

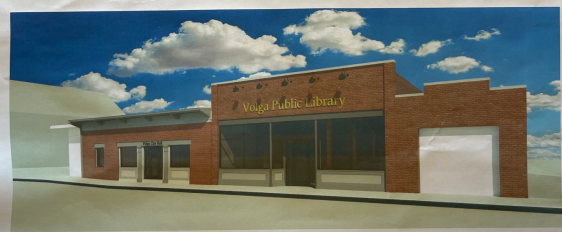
Volga City Public Library

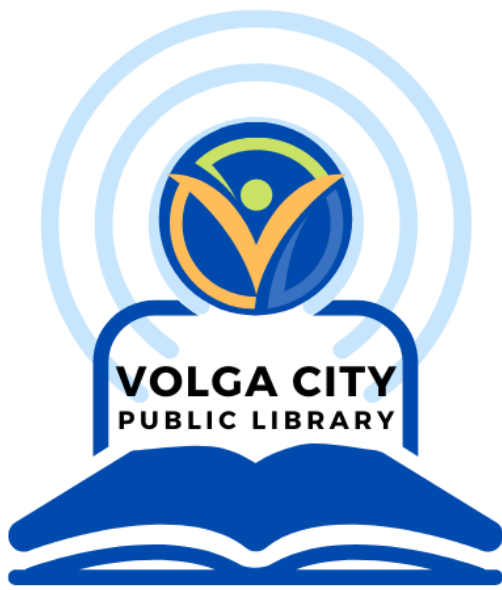
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STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2025



PERSPECTIVE RENDERING - NORTH





Volga City Public Library

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INTRODUCTION

This plan will help guide the development of the Volga City Public Library for the next three years. The plan was developed under the guidance of the Library Board, Staff, Building Planning Committee and Friends of the Library by referencing data and community action plans. The plans, goals and objectives complement the Library's mission and service responses to serve the needs of the community.

The plan will be a living document to be reviewed by the Library Board of Trustees and staff to develop specific activities and make changes needed to carry out the intent of the plan.

MISSION STATEMENT & VISION

All Are Welcome

The Volga Public library was established for the purpose of providing the residents of the community and the surrounding area equal access to resources and services for reliable information, stimulation, education, and recreation. Our community will have library resources to support schoolwork and independent learning at every age, helping to build skills and interests needed for life-long success.

All are welcome at the Volga City Public Library. We offer free and equal access to information, services and programs for everyone regardless of race, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, political persuasion, disability, status, national origin or income level. Public libraries change lives and create opportunities for all those who inquire.

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COMMUNITY & LIBRARY

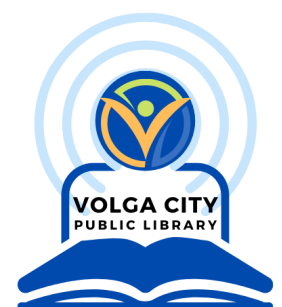
The Volga Public Library was established under the sponsorship of the Volga Study Club in 1923 and was the first free public library in Clayton County. The current Volga City and surrounding rural area have been significantly shaped by the flood of 1999. This flood resulted in the loss of over 40 homes and accelerated the drop in the town's population from over 300 to around 200.

The community's response to the flood was to bring together many volunteers who worked to create a beautiful park and campgrounds. The Volga Visioning Committee was created and this committee was responsible for planting hundreds of trees in the new green spaces, building a waterfall/town sign and erecting picket fences in an effort to clean up and beautify the main street of the town. The Park Board was subsequently formed and remains very active in maintaining and expanding this vision. They have created another city park, The Volga Bluff Reflection Park with a shelter house, bathroom/shower house and canoe access to the Volga River.

Challenges facing the community are the shrinking of our school district enrollment, a median income at only 75% of the county, and unemployment in Volga growing to 9.4% while Clayton County is at 4% and Iowa 3.9%.

Strengths are found in community service. In addition to Visioning and Park Board volunteers, the town and surrounding rural community also have very strong Volunteer Firefighters and First Responder groups, four churches, and several other social and volunteer organizations. Additionally, a non-profit group, VCTC, Inc., has been responsible for restoring our historic opera house which is now open for events. This group is composed of many young people in the community who volunteer to work and to raise funds for the opera house renovation by hosting truck and motorcycle cruise days and monthly Bump & Run events in the community which draws hundreds of people to Volga. On August 29th, 2020, the convenience store/gas station reopened.

As the library moves forward, we hope to continue to benefit from the energy and cooperation that fuels all this volunteer work by inviting a diverse group of community members to study the roles they'd like to see the Volga Public Library play in service to the community.



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ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

Top Community Needs identified from Building Committee public meetings, focus groups and government data bases.

- Community meeting space accessibility
- Dwindling but diverse population
- Limited business area opportunities
- School/Preschool not in community for educational support
- Limitations of technology availability

PLAN GOALS

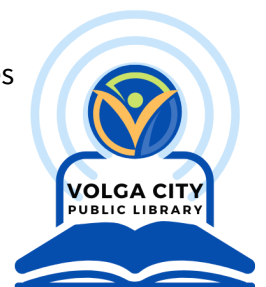
A review of the information and discussion by members of the staff, Board of Trustees, Building Committee and Friends of the Library followed. The following goals were prioritized:

- To be an active voice in the community
- To provide resources for the diverse community
- To provide a welcoming space for the community

Goal 1: The Volga City Public Library will continue to be an active voice in the community. We will promote public presence so the community is aware of available programming and services.

Objective 1: Use multiple information sources to announce programs and resources available at the library

- a. The director will use the library's page on Facebook to announce all programs and alert patrons to new and existing resources. (Updated weekly)
- b. The director will work with the city clerk to include the library in city newsletters. (Semi-annual)
- c. The director and chairperson will submit articles in the two local newspapers: *The Times Register* and *Press Journal*. (Quarterly)
- d. The director will continue to create and update the library's website. (Monthly updates)
 - i. The director will create a page on the library's website linking to community resources (2023)



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Goal 2: The Volga City Public Library will provide a variety of resources for the diverse community.

Objective 1: Provide more programs and resources for various audiences

- a. The director will introduce/continue a variety of programs.
 - Family Storytime that emphasize early literacy skills (Wednesdays during school year)
 - Summer Reading Program (June/July)
 - Homework Help (Every early-out Friday)
 - Crafter-noon & Craft-er School (1st Wednesday of every month)
 - Digital Dive nights (4th Wednesday of every month)
- b. The director will promote the digital resources from the State Library
 - i. Add/update links to the library website. (Monthly update)
 - ii. Offer trainings (Digital Dive nights)
- c. The director will expand the Summer Reading program to include more family and adult programs that encourage continued reading and learning through the summer months (June/July)
- d. The director will invite outside program presenters (Quarterly)
- e. The director will regularly apply for grants to provide materials for hands-on STEAM experiences for patrons (As available)
- f. The director will investigate possible options for Do-it-Yourself resources/ experiences in creative pursuits and innovative technologies for all patrons (Library of Things) (Quarterly)

Objective 2: Upgrade the usability of patron computers, tablets, copy and printing services.

- a. The Board will continue to update equipment as needed (Monthly discussion)

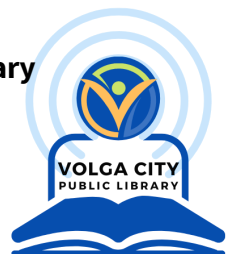
Goal 3: The library will continue involvement in shaping the Volga Public Library space to serve the needs of the community.

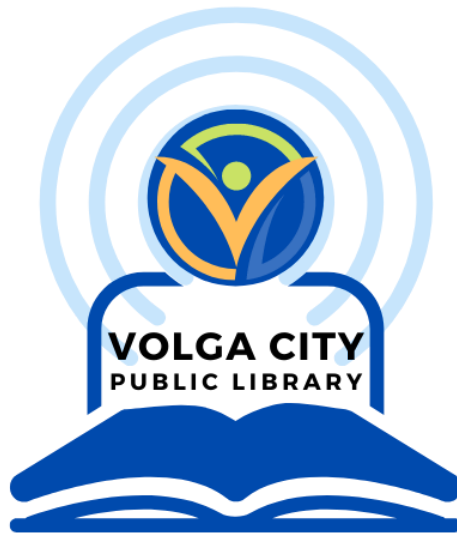
Objective 1: Work with the Library/City Building Committee to help plan the renovation of the building purchased by the city for the purpose of having a new city hall and library. This will be done as renovation planning occurs

- a. The children's area will allocate more space and furnishings for parents/caregivers and children
- b. Library furnishings will meet the needs and expectations of the library's community and fall within ADA standards.
- c. Reading and meeting areas will include community input (art, history, culture and comfort)

Objective 2: The Library Board will work with the Library Friends to encourage gifts to the library to increase long-term sustainability for the building and services

- a. Create a policy for how to recognize library donors by 2023





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan is the result of the hard work and dedication of many members of the community and library staff

Library Board of Directors

Lorna Christeleit, Chairperson
Tom Bading, Trustee
Fran Derhammer, Trustee
Pamm Geuder, Trustee
John Moore, Trustee

Library Staff

Karla Duff, Director
Gina Briggs, Clerk

Friends of the Library

Glenda Whitford, Chairperson
Ann Duff
Tracy Follon
Jody Klingman
Millie Stewart

Building Planning Committee

Elaine Follon, Chairperson
Kristin Klingman, Secretary
Tom Bading
Lorna Christeleit
George Duff
Pete Duff
Dennis O'Brien
Carrie Taylor