



Garfield County Public Library District 2008-2011 Strategic Plan



Our Vision

Garfield County Public Library District is the community hub that strengthens individuals, families and neighborhoods by connecting them to people and to relevant information, collections, programs and resources.

Our Mission

We are passionate about making a difference in our community, one person at a time, by enriching lives and empowering people through relevant, accessible, high-quality library services.

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you the Garfield County Public Library District's Strategic Plan for 2008-2011. This document reflects the hard work and dedication of the community planning committees, the district planning committee, library staff, consultants and the Library Board of Trustees in creating a plan for the future that reflects our diverse communities while unifying the goals of our libraries to serve each of them fully and well.

This report embodies not only the visions and struggles of each community during a time of extreme and explosive growth, but also the dedication of the library district as it pursues continuous improvement in its services and collections. The tremendous amount of support that each library receives from its community will help ensure the future success of the library district as a whole as we grow and address the needs of each individual user.

I invite you to read this plan and join us in making the dream of bigger, better libraries in Garfield County come true; places where children, teens, adults, seniors, families and visitors all feel welcome and find what they are looking for on the shelves or in the services we provide.

Sincerely,

Nella Barker, President
Library Board of Trustees



Strategic Planning Goals

Goal 1: Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

Children and teens will have the books, media, and electronic resources they need to satisfy their curiosity and explore topics of personal interest.

Activities:

- Conduct class visits to promote library services
- Expand and enhance the collections
- Book-based programs such as reading clubs
- Outreach to daycares and preschools
- Create special displays to promote the collections
- Conduct tours of the library for groups
- Stimulate interest for beginning readers



Goal 2: Satisfy Curiosity: Lifelong Learning

Adults will have the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and to continue to learn throughout their lives.



- Offer programs that highlight the collections
- Expand and enhance the collections
- Support book clubs
- Expand the popular "One Book" program
- Initiate a lecture series with tie-ins to the collections
- Increase outreach to the Spanish-speaking population
- Continue programming for and outreach to seniors

Goal 3: Visit a Comfortable Place: Physical and Virtual Spaces

Residents will have safe and welcoming physical places to meet with others or read quietly. Additionally, the library will have open and accessible virtual spaces that support social networking and information access.

Activities:

- Build, expand, or remodel library facilities
- Provide excellent customer service
- Improve library maintenance
- Increase the amount of comfortable furniture
- Install attractive, useful, and consistent signage
- Update web site on a regular basis



Goal 4: Create Young Readers: Early Literacy

Children from birth to age five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write, and listen.

Activities:

- Increase programs and collections
- Outreach to preschools
- Offer toddler/infant programs
- Implement use of early learning concepts

Goal 5: Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure

Children (ages 6 -11) will have materials and programs that stimulate their imaginations and provide pleasurable reading, viewing, and listening experiences.

Activities:

- Expand partnerships with schools
- Offer targeted educational programs for school-aged kids
- Expand collection of new, high-demand children's materials
- Increase summer reading participation



Goal 6: Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure

Teens (ages 12 - 18) will have materials and programs that respond to their current interests and provide pleasurable reading, viewing, and listening experiences.

Activities:

- Create teen areas in all libraries
- Provide programs for teens on topics of current interest
- Expand collection of new, high-demand teen materials
- Obtain feedback from teens on library books and programs

Goal 7: Stimulate Imagination: Reading, Viewing, and Listening for Pleasure

Adults will enjoy a wide variety of new and popular materials in various formats and languages.

Activities:

- Purchase additional copies of best sellers and other high-demand items
- Develop kits (books, discussion guides, etc.) to support book clubs
- Promote electronic databases through presentations and programs
- Offer lecture series on topics of local interest
- Offer classes or programs on popular subjects

Goal 8: Be an Informed Citizen: Local, National, and World Affairs

Adults and teens will have the information they need to support and promote democracy, to fulfill their civic responsibilities at the local, state, and national levels, and to fully participate in community decision making.

Activities:

- Enhance web site to include easy and timely access to topics
- Partner with city, county, and state government
- Convene community forums on topics of interest to local residents
- Provide and promote the availability of voter registration forms
- Provide state and federal tax forms

Goal 9: Connect to the Online World: Public Internet Access

Everyone will have high-speed access to the digital world to ensure that they can take advantage of the ever-growing resources and services available through the Internet.

Activities:

- Provide state-of-the-art equipment and services
- Continuously update the library's web presence
- Provide an adequate number of computers for public use
- Improve communication to patrons through email
- Provide up-to-date software applications available on public computers
- Increase the number of electronic resources available

Goal 10: Understand How to Find, Evaluate, and Use Information: Information Fluency

Residents will have convenient and timely access to services and programs that help them find, evaluate, and use information effectively.

Activities:

- Offer one-on-one computer training
- Give personal library instruction
- Offer computer classes on topics of interest
- Present classes on databases to community groups
- Conduct school visits that focus on electronic resources

Community Visions

Carbondale

All residents will have access to a high quality local public library.

Strengths

Community activism
Active non-profit organizations
Creative, innovative people
Strong spirit of volunteerism
Cultural diversity
Welcoming atmosphere



Opportunities

Sustainability of the town
Encourage and support small businesses
Build leadership in green culture
Expand vision of the arts
Financial resources

Carbondale Community Planning Committee Members

David Batterson
Mary Boland
Betsy Bowie
Debbie Bruell
Ann Chapman
Bill Crymble
Robert Emerson
Haley Engstrom
William Evans
June Fox
Jack Gabow

Ken Garvick
Holly Glasier
Foster Gross
Jane and Dick Hart
Michael Hassig
Colin Laird*
Joan Lamont
Ondine Lawyer
Belinda Leve
Greg Masse
Joani Matranga

Betsy McMichael
Ro Mead
Jane Munsell
Cynthia Sadlowski
Virginia Sterrett
Paul Sutro
Sissy Sutro
Joanne Teeple*
Pat Waddick
Sonya Waters

Glenwood Springs

Everyone will recognize the value of and benefit from living in a small town.

Strengths

Small town atmosphere
Expanding tax base
Friendly place
Good public schools
Rich history
Values families



Opportunities

Increased tax base
Increasing diversity
Become a knowledge center
Opportunity for change
Create a civic center
Incorporate new ideas

Glenwood Springs Community Planning Committee Members

Patty Austin
Linda Austin-Martin
Joel Bone
Jim Campbell
Naomi Chavez
Gen Doak*
Jean Edmonds*
Martha Fredendall
Megan Gould
C.L. Hubbard
Sandy Jackson

Greg Jeung
Sean Jeung
Diana Kaufman
Pam Lewis
Sonya Linman
Britney McElfresh
Jette Nolen
Patricia Nolen
Ed Odell
Wayne Pleasants*
Tyler Raab

Marilee Rippy*
Jennifer Rix
Sheri Scruby*
Angie Simpson
Joan Troth
Risa Wampler
Cheryl Warder
Deb Wilde
Keiko Woodyard
Tom Zieman

* Indicates member of District Planning Committee

New Castle

Residents of all ages will have access to facilities where inter-generational activities occur.

Strengths

Caring local residents
Generational influence and input
New, good schools
Room for growth
Community history
Pioneer spirit



Opportunities

Build green
Become a destination
Become more integrated
Make the corridor more beautiful
Build a bigger, better, stronger, library

New Castle Community Planning Committee Members

Daniel Alexander
Jane Bradley
Jo Ellyn Bradley
Paula Bush
Margot Eicher
Virginia Erickson
Judy Gordon
Mary Lou Haflinger

Allison Jorgensen
Josh Moore
Bucky Moser
Kevin O'Brien
John Parker
Paulette Parker
Aaron Peck
Zack Peck

Holly Pihl
Ginny Schroeder
Evelina Scott
Jane Seglam
Judy Shaffer
Kate Somsel-Longmore
Jaci Spuhler
Samantha Sweeney

Silt

All residents will value and maintain the uniqueness of their community.

Strengths

Community involvement
Nice family neighborhoods
Library staff
Creative, artistic, talented people
Rural community
Small enough to still be friendly



Opportunities

New library
Solar energy
Not so developed that changes can't be made and direction can't be charted
Get to direct where we're going

Silt Community Planning Committee Members

Glenda Antonelli
Bernie Boettcher
Karen Call
Mike Dorsey
Julianne Flaherty

Amy Kay Goodwin*
Randy Gorsett
Galen Helmke
Sheryl Johnson
Leslie Kancilia

Amber Pagni*
Jean Sommers
Maria Vazquez*
Ellen Zagoras
Jenny Zeteh

* Indicates member of District Planning Committee

Parachute

Adults will be aware of and partake of the wide variety of locally available cultural opportunities.

Strengths

Excellent infrastructure
Excellent long-range planning
Highly educated professionals
Wide variety of cultural programs
Retirement community



Opportunities

Harness senior “power” and plug it into the community

Parachute Community Planning Committee Members

Ray Barbour

Dick Doran

Kim Whelan

Rifle

Residents will be aware of the wide variety of community activities and services.

Strengths

Young people
Lots of history
Growth
Pioneering spirit
Grass roots involvement
Great place to raise a family



Opportunities

Increased diversity in population
Technology workers
Mixed-use development
Community involvement
Plan for diversified growth
Co-location of public facilities

Rifle Community Planning Committee Members

Kimberlee Andrews
Pam Arsenault
Kathy Bernat
Keith Lambert
Annick Pruett

Jennifer Reyelts
Helen Rogers
Gabriela Sarabia
Jan Schwener
Sandy Sekeres*

Matt Sturgeon
Jeanette Thompson
Michael Tucker*
Greg Valunas*

Each Community Planning Committee was invited to select representatives to participate in a District Planning Committee that would review all of the recommendations from the Community Planning Committees and make a consolidated set of recommendations to the Library Board.

The District Planning Committee, consisting of twenty-two representatives from all over the county, met at the Glenwood Springs Branch Library on Wednesday, August 1, 2007. They reviewed the vision statements and other recommendations from each of the Community Planning Committees. Although there were some differences from community to community, the way the District could assist local residents in achieving their vision was remarkably similar.

* Indicates member of District Planning Committee

Additional members of the District Planning Committee

Sally Fuller
Kaaren Peck

MaryAnn Hughes
Virginia Schroeder

Sheila Markowitz

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2007

Cheryl Currier, President
Linda Levy, Vice President
Lynette O’Kane, Secretary/Treasurer
Nella Barker
Lanny Kroh
Bill Lamont
Laura Wassmuth

2008

Nella Barker, President
Lynette O’Kane, Vice President
Lanny Kroh, Secretary/Treasurer
Bill Lamont
Laura Wassmuth
Marilee Rippy
Michael Weerts
Leta Terrell (Alternate)

LIBRARY STAFF COMMITTEE

Amelia Shelley—Executive Director
Wilma Paddock – Business Manager/HR
Penny Shiel – Technical Services Manager
Marilyn Murphy – Gordon Cooper Branch Manager
Pat Conway – Glenwood Springs Branch Manager
Ann Honchell – New Castle Branch Manager
Janine Rose – Silt Branch Manager
Judy Martens – Rifle Branch Manager
Holly Klinzman – Parachute Branch Manager
Kimberly Kucera – Administrative Assistant
Malia Boyum—Administrative Assistant
Kelsey Been – Administrative Assistant

BRANCH LOCATIONS

Gordon Cooper Branch Library

76 S. 4th Street, Carbondale, CO 81623
(970) 963-2889

Silt Branch Library

600 Home Avenue, Silt, CO 81652
(970) 876-5500

Glenwood Springs Branch Library

413 9th Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 945-5958

Rifle Branch Library

107 E. 2nd Street, Rifle, CO 81650
(970) 625-3471

New Castle Branch Library

402 W. Main, New Castle, CO 81647
(970) 984-2346

Parachute Branch Library

244 Grand Valley Way, Parachute, CO 81635
(970) 285-9870

Administrative Offices

P.O. Box 832, Rifle, CO 81650
(970) 625-4270