



# Wilmette Public Library Annual Report FY 2024-25

## Highlights of Our Year

- We introduced a **new library app** in May, featuring a new interface and graphics, a wide variety of resources, quick account access, and an easy-to-use digital library card.
- **Reading series remained popular** with Summer Reading Clubs for all ages, Children's Winter Reading, and a successful second year of our adult and teen community reading series, Wilmette Reads, all funded by the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library.
- We opened three **Lower Level study rooms** to the public, adding availability to a much-requested building asset.
- Our librarians worked on **improving access to our collections**, with major updates to the non-fiction collections on the Lower Level.
- The North Suburban Special Recreation Association presented the library with their **Advocate of the Year award**, recognizing our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive community.

**262,421**  
Library Visits ↑8%

**62,892** Reference Questions Answered ↑44%

**6,920** Patron Interactions in The Studio

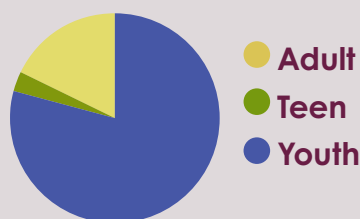
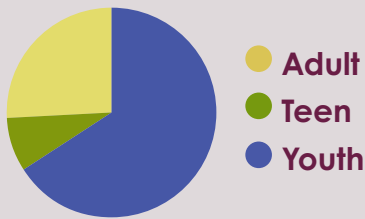
**6,387** Study Room Bookings ↑25%

**137** Room Rentals ↑25%



**964**  
Total Programs

**32,642**  
Program Attendance



## Thank you to our Community Partners

The Friends of the Wilmette Public Library • League of Women Voters of Wilmette & Kenilworth • New Trier High School • School District 39 • School District 37 • Village of Wilmette • Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce • Wilmette Park District

**Programming increased 8% and engagement increased 30%**

Library staff made **272** outreach visits and reached **12,280** community members at schools, festivals, parks, and more.



**The library is open 73 hours each week and 353 days a year.**

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, staff maximized resources to bring the community new services, growing collections, and cultural/educational programming. At a time of increasing costs, staff completed the year on budget.

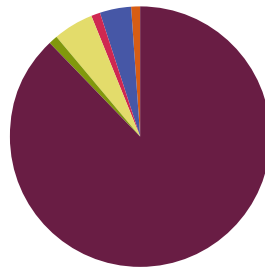
In June, the board approved the library's annual budget of \$6,602,918. Later in the year, the library conducted a long-range financial study, projecting trends for general operations as well as planned capital reserve projects. As a result of the study, to meet the library's fund balance policy of retaining 50% to 100% of its annual operating expenses in reserve, the board reviewed additional strategies to reduce expenses and bolster revenues.

Overall, the challenges presented by the recent inflationary market, the changing and competitive labor market, and maintaining delivery of the library's valued quality of service, the board unanimously supported requesting a 4.9% increase to the annual property tax levy in November 2024.

As we reflect on the ongoing financial health of the library, we continue to enhance partnerships, evaluate new revenue streams, and work with our community to sustain the library for years to come.

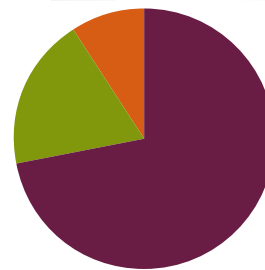
Learn more about our finances at [wilmettelibrary.info/finance](http://wilmettelibrary.info/finance)

## 2024-2025 Revenues \$6,650,524



- 88% Property Taxes
- 5% Interest Income
- 4% Charges for Services
- 1% Miscellaneous
- 1% Replacement Taxes
- 1% Grants/Donations

## 2024-2025 Expenditures \$6,328,061



- 72% Personnel
- 19% Materials/Services
- 9% Operations



213,958 Website Visits ↑3%  
842,692 Wi-Fi sessions ↑7%

18,041 Public Computer Sessions ↑20%

11,921 Kanopy Accessed  
12,302 hoopla Accessed

**642,413**  
Physical Item Circulation

**259,808**  
Digital Collection Circulation

73,419 Holds filled for Wilmette patrons

**Interlibrary Loan**  
43,406 Items to Wilmette  
41,333 Items from Wilmette

Library collection:  
184,036 physical items  
386,117 downloadable and streaming items