

# Long Range Plan

October 2023 – September 2028

## **Wilderness Coast Public Libraries**

**Mission:** To provide coordinated public library services throughout Franklin, Jefferson, and Wakulla Counties.

**Organization:** Wilderness Coast Public Libraries (WILD) is a Special District Library Cooperative serving Franklin, Jefferson, and Wakulla Counties. The Cooperative was established in 1994 through an Interlocal Agreement signed by the three County governments.

The Governing Board is made up of two appointees from each member county; one appointee is either a County Commissioner or his/her designee, the other is appointed by the County Library Advisory Board. Cooperative Office employees coordinate the Koha Integrated Library System, manage IT technical support, coordinate the process for applying for State funding, and coordinate the E-library and other miscellaneous shared services within the Cooperative. Member libraries are administered by County Library Directors under the auspices of their respective County Commissions.

**Demographic and Economic Information:**

	Franklin	Jefferson	Wakulla
Pop. (2020)	11,914	14,278	32,855
% change 2017 - 2020	-5.3%	-1%	3.7%
Projected % change 2017-2025	2.0%	1.9%	10.6%
% under 18 years old	17.1%	18.6%	22.5%
% 65 years and over	17.4%	16.5%	10.8%
% Caucasian	82.6%	60.4%	82.0%
% African American	13.8%	36.2%	14.5%
% Hispanic	4.6%	3.7%	3.3%
% Non-English speakers	5.7%	6.8%	6.3%

Per Cap. Income	\$35,334	\$37,322	\$32,414
Med. household income	\$40,301	\$41,696	\$54,078
% below poverty level	23.1%	18.9%	13.1%
% high school graduates	79.6%	79.8%	87.7%
% Bachelor's Degree or higher	16.7%	19.0%	16.6%

**Library Facilities:**

There are five library facilities in the Cooperative service area:

	Location	Size (sq. ft.)
Franklin County Public Library-Carrabelle Branch	Carrabelle	5,000
Franklin County Public Library-Eastpoint Branch	Eastpoint	5,000
Jefferson County Public Library-Headquarters	Monticello	10,000

Wakulla County Public Library-Headquarters	Crawfordville	14,500
Cooperative Office	Monticello	1,050

**Financial Resources:** Funding for the Cooperative Office and Cooperative-wide activities comes from State Aid to Public Libraries grant funding. Funding for the member libraries comes from a combination of local government funds, State Aid to public libraries grant funds, other grants, and donations.

**Collections:** The Cooperative Office funds and maintains a Koha Integrated Library System composed of public access catalog (OPAC), cataloging and circulation systems. Library materials are available for the public in book, magazine, DVD, CD, audio recording, video game, kit, e-book and e-audio formats. The Cooperative Office contracts with a courier service to transfer items between member libraries for public checkout.

**Current Holdings:**

	Books	Audio	Video	Misc -equip, kits, videogames, etc.	Total Physical Items
FCPL	25,082	731	2,712	293	28,818
JCPL	30,871	677	1,688	559	33,795

WCPL	38,721	1,886	3,524	365	44,496
Total	119,756	4,025	10,636	1,510	135,927

E-books	E-audiobooks	Other E-materials	Total E-materials
33,919	19,714	4,914	58,247

**Staffing/Continuing Education:** There are exemplary staff members working in the member libraries, in addition to a small, dedicated staff at the Cooperative Office. The Cooperative works with the Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN) to provide funding for staff education and training at the state, regional, and national levels. In addition, the Cooperative reimburses libraries for staff attendance at library conferences and training opportunities.

**Programs and Services:** Member libraries offer programs for children, young adults, and adults at all service locations, as well as at other outreach locations throughout their communities. All library locations have meeting room facilities available for public use. Member libraries promote and participate in local festivals and events. All library facilities offer public access computers with Internet access and productivity software, as well as free public wireless Internet access, photocopiers and scanners.

**Technology:** Member libraries provide computers, Internet access (both wired and wireless), and a print management system for public use. In addition, the Cooperative Office provides access to Internet-based resources: Overdrive e-book platform, Mango Languages courses, Chilton's Auto Repair database, and library-specific web sites. Library users

also have access to licensed databases provided by the State through the Florida Electronic Library.

### **Strengths of the Cooperative:**

- There is a genuine spirit of cooperation between the County governments, the Cooperative staff, and the staff of member libraries.
- The Cooperative Governing Board is strongly committed to working together and to providing equalization of services throughout the entire geographic area.
- The member libraries have a unified integrated library system and a delivery system set up for reciprocal borrowing.
- The Directors work together to coordinate collections and services.
- The Cooperative Office provides professional level technical support for the member libraries.

### **Challenges to the Cooperative**

- State Aid to Public Libraries grant funding and Panhandle Library Access Network funding must be negotiated on a year-to-year basis with the Florida Legislature.
- The costs of library materials, technology and technology-related services continue to rise, while funding remains generally flat.
- Advances in cloud-based technology are beginning to require migration from server-based products to cloud-based services.
- A majority of member libraries have staffing levels below the minimum per capita level recommended in Florida Library Association standards.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

### **Goal 1- Facilities**

Libraries in the Cooperative will provide safe, inviting and appropriate facilities for library users.

- FCPL will continue to maintain current facilities, and will work toward making both facilities ADA-compliant.
- JCPL will continue to maintain current facilities, and will work toward renovating the grounds to provide more access to nature and space for social distancing.
- WCPL will continue to maintain current facilities, and will continue to work with Wakulla County to facilitate moving into a larger building and expanding services to meet the needs of the growing population.

### **Goal 2-Collections**

Libraries in the Cooperative will provide exemplary collections that meet the needs of the public.

- FCPL will conduct a full collection analysis.
- JCPL will continue to grow its fiction and nonfiction collections in areas of high demand.
- WCPL will expand the size of its collection, especially in targeted areas of Children's Nonfiction, Playaways, and MP3s.

### **Goal 3-Programs and Services**

Libraries will provide a selection of age-appropriate and interest-related programs for library patrons.

- FCPL will work to increase children and young adult attendance at library programs by 10%.
- JCPL will work to restore public programming to pre-pandemic levels or higher, with a focus on early literacy and cultural events.
- WCPL will work to increase the number of adult programs by 10% and to revamp the focus of the existing Science Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM) programs for children and young adults.

#### Goal 4-Staff Development/Continuing Education

- The Cooperative Office will continue to fund an annual Staff Development Day training for all library staff.
- The Cooperative will supplement funding provided by the Panhandle Library Access Network for library staff to conferences and training sessions.
- FCPL will update the Policies and Procedures Manual for staff.
- FCPL will continue to advocate for sufficient staff to allow the facilities to be open expanded hours.
- JCPL will update the Policy and Procedures Manual for staff and seek professional growth for staff members in their current roles.
- WCPL will work toward Increasing total staff size by at least 1.5 FTE.

#### Goal 5-Technology

Libraries will have access to the technology needed to provide exemplary public services.

- The Cooperative Office will continue to fund Technical Support service to the libraries in the areas of server maintenance, ILS, print maintenance, anti-virus protection, security, and hardware repair.



- The Cooperative Office will assist in Web site design and maintenance in order to allow libraries to take advantage of more complex web design programs and services.
- FCPL will update all staff computers and public access computers.
- JCPL will continue to grow its technology lending programs to help provide Internet access in digital deserts.
- WCPL will plan to update the staff computers, OPAC computers, and laptops.

### Implementation of Plan

This plan serves to guide and facilitate the development of library services over the next five years. Implementation of goals and objectives is subject to funding levels; this plan does not commit either the Governing Board or County Commissions to an expenditure of funds.

(Pending) Approved by the Governing Board of Wilderness Coast Public Libraries on September 12, 2022.

