$500,000				
Salary/ Wages	2 employees \$35,000	2 employees \$35,000	2 employees \$35,000	2 employees \$35,000	2 employees \$35,000
Other recurring expenses	\$24,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$560,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000

EXPAND ELECTRONIC REACH

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Online and technological usage has grown exponentially over the last decade, changing how many conduct their work, education, health, hobbies, and interests. The reliance on online and technological tools was accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted a glaring digital divide in Louisiana, and specifically within Livingston Parish.

In order to better serve the evolving needs of our parish, the Library must be an accessible, modern, and secure resource for technology, particularly in those communities that lack tools such as high-speed Internet connectivity, computers, and smart devices.

WAYS TO EXPAND ELECTRONIC REACH



Establish CRADLEPOINTS in strategic public locations across the parish. These Cradlepoints would provide free, high-speed Wi-Fi in communities that lack publicly-available Internet services.



Increase awareness of the Library's supply of technological devices -- such as iPads, computer stations, Launchpads, and laptops -- and remain up-to-date on the latest relevant technology for the public.



Foster comfort with Internet and technology usage by providing technology programs, promoting different digital skills on the website and social media platforms, and allowing for tech help at each branch.



Maintain and promote robust cybersecurity measures to protect and educate the public on online privacy and cybersecurity, ensuring individuals can safely utilize online and technological tools in their library and at home.

INNOVATIVE LENDING SERVICES

BACKGROUND

With five library branches spread across more than 700 square miles, many in the community lack a nearby library facility. But given the growing costs of construction, it would be unfeasible to build branches in all corners of the parish.

In 2023, patrons of our five branches checked out nearly 300,000 physical books, or roughly 821 per day. But if more residents in the parish had a library facility closer to their homes, that figure would likely be higher.

To meet the needs of those without a convenient library facility while also remaining responsible with taxpayer dollars, Library leaders hope to explore the implementation of an innovative and cost-effective lending service: Book Lockers.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Launching the use of Book Lockers in the system would give those residents lacking a nearby library facility a contactless pick-up method and 24/7 access to requested items.

Book Lockers would be stationed at public areas to maximize accessibility.

HOW IT WOULD WORK

1. Request a book(s) from online catalog and select preferred Book Locker pick-up location.
2. Wait for a notification that book(s) are ready.
3. Visit Book Locker. Then scan your library card or type in your card number.
4. Secure book(s) and return on due date.



EXAMPLE OF BOOK LOCKER

Mansfield Holds Locker
Mansfield Public Library in Texas

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

GOAL 2

Maintain and expand current library services and resources.



Physical
Collection



eContent



Community
Engagement



Website
and App

PHYSICAL COLLECTION

Though there is growing demand for eContent, libraries across the country, including in Livingston Parish, are still most utilized for their physical collections. In the Independent Poll, lending/borrowing books was cited as the Library's top service.

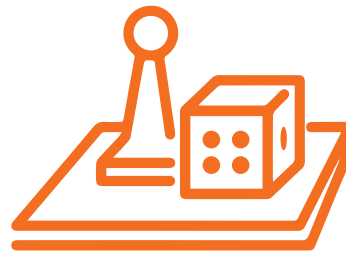
In the Livingston Parish Library, the physical collection includes a variety of traditional and non-traditional items, such as:



BOOKS



LEARNING
KITS



BOARD
GAMES



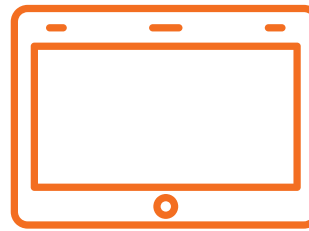
CULTURAL
PASSES



CELEBRATION
KITS



SEED
LIBRARIES



TABLETS



LITTER
KITS

PLAN: The Library will maintain a robust, well-rounded collection of physical items that services residents of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

In 2023, the Library tallied more than 365,000 checkouts for physical collection items, which comes out to roughly 1,001 per day.

According to our patron survey, the top three choices for meeting the demands for our Physical Collection were (in descending order):

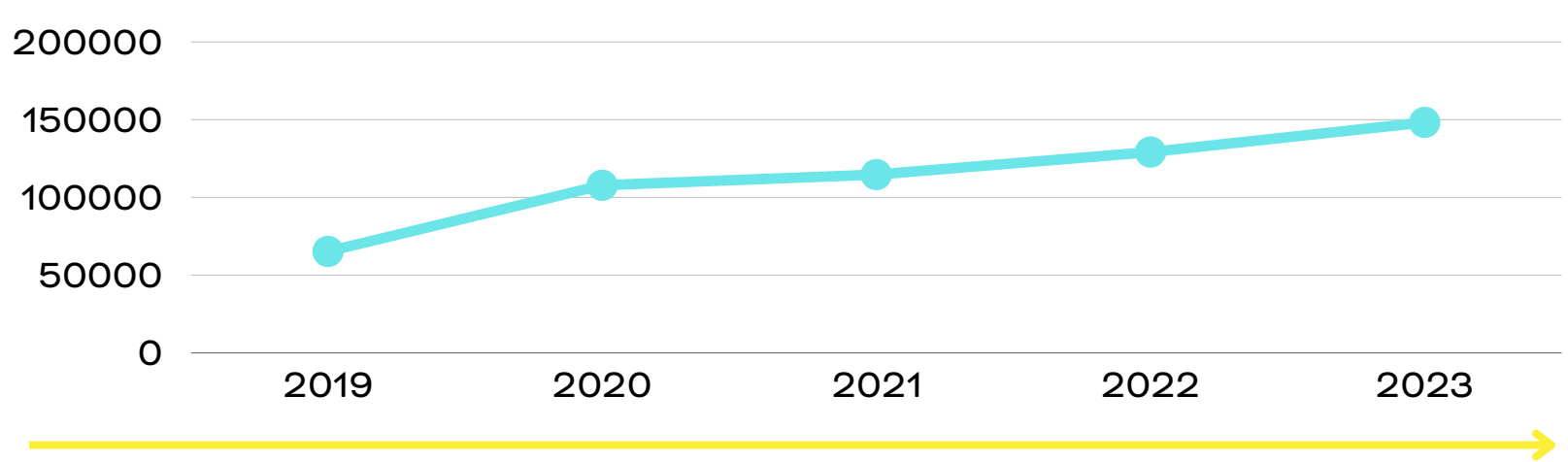
1. Increase the number of books for all ages
2. Expand Library of Things (Learning Kits, Cultural Passes, Board Games, etc.)
3. Increase the number of copies of popular physical books to shorten hold times

ECONTENT

The proliferation of eBooks signals a trend: A growing number of library patrons are reading books digitally, often driven by convenience and accessibility across various devices.

This trend has been evident in the Livingston Parish Library, which has seen eBook circulation increase from 65,254 in 2019 to 148,258 in 2023. That is an increase of 127%.

EBOOK CIRCULATION (2019-2023)



PLAN: The Library will dedicate more resources to meeting the increasing demand for eBooks, eAudiobooks, online databases, and other eContent.

The demand for eContent is showing no signs of slowing down: The Library is currently on pace to eclipse the eContent circulation of 2023. According to our patron survey, the top three choices for meeting the demands for our Digital Collection were:

- 1. Increase the number of books for all ages
- 2. Increase the number of checkouts
- 3. Increase the number of copies of popular books to shorten hold times

Along with increasing the availability of eBooks and eAudiobooks, the Library must continue to secure online databases that meet the needs of the public. With more than 120,000 database uses in 2023, this is another area that is only showing signs of increased utilization. According to our patron survey, the three most sought-after types of databases were:

- 1. Educational for K-12
- 2. Skill learning
- 3. Crafts and DIY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2023, more than 48,000 people attended a library event, program, workshop, class, presentation, or other LPL-sponsored activity. Under the direction of our Community Engagement department, these events include:



ADULT
LITERACY



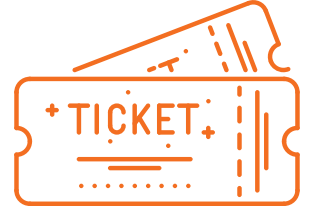
ARTS AND
CRAFTS



STORYTIME



BOOK
CLUBS



MOVIE
NIGHTS



COOKING
CLASSES



PERFORMERS



COMMUNITY
EVENTS



SPEAKERS,
PRESENTERS



ENGLISH AS
A SECOND
LANGUAGE

The popularity of the Community Engagement department has increased much in recent years, particularly when it comes to our large-scale events of Book Festival, Comic Con, and Summer Reading. From October 2023 through August 2024, the Library had the:

HIGHEST
ATTENDANCE FOR
BOOK FESTIVAL
IN LPL HISTORY

HIGHEST
ATTENDANCE FOR
COMIC CON
IN LPL HISTORY

HIGHEST
PARTICIPATION AND
ATTENDANCE FOR
SUMMER READING
IN LPL HISTORY

PLAN: The Library will continue to dedicate resources toward offering high-quality, engaging, and accessible Community Engagement programs for all ages, backgrounds, and interests in addition to exploring ways to meet the increasing popularity of large-scale events such as Book Festival, Comic Con, and Summer Reading.

WEBSITE AND APP

The library's website and app should streamline the online patron experience and maximize access to the plethora of library resources that are available. A good library website and app should:

BE EASY TO USE
AND ACCESSIBLE
TO ALL USERS

SHOWCASE A
WIDE RANGE OF
CONTENT

HIGHLIGHT
SERVICES,
RESOURCES, ETC.

INTERACT WITH
THE COMMUNITY
IT SERVES

UNDERGO
CONSTANT
IMPROVEMENTS

PLAN: The Library will completely overhaul its website to provide users an enhanced, modern, and user-friendly experience that is accessible across all platforms and devices. The Library will also launch an official library user app to further boost a positive patron web-based experience.

ESTIMATED COSTS



WEBSITE
OVERHAUL
\$20,000-\$30,000



APP
LAUNCH
\$10,000

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

GOAL 3

Maintain, renovate, and redesign existing library facilities.



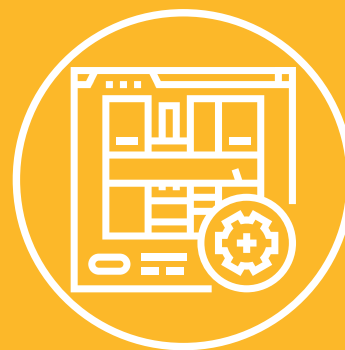
Perform upgrades and repairs to buildings.



Beautification projects for outdoor spaces.



Add study/work areas to all branches.



Redesign and/or reconfigure indoor spaces.

UPGRADES AND REPAIRS

BACKGROUND

Nearly 20 years ago, the Livingston Parish Library launched a multi-year capital outlay project to transform its collection of small, rural branches into a centralized system made up of larger, state-of-the-art facilities.

Beginning May 12, 2005, and ending June 1, 2012, the Library constructed five branches that are still in use today. Combined, these buildings cover nearly 85,000 square feet.

OPENING DATES FOR BRANCHES



DENHAM SPRINGS-WALKER BRANCH

December 1, 2006



ALBANY-SPRINGFIELD BRANCH

January 30, 2007



WATSON BRANCH

April 12, 2007



SOUTH BRANCH

June 13, 2007



MAIN BRANCH (LIVINGSTON)

June 1, 2012

UPGRADES AND REPAIRS

BACKGROUND

The Library's facilities are a major part of the patron experience and should be evaluated as part of the Library's commitment to providing high-quality service. Since the opening of the new branches, the administration has gone to great lengths to ensure good stewardship of all buildings, keeping facilities maintained, cleaned, and enjoyable for the community.

However, with four of the Library's five branches nearing 20 years of age, there are necessary maintenance projects that need to be considered, planned for, and executed over the next five years.

By creating and maintaining library facilities that our community can be proud of, the Library can more effectively make a lasting, positive impression on all community members to inspire a lifelong love of reading, learning, and community engagement.

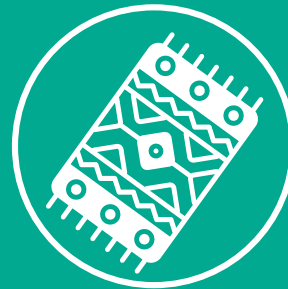
WHAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED



ROOFS



HVAC
SYSTEMS



CARPET AND
FLOORING



FURNITURE
AND
EQUIPMENT

ROOF REPLACEMENTS



A building's roof is a crucial structural component, protecting everything underneath it from the elements. That is especially true for our libraries, which house hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of inventory. Since south Louisiana roofs have shorter lifespans compared to the national average due to the state's climate, it will be necessary to replace roofs at our branches within the next five years.

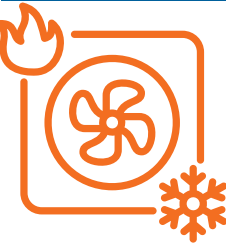
AVERAGE BRANCH SQUARE FOOTAGE

16,578

ESTIMATED ROOF REPLACEMENT COST

\$125,000-\$175,000

HVAC SYSTEMS



HVAC systems are meant to maintain good indoor air quality and provide thermal comfort. There are many residents who lack adequate HVAC systems in their homes, and they rely upon our libraries to offer that. Additionally, our collection items require climate-controlled facilities to prevent damage. Those factors make it imperative for us to maintain up-to-date HVAC systems across the system.

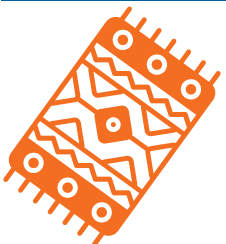
AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF HVAC SYSTEM

15-25 YEARS

AVERAGE AGE OF LPL HVAC SYSTEMS

16.2 YEARS

CARPET AND FLOORING



It is critical for the Library to maintain its carpet and flooring at its branches -- especially when you consider that the five branches drew nearly 300,000 visitors in 2023. In the last year, the Library has performed moisture mitigation and floor replacement at three branches, but two others will soon require similar work.

RECEIVED NEW FLOORING

DSW, WATSON, ASB

NEEDING FLOOR REPLACEMENT

MAIN (LIVINGSTON), SOUTH

AVERAGE COST

\$100,000

FURNITURE/EQUIPMENT UPGRADES



Together, library furniture and equipment play a critical role in determining how people interact with and value a library. If people visiting the library feel like their needs are being met, they are much more likely to return and utilize the library's services. To encourage continued use of the library buildings, we must regularly modernize what's inside of them, including our furniture, computers, faxing/printing machines, and work stations.

COST OF DESKTOP/MONITOR

\$1,100

IPAD STATION

\$600

STUDY TABLE AND FOUR CHAIRS

\$500-\$1,000

BEAUTIFY OUTDOOR SPACES

BACKGROUND

In Livingston Parish, spending time outdoors is a treasured pastime, whether for work, recreation, or personal fulfillment. Currently, only one Library branch has a dedicated outdoor space (Denham Springs-Walker Branch) for public use. All other branches lack usable outdoor spaces, despite having land to do so.

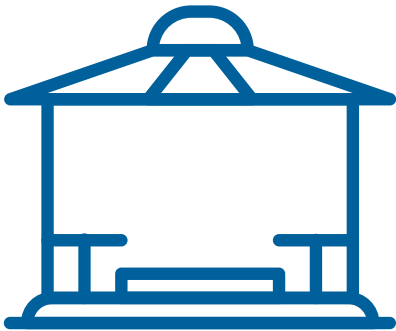
Our plan is to convert empty spaces at some of our branches into functional outdoor areas that can be utilized by the library and the public. Two of these projects will be included as part of bigger, necessary capital outlay projects.

The construction of these spaces would enhance the Library experience and its importance by:

- Enabling the Library to better host large-scale events (Book Festival, Summer Reading, etc.)
- Allow for outdoor storytimes and other smaller-scale Library programs/workshops
- Create new spaces for patrons to read, study, or work
- Provide public areas for individuals, families or groups to gather, thus increasing Library usage

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

MAIN BRANCH PAVILION



SOUTH BRANCH NATURE TRAIL



A-S BRANCH COURTYARD



BEAUTIFY OUTDOOR SPACES

MAIN BRANCH (LIVINGSTON) - PAVILION

The front lawn at Main Branch is currently a blank space that is only utilized for outdoor movie nights and the Livingston Parish Book Festival, the Library's biggest event that continues to grow each year.

This project would transform this empty space into a covered, outdoor section of the branch. This would include: a pavilion with a stage, tables, and moveable seating; a percussion garden; a connecting sidewalk for wheelchair accessibility; speakers; high-speed Wi-Fi; lighting; and electrical hookups.

The estimated cost for this project is \$275,000. However, a pavilion would eliminate the regular costs accrued for events such as Book Festival, which require the renting of tents, tables, chairs, etc.

SOUTH BRANCH - NATURE TRAIL

The empty lawn behind South Branch has been earmarked for a Nature Trail for two years. The inspiration came from area teachers and students who wished for a safe, accessible outdoor space for field trips. Through the process, Library leaders have also learned that the empty lawn presents a safety hazard, meaning preventative work will eventually become necessary.

Once complete, this fenced-in outdoor area will include: a walking path of natural turf, seating, a small pavilion, gardening areas, a retention pond, high-speed Wi-Fi, and lighting.

The estimated cost for this project would be \$200,000.

ALBANY-SPRINGFIELD BRANCH - COURTYARD

The Albany-Springfield Branch will soon require a retaining wall on its west side to prevent erosion. While this project is underway, the Library plans to build a courtyard near the retaining wall, in an effort to mitigate costs.

This outdoor courtyard will be similar to the courtyard at the Denham Springs-Walker Branch. It will include: plaza-styled picnic tables, park benches, paved walkways, gardening, high-speed Wi-Fi, and lighting.

The estimated cost for this project is \$200,000.

STUDY/WORK AREAS

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Library's study/work rooms are available during normal hours for use by patrons who need a quiet atmosphere to pursue individual study or work, as well as to contain the noise of small group discussions. The study rooms can be used by up to 6 people. In 2023, there were nearly 3,000 bookings at study/work rooms at our Main Branch, Denham Springs-Walker Branch, and Watson Branch.

However, two LPL branches that serve our more rural communities lack study/work rooms: Albany-Springfield and South. To better serve these communities, the Library plans to add study rooms to these branches within the next five years.

BRANCHES WITH STUDY/WORK ROOMS



BRANCHES WITHOUT STUDY/WORK ROOMS



Along with ensuring that all five LPL branches have dedicated study/work rooms for patron use, the Library must regularly update new and existing study/work rooms to better meet the evolving needs of the community.

Additionally, the Library must reconfigure other facility spaces to create effective study/work areas, such as by adding enclosed single-person cubicles.

WAYS TO ENHANCE STUDY/WORK ROOMS

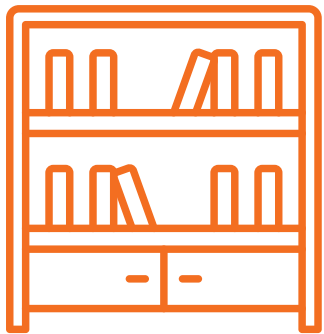
1. Add computers and/or laptops to all study rooms.
2. Equip study/work rooms with office-type items, such as dry-erase boards, flexible seating, noise-cancelling headphones, etc.
3. Station carrel desks (similar to cubicles) with flexible seating at all branches.

REDESIGN INDOOR SPACES

ABOUT THE PROJECT

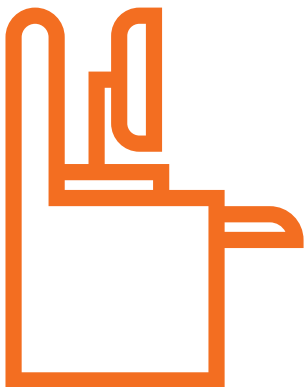
It is critical that libraries regularly redesign and/or reconfigure the inside of their branches to improve the user experience, support patrons' needs, and make spaces more functional for an evolving society. However, for nearly 20 years, the layout of the LPL's five branches has been largely unchanged.

For this initiative, Library leaders will explore ways to redesign and reconfigure the physical spaces of the LPL branches. This will be accomplished by completing various tasks.



Explore ways to recategorize books and shelves based on patron type, age, genre, subject, etc.

Creatively reconfigure spaces inside the library to allow for a greater balance between collaboration and independent work.



Consider how to best adapt our indoor spaces to ever-changing technology.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Livingston Parish Library is grateful to all library patrons and community members who participated in the strategic planning process. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in a community meeting, respond to a survey, fill out a comment card, or message us via social media. The new Strategic Plan is a thorough document, with input from the staff and the public, on how to steer the library into the future while providing a flexible and achievable framework and goals.

The Administration is thankful for all of the critiques, comments, and ideas proposed by our patrons. Such a public voice is needed to bolster the system's fortitude and ground its goals and services in the reality of community needs.

We are, after all, a library of the community and for the community.

We especially thank the Strategic Planning Committee for their hard work and diligence in making this the most thorough, professional, and transparent strategic plan yet conceived by the Livingston Parish Library. We also thank the Board of Control for their input, support, and guidance as we move the system into the future.

Strategic Planning Committee

Michelle Parrish, Director
Dustin Cotton, Assistant Director of Branch Services
Julia Falcon, Assistant Director of Support Services
Wendy Corkern, South Branch Manager
Danielle Durr, Watson Branch Manager
David Gray, Public Information Officer
Nathan Heck, Albany-Springfield Branch Manager
Alejandra Juan, Denham Springs-Walker Branch Manager
Kyla Robertson, Head of Community Engagement
Lila Wincapaw, Head of Collection Development

Board of Control

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Rebecca (Becky) Howze Morgan, Vice President
Dewanna Christian
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Patricia Wilson

