

FAQ – 2010 Greenburgh Public Library Budget

Libraries provide a benefit to individuals

How much would similar services cost?

Value of Some Services Provided by the Greenburgh Library in 2009			
1/1/09 to 11/30/09 Quantity Used	Library Service	Retail Value	Value of Services
267,358	Books Borrowed	\$18.00	\$4,812,444.00
4,050	Magazines/Periodicals Borrowed	\$3.57	\$14,458.50
192,034	DVDs Borrowed	\$3.00	\$576,102.00
45,336	CDs Borrowed	\$12.00	\$544,032.00
22,261	Audio Books Borrowed	\$22.74	\$506,215.14
56,800	Borrowed from other libraries	\$2.00	\$113,600.00
3,114	Adult Programs Attendance	\$18.00	\$56,052.00
491	Young Adult Programs Attendance	\$18.00	\$8,838.00
6,421	Children's Programs Attendance	\$15.00	\$96,315.00
378	Meeting Room Use	\$75.00	\$28,350.00
35,789	Hours of Computer Use	\$12.00	\$429,468.00
65,213	Reference Questions Answered	\$7.25	\$472,794.25
2009 TOTAL =			\$7,658,668.90

Based on Library Value Calculator found on the Greenburgh Public Library website.

Library's value to society and the local economy

Research shows that public libraries are a good investment.

- In Florida, every dollar of public support spent on public libraries was found to increase income or wages by \$12.66 and return \$6.54 for every dollar invested. (Source: <http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/bld/roi/pdfs/ROISummaryReport.pdf>)
- In South Carolina, the total direct and indirect return on investment for every \$1 spent on public libraries by state and local governments was shown to be \$4.48...nearly 350 percent. (Source: <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/SCEIS/exsummary.pdf>)
- In Wisconsin, a 2008 study concluded that public libraries contribute to the state economy with a \$4.06 return on investment in public library services for each taxpayer dollar spent. (Source: <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/pdf/wiimpactsummary.pdf>)
- An Ohio study of four public library systems also confirmed an annual economic impact of nearly four times the amount invested in their operations. (Source: <http://9libraries.info/>)

How do public libraries make this impact?

They help people get on their feet:

- With technology
 - Greenburgh Public Library computers and Internet access help people find work, apply for jobs online, and type resumes and cover letters and open email accounts. Did you know that only 44 percent of the top 100 U.S. retailers accepted in-store paper applications last year - down from 68 percent in 2004? And that the number of companies accepting paper applications is expected to decline rapidly over the next few years?
(Source: <http://www.ere.net/2007/01/>)

- With expert staff
 - Our librarians provide training and guidance in use of library resources for resume preparation, interview skills, job and company research, sources for job training and placement. All of our full-time librarians are required by the State of New York to have a Masters Degree in Library Science.
- With a wide range of free resources
 - Our databases, books, and research tools help entrepreneurs and experienced business owners manage and grow their businesses.

They help people save money:

- During economic downturns, people...
 - want to borrow more and buy less
 - cut back on their entertainment budget (dining out, going to the movies, etc)
 - rely even more on libraries for free reading, listening and viewing options and free activities for the whole family

Greenburgh Public Library helps people economize...

- It loans hundreds of thousands of materials for education and entertainment
- It provides study tables, computers, literacy classes, programs and the technology workshops offered by the Library are full
- Over 4,900 people continue to visit every week

Libraries are a bridge to opportunity.

- The Greenburgh Public Library supports adults and children learning to speak and read English
- It is a resource for those in need
- It helps level the playing field
- This contributes to employment, school success, citizenship, a strong local economy and community life

Libraries are an educational support system for people of all ages.

- Critical for early childhood development and family support
- Critical for children in school
 - Who need support throughout to advance reading, learning and motivation
- Critical for adults
 - Those with low educational attainment
 - Those with low literacy skills
 - Those that need training or retraining for job readiness or advancement
 - And everyone else.

Libraries say something about a community and its local government.

A public library is one factor people use to decide...

- What kind of community is this?
- Is there art, culture, community life?
- Are there healthy, safe, free options for people, young and old?
- Is the community well run and well maintained?
- Is it a place where I want to live, buy a house, raise my family, open a business, pay taxes, get involved, contribute my expertise, time, money?

And public libraries are busier than ever.

Did you know that:

- Americans go to libraries 50 percent more than they go to the movies?
- 68% of adults in the U.S. have public library cards?
- And in the Town of Greenburgh, that...
 - ***The Greenburgh Library handled nearly 600,000 items through November of 2009***

The value side of the public library picture is positive.

The funding side isn't.

- Budget realities have forced cutbacks at the Greenburgh Public Library for more than just last two years.
- The Library has operated with a loss of 6 full time staff over the six previous years
 - ***The Greenburgh Public Library will operate in 2010 with its smallest full-time staff in over 16 years.***
- Since 2008, funding for new materials has been cut by almost \$270,000
- The 2010 Library funding is a return to pre - 2003 budget levels.

Budget increases for more than a decade have primarily gone to personnel, benefits, and utilities. To learn more click here:

<http://www.greenburghlibrary.org/pdf/FAOSTATS.pdf>

History of Full Time Library Staffing

2005 = 28
2006 = 26
2007 = 25
2008 = 24
2009 = 23*
2010 = 22

**In anticipation of the reduced 2010 operating budget, a full-time employee who retired has not been replaced.*

What's the impact of the 2010 Budget?

How much was cut?

Adopted Budget 2005 = \$3,582,245
Adopted Budget 2006 = \$3,690,969
Adopted Budget 2007 = \$3,286,132
Adopted Budget 2008 = \$3,440,046
Adopted Budget 2009 = \$3,272,000
Adopted Budget 2010 = \$3,138,840

What areas of the budget decreased?

- The budget for part-time librarians, clerks and pages is reduced by \$150,000
- The roster of full-time employees is reduced by 1.
- The budget for books, audio books, magazines, music CDs and DVDs is reduced by 45% to just over \$82,000.
- Building Maintenance expenses are reduced by \$85,900

What costs had to be increased?

- Medical and pension benefits, MTA tax, electricity, copier rental, CSEA salaries

What are the service impacts?

- Reduced hours of operation
- Short staffing at all public service desks:
 - longer waits at check out
 - shelving backlogs as full time staff perform additional library tasks previously accomplished by part-time workers
- Greatly reduced purchasing of new books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and reference materials
- Reduced programming & outreach
- Use of collection agency

Reduced Hours of Operation as of January 3, 2010:

Monday	10AM – 5:30PM
Tuesday	10AM – 9:00PM
Wednesday	10AM – 9:00PM
Thursday	10AM – 5:30PM
Friday	10AM – 5:30PM
Saturday	10AM – 5:30PM
Sundays	CLOSED

Why have the Library's hours been reduced?

- Reduced hours are required for savings on utilities and staff.
- The new budget does not provide for sufficient personnel to staff the current 58.5-hour, 7-day, 3-night service schedule. Part-time help must be reduced to prevent layoffs of full-time employees and maintain operations.
- Minimum levels of staff are needed during each hour open to work with the public and manage inventory, building and systems.

How were the new hours of operation chosen?

- Many variations of a reduced schedule were examined. Each day was analyzed for service provided and number of staff required in order to maintain the Library's schedule.
- Every day of the week is busy.
- Every day and time is important to our residents, weekdays as much as weekends.
- Nights are less busy, but important to people who cannot come at other times.
- Assuming minimum staffing, we determined that a 52 hour a week schedule would still be manageable.
- Savings on utilities had to be considered. Closing from Saturday at 5:30PM to Monday at 10:00AM allows the lights to be turned off and the building temperature to be lowered. These measures should result in reduced expenditures for electricity.
- The chosen schedule maintains consistent summer and winter, evening and weekend hours.
- We do not believe this schedule is ideal or, hopefully, permanent.
- We know many people will be disappointed and expect more, and we agree. We will work with all groups towards solutions for better levels of funding and service.

How will the budget reductions affect the purchase of new library books, DVDs, CDs, and other library materials?

- This is the 2nd consecutive year in which drastic cuts to our purchasing ability for new materials has been affected. In fact, since 2006, the purchasing budget for the Library has been cut by 71%.
- The reductions are substantial, but we will do our best, as always, to ensure that patron needs and interests are satisfied.
- People can expect fewer new selections in all formats and longer waits for items on reserve.
- The Greenburgh Public Library will continue to purchase a wide variety of materials. We will focus on as many categories as our budget will allow and we will do everything within our power to make sure that the Library has the most popular materials. Funds will be managed to proportionately meet as many needs as possible.

What about the Greenburgh Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library?

- Funds raised by the Greenburgh Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library are for enhancements to the Library only. This is the legal basis on which donations are solicited.
- People sometimes ask why a tax-supported institution like the Library needs to raise private money. The answer is that it enables the Library to do more and better. We are proud that private donations have saved taxpayer dollars since 1997 by funding improvements and programs that would otherwise not have been possible.

What about volunteers?

- Saving tax dollars on Town staff is an appealing idea, but could only work with services that require little training and little supervision and no specific work schedules.
- All Library service depends on the ability to deliver answers: about the Library's vast collection, what's in it, where it is, how to use it, and policies for access. ***Training, scheduling, supervision, liability, and privacy are key issues.***