

Mendon Public Library

Sustainable Facilities Plan

The Mendon Public Library will strive to have current and future facilities that will be functional, accessible, safe, welcoming and diverse. We will work with the community, staff and board members to create a plan that meets current and unexpected needs when considering any change or additions to the current library facility. Adopted by the Mendon Public Library Board of Trustees on September 14, 2026.

Library Facility Goals

In fulfilling the charge to maintain a facility that meets the library's and community's needs, directors and their board should work to create sustainable, resilient, biophilic and regenerative library facility that is designed to respond to current and anticipated needs. This will require consideration of accessibility, flexibility, and the health and well-being of library workers as well as the public.

Operational procedures for library facilities should reflect a commitment to environmental stewardship by conserving energy and water; producing healthy indoor air quality and natural light for patrons and staff. The library should also respect the source and amount of natural resources being used to construct, maintain, and furnish the facility.

Library facilities are increasingly seen as a place of refuge in the face of climate change-driven impacts on our communities. Library facilities not only house traditional library services but are also called upon as cooling and warming centers, sanctuaries from air pollution caused by wildfires, and "first restorer" hubs that help the community find refuge during extended power outages and in the aftermath of major, destructive weather events.

The concept of libraries as "first restorers" requires strong work in the area of not only disaster preparedness but also a library's contribution to the resilience of their community. First restorers help community members pick up the pieces after a disruptive event. This can include the use of library facilities as a pick-up point for needed supplies like water, food and ice; library staff trained to help community members connect with the State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies' resources; and providing connections to electricity and the Internet to stay connected with family, work, and access the resources they need in the aftermath of a disaster.

The future of library facility planning should prioritize sustainable and resilient design, ensuring the library facility will stand up to the test of increasingly severe weather,

including storms, heat waves, and the potential for extended power outages, given the current and predicted impact of climate change on our communities. The implementation of whole building generators, increasing the number of electrical outlets, emergency communication equipment, and alternative and renewable energy sources can all contribute to the resilience of the library facility and increase the likelihood that your library can be what your community needs in challenging times.

Future Construction and Renovation

Sometimes the library can only meet the needs of a growing community by adding to, or reconstructing, existing space or building an entirely new facility. A major capital project requires a complex and extensive planning process that may require the Board to seek the services of a consultant or library system staff.

All future construction should start by understanding our goals, constraints and opportunities. These elements should be written into a document that would become the foundation of communication between the library and design professionals. All new building should reaffirm our sustainability mission, goals, staff and community needs.

The board will consider:

- A meeting space that accommodates 100 people to help in the goal of being a first restorer as well as to meet community educational needs.
- Net-zero design and energy efficiency investigate meeting a sustainable designation such as being [Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design](#) (LEED) certified, or participating the [Green Globes](#) or [Living Building Challenge](#).
- Input from staff, the board and the community
- Outdoor spaces such as parking lots, community gardens, performance spaces, reading areas, children learning centers, makers spaces will also be considered
- A biophilic design that will meet the needs of library staff and the community

Citation

<https://nyslibrary.libguides.com/HandbookForDirector> updated: Feb 4, 2026 10:47 AM

[Link to NYS lib guide](#)