

 Hennepin County Library

2025

annual report



Inspiring,
facilitating,
and celebrating
lifelong
learning



Mission

Hennepin County Library's mission is to inspire, facilitate, and celebrate lifelong learning.

Vision

Shaped by the information needs and aspirations of our residents, we envision the library as a shared space for enrichment and connection.

Library services are an important part of thriving and interconnected communities, and we believe that every Hennepin County resident should have a library card and use it regularly.

“I'm so thankful to have this library available. It is the most positive connection I have between myself and the county.”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“Thanks to the dedication of our staff, we continue to be one of Hennepin County's most used and valued investments in community wellbeing.”

Scott Duimstra, Hennepin County Library Director

Seeding the Stars, pillar detail, mosaic artwork
by Olivia Levins Holden
Installed at Hosmer Library in 2025

Director's message

In 2025, our communities engaged with our libraries at historic levels:

12.8 million
items
borrowed

4.9 million
library
visits

158,000
program
attendees

These numbers reflect not only remarkable demand, but deep trust in the library as a place of learning, connection, and opportunity.

For our staff, there are everyday moments of how our communities interact with our 41 libraries that give our mission meaning...

- A parent finding just the right book to spark a child's curiosity.
- A student building their confidence through our Let's Read tutors.
- A teen discovering a welcoming space to study and belong.
- A senior becoming tech-savvy at computer lab sessions.
- A returning community member rebuilding their life through employment support.

These moments are just a small sample of the impactful work of our staff in each division of Hennepin County Library.

In the following pages of this report, you'll see that our libraries remain relevant today not in spite of change, but because of it. To highlight the impact of our work, we've included quotes from library patrons along with relevant quotes from some of our dedicated staff.

In looking back at the previous year, we hope to build upon our success in order to better plan for our future.



Scott Duimstra

Scott Duimstra
Hennepin County Library Director

North Star measures

The library's North Star measures focus on these top three measures of success:

Patron visits

Active cardholders

Patron satisfaction

Active cardholders

582,000

UP 9%

“ My ten-year-old is so proud to have a library card and is excited to pick up holds and find new books. She's reading more than ever. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ We have kids take a picture of their new library card with a hilariously oversized library card, creating a lifetime memory for this milestone. ”

William Gild, Champlin Library, Specialist

“ The resources were unlimited. My first visit was amazing—the staff are very friendly as well as helpful. I felt right at home. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ One of the best parts of my job is knowing that there is something for everyone in our collection, just waiting to be discovered. ”

Kathy Boyd, Collection Services, Senior Librarian



“ I receive personal attention. I'm so happy I can come to a place where I'm remembered and treated like a friend. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ It has become obvious to me in the last year the impact our work has in our communities. It brings me a lot of joy and peace to know that we get to positively impact our society and neighbors. ”

José G. Sánchez, Ridgedale Library, Specialist



Patron satisfaction
97%

Patron visits
4.9 million
UP 1.5%



“ We always feel safe, welcome, and wanted at the library. It is one of our favorite places to visit. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ Libraries are only as good as the people who fill them, and knowing you feel safe, welcome, and wanted here is exactly why we do this work. You'll always have a place here and we're so glad the library is one of your favorites! ”

Jaquetta Horton, North Regional Library, Specialist



WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

Welcoming Spanish Speakers

Aprendamos Juntos connected newly arrived Spanish-speaking families with library resources, literacy support, and early learning opportunities. The program hosted eight visits across three libraries and created two early learning spaces in family shelters. Each visit drew an average of 45 participants for hands-on engagement and library orientation.

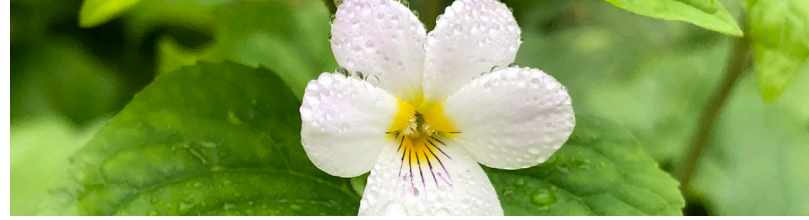


“ I didn’t know buildings like this—beautiful, open buildings—existed, and that anyone could go in... really, that I could go in. It is a truly beautiful thing, and I am grateful to you for introducing me to libraries. ”

Participant comment

“ Latine families come to our libraries with a wide range of library experiences. Some are already super library users, but some families don’t even realize they are “allowed” in libraries, or don’t see themselves as belonging. Through exposure and programming we see this light bulb go off when families begin to understand all that the libraries have to offer. It’s incredibly rewarding to help introduce families to our libraries. ”

Lisa Peterson-de la Cueva, Spanish Bilingual Library Community Services Coordinator



SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

Coming Home Reentry Fair

Reentering the workforce after incarceration is often challenging. At the Coming Home Reentry Resource Fair on March 26 at the downtown Minneapolis Central Library, more than 300 formerly incarcerated community members connected with 24 organizations offering job training,



employment support, and expungement services. The event was a partnership between library staff, employment agencies, and legal experts, all working together to help justice-impacted individuals take their next steps with confidence.

APRIL

Mary Ann Key Book Club

Created in collaboration with columnist Myron Medcalf, the book club uses reading to spark meaningful conversations about the experiences and injustices that affect Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. In spring 2025 the community read *The Stars and the Blackness Between Them* by Minneapolis author Junauda Petrus. 374 patrons took part in events and discussions. The book was checked out 1,198 times, showing strong community engagement.

MAY

Literacy Support Successes

School success lays the groundwork for lifelong opportunity. The library supports that path through the *Let’s Read* and *Homework Help* volunteer-powered programs funded by Friends of the Hennepin County Library. In the 2024-25 school year, youth received 8,340 homework tutoring sessions and 4,173 reading tutoring sessions. The library also expanded its reach in 2025, adding three new Let’s Read sites and one new Homework Help site.



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE — AUGUST

Summer Learning Shines

Youth learn far beyond the school year, and summer programs help keep that momentum strong. From June to August, more than 14,500 youth and families joined over 500 summer learning programs, with 98.9% of participants saying they learned something new. To spark a love of reading, the library also gave away 9,752 books, funded by Friends of the Hennepin County Library.



“That was actually...
SUPER DUPER.”

Youth comment after summer learning program

“There was an abundance of excitement for the programming choices offered this summer, especially the glass fusing and the slime programs. The instructors from PotekGlass and ArtStart were excellent! They were patient, attentive and skilled. It was a pleasure having them at Maple Grove.”

*Paula Connolly, Maple Grove Library,
Associate Librarian*



FALL HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER

Prince Library Card

The limited-edition Prince library card gave residents a fun, timely way to reconnect with Hennepin County Library during the excitement around the *Purple Rain* musical. More than 10,000 cards were picked up in the first three months, with many people visiting their library specifically for the Prince design. As of February 2026, active library cards are up nearly 9% compared to the previous year—showing that the card didn't just spark joy, it brought people back to the library and into its services.



NOVEMBER

Sustainable Library Renovation

The newly renovated Sumner Library earned major recognition for its environmentally friendly design. In November, Library Journal honored the project for its sustainable upgrades, and the building also received the 2026 Minneapolis Preservation Award. Originally opened in 1915, this Tudor Revival-style Carnegie library is now easier to navigate, more energy efficient, and better equipped to serve the community.



PRIORITY

I

Uphold free access to a broad spectrum of ideas

“ Immense gratitude for Bailey Diers, Special Collections Librarian. For nearly 10 years, she has graciously taken time to help launch students in my Honors History class in their research. She makes the daunting work approachable, and dare I say, fun. ”

Letter from high school teacher

“ My role at the library gives me the chance to guide students, genealogists, and researchers to the unique materials—like photographs, documents, and archives—that reveal the rich history of Hennepin County. Supporting their discoveries is one of the most enjoyable parts of my work. ”

Bailey Diers, Special Collections, Librarian

458,000
reference questions answered



“ Did online search and needed help and it was amazing! Fast and easy and staff got me exactly what I needed. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ The best part of providing online customer service is empowering patrons—whether I’m helping them navigate the catalog, explore search tools, discover genealogy resources, or troubleshoot their devices. It’s incredibly rewarding. ”

*Honee Collins,
Ask Us Reference Service,
Associate Librarian*

PRIORITY
2

Champion the aspirations of residents with learning, literacy, and enrichment

4,173
reading tutoring
sessions

in the 2024-2025 school year

“Our child has improved her reading significantly. She’s learned a lot that has carried into other spaces. She’s more confident going into reading.”

Let’s Read caregiver

“This is a wonderful program where the impact is really tangible and doesn’t take too long to see the difference. Literacy changes lives! It feels like important work, especially to be able to provide 1:1 tutoring.”

Plymouth Library, Lead Tutor



8,340
homework tutoring sessions

in the 2024-2025 school year

PRIORITY

3

Offer free access to essential technology and connectivity

“ Love the accessibility of the HCLIB website and the ability to pause my holds and the ease with which I can view my holds. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ We have a vast wealth of resources at the library that patrons go online to learn about and access, and we use analytics, user testing, and feedback to make the website as user-friendly and patron-centered as we can. We’re so excited to now have an app to make it even easier for patrons to access our catalog on the go! ”

Chip Gehring, Web and Online Services, Senior Librarian

“ I am grateful to have access to computers/printers at the library. I do not own a printer at home, so it is such a relief to know I can come to the library to print documents. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ So many patrons come to the library specifically to print. Staff assistance is often crucial, because we offer so many printing methods depending on each patron’s access needs. ”

Rebecca Mueller, Maple Plain Library, Associate Librarian



10.2 million
Wi-Fi sessions

UP 10.4%

933,000
public computer
sessions

UP 3%

19.7 million
website visits

UP 26%

PRIORITY

4

Create inviting, inclusive, accessible, and safe public spaces

80,000
meeting room reservations
UP 12%

“They even offer places for people to come in and work which is very helpful when I am doing things that require a lot of books and room to spread them out that I don’t have at home. Just keep being as perfect as you are.”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“One of the things I like best about our work in Capital Projects is being able to respond to community needs. Often, that means providing small meeting rooms where patrons can find quiet space to work or study.”

Ann Woodson-Hicks, Capital Projects & Operations Manager



“I attend a group that meets 2X monthly at the library. This group is wonderful—I always learn new things and make good social connections and the library helps that happen!”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“Book clubs provide our community members the opportunity to connect with others over shared reading materials, as well as exposing them to titles, authors and genres that might be new to them. Because of the longevity of our book clubs, attendees have had the opportunity to build relationships over time, creating a sense of community at the library.”

Jane Boss, Nokomis Library, Librarian

PRIORITY
5

Deliver a positive and equitable experience to every patron

“ My kids LOVE Tween Time! They participate in almost every after-school club/program that they can! ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ When there is trust and connection between us and the families, the students “bloom” and gain so much confidence. It’s been wonderful to be a part of it. ”

Kristen Mayberry, Eden Prairie Library, Homework Help Lead Tutor

10,800 programs

UP 11%

158,000 attendees

UP 9%

“ As a retired person, I appreciate all the free programs available. I would like to see a continuation of these wonderful programs. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ I get so much joy creating adult art programs that give community members the same excitement and curiosity they had as a kid going into their art class in elementary school. It is so special to see someone beaming and marveling at what they created one afternoon or evening in the library. ”

Anna Zillinger, East Lake Library, Librarian



PRIORITY
6

Support individuals and their basic human needs through connections to resources and services

“ I wasn’t sure what I was getting into but the event was so surprising. The amount of people and information there blew me away. I ended up learning a lot and getting a lot of resources. I walked away with a lot of motivation and inspiration. ”

Coming Home Reentry Resource Fair participant comment

“ Coming Home attendees told us in evaluations that the event inspired feelings of hope, belonging, and fortitude. You could see it on people’s faces—the joy that day was palpable, and I feel lucky to have been able to share in it! ”

Robin Turnblom, Minneapolis Central Library, Librarian



24,000 interactions

AT NEARLY

300 community outreach events

“ I have been unemployed for a while and have been using the library to learn new skills to get a new job. I’m so happy the public library exists. ”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“ I find it gratifying to see patrons leave our job search and resume help programs with a little pep in their step, confident in themselves with a new resume or with some interview practice under their belt. These programs and the work we do at the library has real material impacts in people’s lives. ”

Mark Verdin, North Regional Library, Librarian

Planning for the future

Our 41 libraries remain at the heart of our communities

Each one is a place where residents gather, learn, and feel connected.

This past year marked an especially meaningful chapter as we advanced two major projects: the new Southdale and Westonka libraries. These new libraries reflect not only modern architecture and thoughtful design but a deeper commitment to sustainability and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Alongside the library projects we moved forward, we also completed a comprehensive facilities master plan that charts a path for the next 10 to 20 years.

The plan offers a vision for how our buildings can continue evolving to meet the needs of future generations, ensuring our library spaces are accessible, inclusive, inviting, safe, sustainable, and future-ready.

There are recommendations for each of our 41 libraries in the plan, with the goal of assisting the library and Hennepin County in planning and prioritizing future projects for our libraries.



Architect's rendering of the northwest approach to the new Southdale Library.

“The reserve and pick up system could not be easier, I use it constantly and am so pleased.”

2025 Annual Patron Survey

“It was a joy to assist in the creation of an alternative holds pickup space for the Southdale Library patrons during the library's closure.”

*Samantha Jekot-Graham,
South Region Library Services Manager*



Architect's rendering highlighting the new Westonka Library building entrance.

Library renovations



Augsburg Park Library

The library reopened April 21, 2025. The renovation project included interior and exterior renovations, creation of additional study rooms, and an updated meeting room. It also included updates to windows, building infrastructure, restrooms, stormwater management, and green space, and reconfiguration of the parking lot.



Northeast Library

The library reopened November 17, 2025. The renovation project included refreshing the interior with new paint, carpet, and some furnishings; adding new play structures in the children's area and two new study rooms; and completing preservation work while replacing the roof and tuckpointing exterior brick.

Public art installations

Funded by the Hennepin County Library one percent for art program

One percent of library building projects costing more than \$1 million is set aside for commissioned artwork designed for a specific library, reflecting the local community, and is intended to support the library as a gathering place where all residents come to learn, grow, and spend time together.

Three such projects were completed in 2025:



Boxes, detail

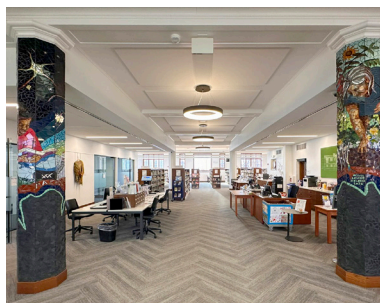
Arvonne Fraser Library

Boxes

by Kada Goalen

Mosaics by Stacia Goodman

Mixed media installed in the north and south stairwells.



Seeding the Stars, detail

Hosmer Library

Seeding the Stars

by Olivia Levins Holden

Assisted by Juliette Perine Myers

Tile and glass mosaic installed on the east and west pillars.



Garden of Goodness, detail

Sumner Library

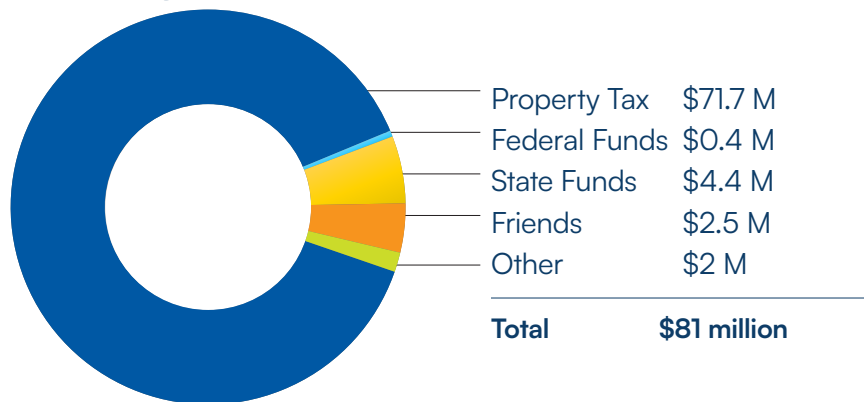
Garden of Goodness

by Stacia Goodman

Tile and glass mosaic installed above the service desk.

2025 budget

Budget revenue sources



HCL is a public system, predominantly funded through property taxes, accounting for 88% of the 2025 operating budget. State funds represent 5% of the operating budget through a variety of sources including statutorily authorized ballpark sales tax and funds from the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA).

Friends of the Hennepin County Library

Student Success	\$800,000
Outreach & Engagement	\$765,000
Youth Development	\$515,000
World-Class Collections	\$420,000

Total FHCL Funding to HCL \$2,500,000

Friends of the Hennepin County Library support the majority of library programming for patrons in these four areas of focus:

- Literacy support for students
- Responsive programming for all ages, the homebound, and more
- Teen Tech initiatives, Youth Advisory Committee, early learning spaces
- Print and digital collections, local history preservation and digitization

Collections budget

Electronic materials	\$2.7 M
Physical materials	\$5.7 M

Total \$ 8.4 million

Library collections draws its funding from several sources, with property taxes and the Friends of HCL providing the largest share. Each year, HCL sets a budget for both e-materials and physical items such as books, CDs, and DVDs. In 2025, HCL added nearly 84,000 new titles to the collection, resulting in more than 455,000 physical and electronic copies distributed for patrons to check out.

Friends funding

\$2.5 million

UP 4%

Leadership

Hennepin County Library Leadership Team

- Scott Duimstra, Library Director
- J.R. Genett, Deputy Director, Support Services
- Amy McNally, Deputy Director, Public Services
- Char Kimber, Budget & Finance Manager
- Kelli Koob, Strategic Services Division Manager
- Ayanna Muata, Library Services Division Manager
- Christy Mulligan, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator
- Tysley Taylor, Principal Human Resources Business Partner
- Ann Woodson-Hicks, Capital Projects & Operations Manager

Hennepin County Library Board

The Library Board is an advisory board of Hennepin County residents appointed by the County Board.

- Erin Brudvik
- Kimberly Connolly
- Michael Hogan
- Kim Kang
- Amal Karim, Secretary, 2025
- Randy Klauk
- Jessica Kraft, President, 2025
- Ashley Krohn
- Rebecca Lowen
- Mike Sorensen
- Lynn Stefler, Vice-President, 2025

Friends of the Hennepin County Library

Friends of the Hennepin County Library is a community of supporters raising funds for books, materials, programs and technology.

- Kristi Pearson, Executive Director

Hennepin County Library is a department of Hennepin County Government and reports to County Administration and the County Board of Commissioners.

Hennepin County Board of Commissioners

- District 1 Jeffrey Lunde
- District 2 Irene Fernando, Chair, 2025
- District 3 Marion Greene
- District 4 Angela Conley
- District 5 Debbie Goettel, Vice-Chair, 2025
- District 6 Heather Edelson
- District 7 Kevin Anderson

Hennepin County Administration

- Jodi Wentland, County Administrator
- Daniel Rogan, Deputy County Administrator
- Kareem Murphy, Deputy County Administrator



THE LIBRARY'S
PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES
FOCUS ON
HENNEPIN
COUNTY'S
VALUES:

People First
Stewardship

Integrity

Equity

Innovation

Hennepin County libraries

Hennepin County's
41 libraries
serve
45 cities
in the county:

- Bloomington
- Brooklyn Center
- Brooklyn Park
- Champlin
- Chanhassen
- Corcoran
- Crystal
- Dayton
- Deephaven
- Eden Prairie
- Edina
- Excelsior
- Golden Valley
- Greenfield
- Greenwood
- Hanover
- Hopkins
- Independence
- Long Lake
- Loretto
- Maple Grove
- Maple Plain
- Medicine Lake
- Medina
- Minneapolis
- Minnnetonka
- Minnnetonka Beach
- Minnetrista
- Mound
- New Hope
- Orono
- Osseo
- Plymouth
- Richfield
- Robbinsdale
- Rockford
- Rogers
- St. Anthony
- St. Bonifacius
- St. Louis Park
- Shorewood
- Spring Park
- Tonka Bay
- Wayzata
- Woodland



Arvonne Fraser



Augsburg Park



Brookdale



Brooklyn Park



Champlin



East Lake



Eden Prairie



Edina



Excelsior



Franklin



Golden Valley



Hopkins



Hosmer



Linden Hills



Long Lake



Maple Grove



Maple Plain



Minneapolis Central



Minnetonka



Nokomis



North Regional



Northeast



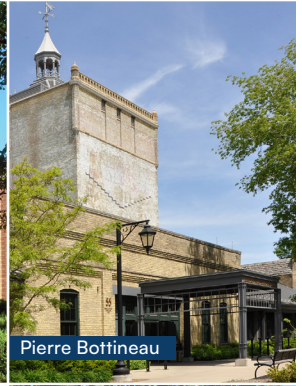
Osseo



Oxboro



Penn Lake



Pierre Bottineau



Plymouth



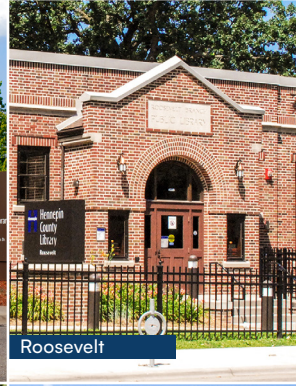
Ridgedale



Rockford Road



Rogers



Roosevelt



St. Anthony



St. Bonifacius



St. Louis Park



Southdale



Sumner



Walker



Washburn



Wayzata

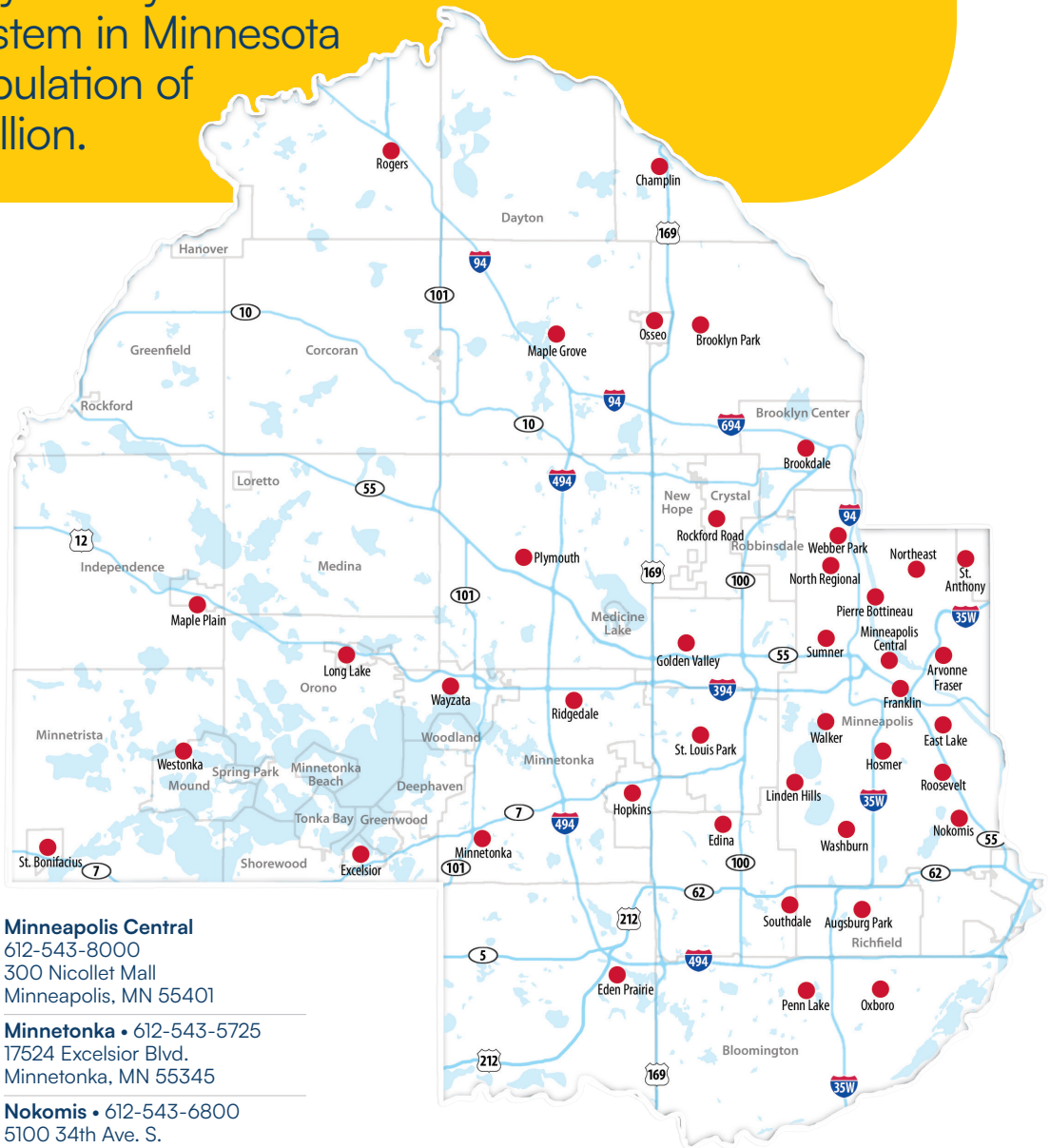


Webber Park



Westonka

Hennepin County Library is the largest library system in Minnesota and serves a population of more than 1.3 million.



Arvonne Fraser • 612-543-6725
1222 4th St. S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Augsburg Park • 612-543-6200
7100 Nicollet Ave.
Richfield, MN 55423

Brookdale • 612-543-5600
6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Brooklyn Park • 612-543-6225
8600 Zane Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Champlin • 612-543-6250
12154 Ensign Ave. N.
Champlin, MN 55316

East Lake • 612-543-8425
2727 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Eden Prairie • 612-543-6275
565 Prairie Center Dr.
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Edina • 612-543-6325
5280 Grandview Square
Edina, MN 55436

Excelsior • 612-543-6350
337 Water St.
Excelsior, MN 55331

Franklin • 612-543-6925
1314 E. Franklin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Golden Valley • 612-543-6375
830 Winnetka Ave. N.
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Hopkins • 612-543-6400
22 11th Ave. N.
Hopkins, MN 55343

Hosmer • 612-543-6900
347 E. 36th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Linden Hills • 612-543-6825
2900 W. 43rd St.
Minneapolis, MN 55410

Long Lake • 612-543-6425
1865 Wayzata Blvd. W.
Long Lake, MN 55356

Maple Grove • 612-543-6450
8001 Main St. N.
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Maple Plain • 612-543-5700
5184 Main St. E.
Maple Plain, MN 55359

Minneapolis Central
612-543-8000
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Minnetonka • 612-543-5725
17524 Excelsior Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Nokomis • 612-543-6800
5100 34th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55417

North Regional • 612-543-8450
1315 Lowry Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Northeast • 612-543-6775
2200 Central Ave. N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Osseo • 612-543-5750
415 Central Ave.
Osseo, MN 55369

Oxboro • 612-543-5775
8801 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420

Penn Lake • 612-543-5800
8800 Penn Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55431

Pierre Bottineau • 612-543-6850
55 Broadway St. N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Plymouth • 612-543-5825
15700 36th Ave. N.
Plymouth, MN 55446

Ridgedale • 612-543-8800
12601 Ridgedale Dr.
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Rockford Road • 612-543-5875
6401 42nd Ave. N.
Crystal, MN 55427

Rogers • 612-543-6050
21300 John Milless Dr.
Rogers, MN 55374

Roosevelt • 612-543-6700
4026 28th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

St. Anthony • 612-543-6075
2941 Pentagon Dr. N.E.
St. Anthony, MN 55418

St. Bonifacius • 612-543-6100
8624 Kennedy Memorial Dr.
St. Bonifacius, MN 55375

St. Louis Park • 612-543-6125
3240 Library Lane
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Southdale • 612-543-5900
7001 York Ave. S.
Edina, MN 55435

Sumner • 612-543-6875
611 Van White Memorial Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55411

Walker • 612-543-8400
2880 Hennepin Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Washburn • 612-543-8375
5244 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Wayzata • 612-543-6150
620 Rice St.
Wayzata, MN 55391

Webber Park • 612-543-6750
4203 Webber Pkwy.
Minneapolis, MN 55412

Westonka • 612-543-6175
2079 Commerce Blvd.
Mound, MN 55364