

Lee County Library System

Annual Plan, October 2026 - September 2027



Introduction

The Lee County Library System Long Range Plan for 2024-2029 serves to focus not just on what we want to accomplish but how the growth and development in our community is a driver for change to library services. We continue to improve in how we deliver our core services and respond to how citizens want to interact with us. While daily services and tasks are critical to our overall success, the goals outlined in our Long Range Plan have been selected to reach the underserved, engage staff, and make connections.

Much like our core services are interconnected, each goal in our Long Range Plan builds upon and impacts others. For this Annual Plan, we have selected five of our nine goals to emphasize, knowing our progress on these will help us on the path for the remaining goals.

Core Services

People are the foundation of libraries. People come into our branches, access outreach services, use our online resources, check out materials, attend programs and ask us questions. Our staff assist people when they visit, call and access services online. Staff keep services running smoothly by ordering, processing, and making materials available, planning programs, finding answers and sharing information.

Programs are the platform of the library. It is where we meet people to share the story of our resources, our people and our places. Story time for children, summer reading programs and English Café spark the love of reading and the importance of literacy. We reach the community through informational and cultural programs such as Small Business Development, Community Conversations, book discussions, concerts, computer classes and lectures where people learn, are entertained and interact with new people. Library staff members go out into the community to share resources and information at schools, adult living facilities, clubs, organizations and low-income communities.

Resources are the materials the library provides to our users and use to supplement our programs. Our resources may be physical or virtual. Today "book" means more than ever - ebooks, audiobooks, large print, braille and books in many languages. We have DVDs, kits, newspapers, and magazines. Our electronic materials provide access to patrons who want to use online resources such as genealogy, testing, language learning, and more, all available when and where they want. Our cultural passes enable patrons to explore a great variety of local institutions.

Places are where everything comes together. Library places are both physical and virtual. It is in these places where we provide our resources, offer our programs and where people come together. The library place provides the opportunity to learn, to relax, to try things, to browse, to ask and to seek. It is many things and it is different for everyone.

We recognize these services are interconnected; each one relies upon the other and is critical to our success.

Goals and Tasks, FY2026-2027

Offer services, materials, and programs to meet the ever-changing needs of new and existing patrons.

- Continue to evaluate print and electronic resources for use and relevance to the current library user.
- Evaluate programming across all age groups and create a plan for utilizing staff-led programs throughout the system.

Develop library outreach in Lee County by growing partnerships, reaching out to the underserved, and increasing our community presence.

- Acquire a mobile library vehicle.
- Create a robust plan for the mobile library and start implementing with existing vehicles and resources to build audience for the mobile library.

Maximize customer service opportunities.

- Foster a welcoming library experience for all visitors and users wherever and however library service is accessed.
- Increase awareness of library services through diversified and innovative marketing strategies.
- Explore individualized, customized, and curated library services to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Use technology to reach patrons, to improve workflow and staff productivity in innovative and purposeful ways, and to improve the customer and staff experience.

- Pilot self-service options, including self-service lockers and remote returns
- Identify solutions to create efficient workflows for department processes.
- Explore and implement AI to best serve patrons and staff.

Build on, improve and create additional channels of communication with the public and staff.

- Develop and implement a framework to “tell our story.”
- Create a staff reporting mechanism to share success stories.
- Implement a staff newsletter or other internal information sharing tool.