



Grafton Public Library Strategic Plan

2022 - 2026

**Prepared by
the Grafton Library Strategic Planning Committee
October 2021**

MEMBERS OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

George Curran	Chair, Library Board of Trustees
Andrew Cushing	Secretary, Library Board of Trustees
Karen Johnson	Treasurer, Library Board of Trustees
Cindy Kudlik	Chair, Grafton Selectboard
Gary Whitney	Grafton Planning Board
Elaina Bergamini	Chair, Friends of Grafton Library
Katelyn Coolley	Library Director
Susan Tresch Fienberg	Facilitator, Library Trustee Alternate

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Phase I: Information Gathering

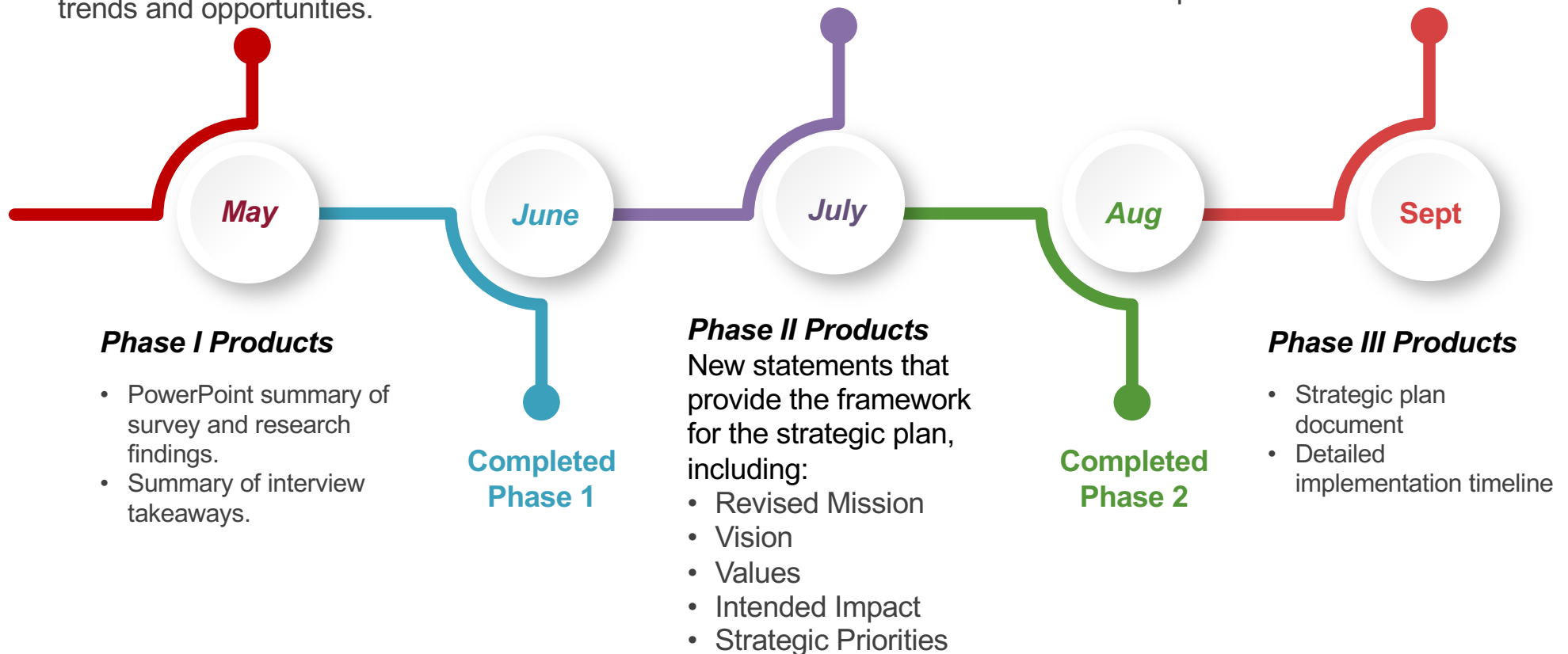
- Conducted survey of Grafton residents via online and paper tools. 109 unduplicated responses received.
- Interviewed 11 “external stakeholders” including selectboard members, directors of nearby libraries, school representatives, police chief, and the Mascoma Senior Center director.
- Researched environmental factors: rural library trends and best practices, funding trends and opportunities.

Phase II: Creating and Refining Foundational Elements

- Developed foundational elements of strategic plan and iterated with Strategic Planning Committee (SPC).

Phase III: Implementation Planning & Plan Completion

- Facilitator and Director created draft implementation timeline translating strategic priorities into specific objectives and tasks for the SPC’s consideration.
- SPC reviewed and modified the draft implementation plan.
- SPC approved completed plan, including foundational elements and implementation timeline.



MISSION

To advance lifelong learning and community spirit by providing free access to literature, media, and programming that reflect local needs and interests.

VISION

By 2026, the Grafton Public Library will be a place where all members of our community feel welcome and well-served by resources, programs, and facilities that suit local needs and interests.

To achieve this vision, the library will:

- ✓ Optimize its hours of operation.
- ✓ Sponsor programs for all ages.
- ✓ Vigorously promote awareness and utilization of all library resources.
- ✓ Offer opportunities for neighbors to connect.
- ✓ Collaborate with nearby libraries and town entities.
- ✓ Provide accessible facilities that comfortably accommodate quiet use of the library and group activity in keeping with the library's mission.

INTENDED IMPACT

Within five years, the Grafton Public Library will have a positive impact on the lives of many more Grafton residents than it serves in 2021, with **steady year-by-year increases in the number of townspeople served.**

We assume that people will choose to visit the library, attend programs, and check out materials when these activities have a positive impact on their lives. Therefore, utilization and participation data will be our primary means of tracking impact. Qualitative data will provide evidence of success in promoting lifelong learning and community spirit.

VALUES

The services, programs, and practices of the Grafton Town Library will be guided by the following values and beliefs:

- ✓ Residents of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities should feel **welcomed, respected, and well-served** by our library's services, programs, and facilities.
- ✓ Core library programs and services should be free of charge to ensure **equitable access** for all Grafton residents.

VALUES, *continued*

- ✓ Responsible and creative **stewardship** of the library's financial and material assets is essential to the library's success and sustainability.
- ✓ **Collaboration** with other organizations will often provide the best means of advancing the library's mission.
- ✓ Cultivating **communication** with the public (both listening and informing) is fundamental to the library's mission.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

To achieve its impact and growth goals, we will pursue the following strategic priorities over the next three years.

1. Improve communications with Grafton residents to increase awareness of library and community resources and activities.
2. Track and learn from activity and utilization data; use data to inform decision-making.
3. Identify and address facility issues that pose barriers to pursuing the library's mission and vision.
4. Optimize the library's operating hours.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, *continued*

5. Increase engagement of volunteers in support of library programs and services.
6. Increase collaboration with nearby libraries and other Grafton organizations to advance the library's mission.
7. Develop new programming that responds to local interests and unmet needs.
8. Secure grant funding to support new programming and facilities.

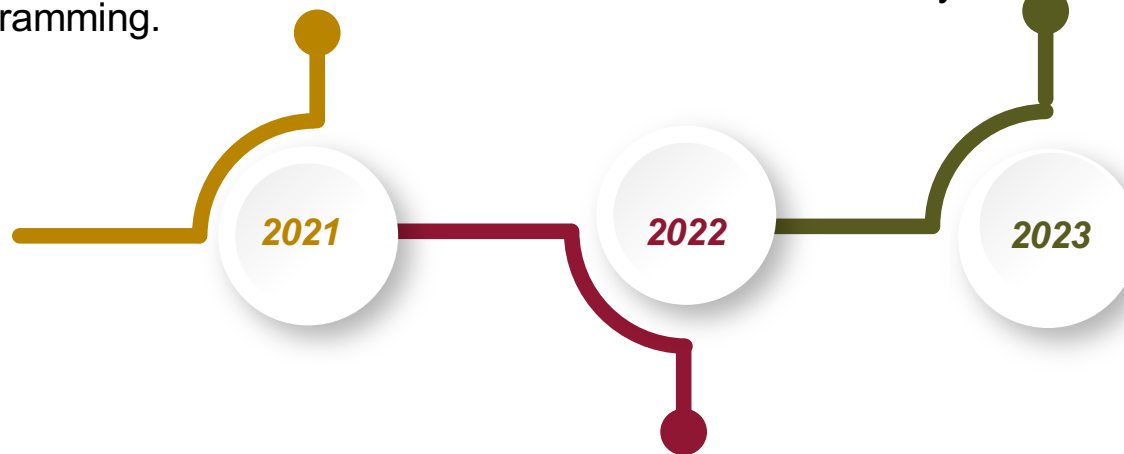
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE HIGHLIGHTS

2021: Oct - Dec

- Share strategic plan with selectboard, other town entities, and nearby libraries; identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration.
- Refine data-collection tools and practices to inform ongoing planning and program improvement.
- Sponsor motivational reading program for kids.
- Assess facility needs and options associated with planned programming.

2023

- Continue expanded programming based on success of 2021 and 2022 pilots.
- Begin implementing long-term facility plans.
- Approach 100% increase in aggregate utilization (compared with 2021) by the end of the year.



2022

- Increase awareness of library resources and programs through new website, semi-annual mailed newsletter, signage on Rte 4, expanded listserv, social media initiatives, flyers.
- Provide information about town, school, and home-school issues and resources.
- Pilot three new special-interest clubs: astronomy, gardening, textile arts, and/or music.
- Pilot storytime “take & make” program for preschoolers.
- Develop a best-practice volunteer program to support library services and activities.
- Develop plans for addressing short- and long-term facility needs; implement short-term solutions.
- Introduce new schedule of operations that optimizes use of the library building for multiple purposes: quiet use, adult and children’s programming, connecting with neighbors.

APPENDICES

1. Implementation Timeline
2. Survey and Research Findings
3. Interview Takeaways

Grafton Library Strategic Plan Implementation Timeline

October 2021 - December 2023

NOTE: Timing of tasks may shift in response to unexpected developments and operating experience, but all will be completed by the end of 2023.

Strategic Priority	Objective	Tasks	Lead	2021				2022				2023					
				Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4					
1. Improve communications with Grafton residents to increase awareness of library and community resources and activities.	Increase awareness of library resources and programs among Grafton residents, with success measured by 100% increase in aggregate utilization by 2024.	Create attractive sign on Rte 4 with library hours, events, phone number, and url. Secure needed approvals from Trustees and/or Selectboard.	Director, Volunteer														
		Collaborate with FoGL to produce semi-annual library newsletter to all households via snail mail, email, and internet.	Director, FoGL (EB)														
		Build and maintain a new library website, integrated with new town website.	Director, CK														
		Issue regular updates to library listserv (at least monthly); promote sign-up through other communications tools.	Director														
		Post and distribute event flyers at post office, dump and other strategic locations.	Volunteer														
		Post at least twice a month on library Facebook page.	Director														
		Provide objective and up-to-date information regarding town resources and issues, using multiple strategies that reach all residents.	Offer to collaborate with LBS to update, fund, and disseminate publication describing town services, committees, and civic groups.	STF													
			Provide information about school-based resources and resources for home-schoolers.	Director, Volunteer													
			Collaborate with Selectboard, Moderator, Supervisors, and Town Clerk to distribute warrant article descriptions and other vital voter information at the library and via other library communications outlets prior to town meetings.	Volunteer, Trustees													
			Collaborate with town welfare liaison and selectboard office to disseminate information regarding benefits and human services available to residents, including tax abatements. Communicate relevant deadlines. Assist with online applications at library as needed.	Volunteer, Trustees													
2. Track and learn from activity and utilization data; use data to inform decision-making.	Refine and improve current tools and processes for collecting and analyzing data by Q1 of 2022.	Determine what data will be tracked, building on current practices.	Director, STF, EB														
		Create efficient tools for collecting data and generating reports.	Director, STF, EB														
		Create tools for collecting qualitative data.	Director, STF, EB														
	Increase total library utilization in 2022 and 2023 by making data-informed decisions about activity and operations.	Analyze data quarterly to identify opportunities to modify activity and operations in ways that increase utilization (and therefore impact).	Trustees, Director														
3. Identify and address facility issues that pose barriers to pursuing the library's mission and vision.	Identify facility requirements associated with implementing all aspects the strategic plan and achieving our vision by 2026	Create grid of all existing and planned services and programming, with associated facility needs. Update regularly.	STF, Director														
		Review and update the facility needs assessment that informed plans for the barn library. Vet for alignment with current plans and priorities.	Trustees														
		Review alternatives for addressing facility needs, including the barn library proposal and use/upgrade of other buildings in town, including the current library, town hall, historical society, etc. Draw upon and supplement planning work that has occurred to date.	Trustees														

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				Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	
	<i>Develop staged plan for addressing facility issues.</i>	Explore interest in and feasibility of collaborating with other town entities to create and operate a combined Community Center/Library.	Trustees										
		Project total costs (capital and operating) associated with lead options.	Trustees										
		Assess feasibility of raising necessary capital funds and sustainability of associated operating expenses.	Trustees										
		Identify and adopt the most feasible and advantageous approach to addressing short-term facility needs and aspirations.	Trustees			ongoing							
		Identify and adopt the most feasible and advantageous approach to addressing long-term facility needs and aspirations.	Trustees										
		Collaborate with FoGL to develop detailed plans for raising the necessary funding for implementing facility plans.	Trustees										
		Secure selectboard approval of facility usage & development elements for which their endorsement is necessary.	Trustees			ongoing							
		Execute low -cost, short-term solutions to facility needs	Trustees, Director			ongoing							
		Execute long-term facility plans	Trustees, FoGL									ongoing	
		4. Optimize library's operating hours.	<i>Develop building utilization and staffing plan that offers the best possible resolution of tensions arising from staffing, funding, and current facility restrictions.</i>	Analyze the pros and cons of shifting current hours of operation in order to make the library more accessible for more purposes and people.	Director, Trustees								
Analyze the pros and cons of holding all group activity at library during hours staffed by volunteers (when media circulation is unavailable.)	Director, Trustees												
Assess pros and cons of holding group activity at library vs. town hall.	Director, Trustees												
Assess feasibility of adding hours for quiet use of library without media circulation.	Director, Trustees, EB												
Create new schedule of operations, including media circulation hours, group activity hours, and hours when both occur.	Director												
Feed the results of this work into facility planning activity (see priority # 5)	Trustees												
5. Increase engagement of volunteers in support of library programs and services.	<i>Develop policies and procedures for recruiting, screening, orienting, supervising/supporting, and recognizing volunteers by Q2 of 2022.</i>			Research standards and legal constraints for utilizing volunteers in a public library.	GC	done							
		Create policies and procedures governing engagement of Grafton library volunteers.	STF, GC, Director										
		Identify and develop specific jobs for volunteers; develop job descriptions and back-up plans.	Director										
		Recruit, screen, supervise, and support volunteers as needed and appropriate to support strategic plan implementation.	Director, volunteer					ongoing					

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6. Increase collaboration with nearby libraries and other Grafton organizations to advance the library's mission.	Identify opportunities to collaborate with the Canaan, Enfield, and Danbury libraries resulting in at least two joint efforts by the end of 2022.	Share strategic plan with library directors; schedule follow-up conversation to identify opportunities for collaboration in support of our goals and objectives.	Director		ongoing								
		Advertise services available to Grafton residents at Canaan and other libraries in Grafton library communications (see priority #1)	Director, volunteer		ongoing								
	Identify opportunities to collaborate with other Grafton organizations to advance common purposes, engaging in at least three collaborative efforts by the end of 2022.	Meet with the chairs of the Rec Committee, the Ladies Benevolent Society, and the Selectboard to share the strategic plan and discuss opportunities for coordination and collaboration. Identify concrete ways to support one another's efforts.	Trustees, Director										
		(See collaborative efforts identified under other priorities and objectives.)											
7. Develop programming that responds to local needs and interests.	Sponsor at least three ongoing interest groups (clubs) per month by the end of 2023, with average combined attendance of 30-35 per month.	Continue facilitating the Grafton Book Club, increasing regular monthly attendance to at least 10.	Director, STF		ongoing								
		Plan and pilot garden club, beginning with library garden project.	Volunteer			ongoing							
		Plan and pilot a textile arts club (knitting, sewing, crochet, etc.)	Volunteer			ongoing							
		Plan and pilot an astronomy club.	RTF				ongoing						
		Acquire books and magazines aligned with club subjects.	Director				ongoing						
		Investigate feasibility and strategies for providing life-skills coaching/education (e.g. money management, resume development, job search skills, interview skills.)	Director, Welfare Liaison					ongoing					
	Organize at least 3 educational/cultural events per year beginning in 2022, attracting a combined attendance of 100 per year by the end of 2023.	Host astronomy night introducing patrons to library telescope and fall stargazing highlights.	Director, RTF										
		Schedule at last one presentation ore performance by a Grafton resident each year, showcasing local talent and expertise.	Director				ongoing						
		Collaborate with FoGL to sponsor two Humanities to Go programs per year.	MG										
	Develop programs for preschool children beginning Fall 2021 and serving at least 5 children per session. Develop programs for school-aged children, reaching an average of at least 15-20 per month by 2023.	Provide monthly storytime "take & make" programs.	Director/Volunteer				ongoing						
Purchase Launchpads and promote via listserv, Facebook, mailed newsletter, website, and outreach to school contacts.		Director				ongoing							
Sponsor ongoing reading programs for Grafton children to promote literacy and love of reading.		Director				ongoing							
Explore feasibility of sponsoring grant-funded summer program for Grafton children. Approach rec committee to assess interest in collaboration.		Trustees, FoGL, Rec Committee											

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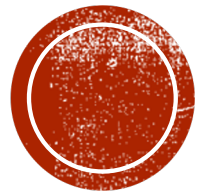
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				Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4		
		Sponsor annual Earth Day community clean-up campaign.	Director, Volunteers											
		Explore feasibility/desirability of offering volunteer-staffed after-school/evening hours when students can access internet and do homework.	Volunteer/Director											
	Provide ongoing opportunities for Grafton residents to connect and gather.	Meet this objective through programs & ongoing groups (see above).	Director, Volunteers											
		<u>(Option to explore)</u> Collaborate with FoGL to organize pot luck dinners with international themes (not at library), with a goal of hosting three per year by 2023. Could be enriched by media display & activities at library – e.g. Latin America month, Scandinavian month, etc.	EB											
		Provide volunteer support for FoGL events aligned with this objective (e.g. Garlic Gathering, BBQ & Yard Sale)	Trustees											
		Collaborate with Rec Committee to pursue this objective.	Director, Trustees, FoGL											
8. Secure grant funding to support new programming and facilities.	Secure at least \$10,000 in grants per year for library programs by the end of 2023.	Develop list of prospective sources of grants for facilities, equipment, media, and programming. Create grant submission calendar.	FoGL, STF, Director											
		Subscribe to publications that announce grant opportunities.	Director, STF											
		Develop boilerplate that can be used for grant submissions.	Director, FoGL, STF											
		Submit 3-5 proposals per year (more if pursuing capital funds for construction.)	Director, Trustees											

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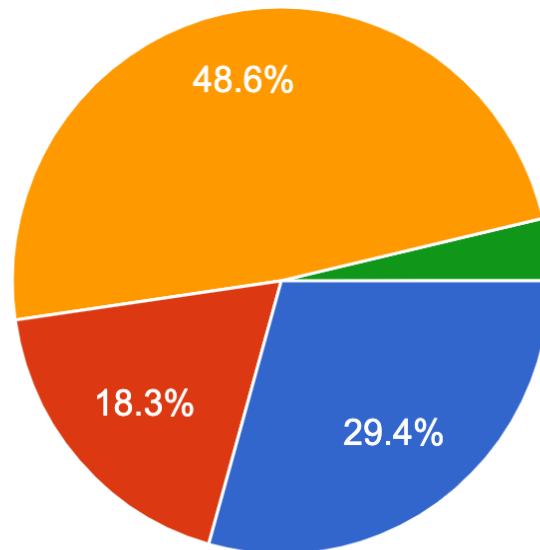


SURVEY RESULTS



2. How many years have you lived in Grafton?

109 responses

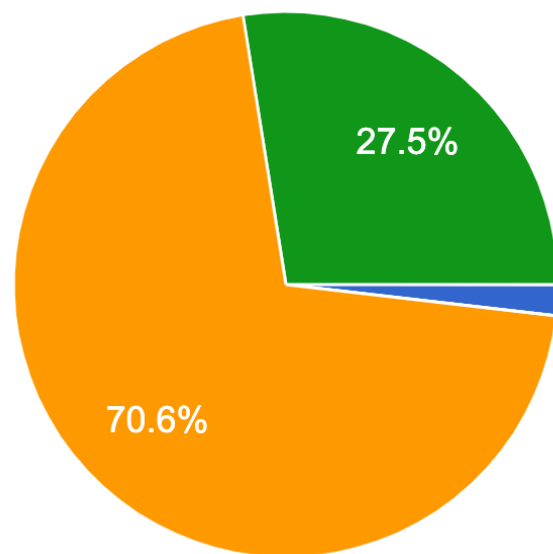


- 0-5 years
- 6-14 years
- 15+ years
- Do not live in Grafton



3. What is your age?

109 responses

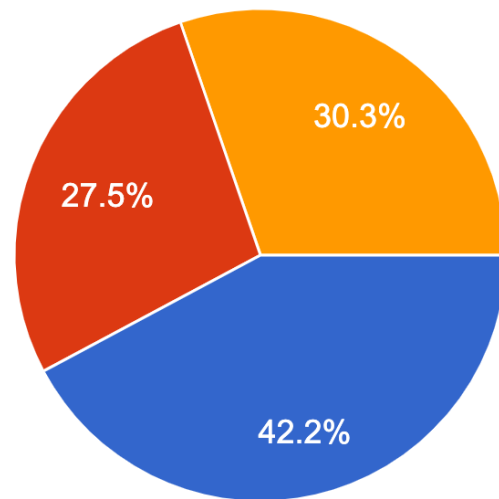


- Up to age 12
- Age 13-18
- Age 19-64
- Age 65+



6. Have you ever used the Grafton Library?

109 responses

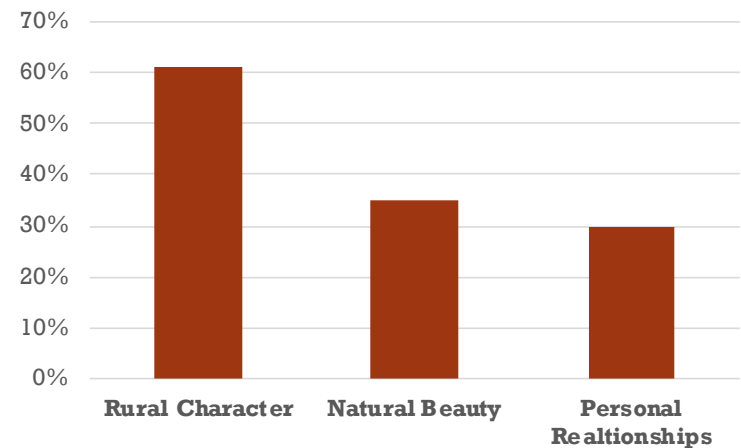


- Yes, I currently use the library.
- I formerly used the library but no longer do so.
- No, I have never used the library.



WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN GRAFTON?

- 61% (66) mentioned Grafton's **rural character** – quietness, space, privacy, and peacefulness.
- 35% (38) mentioned the area's **natural beauty and assets** – such as hiking trails, ponds, dark skies.
- 30% (33) mentioned Grafton's friendliness, helpful neighbors, and close **personal relationships**.
- Other comments included:
 - “Relative freedom to do what I like”
 - “Variety of people”
 - “Great history”
 - ”A freedom-loving community”



WHAT WOULD MAKE GRAFTON A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

▪ More community events, programs, activities	21	18%
▪ A general store	17	16%
▪ A place to gather (community center)	11	9%
▪ Better library	11	9%
▪ New library	6	5%
▪ Library improvements	5	4%
▪ More civility and community spirit	11	9%
▪ Better internet service	9	8%
▪ Cleaning up trash and poorly kept properties	9	8%
▪ Lower taxes and/or increased tax base	8	7%
▪ Road improvements	4	3%



WHAT ELSE?

- “A better town office building with meeting space.”
- “Groups or organizations who could provide some moderate help for elderly/disabled.”
- “More awareness of people in town with no transportation and isolation.”
- “Get rid of the town cronies that think they are helping the town but are helping their own cause . . .”
- “Stop focusing on bringing Hanover to Grafton. . . Stop trying to using town property for a structure that is not needed and will be taxed.”
- “Better communication about Grafton events/activities.”
- “Welcoming committee or something when new folks move in.”





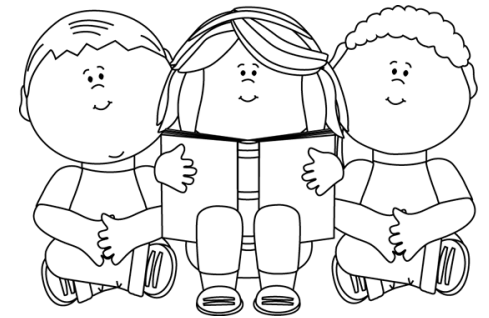
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE THE LIBRARY?

▪ To check out books or audiobooks	73	67%
▪ To get info about local issues & resources	71	65%
▪ To attend programs for adults	60	55%
▪ To check out museum passes	53	49%
▪ To join a special interest group	52	48%
▪ To meet with friends & neighbors	47	43%
▪ To check out movies	44	40%
▪ To access downloadable books	42	39%
▪ To check out the telescope	38	35%



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE THE LIBRARY?

- To use printer, copier, fax 33 30%
- To join the book club 31 28%
- To attend family programs 29 27%
- To access the internet 26 24%
- To attend children's programs 23 21%



- To study or work 22 20%
- To use library computer 17 16%
- To get homework help 6 6%
- None of the above 5 5%



WRITE-IN ANSWERS

- “To have community meetings or just to be able to see other people.”
- “Coffee hour to discuss issues and solutions.”
- “Browse NH and Grafton reference books.”
- “Historical and genealogical research; to research the history of old buildings.”
- “Board game club.”
- “Family field trips to Boston, Salem, or a mall.”
- “I would like to see the present library become a library in all aspects. I don't feel our library should be a social club. I feel the rec committee should be the game planner or maybe a private organization.”
- “I would use the library but it's always too loud and cackling.”
- “I would also like to see more hours open. And private areas for people to have quiet. And areas especially for children. Parking. Specifically a computer area. Much more updates.”



WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE CONSIDER?

- Consider keeping the current library building and adding a restroom.
- Consider creating a larger library with more room for books, community spaces, restrooms, and parking.
- Consider both capital and operating costs when making plans.
- Consider ADA accessibility.
- Create better space for community gatherings (not necessarily at the library, but a new library *could* provide this).
- Offer quiet space to do work.
- Increase library hours.
- Offer more events and educational activities.
- Improve communications re: library events and services.





RURAL LIBRARIES TODAY



CHARACTERISTICS & CHALLENGES

- Defined as libraries serving populations of **2,500 or fewer**.
- Median facility size is **2,595 sq. ft.**
- Average year opened is **1970**.
- 4 in 10 have only one staff member. “Rural remote” libraries have a median of **1.3 FTE** (Grafton has .35 FTE)
- Median salary for rural librarians is **\$28.5K** (approx. \$14/hr)
- “Rural remote” libraries are open an average of **26 hours/week**.
- Only 40% are connected to a broader library system.



RURAL LIBRARIES OFFER MORE THAN BOOKS

- Provide **educational opportunities**: e.g. adult basic education, life skills classes (e.g. money management, computer literacy), homework help.
- Sponsor **cultural programming and fun events** that bring residents together and build community.
- Provide **job search support**: help with resumes, interview prep, online applications.
- Help **bridge the “digital divide”** by offering free WiFi and computers.
- Offer **work space** for mobile workers.
- **Respond to unmet needs** in the community.
- Offer a **safe place for children to go** after school.
- Provide **information about resources** available to local residents and businesses.
- **Often the only gathering place in town.**

“They work better than Starbucks as common ground for people of different backgrounds and beliefs.”



“RURAL REMOTE” LIBRARY SERVICES

- Free WiFi ~100%. *Fiber optic broadband* <33%
- Help applying for jobs 61%
- Work space for mobile workers 35%
- After school programs 26%
- GED programs 26%
- Social engagement groups 44%
- Young adults programs 32%
- Help accessing online government services 66%



TRENDS & BEST PRACTICES

- **Creating partnerships** with local government and nonprofits to address local needs (going beyond traditional library services).
- **Reconfiguring to be a “third space”** for patrons (beyond the primary life spaces of home and work or school).
- **“Turning outward”**
This approach to strengthening a library’s role (and ROI) emphasizes exploring and understanding the local community’s values, concerns, aspirations, and assets first, before considering the needs of the library as an institution.



KEY FINDINGS FROM THE RURAL LIBRARY & SOCIAL WELLBEING PROJECT

- **Successful community-building** depends on:
 - Understanding what makes a place unique
 - Recognizing community assets and building on them
 - Communicating passion for the beauty of a particular place
 - Earning trust of local residents
- Rural residents **value social connection and nature** over access to amenities.
- **Library buildings matter**, especially where there are few other places for residents to gather



SOURCES

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LIBRARY FUNDING SOURCES (BEYOND LOCAL TAXES)

- USDA Rural Development Grants (federal, through states) for facilities and programs/services
- Institute of Museum and Library Services grants (federal)
- COVID relief bills
- Private corporations and foundations
 - *Extremely competitive*
 - *Rarely fund ongoing operating expenses.*
 - *Many accept proposals by request only.*
- Friends Groups (e.g. FoGL)

Financial support for ongoing operations is predominantly from tax revenue.



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Interview Takeaways

6/14/21

Amanda Isabelle, Mascoma Valley Schools Superintendent

- Commented on the lack of technology and internet resources at home for many school children. Many cannot access online textbook programs and other online learning resources.
- Noted that many kids lack a quiet place at home to study, and pointed out the need for summer enrichment programs, including reading programs.

Bernadette Virgin, High School Library Media Specialist

- Noted the lack of connectivity at home for many school children. Noted that connectivity is vital to access many learning opportunities.
- Says teen and tween book clubs have been popular.
- Called out the need for community spaces for activities and quiet spaces for studying for children who don't have that at home.

Leah Wheelan, Canaan Elementary School Principal

- Noted that transportation issues make after-school activities inaccessible for most Grafton kids.
- Also commented on the need for more reading programs.

Amy Thurber, Canaan Library

- Emphasized the importance of understanding our community, who lives here, and how to increase their access when making library plans.
- Says book clubs do well in Canaan.
- Humanities to Go programs are also favorites.
- Has seen Overdrive utilization go up during pandemic.
- Says her email newsletter is her most effective means of communication.
- Characterizes the library as “the living room of the community. . . people feel comfortable there.”
- Has implemented a contract for volunteers.

Melissa Hutson, Enfield Library

- Says limited space is a big issues. Often uses Whitney Hall for programs that the library is too small to accommodate.
- Enfield has completed a master plan that addresses building needs throughout the town.
- Melissa is frustrated when she sees a need in town that she can meet
- Very interested in collaborating with us.
- Says many people come to the library just to visit with one another.
- Struggles with communications; road sign is the best means of getting word out about programs etc. (Note: the library does have a pretty robust website with good information about services.)

Linda Olmstead, Danbury Library

- Limited space is also a big problem, constraining what the library can offer.
- Open few hours than Grafton.
- People come to the library because it's so welcoming and friendly.
- Friends group runs most events.
- Also emphasizes the importance of knowing your community.

Liz Houghton, Mascoma Senior Center

- Very open to the idea of collaborating with us. Says she hasn't been approached in this way by other libraries in her catchment area.
 - Already collaborating with Canaan library to deliver books, puzzles, and books to older adults. Will serve Grafton, but hasn't had any requests from here.
 - Says that book delivery and HD meals is a great way of checking in on older adults who live alone
 - Loves the idea of collaborating with the Grafton Library to get the word out about Senior Center services
- Says only 7 older adults in Grafton are receiving HD meals
- Congregate meal site is closed due to Covid, but they offer "grab & go" meals on Tuesdays, which attracts some Grafton folks
- Says socialization is huge unmet need; internet access is also poor among older adults in this area.
- Will be resuming transportation program soon – e.g. to medical appointments. This is available to Grafton residents
- Programming comments:
 - "Folks aren't excited about doing things" – e.g. crafts not a draw – but they are interested in programs that provide useful information – has 15-20 minute talks on topics of interest, with Q&A. "Quick is good"
 - Has partnered with Service Link to provide help with taxes and other needs.
 - Don't have many participants from Grafton
- Is willing to come speak with us about needs of older adults in our area.

Russell Poitras, Grafton Police Chief

- Considers poverty, lack of jobs, and lack of education to be the most serious problems in Grafton, e.g. thefts and drug use due to a lack of jobs and not knowing how to be productive. "Poor education makes it hard for people to get and keep good jobs, which is why there's so much poverty."
- If the library could help people get educated about basic life skills (e.g. money management, balancing a bank statement), that could help.
- If such programs were offered at the library, would still need to figure out how to reach people who need them and motivate them to participate.
- Doesn't know whether this is the library's job.

Tom McGinty, Grafton Selectboard

- Is committed to doing what the voters want him to do regarding the library.
- Prefers to wait until a course of action is determined by the planning committee, which will give him his "marching orders."

Jennie Joyce, Grafton Selectboard

- Feels that the biggest issues Grafton has right now are the lack of a store that provides more than Wilbur's can offer given its size and lack of a gas station.
- Believes the role of the library should be about books and people's interests; shouldn't be taking over the role of other parts of the community.

- Doesn't feel that the piece of vacant land that was donated is big enough for a community building and also feels the vision some people have for a new library building are too big.
- Believes our current library building "fits our community." Believes that the land behind the library should be sufficient to put in a toilet and sink plus access to a well and a holding tank.
- Doesn't think the library needs more parking. Says people who live nearby are fine with a few cars needing to park on the side of the road sometimes.
- Believes we need a store and gas station far more than a new library.

Cindy Kudlik, Selectboard

- Is in agreement with her selectboard colleagues regarding town needs and priorities.
- Would like to see an end to the "label wars," saying "We can disagree on some issues but still work together where we find common ground. We'll never find that common ground, though, if we judge people before we even meet them or interact with them."
- Her objective for Grafton, as a Selectman, are like Tom's: to do what the voters want.
- As a resident, taxpayer and voter, she thinks that Grafton's biggest issue right now is the lack of a store.
- Hopes that Wilbur's and the new Meeting House Marketplace (when completed) can together meet the need for a store, but says there will still be a need for a gas station.
- Also points out the lack of employment opportunities in town as a serious issue.
- Very concerned about Grafton's lack of proper office, storage, and meeting space. Notes the lack of storage for files and equipment, lack of accessible areas for private interviews, a potentially unsafe police station, and inadequate accommodation at the fire station for deliberative sessions and elections.