

LIBRARY SERVICES

MAY 2026

BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Author Talk: Doug Tallamy

In partnership with the Des Moines County Master Gardeners and the Leopold Landscape Alliance the Burlington Public Library was proud to host New York Times best-selling author, Doug Tallamy. As the creator of Homegrown National Park and professor at the University of Delaware, Doug visited Burlington to give us hope and tangible ways to help our surrounding environment.



Following Doug's presentation at The Capitol Theater, the Leopold Landscape Alliance opened up the Starker/Leopold House for a reception in Doug's honor, in addition to housing Doug overnight at the Leopold house.

This partnership between the library, Master Gardeners and LLA showcased how local community pooling of resources can have a large impact. Funding from the Murray Foundation and the Master Gardeners made this night possible, and the LLA and Capitol Theater went above and beyond to make it a night to remember.

Civic Lit: Candidate Forums

As we gear up to celebrate America 250, BPL's civic literacy initiatives have led to a partnership with the Southeast Iowa League of Women Voters for ongoing voter registration every month as well as public candidate forums here at the library. Ahead of the June 2nd primary election, the League and the Hawk Eye hosted public candidate forums here at the library for the House District 99 candidates as well as the open Des Moines County Board of Supervisors candidates.

New Program: Mahjong

Based on feedback we received from an online survey requesting mahjong classes, the library was eager to launch our own mahjong meet-up this month. Taking note from the West Branch Public Library that has been successfully hosting their own mahjong club, and determining that this program fits in with our values of community and learning we launched our own mahjong meet-up with great success!



New Program: Babysitting 101

Summer is right around the corner and with that comes new babysitters ready to take care of our community's kids. To give these new babysitters a chance to learn the basics of child development, first aid and CPR, library resources, and financial literacy we hosted a 4-week Babysitting 101 series.

The lead preschool teacher from the Burlington Community School District, Burlington Fire Department, F&M Bank and BPL's very own Becky Ruberg led this course and all participants who attended the trainings received their own Babysitting 101 certificate of completion!

Thanks to our community partners for elevating this experience and congratulations to all 27 graduates of our first Babysitting 101 series!



Bookmobile Update

The bookmobile returned with a new interior custom designed by Stivers Ford in Waukee.



This summer the bookmobile will operate as a repository library, giving away free books as well as hosting programs and participating in community events. In June the first routes will be announced and 'Lilly' will hit the road in style to hand out books, join parades, and promote summer reading at the library.

May by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **21,519** (20,990)

Number of Programs: **47** (73)

Program Participants: **2,156** (2,010)

New Borrower Accounts: **83** (86)

Use of online databases: **5,005** (3,792)

WiFi & Computer Use: **3,234** (3,316)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **108** (178)

Home Library: **247** (186)

Meeting Room Reservations: **460** (465)

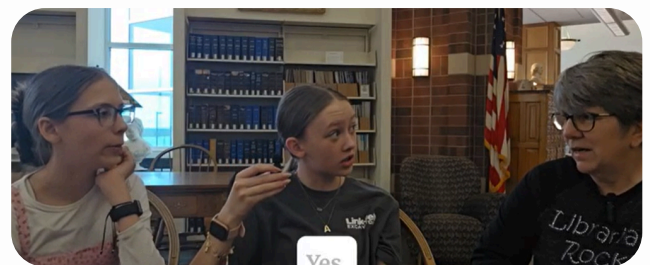
Door Count: **10,311** (10,224)

May '26 / April '26

Burlington History Film

Two BPL staff were featured in a film created by Aldo Leopold students exploring Burlington's history. Nancy Halls and Lois Blythe were both interviewed and featured in this excellent school project, as were several library regulars.

Burlington has a rich history and to feature library staff as well as our building sets this institution at the heart of our collective past, as we are the official archive for the city of Burlington.



Look Down - New Rug!

As part of our current strategic plan we incorporated creative wayfinding goals to help our patrons better navigate the library. Designed by Joseph Burgus, a new welcome mat directs patrons to the new material return. This is a creative and fun way to incorporate helpful information into the building.



Friends' Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Burlington Public Library sold over 9,000 books at their spring book sale this month making \$2,823.70 to support library programs!

May by the Numbers: E-Lending

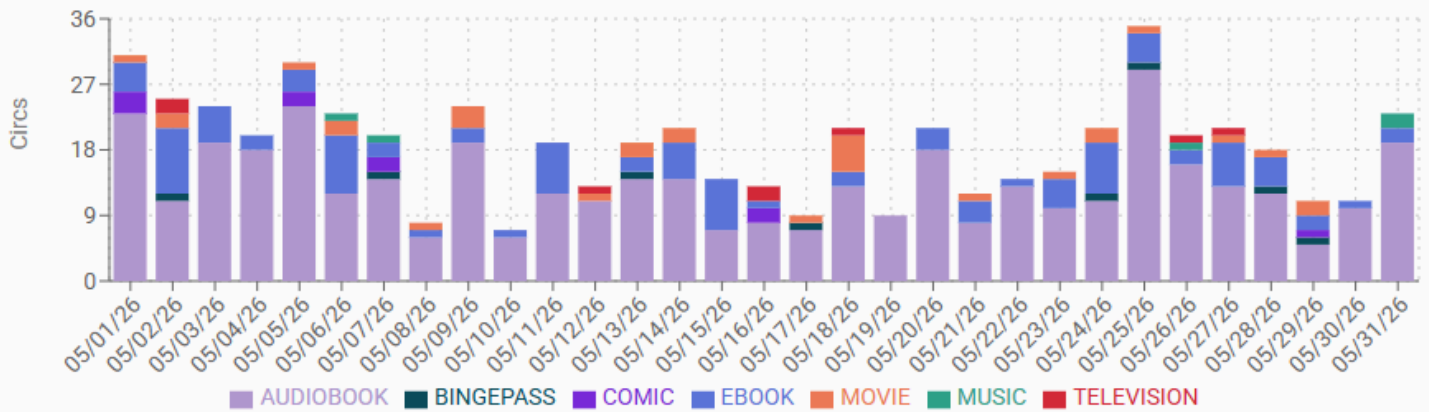
OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla



	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	572	\$1,389.00	320	25	1.8
BURLINGTON Libby	3,623	\$3,507.28 (\$3,002.64 - 4+ hold list \$504.64 - monthly fee)	698	27	5.2
State Libby	305,343	\$131,672.20	61,524	2,376	4.96

Hoopla Detailed Report

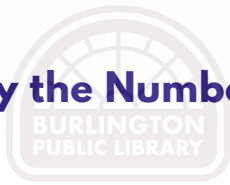
Circulations by Format



Libby State Snapshot

Branch (501)	Checkouts (305,343)	Checkouts (chart)
1 Ames Public Library	20,987	
2 Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library	16,757	
3 West Des Moines Public Library	13,188	
4 Urbandale Public Library	10,296	
5 Council Bluffs Public Library	8,734	
6 Sioux City Public Library	8,548	
7 Waukee Public Library	7,169	
8 Johnston Public Library	6,643	
9 Indianola Public Library	4,802	
10 Dubuque County Library District	4,312	
11 Decorah Public Library	4,191	
12 Burlington Public Library	3,623	
13 Norwalk Easter Public Library	3,456	
14 Marshalltown Public Library	3,449	
15 Altoona Public Library	3,314	
16 Clive Public Library	3,152	
17 Grimes Public Library	3,108	
18 Sioux Center Public Library	3,087	
19 Pella Public Library	3,046	
20 Newton Public Library	3,012	

May by the Numbers: WiFi



Burlington Public Library May-2026

In May, 675 unique patrons used your library WiFi. On average, these patrons visited to use the WiFi on just under 2 individual days.

Change from prior month



1491 ↓ -5.57%

Monthly Sessions



1319 ↓ -1.42%

Total Visits



675 ↓ -1.32%

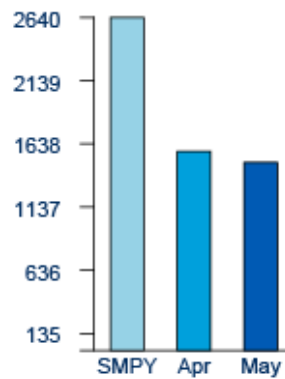
Unique Visitors



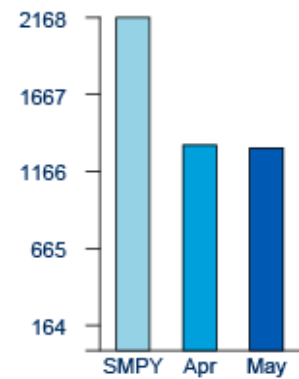
1.95 ↓ -0.51%

Average Return Rate

Total Monthly Session Count

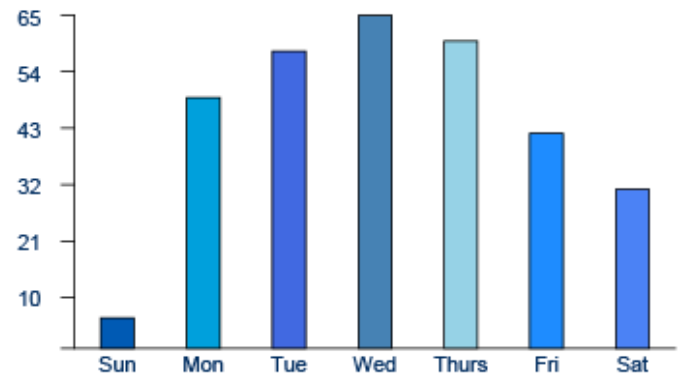


Total Monthly Visits

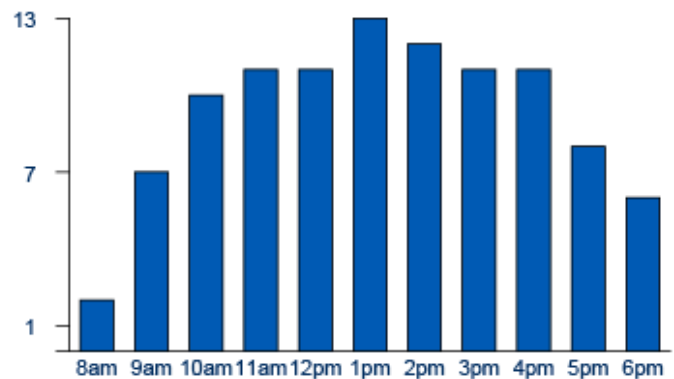


*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

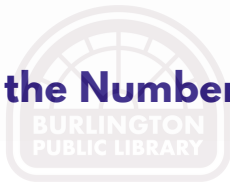
Average Daily Visits



Average Peak Hourly



May by the Numbers: Spaces



Burlington Public Library
May-26

In May, you had 460 bookings overall with a cumulative attendance of 1854 patrons.

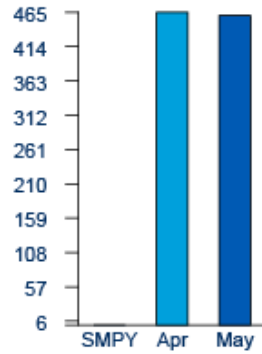
Change from prior month



460 ↓ -1.08%

Total Bookings

Total Monthly Bookings



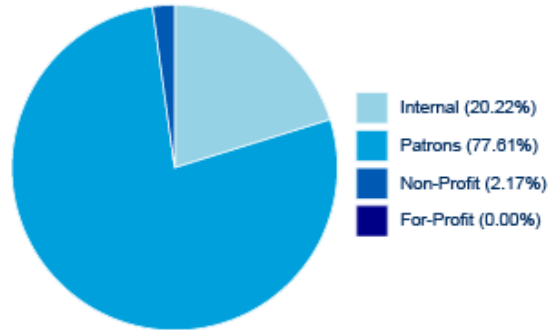
*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year



1854 ↓ -21.31%

Total Attendance

Booking Breakdowns By Percentage



4 ↓ -21.57%

Average Attendance

93 ↓ -19.13%
Internal Bookings

357 ↑ 5%
Patron Bookings

10 ↑ 11.11%
Non-Profit Bookings

0 ↓ -100%
For-Profit Bookings

Booking Breakdown



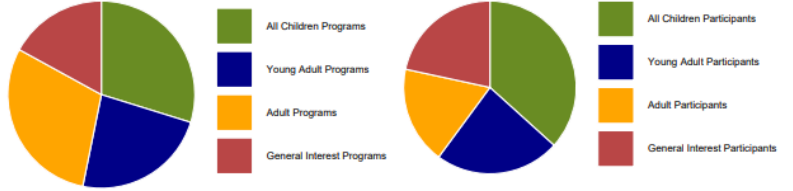
House District 99 Candidate Forum,
Meeting Room A

May by the Numbers: Programs

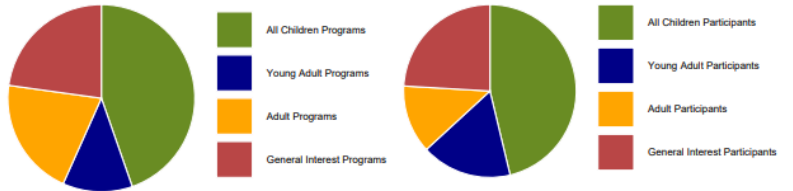


Burlington Public Library
July, 2025 - May, 2026

May					
Overview					
All Children Programs	14	29.79%	All Children Participants	791	36.69%
Young Adult Programs	11	23.4%	Young Adult Participants	505	23.42%
Adult Programs	14	29.79%	Adult Participants	394	18.27%
General Interest Programs	8	17.02%	General Interest Participants	466	21.61%
Total Programs	47		Total Participants	2156	



Year in Review					
Overview					
All Children Programs	233	44.64%	All Children Participants	7437	46.24%
Young Adult Programs	63	12.07%	Young Adult Participants	2724	16.94%
Adult Programs	107	20.5%	Adult Participants	2052	12.76%
General Interest Programs	119	22.8%	General Interest Participants	3871	24.07%
Total Programs	522		Total Participants	16084	



Babysitting101



Doug Tallamy @ The Capitol Theater



BPL's Becky Ruberg with TICOS setting out flags for Memorial Day

May by the Numbers: Programs



Mahjong meet-up in the library's East wing

The Burlington Public Library was one of this year's recipients from the Stamp Out Hunger food drive hosted by the USPS and United Way. Mary Joyce was the library volunteer who built our little free food pantry in 2022 and continues to help keep that resource filled by volunteering at events like this. Thanks to Mary Joyce and everyone who donated to this year's initiative!



Alexandra Cone is with Ross Cone. 1h · 🌐
Audrey had a blast at The [Burlington Public Library](#) Glow Party! Such a fun free community activity! 🍷💖🍷



Summer Kick-Off Glow Party