

Garrison Public Library Long Term Plan January 2019 - June 2022



Approved by the Garrison Library Board - January 2019

Garrison is a small town of about 360 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 360. 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 Garrison Public Library is a fairly new building, built in 2013/14. 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 21 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, maker club, crafts, 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
Christy Leckband	Vice President
Dorothy Readnour	Trustee
Jill Balk	Trustee
Kathy Young	Trustee
Betty Hendryx	
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 current technology for community needs
- 3) have a fully equipped building
- 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

- * Implement Maker Space for children ages kindergarten - 12th grades (Tinker Time)
- * Implement littleBits into Lego Club
- * Hold art classes for 55+ working with Vinton Art Guild
- * Add a fall/winter art class for adults of all ages
- * Continue to survey patrons on needs for learning

Year 2

- * Implement Health & Wellness @ the Library for all ages
- * Implement Health Resources for patrons online
- * Offer healthy food related demos/classes
- * Check into Health Literacy grant opportunities
- * Determine if other health related opportunities need to be offered

Year 3

- * Offer financial related demos/classes
- * Offer 1000 Books Before Kindergarten for infants/babies/toddlers.
- * Explore other preschool programming that could be implemented at library

Goal #2 Technology Needs

Year 1

- * Use the EDGE Assessment results to plan future technology needs
- * Hang and hook up projector in Activity Room
- * Purchase 1 new computer with current operating system
- * Plan fundraising for 2 tablets for Tinker Time
- * Determine if web-based OPAC is relevant
- * Continue to fund-raise for VR station

Year 2

- * Purchase web-based OPAC if relevant
- * Purchase 1 new computer for children's area
- * Purchase VR station glasses and computer

Goal #2 Technology Needs con't

Year 3

- * Raise funds for 2 tablets
- * Purchase 2 tablets for Tinker Time

Goal #3 Building

Year 1

- * Purchase window coverings for Activity Room
- * Get shelving for the Garrison History Room
- * Build shed for outdoor supplies/tools

Year 2

- * Flooring for kitchen
- * Purchase 2 chairs for lobby
- * Get large stones from city shed for landscaping
- * Provide benches outdoors in wild-life area

Year 3

- * Continue to landscape outdoor area
- * Raise funds for parking lot
- * Pave a portion of the parking lot

Goal #4 Community Services

Year 1

- * Establish a movie night once per quarter
- * Host Health Insurance Market Place support/Q&A for Insurance time
- * Continue to offer annual calendar
- * Continue to provide community events (Santa, Egg Hunt, concessions at Mercantile)

Year 2

- * Host tax time support/CPA for tax filers
- * Host classes on will/estate planning with professional
- * Continue to offer annual calendar
- * Continue to provide community events (Santa, Egg Hunt, concessions at Mercantile)

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
- * Continue to offer annual calendar
- * Continue to provide community events (Santa, Egg Hunt, concessions at Mercantile)

Goal #5 Library Promotion

Year 1

- * Continue to use website and Facebook to promote services/programs
- * Make better use of local newspapers
- * Continue to provide annual calendar with Library info

Year 2

- * Create a brochure about the library and it's services
- * Send brochure to every home in local and rural community
- * Continue to provide annual calendar with Library info

Year 3

- * Promote availability of Activity Room for/to social services and community organizations
- * Improve outside signage that promotes library happenings
- * Continue to provide annual calendar with Library info