The Greece Public Library is a municipal public library chartered by the New York State Education Department to provide library service to the 47,000 residents of Greece.

The library is governed by a 5-member library board and funded by the Town of Greece, which provides a budget well beyond the minimum required by New York State and allows for the provision of the newest digital resources, print materials, programming and highly skilled staff for residents. An active Friends of the Greece Public Library volunteer group provides additional support for programming at the library.

Built in 2000, it is open 64 hours per week year-round and 68 hours per week in the months of October-April. In July 2021 a multimillion-dollar children’s library expansion opened to the public. The new 10,000 sq. ft. themed “Story Garden” focuses on learning through play and includes interactive three-dimensional elements, a multi-purpose story and craft room, an outdoor reading patio, hands-on activity spaces and a family restroom.
WHY THE LIBRARY NEEDS A STRATEGIC PLAN

The mission of the Greece Public Library is to engage, inspire and inform through community relevant learning opportunities. The strategic plan provides a framework for the fulfillment of our mission and serves as a conduit linking community wants and needs with library resources.

In addition, as a library registered with the New York State Education Department, the Greece Public Library is subject to standards of service set forth in section 402 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (Minimum Standards for Public Libraries); one of these standards requires the library to have "a community-based, board-approved, written long-range plan of service developed by the library board of trustees and staff."

HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

In late 2019, the library board of trustees voted to extend the library's 2017-2019 strategic plan an additional year (through the end of 2020) with the intent to begin gathering community survey information during summer 2020 for the next plan to be in place January 2021. In March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, and plans were delayed.

In March 2022 a survey was distributed via eNewsletter to 8,500+ subscribers, advertised on the library's website, pushed out through the library's social media channels, and advertised in-library with signage and a take home flyer with QR code. 934 library users responded.

3 Main Takeaways From the Survey Data:

1. A majority of respondents were "very satisfied" with the service they identified as their main reason for using the library and with customer service;

2. We need to better communicate existing library offerings to the community, as many respondents answered the open ended question "what is one service or program that the library should offer to the community that they currently do not?" with a service currently available;

3. Answers to questions about improvements to existing services and new services to be considered were overwhelmingly focused on "more" - more programming and more collections, especially adult programs and books and magazines in print.

The library director shared a distillation of the survey results with the library board at their May 2022 meeting and solicited feedback. In July and August the library director worked with staff to draft strategic priorities, goals, objectives and metrics loosely following the method set forth in Strategic Planning for Public Libraries by Joy L. Fuller (Chicago Public Library Association, 2021).

Strategic Priority

COLLECTIONS EXCELLENCE

Goal: Residents of all ages will have timely access to the library materials they want, in the formats they want.

Objectives in support of this goal include, but are not limited to:

- Data-driven purchasing and collection management decisions
- Target holds ratios for physical and digital materials
- Recommended purchase service
- Staff-curated readers' advisory lists & displays
- Personal Librarian Service
- Readers' advisory digital subscription services: NovelList Plus and Wowbrary
- Investigate Collection HQ subscription
- Targeted audience collections, i.e. Teen Book Box

Metrics: Circulation Statistics, Holds to Copies Ratio, Subscription Use, Readers' Advisory Services Use

Strategic Priority

EARLY LITERACY

Goal: Children from birth to age five will have programs and services designed to ensure that they will enter school ready to learn to read, write and listen.

Objectives in support of this goal include, but are not limited to:

- Fun and engaging staff-led programs focused on the five early literacy skills
- L000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Tumblebooks subscription
- Dedicated spaces for imaginative play
- Early Literacy Kits for parents to continue to support learning at home

Metrics: Program Survey Analysis, Program Frequency, Program Attendance, Subscription Use

Strategic Priority

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING FOR ALL AGES

Goal: To offer conveniently scheduled programming and activities for residents of all ages: focusing on crafting, play, education, literacy and other leisurely interests.

Objectives in support of this goal include, but are not limited to:

- Annual Greece Reads community-wide reading event for teens and adults
- Staff-led book discussions for adults, teens, tweens and school age children
- In person and virtual author visits
- Staff curated StoryWalk® for families
- Book Break Podcast
- Storytimes for children and their parents/caregivers
- Paws to Read therapy dog visits
- Book Discussion Kits for checkout

Metrics: Program Survey Analysis, Program Frequency, Program Attendance

Strategic Priority

LITERARY CONVERSATIONS

Goal: Community members of all ages will have opportunities to connect with each other around literature.

Objectives in support of this goal include, but are not limited to:

- Annual Greece Reads community-wide reading event for teens and adults
- Staff-led book discussions for adults, teens, tweens and school age children
- In person and virtual author visits
- Staff curated StoryWalk® for families
- Book Break Podcast
- Storytimes for children and their parents/caregivers
- Paws to Read therapy dog visits
- Book Discussion Kits for checkout

Metrics: Program Survey Analysis, Program Frequency, Program Attendance