



LONG RANGE PLAN

2027-2030

Approved August 10, 2026

MISSION

Bethlehem Public Library (the “Library”) strives to enhance the quality of life and promote the general welfare of the residents of the Bethlehem Library District and the greater Capital Region by providing equitable access to inclusive physical and digital resources, programs, and services that foster lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, professional growth, and informed civic engagement.

VISION STATEMENT

The Library will serve as a “third place” for the community — a welcoming, accessible space where residents can gather, learn, create, and connect. It fulfills this role by providing access to physical and digital collections, offering educational programs, targeted age-appropriate curricula, and lifelong learning opportunities. Making available spaces for collaboration, discussion, and community engagement and, when possible, supporting other organizations. Guided by these principles, the Library continually evaluates and adapts its services to meet evolving community needs and to foster an informed, engaged, and educated community.

STRATEGIC AREAS

Connecting Our Community

Inclusion: The Library is committed to fostering an inclusive environment for all patrons through awareness of and responsiveness to the diverse communities it serves. The Library will provide equitable access to a broad range of materials, services, and programs that reflect diverse perspectives, experiences, and interests.

Fellowship and Learning: The Library will serve as a welcoming gathering place that strengthens community connections by providing opportunities for residents to come together in both small and large groups for learning, exploration, discussion, and shared experiences.

Community Outreach: The Library will extend its reach beyond its physical walls by exploring alternative service points and developing partnerships with local organizations. As a community hub, the Library will connect residents with available resources, services, and opportunities throughout the Capital Region and beyond.

Access to Resources and Services: The Library will provide equitable and broad access to information, technology, collections, programs, and services, ensuring that all community members have the opportunity to learn, engage, and thrive.

Physical Maintenance and Sustainability: The Library will ensure that the physical facilities are maintained or enhanced in a manner that supports its resources and services. The Library will strive to implement sustainable practices.