

CRETE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT



2025-2026



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of myself, the Board of Trustees, and the entire staff of the Crete Public Library, thank you for your continued support of our Library during the last year. Your investment in the Library makes it possible for us to provide resources, programs, and services that enrich lives, inspire lifelong learning, and strengthen our community.

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share this Annual Report, which highlights the many ways the Library has served the residents of Crete. Within these pages, you will find statistics that tell the story of our impact, from materials borrowed and digital resources accessed to programs attended and services utilized. While these numbers demonstrate the scope of our work, they also represent the countless connections, discoveries, and opportunities made possible through the Library.

This report also celebrates several important milestones from the past year, including the development of our new Strategic Plan and Purpose Statement, meaningful facility improvements, and the continued growth of our partnerships with local organizations, schools, businesses, and community groups. Together, these initiatives position the Crete Public Library to better meet the evolving needs of our community.

The Library belongs to the community it serves, and every visit, library card, program attended, and conversation helps shape its future. We are grateful for the confidence you place in us and for the opportunity to serve you.

David Sieffert,
Library Director



HIGHLIGHTS

Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Distribution

In January 2026, the Library partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Village of Crete, Crete Park District, and Will County Executive's Office to host a Mobile Market Distribution. Together, we provided food to 125 households and distributed every item on the truck.

South Suburban Pet Food Donation Drive

From June 1–August 8, 2026, the Library partnered with the South Suburban Humane Society to host a Pet Food Donation Drive. Thanks to the generosity of our patrons, we collected an abundance of pet food for local animals in need. We look forward to partnering with them again in the future.

New Website & Logo

This year, we launched a new website and logo that better reflect the Library's mission and values. The redesigned website offers a more user-friendly and accessible experience, while the new logo represents our commitment to being a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community space.

SNAP Help

In partnership with the Northern Illinois Food Bank, the Library continues to offer monthly SNAP Help sessions on the first Thursday of each month. These sessions provide free assistance with SNAP applications and benefits for community members in need.

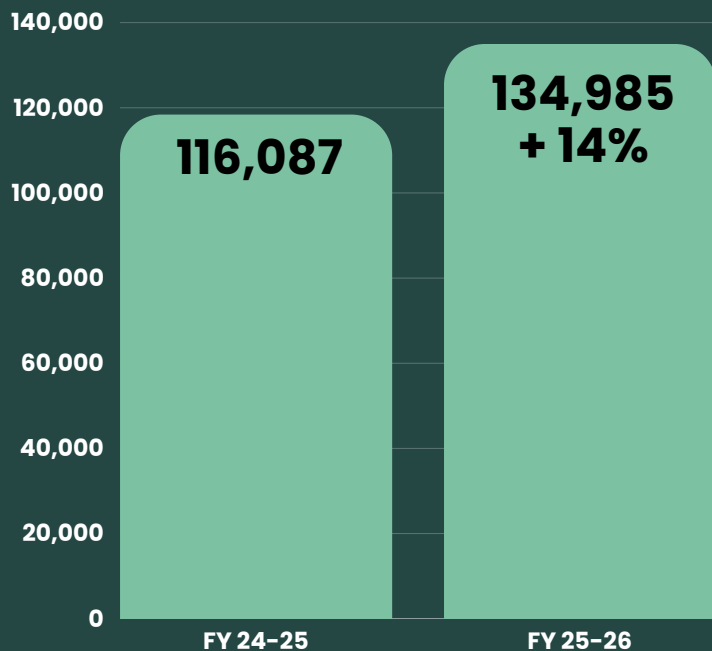
Strategic Plan

The Library adopted its 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, developed through community surveys, focus groups, interviews, and feedback from staff and the Board of Trustees. The plan outlines priorities that will guide the Library's services and growth while reflecting the evolving needs of the Crete community.



CIRCULATION

Total Checkouts

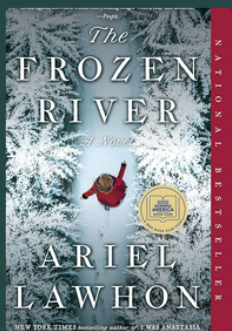


Most Popular Titles

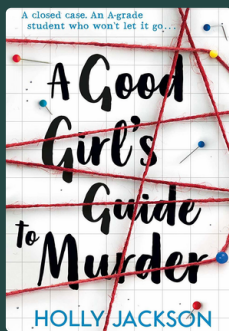
Adult: *The Frozen River*

Teen: *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*

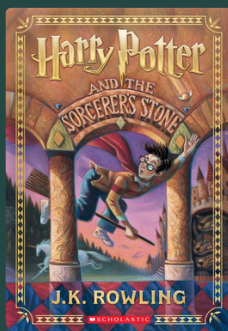
Youth: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*



Adult



Teen



Youth

Most Popular Beyond Books Item

Portable DVD Player

Most Popular DVDs

Adult DVD: "Greyhound"

Youth DVD: "Zootopia 2"

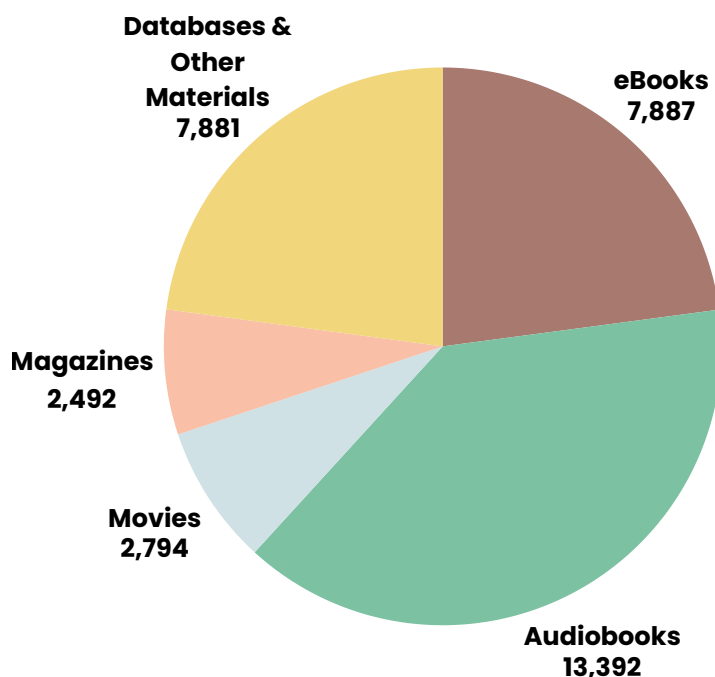


Adult



Youth

Digital Circulation



Most Popular Audiobook

Adult: *Project Hail Mary*

Youth: *Under the Surface: 6 Stories on Heroes, Secrets, and More: From Focus on the Family*



PROGRAMS

800 Programs
14,775 in Attendance



Adult Programs

Attendance: **4,494**

Most Popular Program: **An Evening with Carol Burnett**

Youth Services Programs

Attendance: **10,281**

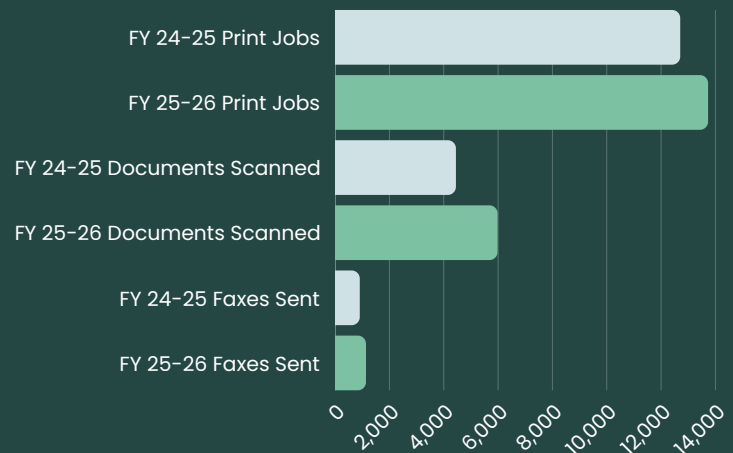
Most Popular Program: **Summer Reading Kickoff Party**



MEETING ROOM RESERVATIONS

899 Meeting Rooms Booked

PRINTING & SCANNING



LICENSE PLATE RENEWALS

394 License Plates Renewed

NOTARY SERVICES

549 Documents Notarized

