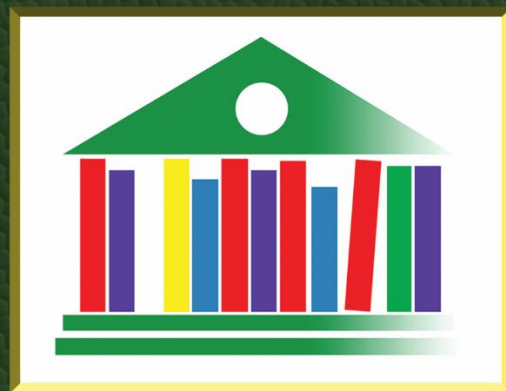




KENT PUBLIC LIBRARY

**LONG RANGE PLAN
2023 - 2027**



SUMMATION - KENT PUBLIC LIBRARY LONG RANGE PLAN 2023 to 2027

Mission Statement

The Kent Public Library is committed to serving the cultural, educational, recreational, and informational needs of our community by providing dynamic programming, balanced collections of resources, exceptional customer service, and access to new and changing technology. Our mission is to create a setting in which every individual from any background has equal opportunity to enhance his or her personal, professional, and emotional development. (Approved by Kent Library Board on August 20, 2013).

Community Input and Goals

New York State mandates require libraries to formulate a long-range plan to see how the library responds to its community.

Our survey was distributed via online, email and hard copy from March through July, 2022.

There was a total of 188 responses: 90.4% of those responded that they have used the library in the past year with the most important aspects being Adult Books and Programs, followed by Digital Audio, eBooks, Streaming Video and then Children's Books and Programs and Museum Passes. Next was Young Adult (YA) Books and Programs. Further down the list was DVD, Music CDs and Books on CD. The least important aspects were Magazines and Newspapers, Additional Library hours and Non-English Materials.

Some survey ideas for Programs and Services offered, included:

- senior programs
- weekend programs

- art programs
- indoor/outdoor events
- exercise/ educational/ cultural classes
- additional children's programs (later hours &/or weekends)

Out of 188 survey responses received, 37.8% said they would be willing to participate in an in-person focus group discussion. We had two in-person focus group sessions. The first was on 9/07/22 at 11:00am, the second was on 9/08/22 at 5:30pm. There was a total of 12 participants and the community topics discussed were: What kind of community do you want and how do we succeed in creating that kind of community?

The responses for the kind of community participants want, included:

- Welcoming
- Friendly
- Knowledgeable
- Respectful
- Collaborative
- Diverse
- Safe

The responses for how to succeed in creating this type of community, included:

- Collaborate Resources: reaching out to established groups in the community that have similar interests and programs, for example, 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts, Kent Recreation, Senior Centers, Schools/PTA's.
- Networking and Outreach: helping community business development, small/new/women-owned businesses, businesses partnering with KPL on projects.

- Developing Committees with established groups: to enrich the community, for example, Arts on the Lake, Kent Historical Society and Kent Public Library collaborating with programs, shows, classes and lectures.
- Distribution of Knowledge and Information: invitations to schools, senior centers, physical signage on roadways, bulletin boards, stores, flyers, town television channel, readings of KPL happenings during Kent Town Board meetings, social media.
- Investing in the Future: mentoring programs, teen and junior advisory groups, community service, 4-H, Scouts, Schools, sports and cadet programs (Civil Air Patrol, Sheriff's Dept., Kent PD).
- Programming and Resources: ideally have both in-person and Zoom capabilities, Programs should be age appropriate/related interests, showcase local history using artists, authors, actors, teachers, athletes, etc.

General Goal: Making the library a destination, a community center, a safe place

Gathering the information from our Survey and the Focus Groups, the categories most mentioned were:

Collaborating Resources

Distribution of Knowledge

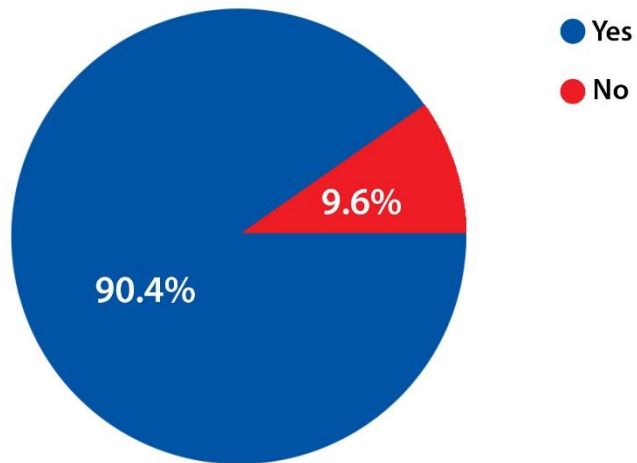
Investing in the Future

Programming

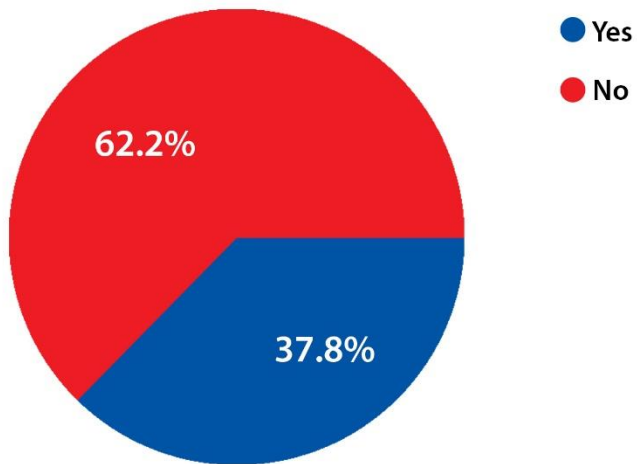
Kent Public Library: Long-Range Plan Survey

188 Responses

Have you used the Kent Public Library in the past year?

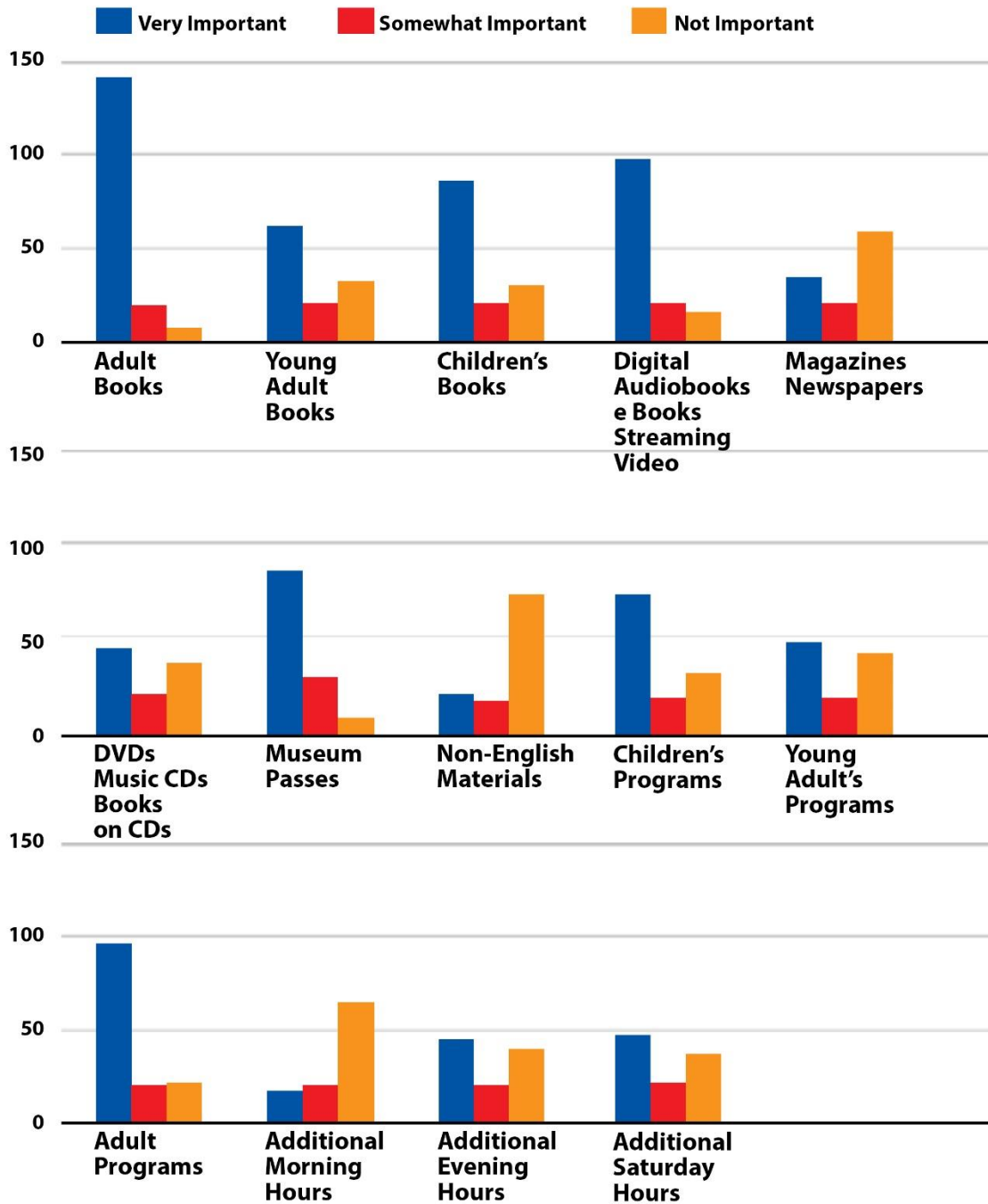


Would you be willing to participate in a focus group?



Responses to Kent Public Library 2022 Survey

Would you like to see more of the following?:



GOAL: Collaborating Resources - reaching out to established community groups with similar interests and programs to enhance resources

PURPOSE : Broaden the Library's reach to gather resources for the community

STRATEGY

- Have groups (4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts, Kent Recreation, Schools) share their knowledge and experiences with each other and possibly creating bigger interest and/or pool resources more effectively
 - Create a committee with Kent Public Library, Kent Historical Society and Arts on the Lake to share ideas and "manpower" to bring new experiences to the community
- invite local businesses to partner with Kent Public Library on projects/programs

GOAL: Distribution of Knowledge - getting the information out to the community

PURPOSE : Sharing creates unity and a sense of community

STRATEGY

- more physical signage using: flyers, bulletin boards, stores
- have Kent Town Board read about Kent Public Library happenings during the Town Board meetings
- Social Media - keeping up to date

GOAL: Investing in the Future - by giving children of all ages an opportunity to have a voice in their community

PURPOSE - The foundation of a community must be started from an early age for it to be strong and sustainable

STRATEGY

- Mentoring programs
- Teen Advisory Groups
- Junior Advisory Groups
- Library help using Community Service volunteers from schools, cadet programs

GOAL: Programming - should be age appropriate with similar interests to attract the community while introducing new ideas for the individual to grow

PURPOSE - Engage the minds of the patrons so learning is on-going

STRATEGY

- showcase local history using: artists, authors, musicians, teachers, athletes, etc...
- suggestion box
- create in-person and Zoom capabilities where appropriate

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