

# THE STORY OF 2023

by Grand Forks Public\_



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# 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.

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Friends**



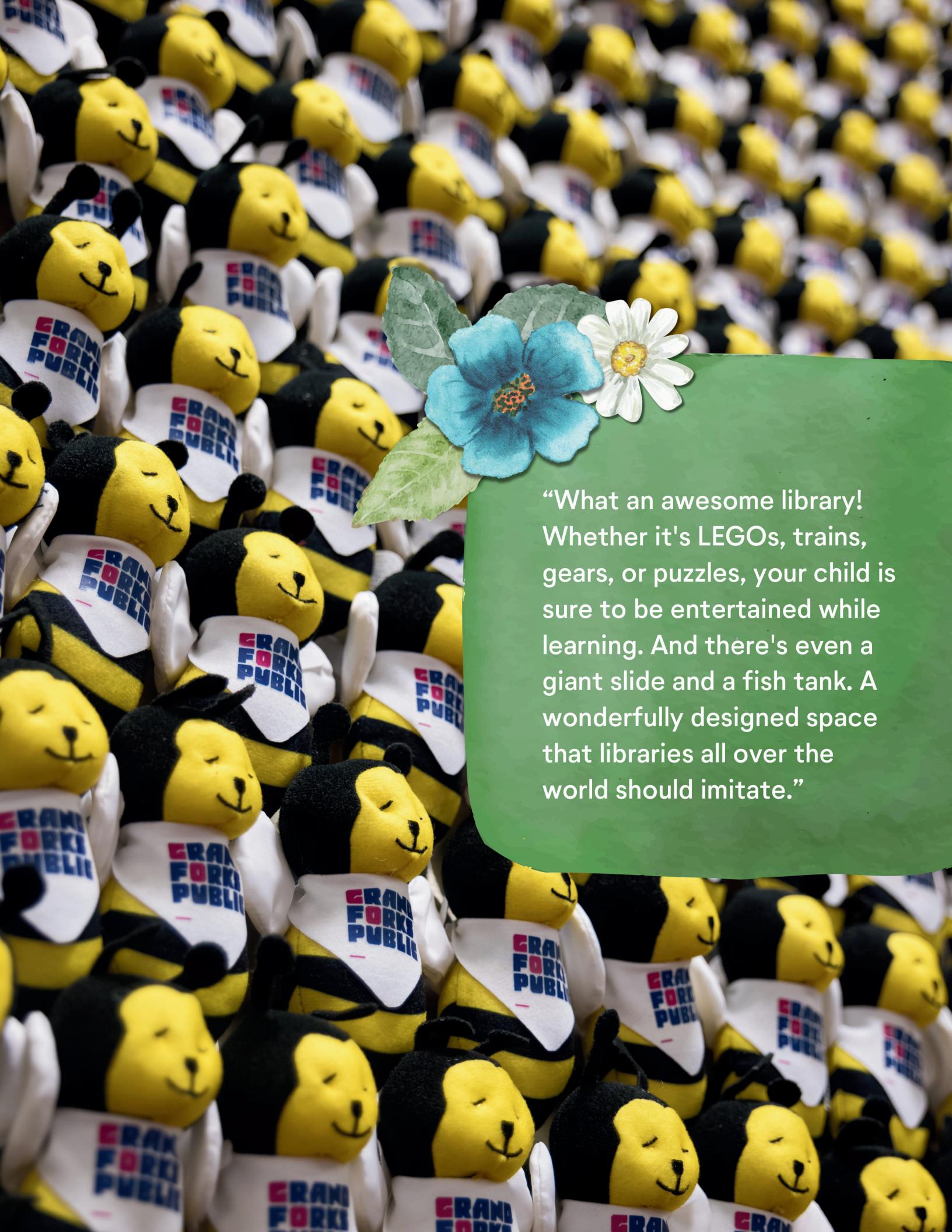
# FOUNDATION

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.





“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.”

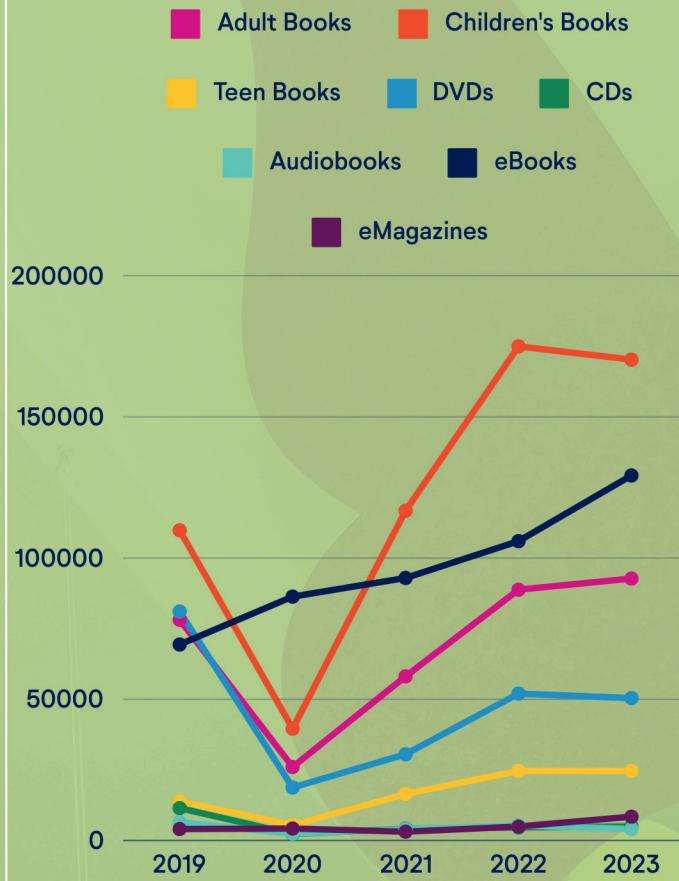
“The children's library upstairs is so much fun! Hands on activities in addition to reading areas. Plus, USB charging ports are built into most seating. A great way to pass a little time with the kids.”

“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**

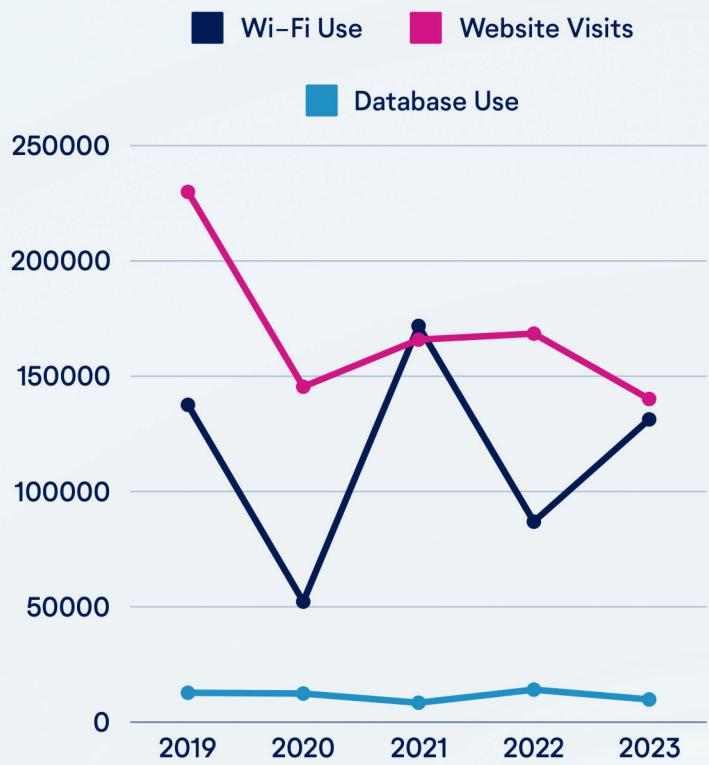
**18%**

increase in door traffic  
from 2022 to 2023

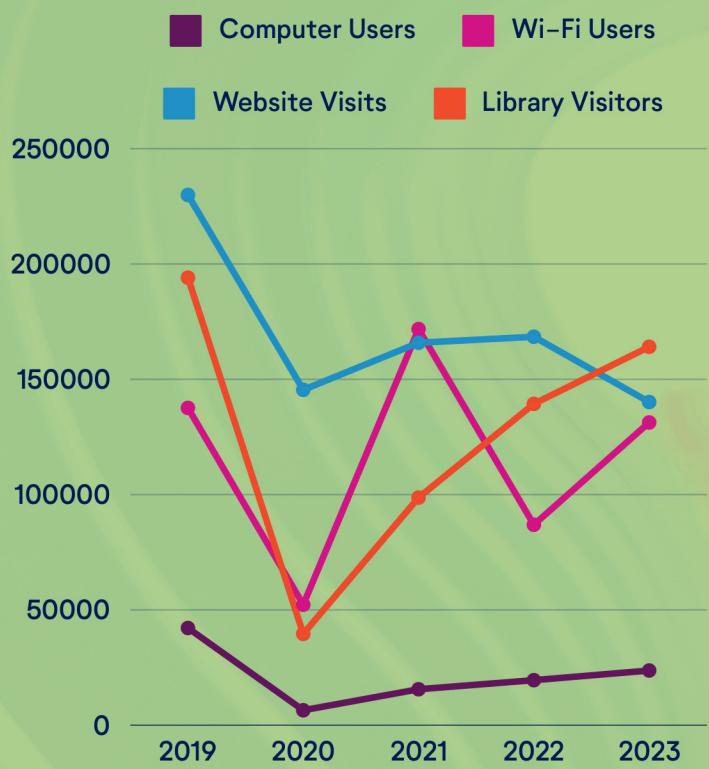
Total Visits: **164,099**

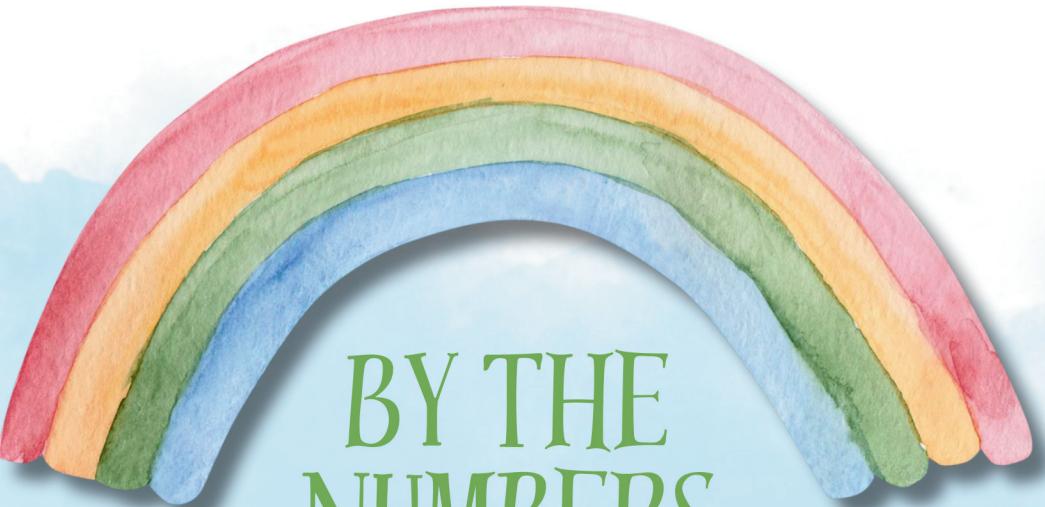


## Online Resource Usage



## Technology Usage





# BY THE NUMBERS

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## 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

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## 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.**





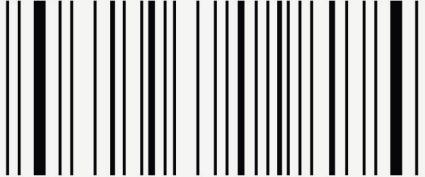
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2023 Annual Report



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2024