Our Mission

Our Purpose

To engage our community, share resources, and connect people to information, ideas, and each other.
Community Values

What Residents Seek

Community conversations held throughout the planning process focused primarily on aspirations for the NOPL communities, with secondary input on how the libraries can play a role in creating change. Four common themes rose to the top:

A Welcoming, Friendly and Connected Community.
An Informed, Educated and Successful Community.
A Library That Meets the Needs of the Community It Serves.
A Library That Leads the Way to a Better Future for All.
Photos left to right
Anji Play Experience at Clay Central Park, Goat Storytime outside the North Syracuse Branch, NOPL’s Pop-up Library, and a patron searching books within NOPL Brewerton.
NOPL Director Amanda Travis standing with NYS Assemblymen Al Stripe within NOPL Cicero’s LibraryFarm.
EMPLOYEE CORE VALUES

How We Respond

Establishing the organization’s core values sets a benchmark for how the staff and trustees present themselves and behave both individually and as a group. This is an important aspect of the strategic planning process as it establishes how the libraries interact, with each other, with members of the community, and the personality they want to present.

PEOPLE
We believe that people and relationships are at the heart of what we do, and we set high standards for service excellence.

COLLABORATION
We work together and build partnerships to strengthen our libraries and our community.

INNOVATION
We strive to remain a vital part of the community by offering new, useful and surprising services.

FUN
We want our libraries to be welcoming spaces for meeting, learning, sharing, and having fun!
FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

What the Community Can Expect to See

From the strategic planning emerged four priorities for moving forward:

COMMUNITY

• Tailor service delivery to the unique needs of individual communities and prioritize community-generated programming.

• Engage with our communities through outreach, expanding services beyond our buildings.

• Reimagine library spaces inside and out to maximize their potential as vibrant and useful community spaces.

LEARNING

• Champion early childhood literacy and school readiness for children in our communities.

• Identify and address new and shifting “literacy” needs.

• Maintain and promote vibrant and relevant collections to support learning at all stages of life.

• Develop programs and services that encourage learning at all stages of life.
Collaboration

• Strengthen relationships with schools in our service area.

• Strengthen relationships with local governments.

• Develop and strengthen relationships with groups that share our goals.

• Develop and strengthen relationships with businesses in our service area.

Sustainability

• Provide environmental leadership through example, and education through our collections and programming.

• Explore alternative energy sources and make all buildings as energy efficient as possible.

• Ensure NOPL’s future financial stability by increasing our value and visibility to our communities.

• Ensure the health of the organization by nurturing, educating, and retaining excellent staff members.