

KEENE VALLEY LIBRARY

Keene Valley, New York

TRANSITIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2025



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Adopted August 22, 2022

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VISION

The Keene Valley Library provides the community with hospitable physical and virtual environments for study, research, leisure, and access to the world’s knowledge, information and cultures. The heart of community life, the KV Library is inclusive and welcoming to all. The KV Library provides quality traditional library services and programs in an up to date facility that honors its heritage. The KV Library ensures that its collections remain current, diverse, and in keeping with the needs of the community. The KV Library also provides technologies and resources that enrich learning, communication, creativity, and productivity. Through promotion, the KV Library makes people aware of local and external resources available to them.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Keene Valley Library is to connect people to ideas, experiences, information, and the community in a comfortable, welcoming setting. We strive to do this through: Providing adults and children with a collection of current and relevant books, other media, and local Adirondack historical resources; Providing an inviting and lively cultural center for community events; Evolving as our community grows and technology advances.

LIBRARY VALUES

In all of our interactions and decisions we are guided by these values:

- We provide quality service to all users.
- We encourage the joy of reading and lifelong learning.
- We offer an environment that supports creativity, flexibility, and collaboration.
- We seek to enhance the life of the community, connecting and uniting all the people of the region.
- We celebrate diversity and maintain an inclusive, welcoming and secure safe place for study, research, work, reflection, and collaboration.
- We treat everyone with equal consideration and courtesy.
- Open to change, we adapt the physical and virtual spaces to meet the changing needs of the Library and the Library community.
- We honor the history, traditions, and culture of our community and embrace our role as keeper of the records and artifacts of Keene Valley and the AuSable Club.

In accordance with the library’s mission, vision, and values statements, this transitional plan and the illustrative examples listed, will be guided by an overarching policy that centers on

accessibility for all, responsiveness to the community, and proactive leadership by the board and library director in creating an excellent library experience for all our users.

GOALS

The following KV Library goals for the years 2022-2025 are arranged under four major categories. In this planning process, goals describe the result or the outcome that the Library is trying to achieve. In order to ensure that the plan is a living, changing document, activities and tasks are developed on an annual basis and are changed and modified as needed. Specific examples are included to illustrate potential and current items that support a well-functioning library.

It should be noted that the previous two and a half years were years of adaptability and flexibility due, necessarily, to the Covid pandemic. The library successfully and safely managed through these difficult times with a dedicated team of staff, volunteers, board members, and the generous contributions from supporters and grants. This plan is titled “transitional” as it builds on the previous five-year plan, retains some goals that are ongoing and begins to move the library forward as we recover from the pandemic situation.

PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONS

The Keene Valley Library will offer a variety of programs, lectures, and discussions that address the interests and needs of the community both in summer and during the year.

Operations

The Keene Valley Library will

- Be flexible in hours of operation and staffing as needed and as finances allow
- Support training and continuing education to assure that staff maintain basic proficiencies in using computer hardware and software and stay abreast of technological advances such as web design and desktop publishing.
- Ensure that policies regarding diversity, non-discrimination, and sexual harassment are followed and updated as needed
- Review and revise library policies, procedures and board by-laws.
- Continue to informally request input from major user-groups to identify and strive to best meet their needs.
- Continue to work in partnership with Keene Central School, The Keene Library, and the cef library consortium.
- Continue merged operations with Keene Library as needed
- Ensure that KVLA’s fundraising tools will be available, adaptable, and secure through successive administrations, including donor outreach, through updates to data bases and technology ie Excel

THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The Facility

In 2019 (?)The Keene Valley Library completed a major capital project to provide a historically preserved, welcoming, up to date physical environment with adequate space in which to read, learn, work, and engage in community life. The library facility is in very good condition and is meeting most of our needs.

The Keene Valley Library will:

- Maintain comfortable spaces for users and staff.
- Continue to update sustainability measures when feasible and as they become available
- Upgrade front lawn and gardens.
- Monitor and Reduce distraction for those who desire a quiet place for reading and other activities.
- Design and build individual private space(s) for patron use.
- Accommodate users of all ages and abilities
- Provide spaces with technological access for lectures, meetings and public activities.
- Maintain an area to provide light refreshments.
- Maintain an engaging environment for browsing collections throughout the facility.
- Maintain adequate storage and staff work space including reorganization and/or discarding of items.
- Display artwork in a gallery-like setting.
- Maintain outdoor space for reading and using electronic devices.
- Maintain a Makerspace to encourage creative exploration and productivity.
- Each March, annually inventory the library physical space for upgrades or capital needs.

The Collections

The Keene Valley Library will

- Continue to update and expand both its print and digital resources and make them more accessible and attractive to the public.
- Increase public awareness of the Library's collections and resources as well as those of the Clinton Essex Franklin Library System (CEFLS).
- Maintain and continue to expand and enhance an Archives Collection that encompasses local history.
- Maintain and continue to expand and enhance an Alpine Collection with its unique collection of mountaineering books and magazines with both world and local focus.

THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

The Keene Valley Library will

- Maintain up to date information technology and audiovisual resources to support current and future needs.
- Provide digital literacy training to enable users to navigate the Internet, evaluate sources, and create digital content as needed
- Continue to offer technical advice and resources to the public for creative purposes.

SERVICES

Services

The Keene Valley Library will continue to offer many services in addition to traditional library services, some of which include:

- Wi-Fi
- Public use computers
- Fax capability
- Color copier
- Photograph quality printer
- Archival assistance for local history searches
- Quiet reading room
- Meeting room equipped with digital meeting technology
- Activity/art space
- County-wide interlibrary collection loans
- Coffee/tea
- Community meeting space

FUNDING

The Keene Valley Library is a private not for profit organization financially dependent on fund raising to cover operation costs. Pre-pandemic history shows approximate percentages of typical funding for the operating budget:

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| Annual Appeal | 35 – 40% |
| Summer Benefit | 25 - 30% |
| Grants | 20 - 25% |
| Town of Keene and Keene Central School | 5 - 6% |

The Library also derives benefit from other sources including the Adirondack Mountain Reserve, book sales, donations, fees, and additional generous support from supporters outside of the annual appeal and summer benefit.

In 2020 and 2021, due to the pandemic, the in-person benefit was replaced by a mail in request for support which was very successful due to our wonderful community. It is intended that we return to in person benefit fund raising in 2022. Library Trustees and staff continue to search for additional means of raising funds for the operating budget in order to limit use of the investment funds.