



# STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2029



**Trent Hills Public Library Board** (Standing left to right): Aleena Halliwushka (Board Chair), Dorlene Lin, Margaret Graham (Vice Chair), Debra Parks, Skye Morrison. (Sitting left to right): Rob Pope (Councillor), Graeme Peters (Chief Librarian & CEO), Rick English (Councillor).

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## Message from the Board Chair:

Dear Community Members,

On behalf of the Trent Hills Library Board, I am pleased to introduce the Library's new Strategic Plan. This plan reflects our shared commitment to ensuring the Trent Hills Public Library continues to evolve as a vital, inclusive, and responsive cornerstone of our community.

The development of this Strategic Plan was guided by extensive consultation and collaboration. The Library CEO worked closely with Library staff, and we are grateful for the valuable input provided through public surveys, discussions with the Friends of the Library, and engagement with local community groups and partners. These conversations helped us better understand community priorities, emerging needs, and the opportunities before us.

The result is a Strategic Plan grounded in four key goals. **Goal One, Community Connections**, focuses on strengthening relationships, partnerships, and engagement across our community. **Goal Two, Vital Spaces**, emphasizes welcoming, flexible, and accessible physical environments that support learning, creativity, and connection. **Goal Three, Digital Inclusion**, reaffirms our commitment to equitable access to technology, digital resources, and skills development. **Goal Four, Literacy for Life**, highlights the Library's essential role in supporting literacy in all its forms, across all ages and stages of life.

The landscape of public libraries is shifting. Today's library is far more than a place to borrow books—it is a dynamic community hub that fosters lifelong learning, civic engagement, and social connection. At the same time, libraries remain steadfast in upholding intellectual rights and freedoms, providing access to diverse perspectives, and protecting the privacy and dignity of all users.

Looking ahead, this Strategic Plan positions the Trent Hills Public Library for a future of continued growth and impact. We are committed to increasing participation in programs and services, developing our physical and digital spaces, and creating responsive programming that reflects the evolving needs and aspirations of our community.

On behalf of the Board, thank you to everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and passion to this planning process. We look forward to working together to bring this vision to life and to ensure the Library remains a trusted, vibrant, and essential resource for years to come.

Sincerely,



Aleena Halliwushka

Trent Hills Library Board Chair

# Mission Statement

The purpose of our local public libraries is to serve all of the citizens of the Municipality of Trent Hills by offering services, resources and facilities to meet their informational, educational, cultural, recreational and technological needs at a reasonable and effective cost. Optimum access to library materials and resources will allow individuals and groups of every age, education, philosophy, occupation, economic level, ethnic origin and human condition to pursue their self-defined aims.

# Vision Statement

The Trent Hills Public Library offers an attractive, inviting and accessible environment where patrons come to be informed and engaged in their community. Trent Hills Public Library excels at enhancing patron service innovatively, through technology, outreach and social media.



# Values

**Intellectual Freedom:** We believe in a person's fundamental right to freedom of thought, beliefs, opinion and expression. We have a responsibility to promote, support and defend this principle.

**Learning:** We encourage personal development and support pre-literacy and literacy skills through programming.

**Community:** We nurture civic engagement as a community hub where connections are made.

**Innovation:** We meet the evolving needs of the community by exploring new ideas and services.

**Accessibility:** We create inviting, inclusive and safe environments within THPL branches for all citizens to enjoy. Our branches reflect the varied needs of our patrons – from vibrant and collaborative to quiet and individual.

**Service:** Our goal is outstanding service delivery as we refine and enhance THPL services.



# Goal 1: Community Connections

**THPL will foster social connection and civic engagement through community relationships, partnerships, and programming.**

**Action 1:** Develop and expand innovative partnerships that support the lifelong-learning interests of patrons; prioritize community partnerships when planning programs.

**Action 2:** Expand the library presence through outreach to community events and care homes.

**Action 3:** Launch Repair Café events to encourage sustainability and the sharing of knowledge and skills.

**Action 4:** Expand existing seed library initiatives to include programming on learning how to harvest, organize, and maintain seeds.

**Action 5:** Hold more community-friendly special events to bring people together (for example, speaker series, music events, etc.).



# Goal 2: Vital Spaces

**THPL will create welcoming, inclusive and vibrant library spaces to connect, cultivate, and transform our communities.**

**Action 1:** Revisit the hours of service for all branches, reviewed alongside ARUPLO Guidelines.

**Action 2:** Create comfortable and inviting reading nooks at all branches.

**Action 3:** Beautify library exterior spaces; create gardening spaces with a focus on native pollinator-friendly species.

**Action 4:** Offer accessible water bottle refill stations and water fountains.

**Action 5:** Explore adding digital signage at all branches.



# Goal 3: Digital Inclusion

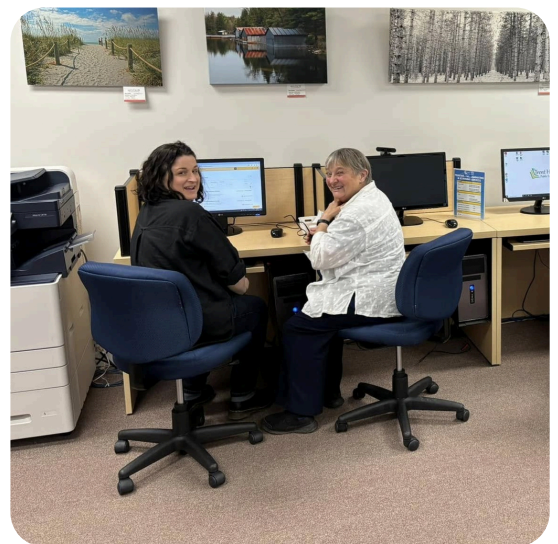
**THPL will break down barriers to internet-based resources, tools, and services.**

**Action 1:** Launch a new website that will streamline the user experience by making it easier for patrons to access the catalogue, digital resources, and registration for programs and events.

**Action 2:** Offer technology training and expertise programs to promote digital literacy and inclusion; expand digital literacy offerings to all branches.

**Action 3:** Add more public access computers; update existing computers.

**Action 4:** Introduce media lab equipment, with associated programs and training, which can include equipment for podcasting, photography, and filmmaking.



# Goal 4: Literacy for Life

**THPL will directly address declining societal literacy levels by expanding access to reading, learning, and information skills across all ages to empower informed, curious, and connected citizens.**

**Action 1:** Launch an intergenerational family literacy program, connecting children, adults, and seniors.

**Action 2:** Increase, expand, and promote community literacy initiatives and events for all ages (for example, reading challenges, Trent Hills Reads, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, etc.) to support and encourage life-long reading.

**Action 3:** Launch a Paws for Reading therapy dog literacy program.

**Action 4:** Create a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) to advise on teen services, programs, and collections.

**Action 5:** Coordinate with local schools to explore offering student-led tutoring help.





[www.trenthillslibrary.ca](http://www.trenthillslibrary.ca)