

LIBRARY SERVICES

MARCH 2026

Notable lowans with Iowa PBS

In partnership with Iowa PBS and in celebration of America 250, the library is hosting the Notable lowans display in the front lobby from March through July.



This display showcases incredible lowans and their impact on society. From Ma ta we qua to George Washington Carver, the showcased stories celebrate Iowa's rich history.

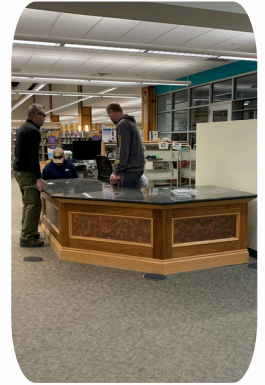
Junior Optimist Conference

On Saturday, March 28, Junior Optimist tweens and teens gathered in Des Moines for their annual Summit, while our local JOI Clubs, TICOS (Teens) and Bright Ideas (Tweens) joined the day via Zoom. BPL's Teen Specialist, Becky Ruberg said the teens/tweens, "participated in the ice breaker game, the team building challenge, and a service project. They listened to the speaker from a homeless shelter working with youth. We enjoyed lunch together and had some activities here just for our teens. It was a great chance to see a bigger picture of JOI than our local clubs."



The Welcome Desk

This month we initiated another phase of our multi-year project to re-orient the space to be more ADA and user-friendly. In 2023 the Burlington Public Library received a grant to have a space consultant audit our facility and provide a report on possible enhancements or changes to enhance the facility.



Our facility is an important component of the three service areas that we cover: resources, programs, and space. By ensuring that we are providing an ADA compliant and user friendly space we are enabling people to independently navigate our resources and attend our programs. With only two service desks for 120,000 annual visitors, an additional point of service was one of the first suggested enhancements in our space audit.

After removing the bulletin board wall, we were able to bring up to the front of the building a welcome desk, printing, faxing, computer use, tech help, and material returns.



New Databases

The Burlington Public Library now offers free access to Udemy, Get SetUp and OneFile! Under the umbrella of Gale, these three databases provide incredible access to a wide variety of classes, research resources, and digital connection.

Gale Presents: Udemy

Udemy provides access to thousands of on-demand video courses for career development spanning across 75 categories.

Gale Presents: GetSetUp

GetSetUp provides live and on-demand classes for adults 55+ to build confidence, spark curiosity, and connect with others.

Gale Presents: OneFile

OneFile is a research database with a collection including over 300 titles ranging from credible articles to magazines, newspapers, and scholarly journals.

March by the Numbers

Total Checkouts: **21,482** (20,122)

Number of Programs: **53** (51)

Program Participants: **1,456** (1,470)

New Borrower Accounts: **103** (109)

Use of online databases: **2,848** (3,069)

WiFi & Computer Use: **3,636** (3,153)

Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: **139** (119)

Home Library: **253** (256)

Meeting Room Reservations: **456** (453)

Door Count: **10,354** (9,581)

March '26 / February '26

Staff Recognition

Bethany Luttnegger celebrated 9 years with BPL on March 13th.

Bethany is the force behind our Vacation Thru Time series as well as our Home Library program. Congrats to her for this significant achievement!



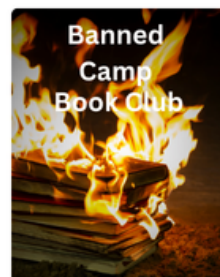
Discovery Readers

Our newest book club covers all things non-fiction, and invites participants to read on a given theme and come prepared for a robust discussion.

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Discovery Readers read titles by or about women. This style of independent reading allows for our rich collection to be tapped, with everyone reading a different book and showcasing what they discovered on our shelves.

This new book club brings our total of in-person clubs to 6, including:

- Banned Camp Book Club
- Beyond the Book Club
- Discovery Readers
- Mystery Book Club
- Silent Book Club
- Spicy Book Club



LIBRARY SERVICES

MARCH 2026

BURLINGTON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Des Moines County Master Gardeners

The record-breaking spring-like March weather brought excited plant enthusiasts into the Library for a mixture of gardening presentations. From honeybee basics and tree grafting to tree planting and wildlife partnerships, eager growers brought their questions and excitement into the one-to-two-hour presentations. Attendance averaged between 10 and 40 attendees at the events.

Held in conjunction with the Library, the March garden-themed programs were hosted by the Des Moines County Master Gardeners as part of their Learning & Discovery Series.

“We saw a variety of gardeners at the Library in early March with many ready to start their home gardens, plant trees, and begin beekeeping,” said Des Moines County Master Gardener Education Committee Chairperson Carol Remick. “We are pleased as Master Gardeners to provide evidence-based horticultural knowledge to the community.”

Two Junior Master Gardener Programs were scheduled for mid-March during many area school’s spring break. Unfortunately, Mother Nature sent a quick blizzard that week, causing the postponement of the Junior Entomologists session. When the snow melted later that week, 23 children and 8 adults attended the second session.

Carol Remick
MG Education Committee Chairperson



March by the Numbers: E-Lending

OverDrive/Libby & Hoopla

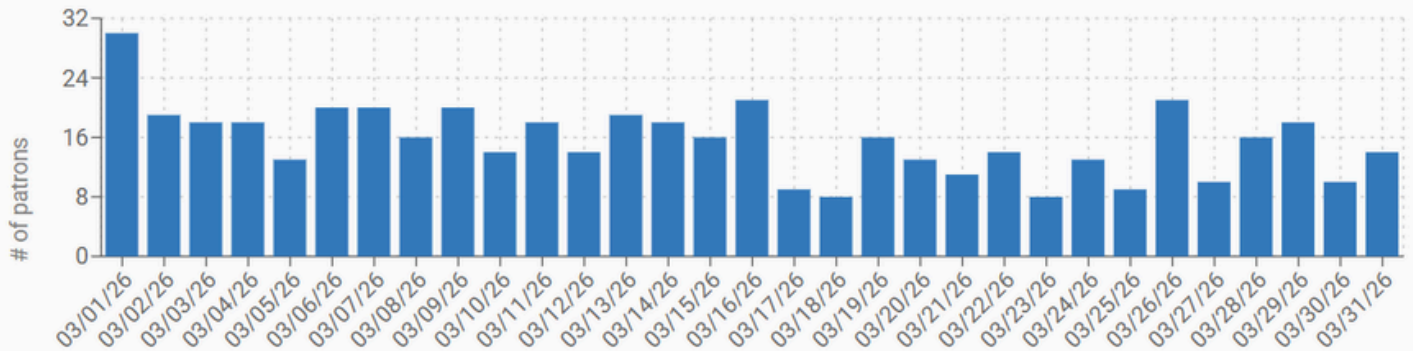


	Total Circulation	Amount Spent	Unique Patrons	New Patrons	Average Circ/Patron
Hoopla	548	\$1,338.38	318	33	1.7
BURLINGTON Libby	3,309	\$504.64	717	34	4.62
State Libby	299,690	\$59,600	62,320	2,557	4.81

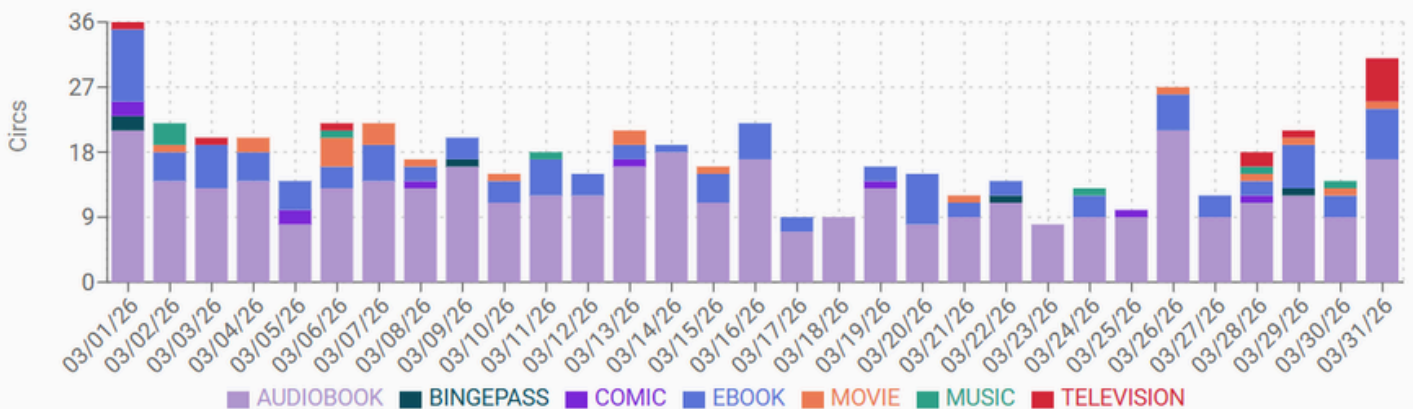
Hoopla Detailed Report

Patron Borrowing Report

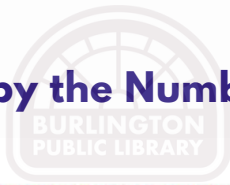
There were **318** unique patrons borrowing Instant licenses from March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026 with an average of **10** people borrowing at least one Instant item per day.



Circulations by Format



March by the Numbers: WiFi



Burlington Public Library March-2026

In March, 642 unique patrons used your library WiFi. On average, these patrons visited to use the WiFi on just under 3 individual days.



Change from prior month
1598 ↑ **12.61%**

Monthly Sessions



1389 ↑ **8.09%**

Total Visits



642 ↓ **-4.46%**

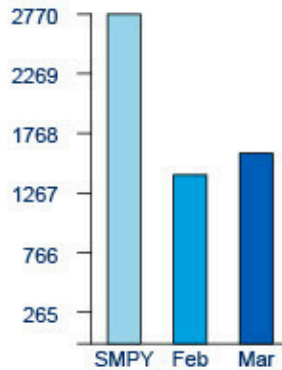
Unique Visitors



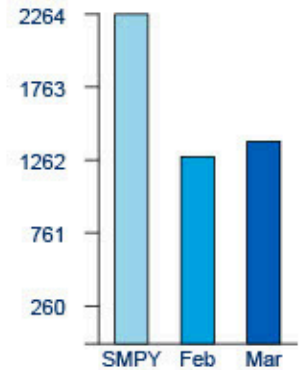
2.16 ↑ **13.09%**

Average Return Rate

Total Monthly Session Count

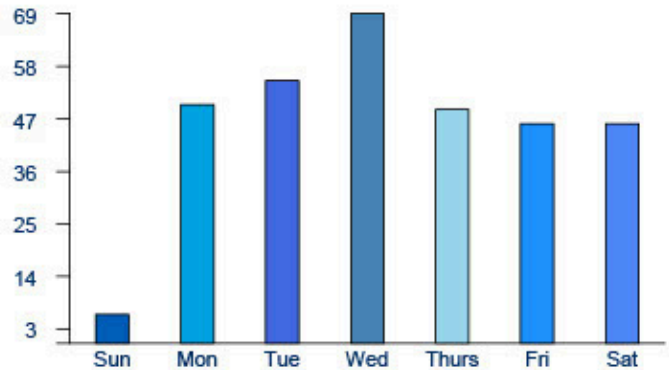


Total Monthly Visits

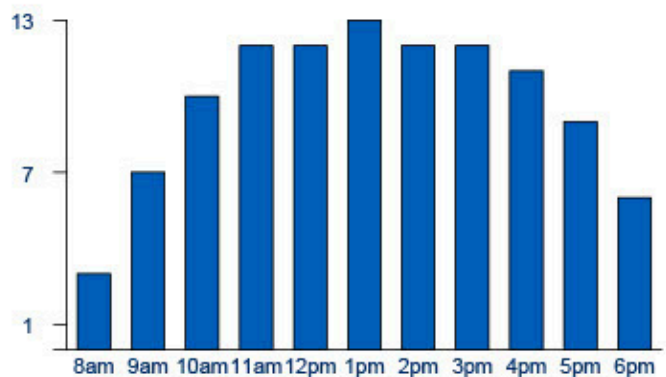


*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

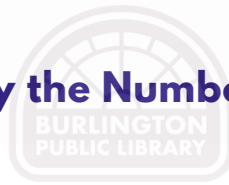
Average Daily Visits



Average Peak Hourly



March by the Numbers: Spaces



Burlington Public Library
Mar-26

In March, you had 456 bookings overall with a cumulative attendance of 1811 patrons.

Change from prior month



456 ↑ 1.33%

Total Bookings



1811 ↓ -23.72%

Total Attendance



4 ↓ -24.53%

Average Attendance

74 ↓ -11.9%
Internal Bookings

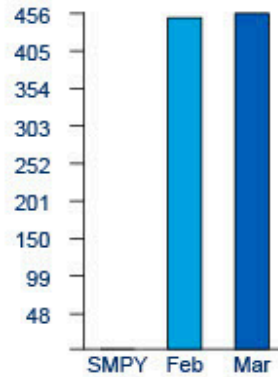
372 ↑ 5.38%
Patron Bookings

9 ↓ -30.77%
Non-Profit Bookings

1 ↑ 100%
For-Profit Bookings

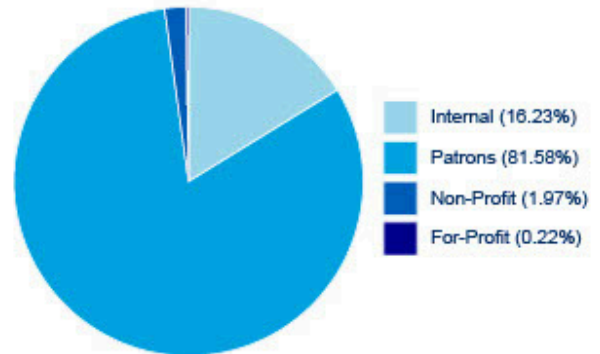
Booking Breakdown

Total Monthly Bookings



*SMPY: Same Month Prior Year

Booking Breakdowns By Percentage



March by the Numbers: YTD Programs

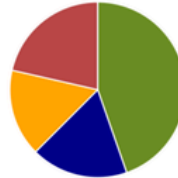


Burlington Public Library
July, 2025 - March, 2026

July

Overview

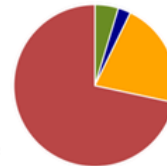
All Children Programs	25	44.64%	All Children Participants	954	50.18%
Young Adult Programs	10	17.86%	Young Adult Participants	84	4.42%
Adult Programs	9	16.07%	Adult Participants	123	6.47%
General Interest Programs	12	21.43%	General Interest Participants	740	38.93%
Total Programs	56		Total Participants	1901	



August

Overview

All Children Programs	1	7.69%	All Children Participants	28	4.7%
Young Adult Programs	2	15.38%	Young Adult Participants	15	2.52%
Adult Programs	6	46.15%	Adult Participants	126	21.14%
General Interest Programs	4	30.77%	General Interest Participants	427	71.64%
Total Programs	13		Total Participants	596	



September

Overview

All Children Programs	22	50%	All Children Participants	495	50.25%
Young Adult Programs	5	11.36%	Young Adult Participants	226	22.94%
Adult Programs	8	18.18%	Adult Participants	133	13.5%
General Interest Programs	9	20.45%	General Interest Participants	131	13.3%
Total Programs	44		Total Participants	985	



October

Overview

All Children Programs	27	47.37%	All Children Participants	1322	59.12%
Young Adult Programs	6	10.53%	Young Adult Participants	303	13.55%
Adult Programs	13	22.81%	Adult Participants	205	9.17%
General Interest Programs	11	19.3%	General Interest Participants	406	18.16%
Total Programs	57		Total Participants	2236	



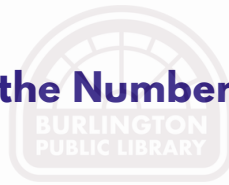
November

Overview

All Children Programs	25	53.19%	All Children Participants	629	50.28%
Young Adult Programs	3	6.38%	Young Adult Participants	211	16.87%
Adult Programs	9	19.15%	Adult Participants	162	12.95%
General Interest Programs	10	21.28%	General Interest Participants	249	19.9%
Total Programs	47		Total Participants	1251	

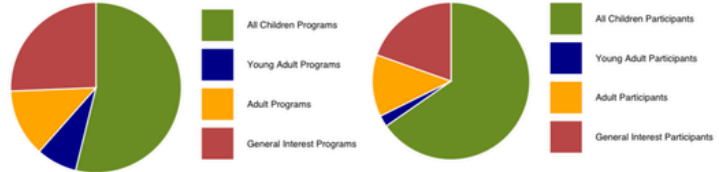


March by the Numbers: Programs

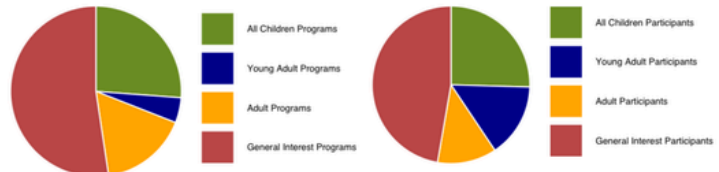


Burlington Public Library July, 2025 - March, 2026

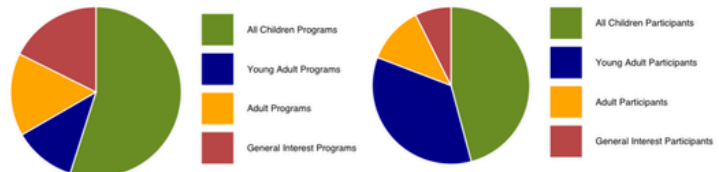
December					
Overview					
All Children Programs	21	53.85%	All Children Participants	477	65.34%
Young Adult Programs	3	7.69%	Young Adult Participants	17	2.33%
Adult Programs	5	12.82%	Adult Participants	93	12.74%
General Interest Programs	10	25.64%	General Interest Participants	143	19.59%
Total Programs	39		Total Participants	730	



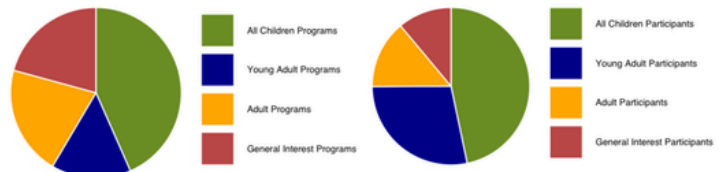
January					
Overview					
All Children Programs	11	26.19%	All Children Participants	329	25.44%
Young Adult Programs	2	4.76%	Young Adult Participants	196	15.16%
Adult Programs	7	16.67%	Adult Participants	157	12.14%
General Interest Programs	22	52.38%	General Interest Participants	611	47.25%
Total Programs	42		Total Participants	1293	



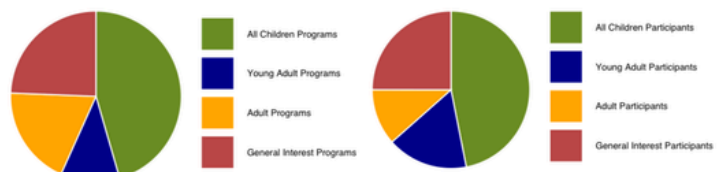
February					
Overview					
All Children Programs	28	54.9%	All Children Participants	674	45.85%
Young Adult Programs	6	11.76%	Young Adult Participants	514	34.97%
Adult Programs	8	15.69%	Adult Participants	173	11.77%
General Interest Programs	9	17.65%	General Interest Participants	109	7.41%
Total Programs	51		Total Participants	1470	



March					
Overview					
All Children Programs	23	43.4%	All Children Participants	680	46.7%
Young Adult Programs	8	15.09%	Young Adult Participants	411	28.23%
Adult Programs	11	20.75%	Adult Participants	204	14.01%
General Interest Programs	11	20.75%	General Interest Participants	161	11.06%
Total Programs	53		Total Participants	1456	



Year in Review					
Overview					
All Children Programs	183	45.52%	All Children Participants	5588	46.89%
Young Adult Programs	45	11.19%	Young Adult Participants	1977	16.59%
Adult Programs	76	18.91%	Adult Participants	1376	11.55%
General Interest Programs	98	24.38%	General Interest Participants	2977	24.98%
Total Programs	402		Total Participants	11918	



2026 Legislative Update



2026 Iowa Library Legislation

HF 2025 - Historical Resource Research Center
HF 2136 - Confidentiality of Library Records for Minors
HSB 636 - Public School / Library / Bookmobile Partnerships
HF 2270 - State Library Standards
HF 2309 - Harmful to Minors
HSB 720 - Omnibus: Public Library Regulations

SF 2293 - Removes Historical Resource Research Center
SF 2177 - Library & Vendor Filtering
SF 2119 - Obscenity Exemption

HF 2324 (HSB 636) - Public School / Library / Bookmobile Partnerships
HB 2622 (HSB 720) - Omnibus: Public Library Regulations
SF 2293 - Removes Historical Resource Research Center

SF 2432 Receives Library Amendment H-8260
March 24th

SF 2432 Receives 2nd Degree Library Amendment H-8277
March 31st



SF2432

Eliminating a city's ability to create a city board of health or city health department.

Amendment #1 - Skyler Wheeler

- Enforces 'age-appropriate' policies for library, events, bookmobile & retailers
- Ends confidentiality of minor's records
- State Library Accreditation Standards cannot reference ALA or ILA
- Withholds all local tax funding if in violation of new 'age-appropriate' policy guidelines
- Removes governance from Library Boards and moves all control to City Councils effective July 1, 2026 / Council to appoint library director
- All materials in a public library collection must be reviewed and deemed 'age appropriate' or not, and all determinations must be affirmed or denied by the City Council
- New requirements for publication of library information, while the identity of any parent/guardian requesting the removal of materials must be kept confidential
- 28E agreements required for Friends & Foundation

2026 Legislative Update



SF2432

Eliminating a city's ability to create a city board of health or city health department.

Amendment #2 - Charley Thomson

- Enforces '**youth-protective**' policies for library, events, bookmobile & retailers
- Ends confidentiality of minor's records
- State Library Accreditation Standards cannot reference ALA or ILA
- Withholds all local tax funding if in violation of new '**youth-protective**' policy guidelines & adds **civil action**
- Removes governance from Library Boards and moves all control to City Councils effective July 1, 2026 / Council to appoint library director
- All materials in a public library collection must be reviewed and deemed '**harmful to minors**' or not, and all determinations must be affirmed or denied by the City Council by **July 1, 2032**
- New requirements for publication of library information, while the identity of any parent/guardian requesting the removal of materials must be kept confidential
- 28E agreements required for Friends & Foundation

March 2026



Bright Ideas



Bright Ideas



New Magazine Labels



Junior Optimist Club annual conference



Revolutionary Iowans Display



Progress on the Teen Mural



Thanks to help from a local expert, Adilynn Iserman, we were able to give our lowaponics fish tank an incredible makeover.