

2025 Annual Report at a glance

Our values in action

Financial Summary

Innovation

Facing the Future

Director's Message



Elektra Greer, Director

Every year, we think we have set the bar; then we beat it!

2025 was a year defined by energy, growth, and meaningful connection. The completion of Phase I of our Reading Garden — fully “performance-ready” — came alive with arts and music programs this year, welcoming audiences of all ages and creating new opportunities for shared cultural experiences. Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce that the space will host its very first Biblio-wedding in 2026 — a joyful testament to the library’s role at the heart of our community’s most meaningful moments.

Our global perspective continued to expand through our International Library Partnership with ZB Bibliotheek van Zeeland. Together, we presented a Traveling Art Exhibit featuring *Sterke Vrouwen* (“Strong Women”) from both of our communities — a powerful celebration of resilience, creativity, and shared stories across continents. Students from both libraries also had the remarkable opportunity to present at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia, demonstrating the impact of youth voice and international collaboration on a national stage.

Innovation within our walls has also flourished. The addition of our new “Quiet Cube” Telehealth Booth has quickly become one of our most valued amenities, offering patrons a private, peaceful space for virtual appointments, work, and study. At the same time, we strengthened our commitment to accessibility — advancing transportation solutions with local partners and enhancing low-vision accessibility within the library to ensure that our spaces and services remain welcoming to all.

While our focus remains firmly rooted in serving the Nederland community, 2025 also brought meaningful recognition beyond our town’s borders. Our Library Board President and one of our Library Directors each received state-level recognition for their leadership in legislative advocacy — work that helped strengthen Colorado library law and protect public and school libraries from censorship. Their efforts reflect our deep commitment not only to access, but to the enduring principles of intellectual freedom and the right to read.

On the national stage, our Assistant Director was honored for her graduation of the Association of Rural and Small Libraries Leadership Cohort — a distinguished program that cultivates forward-thinking leaders in rural communities. Her recognition underscores the strength of our team and affirms that leadership, innovation, and advocacy are thriving here in Nederland.

Together, these honors highlight something we have always known: our library is both small AND mighty thanks to our library-loving community and Board.

Assistant Director's Message



Jessie Ansari, Assistant Director

It has been a big year for our Library! From our new literacy initiatives to the joyful chaos of our kids Library camp, we have transformed our children's department into a true "third space" for families. We focused on the core values of accessibility, creative exploration, and community resilience, ensuring that every child who walks through our doors feels empowered and seen.

This year, we proudly launched our kids Dyslexia Collection, the "*Accessible Reading Collection*," featuring accessible texts and high-interest titles. We also replaced our entire Leveled Reader Bags. These curated kits take the guesswork out of "what comes next" for parents, providing a structured path for emerging readers to build confidence.

Our programming saw record-breaking engagement, proving that our community is hungry for hands-on, quality creative experiences.

In addition to our local successes, this year marked a significant milestone in my administrative leadership journey, as I graduated from the **Association of Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) Leadership Institute**. This intensive program provided valuable insights into sustainable library management and innovative small library service models tailored for communities like ours. I had the privilege of representing our library on a larger stage by presenting at the ARSL Conference in Albuquerque. Sharing our small-town successes with a national audience not only highlights the incredible work we are doing here in the mountains, but allows us to bring back "best practices" from across the country to better serve our patrons.

Thanks for a great year! As we look toward the coming year, we remain dedicated to being a sanctuary for imagination and a hub for lifelong learning.

2025 Our Values in Action

Service. Community. Adaptability. Equal Access. Intellectual Freedom.



Summer learning at its best! Library Youth from Nederland and our Sister Library in the Netherlands meet in Philadelphia for the American Library Association Conference.

Strategic Goal 1

Trusted Resource



With **38,343 people walking through our doors** in a service area of fewer than **4,000 residents**, and **43,525 items checked out**, we can confidently say we are a trusted resource in this community.

Our "Book-a-Librarian" service is growing in popularity as more patrons discover the opportunity to schedule private, one-on-one assistance with technology, research, telehealth, and a variety of other needs.

Our commitment to providing safe, secure, and reliable Internet access reinforces the library's role as a trusted community resource.

Strategic Goal 2

Spaces



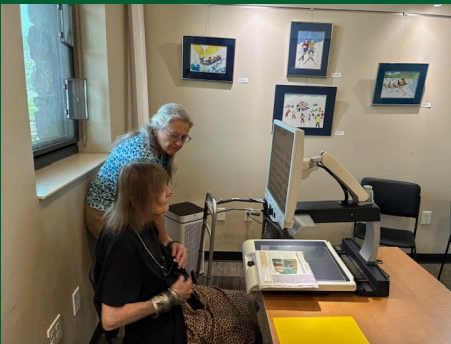
The popularity of our Reading Garden, along with requests to host memorial services at the library and the addition of new and evolving public art, reflects how welcoming and inviting our space has become for the community.

In 2025, meeting room reservations were at an all-time high.

Our ongoing investment in the library's facility and outdoor spaces reflects our commitment to providing welcoming, high-quality environments that are recognized and appreciated by the community.

Strategic Goal 3

Accessibility and Resources



Our commitment to accessibility—including WCAG compliance, expanded mobility services, and enhanced vision accessibility—is demonstrated by our receipt of an accessibility grant from the ALA.

We also dedicated additional resources to increase staff hours, ensuring that the library not only meets but exceeds established accessibility best practices.

In partnership with local and state organizations, the library initiated and facilitated two community-wide accessibility events designed to raise awareness and improve access to services and resources. Our key partners include: the Lions Club, Nederland Area Seniors, Nederland Peak-to-Peak Coalition, Colorado Talking Book Library, Envision Support, Boulder County Agency on Aging, and Via Mobility Services.

Strategic Goal 4

Inclusivity and Equity



The Library continued to advance its strategic goal of inclusivity and equity by prioritizing accessibility in its services, collections, and programs. Core library services and materials remained available to all community members at no or low cost, ensuring that financial barriers do not limit access to information, learning, and connection. The Library also maintained a strong commitment to its mission by developing collections and hosting programs that reflect a wide range of diverse viewpoints and perspectives, supporting an informed and welcoming community. In addition, the Library expanded opportunities for youth engagement by offering summer camps at very low cost, making enriching educational and creative experiences accessible to more families.

Strategic Goal 5

Programming



Our library has earned a reputation for consistently outstanding programming. From creative programs for children and adults to offerings that respond quickly to community interests, both our programming and attendance regularly exceed those of our peer libraries. A key factor is the strong teaching background shared by many of our staff and volunteers, which helps transform our small but mighty library into a hands-on learning lab 24/7. From "Stuffy Hospital" clinic day to Hula Hoop Workshops to the Singularity Theory, we reflect our community's varied interests and talents. Unique In January, we held our first ever "Stuffy Hospital" turning the library into a busy clinic for stuffed animal care and repair.

Over the Summer, we hosted our biggest Summer Reading Program in Library history! The momentum helped us launch our first week-long Summer Camp, which provided children with much-needed enrichment and a safe space to thrive during their break.

Our after-school Makers Club continues to be a fully booked group and a beloved staple for local elementary students, while our frequent Take and Make kits remain a vital resource for creativity for those who prefer to make at home!

We were thrilled to announce a successful grant award from Flight Path for new birding experience kits and programs. This allows us to offer high-quality binoculars and field guides for check-out, connecting our community to the incredible natural beauty around us.

Strategic Goal 6

Staff and Volunteers



The Library continued to invest in the strength and sustainability of its team by supporting staff and volunteers through ongoing professional development opportunities and recognition events throughout the year. These efforts ensure that those who serve the community remain knowledgeable, engaged, and equipped to respond to evolving needs—particularly in the area of technology, where staying current is essential to providing relevant services. The impact of this commitment is reflected in the Library’s exceptionally stable staffing and dedicated volunteer base, both of which contribute to strong institutional knowledge and consistent service for patrons. By fostering a culture of learning, appreciation, and collaboration, the Library sustains a skilled and motivated team that is well prepared to meet the changing needs of the community.

Strategic Goal 7

Financial and Environmental Sustainability

CONTRIBUTE A LITTLE, EXPERIENCE A LOT!

As Federal funding for libraries shrinks, we need your support to keep Experience Passes going. Donate now to the Foundation's Experience passes fund.

Thanks to Indian Peaks Real Estate, your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$1,000!

Donate \$ 100
-Choose a book from our collection with a dedication inside.

Donate \$ 300
-Receive an honorary Library Paver with your personal message inscribed.
-Name will be featured in our Nederland Community Library Newsletter.

Donate \$ 500+
-Get both the book dedication and an honorary Library Paver.
-Name will be featured in our Nederland Community Library Newsletter.
-Patron will get to adopt an Experience Backpack where name will be featured and recognized inside the backpack of choice.

HELP FUND OUR EXPERIENCE PASSES!

LIBRARY

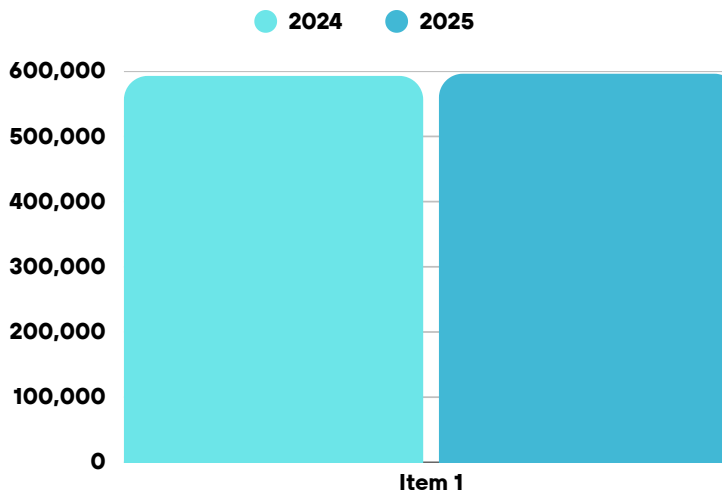
Indian Peaks Real Estate Services

The Library remains committed to both financial and environmental sustainability through transparency, collaboration, and proactive advocacy. A member of the Library Board serves as a liaison to the Town’s Sustainability Board, strengthening alignment with local environmental goals and ensuring the Library remains engaged in broader community sustainability efforts. The Library also prioritizes transparency with its community by conducting open Board meetings, participating in Town Board meetings, and maintaining strong partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders. In addition, the Library actively engages in legislative advocacy to ensure that small and rural special district libraries have a voice in discussions around property tax legislation and state grant funding—issues that directly affect the Library’s long-term stability and ability to serve the community. The Library also continues to benefit from a strong partnership with its Library Foundation, the organization’s fundraising arm. Over the past several years, the Library and the Foundation have worked closely together to increase philanthropic support and secure grant funding.

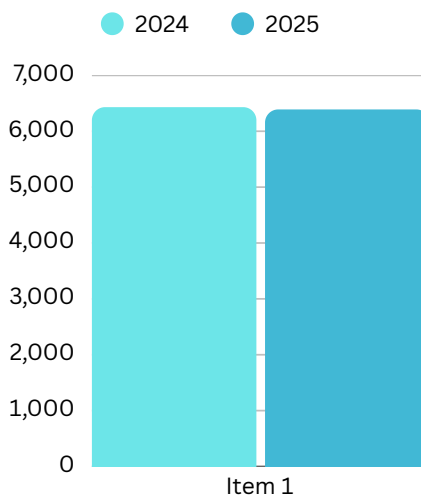
Key Performance Indicators

Public Library Annual Report Dashboards – Library Research Service

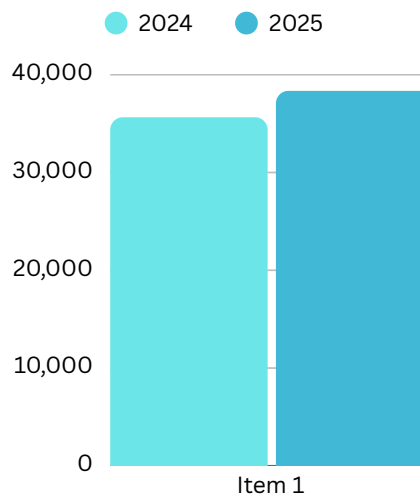
Operating Revenue



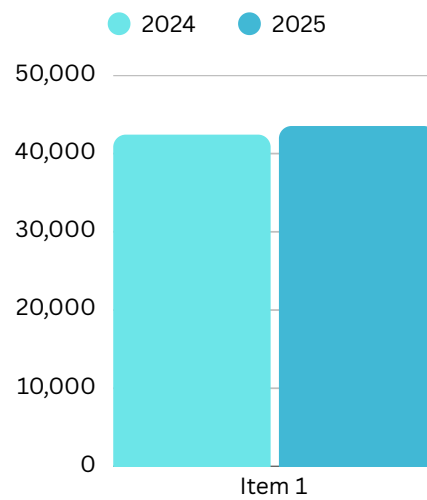
Program Attendance



In-Person Library visits



Materials Circulation



In 2025, the library provided over 20,000 public internet sessions, enabling patrons to apply for jobs, complete schoolwork, access government services, and stay connected.

Facing the Future

Looking ahead, the Library remains optimistic and focused on thoughtful stewardship of its resources. After several years of successful growth and expansion, economic forecasts suggest that the coming year will require a shift toward conserving resources and investing in the maintenance and sustainability of the services, spaces, and collections the community already relies on. As changes at both the local and national levels continue to shape the financial landscape for public institutions, the Library is preparing to respond with creativity, adaptability, and a continued commitment to excellent service. In particular, the Town of Nederland's purchase of Eldora Ski Resort is expected to have a negative impact on the Library's discretionary revenue. In response, the Library is working diligently with partners and stakeholders to identify new opportunities, strengthen existing funding streams, and recoup potential lost revenue while continuing to provide the high level of service the community expects and deserves.