

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

## Mission

*The mission of our library is to provide unrestricted access to informational resources and services that advance lifelong learning, promote the acquisition of knowledge, encourage cultural enrichment, and provide strength to the Dunkirk community.*

## Vision

The Dunkirk Public Library will be a recognized source of knowledge and information, a location in which to gather and discuss a diverse array of topics, and a steadfast encourager of lifelong reading and learning. The library will offer a full spectrum of services, materials, and programming designed to support the changing needs of our community. These expectations will be delivered by a knowledgeable, well-trained staff who operate in facilities that are accessible, functional, and welcoming.

## Values

- Provide patrons with ready, equal, and equitable access to library materials, resources, and opportunities.
- Function as a warm and welcoming place in which community members may gather.
- Engage in the life of our local community and continue to evolve in order to meet its changing needs.
- Establish policies and practices that maintain the responsible stewardship of the Library's financial and material assets.

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

**Goal 1: Community Outreach, Programs, & Partnership**

**Objective 1a:**

- We will continue to develop and implement new programs for a range of ages and interests so as to maintain the library as a hub for culture, social interaction, and education in the community.

**Action:** The Library will host engaging and well-attended programs that meet a wide variety of patron needs and desires.

**Timeframe:** Monthly

**Action:** Solicit patron input and feedback for program wants/needs.

**Timeframe:** Monthly

**Action:** Seek grant opportunities and other funding sources to support programming and partnerships.

**Example(s):**

- CCLS Outreach and Summer Reading grants.
- Donations and grants from local businesses (Dollar Tree, McDonalds, Wal-Mart, etc.).

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Focus Area: Adult Programs**

- Offer programming that addresses the needs of adults in the community, such as author events, art programs, lectures, etc.
- Develop further adult programming especially in the area of computer and internet usage.

**Example(s):**

- Adult Nutrition Classes (Cornell Cooperative Ext).
- Art and Music sessions hosted by partner groups
- Monthly Adult Book Club meetings (now large enough to require two groups).
- Frequent Summer Author Visits (especially for local writers or those who focus on WNY in their stories).
- Seed Library
- Tech outreach at offsite venues (Concord and Senior Center).

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

**Focus Area: Teen Programs**

- Continue to seek out, develop, fund, and implement activities designed to foster positive interactions with teen/YA patrons and the library.

**Example(s):**

- ALA Games Month
- Board/Card game nights and “Learn to Play” sessions (partner with Power Nine or other local game/hobby shops).
- Computer gaming competitions and eSports events.
- Crafts and maker projects.
- Discord server events (RPG bonus sessions, Free Book Friday).
- Free RPG Day
- Summer Reading events and challenges.
- TTRPG sessions.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Focus Area: Children’s Programs**

- Offer programs and materials that pique curiosity, encourage exploration and engage all learners.

**Example(s):**

- Crafts and “Take and Makes.”
- Reading challenges.
- Book giveaways and contests.
- Story time.
- Special guests and presenters.
- Summer Reading events.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Objective 1b:**

- The library will inform the community of our services, programs, and events, both ongoing and newly established.

**Action:** Maintain a current and informative digital presence via the library website and social platforms.

**Example(s):**

- <https://dunkirklibrary.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/people/Dunkirk-Public-Library/100068844827469/>
- [https://www.instagram.com/dunkirk\\_library/](https://www.instagram.com/dunkirk_library/)
- Streetside digital sign

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

**Action:** Utilize local news outlets to share information.

**Example(s):**

- Share information to the Chautauqua Gazette, Observer, and WDOE

**Action:** Provide in-house information and documentation available that details our services.

**Example(s):**

- Bookmarks, flyers, and handouts that denote current and upcoming events

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Objective 1c:**

- Partner with school, civic, and social service organizations to create and promote events and programs both at the Library and within the community whenever such joint endeavors are both feasible and beneficial to residents of our service area.

**Action:** Work with local grade school and high school contacts to coordinate programs for these age groups.

**Example(s):**

- Coordinate activities and share information with the high school librarian.

**Timeframe:** September - June, plus Summer Reading events

**Action:** Actively work with community members and local organizations.

**Example(s):**

- Collaborate with 4-H, Boys & Girls Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Head Start, and/or Scouts, etc.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Action:** Bring literature and other resources to those who are unable, or less able, to come to the physical building of the library.

**Example(s):**

- Libby App
- Meals on Wheels partnership
- New York State's Talking Book and Braille Library
- Offsite events

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

**Timeframe:** Upon request

## **Goal 2: Collection & Resource Evaluation**

### **Objective 2a:**

- We will continue to build and curate a robust collection of resources that meet the educational, leisure, personal, professional, and social needs of our patrons.

**Action:** Acquire materials and make purchasing decisions in accordance with a board approved collection development policy.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Action:** Participate in the CCLS non-fiction collection development initiative.

**Timeframe:** Six purchases annually for two years.

**Action:** Consider both the results of the CCLS collection diversity survey and the needs of our community when making acquisitions.

**Timeframe:** Monthly

**Action:** Periodically review library holdings and weed aged materials.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Action:** Provide patrons with access to current scholarship via digital resources.

### **Example(s):**

- Grey House Publishing electronic titles
- NOVELny database collection
- Library subscriptions such as Tech-Talk and Ancestry.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

**Goal 3: Staff Education & Training**

**Objective 3a:**

- Library trustees and staff members will be provided opportunities to grow professionally and increase their knowledge, skills, and expertise throughout the course of each year.

**Action:** Trustees and staff will complete any required trainings in a timely fashion.

**Example(s):**

- Annual Report “Trustee Education” requirement.
- Library resource trainings (Koha, Libby, etc.).
- NYS Workplace Harassment Training.

**Timeframe:** Annually

**Action:** Trustees and staff will be informed of relevant educational opportunities as they become available.

**Example(s):**

- CCLS informational sessions (shared via staff email).
- Trustee Handbook webinars.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing and/or during staff meetings.

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

## **Goal 4: Building & Grounds Maintenance & Development**

### **Objective 4a:**

- Present a well-maintained facility that is comfortable, aesthetically pleasing, and accessible to all members of the community.

**Action:** Conduct a building-wide “Engineering Review” to proactively identify features of the facility in need of upgrade or maintenance in order to forestall greater future expense.

**Timeframe:** Engineering Review complete; ongoing remediation of identified needs.

### **Objective 4b:**

- Our library space will be kept safe, clean, and in working order. Elements of the building that should need repair will be restored quickly and with minimal interruption to our regular operations. Regular and preventative maintenance will be undertaken to larger issues.

**Action:** Regularly clean and maintain library spaces.

**Timeframe:** Daily/Weekly

**Action:** Perform routine checks on our utilities, structures, and spaces such as HVAC, parking lot, etc. and maintain or replace as needed.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing/Annually

### **Objective 4c:**

- The library will provide computing equipment and Internet access sufficient to meet patron needs.

**Action:** Continually review and update our hardware, software, Internet, and Wi-Fi services to stay current with the increasing needs of the community and advancements in technology.

#### **Example(s):**

- Increase Internet speed via provider arrangement with CCLS.
- Installation of additional network cable and Wi-Fi access points.
- Upgrade computer hardware to meet current tech standards (Windows 11).

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

Dunkirk Public Library  
Long Term Plan  
2026 - 2030

**Goal 5: Financial Security & Responsibility**

**Objective 5a:**

- We are funded by the community and, being so, realize what an important responsibility it is to make sure that funding is put to good use. We aim to direct funding in a way that meets the needs and interests of the community and to do so in a financially efficient way.

**Action:** Discover our community's interests and focus funding in those areas.

**Example(s):**

- Evaluate items and genres that circulate the most.
- Respond to patron suggestions for materials and programs.
- Review attendance/participation at library events.
- Take note of requests for items of which there are very few available.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing

**Action:** Apply for and obtain grant funding to address both Library and community needs.

**Timeframe:** According to individual grant cycles.

**Action:** Establish a forward-looking budget and secure the necessary funding sufficient to ensure future growth and stability.

**Timeframe:** Annually

**Action:** Expend funds in a manner consistent with the Library mission in order to facilitate both short and long-term goals.

**Timeframe:** Ongoing