

Garrison Public Library

Long Term Plan

January 2026 - December 2028



Approved by the Garrison Library Board - February 2026

Garrison is a small town of about 345 residents. It is located in Benton County, in the eastern half of Iowa. The population has decreased slightly since 2000, but since, has been pretty consistent at an average of 350. Over 95% of the residents are white, with the majority of the population 50 years or older and under 30.

Garrison doesn't have a school in town. The children attend the Vinton-Shellsburg CSD, which they have to be bussed to, along with the rural children. About 20% of the community is children under the age of 18.

The community's main employers are outside the town of Garrison, as there are but a handful of small businesses in town. Such businesses include a hair salon, bar, music venue, apartments, post office, a construction company, sanitation company and farm services. Residents mainly travel to Vinton, Cedar Rapids, or Waterloo for employment and entertainment.

Residents have access to information in a variety of formats including an e-newsletter, electronic sign, some local papers, radio stations, cable and internet services.

The Old Creamery Nature trail runs along the southern edge of Garrison. It is a recreational resource for the community. The halfway point, with benches and a tire station, is right off the library property.

Local organizations include the Lions Club, a library board, 2 churches, and a volunteer fire department, auxiliary and emergency services.

Thank you to the community of Garrison for the suggestions they have given, their ongoing support and ideas for making this library a community place. Thank you to the Garrison Library Board for their continual support, encouragement and ideas that helped shape the Library's long term plan.

The current Garrison Public Library was built in 2014. It is in excellent condition and is ADA compliant. The library is an inviting space and is in a desirable location, with easy access to the Old Creamery Nature Trail and main road. We have a meeting room, with full kitchen available for gatherings, meetings and celebrations.



The library operates 21 hours a week, with a director and a part-time employee. It offers morning, afternoon, and evening hours throughout the week and Saturday. The library provides books, DVDs, newspapers, WiFi, computers, puzzles, a notary, children and adult programming, photo printing, craft classes, community events and more. It also provides downloadable ebooks, audio books and magazines.



The library staff is excited to provide creative programs such as Lego Club, Chess Club and Craft & Crop, along with a summer reading program. The Library hosts a food pantry open to the community 2 afternoons a month. The Garrison Library a necessary presence in our community.

Staff

Angela Dague	Library Director
Kacy Baumgartner	Library Aide

Garrison Library Board

Mavis Dickerson	President
Jill Balk	Vice-President
Dorothy Readnour	Trustee
Cora Flickinger	Trustee
Interviewing	Trustee
Angela Dague	Treasurer
	Secretary

Vision

The Garrison Public Library will be the hub of the community, a gathering place that offers a wide variety of experiences with the most advanced technology, tools, programs and ideas.

Mission

The Garrison Library's mission is to link our community to relevant information and provide opportunities to explore, learn, create and grow.

Goals

- 1) Develop and host programming for life-long learning
(infant - adult)
- 2) Provide up-to-date technology for community needs
- 3) Provide a fully functioning building for community needs and services
- 4) Develop and provide a variety of community services
- 5) Promote the library, its services and programming

Goal #1 Programming for Life-long Learning

Year 1

- * Survey patrons to find new needs/interests in learning
- * Implement 1 new adult class/program from those interests
- * Implement a crafting class quarterly
- * Evaluate if crafting class should go monthly

Year 2

- * Explore additional children's/YA programming that could be implemented at library
- * Offer healthy food related demos/classes
- * Implement Health & Wellness @ the Library for all ages
- * Determine if other health related opportunities need to be offered

Year 3

- * Offer financial related demos/classes
- * Implement 1 new adult class/program
- * Research other preschool programming that could be implemented

Goal #2 Technology Needs

Year 1

- * Purchase blue tooth speakers for the projector
- * Determine other technology needs

Year 2

- * Purchase a chop saw for Tinker Time
- * Assess computers and needs
- * Purchase new patron computer if needed

Year 3

- * Evaluate the computers in house
- * Purchase new computers if needed
- * Evaluate public printer
- * Purchase printer if needed

Goal #3 Building

Year 1

- * Purchase 2 chairs for lobby
- * Revamp the wild flower gardens
- * Assess any needs for history room
- * Start to raise funds for parking lot

Year 2

- * Provide benches outdoors in wild-life area
- * Raise funds for parking lot

Year 3

- * Pave the parking lot
- * Determine any other landscaping to be done

Goal #4 Community Services

Year 1

- * Establish a movie night once per quarter
- * Host Health Insurance Market Place support/Q&A for Insurance time
- * Determine if beginner computer/tech classes are needed for patrons

Year 2

- * Host tax time support/CPA for tax filers
- * Host classes on will/estate planning with professional

Year 3

- * Offer Activity Room to outside resources and social services to provide more patron opportunities in town
- * Determine potential areas of increased loaner opportunities

Goal #5 Library Promotion

Year 1

- * Use website and Facebook to promote services/programs
- * Make better use of local newspapers and e-newsletter
- * Create and send brochure to every home in local and rural community
- * Explore ways to promote to teens
- * Use outdoor sign to promote library and community

Year 2

- * Promote availability of Activity Room for/to social services and community organizations
- * Implement 1 teen program
- * Send renewed brochure to every home in local and rural community

Year 3

- * Send renewed brochure to every home in local and rural community
- * Evaluate the effectiveness of each option