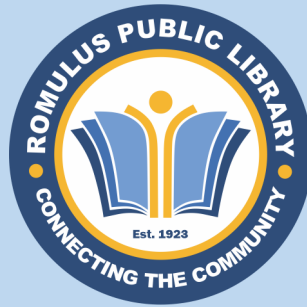


Romulus Public Library

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027

Data Findings



Serving Romulus and Huron Township



Library Board: Jennifer Johnson, President and Huron Township Representative– Kathy Abdo, Vice President and Romulus City Council Liaison – Debbie Hoffman, Treasurer – Candace Lewkowicz, Secretary — Emery Long, Trustee

Library Director: Patty Braden

11121 Wayne Road

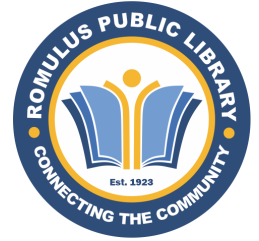
Romulus, MI 48174

734-942-7589

www.romuluslibrary.org

Approved by the Library Board March 17, 2025

Romulus Public Library



Mission

The Romulus Public Library provides resources and services to inform, educate, enlighten and entertain the members of its community and serves as a place for all to discover the joy of reading.

Core Values

◆ **Lifelong Discovery**

We provide programs and services that facilitate the exploration of personal interests and encourage lifelong discovery for people of all ages.

◆ **Access**

We provide free and open access to library resources, programs and services which interest, inform and enlighten.

◆ **Community Engagement**

We serve the community as a resource for information and a place to gather. Our involvement and leadership in the community are extended through partnerships with city departments, businesses, institutions and local organizations.

◆ **Teamwork**

We value our staff and work together as a team, treating each other with respect, integrity and fairness.

◆ **Customer Service**

We are committed to meeting the needs of our patrons and providing the highest quality library service to all.

Adopted by the Romulus Public Library Board April 2015

Executive Summary

Background

In 2018, the library created its first Strategic Plan covering the years 2018-2021. The plan was in full swing and progress was underway until March 2020 when the COVID pandemic shut down library operations and put the plan on a pause for about a year. In 2021, a supplemental plan for 2021-24 was put in place. As library programming and services slowly returned, staff were finally able to begin addressing the remaining goals and objectives. By first quarter 2024 all 74 goals were completed including two major renovations.

Once the Adult Area renovation was completed in the spring of 2024, it was time to create a new Strategic Plan for 2024-27. The plan was led by the Library Director with input and assistance from the Head of Adult and Support Services and the Head of Youth Services and Outreach (The Leadership Team).

The planning process took place during an eight-month period from April — November 2024. Guidelines found in *Strategic Planning for Results* by Sandra Nelson for the Public Library Association (American Library Association, 2008) were used for the process. Strategic plans from area libraries were also consulted.

Feedback Received

A staff feedback survey was created and distributed with 11 out of 12 staff responding. In summer 2024, a community feedback survey was distributed and made available through August. The deadline was extended until October 1, 2024 to reach teachers and other school personnel who were coming back for the new school year. In September, three in-person feedback sessions were held – one midweek morning session, one mid-week evening session, and one Saturday morning session. A total of 56 surveys were completed (45 from community members).

What We Learned

The surveys and feedback sessions revealed that the community is highly satisfied with the library. The top five strengths indicate that patrons enjoy our excellent programming, especially our youth and family programs, access to digital collections, our friendly, helpful staff, library hours, and our location. The top observations for improvement were to provide more engaging programs, especially for teens and adults, increase the size of the building, renovate the youth/teen area, increase outreach to the community, especially Huron Township, market the library better, increase the collection size, and provide more support for staff. All of these suggestions are considered vital for our continued success.

Upon review of the suggestions for improvement by the Leadership Team, the top five library service responses (priorities) emerged. The top five library service responses are: 1) *Continue and Expand Programming for All Ages*, 2) *Create a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces*, 3) *Expand Outreach to the Communities/Market the Library*, 4) *Enhance and Increase Access to Library Collections*, and 5) *Support and Retain Staff*.

The top five library service responses and approval to move forward with the plan were approved by the Library Board at the October 21, 2024 board meeting. The Leadership Team then created specific goals based on the feedback and action items to achieve those goals.

The 2024-27 Strategic Plan will be used to determine quarterly staff goals. Progress on the plan will be reviewed regularly by the director, the leadership team, and the Library Board and communicated in the director's monthly and annual reports.

Special thanks to library staff, the Library Board, the Leadership Team, and the residents who provided feedback. We received many great ideas that will move us forward and help shape the library for today and for future generations.

Demographics

Romulus Public Library serves the residents of Romulus and Huron Township with a total population of 42,122. Demographics for both communities were gathered from U.S. Census data and demographic projections available through the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). This information was used to identify population trends that would influence library services, materials selection, program choices, and design and size of the physical space.

U.S. Census statistics for 2020 show that the population of Romulus is 25,178 and the population of Huron Township is 16,944. Demographics indicate that both communities are growing.

Population and Households — Romulus

Population and Households	Census 2020	Census 2010	Change 2010-2020	Percent Change 2010-2020	SEMCOG Jul 2023	SEMCOG 2050
Total Population	25,178	23,989	1,189	5.0%	25,079	25,508
Group Quarters Population	175	285	-110	-38.6%	247	279
Household Population	25,003	23,704	1,299	5.5%	24,832	25,229
Housing Units	10,280	9,946	334	3.4%	10,450	-
Households (Occupied Units)	9,708	8,975	733	8.2%	9,928	10,275
Residential Vacancy Rate	5.6%	9.8%	-4.2%	-	5.0%	-
Average Household Size	2.58	2.64	-0.07	-	2.50	2.46

Population and Households — Huron Township

Population and Households	Census 2020	Census 2010	Change 2010-2020	Percent Change 2010-2020	SEMCOG Jul 2023	SEMCOG 2050
Total Population	16,944	15,879	1,065	6.7%	16,736	19,075
Group Quarters Population	55	73	-18	-24.7%	51	52
Household Population	16,889	15,806	1,083	6.9%	16,685	19,023
Housing Units	6,481	6,103	378	6.2%	6,554	-
Households (Occupied Units)	6,270	5,781	489	8.5%	6,357	7,200
Residential Vacancy Rate	3.3%	5.3%	-2.0%	-	3.0%	-
Average Household Size	2.69	2.73	-0.04	-	2.62	2.64

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#), and [SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast](#)

Demographics

Forecasted Population Change—Romulus

Age Group	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	Change 2020 - 2050	Percent Change 2020 - 2050
Under 5	1,585	1,569	1,588	1,540	1,419	1,352	1,325	-260	-16.4%
5-17	4,513	4,213	4,323	4,103	3,976	3,937	3,863	-650	-14.4%
18-24	2,319	2,250	2,174	2,246	2,162	2,114	2,017	-302	-13%
25-64	13,358	13,214	13,136	13,254	13,270	13,673	13,642	284	2.1%
65-84	3,173	3,879	4,396	4,537	4,249	4,260	4,213	1,040	32.8%
85+	230	207	223	311	358	406	448	218	94.8%
Total	25,178	25,332	25,840	25,991	25,434	25,742	25,508	330	1.3%

Forecasted Population Change—Huron Township

Age Group	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	Change 2020 - 2050	Percent Change 2020 - 2050
Under 5	921	1,009	1,097	1,175	1,191	1,259	1,268	347	37.7%
5-17	2,951	2,897	3,030	3,013	3,011	2,935	3,015	64	2.2%
18-24	1,455	1,451	1,496	1,560	1,634	1,638	1,655	200	13.7%
25-64	8,881	8,663	8,513	8,723	9,154	9,571	9,722	841	9.5%
65-84	2,521	2,792	3,053	3,097	3,071	2,996	3,039	518	20.5%
85+	215	203	235	266	281	372	376	161	74.9%
Total	16,944	17,015	17,424	17,834	18,342	18,771	19,075	2,131	12.6%

Demographics

Household Types — Romulus

Household Types	Census 2010	ACS 2022	Change 2010-2022	Percent Change 2010-2022	SEMCOG 2050
With Seniors 65+	1,862	2,631	769	41.3%	3,539
Without Seniors	7,113	6,294	-819	-11.5%	6,736
Live Alone, 65+	732	1,143	411	56.1%	-
Live Alone, <65	1,602	1,397	-205	-12.8%	-
2+ Persons, With children	3,395	3,344	-51	-1.5%	2,910
2+ Persons, Without children	3,246	3,041	-205	-6.3%	4,111
Total Households	8,975	8,925	-50	-0.6%	10,275

Household Types — Huron Township

Household Types	Census 2010	ACS 2022	Change 2010-2022	Percent Change 2010-2022	SEMCOG 2050
With Seniors 65+	1,225	1,973	748	61.1%	2,482
Without Seniors	4,556	4,176	-380	-8.3%	4,718
Live Alone, 65+	357	519	162	45.4%	-
Live Alone, <65	752	860	108	14.4%	-
2+ Persons, With children	2,124	1,872	-252	-11.9%	2,324
2+ Persons, Without children	2,548	2,898	350	13.7%	3,237
Total Households	5,781	6,149	368	6.4%	7,200

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#), and [SEMCOG 2050 Regional Development Forecast](#)

Circulation and Visitors to the Library

The Library is open 60.5 hours/week, six days/week: Monday—Thursday 9 a.m.—8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.—6 p.m., and Saturday 9:30 a.m.—5 p.m. Circulation of materials has fluctuated and visitors to the Library are on an upward trend.

Year	Circulation of Materials	Annual Number of Visitors to the Library	Average Number of Visitors Each Day
2021/22	61,494	37,710	125
2022/23	57,723	39,145	131
2023/24	59,272	48,983	165

Financial Considerations

The Library is funded primarily by current tax dollars levied in Romulus at a rate of .7 mils. Based on the 2024/25 budget, this generates approximately \$708,580 in annual revenues. Huron Township residents currently pay \$30,398 annually plus penal fines for library services. Other revenues are received from the following sources: local community stabilization, state aid, investment earnings, rental revenue, grants and donations, e-rate reimbursement, fines, copies, printing, penal fines, and other income. Total revenues budgeted for operating expenses in FY 2024/25 are \$1,061,030. Through prudent financial management, at the time of this writing, the Library has a healthy fund balance of 26% of expenditures.

ROMULUS PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND BUDGETED REVENUES, AND EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE FY 2024-2025

	2022-23 ACTUAL	2023-24 PROJECTED	2023-24 AMENDED	2024-25 REQUESTED
Fund 271 - Library Fund				
ESTIMATED REVENUES				
STATE GRANTS & REVENUES	62,534	57,000	48,000	50,000
INTEREST AND RENTS	25,258	35,200	15,200	15,200
PROPERTY TAXES	651,726	672,510	654,110	708,580
FEDERAL GRANTS & REVENUES	28,802	4,970	8,500	
OTHER REVENUES	39,472	39,950	41,510	42,750
CHARGE FOR SERVICES	9,937	8,500	7,000	8,000
FINES AND FORFEITS	381,045	282,920	203,000	228,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	1,198,774	1,101,050	968,820	1,061,030
APPROPRIATIONS				
PERSONNEL SERVICES	503,011	613,730	637,682	690,400
SUPPLIES	90,884	102,650	109,750	136,440
OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES	245,795	269,540	271,491	278,520
CAPITAL OUTLAY	63,733	458,030	549,535	106,200
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	903,423	1,443,950	1,568,458	1,211,560
NET OF REVENUES/ APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 271	295,351	(342,900)	(599,638)	(150,530)
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	513,407	808,759	808,759	465,859
FUND BALANCE ADJUSTMENTS	1			
ENDING FUND BALANCE	808,759	465,859	209,121	315,329

2024 Survey Results

◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Current Library Strengths

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Regular events/programming*****
- ◆ Child centered activities/programs*****
- ◆ Great programming for youth and teens
- ◆ Easy to get to, location, it's in a great space***
- ◆ A great up-to-date collection of books and other materials***
- ◆ Friendly, knowledgeable, nice, helpful staff/customer service*****
- ◆ Family oriented activities
- ◆ New books and periodicals
- ◆ Ability to connect to the Romulus community*
- ◆ Ability to have books available to read, digital or hard copy*****
- ◆ Hours*****
- ◆ Wide variety of media
- ◆ Computer use/availability of computers*
- ◆ Video collection
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Organization of kids books
- ◆ Great director/leadership**
- ◆ Cooperative with other community organizations, city officials, and volunteers
- ◆ Movie programs, genealogy program, ability to utilize computers and/or talk one on one to learn how computer works
- ◆ Summer Reading Program phenomenal, successful
- ◆ Safe and quiet
- ◆ Well attended music programs
- ◆ Internal signage for collections
- ◆ Parking very good
- ◆ Opportunities for professional development
- ◆ Services*
- ◆ Resources that meet the needs of many demographics
- ◆ Sense of community
- ◆ Listening to patron requests regarding materials, making sure we are current in what patrons are interested in reading/watching
- ◆ Social media presence
- ◆ Outreach

2024 Survey Results

◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Current Library Weaknesses

Feedback Received:

- ◆ None
- ◆ Temporary loss of access to sections during renovations—only temporary issue of course
- ◆ Unknown
- ◆ It's size, although I believe it meets the need of the our community, plus it creates a feeling of comfort, safety, and knowledge
- ◆ Very small and doesn't have much material**
- ◆ Must wait days for most items to be brought in by other libraries**
- ◆ Sign out of computer prior to one hour even when computer is not needed
- ◆ Not scanning library cards at computers
- ◆ Cannot think of any
- ◆ Misunderstanding about late fees. Was told when due they auto renew unless it's on hold
- ◆ Not carrying enough best seller books in stock/lack of inventory*****
- ◆ Not a lot of events going on
- ◆ Children's area needs renovation, better signage that is aesthetically pleasing, user friendly
- ◆ Leveled readers need to be revamped to be more user friendly, same levels/colors together, more than three levels
- ◆ More engaging programs throughout the school year, not just fun ones for reading month and summer (maker space and Lego club not super engaging)
- ◆ Consider getting play-aways
- ◆ Reading programs need to be revamped
- ◆ Prizes not all age appropriate and limiting. My 5 and 9 year old can only enter to win two of the same prizes but their ages and interests are totally different. My 9 year old would love the Kindle, not an art set or camera. Even my 5 year old would love the Kindle.
- ◆ Shady unsafe area
- ◆ Getting rid of older books. Those older books are often very good despite the lack of a flashy cover
- ◆ Summer bridge and learning loss prevention materials
- ◆ Pushing out info to community for what the library provides access to or information for*
- ◆ More digital content
- ◆ Not enough updated books. Belleville has lucky read section with all new reads and it's 10 times what Romulus has
- ◆ It's an older building
- ◆ Hours/not open Sundays*
- ◆ Limiting Hoopla to only 3 items per month
- ◆ More tween events
- ◆ Lack of storage space*
- ◆ Outdated restrooms*
- ◆ Sharing resources via email
- ◆ Turnover in staff
- ◆ Adult programs on night when I can't come
- ◆ Hard to see flyers on front doors, need bigger lettering with white background/dark letters, easier to see/read

2024 Survey Results

◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Current Library Weaknesses

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Communication and unnecessary amounts of change (i.e. constant change to circulation desk organization)
- ◆ Outreach for adults and in general with Huron Township/New Boston*
- ◆ Need to make better use of social media
- ◆ Lack of consistency in enforcing rules for patrons
- ◆ Need to utilize part time staff and non-librarian full time staff. Full time staff should have more responsibility*
- ◆ Adult and teen programming*
- ◆ Inconsistent patron expectations
- ◆ Disorganization in youth department
- ◆ Inconsistent staff expectations
- ◆ Outreach, almost no adult outreach whatsoever
- ◆ BISAC, patrons and staff have a hard time navigating it and youth BISAC and adult BISAC are different is really frustrating
- ◆ Not having a door to easily access the butterfly garden
- ◆ Butterfly garden needs to be better taken care of, weeded, more plantings, and a seating area, butterfly house, etc.
- ◆ Use of space in children's and teens areas

2024 Survey Results

◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Library's Role in the Community

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Offering access to all to educational and reading materials
- ◆ Community Center for engagement, learning and growth
- ◆ Books and civic stuff
- ◆ The Library is a support to the community
- ◆ To provide free access to educational materials and recreational reading
- ◆ Serving the entire community
- ◆ Providing books and other opportunities to learn and grow
- ◆ Very important
- ◆ Offering educational books and services that are not woke related
- ◆ Serve the public knowledge and enjoyment through books, novels, educational and general laws and rights
- ◆ Book clubs and kids learning center—it appears Romulus is on point, haven't browsed the new remodel yet
- ◆ More outreach programs
- ◆ Libraries are extremely import. They're multi-purposeful for resources, to off a "third space" which is a place where people can congregate and be together without having to buy goods or pay for a service. They're also symbols of (and are) safe spaces that is generally accepting of everyone.
- ◆ Serve as a reference for information including city matters
- ◆ A safe and enjoyable experience for the community
- ◆ To educate with materials and enrich with programs. Though things need to be simplified and more user friendly in the kids section. Repair, new signs, tour a few other libraries and see what they do and what makes them great, posting events on FB events. Make events educational and fun and rewarding.
- ◆ Provide resources and materials to the schools and community
- ◆ Children's programs and more outreach
- ◆ Providing education and promoting reading skills
- ◆ Informational center, community outreach, free resources for family entertainment (books and videos) and education
- ◆ Education and entertainment
- ◆ Provide a place of solace
- ◆ Not just books, computer access, printer access, and media, but resources for studying, story time. It would be great if the library lent out things like tools for home repair and maintenance
- ◆ A resource
- ◆ Providing services such as internet, copy machines, etc. Providing a place for the community to gather, Providing free sources of entertainment and information for the community.
- ◆ It's a resource for sharing reading materials.
- ◆ A place for resources, a place for micro communities to meet
- ◆ Loan books and other materials, provide internet, provide meeting spaces
- ◆ Bringing kids together
- ◆ A space for learning and gathering
- ◆ As a main provider of good educational reading, viewing and listening of historic and current news. A source of education and entertainment for all ages.

2024 Survey Results

◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Library's Role in the Community

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Sharing resources to those interested
- ◆ A place to get books
- ◆ Provide services to residents and access to reading materials
- ◆ Provide programs and computers
- ◆ Free computer use
- ◆ Door to knowledge, a place to advance knowledge and skills
- ◆ Direct patrons to what they need
- ◆ Source for services like faxing, notary, etc.
- ◆ Being a “third space” where people can exist and commune
- ◆ A bridge between populations that might not interact
- ◆ A stepping stone to opportunity
- ◆ Advocating for literacy, education, and spreading information for all
- ◆ To meet the evolving and varying needs of the community
- ◆ To provide information, assistance, and a safe place to spend time for all ages and demographics
- ◆ To provide patrons with a safe, free space to access information and technology
- ◆ To provide access to information, books, media, and a place to connect with other members of the community
- ◆ To be a bridge between the community and resources they may not have access to
- ◆ A community hub and a place for patrons to feel safe, a third place for community members
- ◆ Connecting the community with resources, information and enriching recreation
- ◆ I think we also provide a space for people to simply be in free of cost and a safe space for them
- ◆ Providing services that work towards the goal of furthering knowledge
- ◆ Meet evolving needs of community
- ◆ Provide access to information, books, media, and a place to connect with others
- ◆ Services that work toward goal of furthering knowledge
- ◆ Community hub and place for patrons to feel safe

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Do you use the Library? If you don't use the Library, why not?

Feedback Received:

- ◆ N/a—I'd probably get there more often if we weren't a bit far, as we're in Huron Township/New Boston area but Romulus is our home library
- ◆ N/a
- ◆ I use more of the digital resources currently because of work
- ◆ Distance
- ◆ Because I currently have access to a computer and printer and only have to go if I need to obtain certain books
- ◆ Time constraints
- ◆ I used to utilize this library's services until I moved to Dearborn
- ◆ I belong to the senior citizens book club and find it disconcerting that no representative from the library is present. While we generally have no problems with discussion it might be helpful to have someone who guides the discussion. Other than that, I do not spend any time in the library.
- ◆ I used to come all the time but it got to a point where I couldn't find new materials. I have switched to Taylor library and am happy with their selections
- ◆ Organization of the kids area needs to be updated, the area in general needs to be updated. We attend book clubs at Taylor, programs at Belleville because there is more of a variety. I like that there is now a youth librarian desk in the kids area and Miss Tee interacts with the kids but it should be a permanent fixture in the library. We are better off using TLN to request books and get them set over or going to Belleville.
- ◆ Unsafe crime infested area
- ◆ I don't but would love for a satellite in New Boston, too far away
- ◆ Too far. I live on the edge of Huron Township on county line closer to Flat Rock.
- ◆ Largely out of date selection of adult fiction
- ◆ It's too far away from my house. I have two other libraries closer to me. Trains don't block me from accessing them.
- ◆ I do, yes***
- ◆ We use the library often
- ◆ Location. We live in New Boston and the slight inconvenience of a drive deters visiting more often
- ◆ I don't get up there very much because I live in New Boston. The Carlton library would be closer for me
- ◆ We use it monthly
- ◆ I am a regular visitor and volunteer
- ◆ Don't use library as much as I should and buy books, the share with friends
- ◆ Yes, for checking out books, magazines, bring grandkids to play with puppets and use AWE computers

2024 Survey Results

◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Top Five Things We Should Focus on in the Next Three Years

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Building the Hoopla & Libby collection***
- ◆ Continued creative learning offerings
- ◆ Continued early educational reading based programs (you already do all these!)
- ◆ More meeting rooms
- ◆ Doing more for young kids and getting them involved and interested in reading*
- ◆ Continue to let members take out magazines
- ◆ Providing help to those who need it on the computers/computer classes (Google suite, Microsoft office suite)*****
- ◆ Keep offering free books
- ◆ Pay your employees well/working conditions/staff satisfaction/retention***
- ◆ Technology*
- ◆ Adult programming
- ◆ Music of all genres
- ◆ Adult and student tutoring access
- ◆ Separate information desk
- ◆ Funding to keep the library operating in good condition
- ◆ Community satisfaction within the library
- ◆ Sufficient/adequate space/updates/space for remote workers***
- ◆ Remodel the children's and teen area***
- ◆ Provide fun engaging programs for kids and adults, senior citizens****
- ◆ Update reference books, current editions
- ◆ Neighborhoods
- ◆ To get involved with the surrounding schools to aid in reading*
- ◆ More community involvement at community and school events*****
- ◆ Community hub for events
- ◆ Expanding number of books available, new books, kids books, current best sellers*****
- ◆ Partner with community agencies like non profits to offer educational programs free to the community (for example, health and wellness programs)
- ◆ Offer health screenings (partner with local hospital or non-profits) and blood drives
- ◆ Information about what city government is considering
- ◆ Progressive resources i.e., lending out items to the community
- ◆ Offer classes or instruction such as sewing, quilting, minor auto repairs etc.*
- ◆ Better children programs/more enticing summer reading
- ◆ Elementary book clubs*
- ◆ Redoing of the leveled reading system
- ◆ Don't think it's possible
- ◆ Satellite to New Boston

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates comment by more than one person

Top Five Things We Should Focus on in the Next Three Years

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Speakers on subjects of local history, gardening, and environment
- ◆ Updating adult book clubs
- ◆ Resume building classes
- ◆ Pushing out info for what library offers besides books and how the library is changing regarding technology offerings
- ◆ Adult community groups
- ◆ Tools rental added
- ◆ Children's AR books
- ◆ More tween events, family events
- ◆ Kids activities during the day
- ◆ Staying up-to-date on "good reads" movies, TV series

2024 Survey Results

◆ Indicates suggested by more than one person

Program Suggestions

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Better children programs*
- ◆ More story times
- ◆ Better prizes
- ◆ Preteen and teen programs**
- ◆ More adult and children's arts and crafts*
- ◆ Weekly elementary school educational program for middle age kids (7-12)*
- ◆ Movie theater rental
- ◆ Adult programming*
- ◆ Music of all genres*
- ◆ Family friendly programs*
- ◆ Workshop on self-improvement
- ◆ Senior citizen programs for reading and fellowship*
- ◆ Diverse free or low-cost programs like different styles of exercise
- ◆ Everyday living classes such as balancing a checkbook, how to manage a credit card, wise investing*
- ◆ Reading events for youth, preteen and teen programs*
- ◆ Computer classes**
- ◆ More clubs
- ◆ More book clubs/themed book clubs**
- ◆ Monthly yoga classes
- ◆ After school programs
- ◆ Multicultural programs*
- ◆ Author lectures*
- ◆ Cooking lessons/exhibitions (kids and adults)*
- ◆ Programs for autistic/neurodivergent/special needs patrons (kids and adults)**
- ◆ Local tours/day trips (ie: Kroger warehouse, Detroit church tour)
- ◆ Garden activity with butterfly garden**
- ◆ Pumpkin decorating contest
- ◆ Spirit week
- ◆ Art programs geared toward adults
- ◆ Foreign language/ESL conversation sessions
- ◆ Outdoor movie night with projector
- ◆ Tutoring program, ACT/SAT prep
- ◆ More how-to things taught by someone
- ◆ Program on finances, stocks, et al. to inform not to sell a product
- ◆ Programs focused on minorities
- ◆ Displays that include what patrons like (favorite books, etc.)
- ◆ Science experiment type programs that are fun and interactive
- ◆ Community garden
- ◆ Literacy program
- ◆ More adult programs that cost more to host like music

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates suggested by more than one person

Service Suggestions

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Second language learning services*
- ◆ Auditorium built
- ◆ Student support services like tutoring or having study rooms/spaces available
- ◆ Voter registration
- ◆ Stay open until 9 pm on week nights to provide better programming that people can actually attend without skipping dinner and rushing to get out by 8 pm
- ◆ Trained resources navigator that can help people in need get connected to helpful resources
- ◆ Lending closet
- ◆ Scanning library cards at computers
- ◆ Online access for genealogy research
- ◆ Tool rentals
- ◆ Updated children's books. Schools use AR system but library doesn't offer those books
- ◆ More availability in kids electronic reading devices
- ◆ Adult craft kits or continuing library of things with tools, gardening equipment, crafting tools, kitchen tools
- ◆ Classes for technology use
- ◆ More online books/more Hoopla holds/help patrons get more access to digital services***
- ◆ Share resources/activity flyers with Huron Seniors
- ◆ Sign language for staff or patrons
- ◆ Homeschool or at home education
- ◆ Craft project kits for checkout
- ◆ Second branch in Huron or New Boston
- ◆ Outreach services for adult/kids
- ◆ Full-time librarian for outreach
- ◆ Homework help
- ◆ Literacy program for adults and kids with partnership with non-profit
- ◆ Cutting edge technology for in library use—3D printers, Cricut, etc.

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates suggested by more than one person

Technology Suggestions

Feedback Received:

- ◆ N/a
- ◆ Meeting rooms with projectors
- ◆ I would like to see more audio books available for digital download (I use hoopla and would like to borrow more than 3 books a month if I return the ones I finish before the 21 day return date. ***
- ◆ Self help faxing
- ◆ ProQuest
- ◆ I like that you offer ABC Mouse. Maybe try adding Babble too
- ◆ Increase computer tech
- ◆ The library has enough computers and does not need any other gadgets for people to check out
- ◆ Lending out laptops etc.
- ◆ In the kids section more of the kids, computers, and a couple where they can actually go on the Internet, but maybe for just a card catalog, and limited sites if they needed to do research for something.
- ◆ Teaching seniors and youth how to adjust to computers and uses/social media for seniors/continue offering one on one to learn computers/cell apps/etc.***
- ◆ Stop spending taxpayer money
- ◆ Teach parents how to use the technology the kids are using in class like Google classroom and others (would that be a program or technology?)
- ◆ 3D printing. Cricut machines
- ◆ N/a
- ◆ Rentable technology such as craft machines, sewing machines, basic tools

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates suggested by more than one person

Community Outreach Suggestions

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Curbside book pick up
- ◆ N/a*
- ◆ Tutoring for students
- ◆ Book clubs
- ◆ Cooking classes
- ◆ Outrageous assistance/programs for those in need ex: giveaways, counseling
- ◆ Going to the schools and getting all kids library cards
- ◆ Summer fun - Library on the Lawn
- ◆ I think a speaker series on topics of interest to the community
- ◆ Much greater publicity/articles in the Romulus newsletter that comes out quarterly with library updates/ newsletter or email to outside communities telling what we have to offer***
- ◆ Senior citizens
- ◆ Bring in popular authors to talk about their books
- ◆ Sunday hours
- ◆ Programs that involve the community/booth or attend community festivals/get involved in some other way at fall/spring carnivals, trunk or treats, parades, etc.***
- ◆ The use of Facebook and placing things on the events ahead of time, you guys do a good job using Facebook to communicate days you're going to be closed and programs on occasion, but not frequent enough.
- ◆ That's not the purpose of a library
- ◆ A satellite building in new Boston
- ◆ Coordinating with Metroparks on programs
- ◆ Push into schools/partner with teachers (grades) more often or throughout school year or work with school librarians and teachers to see what resources they need/use.
- ◆ Bookmobile* available at elementary school carnivals or events like trunk or treats then kids can return books to library or Dropbox at school in a week. Volunteers (retirees or parent) could pick up and return the books to library.
- ◆ Allow people whose taxes fund the library but don't live in Romulus (the townships) to vote on library millage
- ◆ More community connections! Having local businesses or groups host events at the library
- ◆ Offer a lite lunch with senior cinema
- ◆ Building relationships with local businesses/city for partnerships and sponsored events**
- ◆ More outreach, not just to schools but also to adults/Outreach Librarian/outreach to Huron Twp**
- ◆ Increase connection with older teens age 15-17

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates suggested by more than one person

Building/Space Suggestions

Feedback Received:

- ◆ N/a - a private study room or two might be useful for the community though!
- ◆ More meeting rooms
- ◆ I think the use of the current space is not the best and things could be restructured internally to allow for more organization and better flow of people.
- ◆ Improved ground keeping; water fountain with benches and tables ; an outdoor reading area
- ◆ Adequate/sufficient space/areas to accommodate large crowds when needed/bigger building/larger building with more books/ideally larger space to accommodate increase in current popular fiction, better space to leisurely sit and check out possible books/large group gathering space for private events/bigger building!!!! The community room gets filled up so quickly! How wonderful! *****
- ◆ Remodeled kids/teen area/a larger library would be great, but honestly, the kids section needs an overhaul**
- ◆ Increase
- ◆ No suggestions
- ◆ Baskets or something to carry books around in as I check the shelves. Books get heavy!
- ◆ Keep up with improvements moving forward
- ◆ Doesn't need more space
- ◆ Expand book area.. it seems like it has been decreased in the last renovations
- ◆ Game rooms for in person play, not check out (board games and puzzles, NOT video games) for all ages. "Craft" room for access to die cut machines and dies. Space for crafting clubs like scrapbooking, crocheting, knitting to gather and work/socialize.
- ◆ Spaces for remote workers. I work from home and would love to go work from a perimeter space in the library 1-2 times per week. Ideally something like in college libraries, desks placed out of the main flow of traffic with partitions and outlets. If funding is unlimited - having a second monitor to plug into at those desks would be amazing.
- ◆ Also would love a satellite building in New Boston. Something with a book pick-up and maybe a few rooms as a start? Maybe it could be attached to the fire station or police station like in Ypsilanti? As a start?/library on other side of 275***
- ◆ A used book store manned by volunteers with gift items available.

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates suggested by more than one person

Do you believe that there is a need for building growth? If yes, would you support it financially?

Feedback Received:

- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Seems plenty big to me :)
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ I don't think it needs more space but it does need to be reorganized
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Romulus library was renovated a couple years ago, but I do believe that there's always room for growth. Depending on what that growth encompasses, I might want to support.
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Yes Yes Yes Yes
- ◆ No, it's a good size now.
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ yes-however before the building is enlarged, we probably need to consider the needs of Huron township. Their contribution will need to increase substantially if the library is going to consider putting some kind of facility in Huron.
- ◆ yes, plus you need to expand new releases
- ◆ Yes there is a need to continue expanding the library. Yes I would support this financially.
- ◆ Yes, The building is a hole, but particularly our youth, early intervention is key. If you can't keep young kids engaged in the library you're doing our future disservice.
- ◆ I believe it is big enough for what we offer.
- ◆ Absolutely not
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Yes. I have only been to the library once. It's too far away
- ◆ No and yes
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ Selfishly, I love a big library with loads of shelves but given the access to the surrounding bigger libraries I don't know that it's a NEED. But I would support library growth financially.
- ◆ I would! But I'm in New Boston. Hmmm....
- ◆ Yes and Yes
- ◆ Yes
- ◆ No

28 responses—20 yes, 8 no

2024 Survey Results

- ◆ Indicates suggested by more than one person

Comments:

Feedback Received:

- ◆ We love our library (heart)
- ◆ My library has made many improvements over the years. It truly is an asset to the community .
- ◆ I miss using this library. The staff were always very friendly and helpful. The library was always very clean.
- ◆ I answered all I wanted TY
- ◆ Something needs to be done about the parking lot. On any given day-most of the first row of spaces is taken up and if I enter the library, it is empty. This says to me that these spaces are being used by the courthouse. I am not parking in the back forty so that some idiot at the courthouse has a space closer to the front door. Perhaps signage in the parking lot designating that first row for library patrons only is needed.
- ◆ I would prefer to use the Romulus library but the lack of new material is a problem for me.
- ◆ N/a
- ◆ The survey needs to be better formatted, it is not very user-friendly, many people will disengage because they don't even know where to offer suggestions versus a multiple-choice with the line for other would probably get a higher engagement rate and a more accurate overview of your population. Having QR codes hung on the sliding doors in the kids area in the adult area at check out to encourage people to take the surveys would also be very beneficial and probably worthwhile for you guys.
- ◆ Romulus library does a great job for our community as well as other surrounding communities.
- ◆ Tap into the schools and scouting for volunteers for the outreach and other programs. Honor society members are always needing volunteer hours. Scouts look for service projects. Even youth groups and school clubs can provide volunteer services. Marketing and advertisement is key to keeping the library on people's minds.
- ◆ I am new to this library. It was a far drive from my home in New Boston and VERY small. Staff was helpful and friendly.