

2023 Community Report

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

SNO-ISLE
LIBRARIES

sno-isle.org



SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES

Our Vision

Everyone in our community is **connected** to their library.

Our Mission

We engage and inspire our communities through **equitable access** to knowledge and resources.



Lois Langer Thompson
Executive Director,
Sno-Isle Libraries

In 2023, we enhanced library services, created inspiring spaces, and invested in our communities. Libraries have the power to transform lives and shape the future.

We also welcomed you back into your newly remodeled libraries in Darrington and Edmonds. Our community brought these spaces to life with their stories. You can access excellent library services both in our buildings and online.

At Sno-Isle Libraries, we are committed to connecting more residents to vital internet access. Your library connects you to free online tutoring and courses, job interviews, telehealth appointments, and experiences you value. We bring people together through digital and community experiences.

Your library is your place to learn, innovate, connect, and engage in the joy of reading. Learning is at the heart of the library's mission, and we are a catalyst for enjoyment and growth. Bring your curiosity, and our amazing staff are here to help you along the way.

In 2024, we will continue to build upon our transformative path to ensure our libraries remain inspirational and valuable for years to come. We look forward to building our future with you.



Executive Director



Sno-Isle Libraries' investment in our communities is a commitment to each and every one of you. An investment in early literacy and lifelong learners. Our libraries will be an inspiration for generations to come.

— **Kelli S.**

2023 Board of Trustees President



Welcoming Our Community Back

Sno-Isle Libraries is committed to creating inspiring spaces which are welcoming, inclusive, and easy to use. Each community is unique, and our goal is to reimagine our libraries to reflect and align with each community. Our capital projects are a direct investment in our communities.

Darrington Library

The remodeled Darrington Library opened its doors on September 30, 2023. Sno-Isle Libraries invested \$1.5 million in the Darrington community with this project. Our community can now enjoy an outdoor gathering space, designated children's area, and individual and group study spaces.



Congrats to Sno-Isle Libraries for another great investment in community!

— Bjorn O.

Edmonds Library

Following a devastating flood in 2022, more than 3,000 people joined us in celebrating the remodeled Edmonds Library on January 13, 2024. Sno-Isle Libraries invested over \$2.5 million in the Edmonds community with this project. Our community has a new meeting room, sightlines to our amazing view, and an interactive children's area.



The Future Lake Stevens Library

The Chapel Hill property was cleared to make way for the new Lake Stevens Library. Sno-Isle Libraries will protect and enhance the wetlands by restoring the buffer space and using native plants.

In 2023, we also engaged our communities and moved plans forward for Arlington Library, Langley Library, and Mariner Community Campus. We will continue to create inviting libraries that support needs now and for years to come.



Celebrate the Freedom to Read

With over 1.6 million items, we have something for everyone. Sno-Isle Libraries recognizes and advocates for the freedom for you to choose books for you and your family. Staff create booklists and personalized recommendations to support your interests and provide opportunities to discover something new.

Language Support on Public Computers

As part of our ongoing commitment to create inclusive library spaces, we added language support for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese to improve the reading and writing experience on public computers. The public computers also allow you to change accessibility settings such as pointer size and screen contrast.

Prime Time

Sno-Isle Libraries partners with Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation and Humanities Washington to offer Prime Time, a six-week, elementary-age reading program designed to engage, educate, and support children and their families. This bilingual, Spanish and English, program enhances family engagement and develops critical thinking skills for over 1,800 participants.



We reached a record lifetime milestone of 20 million digital checkouts

3rd Graders Read Together

Third Graders Read Together fosters a lifelong love of reading. In 2023, 65 schools in Snohomish and Island counties participated in the program, reaching an estimated 4,200 third graders.



Building Confidence in Young Readers

Sno-Isle Libraries partners with local organizations to provide reading programs where children can boost their confidence and reading skills by reading aloud to a trained therapy dog.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Sno-Isle Libraries partnered with United Way of Snohomish County to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which puts books into the hands of young readers.



“

It's where you can find any book
or movie you want!

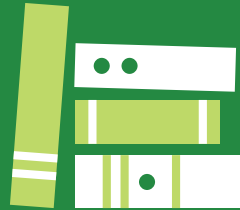
— Susan R.

”

2023 Highlights

Custom Reading Lists

You can now request a personalized reading list or movie suggestions based on your interests. Sno-Isle Librarians will help you find your future favorites in any format or genre.



Building Skills

Your library card helps you build skills with over 24,000 online courses to choose from. Customers enjoyed over 80,000 sessions on LinkedIn Learning.

\$2.5 Million

Community Impact

In 2023, the Foundation raised over \$2.5 million to expand the reach and services of Sno-Isle Libraries. This includes a \$1.8 million bequest from the estate of John and Betty Parks to benefit the Snohomish Library.



Advocating for Libraries

Sno-Isle Libraries collaborates with local, county, and state officials to ensure ongoing support for library programs and services. In 2023, library leadership engaged with 12 city and town councils and two county councils to effectively serve our communities' evolving needs.



Expanded Online Newspapers

Customers used their library card to open trusted national news sources like *The New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*, more than 829,700 times in 2023. Sno-Isle Libraries also added unlimited customer access to articles online for the *Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*.





Free Online Tutors

Students accessed over 13,000 online tutoring sessions. Your library card provides free online tutoring in every subject, seven days a week. Tutors provide support in English and Spanish.



I'm often shocked by how many options are available that you can use at your local library. I encourage you to look what's available and see how the library can help you.

— Tyler



Get Crafty with Creativebug

Sno-Isle Libraries launched Creativebug in 2023, a digital collection of more than one thousand arts and crafts classes. It also includes downloadable templates and patterns. Our community of artists and makers utilized this service more than 6,000 times.

SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES

Your Place

Everyone is welcome at the library. Your community library is a place for discovery. Sno-Isle Libraries staff are available to help you connect with services, uncover something new, and make recommendations.

Investing in Digital Equity

Snohomish County government invested \$1.5 million in Sno-Isle Libraries' digital equity initiative. The funds will add 750 loanable computers with hot spots and expand Sno-Isle Libraries' Digital Navigator Program. All 23 Sno-Isle Libraries provide free Wi-Fi access for communities to browse the internet, as well as assistance from library staff.



Meet Leadership and Board of Trustees

The Sno-Isle Libraries' Board of Trustees is a volunteer board of seven trustees representing Snohomish and Island counties. Sno-Isle Libraries' Board of Trustees reaffirmed our commitment to capital projects and equity.

Leadership



Lois Langer Thompson
Executive Director



David Durante
Deputy Director



Barb Adams
Human Resources Director



Nick Fuchs
Technical Services Director



Christina Kourteva
Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation Executive Director



Diane Lai
Community Libraries Director



Rebecca Loney
Planning and Fund Development Director

2023 Board of Trustees



Kelli Smith
President



Rose Olson
Vice President



Paul Ryan
Secretary



Michael Adams



Jennifer DePrey



Susan Kostick



Martin Munguia



◀ Scan to learn more

By the Numbers

2 Counties | 800K+ Residents | 23 Libraries | 463 Employees



3.36 Million
Physical Items Checked Out



4.48 Million
Digital Items Checked Out



4.23 Million
Website Visits




6,477
Summer Reading Finishers
representing more than 2.4 million minutes read and a 95% school participation rate. Over 1,800 books were delivered to kids and teens enrolled at 15 Boys & Girls Clubs.




121,796
Attendees at in-person and online events




4,553
Events (667 online and 3,886 in-person)




1.02 Million
Wi-Fi Connections



275,237
Public Computer Sessions




3,222
Laptop + Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts



967,906
Printing Jobs

15,477 Visits to the Bookmobile





46,209
Books Delivered to Childcare Centers



\$77 Million
Expenditures

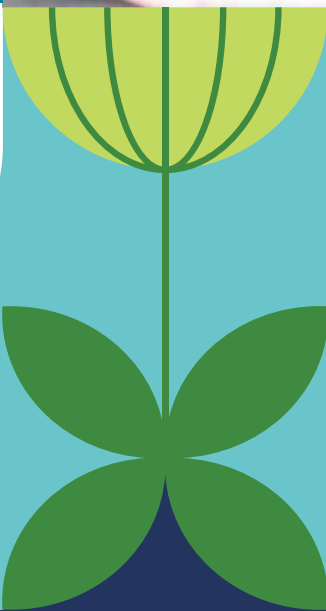


37
Years
Clean Audits



\$75.4 Million
Revenue


- 87.5% Taxes**
- 9.8% Grants**
- 2.7% Other**
(Investments, Donations, e-rate, Board Approved Bonds, Other)



Connect with Us

 360.651.7000

 sno-isle.org/contact-us

 7312 35th Ave. NE
Marysville, WA 98271



SNO-ISLE
LIBRARIES

