

CONNECT
CREATE
EMPOWER

AHPL
annual
report
2025

A message from the director



This past year was an important time of growth and investment for the Auburn Hills Public Library as we looked ahead to how we can best serve our community both now and in the years to come.

One of our biggest efforts was the development of a new strategic plan, created in partnership with Fast Forward Libraries LLC. Through this process, we listened closely to our community and engaged in thoughtful conversations about what the Library means to the people we serve. The result is a clear plan built around three core directions: connecting and engaging with the community, creating library spaces that welcome and inspire, and empowering our staff and Board members. This plan will help guide our decisions through 2028.

Just as important was our continued investment in the staff who bring the Library to life every day. Working with a consultant, we completed a comprehensive salary and compensation study to ensure our pay structure remains fair, equitable, and competitive.

We also focused on improving how the Library connects with patrons online. In early 2025, we launched a new website with a refreshed look, updated colors, and an accessible design that aligns with current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. These updates make it easier for everyone in our community to access services and engage with the Library.

Beyond our walls, we made meaningful progress on improving our outdoor spaces. The retention pond behind the Library was dredged and treated, an important step toward restoring the area and supporting our long-term vision for welcoming outdoor spaces that extend the Library experience beyond the building.

We invite you to explore our annual report and celebrate the many accomplishments and moments of connection that shaped the Library over the past year.

Kathleen Kwiatkowski

Library Director

Building Relationships Across Auburn Hills

This year, we strengthened our commitment to connecting and engaging the community by expanding relationships, partnerships, and services across Auburn Hills. Our Home Connections book-delivery service continued to support residents who are unable to visit the Library, ensuring they remain part of our reading community. We deepened our collaboration with local schools through classroom visits and joint initiatives such as Battle of the Books, fostering a shared culture of literacy. Our volunteer program also grew significantly, with teens and adults providing valuable support for program preparation and major events, including our Summer Reading kick-off and finale celebrations. In addition, generous contributions from local businesses enriched our Summer Reading Program with prizes, gift cards, and coupons, reflecting the strong community investment in our mission. Together, these efforts strengthened the Library's role as a welcoming, connected, and community-driven hub.

CONNECT



Staff and patrons at Summer Reading



Battle of the Books winners

Volunteers

45 Active Teens
325 Completed Hours
28 Active Adults
800 Completed Hours

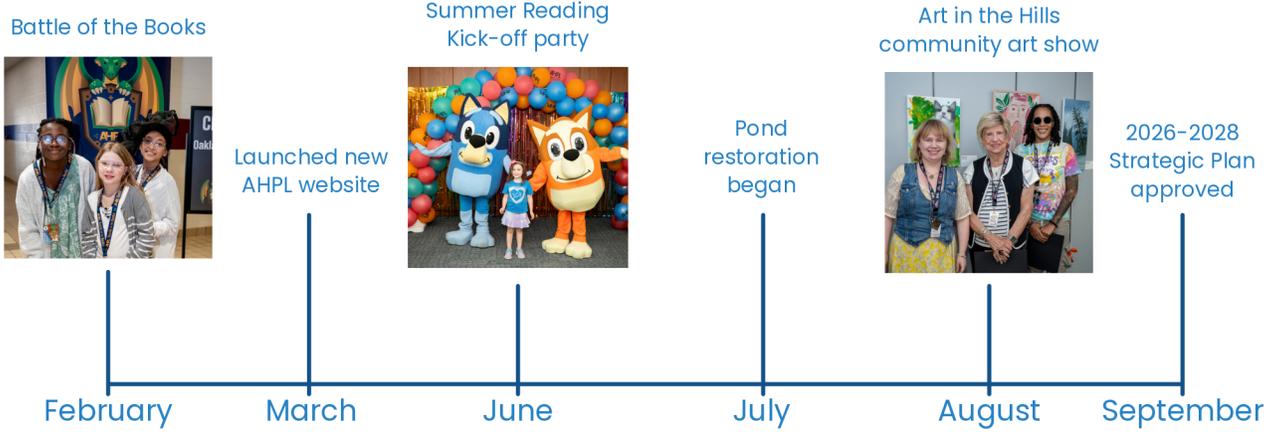
Outreach to Schools

120 visits that reached
4,369 students

Home Connections

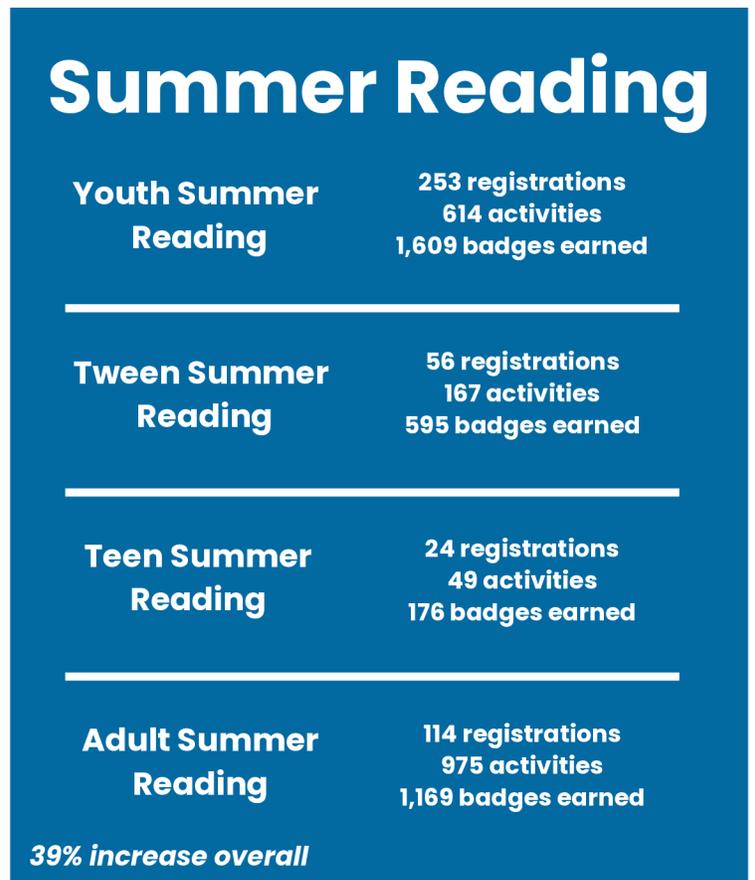
216 deliveries for
18 Home Connections patrons

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS



BY THE NUMBERS

A Year of Connecting, Creating, and Empowering



Creating Outdoor Spaces That Welcome and Inspire

As part of our commitment to creating library spaces that welcome and inspire, the Library celebrated a major outdoor improvement this year. Following the City's restoration of the retention pond, which removed years of invasive Phragmites growth, the Library was able to build a new outdoor patio adjacent to the Youth Department. This refreshed space offers families and young readers a peaceful place to read, learn, and connect with nature, enhancing the overall experience of visiting the Library.



Retention pond dredging



Restored retention pond



Fence installation



Patio, fence, and gate installation



Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), play an essential role in enriching the Auburn Hills Public Library through their generous support and advocacy. This year, they helped strengthen our Large Print collection, expanding access for readers who rely on these materials. They also sponsored major programs and events, including the Summer Reading Program and its ice cream truck celebration, the annual Monster Hunt, Art in the Hills, the Tiny Art Show, and Battle of the Books. Their continued partnership enhances our ability to connect, create, and empower the community.

Funded Projects 2025

- Summer Reading
- Monster Hunt
- Seed Library
- Large Print collection
- Touch A Truck
- Art in the Hills & Tiny Art Show
- Battle of the Books
- Adopt-A-Pet
- National Library Week & more!

\$15,165 donated by the Friends in 2025.

\$3,520 in the form of other patron donations.



friends
of the library

auburn hills public library



Empowering Staff

A key focus of our strategic plan is investing in our people and strengthening our workplace culture. By supporting professional development for both staff and board members, we ensure our team continues to grow, lead, and serve our community with creativity and care. In December 2025, the Library welcomed two new board members, further enhancing our leadership. Throughout the year, staff have also attended conferences and learning opportunities, returning with fresh ideas such as our Intergenerational Storytimes, which bring together our youngest patrons and seniors for songs, crafts, and shared activities that foster meaningful connections across generations.



Fire extinguisher training



All staff training day



Strategic planning brainstorming

Shared Resources, Real Impact: \$1.36 Million Saved

This year, our community empowered itself through library use, transforming everyday checkouts into real financial impact. Collectively, patrons saved \$1.36 million, demonstrating how shared resources fuel opportunity for all.

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3400 E Seyburn Dr
Auburn Hills MI, 48326
248-370-9466
ahplibrary.org

