



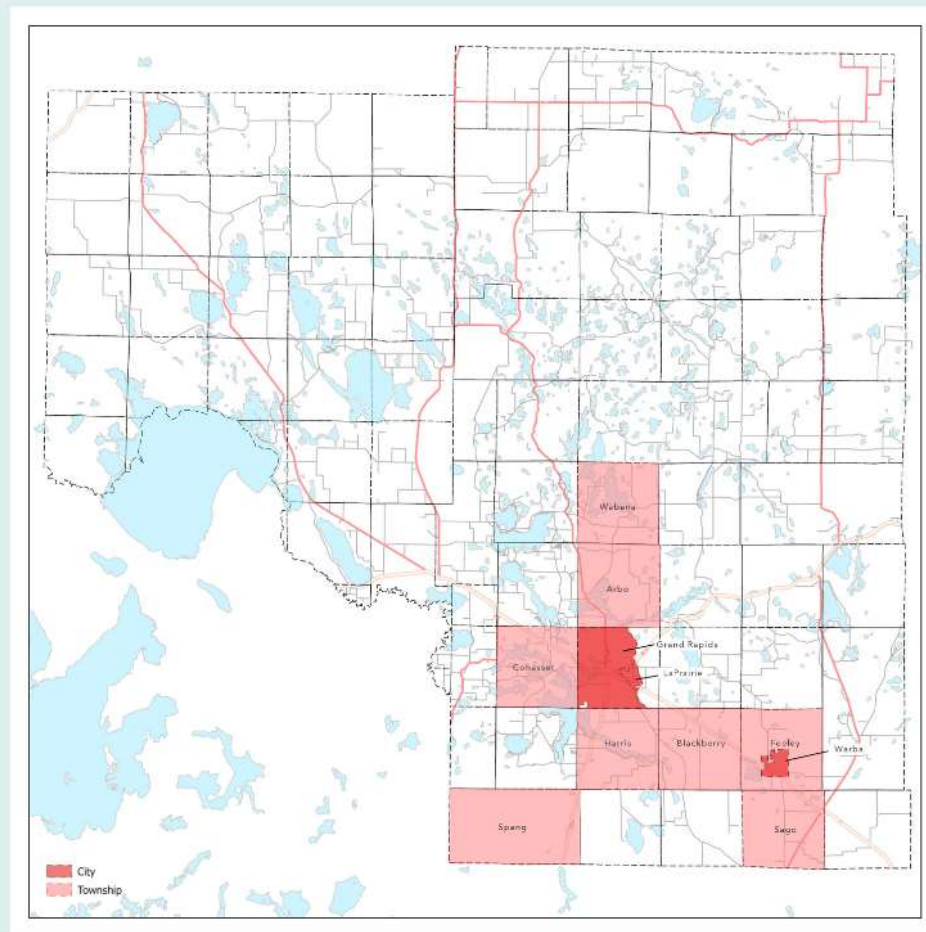
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

- Grand Rapids Area Library (GRAL) is a free community resource supported by property taxes since 1895.
- GRAL is the busiest library in NE Minnesota outside of Duluth.
- There are six libraries in Itasca County, but 75% of library transactions in Itasca County occur at GRAL.
- GRAL is used by all of Itasca County. More than 50% of checkouts are from cardholders who live outside the City of Grand Rapids. This is a long-term pattern going back decades.
- Thank you, City Council, for funding 84% of GRAL's annual operations.

SERVICE AREA

The Library serves the following cities and townships:

- Arbo
- Blackberry
- Cohasset
- Feeley
- **Grand Rapids**
- Harris
- LaPrairie
- Sago
- Spang
- Wabana
- Warba



SERVICE AREA POPULATION: **21,168**



LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS: **9,426**



CIRCULATION: **165,796 items**
[~20% are downloadable items]

2024

GRAL BEYOND BOOKS

Our wide reach meets community needs with unique in-person and online programs - and much more!

#gralbeyondbooks



Active Social Media

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY WINTER READING



2024

CABIN FEVER Reliever

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY & AEARLY PRESENT Online Storytime!

LEGO CLUB

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY & AEARLY present BookTime

YA NEED TO READ THESE

GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY FRIENDS USED BOOK STORE

bell museum After School STEAM

Page Turners Book Club

ARTASTIC AT HOME! WITH GRANDMA NANCY

TEEN TUESDAY Teen Book Club

POP-UP BOOK SALE

COMIC STUNT JUGGLER



ITASCA ORCHESTRA STRINGS PROGRAM The Magic of Musical Storytelling



Will Sings Songs

ANNUAL SUMMER BOOK SALE



TRAVELING LANTERN THEATRE COMPANY AN EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN THE QUEST FOR THE KAKAPO!

A ROADTRIP AROUND MINNESOTA: BARN QUILT TRAILS

MUSIC WITH FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT



REIF ARTS COUNCIL WRITING WORKSHOP W/ KEN WALDMAN

Andrea Zull Day!

bell museum STAR PARTY!

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY SUMMER READING 2024

WEEKLY SCAVENGER HUNTS!



MAC MACROSTIE ART CENTER | GRAND RAPIDS, MN

SHADOWS AND SUNSHINE Grief Writing Workshop



Beautiful Writing with Calligraphy

THE MACROSTIE ART FILES

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATION



GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY TAKE-HOME Memory KITS

take home DISCOVERY kits

INTERACTIVE Development Kits

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY ANNUAL PUZZLE PALOOZA

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY



OUR THANKS TO



The McCarty Family



FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

GRAND RAPIDS AREALIBRARY ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATION

AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY PARTNER



Riverfest

Summer Celebration



Public Art

Polling Place



Partnerships:

McCarty Park

New Picnic Tables



CHALLENGES

1 Maintaining Service Levels

The balance between public expectations of open hours and services, against available funding.

2 Building Maintenance

Phase I of the Façade Maintenance & Repair plan is complete. Phase II includes necessary roof replacement.

3 Equitable Funding

Despite accounting for more than 50% of use, the County pays ~ 16% of our budget. We need to work together to change this structure.



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EQUITABLE CITY/COUNTY FUNDING NEEDED FOR GRAND RAPIDS AREA LIBRARY

THE SITUATION

The Library is a valued community resource, providing free services to people throughout Itasca County. The Library is funded by local City of Grand Rapids and Itasca County tax dollars.

	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	ITASCA COUNTY
LIBRARY USE (CHECK-OUTS)	< 50%	> 50%
LIBRARY SUPPORT (IN TAX DOLLARS)	84%	16%
PER CAPITA SUPPORT (IN TAX DOLLARS)	\$66.67	\$13.50
	<i>The City has continued to increase their share up to \$350,000 above the minimum required level, as calculated by the State of MN (Dept. of Education), and faces challenges to sustain this level.</i>	<i>Itasca County is supporting the Library near the level it did in 2012.</i>

In recent years, the Library has undergone service cuts (both in open hours and staffing), due to inadequate funding from Itasca County. The City needs cooperation from the County to sustain Library services with an equitable funding model, based on actual use.

THE SOLUTION

A Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Grand Rapids and Itasca County to ensure equitable funding is the only way to maintain this community resource and prevent further service cuts. The City of Grand Marais and Cook County have had a successful agreement since 1992, illustrating that this type of partnership is sustainable.



THANK YOU

Providing essential day-to-day & emergency operational support:

- Public Works
- IT
- Facilities

Additional funding for programs & projects:

- Grand Rapids Area Library Foundation
- Grand Rapids Area Library Friends

Other community supporters:

- Arrowhead Library System:
 - \$50,000 in-kind IT
 - Monthly take-and-create programming
 - Quality in-person programming and promotions
- Community Volunteers:
 - 84 people serve on boards and committees, at special events, and regularly inside the Library.
 - Through September, volunteers have given 2,428.50 hours of their time.



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

GRAND RAPIDS AREA
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

GRAND
RAPIDS
AREA
LIBRARY
FRIENDS



Arrowhead Library System

GRAND
RAPIDS
AREALIBRARY