

Sno-Isle Libraries: Lake Stevens Library

December, 2021

Sno-Isle Libraries provides library services and resources which support the vibrancy and advancement of the entire library district which includes the Lake Stevens community. Sno-Isle Libraries financial position is strong, with sufficient reserves to meet our commitments.

We have many attributes and advantages that move us forward to achieve our vision of connecting everyone to their library. Fiscal stewardship is of utmost importance to the community we serve, our Board, our leadership team, and our staff. It's our duty to make financially sound decisions and plans for the long-term financial sustainability of our library district. Our decades of clean audits continue to help us maintain our strong financial position.

Like you, our organization is thoughtful and rigorous in determining the level of resources needed to implement strategic priorities and core services. Our approach to long-term planning for fiscal stability is an important part of our system of internal controls. We work with the State Auditor's Office to advance best practices and are proud of our record of no audit findings during the 30 past consecutive years.

The value that residents receive extends beyond municipal boundaries.

As a two-county rural library district, Sno-Isle Libraries is funded by a voter-approved levy collected from all property owners within the library district, state timber tax revenue, and grants. Those operational funds are prioritized to fund library services for all residents of the library district whether in-person or through our many online services and programs. The library system's operation and delivery of services are based on the overall geography of the district, and not typically apportioned or tracked by other civic or municipal boundaries within the district.

The 2022 Sno-Isle Libraries operating budget is based on all 23 Sno-Isle community library buildings being fully open to the public along with a comprehensive offering of library programs and services. The \$66.6 million budget includes a full complement of open hours and library staffing. The budget supports a sustainable increase for the collection and funding to continue some of the expanded library services, programming, and health and safety procedures that were started during the pandemic. Strategic investments will be made to ensure customers and staff experience spaces that are welcoming, inclusive, and easy-to-use. Both our online and in-building spaces will inspire our customers and staff, while continuing to emphasize health and safety with adherence to CDC guidelines. The Sno-Isle Library District will continue to ensure good stewardship of resources while optimizing funding that is diversified and sustainable.

Revenue and expenditures

The following table summarizes the revenues collected within the boundaries of the City of Lake Stevens and provides general estimates of the expenditures incurred operating the library facility in Lake Stevens and providing library services for its residents.

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An important value element to account for is that there are many services that are always available to all members of the community – the library collection, website, eBooks and eAudio, Homework Help, online programming and other online resources.

Another significant part of library district operations support customer service across the district. These include facility and technology maintenance, technology infrastructure, library collection circulation and delivery systems, and mobile services. We are also able to calculate the general cost of locally located services –the expenditures that keep the services available and library open at the location in Lake Stevens.

This summary represents the cost of locally located services, a distributed proportion of the customer service support costs, and the full cost of the services that are all always available to all residents of Lake Stevens:

Lake Stevens Library - Statement of Revenue and Expenses	2021 (Projected)	2020	2019	2018	2017	Notes
Revenue						
Property Tax	2,253,000	2,123,000	2,040,000	1,437,000	1,381,000	City of Lake Stevens Assessed Value * SIL Levy Rate
Expenditures						
Locally located services	(988,000)	(660,000)	(658,000)	(677,000)	(662,000)	Staff, programs for all ages, maintenance, contract services
Customer service support	(738,000)	(753,000)	(676,000)	(648,000)	(605,000)	System resources that support delivery of services
Always available services	(6,964,000)	(7,809,000)	(7,335,000)	(6,801,000)	(6,309,000)	Library collection, eBooks and eAudio, Homework Help, online resources including programs, Ask-A-Librarian, the website and catalog
Total Expenditures	(8,690,000)	(9,222,000)	(8,669,000)	(8,126,000)	(7,576,000)	
	(6,437,000)	(7,099,000)	(6,629,000)	(6,689,000)	(6,195,000)	

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Notes:

1. Some services costs in 2020 were impacted by Governor Jay Inslee's declaration of emergency (via proclamation 20-05 issued on February 29, 2020), as well as public health agency and government mandated restrictions on in-person services.
2. Some services costs in 2021 were impacted by reduced operations at a pop-up location after demolition of the old library.
3. The 2021 locally located services costs include \$320,000 towards tenant improvements to the city-owned building on Grade Road for the new temporary library.
4. In 2021, Sno-Isle Libraries secured \$3.1M from the State Legislature towards construction of a new public library in Lake Stevens.

Though dividing the costs of always available services by municipality is not an accurate picture of the value provided by a service district, we want to provide a version that gives some idea. In this table expenditures for always available services are distributed based on the population served in the City of Lake Stevens:

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Revenue						
Property Tax	2,253,000	2,123,000	2,040,000	1,437,000	1,381,000	City of Lake Stevens Assessed Value * SIL Levy Rate
Expenditures						
Locally located services	(988,000)	(660,000)	(658,000)	(677,000)	(662,000)	Staff, programs for all ages, maintenance, contract services
Customer service support	(738,000)	(753,000)	(676,000)	(648,000)	(605,000)	System resources that support delivery of services
Always available services (per capita)	(300,000)	(336,000)	(315,000)	(292,000)	(271,000)	Library collection, eBooks and eAudio, Homework Help, online resources including programs, Ask-A-Librarian, the website and catalog
Total Expenditures	(2,026,000)	(1,749,000)	(1,649,000)	(1,617,000)	(1,538,000)	
	(227,000)	(374,000)	(391,000)	180,000	157,000	

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In some ways all the services provided by the library district are always available to all Lake Stevens residents. For example, they can borrow materials or attend events at other library locations. For these breakdowns, we kept things broad and used only these most prominent examples of services that are always available to all residents:

Lake Stevens Library - Statement of Revenue and Expenses	2021 (Projected)	2020	2019	2018	2017
Library collection (books and DVDs)	2,068,000	3,435,000	3,772,000	3,354,000	3,349,000
eBooks and eAudio	3,814,000	2,997,000	2,763,000	2,597,000	2,035,000
Web Site, online library catalogue, connectivity,	500,000	500,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Digital resources – Homework Help, small business support, research, consumer reports, car repair database, genealogy	582,000	877,000	500,000	550,000	625,000
Always available services	6,964,000	7,809,000	7,335,000	6,801,000	6,309,000

Conclusion:

We appreciate the opportunity to serve and meet the needs of the Lake Stevens community. We are steadfastly committed to our values of welcoming, learning, equity, community, inclusion, and respect. Sno-Isle Libraries continues to lead with our vision as our guide. We appreciate our partnership with the City of Lake Stevens to provide public library services that make our communities stronger.

You can discover all of our services at www.sno-isle.org