



MALTman Memorial LIBRARY'S
COMMUNITY NEEDS RESPONSE PLAN
2023

Mission Statement

The mission of Maltman Memorial Library is to enrich the lives of the community by empowering personal, educational, and professional growth. The library is dedicated to advancing literacy and fostering life-long learning. Maltman Memorial Library aims to provide a center for information and discovery through innovative programming, robust collections, and responsive services.

Community Profile

According to the US 2020 Census, Wood River has a population of 1,442. Of this, 35% report as Hispanic. The age group breakdown is: 35-44 with 210 residents, 15-19 and 45-54 tie at 175 residents, closely followed by 25-34 with 153 residents. The median income is \$62,500 which is less than the state median of \$66,664. School enrollment is 500 students of which 47.2% qualify for free/reduced lunches. Our unemployment rate is excellent at .04%, which is much lower than the state rate of 3.3%. 83% of residents work outside of Wood River.

Assessment of Community Needs

The Wood River community worked with the South Central Economic Development to complete a Community Needs Assessment Survey (CNAS) in 2022. The accreditation committee is using the results of this survey to define the following top needs expressed by the community.

1) Food Insecurities

Many of our Wood River residents face daily challenges in accessing affordable, nutritious food. Even though our local food pantry provides weekly “backpacks” of food to 77 families, one of the problems identified in the CNAS was that one-third of residents do not realize that there is a food pantry available to them in Wood River. One way the library could help with this is by sharing information about the food pantry to help communicate to those in need.

2) Local Business Development/Support

The assessment highlighted the need for fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, with an emphasis on equipping our community members with the skills and knowledge required to start and build successful careers. The library could help facilitate this by partnering with local colleges for informational resources, providing space, internet, and equipment for business needs.

3) Storm Shelter

A storm shelter/safe place for emergencies was indicated as the number one community project that was needed. There are several residents who live in apartments or trailer houses which have no basement to use as a shelter. Plans are moving forward to renovate a wing of the old nursing home in Wood River and build a storm shelter within that wing to help address this problem. The library can help develop clear safety protocols and emergency response plans.

4) Childcare

82% of the assessment respondents stated that it was very difficult or somewhat difficult to find quality childcare and 25% reported that they utilized childcare outside of Wood River. Although Wood River has a new, quality child development center available, they have struggled with staffing and do not offer weekend/night hours for childcare. Several residents expressed interest in starting a licensed in-

home childcare. The library could help with providing information on what the requirements would be and how they could start the process.

5) Library Facility and Services

The assessment showed that respondents think the library building is small and crowded. It is not ADA compliant so entering and using the library is challenging for those in wheelchairs. Residents also mentioned that services could include activities for children on non-school days. The library can plan to expand programming for children on those non-school days.

Analysis of Maltman Memorial Public Library’s Strengths, Resources/Barriers, and Opportunities for Improvement

A public survey was taken to assess the strengths and barriers of the library. Comments were as shown:

Environment	Strengths	Resources	Barriers	Opportunities for Improvement
Human Resources (Director, Staff, Volunteers)	Friendly staff, great library director who is concerned about the library’s needs,		Limited staff hours	More volunteer hours to expand library open hours
Facilities (Building Size, Overall Condition, Organization of Space, ADA Compliance, Mechanical Systems, Hours, Parking Location)	Organized as well as can be, hours meet the needs of the community		Small restroom, narrow entry doors, no room to expand, not enough shelf space, no meeting room, building is too small for increasing programs	Become ADA compliant, build a new library
Technology in the library (Computers, internet, makerspace, etc.)	There are public computers, internet, WIFI, printer & fax available, fiber internet available		Small makerspace, only two public computers, no room for a makerspace	
Funding (Municipal, county, state, grants, gifts, other)	City funded	Apply for grants	Grants aren’t always approved	
Collection (Categorize by subject and/or type of material)	Library has been adding award winning books, many different kinds of books		Running out room to add books	Would like to see audio books, but there is no space to add them
Services Offered (list)	Book delivery, Free internet, copy/fax/printing			
Programs & Outreach (list)	Pinterest night, bingo, book club, fiber fun club, summer reading, after school program, preschool story time		Participation, lack of room limits the number of participants	Teen programs, weekly after school activities
Operations				
Governance	Very supportive library board and city council			
Economy				
Technology in the community (internet, training, etc.)	The library is the only place that offers internet to the public on two computers		Space to provide any sort of training	
Community Relations	Friendly atmosphere			communication

Analysis of Needs

The library can help support local economic growth by hosting business meetups to bring together business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, provide a space, resources, literature, and equipment for business needs. As the city progresses towards the completion of a storm shelter, the library can ensure that the plans include accessibility for all community members, including those with disabilities. When thinking about the need for ADA compliancy and accessibility for all, the library can make these things a priority when designing a new space. Expanding services for children on non-school days and identifying new areas of programming for adults of all ages is something that can also be done.

Specific Goals

1) Support Local Economic Growth

- a. Collaborate with Vision 20/20 to identify local businesses and needs.
- b. Provide space, resources, internet, literature, and equipment for business needs.
- c. Organize regular entrepreneurial meetups that bring together local business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.
- d. Create mentor-mentee partnerships to foster knowledge sharing and support.
- e. Offer educational programs tailored to local business needs, covering topics like financial management, digital marketing, e-commerce, and sustainability practices.
- f. Partner with local educational institutions for training resources.

2) Storm Shelters

- a. Provide educational resources to raise awareness about the importance of storm shelters.
- b. Develop clear safety protocols and emergency response plans for storm shelter usage.
- c. Ensure that storm shelters are accessible to all community members, including those with disabilities.

3) Library Facility

- a. Involve the community in the decision-making process, seeking input on the library's design, services, and programming.
- b. Develop a detailed construction plan, including a project timeline, budget allocation, and contractor selection.
- c. Identify and purchase the necessary furnishings, shelving, technology, and equipment required for the new library.

4) Library Services

- a. Prioritize programs based on community feedback, demand, and alignment with the library's mission and goals.
- b. Initiate a teen advisory group to get their input and bring more teens into the library.
- c. Implement outreach to Stick Creek Kids, Wood River Elementary, and Wood River Rural Middle and High School.
- d. Plan for activities for children and teens on non-school days.

Accomplishments and Evaluation

Looking back at the previous Strategic Plan and the goals that were put in place, a few of them were successful. A cookbook club was started and met for several months. The library now has a web page on the city's website.

As for an evaluation process for the new Community Needs Response Plan, almost all the goals are set up as a pass/fail scenario. Library staff and the board will review this plan in 2026 to see what goals have been met and which still need to be addressed.