

TO: Matthew R. Schmitz, MPA - City Manager
FROM: Laura Blaker, Library Director
DATE OF MEETING: May 4, 2026
ITEM TITLE: Department Report – Library

Park Funding and Fundraiser

The library has applied for three grants in the last six months and has a fundraising event on May 2. There is a McElroy Grant with matching funds that is close to being secured, and we will find out about applications to the Buchanan County Community Foundation Grant as well as the Hometown T-Mobile Grant by the end of June.

The fundraiser is May 2 from 10 am – 2 pm. There will be a book sale, quilt raffle, live music, games, food, and a balloon artist. You can find out more about the planned outdoor improvements with accessibility, seating, gathering spots, and lighting to create an outdoor extension of the library on this webpage: <https://qrco.de/iplparkproject>

The plans have been modified and are shown below:

Library Green Space Project Plan

Three shaded rectangular tables for seating area projects, with one being wheelchair accessible.

Conceptual photo for presenter area gathering space.

Conceptual photo for evening tree lighting.

- Accessible stamped concrete paths and gathering spaces for all ages & abilities.
- Tables and benches for events and casual gatherings.
- Night lighting for beauty, safety, and extended use.
- Built-in stone seating in the presenter area.
- Electrical service for expanded program opportunities.

Summer Reading Program: Plant a Seed, Read

This year's summer reading program will have the theme, Plant a Seed, Read. The library will again have programs for all ages including babies, children, teens, and adults. Look for exciting events this summer, like a supersize bubble lab, Tuneful Tuesdays, a book vase workshop, digital art workshop, community shred day, creature feature with an animal staying in the library during summer months, story times in the park, etc. Last year the community read 750,000 minutes, so we hope to reach that reading goal again.



How is the Summer Reading Program paid for?

The City funds 25% of the Summer Reading Program cost, and the Foundation, Friends of the Library, donations, and other sponsors pay for the other 75% of the project. All prizes are purchased with donated funds. An online wishlist will be out soon if you or somebody you know would like to assist with the program.

Library of Things



The Library of Things has some new items and some standby hits...

Memory Kits that support caregivers, create meaningful connections, and spark memories and conversations

Craft, Hobbies, and Exercise items like a knitting looms set, a learn to knit kit, cake pans, and resistant bands.

Outdoor games and recreation like bean bag toss, pickleball rackets, giant Jenga, a fort building kit

Jigsaw Puzzles including 300, 500, and 1000 piece puzzles

Hotspots that allow you to borrow the Internet



City Connections:

Promote and encourage community involvement and engagement.

Improved quality of life for everyone

Library Motto: Enriching Lives, Inspiring Growth