



HUDSON FALLS FREE LIBRARY

Strategic Plan

2026 - 2030

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MISSION

The mission of the Hudson Falls Free Library is to provide quality materials and services which fulfill educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community in an atmosphere that is welcoming and respectful.

VALUES

Respect, equality and tolerance are vitally important to creating a community inside the library that expands and grows to improve the community outside the library.

VISION

Provide a free and open place for learning, literacy, creation and connection.

All patrons of the Hudson Falls Free Library will have:

- the resources they need to explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn throughout their lives.
- materials and programs that excite their imaginations and provide pleasurable reading, viewing and listening experiences.
- a safe and welcoming physical place to meet and interact with others or to sit quietly and read.
- open and accessible virtual spaces that support networking.
- high speed access to the digital world with no unnecessary restrictions or fees to ensure that everyone can take advantage of the ever-growing resources and services available through the internet.

LIBRARY HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The Hudson Falls Free Library began in 1910 when a group of interested citizens formed the Public Library Association. These first trustees appointed Genevieve Clark, a junior high school English teacher who, for \$750 a year, furnished a room for the library in her home at 110 Main Street and her services as a librarian six afternoons and evenings a week. This library was chartered by the Board of Regents on October 27, 1910, to serve the people of the township of Kingsbury.

The current library building was completed in February, 1916, at a cost of \$13,216. The Women's Civic League played a major part in collecting funds for this building which was made possible through the gifts of many organizations and individuals in the area.

The library has had just five librarians to date: Genevieve Clark (1910 to 1928), Esther Sherman (1928 to 1973), Marie Gandron (1973 to 2016), Sarah Cordts (2013 to 2016), and Kay Hafner (2017 to present).

Over the years, three major renovation projects were undertaken:

- Early 1960s: the entire first floor of the building was redesigned and the basement was converted from storage area to a children's room.
- Late 1980s: the first floor was again remodeled, moving the circulation desk, adding shelving, and installing a central-air conditioning system.
- Late 1990s: the library saw the installation of an elevator, making the 1915 building accessible to those with physical disabilities.

In 2025, the Friends of Hudson Falls Free Library was formed, aiming to assist with fundraising, provide volunteer assistance and be vocal supporters for the library in the community.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A 2025 survey of patrons provided positive feedback that we are reaching out to fill our community's needs. There was also a wealth of suggestions for how to extend that reach. The following insights were particularly helpful:

Demographics and usage: 81.5% of our respondents live in our service district, and all had a library card. Sixty-two percent check out books, 35.5% check out DVDs while 30.6% report using Libby and 21% using Hoopla.

Visiting our library: Forty percent of respondents visit us weekly, 32.3% come monthly and 21.5% come every 3-6 months. A small percentage, 6.2%, coming just once a year.

Other libraries visited: A quarter of respondents say they never go to other libraries and 23.4% say they only do so once a year, while 12.5% go monthly and 6.3% go weekly. Of those who go to other libraries, the majority (63%) visit Crandall Public Library, which is the SALS Central Borrowing Library located just a 3.5 mile drive away.

Barriers to entry: 7.8% of respondents said there are barriers to entry to coming into or moving through the library, either for themselves and/or other family members. Examples given for access outside the library included problems parking in general as well as trouble navigating snow banks and sidewalks in winter.

Inside the library, there are concerns about our 25-year-old handicapped lift. We also need to find ways to accommodate strollers, particularly as our baby and toddler playgroup has become more popular.

Programs or services to provide in the future: We received many suggestions for more programs for adults. One respondent listed many ideas including nutrition, aging and gardening as well as local history, arts and music. Collaborations with churches, schools and Sandy Hill Arts Center were also suggested by someone else while someone else suggested bringing library programs to parks and playgrounds. Finally, computer/internet classes would be appreciated.

OTHER RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Consortium: The Hudson Falls Free Library is one of 34 member libraries of the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS). This allows us to share materials through an interlibrary loan system and an electronic/online catalog. SALS in turn partners with the Mohawk Valley Library System (MVLS) to extend this reach to 47 libraries total.

Service area: The library's service area is defined as the boundaries of the Hudson Falls Central School District as of the 2020 census. This makes our covered population 15,658 people. Per the annual SALS Statistical and Executive Summary, this is the fifth largest service area in the SALS and the largest in Washington County.

Annual funding for our library currently comes from two municipalities—the Village of Hudson Falls and the Town of Kingsbury—as well as the Hudson Falls Central School District. These funds come in the form of contracted contributions as we are an association library run by an independent Board of Trustees rather than a public library supported by direct tax monies.

Nonprofit status: The library has long been a tax-exempt entity in New York State, and it received federal 501(c)3 organization status in 2020.

Staff: We have an FTE of 3.0 with five staff members total. Per New York State requirements for our service area population, the library director needs to have earned a MIS (Masters of Information Science) degree.

Hours: We are open 40 hours a week, which is the minimum required by New York State for our service area population.

LINKS TO SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

--[SALS Executive and Statistical Summary](#)

<https://salsblog.sals.edu/about-us/statistical-summary/>

--[Hudson Falls Central School District current demographics](#)

<https://nces.ed.gov/Programs/Edge/ACSDashboard/3614970>

--[2025 HFFL Community Survey](#)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10DtqFBPbmKRObMwa7rNn9UCpEoNNs5AMnTC5v68dEco/edit>

Hudson Falls Free Library

Five Year Goals

Jan. 2026 - Dec. 2030

Goal: Update building interior

Objective: Provide patrons with a clean, welcoming, modern library experience that is handicapped accessible.

Projected outcome:

By Dec. 2030 there will be

--new flooring upstairs

--new configuration of shelving upstairs that is fully accessible by wheelchair

--new tables, chairs and services desks throughout the library

Strategy: Obtain funding through grants, state library funding, fundraising and in-kind donations.

Goal: Increase patron access to the internet

Objective: To improve patron access to the internet via both library-owned and personal computers and devices.

Projected outcome:

By Dec. 2026 we will have upgraded our internet service from free cable.

By Dec. 2027 we will have upgraded our electrical panel box and upgraded electric capabilities throughout the library.

By Dec. 2030 we will have increased our in-library devices for public throughout the library.

Strategy: Obtain funding through grants. Request increases from local funders specifically for this line item. Seek in-kind assistance from the community.

Goal: Strengthen program and activities network to offer quality presenters on a more regular basis

Objective: Create programming that brings in quality presenters monthly with special focus on arts, crafts, computer literacy, genealogy and local history.

Projected outcome:

By Dec. 2030 we will have a well-cultivated network of local and regional presenters to enhance patrons' knowledge and quality of life.

Strategy: Network within the community, other libraries and other nonprofits to identify and recruit local and regional presenters. Long-term plan: increase youth and adult programming budgets until we can afford outside programming monthly.

Goal: Explore Expansion of the Library

Objective: To have more space to fulfill the needs and expectations of adult and youth programming as well as for use by other nonprofit entities.

Projected outcome:

By Dec. 2030 there will be an engineering review done and architectural plans in the works to explore the potential scope of an expansion.

Construction to be started by *Dec. 2035*.

Strategy: Obtain funding for an engineer/architect's services. As engineering/architectural studies are being done, work with SALS on how to apply for NYS Library Construction Grant monies. When engineering/architectural studies are complete, begin a Capital Campaign.