

Annual Report 2022

The path to a bigger, better future

It's fun to reflect on the past year's accomplishments. But it's important to focus on the future.

Elkhart Public Library is doing both, because our 2022 achievements and statistics show we're on the right path for this year.

New-look branches. More books checked out, and more books given away. More children getting the help they need to learn to read. Greater engagement with people every day throughout our community.

So, what can the Elkhart community expect to see from our library?

We are taking some of our new initiatives from 2022, like Home Delivery and Growing Readers, and making them even bigger to serve more who need these services.

Events like Curbside Concerts and Free Books to Feed Minds will continue to engage with people who haven't yet realized the library is a cool place to be.

Plus, our core programs – Storytimes, Summer Reading Challenge and unique events for all ages – are going to be easier to participate in with all of our locations open, to keep everyone inspired through reading and learning.

What do you want to see from us in 2023?

Drop us a note at [MyEPL.org/contact](https://myEPL.org/contact).



Library Usage

We are here for the community, and you showed up. Activity across the system was up, even with construction continuing at neighborhood branches.

241,053

library cards uses in 2022

9,869

average monthly visitors across all locations

3,499

new library card registrations in 2022

97.6%

of new cardholders in 2021 remained active in 2022

47%
increase* ↑ in physical and digital checkout activity

86.4%
increase* ↑ increase in card signups

18%
increase* ↑ in checkouts of physical items

34%
increase* ↑ in foot traffic

*comparing 2021 to 2022

By The Numbers

Outreach

EPL is part of the community. Our staff pitches in, we host events, as well as pitching in at others such as Rhapsody Arts and Music Festival, ArtWalk, Winterfest, and so many more.



650

community
engagement hours



317

events the library hosted
or participated in



5,239

books given away as part
of Free Books to
Feed Minds



16

vaccine clinics hosted for
health providers

Storytimes

Storytimes bring joy to youngsters every week. These hours start children on the path of early learning through interaction.

178

storytimes

2,565

attendees

133.5

hours of stories, rhymes
and more



Summer Reading Challenge

The library's signature program saw another successful year with an increase in participation and at least six weeks of participation.

23,300

days of reading

1,207

completed activities

15%

increase in participation

40.4%

of kids read for six weeks

All Reading Challenges

Adults and children enjoyed participating in the five different reading challenges we offered throughout the year. Winter Reading, Roaming Readers, and others.



2,621

rewards redeemed



47,957

minutes read

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

The best way for children to learn to read is to start early. Reading to children helps them learn letters and words and begins their path to literacy. To get started visit [MyEPL.org/1kbooks](https://myepl.org/1kbooks) or read one parent's journey at [MyEPL.org/journey-to-1000](https://myepl.org/journey-to-1000).

27,197

books read

157

current active readers

146

new signups

16

completed 1,000 Books

Curbside Concerts

Starting in 2020 and building each year, the rooftop concerts have become a library staple. Everyone loves a good party.



11

curbside concerts



2,207

attendees



Growing Readers

Launched in March 2022, we work with parents to help children catch up to their reading level. We are committed to getting every child ready to read by Grade 3, when reading assessment tests are given. We're adding two more tutors to help even more students in 2023.

33

students have met reading goals

72

currently in the program

Home Deliveries

Launching the spring of 2022, Home Delivery service brings library materials to those who may not be able to leave their home or just can't make it to a library branch.



642

deliveries



6,990

items taken to people's homes