

# Rockwell Falls Public Library

Strategic Plan of Service  
2024-2027

## Planning Summary

In March of 2024, following a set of crises which temporarily closed the library and delayed the timely construction of a new long- range plan of service, the trustees succeeded in both reopening the library and establishing a committee to create a strategic plan to carry the library forward for the next three years. President Ted Mirczak appointed six individuals to the committee and named a chairperson.

That group met regularly, weekly or biweekly, from March through July to plan, design, and write a strategic plan for the library's immediate future. A survey was created to offer residents an opportunity to share their aspirations for their community, the library being a vital part of that community. Numerous constituent groups were personally invited by committee members to participate and the survey was also available in the library and on the library's website. A total of 144 surveys were completed and submitted for the committee's study. In addition, two focus groups were hosted at the library and those participants engaged in conversation linked to the survey.

The next step was to analyze the material collected from the printed survey, the online survey, and the focus group dialogues. From that analysis came three goals which became the substance of the strategic plan.

### Board of Trustees

Ted Mirczak, president  
Janice Waterhouse, vice president  
Margaret Hartley, secretary  
Colin Hagadorn, vice president of finance  
Joshua Jaquard

### Strategic Planning Committee

Rosemarie Gardner, chair  
Margaret Hartley, trustee  
Janice Waterhouse, trustee  
Marion Allan, library manager  
Xanath Bailey  
Jean Romer-Cieslik

## History of the library

The Rockwell Falls Public Library is housed in a historic building in the town of Lake Luzerne, NY, and overlooks Rockwell Falls on the narrowest part of the Hudson River. Built in 1890, it was formerly the residence of Edward M. Garnar, Jr., a member of a notable family in the area beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. Garnar family members were merchants in the town and were owners of a grocery store, a general store, and the first waterworks in Lake Luzerne and Hadley. They are perhaps best known as the owners of Garnar Leatherworks on Main Street, a premier supplier of leather used for bookbinding with a store and office in New York City. Only the smokestack remains of the once thriving tannery but the legacy lives on in the local library and even in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC where numerous volumes stand with Garner or Luzerne stamped on their leather spines.

The library began its operation as the Hadley Luzerne Public Library under a provisional charter granted May 23, 1969, by the New York State Education Department and an absolute charter was subsequently granted on May 24, 1974, by the Board of Regents. The first trustees were Arthur J. Brown, Cynthia Fosberry, Cornelius Dandareau, Keith Lawrence, Clarissa Newton, Joanne Sehlmeier, and Diana Pataki.

Looking to establish a school district public library that would allow for operating expenses to be collected through annual taxes, library trustees applied for a provisional charter for Rockwell Falls Public Library and were granted such on May 4, 2020, and the library began operating as such. All assets from Hadley Luzerne Public Library were transferred and distributed to the Rockwell Falls Public Library. The trustees then applied to the Board of Regents for the dissolution of Hadley Luzerne Public Library, which was granted on September 14, 2021. The library's purpose, as stated in the charter, is "to serve the residents of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District and to promote and maintain library facilities, resources, and services in and for the people of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District."

The school district covers approximately 240 square miles in six townships located in two counties: Lake Luzerne, Stony Creek, and Warrensburg in Warren County and Hadley, Day, and Edinburgh in Saratoga County. In 2023, the K-12 enrollment was 659 and the population is in the bottom quartile for the diversity index when compared with other cities, towns, and census-designated places in New York State.

## **Purpose of Plan**

Rockwell Falls Public Library developed its long-range plan through outreach and engagement with community members and constituent groups within the Hadley Luzerne Central School District and constructed a written plan, reflective of the needs and aspirations of the community. The final formal document provides guidance and accountability for library trustees and staff for the next three years (2024-2027) and clarifies the role of the library in the community, assists in the development of programming and services, and supports responsible allocation of resources.

## **Mission**

Recognizing the dynamic and diverse nature of our community, the mission of Rockwell Falls Public Library is to provide opportunities for lifelong learning and leisure. We enrich the lives of our neighbors by offering resources, a knowledgeable and supportive staff, and a welcoming place for our community to come together.

## **Vision**

Rockwell Falls Public Library will expand its collection and provide updated resources and services to promote learning and relaxation in a space that welcomes every member of our community.

## **Goal 1: Increase, enrich, and enhance the collection**

Objective – The library’s collection will be increased to provide both current and classic works selected for purposes of relevancy, inclusivity, and communal study.

*Projected Outcome: The library is a trusted source of offerings for all members of the communities it serves.*

Project leader: Library manager with assistance of library staff and support of trustees

**Action 1a** – Update the library’s collection of fiction and nonfiction works with current titles and authors as suggested by bestseller lists, bookstore trends, and patron requests.

**Action 1b** – Increase the number of classic works of literature available to patrons.

**Action 2a** – Conduct an assessment of the fiction and nonfiction works in the collection to ensure they reflect the needs, interests, and diversity of the community.

**Action 2b** – Enrich the collection with offerings of works by authors of diversity and minority so as to meet the needs and interests of patrons of diversity and minority.

**Action 3a** - Establish a catalog of historical items relevant to the community currently housed in the collection.

**Action 3b** – Identify missing components in the collection as they pertain to local history.

**Action 4a** – Direct a minimum of 20% of each year’s allocation for book purchases to the intentional selection of works that include and represent our diverse community.

## **Goal 2: Provide content rich programming that supports learning, sharing, and relaxation**

*Projected outcome: The library is home to activities that offer new ideas, new skills, and friendly relaxation for all members of the community.*

Project leader: Library manager with the assistance of staff and support of the trustees

**Action 2a** – The library manager will survey the community annually to ascertain interests and collect ideas for programming and will collect and analyze the data collected to be used in decision making when selecting programs.

**Action 2b** – Provide quality programming for children and young adults that shall include at least one monthly presentation selected to align with skill sets important to success in the classroom and in the community.

**Action 2c** – Provide regular opportunities for students to access book talks, book clubs, and homework assistance.

**Action 2d** – Provide quality programming for adults that shall include at least one monthly presentation selected to address patron interests shared in a current library survey ( see Action 2a), patron requests made directly to the manager, or offerings made known to the manager through professional development and collaboration with other library managers and directors.

Data for all actions in Goal 2 will be recorded and maintained by the library manager.

**Goal 3: Establish and promote strong collaborative relationships with community organizations, groups, and individuals.**

*Projected outcome – The library is a center of vibrant civic life.*

Project leader – Library manager with assistance of staff and support of trustees

**Action 3a** – Collaborate with local organizations to develop programming that offers unique opportunities and perspectives.

**Action 3b** – Provide or participate in off-site locally organized events, a minimum of three during the first fiscal year of the strategic plan and a minimum of four during each of the final two years of the strategic plan.

**Action 3c** – Implement both an online and an in-house suggestion box that allows patrons an opportunity to share ideas, resources, time, and talent.

**Action 3d** – Maintain and expand the library’s website to provide information and invitations to the community.