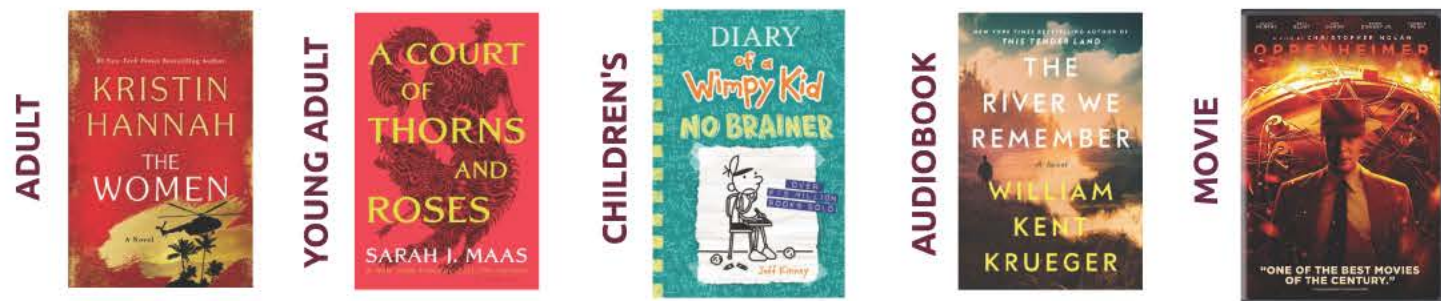


MOST POPULAR CHECKOUTS

These are the most frequently checked out titles by category in 2024.



PROGRAMS



Pictured: Storytime in Waite Park

2,741
programs & events

62,375
attended programs

The Summer Reading and Winter Reading Challenges were available to library users both in their local library and online through the Beanstack app.

13,414
record-breaking children & teens participated in Summer Reading Challenge

3,149
teens & adults participated in Winter Reading Challenge

Many of the additional programs and events region-wide were storytime and book clubs. Also, we offered programs that were made possible with the Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Great River Regional Library Vision

The Neighborhood Gateway: Inspiring Central Minnesota to shape the future through exploration, knowledge and connection.



SUPPORTING GROWING COMMUNITIES



Pictured: Howard Lake Library, new building opened August 2024

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Eagle Bend

Refresh would be the word to describe 2024 across Great River Regional Library's 33 locations. Several of the library buildings took on extensive projects to update their spaces.

At the beginning of the year, the Eagle Bend branch expanded into the Eagle Bend Historical Society & Museum portion of the building. The library remained open while construction was done to incorporate a new meeting space and more space to browse the library's collection. On April 13, Eagle Bend held an Expansion Open House & Anniversary Celebration.

Howard Lake opened in its new net-zero location at 817 8th Avenue on August 12 and held a Library Dedication on October 28. The spacious new building has high-efficiency windows, solar panels, and plenty of natural light. It is the first net-zero library in the state of Minnesota.

A few branches have made renovations to their interior spaces. The Annandale branch recarpeted in March, the Buffalo branch recarpeted in September, and the Monticello branch recarpeted in November. Each project involved moving and reshelving library materials. We are grateful for our strong partnerships with our cities to enhance the library space to make it a welcoming place for all.



Howard Lake



Annandale



Monticello



Buffalo

BY THE NUMBERS

The year 2024 was successful, as we reached a record-breaking number of Summer Reading Challenge participants and saw soaring usage for the digital collection. Here is an overview:



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE

County & City Agreements.....	\$7,624,295
Patron Receipts.....	\$124,006
Grants & State Aid.....	\$1,933,380
Interest & Other Receivables.....	\$520,630
Gifts & Donations.....	\$471,841
Cash Reserves.....	\$608,061
Total Revenue.....	\$11,282,213

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits.....	\$7,722,090
Library Materials.....	\$971,370
Operating & Other Expenses	\$1,026,538
Grant & Fund Balance.....	\$975,723
Capital Investments.....	\$96,922
Patron Programming & Communications.....	\$100,556
Total Expenses.....	\$10,893,199

2024 Board of Trustees

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
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| Robert Kasper* | Morrison County |
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| Lisa Fobbe* | Sherburne County |
| Jayne Dietz | Sherburne County |
| Alan Amdahl | Stearns County |
| Zurya Anjum | Stearns County |
| Tarryl Clark*+ | Stearns County |
| Lynn Grewing | Stearns County |
| Leigh Lenzmeier*+ | Stearns County |
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