

Five year plan: 2025 – 2030

I. Introduction

NYS requires that public Libraries create a community-based plan every five years to remain in step with the needs of the people. (Education Department Regulations (8 NYCRR) §90.2) (NYS Trustees' Handbook).

II. Demographics

The Saugerties Public Library District is comprised of the Village and Town of Saugerties, which has a population of 19,087

10682 patrons have a card based on a Saugerties town code search. Of those patrons, 4293 have cards that are not currently expired.

Financial Wellbeing:

The median income for a family is \$95,851, and the median income for a person living alone is \$38,064.

49-56% of renting households spend over 30% of their income on rent, and one third of renting households (865 households) spend over 50% (2022 ACS).

6.6% of households do not have a vehicle. 11.3% of households have no internet, including cellular data (2022 American Community Survey, Census Bureau).

Disability:

1,302 (6.8%) of our community members have an independent living disability with 690 of them being between the ages of 19 and 65.

780 have hearing difficulty. 402 have vision difficulty. 795 have a cognitive difficulty. 1,738 have ambulatory difficulty (serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs). (2022 American Community Survey, Census Bureau)

Language:

10% of the population of the village (3,899) speaks a language other than English at home. 237 members of our district have limited English proficiency, including 132 Spanish speakers (2022 American Community Survey, Census Bureau).

School District:

1,104 (49%) of Saugerties Central Schools students are economically disadvantaged. 399 have disabilities. 73 are English language learners. The district has a 89% graduation rate. 94 students are homeless as 2023. (NYS Education Department).

III. Mission

The mission of the Saugerties Public Library is to serve as a multi-cultural, inclusive institution dedicated to enhancing the life of every member of the Saugerties Community. It provides free access to a balanced collection of educational, cultural, informational and recreational materials and experiences in a welcoming, safe and comfortable environment.

Goals

Goal 1: Continue to develop a collection reflective of both community needs and demand.

Goal 2: Increase access to underserved community members

Goal 3: Improve and reconfigure the facility to better serve community needs.

Goal 4: Pursue environmentally sustainable technologies, energy, and products.

Goal 5: Assist in finding creative solutions or resources that help with affordability in our community.

Goal 6: Work towards increasing digital literacy in our community.

Goal 7: Continue to provide programming responsive to our community members' needs as well as recreational programs.

Goal 8: Act responsibly to the workers whose labor makes the library function.

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Goal I: Develop a collection reflective of both community needs and demand.

Objective I: Respond to the changes in digital format.

Strategy: Declining availability of CD players will affect the library's music and books on CD collections.

Action Step: *Discontinue purchasing music on CD.*

- **Action Step:** *Reduce purchases of books on CD.*

Objective II: Fulfill demand for digital materials and streaming.

Strategy: *Follow the Mid-Hudson Library System's suggested digital book purchasing guidelines.*

Action Step: *Increase funds in the digital materials budget line.*

Action Step: *Purchase Overdrive digital books according to MHLS requirements.*

Strategy: *Stay on top of patron streaming via hoopla.com.*

Action step: *Increase funds for the streaming budget line and / or restrict access to stay within budget.*

Objective III: Reconsider print periodicals and newspapers.

Issue: *Survey results showed that the public trusts the newspapers (news sources) that the library offers. Patrons stated that they would read newspapers via the library's website if unavailable in print.*

Strategy: *Continue to purchase print newspapers and magazines as available.*

Action Step: *As print newspapers become unavailable, the library will purchase online subscriptions. The Libby app already offers over 3,000 magazine titles.*

Objective IV: Streaming movies and TV

Strategy: *We will keep abreast of trends in television and movies to, hopefully, be able to continue to provide these offerings to the public.*

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Goal 2: Increase access to underserved community members

Aligning with the SPL mission statement, our library will provide access to the library to every member of the Saugerties community

- **Objective I:** Homebound community members
 - **Current Offerings:** Access to e-audio and e-books. We offer online programs, and book clubs, as well as a digital library of resources.
 - **Strategy:** We will begin researching the feasibility of delivery services to homebound community members.
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- **Objective II:** Non-English speaking and bilingual community members
 - **Current Offerings:** 3 books in Spanish in the adult section. Apprx. 80 bilingual E-S or Spanish language books in the kids/youth section. One recent Zoom program in Spanish!
 - **Strategy:** Refer to non-English standards put forth by ALA and NYLA in working with the finance committee and staff who perform collection development to develop a procedure for purchasing and displaying materials in languages other than English, especially Spanish.¹
 - **Action Step:** Increase the multilingual language books in collection.
 - **Action Step:** Encourage staff to take the MHLS Spanish language basics for library professionals training during work hours (If there are long term employees who are interested in learning Spanish, consider paying for a class).
- **Objective III:** Teen patrons
 - **Current Offerings:** Teens say that they use the library to "hang out with friends", get cool when it's hot outside, pick up library materials and attend a program.
 - **Strategy:** Increase number of teens who have a library card.
 - **Action Step:** Review Teen library card procedure to make it easier for them to sign up. Consider alternatives to requiring a parent to be present at the time of registration.
- **Objective IV:** Community members with disabilities
 - **Current Offerings:** Magnifier, Talking Braille, dyslexia-accessible font books, large print books, large collection of audiobooks, Neurodivergent support group, accessible facility.

¹ Aligning with IFLA, ALA, and NYLA ethical standards on non-English collections being at least proportional to the size of the community of speakers of other languages, which includes both non-English speakers and multilingual English speakers.

- **Strategy:** *Build on the cutting edge recommendations offered by NYLA and ALA in regards to accessibility.*
 - **Action Step:** *Purchase kits that support seniors & people with dementia.*
 - **Action Step:** *Increase awareness of the Talking Braille and Book Library².*
 - **Action Step:** *Increase parking lot accessibility and sidewalk safety for pedestrians.*
 - **Action Step:** *Increase programming for Neurodivergent adults and children.*
- **Objective V:** *Children of lower socioeconomic status*
 - **Action Step:** *Bring library story time to places where children of lower socioeconomic status may be, such as laundromats, Mt. Marion Park, AYSO games, etc.*
- **Objective VI:** *People of minority backgrounds.*
 - **Strategy:** *Have more diverse staff and volunteers.*
 - **Action Step:** *Recruit a diverse staff that reflects the makeup of the community*
 - **Action Step:** *Build on current programming that is inclusive of different backgrounds and available in languages other than English.*
- **Objective VII:** *Older adults*
 - **Current Offerings:** *Exercise class; large print books; informative and entertaining programs for older adults, such as Medicare 101; Scrabble club, SPL Bookclub, Monday Club, among many, many other opportunities in the library building and online.*
 - **Strategy:** *Continue to build community among older adults*
 - **Action Step:** *Increase outreach to the Mill and other senior housing communities to promote current programming/services.*
 - **Strategy:** *Educate older adults on digital library materials*
 - **Actions Steps:** *Staff and board members talk about digital library offerings to the public personally and at outreach events.*
 - **Action Steps:** *Provide group digital materials classes in the library and at various senior centers / housing in Saugerties.*
 - **Action Steps:** *Staff to continue to offer one-on-one digital assistance with the public.*

² A free library service from the New York State Library for individuals unable to use “standard” print materials because of a disability, including age-related disabilities.

Goal 3: Improve and reconfigure the facility to better serve community needs.

- **Objective I:** *As media formats change, whole sections of library materials will disappear, and that space will be reallocated for other community needs.*
 - **Action Plan:** *STUDY ROOMS. Research feasibility on installing large scale prefabricated study rooms rather than constructing new rooms.*
 - **Action Plan:** *Consider condensing library materials in circulation room to facilitate increasing space for study rooms.*
- **Objective II:** *Establish the library as an asset in Saugerties's transition towards resilience in the face of climate change.*
 - **Action Plan:** *Increase awareness that the library is a resource during community-wide emergencies.*
 - **Action Plan:** *Research emergency generator to fulfill needs of running the elevator in the event of loss of electricity. Research funding opportunities to pay for generator.*
- **Objective III:** *Facilities and finance will explore the feasibility of installing a water bottle station, new windows that open and outdoor furniture for patrons to meet and work in the backyard.*

Goal 4: Pursue environmentally sustainable technologies, energy, and products.

- **Current Offerings:** *Geothermal, motion sensors for lighting in select areas, EV charging station, use of electric lawn mower and weed whacker.*
- **Objective I:** *Use non-toxic cleaning supplies.*
 - **Strategy:** *Use EPA and CDC information to make purchasing decisions*
 - **Action Step:** *Stop using polyethylene glycol - which is DONE*

Goal 5: Assist in finding creative solutions or resources that help with affordability in our community.³

- **Objective I:** *Provide materials that help parents afford to raise their children in this community.*
 - **Action Step:** *The library will hold a toy swap or exchange.*
 - **Action Step:** *The library will expand its library of things to include toys for children and other parenting materials.*

³ Justification = 2019 planning process (one of the identified themes), MHLS "Tools for Transition," Census data, 2024 planning process

- **Action Step:** *The library will research the possibility of offering early education therapies with professional education services not covered by insurance.*
- **Objective II:** *Provide materials to help people thrive and work in this community*
 - **Current Offerings:** *Library of things, including seed library, laptop loan for in-library use; general computers, printing, faxing, scanning, Consumer Reports etc.*
 - **Strategy:** *The library will expand (and advertise) its library of things to include fix-it tools such as tools for mending or construction projects as well as Adobe design programs, sewing machines and gardening tools to assist in affordability and self-sufficiency.*
 - **Action Item:** *Become a full-fledged member of the Library of Local by purchasing gardening and tools and offering them to patrons. Acquire a sewing machine for the Library of Things. Upgrade Adobe Design software.*
 - **Strategy:** *Provide financial literacy materials.*

Goal 6: Work towards increasing digital literacy in our community.

Objective I: *The library will communicate with the public all of the FREE digital offerings that they have access to through the library's website and various apps.*

Action Steps: *Provide group digital materials classes in the library and at various senior centers / housing in Saugerties.*

Action Steps: *Staff will continue to offer one-on-one digital assistance with the public.*

Objective II: *Offer hotspots to be checked out of the library.*

Action Steps: *The library will set up a fund and account to enable hotspots to be loaned out of the library.*

Goal 7: Continue to provide programming responsive to our community members' needs as well as recreational programs.

- **Objective I:** *Continue to offer, and expand on, programs that meet patrons' information needs, such as the adulting classes and recent series "Ask a Funeral Director"*
 - **Action Step:** *Review survey results with programming staff to include suggestions from patrons.*
- **Objective II:** *Continue to offer, and expand on, recreational programs*
 - **Action Step:** *Review survey results with programming staff to include suggestions from patrons.*

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Goal 8: Act responsibly to the workers whose labor makes the library function.

Action Step: *Continue to increase annual staff wages in response to inflation.*

- **Action Step:** *Board to continue to review Patron Code of Conduct to protect staff from harassment and abuse.*

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