

East Haddam Library System Strategic Plan

2024-2027

Dear East Haddam community members and library patrons,

The East Haddam Library System Strategic Planning Committee is delighted to present our first-ever strategic plan to the community. This important document outlines the fundamental beliefs and principles of our library system and focuses on where we would like to be in the next three to five years. The strategic plan is an invaluable tool that helps plan and measure our organization's performance.

The strategic planning process began in July and the committee was tasked with completing the document by mid-December. A committee was created that included four library staff members, two library Trustees, the retired library Assistant Director, and the Library Director. Our committee was part of a cohort of seven libraries from around the state of Connecticut, which provided us a unique perspective of learning from small, large, rural, and urban libraries. The strategic plan process was sponsored by the Connecticut Library Consortium and supervised by East Haddam resident and library consultant Maureen Sullivan.

Our committee met weekly to discuss the tenets of our strategic plan, and we traveled to the Berlin Peck Library in Berlin to collaborate with the other library cohort members. From the very beginning, it was clear that our library is a community hub that is a warm and dynamic part of the town. We knew that we wanted to focus on making the library more accessible to all throughout our buildings and our collection. It was also very important to us to know that we continue collaborating with the community and that we respect the diversity of our patrons, staff, and library materials.

The involvement of the community was vital to this process. Our committee organized four Community Conversations and spent time sharing thoughts with parents, teens, senior citizens, and townspeople. We also crafted and distributed a survey to all residents. It was clear from the responses that residents loved the libraries, but that they wanted more accessible space, larger rooms for meetings and study space, longer hours, and more programs. There were also requests to lengthen the book loan period from two weeks to three and we were happy to put that new policy in place.

Thank you for your participation and feedback during this process. We are all very proud of the work we've accomplished and look forward to seeing it come to fruition. We look forward to seeing you in the library sometime soon!

All the best,

Allison Murphy
Library System Director
December, 2023

East Haddam Library System Strategic Plan Committee

Allison Murphy, Library System Director

Bill Barney, Library Trustee

Mary Mazur, Library Trustee

Pat Griswold, Rathbun Branch Manager

Anastasia Wilson, Teen Librarian

Janet Whitty, Library Technical Assistant

Shannon Martel, Library Technical Assistant

Laurie Prichard, Retired Assistant Director