

Long-Range Plan 2026-2030

Mission Statement

The Fenton Free Library's mission is to enrich the quality of life for a diverse population of all ages by providing resources and services which contribute to individual literacy, education, and entertainment.

Vision

Our vision is to be the heart of the community- a place where people come for learning, activities, and connection.

Community Assessment

The Fenton Free Library is an Association Library located in the Chenango Valley School District and is a member of the Four County Library System. Long-term tax funding for The Library is established under NYSED law 259(1)a. The Fenton Free Library is located in the Town of Fenton and has a chartered population of 6,429 with a median household income of \$70,435. In 2024, there were 1,274 library card holders with 707 patrons residing in the Town of Dickinson (population 5,083), Town of Chenango (population 10,983), or other neighboring locations.

Services

Large print collection

DVD collection

Puzzle exchange

Books on Wheels

Book shed

Sensory backpacks

Programs

Summer Reading

Once Upon a Story

Barnyard Buddies

Booked

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Senior Wellness

Walking Club

Bunco

Book Club

Accessible Yoga

Goals:

Provide and maintain a welcoming physical environment that accommodates staff and patron needs.

Objectives:

- a. Increase available storage space in the library.
- b. Create a master plan for updating and repairing aging facility including basement and attic areas.
- c. Assess need and cost of new flooring.
- d. Continue to evaluate and address ways to make the library more accessible for all patrons.
- e. Continue to research options for maintaining lift.
- f. Continue to research options for maintaining or replacing electronic sign.
- g. Investigate options for making bathroom hand dryers usable and compliant to reduce environmental waste.

Provide and promote a quality collection of materials in popular formats to support the needs and interests of the community.

Objectives:

- a. Continue to expand the collection of materials and resources in various formats that respond to patron interest and demand.
- b. Weed the collection on a regular basis to eliminate out-of-date materials and provide shelving space for new items.
- c. Foster cooperation with other libraries in the Four County Library System to maximize sharing of resources.
- d. Market services through pamphlets, informational flyers, and online via the library website and social media platforms.
- e. Increase digital access to popular genres.
- f. Pursue initiatives to increase circulation by an average of 5% annually.

Continue to offer and expand innovative and responsive programming and events that meet the needs of the community.

Objectives:

- a. Expand and enhance the Booked program through greater community outreach through partnerships with local schools.
- b. Create and grow a program for teenage patrons that will foster a sense of community and belonging.
- c. Launch, promote, and expand TerraCycle recycling program in the community.
- d. Study the benefits of increased hours and Saturday story time.
- e. Work to increase overall program attendance by an average of 10% annually.
- f. Conduct community survey every 2-3 years.

Maintain long-term financial stability.

Objectives:

- a. Thoughtfully transition from Aplos accounting software to QuickBooks to increase efficiency and accuracy.
- b. Invest non-tax payer funds in a way that maximizes returns while minimizing risk.
- c. Create a plan for a yearly annual appeal campaign.
- d. Continue to support current fundraisers and assess new fundraising options.
- e. Establish internal controls through new policy formation.

Increase awareness and use of the library by patrons and create strategic partnerships with other community organizations.

Objectives:

- a. Maintain an engaging and user-friendly library website and social media presence.
- b. Work with the Chenango Valley School District to promote library programs and services through continued outreach, including organized class visits to the library and participating in school-sponsored events such as Community Night and Humanities Night.
- c. Continue to participate in community-centered events.
- d. Continue to award the Fenton Library Scholarship to one graduating Chenango Valley senior.
- d. Promote hidden services such as downloadable audio and e-books and inter-library loan.

Promote and encourage increased volunteerism and stewardship in the library community.

Objective: Maintain a strong pipeline of available volunteers of all ages and expertise.

Maintain Relevant Policies

Objectives:

- a. Reorganize and establish a review schedule for existing policies and procedures.
- b. Establish an employee handbook compliant with New York State law and regulations.
- c. Establish new policies based on legal and social factors as necessary.