



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

CONNECT. CREATE. COLLABORATE.

610 S DECATUR STREET
WATKINS GLEN, NY 14891
(607) 535-2346
WATKINSGLENLIBRARY.ORG

Library Mission



Mission: The Watkins Glen Public Library is dedicated to providing free and open access to information, recreational materials, services, and programs for the entire community. The Library's goal is to stimulate the intellect and imagination of its patrons and to provide them with the tools for personal development. The library also serves to enrich the cultural life of the community by sponsoring programs in literature and the arts.



The Watkins Glen Public Library's Board of Trustees approved a new 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. The full plan is available on the website at:

watkinsglenlibrary.org/strategic-plan/

Library Services

- Free Wi-Fi 24/7
- Computers and Internet access
- Printing, copy, and fax services
- Access to the digital collection of ebooks and audiobooks through the Libby App
- Mobile Hotspots
- Meeting OWL for hybrid meetings
- Telehealth Kit
- Educational Resource Kits
- Language Learning Kits
- Student and Adult Volunteer Programs
- Private conference room
- The Sandra Franzese Black Career Center
- Passes for PRI's Museum of the Earth, Cayuga Nature Center, NYS Empire Passes, Corning Museum of Glass, Ithaca Sciencenter
- A six-week educational Summer Learning Program
- Library of Things... *coming soon!*

Annual Statistics

2023 Circulation Statistics

- **3,556** E-book checkouts
- **3,473** Digital Audio checkouts
- **1,889** Holds Placed
- **3,457** Holds Received
- **4,607** Holds Filled



Adult Books



Children's and Young Adult Books

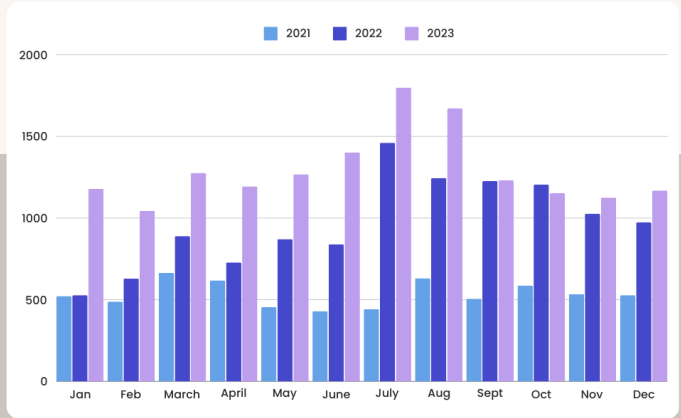


Computer Sessions

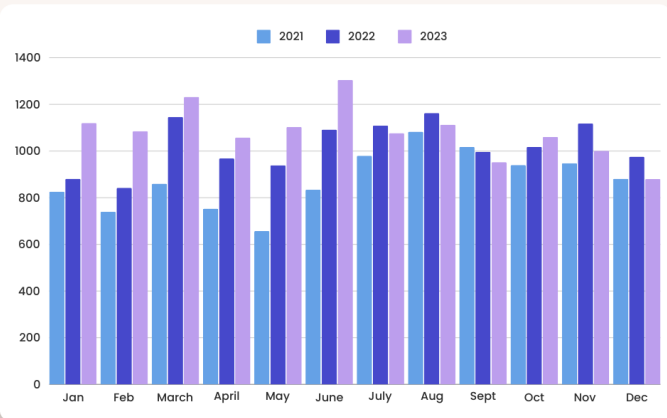


Audiobooks, DVDs, Magazines, and Kits

WGPL JUVENILE CIRCULATION TRENDS JANUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2023



WGPL ADULT CIRCULATION TRENDS JANUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2023



- Juvenile Circulation increased 34% between 2022 and 2023.
- Adult Circulation increased 6% between 2022 and 2023.
- Overall program attendance saw a 97% increase.
- The library hosted 318 Early Literacy programs in 2023 with a 125% increase in attendance.
- The 6-week Summer Learning Program had a 116% increase in program attendance.



Attendance at Early Literacy Programs



Students registered for the annual Summer Learning Program



Attendance at Adult and General Interest Programs



Attendance at Teen and Young Adult Programs

2023 Program Attendance

- **104** Storytime Sessions
- **448** Early Literacy Activity Packs
- **246** Summer Learning Program Activity Packs
- **24** Art Club meetings
- **349** students in attendance at Art Club



Budget Narrative: Our Message to You

The proposed budget increase represents a crucial investment in our community’s intellectual and social well-being. The rising cost to do business and the need to invest in facility infrastructure form the backdrop against which this budget increase was developed. As the community grows, so do the demands on the library's staff and resources. Adequate funding is essential to meet these evolving needs.

The library plays an important role in connecting residents and creating a sense of belonging. Community-building initiatives not only enhance quality of life for residents but also contribute to the overall vibrancy and attractiveness of Watkins Glen. Many of the goals outlined in the library’s 2024-2027 Strategic Plan will be difficult to achieve without a significant budget increase. Some of these goals include additional hours of operation, enhancing public-facing technologies, and upgrading the building’s two heating and cooling systems. These goals were determined by surveying residents to identify community needs.

The budget increase would not only support the Watkins Glen Public Library, but would ensure that the E.B. Pert Memorial Library (Hector Reading Center) becomes a chartered library within New York State. They currently operate solely on fundraising and donations. This is an opportunity to provide the E.B. Pert Memorial Library with consistent annual funding and allow for the expansion of services in both libraries.

Local Tax Impact of Library’s Request

****Figures are based on a home assessed at \$100,000***

	Proposed Tax Levy	Proposed Annual Tax Bill	Average Tax Bill Increase	Cost of a New Hardcover Book
Watkins Glen Public Library	\$267,025	\$38.93	\$21.89	\$24.00 - \$32.00
E.B. Pert Memorial Library	\$100,497			

The proposed increase for both the Watkins Glen Public Library and the E.B. Pert Memorial Library adds \$21.89 to the annual tax bill (or \$0.75 cents per week) of a home assessed at \$100,000. By contributing a little more than the cost of a single hardcover book, residents of the school district can actively endorse both libraries. Investing in the library is an investment in the future of our community. A well-supported library is a symbol of our commitment to intellectual and personal growth. The library is an asset that pays dividends in the form of an engaged, educated, and connected citizenry.

We hope that you will consider the benefits and impacts of the library vote. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

The Watkins Glen Public Library Board of Trustees

Judith Richards

Stacey Edwards

Kristin Hazlitt

Amanda Postma

Aimee Dars Ellis