

Summary

Portage County Public Library enriches our community by connecting people and offering free and equal opportunity for lifelong learning and enjoyment.

At the start of this planning effort the Portage County Public Library invited residents to imagine and express their hopes for Portage County communities. Listed below are several of the themes observed among the key community vision ideas that people shared:

- lifelong learning for personal and professional growth
- access to and awareness of opportunities, services and supports
- opportunities for self-expression
- experience of an inclusive community
- celebration of the community members' heritage, culture, and history

The Portage County Public Library aims to support the community in realizing these and other relevant community vision ideas. Accordingly, this plan identifies Portage County Public Library's four strategic goals for the next three years, through 2021.

- **Goal 1: Community Hub**
The Library will collaborate with community partners to help people find services and to support creative endeavors.
- **Goal 2: Library Environment**
The Library environment will be safe, welcoming and suited to meet the needs of library users at each branch location.
- **Goal 3: Outreach**
The Library will strengthen outreach & marketing efforts to the community to build support and increase awareness of its services.
- **Goal 4: Service to an Active Community**
The Library will be indispensable to our community by meeting its diverse needs through programming, collections and services.

Mission, Vision, Values, and Strengths

Adopted with this strategic plan, the Portage County Public Library's mission, vision, values and strengths are as follows:

Our Mission

We enrich our community by connecting people and offering free and equal opportunity for lifelong learning and enjoyment.

Our Vision

We inspire people of all ages with the love of reading, foster lifelong learning, and enhance quality of life. The library connects the community, offers gathering spaces, and inspires creativity and innovation in a welcoming and respectful atmosphere. The library provides access to high-quality materials, resources, programs and customer-focused experiences.

Our Values

- Accessibility
- Inclusiveness
- Respect
- Trust
- Innovation

Our Strengths

- Accessibility of materials, resources, programs, and experiences that the four branches have to offer.
- Spaces for library users to comfortably meet, study, stay warm, keep cool, get online and recharge.
- Variety of programs for youth and for adults.
- Collections that include a variety of items including books, digital media, games and databases.
- Staff composed of dedicated and versatile professionals who communicate and work as a team to serve library users.
- Supportive patron base, and a good reputation in the community.

*"Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities."
~ R. David Lankes*