



COMMUNITY REPORT 2024



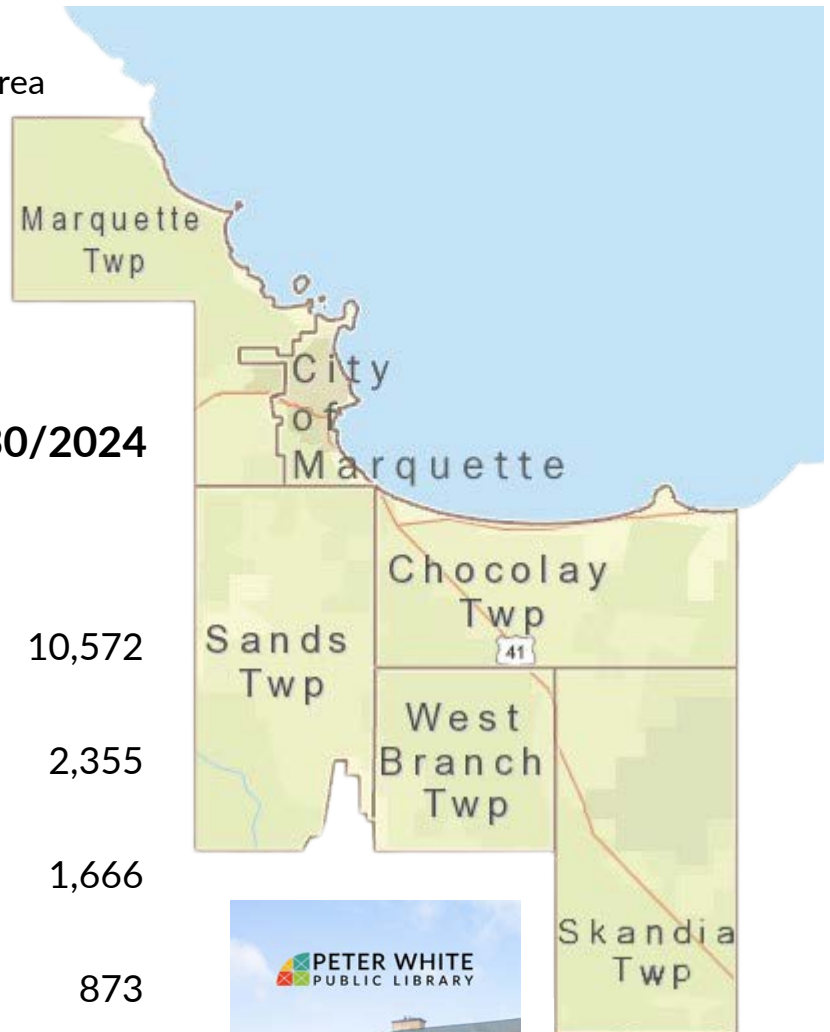
Mission: Enriching the community through access to library services and cultural opportunities.
Vision: The best quality of life for a thriving, diverse community.

PETER WHITE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SERVICE AREA

The Peter White Public Library service area includes the City of Marquette, Chocolay Charter Township, Marquette Charter Township, Sands Township, Skandia Township, and West Branch Township. The Library has service contracts and millages with municipalities that are a part of the service area.

Residents living outside of the service area are welcome to become cardholders of the Library by purchasing a non-resident card.



Registered Cardholders as of 9/30/2024 by Location

	City of Marquette	10,572
	Chocolay Township	2,355
	Marquette Township	1,666
	Sands Township	873
	Skandia Township	271
	West Branch Township	467
	Non Residents	595





Back Row: Steve Schmunk, Joe Meyskens
Front Row: Lori Nelson, Carol Steinhaus, Suzanne Williams

STEVE SCHMUNK, PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I have had the privilege of serving on the Library Board of Trustees since early 2021. Aside from reading books, doing research at the library, and seeing the library millage on our tax bill, I didn't know much more about the library up until that time. Here are three things that I've learned since then:

- It takes a lot to run the library, much more than I was aware of. Providing high-quality service to the public day after day and meeting unexpected events with equanimity, those things don't happen by accident. They require having dedicated, resourceful staff with the mindset of serving the public. The PWPL staff are our wealth.
- Nothing is static. Creating and implementing a strategic plan, surveying the public, brainstorming with other libraries from around the state are all methods aimed at keeping our library offerings current and meeting the needs of the public we serve. The community is our client.
- The library is so much more than books and information. It's one of the hubs of the community, a welcoming place where we participate in events with others. The value of this is reflected in usage statistics and surveys. It's one of the facets I appreciate the most. The library is one of the hearts of our community.

Speaking as one with an inside view, I'm happy to say that our library is not standing still but is evolving in ways that will continue to meet your needs. Your input is an essential part of that evolution.



ANDREA INGMIRE, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

2024 has been an exciting year, marked by both challenges and successes. Some challenges have arisen from our own growth—like an increasingly full parking lot—while others stem from the evolving complexities of library services in the digital age.

Last year we tackled a much-needed maintenance project, replacing the crumbling Front Street entrance lower stairs. The blocks were replaced with durable limestone blocks to last a lifetime. Additionally, we relocated the Teen Zone to the former Audio Visual area, providing more space and security for our teens and a more accessible Audio Visual area.

This year also marked a significant shift in our relationship with the City of Marquette Arts and Culture (MACC) office. Amidst this period of change, PWPL remains fully committed to supporting the arts in our community. More about this transition on page 7.

Since 1871, PWPL has been a foundation of the Marquette community, dedicated to providing access to information and resources for all. We look forward to another year of service to you.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The current PWPL Strategic Plan covers 2023–2025, and as we approach its final year, the PWPL Board of Trustees is preparing to set new goals for 2026–2028. Our core strategic priorities—Service, Sustainability, and Expertise—will remain at the heart of our mission for years to come.

We welcome your input as we shape the future of PWPL!



SERVICE

Providing excellent service to our community:

- Transitioned to LocalHop room and event management system.
- Expanded recorded program content available on our website and YouTube channel.
- MACC space transition planning.
- Relocated and expanded Teen Zone area.

SUSTAINABILITY

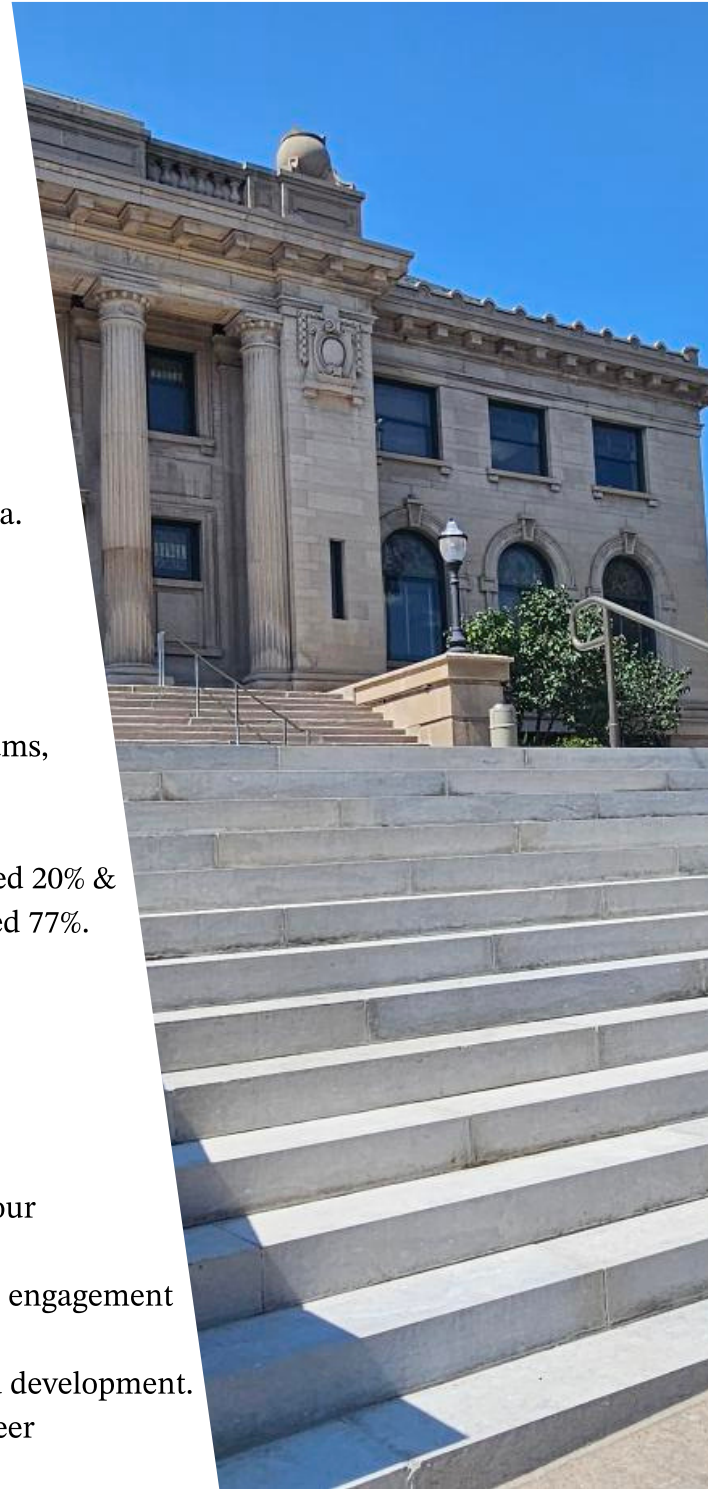
Remaining stable and relevant:

- Added community partner programs, Repair Café, Meditate MQT, and United Way.
- Friends of PWPL funding increased 20% & Development Fund value increased 77%.
- Replaced the lower stairs at the Front Street entrance.

EXPERTISE

Library staff and volunteers are our greatest asset:

- Expanded Staff Training and engagement programs.
- Continued policy review and development.
- Expanded intern and volunteer opportunities.





DIGITIZATION

Peter White Public Library has been working in collaboration with the Upper Peninsula Digital Network, or UPLINK, to digitize collections of local significance and make them available online. UPLINK's mission is to manage and sustain a low-cost, secure, and geographically distributed digital preservation and access service for locally created digital primary source material documenting the history of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

In 2021, UPLINK was established when NMU received a federal grant from the National Historical Publication and Records Commission. Since its inception, UPLINK has grown from a small collection of photos and historical images to a collection of significance to the Upper Peninsula. The *Cloverland Magazine* was the first periodical addition to this collection and the *Marquette Mining Journal* is the largest UPLINK collection to date.

PWPL Collections include:

- *Cloverland Magazine* (1916-1923)
- *Marquette Mining Journal* (currently, 1868-1978)
- Wesley Perron Railroad Collection
- *Polk Directories* (coming 2025)



Our ability to contribute to UPLINK depends greatly on private donor funds. PWPL is interested in continuing to add to the UPLINK platform and continue to investigate other resources for digitization. In order to continue digitizing locally significant resources, additional project funding will be required.

Want to support this project? Learn more about donating to PWPL on page 13.

Polk Directories

R. L Polk & Company was founded in 1870 in Detroit as a publisher of business directories. In 1872, the company published a directory with the names and addresses of residents in Evansville, Indiana. Polk Directories were often formatted as an alphabetical listing of residents and businesses in a city and sometimes included a consecutive listing by address.

City Directories are a helpful local history research tool. Peter White Public Library has been working with UPLINK to digitize Marquette Polk City Directories from 1873-1961. Once copyright paperwork is completed, this resource will be available as a PWPL collection in UPLINK.

History on Polk Directories:

Wikipedia contributors. "R.L. Polk & Company." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 9 Nov. 2024. Web. 26 Feb. 2025.





MEET YOU AT PWPL!

Spaces for community members to gather and connect has always been an integral part of PWPL’s mission. In 2024, the use of library spaces for community meetings, events, and gatherings hit record levels.

As part of the 2017–2018 renovation project, three study rooms were added on the second floor of the library. These rooms are available for three-hour checkout periods with a library card, on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to their popularity, they can sometimes be difficult to secure!

In 2024, the library transitioned to LocalHop, a calendar and room reservation system platform Located in Michigan. This system allows patrons to create user accounts and check the status of their reservations in real time. Instructions for using LocalHop can be found in the FAQs on our meeting room page.

Given the ongoing demand for meeting spaces, we are working to improve efficiency, reduce staff workload, and enhance the overall user experience.

Recent Changes to the PWPL Meeting Room Policy include:

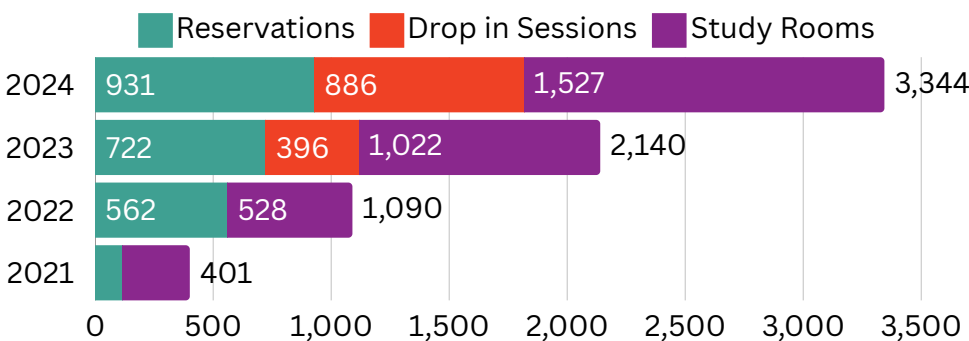
- Rooms can now be reserved up to one year in advance.
- Additional usage per month of small conference rooms.
- Streamlined setup options for the Heritage and Shiras Rooms.



In addition to reservable rooms, several spaces are available for drop-in use. A full list of these rooms can be found on our website. Drop-in usage statistics depend on patrons self-reporting, which makes the data difficult to verify. If anything, drop-in room usage is likely underreported. Despite that, the numbers continue to rise.

It is an honor to be Marquette's Community Center. We enjoy hosting so many fantastic community events and meetings and look forward to working with your group in the future.

Note: Only PWPL events are listed on our events calendar. Look for information about community events held at PWPL on the Marquette Compass www.mqtcompass.com.





MACC AREA TRANSITION

The City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center (MACC) currently leases 3,600 square feet of the lower level of Peter White Public Library (PWPL). This lease includes the Deo Gallery, Studio 1, Studio 2, MACC offices, and access to several storage spaces. In early 2024, PWPL Administration was notified that MACC would not be renewing their current lease with PWPL which ends on September 30, 2025. They will be moving to the former Lake Superior Community Partnership building at 501 S. Front Street.

MACC is a division of the City of Marquette, Community Services Department, which has its own mission, staff, and budget. PWPL currently receives \$30,000 annually in revenue from the MACC lease. After the end of the lease term, PWPL will no longer receive that revenue. PWPL will be managing the spaces vacated by MACC with existing PWPL staff. As such, a few changes are being made to help ensure we can successfully accomplish this. If you have questions about the future of services offered by the MACC, please speak to Tiina Morin, Arts and Culture Manager.

The Deo Gallery will remain a public fine art gallery.

Studio 1 will remain a reservable space. Starting October 1, this space will be managed by PWPL staff and can be reserved in accordance with PWPL Policy and fee schedule.

Studio 2 will be reserved for PWPL programming and meetings only. It will not be publicly reservable after October 1, 2025.

Storage Rooms will be used by PWPL to store supplies and library equipment and provide heated workshop space for PWPL staff.

MACC offices will be occupied by PWPL staff.

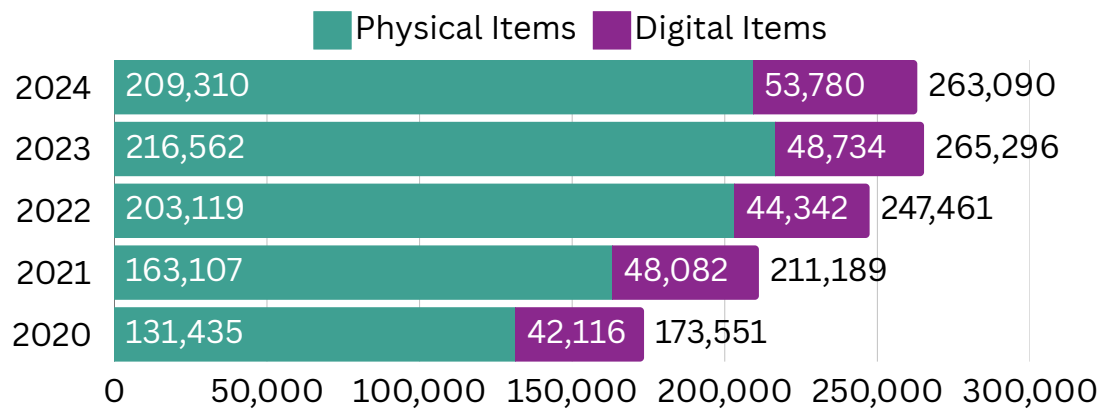
PWPL and MACC staff are working together to make this change as smooth as possible.

Peter White Public Library remains a committed partner in the local arts community and is excited to imagine the future of this space.

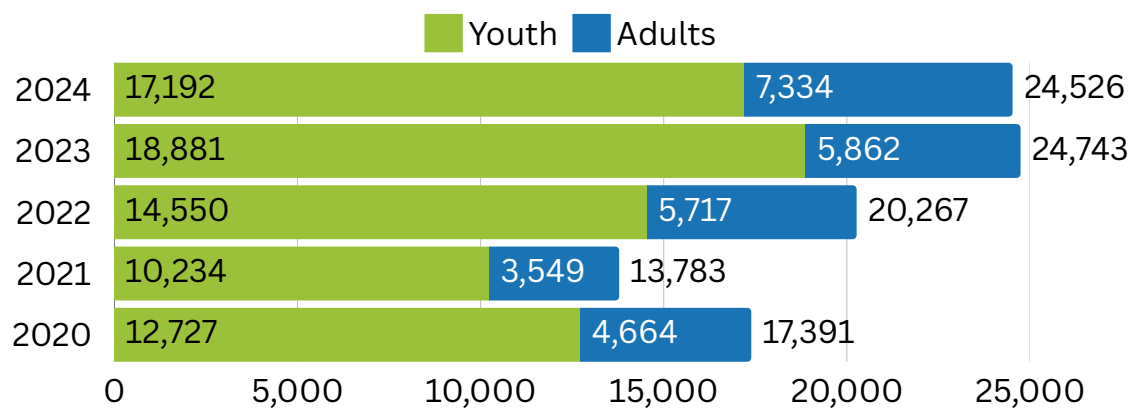


USAGE STATISTICS 2020-2024

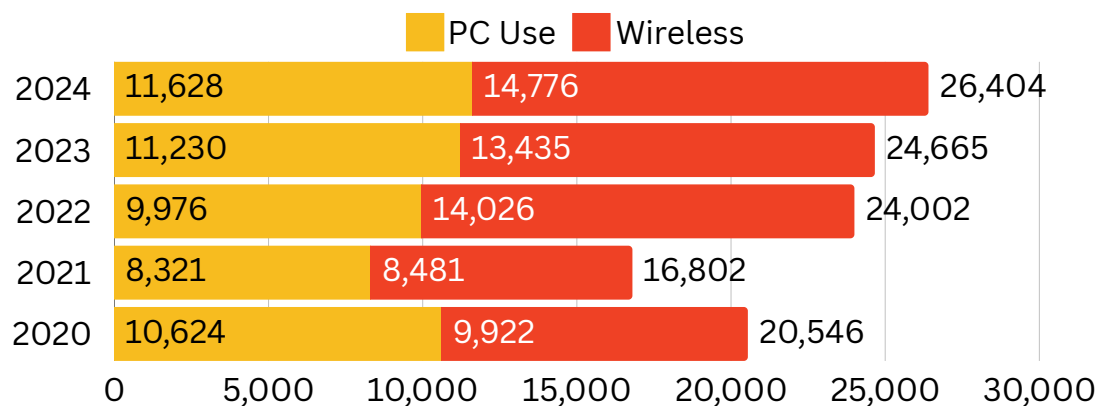
Circulation Statistics



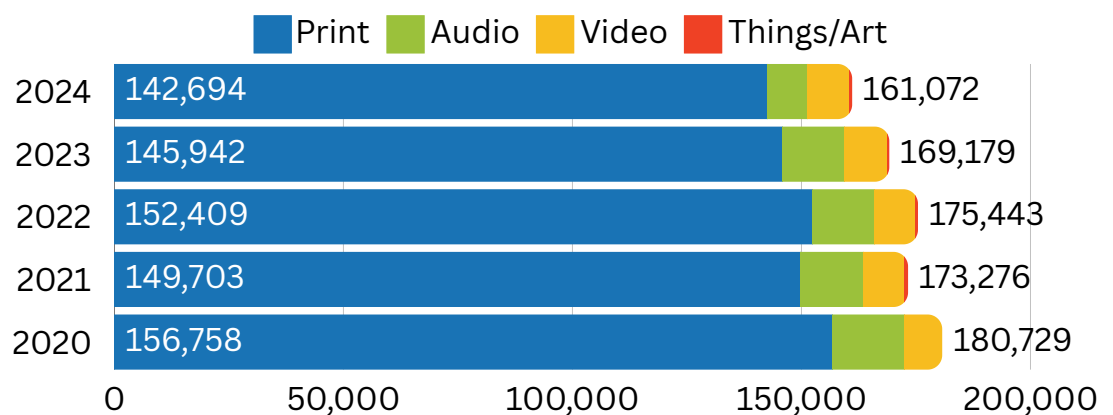
Program Attendance



Computer Usage



Collection Counts



STATISTICS BY TOWNSHIP

Chocolay Township

Service Started	1992
Active Registered Borrowers	1,174
Total Registered Borrowers	2,355
Circulation of Physical Materials	28,009
Book Drop Pickups	51
Items Returned in Book Drop	1,470

Marquette Township

Service Started	1993
Active Registered Borrowers	894
Total Registered Borrowers	1,666
Circulation of Physical Materials	20,351
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	1,209

Sands Township

Service Started	1992
Active Registered Borrowers	442
Total Registered Borrowers	873
Circulation of Physical Materials	9,406
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	399

Skandia Township

Service Started	2002
Active Registered Borrowers	136
Total Registered Borrowers	271
Circulation of Physical Materials	5,587
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	466

West Branch Township

Service Started	1996
Active Registered Borrowers	199
Total Registered Borrowers	467
Circulation of Physical Materials	8,318
Book Drop Pickups	52
Items Returned in Book Drop	73

Township Advisory Council Members

Chocolay Township

Jan Raskin
Judy White

Marquette Township

Tom Branken
Paul Marin

Sands Township

Kerrie Heikes
Suzanne Standerford

Skandia Township

Barb Bradley
Beth Linna

West Branch Township

Peggy Jensen
Natasha Lantz

Township Advisory Council (TAC) meetings are held quarterly at PWPL.

All township millage renewals passed in 2024! Thank you township residents for your continued support.



STREAMING SERVICES

PWPL offers a robust selection of electronic database and digital checkout platforms. The database and newspaper subscriptions include *New York Times* digital access, *Sanborn Maps*, Value Line, *Weiss Financial Ratings*, and Mango Languages to name a handful. We also have direct links to many MeL Database collections.

Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy are our most popular electronic resources. These platforms offer a variety of formats including eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming movies, digital magazines and music. eAudiobooks are the most highly utilized item type and account for 44% of the total digital checkout usage.

Libby has a large collection, especially if patrons add ‘partner libraries’ to their borrowing. If you need help on adding partner libraries, please contact us, it is worth the additional steps to get this setup on your devices. Libby items will often have holds on them. So you may or may not find something of interest in the moment you are looking. The Libby catalog contains eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines. Libby limits are 4 checkouts and 4 holds at a time for our collection. By adding partner libraries to your Libby access you will get additional limits set by the other consortiums.

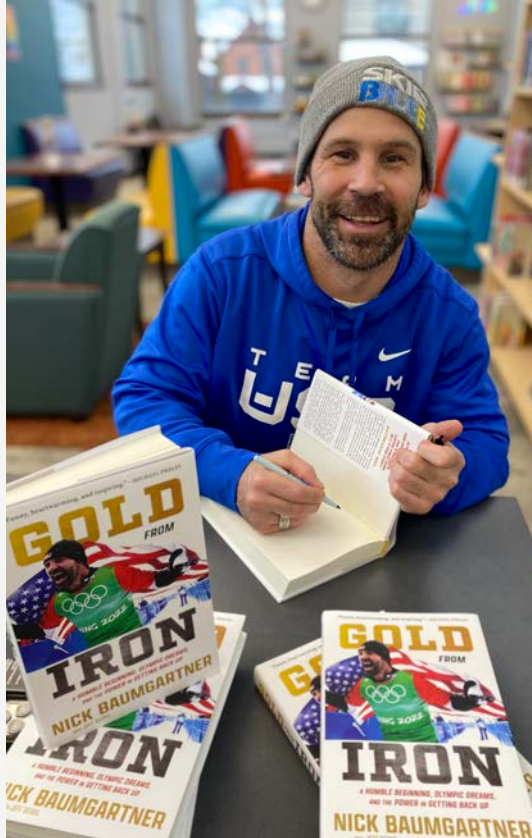
Hoopla has a simultaneous use model and therefore no holds to contend with. However, the collection is much less robust. Hoopla provides a wide variety of formats including eBooks, eAudiobooks, Movies, TV Series, Comics, and Music. The company has also added BingePasses for some content. Hoopla limits are 4 checkouts per month.

Kanopy offers on-demand video streaming of documentary, educational, and mainstream films. Kanopy uses a ticket system instead of checkout by title, with most films requiring 3-4 tickets. Kanopy limits are 12 tickets per month.

Patrons often ask why checkout limits on these digital resources cannot be increased. The simple answer is cost. These platforms follow different pricing models: some charge per use, while others allow a set number of checkouts per item before requiring repayment. On average, each digital checkout costs the library \$3–\$5. This differs significantly from physical materials, which can be borrowed repeatedly for a single purchase price.

We recognize the importance of digital resources and are proud to offer a wide range to our community. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, the library must carefully manage its budget and weigh investments in traditional services against content it doesn’t own, platforms it can’t control, and collections it can’t curate.





FINANCIAL STABILITY

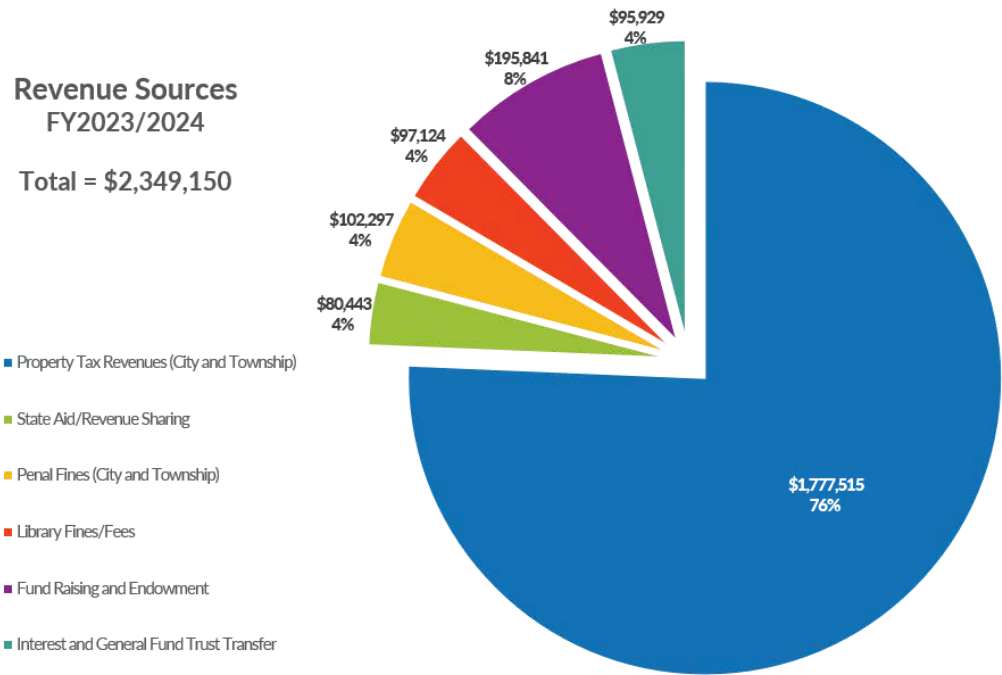
Financial stability takes constant vigilance. PWPL Administration and Board of Trustees operate a fiscally conservative organization, monitoring spending and revenues closely. As we look to the future, the PWPL Board of Trustees has been discussing how to prepare for repairs and potential replacement of integral equipment such as HVAC and the elevator.

In 2024, we replaced the damaged lower steps on Front Street using existing library funds.

In addition to building repairs, staff wages and benefits continue to be top of mind as the cost of living in our area continues to increase. Retaining high quality staff ensures a high quality library experience for the community.

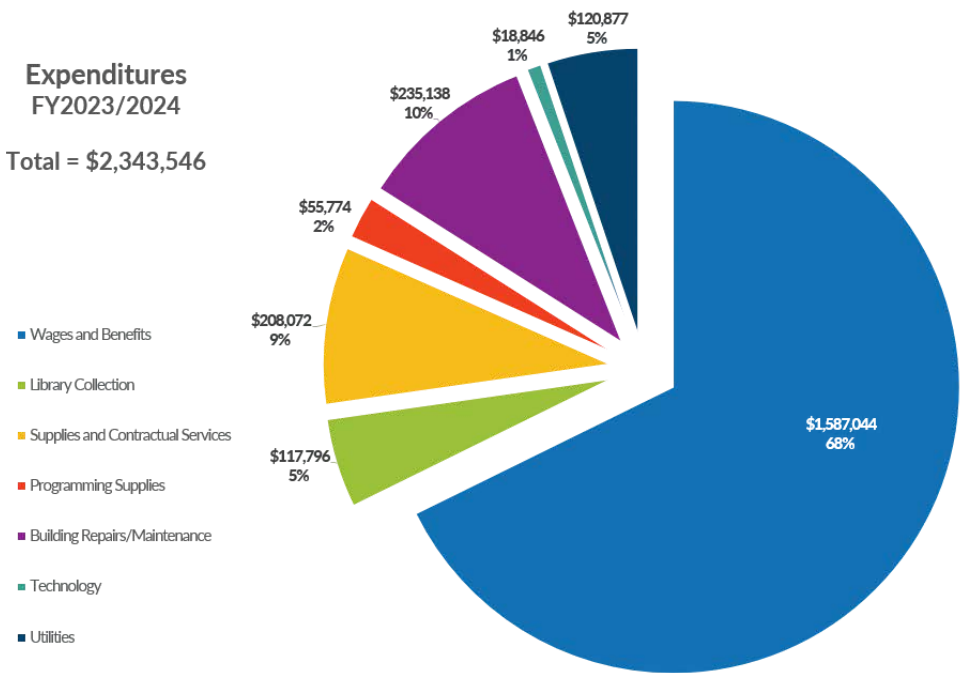
Revenue Sources
FY2023/2024

Total = \$2,349,150



Expenditures
FY2023/2024

Total = \$2,343,546



PWPL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Adding capacity and providing long-term financial stability is the work of the Development Fund, managed by Development Director Heather Steltenpohl. The 2023-2024 fiscal year has been a strong year for the Development Fund. Since October 1, 2023 over \$627,000 was raised to benefit the annual fund and endowment funds.

PWPL Endowment Funds were opened with \$30,000 from UP Health System in 2015. As of Sept. 30, 2024 the total Endowment Fund value is approaching \$1.6 million dollars. Distributions to the PWPL operating budget in FY23/24 totaled \$16,978.02 for general operations, youth services, and technology. The tremendous growth is a result of new donations coming into the Development Fund.

Those interested in donating to PWPL have many options.

Bequests - Donations of any amount can be made in memory or honor of a friend or family member.

IRA Minimum Distributions - Those over 73 can lower income and taxes from IRA withdraws through a charitable rollover.

Endowment Funds - Named endowment funds can be opened for donations over \$25,000. In 2024, the library managed three endowment funds which focus on supporting youth, technology, and library collections.

2023 Total Endowment Fund Value
\$872,559.87

2024 Total Endowment Fund Value
\$1,548,032.00

Questions about donating?
Contact Heather at 906-226-4305 or
heather@pwpl.info.



Photograph used with permission. Photographer: Kevin Dietrich



FRIENDS OF PWPL

The Friends of PWPL spend countless hours at the library. When you bring in books or other materials to donate, the Friends sort and manage them. PWPL has ‘first dibs’ for the collection. Then all other donations go to the Used Book Store or are stored for the bi-annual Friends Book Sales. This saves library staff hours of work! The Friends support PWPL’s mission through the used book store, two used book sales, and online sales. In 2024 the Friends raised a record-setting \$60,363.26 to support PWPL.

Library staff make grant requests to the Friends, for collection, programs, and services. Requests are reviewed by the Friends Board at their quarterly meetings. In the past year, the Friends of PWPL provided funding for the following requests: Summer Reading programs, youth and teen programming supplies, Public Gallery Program reception supplies, United States of America exterior grade flag, Great Lakes Poetry Festival, film licensing and popcorn machine supplies, *Book Page* magazine, adult and youth book collections, Toniebox collection, Library of Things, book club kits, archival supplies, staff training, election information printing and mailing, children’s fish tank supplies, and so much more!

Thank you to all the Friends of PWPL who help to make our Library the warm place it is.

Friends of PWPL Board Members:

David White (President), Lacey Hartzell (Vice President), Cathy Seblonka (Secretary)

Members at large: Susie Colquitt, Caroline Jordan, Donna Keskimaki, Margi Licht-Mallo, Dianne Patrick, Vicki Reuling, Joe Sabol, and Walter Wojtowicz.

Staff liaison and Treasurer: Heather Steltenpohl



Friends Spotlight - Lacey Hartzell

“The library does so much for the community, I love being a part of it,” says Lacey Hartzell, a member of the Friends of PWPL since 2021. In addition to assisting with numerous Friends events and serving as Vice President, Lacey is also a Dungeon Master for the teen program role playing program using Dungeons & Dragons (D&D). With over 20 years of experience playing D&D, Lacey is eager to help the program reach as many young people as possible. “D&D is important because it fosters creativity and helps build strong relationships in a world of your own creation.”





217 North Front Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Main Line: 906-228-9510
Adult Services: 906-226-4311
Teen Services: 906-226-4321
Youth Services: 906-226-4323

Website: www.pwpl.info

Social Media: @peterwhitepubliclibrary



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Peter White Public Library

Enriching the community through access to library services and cultural opportunities.