



We stimulate curiosity, nurture creativity, and enable discovery

Essex Library Association provides free and equal access to reliable information for all residents of the community and cultivates a warm, welcoming environment in which to work, learn, connect and be inspired. Every year the community changes and the resources and programming the community wants and needs change too. Whether it's for entertainment or education, our collections and programs respond to these emerging needs. We offer a Library of Things which contains many items that are costly or only infrequently needed by a patron so the entire community may use them for free. There is something for everyone!

*“The library has been a wonderful resource for our family!
We feel so lucky that every time we need help, the library is there for us.”*

In furtherance of the Library's Strategic Plan, we expanded our hours beginning in January 2023 and again in January 2024. In June 2023, the Board of Trustees voted to make the library fine free, thereby removing a barrier that may have inhibited individuals from borrowing library resources. We are dedicated to ensuring free and equal access to our programs; they are always free and open to the public. We are continually looking for ways to make the library more accessible and these are two steps of many we have taken to achieve this goal. Last year we hosted nearly 40,000 visitors, more than twice the number of the previous year. Our patrons borrowed just shy of 50,000 items last year, an increase of 20% over the previous year.

*“The staff locate books and articles for me from throughout the state,
including hard-to-find items from great university libraries.”*

We keep a similar mindset to our program planning that we do for developing our collection, making sure the programs offered meet the interests of our community. In the last year, we have tripled the amount of in-person programs we offered with over 300 different events for patrons of all ages. We had history lessons, environmental talks, crafts, science experiments, dancing, live animals, and so much more for our community to enjoy.

*“When I'm in the Library, I feel at home. The Staff is so friendly and
welcoming!”*

Our values

Free and Equal Access * Privacy * Inclusion * Responsiveness * Integrity * Stewardship

Your support of the library helps us provide all of this and more!
Please vote for the Essex Library Association.