

# ALDEN DISTRICT LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

2026-2028 | PAGE 1 | STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE



## BACKGROUND

Helena Township, encompassing the village of Alden, is in a beautiful rural and resort area in northwestern Lower Michigan. ADL is a place where people have access to the world through interlibrary loan, internet, online resources (eBooks, eAudios, eMags and streaming), monthly programs and children's events. Its onsite collection features DVDs, Audio &

music CDs and an array of books for all ages.

The welcoming library staff is available for all your library needs.

A strategic plan is a useful road map for library trustees, staff, and the community to follow in meeting goals. The cornerstones of our plan are the vision, the mission statement, and goals.

## MISSION

It is the mission of the Alden District Library to provide quality materials and services that fulfill the social, educational, informational, cultural and recreational needs of the entire community in an atmosphere that is welcoming and respectful.

## VISION

The ADL provides small town service and worldwide resources in a fun, comfortable and intimate atmosphere. The library will continue to expand endeavors to meet the needs, interests and passions of the community.

## GOALS

1. Will maintain relationships with patrons, other groups within the community and with peer libraries.
2. Will seek to optimize services by developing programs and projects in collaboration within the community.
3. Will have the most appropriate technology to meet its goals and fulfill its mission.
4. Will have financial stability to assure that other goals will have needed resources.

# Goals | Rationales

**Goal 1:** The Alden District Library will build on a successful principle of small-town service and worldwide resources by maintaining relationships with our patrons, other groups within the community and with peer libraries.

## Books n' Brie Book Club



**Rationale:** The current practice of a small, intimate library with the ability to provide worldwide resources is key to our success and public support. We need to expand, maintain, and improve our relationships with the township and other local organizations, pursuing the development of collaborative programs and projects. Seeking the experiences of our neighboring libraries and coordinating our services with theirs will make the best use of our resources.

**Goal 2:** The library will seek to optimize services by developing special programs and projects in collaboration with other area groups, patrons, professionals, and organizations.

**Rationale:** Our community faces some of the same serious issues that affect our nation and our world, e.g. concern for our environment, poverty, an aging population, health care, and others. In addition, our patrons engage in a great variety of hobbies and interests. We want to provide library services and programs that address these issues and interests.

**Goal 3:** The library will have the most appropriate technology to meet its goals and fulfill its mission.

**Rationale:** We live in the information age and an increasingly knowledge-based economy. Because both information and knowledge are central to the mission of the library, it is essential that we stay abreast of technological developments but must not see advanced technology as an end in itself. Computer-based technology has the power to bring people together or to increase social isolation; to connect us to the world or drive us apart; to create new career options or technical obsolescence; to increase or decrease employment; to increase freedom or invade privacy; to empower or to intimidate. We must make wise and informed choices in keeping with our values and mission.



An ADL Video Streaming Service

**Goal 4:** The library will have financial stability to assure that other goals will have needed resources.

**Rationale:** Voters of our community generously passed ten-year millages in 2003, 2013 and 2024. We believe it is neither wise nor appropriate to ask for anything more by way of taxes to fund the growth goals we have set forth. Instead, we will seek other sources of funding to supplement the operating millage.