



PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

BLOOMINGDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY 
for learning ... for life



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Bloomington, IL

Founded as an agricultural community in 1833 by the Meacham brothers, the Village of Bloomington has experienced tremendous residential growth and economic development while maintaining its country charm and village heritage. Situated just 28 miles west of metropolitan Chicago, Bloomington's nearly 23,000 residents appreciate an unhurried lifestyle in a community of open spaces and carefully integrated retail and commercial development. Combined with educational, cultural, and entertainment choices, village residents truly enjoy "the best of all worlds."

Bloomington residents come to expect superior quality of life with a strong focus on family values, responsible local government, and active cultural and educational systems. A vision for the community includes development of the Old Town area, meeting the needs of a culturally-rich community, expanding services to our non-English speaking residents, and creating teen-specific educational and recreational activities.

The Bloomington Public Library, as the cornerstone of the community, plays a vital role in the Village's ambitious plans. We provide an intellectual sanctuary where residents can access a broad spectrum of ideas and materials that reflect diverse points of view. The long-range plan includes the means to promote individual enlightenment, community enrichment and economic vitality through Bloomington.

Bloomington prides itself on this spirit of community and for our exemplary volunteerism and involvement. These qualities shine through each year during activities such as the Halloween Party, Septemberfest and the many holiday programs provided by the library. It is our hope that all village residents will join together at celebrations and festivities that reinforce our sense of community.

INTRODUCTION

Long-Range Plan

The long-range plan will be a living document and will be reviewed annually by the Library Director, Board of Trustees, and library staff. Our goal for this document is to continue fulfilling the library's role as an entity that encourages development of reading and learning, digital skills and services, community cohesion and civic values in Bloomington.



Growth with Pride

Population: 23,213
Area: 6.81 square miles
Households: 9,571
Average home value: \$270,000
Median Income: \$74,494

Per capita income: \$37,512
Median resident age: 43.7
Residents with high school diploma: 91.1%
Residents with bachelor's degrees: 36.1%

Information obtained from census.gov



Volunteerism

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Bloomingdale Public Library is a 35 year-old non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the community's love for reading and supporting the Library's mission. The group hosts a number of annual fundraising events as part of their service to the Library.

VolunTeens

The Library has a history of encouraging civic responsibility among local teens. Through our VolunTeen program young adults gain valuable work experience and can earn community service hours assisting the Youth Services staff.



YOUR LIBRARY

Creating a Sanctuary for our Residents

The Bloomingdale Public Library has a rich history of progressive thinking and community involvement. 40+ years ago when the library opened in two mobile classrooms to today's impressive 35,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, the residents of Bloomingdale have been instrumental in improving and expanding library services.

With financial support, professional development, and time commitments, Bloomingdale's library has evolved to a staff of 61 providing 68 service hours each week. We have 31 patron computers, 12 training computers, and 6 Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) computers, which gives users direct access to our holdings as well as the holdings of multiple area libraries.

The library is also a full-service information and activities center that features four meeting rooms that may be reserved for public use. The main level features a comfortable seating area, a quiet study room, a group study room, the teen area and a local history room.

The lower level children's library is a hub of activity with story times, programs, and special activities scheduled throughout the year. Setting the Bloomingdale Public Library apart from other public libraries are our unique services that offer residents a number of exciting recreational events throughout the year.

As the needs of the residents change and grow, the library will remain an integral part of the Bloomingdale community. The Board of Trustees, Library Director, and library staff are committed to monitoring and balancing the needs of the community so the Library continues to flourish and be relevant today and long into the future.

OUR PURPOSE

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bloomingdale Public Library is to provide access to high-interest, high-demand, informational, educational, cultural, and recreational library materials and services in a variety of formats and technologies; to stimulate a desire to learn in children and encourage lifelong learning for all ages; and, to be responsive to the needs of the community with useful and timely access to knowledge, information, and resources.

Vision Statement

The Bloomingdale Public Library is more than just a place to check-out books. It is a reflection of our community, a mirror into the diversity and quality of life we enjoy. The library is a welcoming community space for formal and informal learning. It is a place for preserving our history and embracing our future. It is a place for teaching young children a love for the pure enjoyment in reading and encouraging our elders to share their knowledge and enrich their lives with a lifetime of learning. Our vision for the future for all of Bloomingdale is to foster a community that promotes for 'learning... for life.'

Library Brand

A new logo was developed in 2009 to promote instant public recognition and support of the Library. The logo's dragonfly image continues to reflect the Library's commitment to promoting and supporting learning, building community and enriching lives.

BLOOMINGDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY

Late 1960's

Bloomingdale mayor and residents define need for library. Village board passes resolution establishing library Study and Advisory Committee

1973

Committee determines Bloomingdale citizens will support a public library.

OUR ASPIRATIONS

Enriching Lives for the Future

As a community information and activities center, the library serves as the hub for educating, entertaining, and challenging residents to make learning a habit for life. Our plan for the future maximizes our assets and solidifies our standing in the community.

Through careful and thorough analysis, presentation, dissemination, and discussion of data from committee and focus group recommendations, the Bloomingdale Public Library identifies these four broad, long-range service goals:

- **Foster intellectual dialogue and promote lifelong learning opportunities**
- **Develop cultural literacy suited to our diverse village population**
- **Adapting spaces to fit community's needs**
- **Embrace community relations and expand outreach efforts**

These goals will be considered as the library makes strategic decisions related to budgeting, hiring, planning, procuring materials, and other operational issues. Particular emphasis will be given to the following supporting elements of our goals.



January 1974

“Friends of the Library” established.

June 1974

Library Board elected and referendum passed allowing the board to establish tax rate for a collection toward library funding.

September 1974

Campanelli Builders donates land for building. Two mobile classrooms with 1,600 square feet usable space set up at Bloomingdale Road and Fairfield Way.

June 1975

Library opens with staff of three, 30 volunteers, and collection of 4,500 books.

December 1975

Bloomingdale Public Library selected “All Star Library” by Illinois Library Association.





GOAL I

Foster intellectual dialogue and promote life-long learning opportunities

Accessible Information

- Serve all Bloomingdale Residents by providing unfettered access to information
- Maintain databases covering a variety of topics available at the library and remotely

Adult and Children's Reference Services

- Provide services in-person, by telephone, and virtually

Literacy Programs

- Offer book clubs for all ages
- Continue literacy initiatives

Community Groups

- Provide meeting space for nonprofits, cultural clubs, seniors, and ESL groups

Library Materials

- Keep collections relevant, popular, and current

Programs

- Develop quality innovative programs for adults, teens, and children

Teen Programs

- Strengthen teen initiatives for youth ages 12-18

February 1978

Referendum to expand library services fails.

September 1980

Voters approve referendum for new 1.25 million library building.

July 1982

NEW LIBRARY OPENS!

June 1985

Library grows to staff of 18, open 61 hours each week, and offers 35,000 volumes with expanded services including AV, magazines, puzzles, and maps

December 1986

Library board embarks on series of studies for improved library services.

November 1994

Voters approve referendum for \$3.6 million in bonds to expand library materials, space, and services.

GOAL 2

Develop cultural literacy suited to our diverse village population

Targeted Programming

- Design programs and services to meet patron's needs and interests
- Expand world language collection to mirror Bloomingdale's diverse population
- Provide support for community book groups

Patron Experience

- Provide a comfortable and welcoming environment
- Embrace established customer service standards

Collection Development

- Expand digital collection to reflect changing media platforms

Staff Development

- Promote Reader's Advisory services to foster cultural literacy
- Develop staff areas of expertise

Teen Services

- Purchase teen-centric music, magazines, and materials
- Maintain physical space for teens
- Create teen-specific programs

GOAL 3

Focus on information literacy and business and career services

Bridge Digital Divide

- Share knowledge and appreciation of technology
- Encourage use of information technology
- Offer a variety of classes in digital literacy for all levels

Business Development

- Develop programs featuring career and business topics
- Promote the availability of business-oriented databases and materials remotely and in-house
- Network with local businesses via meetings, associations, and on-site visits

Remote Access

- Promote the availability of remote services such as the library catalog, virtual reference, placing item holds, and digital resources

Source Verification

- Offer access to authoritative research and assist patrons seeking source validation

Vocational and Career Support

- Provide information and guidance for teens and adults seeking employment and career information

December 1996

Remodeled library completed with additional space and third-floor mezzanine showcasing historical displays and files



September 2004

BPL, with 35,000 square feet, has a staff of 61 and provides 68 hours of weekly service.

June 2005

BPL celebrates 30 years! Mayor Robert Iden presents proclamation honoring the library's service.

May 2006 -
October 2007

Interior remodel is complete with new ergonomic seating for patrons, signage, and shelving. A new teen area is incorporated in the layout.

May 2010

Library visits top 225,935- a 9% increase from May 2009, while the number of items circulating is 348,783 a 13% increase from last year.

May 2015

Renovated Teen Area and New Book Area open.

GOAL 4

Embrace community relations and outreach efforts

Local Business Partnerships

- Provide classes and programs of interest to the business community
- Build local partnerships to maximize services offered to our patrons
- Provide meeting space geared towards professional presentations

Community Involvement

- Continue developing support between Library and residents
- Tap into local community expertise that could contribute to Library programming

Government and Public Services Collaboration

- Work with local educational and inter-governmental partners to expand resources and establish unity and cooperation

Public Relations

- Create materials to market and promote library services, programs, and collections

Community Outreach

- Expand library presence and experience by bringing services into the community

FORWARD THINKING

We are dedicated to meeting the expectations established by the Community Long-Range Planning Committee as we believe these goals enhance our effectiveness in serving village residents.

The desire for lifelong learning comes from the simple pleasure of reading, which the Bloomingdale Public Library helps to foster.

Learning must be a habit for life, not something that happens at certain points in our lives. Our commitment to learning includes community involvement and public input to library services and programs. Together we provide an environment for learning, enlightenment, and recreation for all of Bloomingdale.

February 2016

RFID is installed for quicker processing times and patron ease.

February 2017

Computer lab is remodeled and group study room is added.



OUR PATRONS

“I have been a patron since this library was a ‘trailer.’ I am very proud of the growth. I can and have relied on the helpful and courteous staff.”

“My library is great! I use a computer every day at the library. I check out books and magazines. I print my boarding pass when I travel. I make copies and write letters on the computer. Sometimes I use other services. I have taken classes. It is great for me.”

“The programs here at our library are a significant part of my children’s development and knowledge.”

“Best library around here, best staff, up-to-date equipment, good floor plan and very helpful staff.”

OUR LEADERS

Director - Tim Jarzemsky

Board of Trustees

President - Bonni Rothbaum

Vice-President - Milton Clark

Secretary - Ben Hoyle

Treasurer - Alexandria Contes

Trustee - Dave Strutzel

Trustee - Sam D’Amico

Trustee - Sharon Schade



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Bloomington Public Library

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