

# Garrison Public Library Long Term Plan July 2022 - June 2025



*Approved by the Garrison Library Board - January 2022*

Garrison is a small town of about 345 residents. It is located in Benton County, in the eastern half of Iowa. The population has decreased slightly since 2000, but since, has been pretty consistent at an average of 350. Over 90% of the residents are white, with the majority of the population between 30-65 and under 9.

Garrison doesn't have a school in town. The children attend the Vinton-Shellsburg CSD, which they have to be bussed to, along with the rural children. About 34% of the community is children under the age of 18.

The community's main employers are outside the town of Garrison, as there are but a handful of small businesses in town. Such businesses include a hair salon, bar, apartments, post office, seed and fertilizer company, sanitation/salvage company and farm services. Residents mainly travel to Vinton, Cedar Rapids, or Waterloo for employment and entertainment.

Residents have access to information in a variety of formats including the local papers, radio stations, cable and internet services.

The Old Creamery Nature trail runs along the edge of Garrison. It is a recreational resource for the community.

Local organizations include the Lions Club, 4-H, 2 churches, and a volunteer fire department.

Thank you to the community of Garrison for the many surveys they completed, questions they answered and for their ongoing input and ideas. Thank you to the Garrison Library Board for their continual support and ideas that helped shape the Library's long term plan.

The current Garrison Public Library was built in 2014. It is in excellent condition and is ADA compliant. The library is an inviting space and is in a desirable location, with easy access to the Old Creamery Nature Trail and main road. We have a meeting room, with full kitchen available for gatherings, meetings and celebrations.



The library operates 22 hours a week, with 1 employee. It offers morning, afternoon, and evening hours throughout the week and Saturday. The library provides books, DVDs, newspapers, WiFi, computers, puzzles, a notary, children and adult programming, photo printing, craft classes, events and more. It also provides downloadable ebooks, audio books and magazines.



The library staff is excited to provide creative programs such as Lego Club and Tinker Time along with a summer and winter reading program. The Garrison Library a necessary presence in our community.

## Staff

Angela Dague  
Library Director

## Garrison Library Board

Mavis Dickerson	President
Jill Balk	Vice-President
Dorothy Readnour	Trustee
Cora Flickinger	Trustee
Brandy Fix	Trustee
Angela Dague	Treasurer
	Secretary

## Vision

The Garrison Public Library will be the hub of the community, a gathering place that offers a wide variety of experiences with the most advanced technology, tools, programs and ideas.

## Mission

The Garrison Library's mission is to link our community to relevant information and provide opportunities to explore, learn, create and grow.

## Goals

- 1) Develop and host programming for life-long learning  
(infant - adult)
- 2) Provide up-to-date technology for community needs
- 3) Provide a fully functioning building for community needs and services
- 4) Develop and provide a variety of community services
- 5) Promote the library, its services and programming

## Goal #1 Programming for Life-long Learning

### Year 1

- \* Survey patrons to find new needs/interests in learning
- \* Implement 1 new adult class/program from those interests
- \* Implement a Cricut class quarterly
- \* Evaluate if Cricut class should go monthly
- \* Expand Tinker Time to include more STEM challenges

### Year 2

- \* Explore additional children's programming that could be implemented at library
- \* Offer healthy food related demos/classes
- \* Implement Health & Wellness @ the Library for all ages
- \* Determine if other health related opportunities need to be offered

### Year 3

- \* Offer financial related demos/classes
- \* Implement 1 new adult class/program
- \* Research other preschool programming that could be implemented

## Goal #2 Technology Needs

### Year 1

- \* Plan fundraising for laptop #1 for Tinker Time
- \* Plan fundraising for outdoor signage
- \* Purchase laptop #1 for Tinker Time
- \* Purchase 1 new computer for children's area

### Year 2

- \* Plan fundraising for laptop #2 for Tinker Time
- \* Purchase laptop #2 for Tinker Time
- \* Fundraise for outdoor signage

### Year 3

- \* Purchase outdoor signage

## Goal #3 Building

### Year 1

- \* Purchase 2 chairs for lobby
- \* Plant trees around the property
- \* Revamp the wild flower gardens
- \* Fundraise for a turntable display for History Room
- \* Determine if we want large stones for landscaping
- \* Get large stones from city shed for landscaping if determined we want them

### Year 2

- \* Provide benches outdoors in wild-life area
- \* Develop bird watching garden
- \* Raise funds for parking lot
- \* Purchase turntable display for History Room

### Year 3

- \* Raise funds for parking lot
- \* Pave a portion of the parking lot
- \* Determine any other landscaping to be done

## Goal #4 Community Services

### Year 1

- \* Establish a movie night once per quarter
- \* Host Health Insurance Market Place support/Q&A for Insurance time
- \* Determine if beginner computer/tech classes are needed for patrons
- \* Provide food pantry and pop-up pantry
- \* Provide a photo printing station

### Year 2

- \* Host tax time support/CPA for tax filers
- \* Host classes on will/estate planning with professional
- \* Provide computer/tech classes

## Goal #4 Community Services con't

### Year 3

- \* Offer Activity Room to outside resources and social services to provide more patron opportunities in town
- \* Determine potential areas of increased loaner opportunities

## Goal #5 Library Promotion

### Year 1

- \* Use website and Facebook to promote services/programs
- \* Make better use of local newspapers and e-newsletter
- \* Send brochure to every home in local and rural community
- \* Explore ways to get teens into the library

### Year 2

- \* Promote availability of Activity Room for/to social services and community organizations
- \* Implement 1 teen program
- \* Fundraise for outside signage
- \* Send renewed brochure to every home in local and rural community

### Year 3

- \* Send renewed brochure to every home in local and rural community
- \* Evaluate the effectiveness of each option
- \* Purchase outside signage to promote library and community happenings