

THE STORY OF 2023

by Grand Forks Public_



**GRAND
FORKS
PUBLIC**



ONCE UPON A TIME...

Once upon a time in the bustling town of Grand Forks, there was a magical place where curious minds roamed free. Let's dig into the pages of Grand Forks Public's 2023 stories.

- David's Farewell: Our adventure starts with a bittersweet goodbye to David Haney, the retiring IT Director.
- Aaron's Honor: Aaron Stefanich was crowned NDLA's Librarian of the Year for his dedication.
- New Grants: Myra's Treehouse grant and the DPI Grant for the Summer Reading Program brought excitement.
- Banners of Brilliance: Vibrant banners adorned the library's exterior, showcasing the beauty of discovery.
- LEGO Holiday Magic: GFKlug hosted a holiday LEGO display at the library, sparking wonder in all.
- A Digital Haven: We unveiled our new website, inviting adventurers to explore.
- Sensory Storytime: Partnering with Anne Carlson, we hosted inclusive sensory storytimes filled with joy.
- Library of Things: We introduced a collection of new technologies and wonders to be checked out.
- Curious Minds on the GO: The new library van brought stories to every corner of Grand Forks County.
- Children's Department Grand Reopening: The Children's Department revealed a breathtaking, nature-inspired space for kids and kids-at-heart.

Until next time, may your adventures be grand and your dreams endless!





“My four-year-old loves going here because of the fun atmosphere of the kids’ section.”



FRIENDS

Once upon a time, there lived a group of Friends who loved the library. On a gloomy December night, they reminisced about the past year's adventures.

One Friend proudly exclaimed, "Remember all the things our individual and business members helped us achieve this year?"

"Ah yes, together, we helped fund nine library projects! Whether it was assisting with the Summer Reading Program, the library van, or the Teen Novelties boxes, we proved that teamwork makes the dream work."

"And don't forget about our annual Mini Art Show, the Holiday LEGO Display opening reception, and our second Music and Mocktails event which was recognized in a national library magazine!"

The Friends recounted highlights of all sorts—the Six Word Story Contest, Terrarium Class, Family Photo Day, and more. Plus, they held magnificent book sales to fund their dreams.

As the stars twinkled above, they realized they had brought joy and inspiration to Grand Forks Public Library patrons. The Friends eagerly awaited the next chapter, ready to continue writing their story for years to come.





FOUNDATION

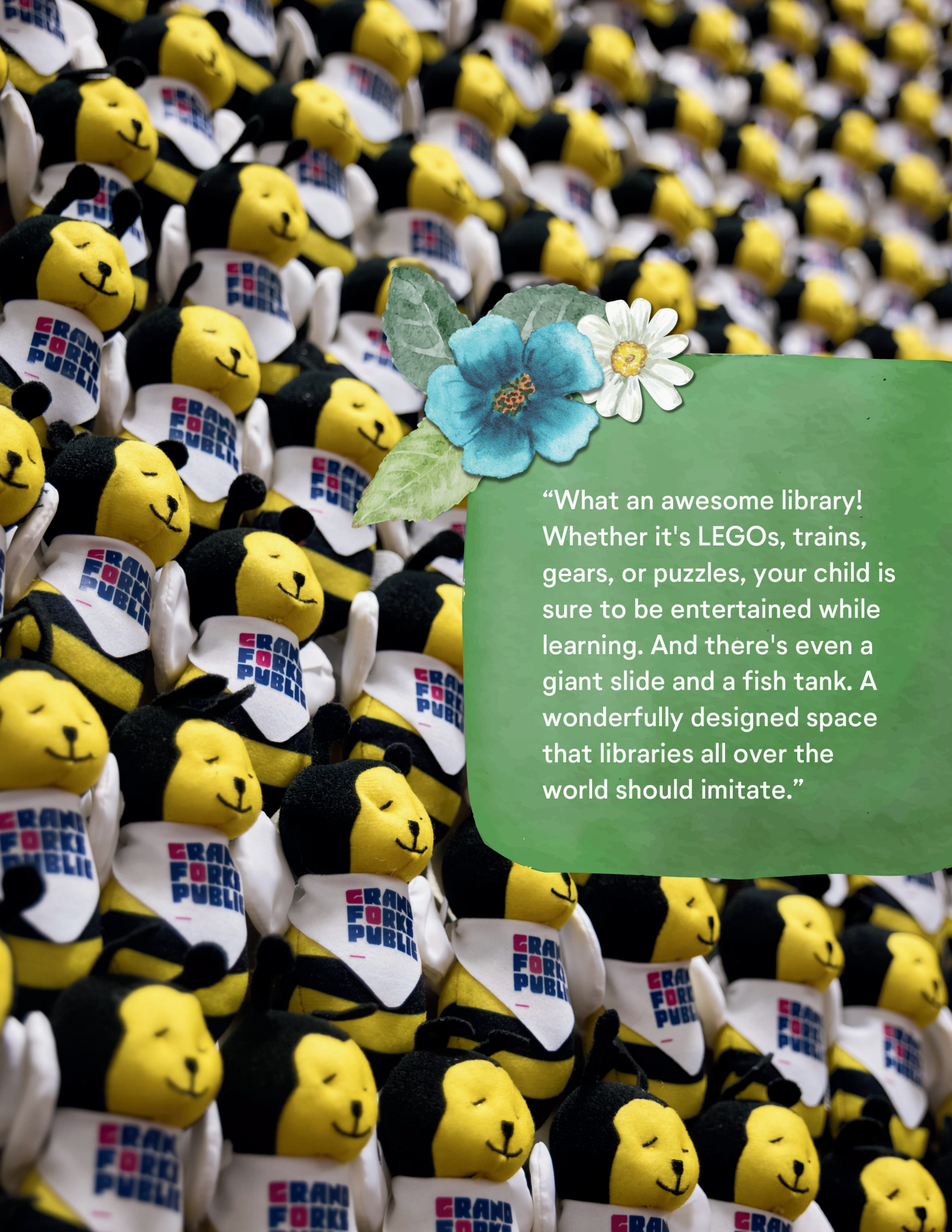
In early 2023, we pondered: What if we brought the joy of the library to every nook and cranny of Grand Forks County? Enter the "Curious Minds on the GO" initiative. With the magic of an outreach van, we aimed to bring a world of stories to curious minds of all ages. To turn this dream into reality, we joined the Giving Hearts Day campaign, where every dollar donated to our project was matched up to \$7,000.

Thanks to the kindness of our match donors and giving hearts, we soared past our goal, raising a whopping \$14,100! Fast forward to the summer of 2023, and guess what? The library now owns its very own outreach van.

Next, we're seeking funding partners to help create the ultimate Curiosity Lab—a vibrant makerspace where curiosity knows no bounds. Your donation to the Grand Forks Public Library Foundation will make this vision a reality, with features like a recording studio, access to advanced technology, and more. Let's bring this vision to life together.



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Library Foundation



“What an awesome library! Whether it's LEGOs, trains, gears, or puzzles, your child is sure to be entertained while learning. And there's even a giant slide and a fish tank. A wonderfully designed space that libraries all over the world should imitate.”



“The most important asset of any library goes
home at night—the library staff.”
–Timothy Healy

NOTEWORTHY IN 2023

Created Temporary Children's Library on Main Floor
Started Teen Dungeons & Dragons Club
Foundation Participation in Giving Hearts Day
Began Offering Book Match
Introduced Library of Things for Checkout
Friends' Second Annual Mini Art Show
Began Circulating Digital Radon Detectors
Introduced Hobby Tryout Kits
Walking Moai Group with Blue Zones Project
Children's Grand Reopening in June
North Dakota Ballet Company Performance at GFP_
Sensory Storytime with Anne Carlsen
Coffee & Conversation Program Expands
Blog Receives PR Xchange Award
Thompson Days Parade
Designated as Infant Friendly
Hosted First Puzzle Competition
Installed #PeopleFirst Pantry
Added Building Banners & Shelf Wraps
Expanded Storytime Kit Program
Second Annual Grand Forks Public Library Con
Potato Bowl Parade
Dr. Laura Munski wins 'I Partner With My Public Library' Award
New Library Van
Friends Add Quick-Charging Stations
Fright Night, Haunted Stacks, and Costume Swap
Celebrated All Stories Belong Week
Second Annual Music & Mocktails
David Haney's Retirement as IT Director
Bryan King's Promotion to IT Director
Hosted Blue Whales Project
New York Times Access Begins
Aaron Stefanich: NDLA Librarian of the Year
Holiday LEGO Display with GFKlug
Redesigned Website





PATRON PRAISES

"Wonderful place for kids and family to gather!"

"Always clean. Friendly staff. We love spending time here. My children love the children's section. I love the entire place!"

"This is a cool library! Staff are always helpful. When I can't find something, staff are always able to help me. Computers, books, videos, games, and they always have great events!"

"A truly beautiful library, the space they've created for a fun and relaxing atmosphere for families and all who are looking for a swell read. Thank you, Grand Forks, for putting all the effort into this treasure of a location."

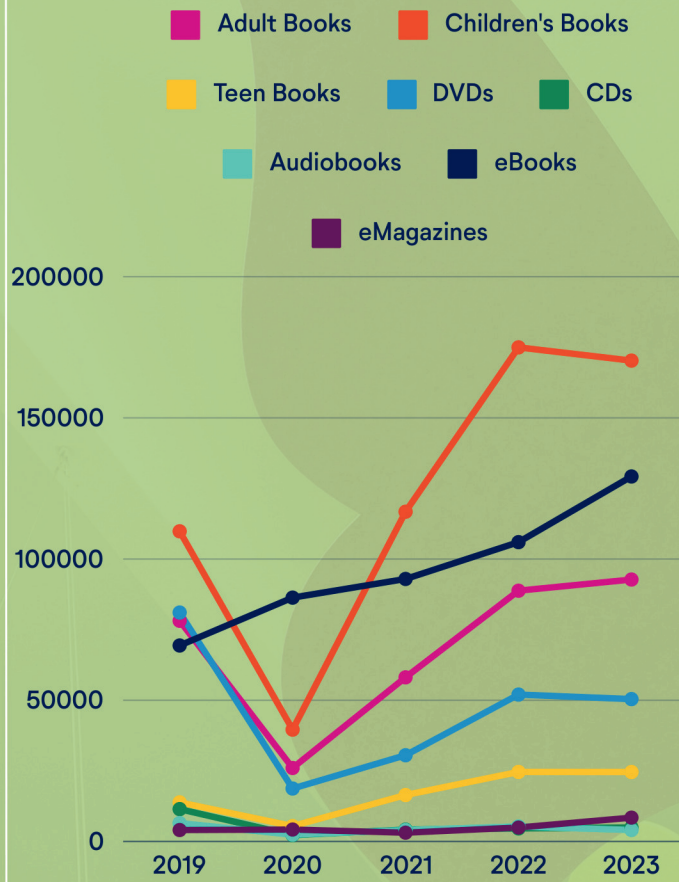
"The children's library upstairs is so much fun! Hands on activities in addition to reading areas. Plus, USB charging ports are built into most seating. A great way to pass a little time with the kids."

"I love the Grand Forks Public Library so much. Such a great selection, they are always improving and adding the newest installments of series. Go to the library!"





Materials Checkout



Door Traffic

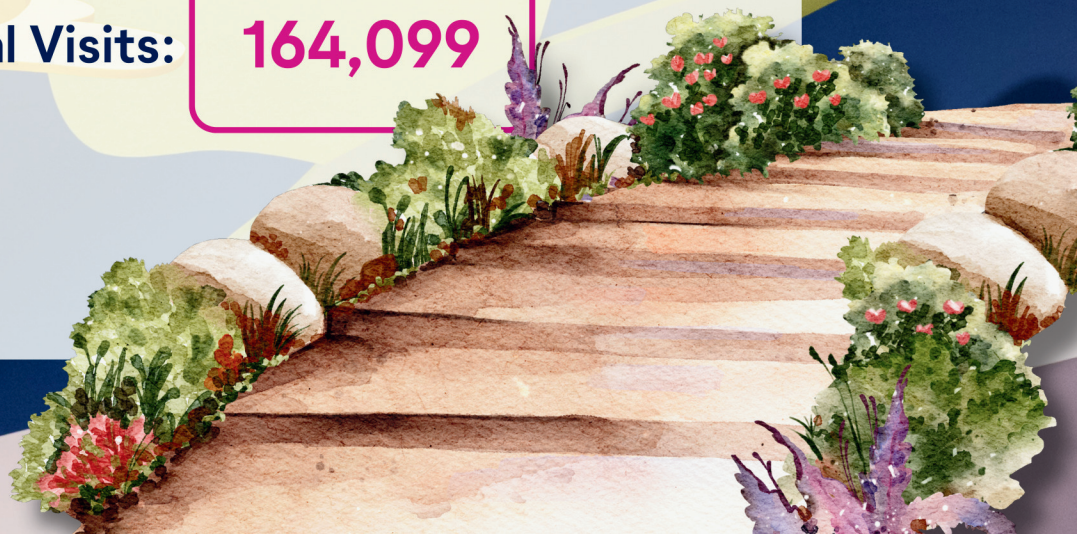
Average Daily Visits: **450 visits/day**

18%

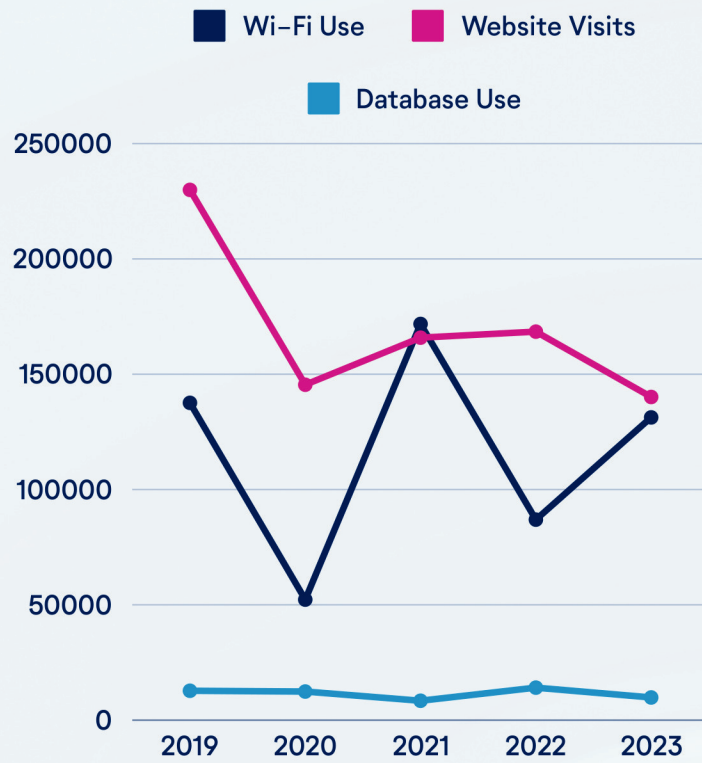
increase in door traffic
from 2022 to 2023

Total Visits:

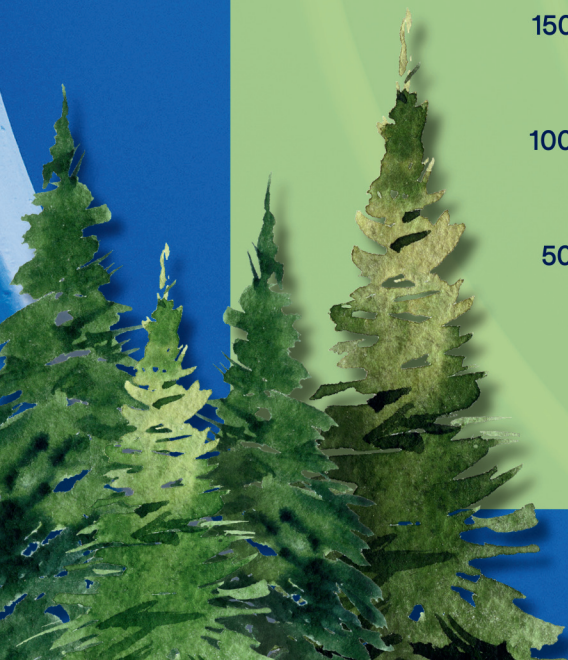
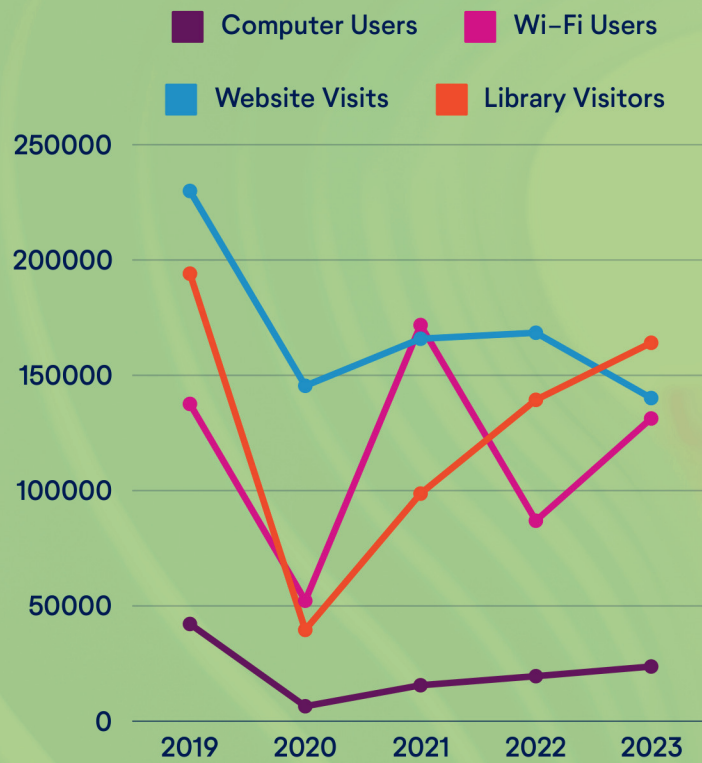
164,099

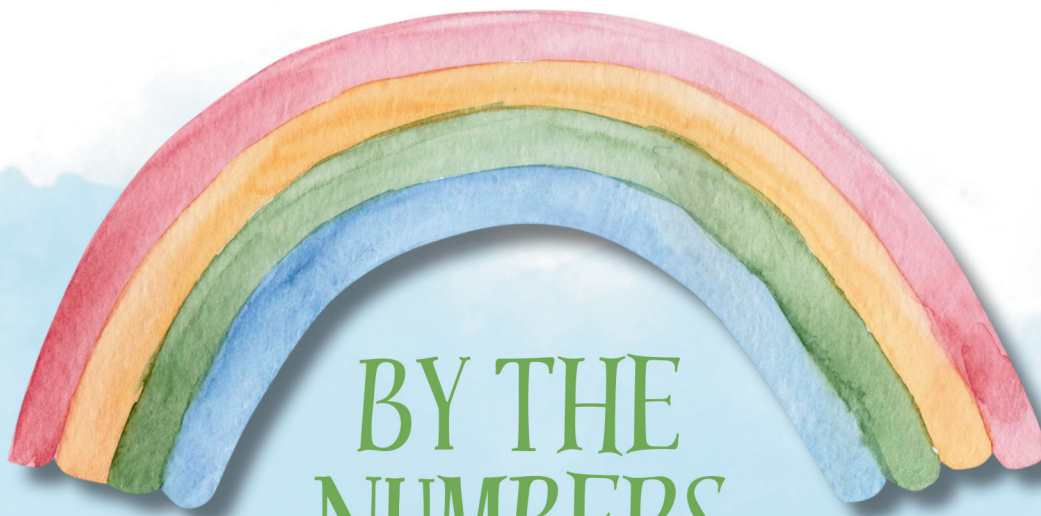


Online Resource Usage



Technology Usage





BY THE NUMBERS

REVENUE

	2023	2022
City of Grand Forks	\$2,117,032	\$2,016,305
Grand Forks County	\$764,026	\$654,367
State Aid/Intergovernmental	\$151,690	\$172,884
Grants	\$109,999	\$33,244
Library Fees/Services	\$24,824	\$20,349
Interest/Donations	\$67,616	\$28,382
Total	\$3,235,189	\$2,925,532

EXPENDITURES

Wages & Salaries	\$1,570,706	\$1,514,557
Benefits	\$582,169	\$568,201
Supplies	\$84,912	\$78,626
Utilities	\$79,495	\$85,964
Services & Contracts	\$254,524	\$196,479
Building Maintenance	\$88,309	\$93,191
Operating Expenses	\$173,364	\$110,900
Books & Periodicals	\$183,755	\$174,584
Capital Expenses	\$14,910	\$41,818
Transfer to Capital Account	\$0	\$500,000
Total	\$3,032,147	\$3,364,324





A playground for **curious minds.**





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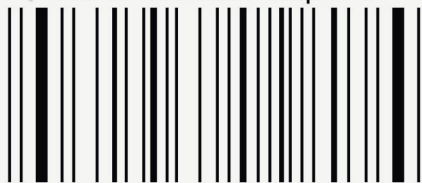
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2023 Annual Report



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2024