

ONE MORE CHAPTER

Literacy, Community, Lifelong Learning

WILLIAMS BRANCH LIBRARY SURGES IN POPULARITY A STORY OF GROWTH



Since the grand opening of the new Williams Library on July 25, 2023, usage has skyrocketed, reflecting a remarkable 73% increase across various metrics compared to the previous year. The numbers speak volumes about the community's response to the new facility.

These figures indicate not just a spike in foot traffic, but a revitalized engagement with library services. With the expanded hours from 30 to 42 hours per week during the school year, the library's accessibility has significantly contributed to this increase.

Even with reduced summer hours at 32 hours per week, the demand remains high, showcasing the library's pivotal role in the community during this season. The library team has been exceptionally busy, catering to the increased interest and participation in programs and resources.



167%

Program Attendance:
In-person participation at programs and outreach events

Visits:

In-person guest visits at Williams.



129%



120%

Computer Reservations:
Usage of library computers

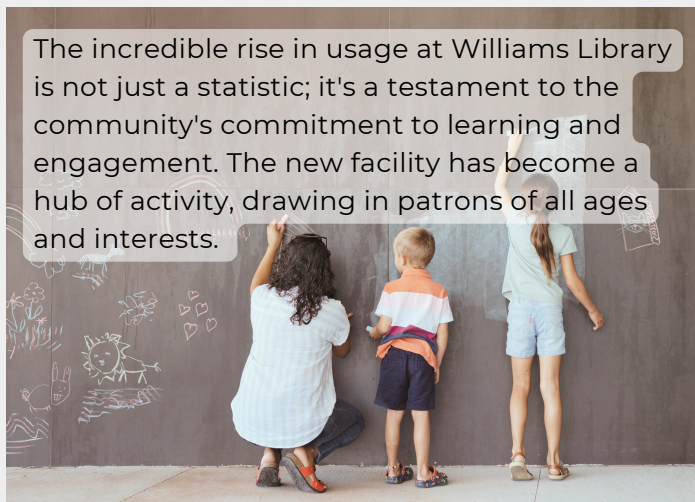
Loans:

Increase in borrowed materials



26%

The incredible rise in usage at Williams Library is not just a statistic; it's a testament to the community's commitment to learning and engagement. The new facility has become a hub of activity, drawing in patrons of all ages and interests.





Regular Stops



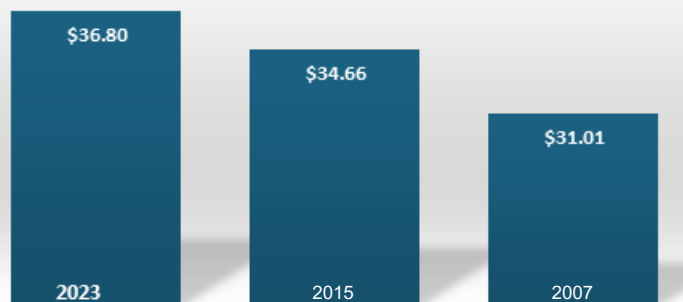
Online Events Calendar

Director's Note

With winter upon us, Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) continues to be the place to visit for lifelong learning, special programs, and of course, for the wealth of books, audio-visual, and digital content available to all Lincoln and Lancaster County residents.

Whether you prefer to stop in and browse the shelves or visit online offerings like Overdrive (Libby app) or Hoopla, your public library remains an economical option for entertainment, learning and growth, and life improvement in so many ways. The best part of library service is the low cost per resident annually. At \$37 per resident, per year, library users receive a good bargain for the robust level of resources and services that are available for all ages. The chart below shows the low cost per resident since 2007. *Take advantage of what's available to you!*

Annual Per Capita Operating Cost for Library Services



Access is important in providing library service. Most branches are open seven days a week and are conveniently located in walkable or bikeable neighborhood locations, and doors are open 24,815 hours a year. In addition, the LIED Bookmobile makes regular stops* biweekly in areas of the city and county where access to a library may be more difficult.

The Library Lineup is now being produced on a monthly basis, available in print at every LCL location or conveniently online for phone or home access. The Lineup highlights most of the monthly programs at each library, and the online events calendar** is another way to stay aware of story times, book discussions, and so much more!

Ryan Wieber





The Power of Partnership

Dr. Chris Haeffner on LPS Libraries and Lincoln City Libraries

In a conversation with Ryan Wieber, Director of Lincoln City Libraries, Dr. Chris Haeffner, Director of Library Services for Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), shared insights into the vital role school libraries play in building strong readers, and the powerful partnership between LPS and LCL.

“If we want our children to become skilled readers, we have to help them discover the joy of reading and the sense of fulfillment that comes from investing in their own curiosity.”

What is your role at LPS, and how did you get there?

I'm the Director of Library Services for Lincoln Public Schools, where I work to make sure that we have the very best school libraries in all of our 62 schools and programs. I started my career as a teacher at Everett Elementary, where on my very first tour of the building, we entered the school library and I asked, "How does one get THIS job?!"

I served for 12 years as a school librarian, both in elementary and middle schools. These were by far the most energizing and creatively inspiring years of my career! Once I finished my doctorate program in educational leadership, I was given the opportunity to serve as the director of libraries for the district. It's been a dreamy succession of events, and I couldn't be luckier in the path that my career has taken!

LPS libraries are known for their incredible resources. Can you share what makes them stand out?

We're fortunate in Nebraska that accreditation rules require certified school librarians and dedicated spaces in every school. That's rare! What this means for LPS is that every school has access to a highly trained school librarian who can not only build strong library collections to help grow strong readers, but also provide important instructions in areas such as media literacy, digital citizenship, and research skills.

I believe that LPS has one of the strongest school library programs in the nation. We've developed a comprehensive elementary library curriculum with 44 lessons per grade, per year, shared nationwide with districts lacking such resources. Middle and high school students engage in lessons tailored to digital and media literacy. Last year, LPS students checked out over 800,000 print books and 250,000 ebooks—a testament to the joy of reading and the expertise of our librarians.

How does the LPS partnership with Lincoln City Libraries for programs like Library OneCard and summer outreach at school sites benefit students and families?

Our partnership with LCL ensures students and families have year-round access to resources that expand learning beyond school walls. Programs like the Library OneCard introduce students to LCL's vast resources and create a seamless connection between school and public libraries.

Our library partnership creates a continuous bridge of opportunity for students, providing them with access to information and resources, regardless of age, income, or educational background.

What are other potential ways that LCL and the Schools can work together to encourage stronger reading habits and improve educational outcomes?

I feel so encouraged by the collaborative conversations that are happening between LCL and our LPS library services. We both recognize that developing strong readers is vital to the success of our community, and I'm excited about the different ways we've talked about joining forces to further our goals.

Now that every student has a Library OneCard, I'd love to see us working together to make sure every family has an opportunity to visit their local library and explore the wide range of resources available to them there. It would also be exciting to partner with each other in events that encourage families to sign up for permanent library cards that they could use once students graduate from LPS. Our school and city libraries have so much to offer; I believe students and families would be amazed to discover the resources already at their fingertips!



Volunteer Recognition

CELEBRATING KAILEE MOORHEAD'S DEDICATION TO SERVICE AT WALT BRANCH LIBRARY

Kailee Moorhead's commitment to Walt Branch Library is a shining example of the power of community and volunteerism. For over ten years, Kailee has contributed more than 300 hours of service to the library, making a meaningful impact on the daily operations of the library and the people it serves.

Kailee, who uses a wheelchair and is nonspeaking, volunteers alongside her mother, Kendra. Their partnership has been a true testament to the power of teamwork and dedication. Kailee's communication, whether through sign language, gestures, or a communication board, allows her to connect with staff and patrons alike, whether she's shelving books or assisting with other library tasks.

Since joining the library's volunteer program in 2014, Kailee has helped with various tasks, including shelving kids' chapter books, paperbacks, and an ever-growing collection of graphic novels.

Her work has been so valuable in maintaining the organization and accessibility of the library's collections. Kailee's flexibility and willingness to take on any task—along with her ever-present smile—make her a beloved member of the Walt Branch team.

Outside of her volunteer work, Kailee is also a regular library patron, always excited to check out new books and stay engaged with her personal reading journey. Her dedication to both volunteering and learning has made her a true asset to the library and the community it serves.

We are grateful for the incredible contributions Kailee has made to Walt Branch Library. Her passion, work ethic, and positivity have left a lasting impression on everyone she works with, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside her in the years to come.

