Tri-Township Public Library District: Long Range Plan 2026-2030

Introduction

This Long-Range Plan for 2026-2030 outlines the Tri-Township Public Library District's strategic vision for the next five years. Developed in response to valuable community feedback and a comprehensive needs analysis, this plan serves as a roadmap to enhance our services, spaces, and overall community engagement. Our commitment is to evolve with the needs of our residents and continue to serve as a vital hub for knowledge, connection, and growth.

Our Goals for 2026-2030

Goal 1: Establish Quiet Space and/or Quiet Times in the Library (2026)

- Evaluate furniture arrangements and consider using movable shelves and dividers to create designated quiet zones.
- Designate and enforce a specific quiet time through clear signage and staff guidance.

UPDATE:

- Installed sound-absorbing décor in the Children's Section to help reduce overall noise levels while maintaining a welcoming and engaging environment for young patrons. (2026)
- Successfully implemented quiet hours for 20 hours per week with plans for a follow up survey for community patrons (2026)

Goal 2: Create Adaptable Meeting Space (2027)

- Renovate the existing meeting room and update the Room Reservation form to streamline the booking process.
- Promote the form and space availability using multiple media channels and
- Keep statistics on current meeting space usage to make data-based decisions.

UPDATE:

- The meeting room was renovated, new furniture, cabinets and countertop, whiteboard, a digital monitor were installed to better support group use and presentations. (2026)
- Updated the Room Reservation form and policy to provide clearer guidance and improve ease of use for patrons. (2026)
- Implemented a process to document and provide statistics for rom rental and usage. (2026)
- Documented increase in room rental and space usage for a wider variety of patrons and groups. (2026)
- Reallocated previous meeting room space to better support staff and patrons. (2026)

Goal 3: Explore Opportunities to Expand Eligible Cardholders (2028)

- Research state requirements for library card eligibility to identify potential expansion opportunities.
- Reestablish communication with neighboring areas to explore possibilities. • Increase outreach to community and neighboring areas
- Develop a plan to increase card holders.

UPDATE:

- Expanded the Cards for Kids Program, allowing all children ages 5 to 18 within the community to receive a free library card and full access to library resources. This expansion removes financial and residency barriers and supports early learning and literacy. (2026)
- Increased outreach in St. Jacob through participation in community events such as the Christmas Cottage, Homecoming, and Story Times in the Park. (2026)
- Added library information to the new resident welcome packet to encourage early registration for library cards. (2026)
- Library staff continue to build relationships with non-resident cardholders and residents outside the current service area, sharing the value and benefits of library services. These conversations have been met with positive responses and are helping lay the groundwork for future discussions regarding alignment of the library's service district and taxing district boundaries. (2026)

Goal 4: Increase Engagement with Various Community Groups (2029)

- Collaborate with local schools and home schoolers to develop programs and services that support learning.
- Identify underserved populations and develop services and programs to meet their needs.
- Foster a community hub by providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive space.
- Support community needs by acting as a central, accessible location for various community groups to gather and hold meetings.

Update:

- Continued collaboration with district schools by meeting at least once per semester to support shared needs and strengthen partnerships. (2026)
- Working with the school district art clubs to create or cultivate artwork for the public spaces. (2026)
- National Honors Society students volunteering to help with the Friends of the Library. (2026)
- By increased interaction with the students as they are dropped off by the school bus, the library staff has created a safe space for the students. These interactions have resulted in increased numbers of teen volunteers and participants. (2026)
- Increased outreach efforts include participation in Troy’s First Fridays, local homecoming parades and other community events has increases the visibility of the library. (2026)

Goal 5: Expand Our Physical Collection (Ongoing)

- Analyze community reading trends to inform purchasing decisions and ensure our collection remains relevant.
- Update and promote the Materials Request Form to encourage more patron input and suggestions.
- Maintain a diverse and inclusive collection of materials.

Update:

- Began compiling community reading trend data to inform future collection development. (2026)
- Expanded high-interest genres based on Goodreads insights and library reservation activity. (2026)
- Implemented a diversity audit and expanding the physical collection based on the "Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors" theory. This framework guides expansion of the collection to ensure patrons:
  - Can see themselves represented in library materials (mirrors).
  - Can learn about people and experiences different from their own (windows).
  - Can develop empathy and deeper understanding through meaningful engagement with diverse stories (sliding glass doors).

Goal 6: Preliminary Discussions for Library Expansion of Building and Services (2030)

- Reevaluate the current use of space and analyze community survey results to address key needs (child, teen and adult, seating areas, etc.).
- Increase promotions and outreach to the community regarding programs and services
- Conduct a feasibility study for a bookmobile.
- Keep up with technology and digital offerings.
- Launch new and expanded programming for teens focused on building social skills and fostering leadership opportunities.

Update:

- Reallocated previous meeting room space to better support staff and patrons. (2026)
- Increased promotions via multiple newsletter to patrons to help promote all the events and offerings at the library, and outreach activities in local community parades and events. (2026)

This plan represents our commitment to serving the Tri-Township Public Library District. We will regularly review and adjust these goals to ensure we remain responsive to the needs of our community.