



2025 IN REVIEW

In 2025, the Morton Grove Public Library continued to strengthen its role as a trusted, dynamic, and welcoming community resource. This annual report highlights our collective efforts and reflects a year of growth, adaptability, and continued commitment to serving our community with excellence.



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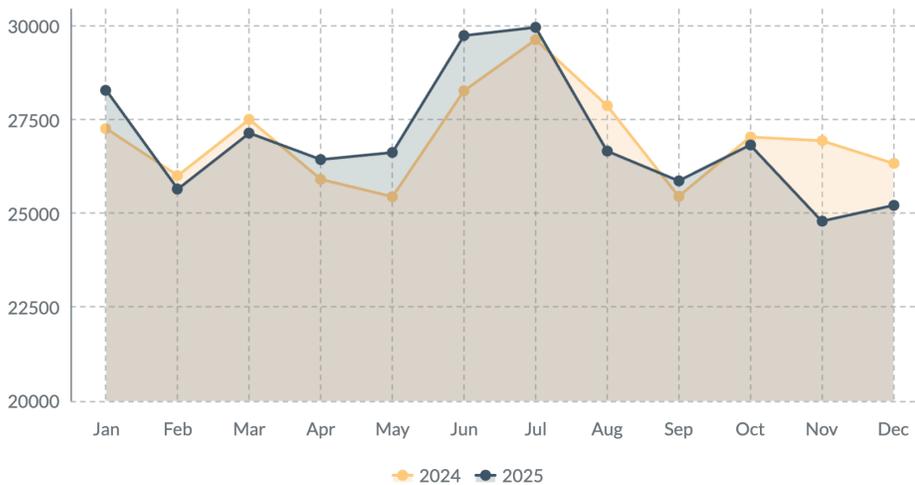
Thank you for providing a safe and comfortable place for scheduled playdates, meeting new friends, or running into familiar faces. It's very easy to check out books or request books from other libraries which helps motivate our girls to read in addition to the free events such as Family Reads... Thank you for all that you do!

- Weitzner Family

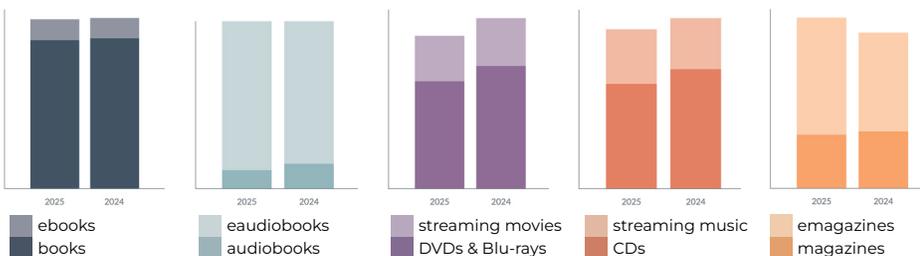
CHECKOUTS

In 2025, total checkouts remained steady, though slightly down from last year. While checkouts of physical materials saw a decline, digital checkouts increased notably. This shift reflects the evolving patron needs and highlight the Library's ongoing role in providing flexible and accessible services in both physical and digital formats. This allows community members to use the formats that best fit their needs.

TOTAL CHECKOUTS BY MONTH: 2025, 2024



TOTAL CHECKOUTS BY ITEM TYPE: 2025, 2024



Finding books, resources, or even a place to sit feels effortless. The staff consistently goes out of their way to offer guidance, and they always do it with patience and a smile.

- John W.

27,921
Items sent to other libraries

35,107
Hold items processed

195,647
Items checked in

323,205

total checkouts in 2025



243,598

physical materials checked out

200,991
books

2,184
audiobooks

20,676
movies

3,330
music

4,889
magazines

7,061
video games

1,276
Library of Things

3,191
other items



79,607

digital materials checked out

28,633
ebooks

29,642
eaudiobooks

8,869
movies

1,735
music

10,728
emagazines

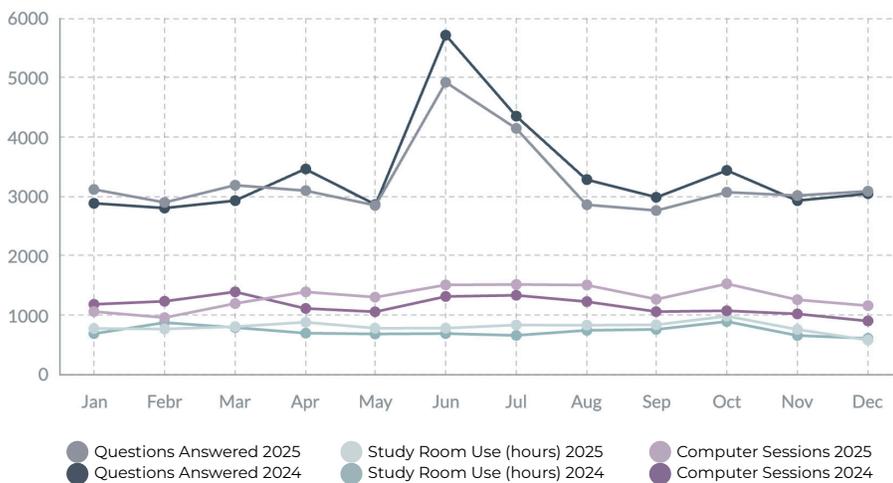
LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library continues to serve as an important resource in the community. We saw usage of several services increase. Study room use increased by 10.1%, rising from 8,658 hours in 2024 to 9,529 hours in 2025, and computer sessions grew by 12.6%, from 13,830 to 15,577. These increases point to stronger demand for quiet study space and public technology access.

TOTAL VISITORS BY MONTH: 2025, 2024



OTHER SERVICES BY MONTH: 2025, 2024



We had passport appointments for my two children, ages 2 and 4. Everyone was very friendly and kind, and they were also very patient because the appointments lasted about an hour. We felt very comfortable and happy that we chose the library. Thank you for your kindness and patience.

- Giovanna



116,140
total visitors



38,948
questions
answered at the
public desks



9,529
hours
study rooms
were used



15,577
computer
sessions



774
passport
appointments



241
license plate
stickers
purchased

EVENTS

We delivered a variety of youth, teen, and adult programs, serving thousands of attendees across all age groups through creative art and STEM classes, informational presentations, entertaining performances, educational activities, and more. These events drew thousands of attendees throughout the year and show MGPL's commitment to offering programs and experiences that bring our community together.



We love the library! We enjoy the crafts, games, computer puzzles, books and storytimes! We enjoyed Family Storytime, Math Circus and Pajama Storytimes this year... Austin also loves the puzzles and the sensory books. Connor loves to bring his Pokemon stuffies for storytime in his pjs.

- Merrit Family

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Crafting for Charity group created and donated

1,284 items

to 15+ organizations. Items ranged from blankets and shawls to winter items and pet mats and blankets.



1,135
events
scheduled



25,864
people attended
our events



299
kids participated
in Winter Reading
Challenge



1,178
kids, teens, and
adults participated
in Summer Reading
Program



234
attended our Front
Porch Concerts

OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS

MGPL staff regularly visited local daycares, early learning centers, preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools and engaged with students through storytimes, book talks, and a variety of other activities. Staff attended educational and fun fairs and participated in special school events.

The Library maintains strong partnerships with the Village of Morton Grove, Park District, Chamber of Commerce, and local community organizations, such as Vision Morton Grove and Morton Grove Pride. In 2025, the library connected with our community at events throughout the Village, signing people up for library cards, checking out books from the Book Bike,



Cailyn at the Sustainability Expo.



Jessie at Famished for Fiction at Muslim Community Center. Photo by MCC.



Please pass my thanks to staff and others at MGPL for exceptional service to my sister. The visits to [my sister's] home with interesting and fun books are much appreciated.

- Family member of a homebound patron

SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2025, our social media channels continued to expand our community reach, boost engagement, and showcase library programs and resources in fun and creative ways.



FACEBOOK

of followers increased by 2%



INSTAGRAM

of followers increased by 11%



TIKTOK

of followers increased by 30%



354

total outreach visits
(off-site and in-library)

11,886

audience



51

school deliveries

1,257

items delivered



161

homebound deliveries

1,291

items delivered



698

posts on social media

9,450+

reactions

STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS

As the Library continues to move forward with our 2024–2026 Strategic Plan, we remain committed to turning shared goals into meaningful action. Over the past year, we have worked intentionally to align daily work, services, and initiatives with the priorities identified by Library Board of Trustees and staff. Here are highlights of our progress toward each strategic goal, showing how plans have translated into tangible outcomes.



Library table at Movie in the Park: Wizard of Oz. Photo taken by Morton Grove Pride.



New soundproof panels in study rooms..



Staff at the November staff in-service day.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Provide Responsive Services and Evolve Community Connections

- Expanded core services, such as adding license plate renewals, passport services appointments, Seed Library, to better meet community needs.
- Strengthened outreach and partnerships to increase visibility and community engagement by participating in Village-run events, partnering with community organizations, engaging at school functions, and more.
- Enhanced information sharing through welcome packets to new users and cardholders, weekly communications, targeted e-mails, and a strong social media presence.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Welcome All Through Inspiring Spaces and Inclusive Operations

- Advanced planning and implementation for facility improvements, including bathroom renovations, re-carpeting of high-traffic areas, soundproofing of study rooms, and parking lot repairs to improve safety, accessibility, and comfort.
- Expanded inclusive programming that reflected diverse cultures, identities, abilities, and life experiences, such as multi-cultural storytimes, sensory play times, job seeking workshops, and more.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Ensure a Dynamic and Collaborative Organization

- Supported ongoing professional development across all departments, including webinars, conferences, networking groups, and system-wide training.
- Fostered collaboration through regular department manager meetings, cross-departmental projects, and shared planning efforts
- Encouraged staff engagement and built morale through staff challenges, celebrations, and appreciation initiatives.

Read more about the Library's Strategic Goals online at mgpl.org.



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This is a wonderful library that includes study areas you can book as well as the standard fiction, nonfiction, AV, and new books areas. There's also a quiet reading room on the main floor if you're interested in a more immersive reading experience separate from the cozy chairs and tables in the various aisles.

The main star of the show is the children's area downstairs: it's the entire floor, and the librarians do an excellent job of putting out award-winning books, different themed collections, and maintaining the various game stations.

Recently, my partner visited, and I asked him to surprise me with a new mystery read. The librarians at the front desk were really helpful in his search, and offered him a selection of nine suspense, thriller, and mystery books to choose from. They really knocked this request out of the park.

The ease of self-checkout is also coupled with the vast interlibrary loan program. I'm able to request any book within the system of regional libraries, which makes it so easy to get any book I'm curious about.

Great parking lot out back with some street parking out front.

- Sherry

