

Albert Lea Public Library

Strategic Plan 2026 to 2028



Mission Statement: The Albert Lea Public Library is working to connect you with the books you want, the information you need, and the community you live in.

Access



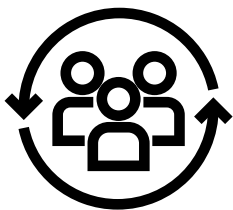
- Ensure all community members have access to library resources.
- Reach non-users through targeted outreach efforts.

Collections



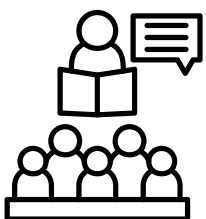
- Provide library collections on a wide range of topics in multiple formats and reading levels to meet diverse community interests and needs.
- Provide and market nontraditional collections that allow the community to create, experiment, and learn in new ways.

Engagement



- Build on staff excellence by nurturing creativity, adaptability, and professional development.
- Create and maintain library spaces that are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all.

Programs



- Provide programs for all ages that inspire curiosity, spark creativity, and contribute to a healthy community.
- Seek ways to partner with community organizations and city and county departments to support and better meet the lifelong learning needs of the community.

Albert Lea Public Library Strategic Plan 2026-2028

The Albert Lea Public Library's strategic plan provides a framework for the library to deliver services that meet the needs of our community. The plan was developed with input from Freeborn County residents through a survey and a stakeholder workshop. Feedback from past surveys conducted by the library was used and current staff participated in a workshop to gather ideas. The Library Advisory Board approved the plan at the November 2025 meeting.

Focus Area: Access

Goal: Ensure all community members have access to library resources.

Objectives:

1. Conduct a comprehensive audit of barriers to access for library resources and create a plan to reduce identified barriers.
2. Explore opportunities to bring library services outside the building.

Goal: Reach non-users through targeted outreach efforts.

Objectives:

1. Explore ways to increase awareness of the library's resources and services.
2. Utilize data and evaluation to adjust and improve participation in community events.

Focus Area: Collections

Goal: Provide library collections on a wide range of topics in multiple formats and reading levels to meet diverse community interests and needs.

Objectives:

1. Assess the depth, diversity, and relevance of the physical collection to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.
2. Evaluate and anticipate opportunities for expansion of digital collections, including online resources and databases.

Goal: Provide and market nontraditional collections that allow the community to create, experiment, and learn in new ways.

1. Expand the library's collection of loanable tools, equipment, and materials based on community needs.
2. Develop innovative practices for in-house and online collection promotion for nontraditional collections.

Focus Area: Engagement

Goal: Build on staff excellence by nurturing creativity, adaptability, and professional development.

Objectives:

1. Provide time and resources for experimentation with new ideas.
2. Expand professional development opportunities tailored to individual career goals.

Goal: Create and maintain library spaces that are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate the current library space to create flexible, comfortable spaces that support a variety of uses.
2. Collaborate with the city to improve patron experience in non-library spaces within City Center.

Focus Area: Programs

Goal: Provide programs for all ages that inspire curiosity, spark creativity, and contribute to a healthy community.

Objectives:

1. Evaluate current programs to ensure alignment with community needs.
2. Expand the number of self-directed activities for all ages.

Goal: Seek ways to partner with community organizations and city and county departments to support and better meet the lifelong learning needs of the community.

Objectives:

1. Develop a comprehensive strategy to facilitate community partnerships.
2. Identify and build programs that capitalize on collaboration.