

Novi Public Library Annual Report

July 2024 - June 2025



Cultivate Learning
Inspire Creativity
Foster Inclusivity



The Next Chapter

I am writing this shortly after celebrating the 65th anniversary of the Novi Public Library (NPL). We started with humble beginnings in 1960 when a few ladies started collecting books within the neighborhoods of Novi for the Friends. Today, NPL averages just over 1,000 visitors a day, over 5,000 computer log-ins per day, over 55,000 checkouts per month, houses an onsite collection of over 150,000 items and hosted 3,415 programs just this year. We have a lot to celebrate with a dedicated staff of approximately 65 employees led by our wonderful Director, Julie Farkas, for the past 18 years. We have grown from just books to more books, movies, digital and online materials, lectures, an offsite automated kiosk and a very relaxing and welcoming gathering place for everyone to enjoy.

For the last 15 years, we have also enjoyed a new and contemporary building which is warm and inviting to a very diversified population. I am happy to report that in the next fiscal year NPL will retire bonds used to pay for the construction of the building resulting in a savings of .34 mills to the Novi taxpayers.

But what about the future and the next 65 years? Two years ago, NPL hired ReThinking Libraries to survey the community and various citizen groups, and analyze the performance of NPL compared to other libraries in the State of Michigan, as well as neighboring libraries as part of a new Strategic Plan. One of the conclusions was that NPL's total usage per dollar of funding is one of the lowest the firm had ever worked with ... "there is a funding gap relative to both usage and community expectations of the library." For example, the average Novi resident expends about \$52.00 per year to operate NPL and the average resident in neighboring communities expends about \$82.00 per year to operate their local library.

This year, NPL hired Michigan Reserve Associates LLC to conduct a study of capital needs for the Library over the next 25 years. The study recommended that NPL set aside in a reserve account annual contributions to pay for necessary and expected capital items over the next 25 years. A few of the items anticipated in just the next few years are as follows:

1. A new automated material return system to replace the older existing system, which is now over 15 years old. This will save staff time and assist in the prompt return of items to the shelves for the next patron.
2. Building infrastructure with new front doors to make the building more accessible and reduce the amount of heat loss.
3. Interior public spaces with carpet replacement.
4. Upgrade the youth play area to accommodate the needs of our youngest patrons.
5. A new boiler system to replace the existing 15-year-old system.

The list of capital needs goes on but it is obvious there is and will be a need for more repairs and replacements in a building that is over 15 years old.

I want to thank the patrons and guests who participated and supported the Library during the past year and ask for your continued support and participation. In particular, I want to thank my fellow Board Trustees, the dedicated library staff, Director Farkas, Mayor Fisher, City Council, city staff, and the Friends of the NPL for making the NPL one of the best and true gems in the city of Novi.

If you do not have a library card in your wallet or on your phone, I encourage you to obtain one today!

Very truly yours,

Mark A Sturing, Library Board President



Our Impact on the Community




844,079

ITEMS CHECKED-OUT



668,556

PHYSICAL ITEMS



175,523

DIGITAL ITEMS



3,647

NEW CARDS ISSUED

1,090

LAKESHORE LENDING
LIBRARY CHECKOUTS



155,180

ITEMS IN THE
COLLECTION



280

NPL @ YOUR DOOR
ITEMS DELIVERED

COLOR OUR WORLD™

2,484

SUMMER
READING
PARTICIPANTS

40,195

BOOKS READ DURING
SUMMER READING

374,825

LIBRARY VISITS

1,838,805

COMPUTER LOGINS
(LIBRARY COMPUTERS &
WIRELESS)

40,477

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

6,408

TEEN SPACE VISITS

2,587

ICUBE SESSIONS

538

MEETING ROOM RENTALS

↑ TRENDING UP

11.4% 10.4%

CARDHOLDERS DIGITAL CHECKOUTS

15.7% 12.3%

MEETING ROOM RENTALS COMPUTER/INTERNET LOGINS

Your Library Enhanced

July 2024 - June 2025



Teen Area Updates

Relocated YA collection for increased accessibility, new furniture was added, increasing the capacity to 35 students, the room was renamed "Teen Lounge" and new signage and a door were installed.



Staff Recognition

Staff anniversaries and birthdays are recognized in multiple ways, new logo wear purchasing opportunities were made available and reserved employee parking & "Employee of the Month" spots were designated.



Single User Booth

A single user booth was installed on the 2nd Floor in June 2025 to increase quiet study/work space, supported by the Friends of Novi Library.

- Offered upgraded activity carts with new materials and games in the youth area in July 2024.
- Adjusted pricing of public printing/copy after 13 years in July 2024.
- **Began offering online request platform for meeting room availability** and to submit requests online in July 2024.
- Rebranded NPL with new colors, social media templates and Style & Branding Guide in July 2024.
- **Added additional seating to Teen Space in August 2024**, increasing the capacity to 72 students.
- Began offering free 3D Printed Assistive Devices for patron's with disabilities in October 2024, supported by the Friends of the Library.
- **Updated the Library's DEI Statement and approved new Accommodations and Accessibility Policy** in October 2024
- Hosted first Human Library event in November 2024, designed to foster community dialogue and engagement.
- Purchased six sewing machines for the iCube Makerspace in December 2024, supported by the Friends of Novi Library.

- Completed review of Library HR Policies and approved by the Board in January 2025.
- Installed three device charging stations in February 2025, supported by the Friends of Novi Library.
- Installed additional lighting the parking lot for safety in February 2025.
- Upgraded firewall system for enhanced security in April 2025.
- **Unveiled fifth Read Box location** at Jessica's Splash Pad in May 2025.
- **Approved purchase of a new Automated Return System** in May 2025.
- Supported the Novi Historical Commission and their purchase of new microfilm reader for the Local History Room.
- Replaced AWE stations with better learning technology for children in June 2025.
- Added stickers to new adult material based on user feedback.
- **Connected with over 6,000 residents at the City's of Novi's Community Fest** in June 2025.
- Averaged 200 participants at Summer Songfest concerts, supported by the Friends of Novi Library.
- Enhanced novilibrary.org usability with new Recite Me accessibility toolbar features like focus text, cursor options and simplified content.



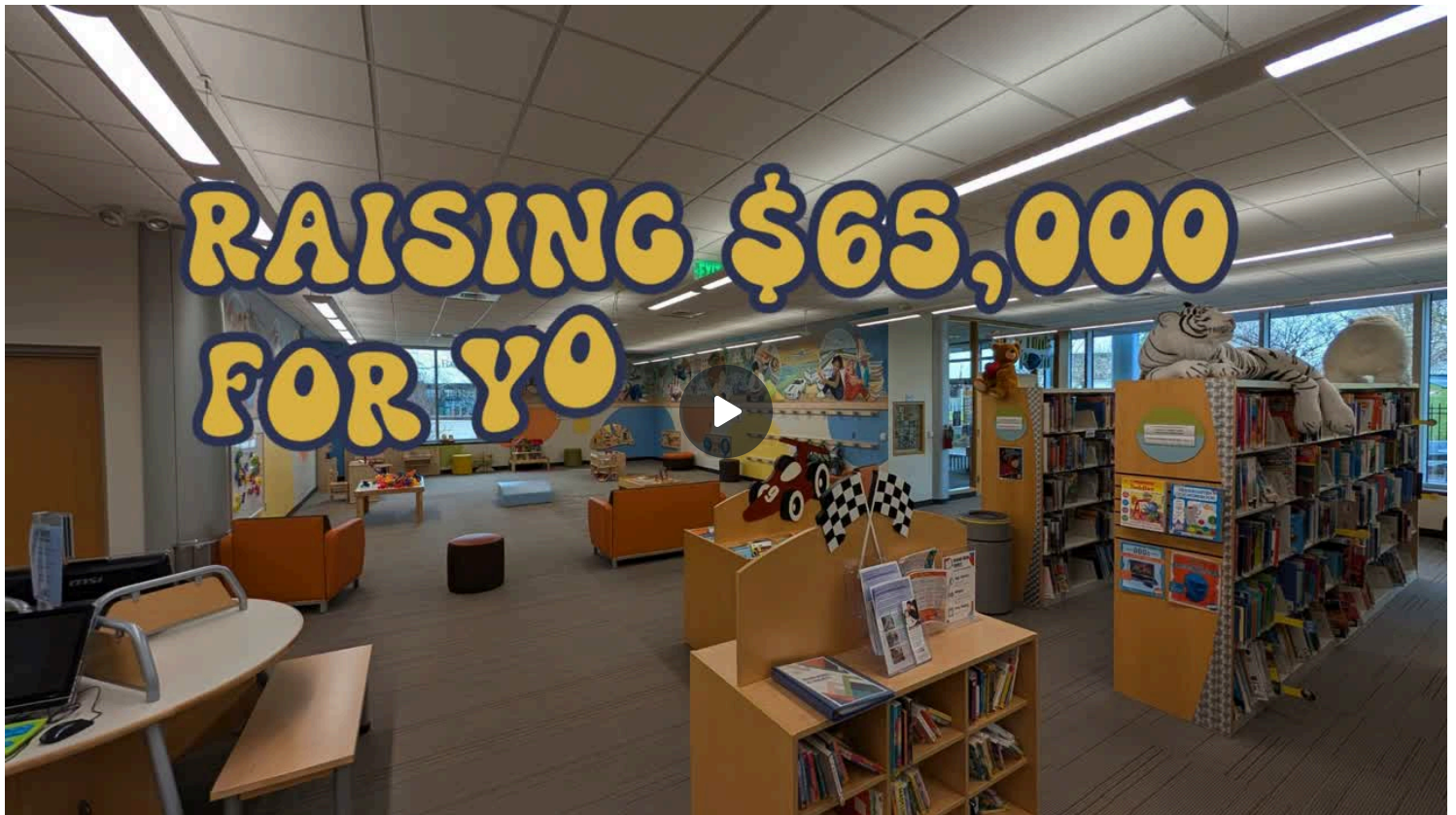
More Highlights Available at:
[2024/2025 Strategic Year in Review](#)

Looking Forward

- **Celebrating the Library's 65th Anniversary** in October 2025.
- Raising \$65,000 in conjunction with the Library's 65th Anniversary.
- **Identifying and addressing accessibility needs** in the community, supported by a generous library sponsor.
- Surveying the community for their wants and needs.
- Connecting with Walled Lake School District to get cards into the hands of Novi resident students.
- Translating important policies into multiple languages so they are more easily accessible.
- **Renovating front doors** for better temperature management.
- Adding additional single user booth to the 1st floor, supported by the Friends of Novi Library.
- **Installing new Automated Return System** in the winter.
- Unveiling a Read Box in the newly developed Sakura residences.



Inspire Creativity, One Child at a Time



Join us in our mission to raise \$65,000 for future renovations in our Youth Area, ensuring that young readers will enjoy this space for many years to come!

Renovations will include furniture, expanded program space, shelving, new carpeting and interactive play equipment. As of December 9, \$51,694.00 has been raised!

Donation Information:
novilibrary.org/65years

Support from Donors & Sponsors



\$34,570.00

**Friends of Novi Library donations for
Library programs, services & technology**



\$71,476.02

**raised in program and event sponsorships,
in-kind and general donations**

\$683.26

**general donations 271 account,
in-kind donations**

\$56,526.02

**designated donations
272 account**

\$14,950.00

**raised in program and event
sponsorships**

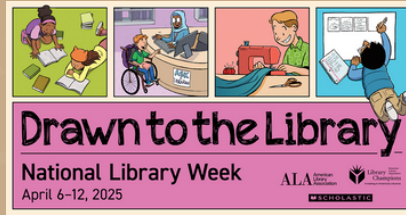
Voices from Our Community



"I love this system!!!"

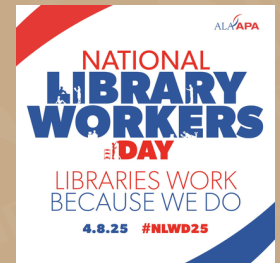


"That's a great idea! Sometimes you just need some peace and quiet to study."



"I love the wide variety of literature available and the very friendly staff."

"It's the perfect place to connect and spend quality time with my daughter while fostering a love for books!"



"Thank you to all our Novi Library workers for making our library great!!"



"Good idea. I meet too many people who say they are not creative. Everyone can make and do something."



"This is my son's favorite statue. He always sit with them just before getting inside the library."



"I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for celebrating Diwali as part of your dedication to diversity and community inclusion. By wishing for this festive occasion, you've created a welcoming space for those who observe the festival and offered others a chance to learn about and appreciate different cultures."

Thank you for your commitment to making the library a place where all community members feel valued and connected. Your efforts make a meaningful impact and help foster a community of understanding and respect."

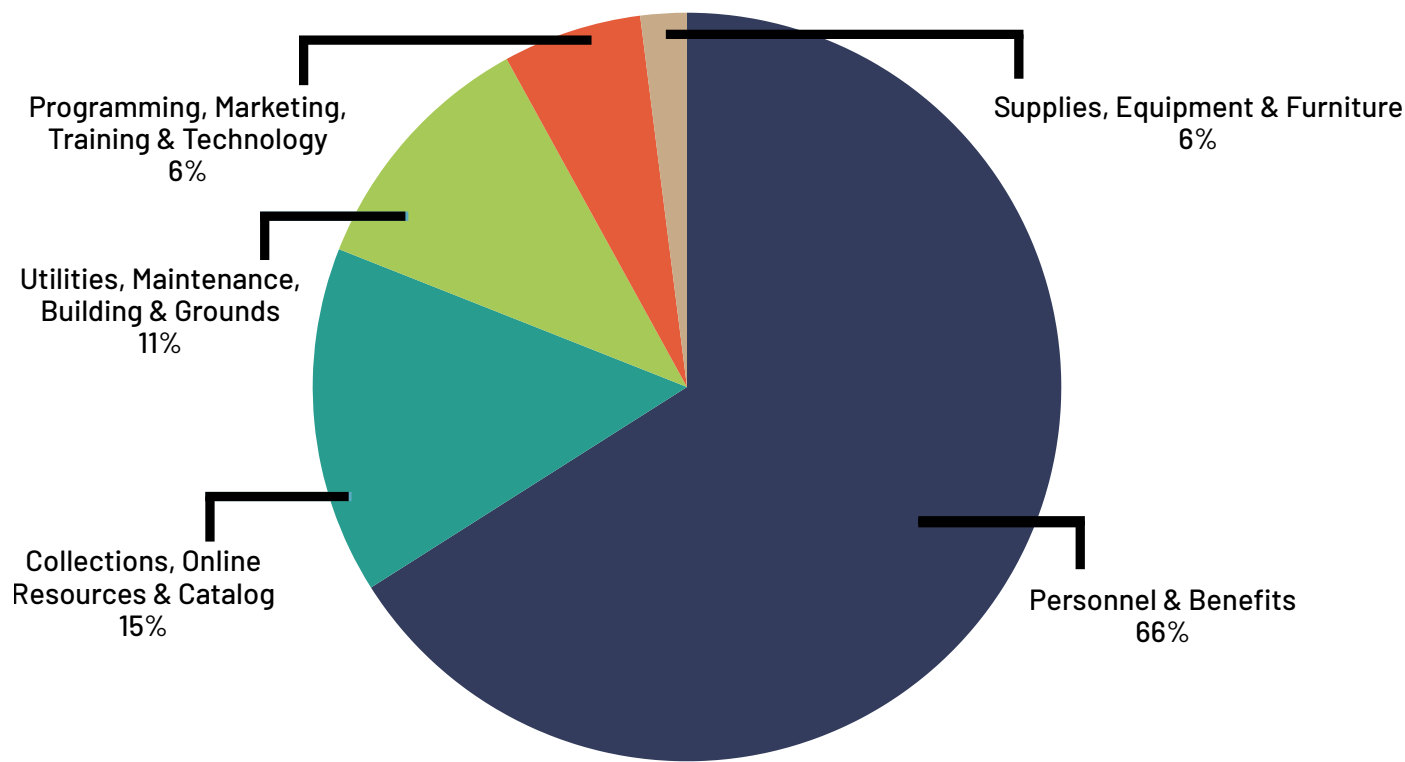


Library Users on Facebook

July 2024 - June 2025 Financial Summary

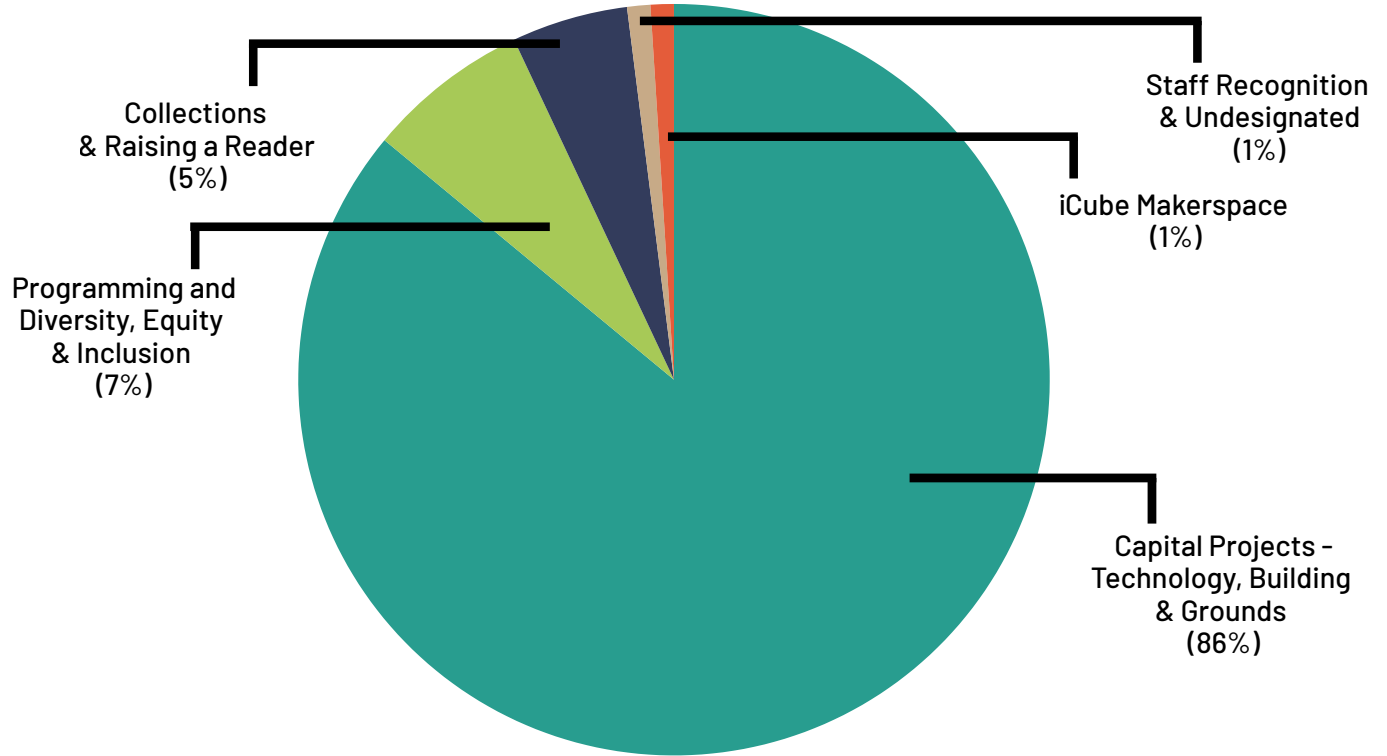
Audited: October 2025

271 - Library General Fund



Personnel & Benefits (66%)	\$2,720,860.36
Collections, Online Resources & Catalog (15%)	\$623,576.68
Utilities, Maintenance, Building & Grounds (11%)	\$459,102.63
Programming, Marketing, Training & Technology (6%)	\$239,594.13
Supplies, Equipment & Furniture (2%)	\$75,848.24
Total Revenue	\$4,025,544.32
Total Expenditures	\$4,118,982.04
Fund Balance in Reserve	\$2,503,231.71

272 - Library Contributed Fund



Capital Projects - Technology, Building & Grounds (86%)	\$134,752.06
Programming and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (7%)	\$11,193.63
Collections & Raising a Reader (5%)	\$7,187.10
Staff Recognition & Undesignated (1%)	\$1,687.83
iCube Makerspace (1%)	\$1,000.00
Total Revenue	\$154,617.72
Total Expenditures	\$155,820.62
Fund Balance in Reserve	\$1,642,748.19



Tai and Officer Blake were excited sign up for their library cards!

Our Leadership



Mark Sturing
President



Kat Dooley
Vice President



Brian Bartlett
Treasurer



Karla Halvangis
Secretary



Kathy Crawford
Trustee



Lori Burke
Trustee



Ajeeta Gawalapu
Trustee



Julie Farkas
Director



Alexandra DeMore
Student Representative



Alyna Dohadwala
Student Representative


[Strategic Planning Information](#)

[2024-2025 Strategic Plan](#)
[Year-In-Review](#)

[Library Policies](#)

Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at administration@novilibrary.org.



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