

Wayland Free Public Library FY2026 Annual Report

Mission

The Wayland Free Public Library is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of the community, blending traditional and innovative library resources, services, and programming.

Library Budget and Hours

The Town appropriated \$1,356,230 to the Library in FY2026, for the informational, recreational and cultural needs of the community by offering a wide array of print and non-print resources, including a growing collection of electronic resources. We maintained a schedule of 67 hours per week during the school year and 60 hours per week during the summer.

Personnel

We were successful in recruiting a number of well-qualified full-time and part-time staff this past year, including:

- Meghan Bouffard joined us as our new full-time Programming and Reference Librarian.
- In Youth Services, Haley Neil was promoted to full-time Assistant Children's Librarian and Salome Sweeney-Storage was promoted to part-time Professional Librarian.

Building and Grounds

The Repair & Maintenance Working Group completed the following projects this past year:

- An elevator modernization project included the installation of a new cab and modern control system.
- Accessibility improvements, including a new accessible walkway to the lower level, allowing those with mobility devices and caregivers with strollers direct access into the Children's Room from the parking lot.

Collections and Services

Our popular Library of Things collection has expanded to include board games, which complements our monthly Game Group for adults. We replaced our old hotspots with ten new hotspots with more reliable connectivity.

Reference & Adult Services

We completed adding Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags to all of our circulating books and materials in August, helping streamline our circulation and allow efficient inventory control. Two new self-service kiosks will be installed in the main lobby and the Children's Room in September.

In December 2025, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced that it had reinstated all federal grants that were previously cut by the federal government. As a result, the MBLC renewed access to some of the statewide databases, including Transparent Language.

In honor of America's 250th Anniversary, the Library collaborated with the Wayland Rev250 Committee to offer programs related to this historic milestone. Notable programs included *Revolutionary Taverns*

with Gretchen Schuler and *What a Glorious Crash They Made: Music of the Revolution* by Richard Franklin Donohue.

Our Tech 101 service allows patrons to pre-register or walk-in for one-on-one tech help with a Reference staff member for help with iPhones and other personal devices, and continues to be appreciated by our patrons.

Technical Services

The Library began using the acquisitions module in Sierra to track our books and materials expenditures, helping streamline our books and materials orders, as well as our bookkeeping and accounting.

Local History Collection

Our local history materials are being relocated and returned to the ‘cage’ on the mezzanine to ensure the long-term preservation of these important materials. A finding aid will be created to assist patrons in locating materials.

A new, portable Scan-Pro 2500 microfilm reader-printer/scanner that connects directly to a PC, allowing patrons to scan individual newspaper articles in digital format, replaced our old reader-printer.

Library Usage for FY24 - FY26

Library Usage	FY24	FY25	FY26
Total Circulation (including interlibrary loans)	276,981	289,554	276,363
Total Library Visits	76,482	77,051	77,313
Total Program Attendance	12,033	*8,091	11,788
Total Number of Programs	532	*495	733
Total Electronic Usage	57,953	83,813	80,860
Total Reference Transactions	8,216	11,609	11,921

*The total number of programs & attendance in FY25 was impacted by the repair and maintenance work in the Children’s Room from January–March, when the main meeting room was being used for storage.

Youth Services

402 Children and 44 teens participated in the 2025 Summer Reading Program sponsored by the Youth Services department, a 53% increase from the prior year. Highlights for Children included chess, art programs, Irish dance, concerts, live animal and STEM programs, a Noon New Year’s Eve Party, a Dog Man and two K-Pop Demon Hunters parties, juggling, comic workshops, and book clubs for grades K/1, 2/3, and 4/5. For teens, we held D & D programs, Escape Rooms, Teen Teas, After Hours Hide & Seek, and Switch Game Tournaments. We also hosted teen pizza nights during midyear and spring exams and ran a full week of de-stress activities for teens during spring exams. Library staff visited each elementary school and the middle school to promote our Summer Reading programs. We collaborated with Family ACCESS Early Literacy Services, the Recreation Department, and several Wayland community groups on offsite programming. We increased the Spanish language section, our read-along collection, and our

board game collection in the Children's Room, and created a manga section and a light novel section in the Teen Loft.

Friends of the Wayland Free Library

The Friends contributed \$34,000 towards museum passes, adult programming, the Cookbook Club, Summer Reading programs, and other Youth Services programs this past year. The Friends continued their ongoing Book Sale in the Raytheon Room and hallway on the lower level of the Library and began accepting online payments through PayPal.

Trust and Gift Funds

The Board of Library Trustees governs the use of state aid, as well as trust and gifts funds that are separate from the Library's operating budget. Trustees used these funds to support another year of our Outreach & Home Delivery Services, which began in FY2025 using federal grant funds. Other expenditures included offering free period products in the public restrooms, a new digital microfilm reader, support for the Conversation for Change series, and continued support of the ESOL tutor-training program. Library gift and trust fund investments are managed by the Trust Fund Commission. The expenditure of all trust and gift funds in FY2025 totaled \$4,590.00. We also expended \$23,468.66 in state aid funds distributed by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) this past year.

A reason to celebrate! Bill H4137 is law! Chapter 119 of the Acts of 2026

On June 30, 2026, Governor Maura Healey signed Bill H4137 into law establishing "The Millennium Fund of the town of Wayland Free Public Library." It ensures that donations made to the Library, along with all past and future investment earnings, will remain with this fund dedicated to supporting the Library for generations to come. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who supported Article 11 at the 2025 Annual Town Meeting authorizing the creation of the Millennium Fund and helping secure the future of private giving to our Library. We thank Town Manager Michael McCall, Select Board members especially Bill Whitney, Senator James Eldridge, Representatives David Linsky and Carmine Gentile for their staunch support of this Bill. Trustees also thank Board Chair, Aida Gennis for her institutional knowledge, research and collaboration with the Town and Legislators to shepherd this bill into law.

An Appreciation

We extend our deep appreciation to our experienced library staff, and our dedicated volunteers who donated 287 hours of service to the Library this past year and to Town Manager Michael McCall and his staff. We are also grateful for the Friends of the Library and their continued support and generosity, in supplementing Town operating funds and the Wayland Garden Club for the lovely flower arrangements that graced our front desk and their dedicated care of the Friends' garden. As we enter our 178th year, our deepest appreciation goes to the residents of Wayland, whose overwhelming support of our Bill has helped create a lasting legacy for the Wayland Free Public Library and whose continued support enables us to meet the educational, informational, and recreational needs of our community now and in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Library Trustees

Aida A. Gennis, Chair

Leah Hart, Vice-Chair

Emily Weintraub, Secretary

Win Treese

Candace Hetzner

Anna Blazier

Christopher Lindquist, Library Director

Summary of Library Statistics, Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026

HOLDINGS	FY2025	FY2026
Adult Book Holdings	28,848	28,322
Adult E-Book Holdings	65,769	69,551
Adult Audio Holdings	5,377	4,701
Adult Video Holdings	8,299	8,166
Adult Downloadable Audio Holdings	62,872	70,556
Total Adult Materials Holdings	43,197	41,835
Teen Book Holdings	3,746	3,700
Teen E-Book Holdings	8,443	9,000
Teen Downloadable Audio Holdings	8,804	9,679
Total Teen Materials Holdings	3,845	3,800
Children's Book Holdings	26,876	26,365
Children's E-Book Holdings	15,989	16,520
Children's Downloadable Audio Holdings	11,108	12,287
Total Children's Materials Holdings	28,174	27,519
TOTAL PRINT MATERIALS HOLDINGS	59,470	58,541
TOTAL E-BOOK HOLDINGS	90,201	95,071
TOTAL DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO HOLDINGS	82,784	92,522
Print Serial Subscriptions	93	163
Electronic Serial Subscriptions	5,976	6,704
CIRCULATION	FY2025	FY2026
Local Electronic Collections Circulation	22,052	18,759
Network Electronic Collections Circulation	57,306	62,101
Adult Book Circulation	56,993	52,496
Adult Audio Circulation	4,174	3,947
Adult Video Circulation	13,380	11,581
Adult E-Book Circulation	36,152	36,873
Adult Downloadable Audio Circulation	35,252	39,106
Total Adult Circulation	155,124	152,711
Teen Book Circulation	8,708	7,872
Total Teen Circulation	8,933	8,090

CIRCULATION	FY2025	FY2026
Children's Book Circulation	74,256	75,601
Total Children's Circulation	78,860	79,777
TOTAL BOOK CIRCULATION	139,957	135,969
TOTAL E-BOOK CIRCULATION	36,152	36,873
TOTAL VIDEO CIRCULATION	15,301	13,055
TOTAL DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO CIRCULATION	35,252	39,106
TOTAL DIRECT CIRCULATION	252,049	251,550
Interlibrary Loans Received from Other Libraries	39,753	37,149
Interlibrary Loans Sent to Other Libraries	37,505	35,785
PROGRAMS & SERVICES	FY2025	FY2026
Number of Adult Programs	290	307
Total Attendance at Adult Programs	3,265	3,080
Number of Teen Programs	19	47
Total Attendance at Teen Programs	179	606
Number of Programs for Ages Birth - 5	160	179
Total Attendance at Programs for Ages Birth - 5	3,179	4,635
Number of Programs for Ages 6 - 11	190	191
Total Attendance at Programs for Ages 6 - 11	1,263	2,953
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	495	733
TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE	*9,241	11,788
TOTAL REFERENCE TRANSACTIONS	11,609	11,921
TOTAL MEETING ROOM USES	**237	430
TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS	77,051	77,313
***TOTAL REGISTERED BORROWERS	6,534	6,812
****TRUST FUND BALANCES (as of 6/30/2025 and 6/30/2026)		
The Millennium Fund	\$1,508,811	\$1,703,047
Other funds	\$784,068	\$824,565
Total Funds Balance	\$2,292,879	\$2,527,612

*FY2025 and FY2026 Total Program Attendance includes attendance at school outreach visits.

**FY2025 Total Meeting Room Uses was impacted by the repair and maintenance work in the Children's Room from January–March 2025, when the Raytheon Room was being used for storage.

***FY2025 and FY2026 Total Registered Borrowers includes all Wayland Free Public Library cardholders.

****FY2025 and FY2026 Trust Fund Balances reflect Ending Market Values.

Footnote: The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the federal agency that provides grant funds in support of libraries in all fifty states, including Massachusetts, no longer collected holdings and circulation data relating to electronic usage as of FY2025.