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2026-2031 STRATEGIC PLAN

Our blueprint for growth

Approved by
Sachem Public Library
Board of Trustees
September 15, 2026



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LIBRARY HISTORY

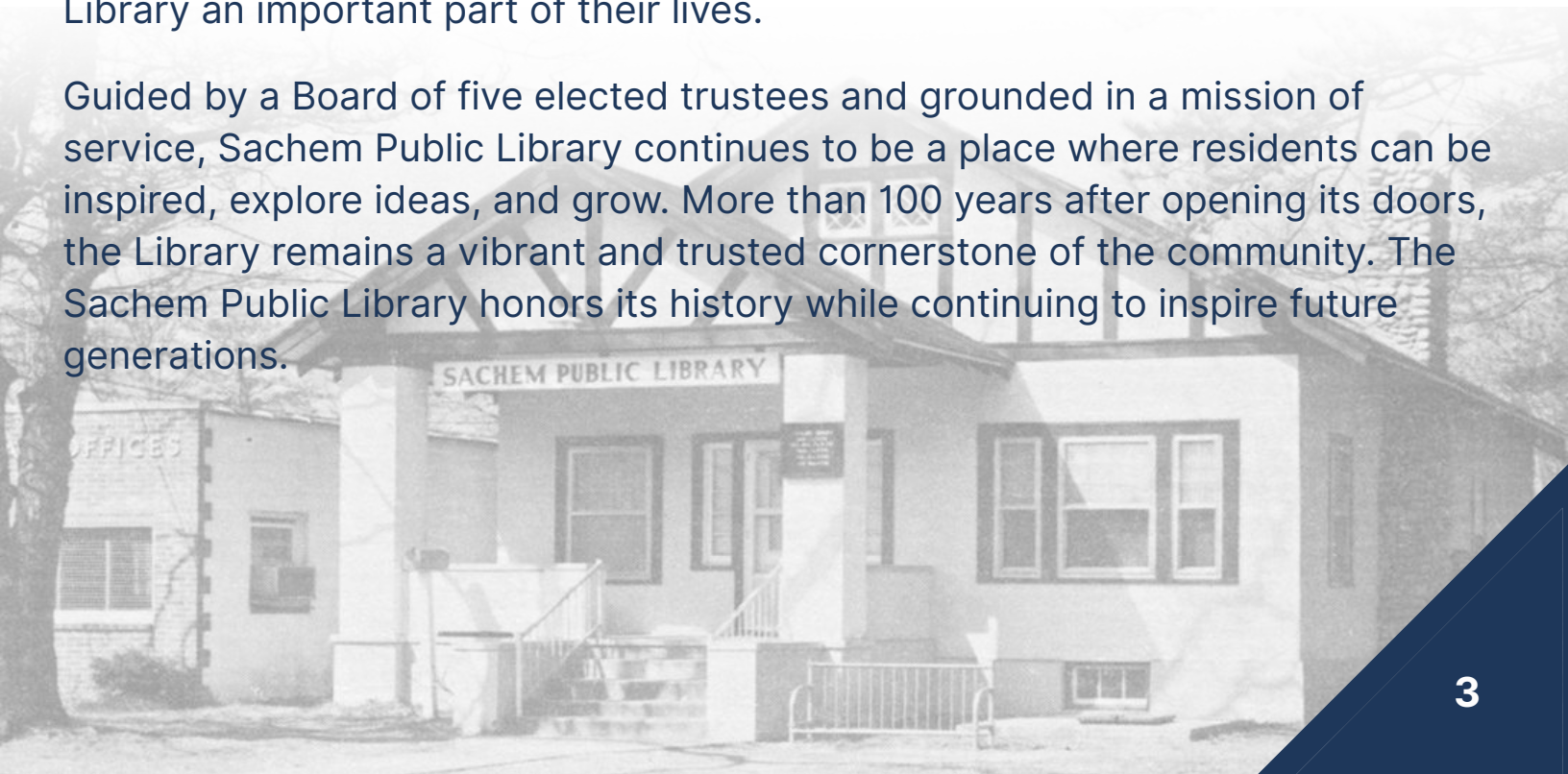


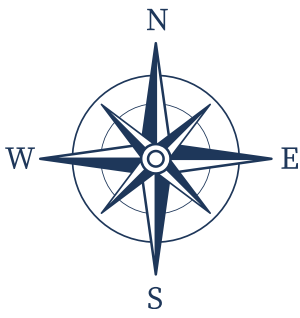
The story of **Sachem Public Library** began in 1916 with a simple, but powerful idea: to create a place where the community could gather to learn, discover, and share knowledge. What started with just 18 books has grown into one of the most active and well loved public libraries in New York.

Over the past century, the Library has expanded alongside the community it serves. From its humble beginnings, Sachem Public Library has grown to serve more than 81,592 residents. Along the way, it has evolved from a small collection of books into a dynamic community resource offering extensive resources, innovative technology, educational programming, and welcoming spaces for all.

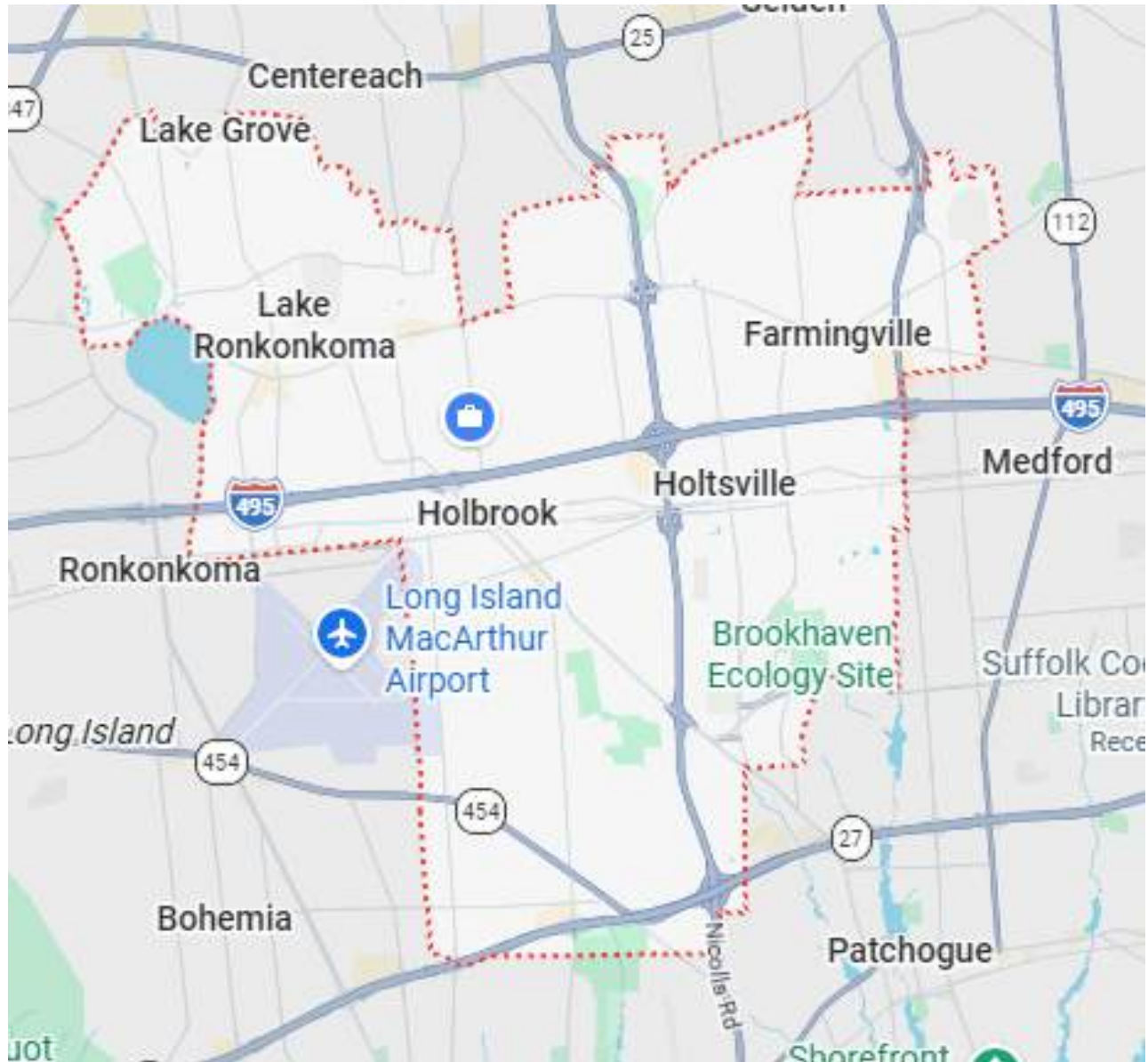
Today, Sachem Public Library cardholders are among the most active in the state, with more than three quarters of a million items circulating each year. That remarkable level of engagement reflects more than the Library's resources; it reflects generations of community members who have made the Library an important part of their lives.

Guided by a Board of five elected trustees and grounded in a mission of service, Sachem Public Library continues to be a place where residents can be inspired, explore ideas, and grow. More than 100 years after opening its doors, the Library remains a vibrant and trusted cornerstone of the community. The Sachem Public Library honors its history while continuing to inspire future generations.





SERVICE AREA



The Library primarily serves the communities of Farmingville, Holbrook, Holtsville, Lake Grove, Lake Ronkonkoma, and Ronkonkoma. We follow the same boundaries as the Sachem Central School District. Our service area spans the townships of Brookhaven, Islip, and Smithtown covering approximately 24.5 square miles.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

General Description

The Library is a one-story building with a partial lower level, encompassing:

- **Original Building:** circa 1950
- **First Addition & Alterations:** 1982 (current Reference & Stack/Mezzanine areas)
- **Second Addition & Alterations:** 1999 (Circulation, Childrens & Meeting Rooms)

Currently the building totals approximately **60,800 sq. ft.** and is allocated as follows:

- Lower Level: 22,650 sq. ft. (including lower Mezzanine)
- Main Level: 38,150 sq. ft. (including upper Mezzanine)

The Library is located on a **5.435 acre site** which is mostly developed for Library use:

- **Inside/Out** is a certified public garden, that opened in 2010 adding one acre of outdoor programming space.
- **Discovery Grove** is a children's outdoor classroom, that opened in 2018 and provides opportunities for nature-based play and learning.
- The **Community Garden & Carol Paulsen Pavilion** were built in 2022 to offer educational gardening experiences and introduce sustainability practices.



MISSION & VISION

Our Mission: Inspire • Engage • Educate

Sachem Public Library, creates a welcoming environment where learning, discovery, and connection thrive for every member of the community.

Inspire

curiosity, imagination, and lifelong learning. Provide access to ideas and opportunities that open doors to new possibilities. Through our collections, technologies, programming, and cultural experiences, residents of all ages can explore their interests, discover new perspectives, and pursue their goals.



Engage

our community by creating meaningful opportunities for connection, participation, and shared experiences. As a trusted gathering place, the Library brings people together through programs, events, and collaborative spaces that strengthen community bonds.



Educate

by offering resources and services, that support learning at every stage of life. From early literacy and student success to workforce development, digital literacy, and personal enrichment, we are committed to empowering our residents with the knowledge, tools, and support they need to grow, succeed, and flourish.



Together, these values guide everything we do and ensure that Sachem Public Library remains a vibrant community center that is dedicated to serving the evolving needs of our residents with innovation, responsiveness, and care.

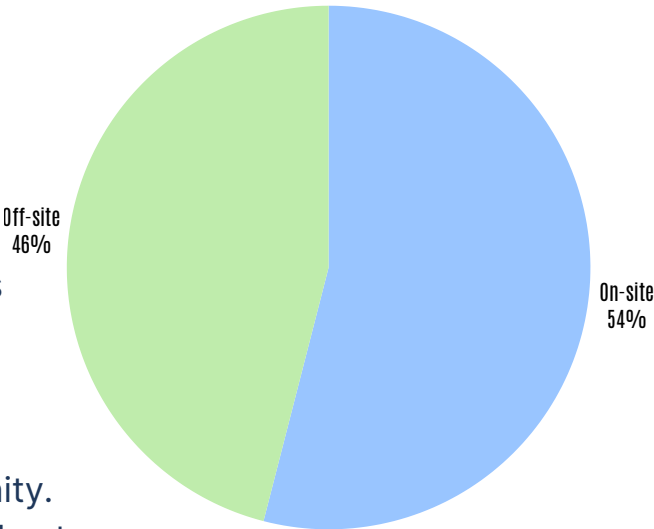
LIBRARY PROFILE



Sachem Public Library serves the **third largest population** in Suffolk County with **81,592 residents** in our district. Year after year we have recorded the highest number of program attendees, public internet and wireless sessions, and reference transactions among libraries in Suffolk County, NY.

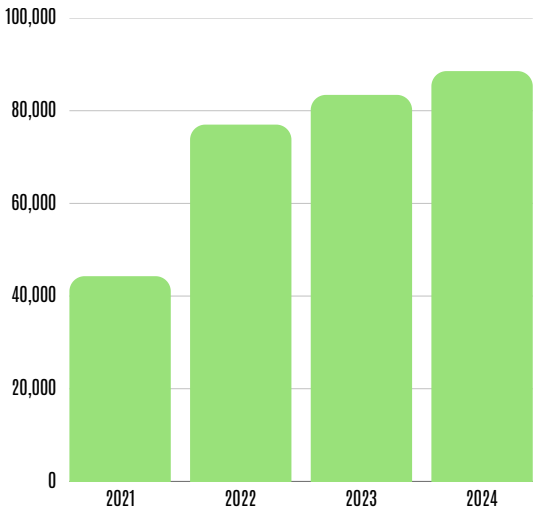
We're busier than we have ever been. Over the past three years usage has grown:

- 5.5% increase in patron visits
- 13% increase in program attendance
- 16% increase in library users
- 16% increase in assisting patrons
- 20% increase in eBook and audiobook downloads
- 30% increase in internet usage



Off-site vs On-site

Sachem Public Library is actively involved in our community. Statistics from 2025 show the library sees as many people at community events as inside the library building, with 109,553 people engaging with library staff off-site and 131,203 people attending in-house events.



Visits to Outdoor Spaces

Visits to our outdoor spaces have steadily increased over the past few years. We averaged 10,107 guests in our two outdoor spaces each month during June, July, and August of 2023-2025.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT DATA

526,122 people **visited** the library

Outdoor spaces had **71,998** visitors

240,756 people attended **programs**

62,885 cardholders, an all-time record of **77%** of the community



398,835 guests **helped** by library staff, that's 118 guests per hour

374,315 physical items borrowed

229,046 eBooks or eAudioBooks downloaded

292,930 internet and wireless sessions



3,322 hours of operation

Indoor square footage **60,800**

Outdoor square footage **30,000**

112 staff members

\$11,374,066 operating **budget**



LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY VOICES: WHAT SACHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY MEANS TO ITS PATRONS

The results of a recent community survey conducted by the Library paint a vivid picture of a modern library that goes far beyond books. Residents responded enthusiastically, highlighting the wide range of resources and spaces that make their library an essential part of daily life.

Among the most celebrated features is the Library's makerspace, where community members can explore creativity and innovation through hands-on technology and tools. Equally valued are the Library's robust programming offerings, which bring patrons together for educational and enriching experiences that serve all ages. For students and professionals alike, the Library's dedicated study spaces provide a quiet and productive environment to focus and learn.

What truly sets Sachem Public Library apart, according to survey respondents, is its inviting atmosphere both inside and out. Patrons expressed particular appreciation for the Library's two outdoor spaces, offering fresh-air retreats for reading, relaxing, and gathering. The on-site café rounds out the experience, giving visitors a comfortable spot to recharge during their visit.

The survey results reflect a community that deeply values its library not just as a place for resources, but as a busy hub for connection and creativity.



PROGRAM & RESOURCE GOALS

Sachem Public Library is committed to a balanced approach when scheduling programs, striving to offer recreational, creative, and educational classes with a emphasis on lifelong learning.



Year 1 (2027–2028): Strengthen the foundation of literacy and lifelong learning programming.

- Increase early literacy storytime attendance 5%
- Four Pre-K readiness sessions per month
- Teen homework help and summer reading participation at or above prior-year levels
- Launching one new adult education offering (ENL, GED, digital, or financial literacy)



Year 2 (2028–2029): Expand access and reach across all age groups.

- Growing early literacy program attendance by an additional 5%
- Increasing teen STEM/STEAM programming to five sessions per month
- Growing the older adult lifelong learning series to a minimum of 12 sessions annually



Year 3 (2029–2030): Establish measurable, sustained impact.

- Achieving a cumulative 12% increase in early literacy program attendance since year one
- Formalizing at least three community/school partnerships supporting youth and adult literacy
- Reaching 75% patron satisfaction (via survey) across all lifelong learning offerings

Year 4 (2030–2031): Measure our outcomes and strategize for the next plan.

Lifelong Learning & Literacy Initiatives

- Early literacy programming (storytimes, Pre-K readiness)
- Youth/teen literacy support (homework help, summer reading, STEM/STEAM)
- Adult education (ENL, GED support, digital literacy, financial literacy)
- Lifelong learning series for older adults

SERVICE MODEL

SACHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY BELIEVES THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE MODEL IS A COMMUNITY-CENTERED, HYBRID MODEL THAT BALANCES TRADITIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES WITH MODERN INNOVATION, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES



People First

- Highly trained, approachable staff who prioritize patron needs
- Robust outreach brings services to underserved populations
- Partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and local organizations

Programming Excellence

- Lifelong learning programs spanning all age groups
- Workforce development, digital literacy, and financial wellness
- Cultural events that celebrate community diversity

Innovative Spaces

- Flexible spaces designed for studying, collaboration, and creativity
- Makerspaces equipped with technology that support hands-on learning
- Comfortable, welcoming environments that serve patrons of all ages

Technology Integration

- Self-service options for convenience and efficiency
- Strong Wi-Fi, computer access, and digital equity initiatives
- Virtual programming and online service options



Equity & Accessibility

- Cost-free and barrier-free access to all services
- ADA-compliant facilities and assistive technologies
- Mobile library services for homebound and remote patrons

Continuous Improvement

- Regular community surveys to assess needs and satisfaction
- Data-driven decision-making to allocate resources effectively
 - A culture of innovation that adapts to evolving needs



DIGITAL LEADERSHIP

Vision statement: Position the library as the community's primary, no-cost on-ramp to digital skills from basic device use to safe, confident navigation of everyday online life.

Broad Stroke Goals

1. Foundational device and OS literacy
2. Internet and search literacy
3. Digital safety and privacy
4. Employment and economic mobility
5. Creative and emerging tech literacy
6. Digital government and civil services



Older Adults

Coordinate slower paced classes and offer one-on-one instruction on topics such as scam prevention, telehealth, and video calling.

Objective: Increase the offerings annually by two to three programs on new and trending technologies.

Job Seekers & Small Business Owners

Collaborate with workforce partners in local government as well as our chambers of commerce for professional programming on resume writing, job applications, interview skills, marketing tools, and Google Business Profiles.

Objective: Create new opportunities for skills building and networking for employment success.



ENL Learners & New Americans

Strengthen existing partnerships with ENL programs utilizing bilingual staff and community volunteers.

Objective: Serve as a resource for new English speakers by helping them navigate translation tools, forms, and community services.

Parents, Caregivers & Teens

Offer classes during evenings, weekends, and afterschool hours. Covering topics such as parental controls, school portals, AI literacy, digital citizenship, and the college application process.

Objective: Add two to three new classes annually and provide instruction on emerging and trending technologies.



EXPERIENCES & OUTREACH

Sachem Public Library & Sachem Central School District Partnership

By working closely with Sachem Central School District educators, the Library ensures its outreach remains relevant, timely, and responsive to what students are learning in the classroom- making the public library a true extension of the educational experience.

From STEM activities and literacy-building sessions to research skills and creative projects, these offerings are tailored to meet students where they are academically while also sparking curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.

- Curriculum-aligned educational programming for students throughout the community
- Wide variety of lesson plans and learning experiences designed to reinforce classroom instruction and extend learning beyond the school day
- Developed in direct support of school curriculum goals, giving students engaging, hands-on opportunities to explore subjects in new and creative ways

SUSTAINABILITY



Sachem Public Library was certified as a Sustainable Library in 2026 after completing a rigorous benchmarking system. The Library is committed to a cleaner, greener, and more equitable future.

Sustainable measures include reduction of energy and water consumption, increased recycling of materials, expanded garden spaces and programs, and a focus on local partnerships. Seeing this impact has provided us with a sense of accomplishment and pride to continue being a sustainability leader for the community and libraries.

GOALS

- Complete the process of converting all light fixtures to LEDs
- Update aging solar panels
- Continue educating the community through sustainable-focused programs
- Add EV charging stations to the parking lot
- Construct rain gardens in areas around the building where rainwater pools
- Investigate implementing rainwater collection for an alternative irrigation method
- Uphold policies and procedures from the Sustainable Site Management Plan
- Continue to reevaluate procedures and look for new ways to lessen our impact on the environment

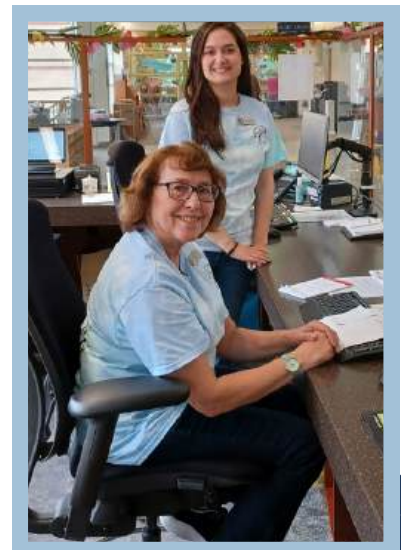


WORKPLACE CULTURE



A healthy company culture is a basic component of any successful organization. Culture is the way we communicate, behave, celebrate, and coach performance in the workplace. Library administration and the Board of Trustees are committed to nurturing a culture where everyone is motivated by the vision, united by the values, and proud of our organization.

- Clear and open communication from the Board of Trustees and library administration
- Foster trust and respect between employees
- Encourage collaborations and authenticity
- Trainings and professional development opportunities for staff
- Empowered decision-making
- Safety and wellness education
- Opportunities to develop leadership skills
- Provide high-quality customer service



Thank You

Our sincere appreciation to the
Sachem Public Library Board of Trustees
for their vision, leadership, and continued commitment
to the future of our library and the community we serve.

Thank you for helping us imagine what's possible and
guiding us toward a stronger, more vibrant future together.

Susan Tychnowicz, **President**

Thomas Lohr, **Vice President**

Bob Winowitch, **Secretary**

Erica Hartmann, **Trustee**

Diane Longo, **Trustee**

Library Director, Neely McCahey

Assistant Director, Kristen Stroh

