

(appreciation of Kari O's assistance/facilitation)



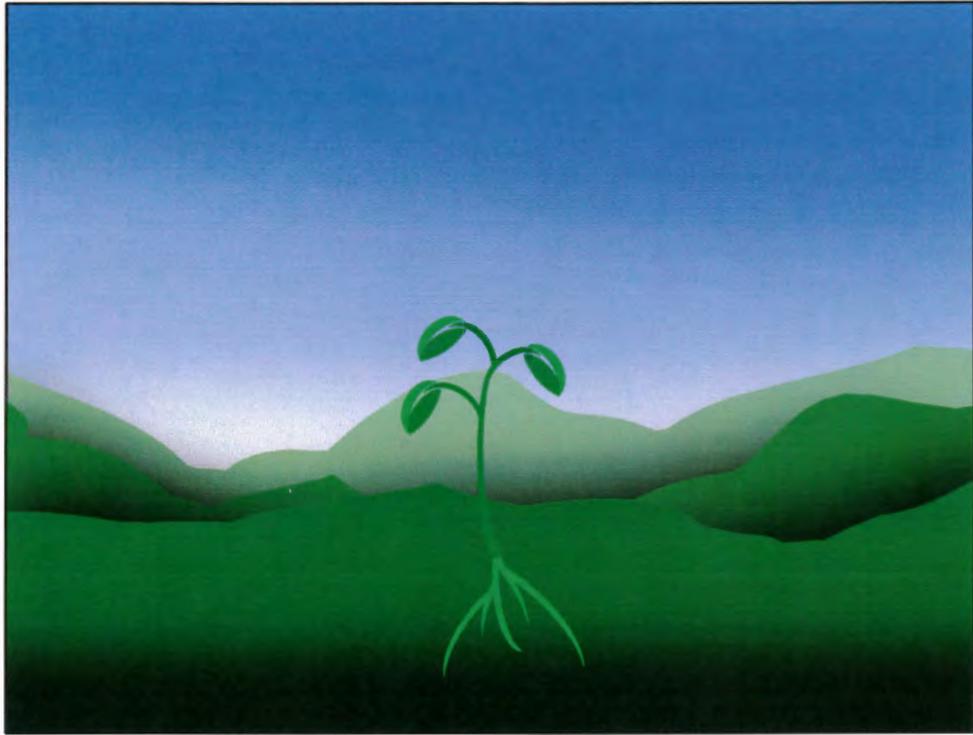
In 1895, a library was started in Baraboo's City Building. A seed was planted in our community: the beginnings of a center of knowledge and information to serve all the people of Baraboo.

In 1903, with help from Andrew Carnegie, a graceful yet economical building was constructed under the directive that the City of Baraboo would commit to financially support and maintain the building.

1903



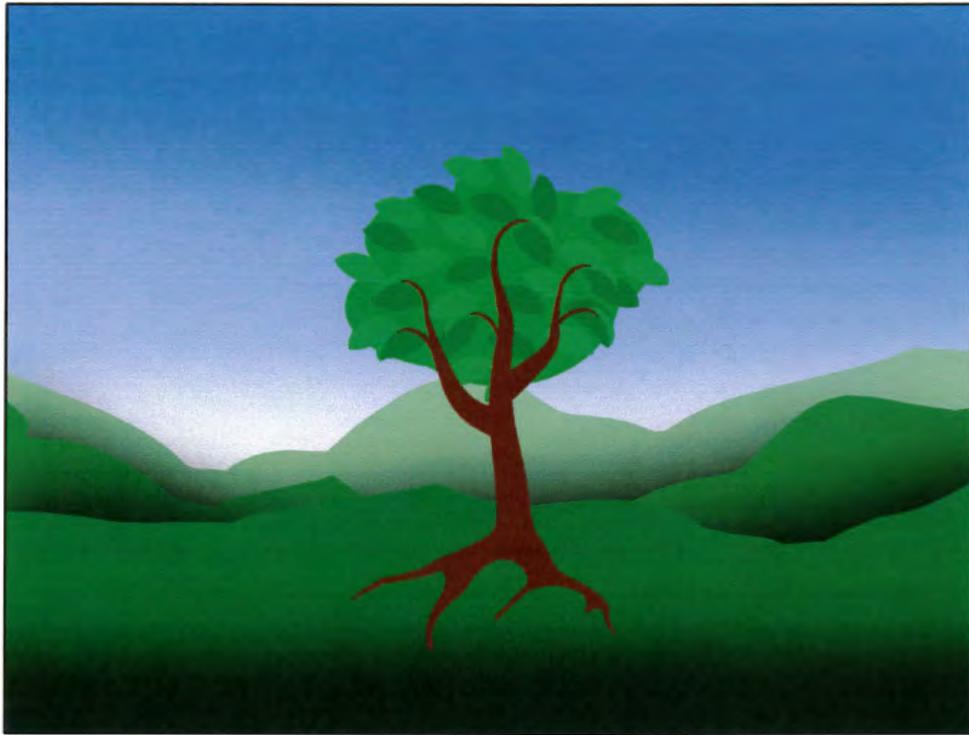
At first, the library was a place where the people of Baraboo could freely use the 5,000 books in its collection.



Soon, however, the library began to engage the children of the city by offering story times in 1908.



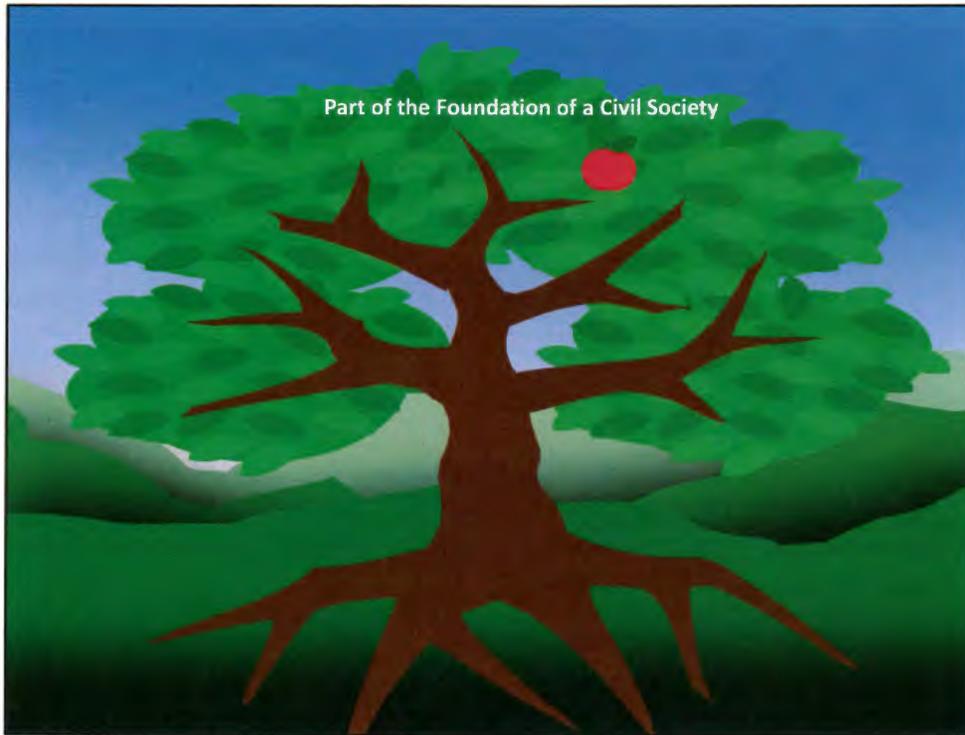
Over time, the library has developed other services in response to patron demands, and in anticipation of local, state and national trends.



The Baraboo Public Library has enlarged and varied its collection of materials and services.



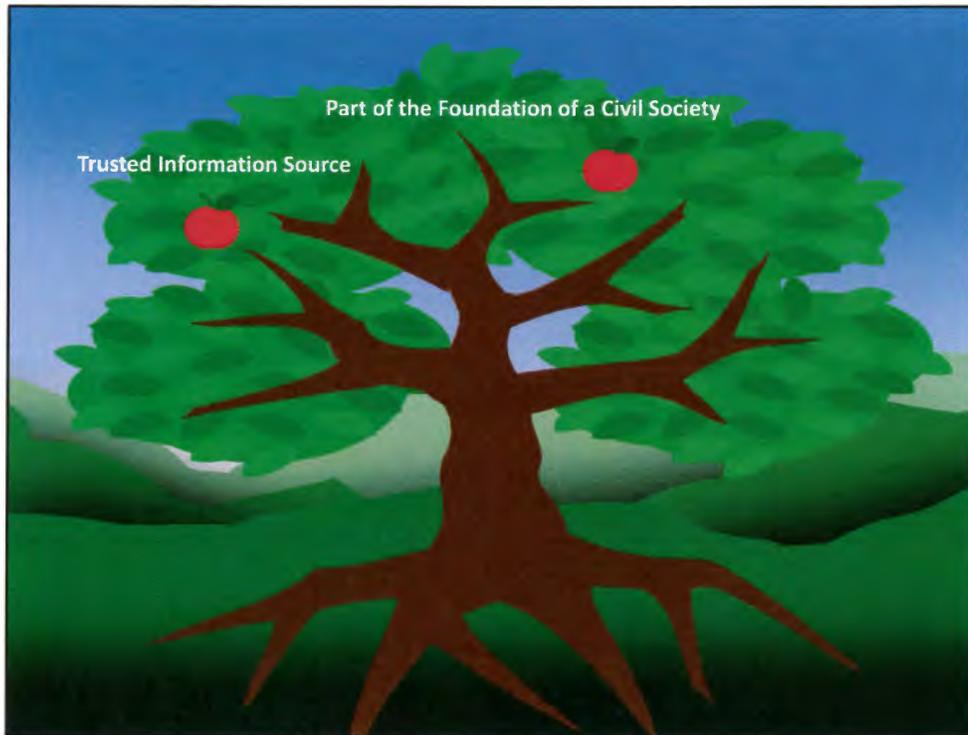
With its historic design and continuous service since 1903, the library has contributed to the historic significance of the downtown area. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the City of Baraboo in 1981. It is admired for its retention of many original features from the Claude and Starck design.



What is the Role of the Baraboo Public Library?

First, the library plays a PART IN THE FOUNDATION OF A CIVIL SOCIETY.

Since its beginning, the library has been a free and open source of knowledge for the growing population of Baraboo and surrounding communities. The library's free and equal provision of information has been and remains part of the foundation of a democratic society, along with public safety, education, and a fair, participatory justice system.



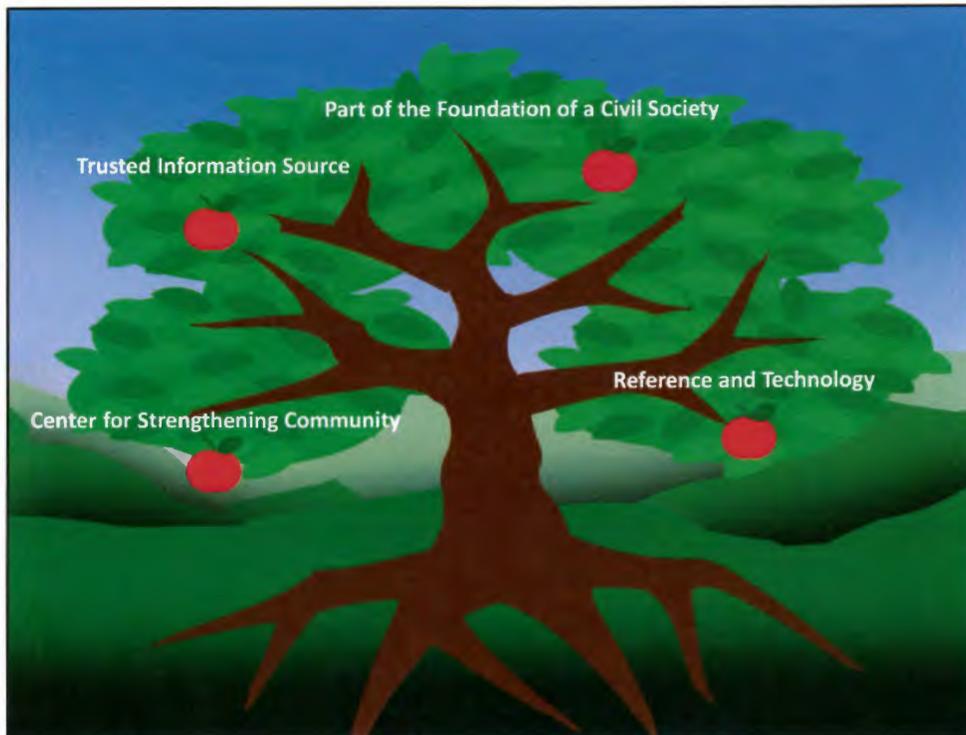
Second, the library is a TRUSTED INFORMATION SOURCE.

The staff of the Baraboo Public Library knows libraries are more than warehouses for books. We know libraries are evolving with our culture. With the landscape of technology and information accessibility continuously changing, libraries adapt to those changes to ensure that **no segment of our population is excluded**. We ARE the human interface that provides access to library digital resources, including the internet. We connect people with information.

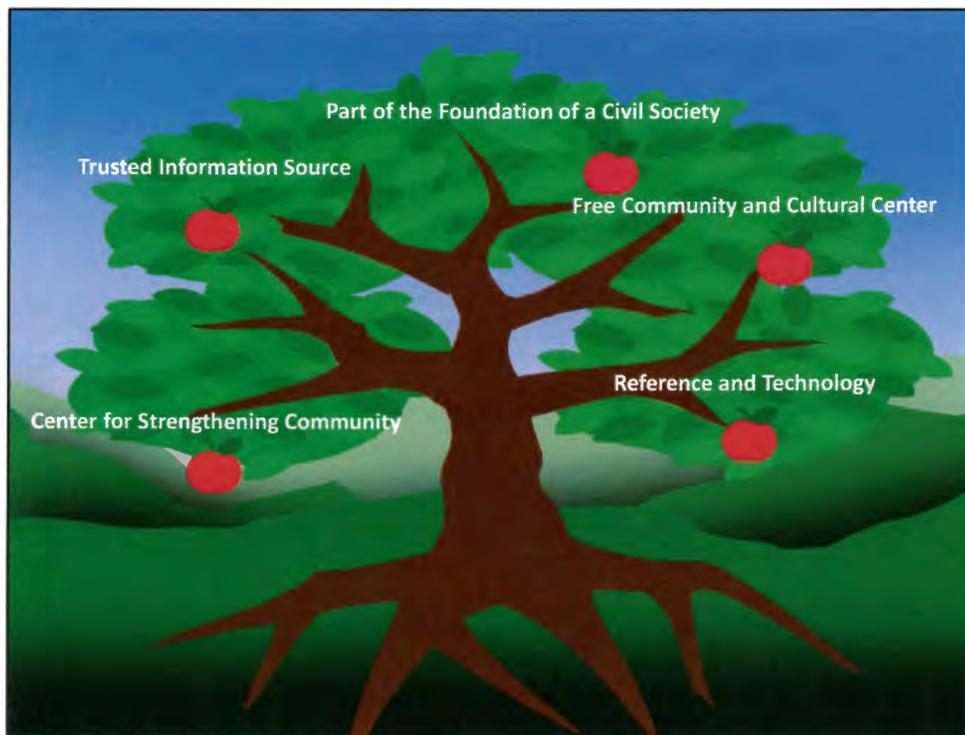


Also, the library is a CENTER FOR STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY.

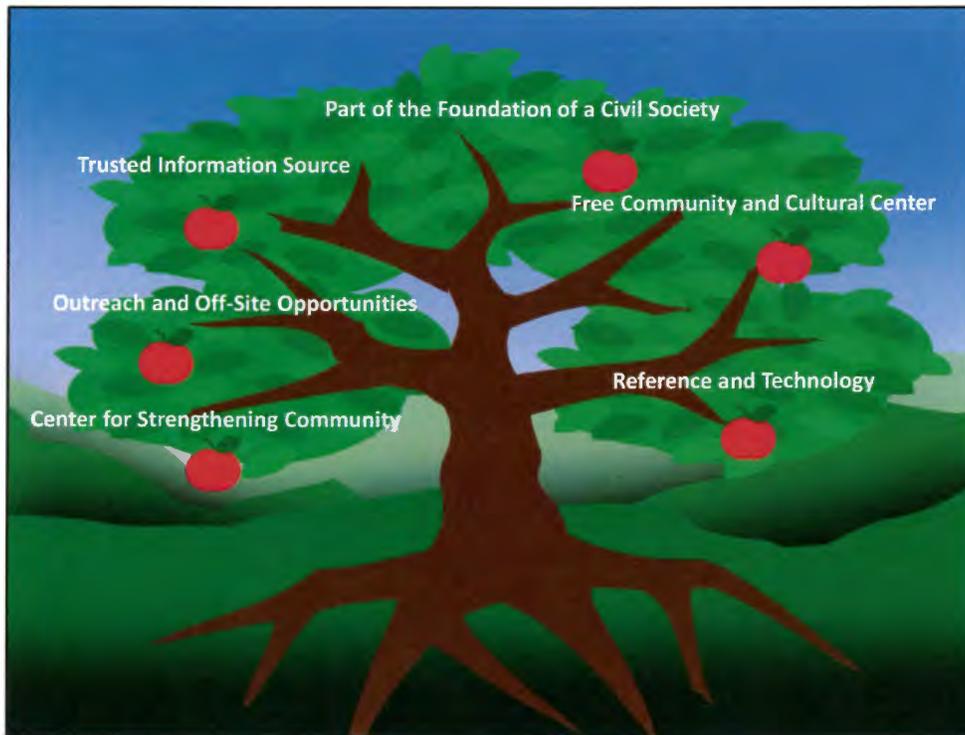
The Baraboo Public Library offers people of all ages a safe, respectful place to meet, share ideas, learn, and have fun. We contribute to the “mental wealth” of Baraboo by stimulating its citizens with educational, social, entertaining, and creative opportunities.



It is a source for REFERENCE AND TECHNOLOGY by offering patrons assistance with current technology through knowledgeable and helpful staff members. It also offers entertaining and educational programs for patrons of all ages through use of technology, such as Wii bowling for seniors, Minecraft, sewing machines, and launchpad playaways.

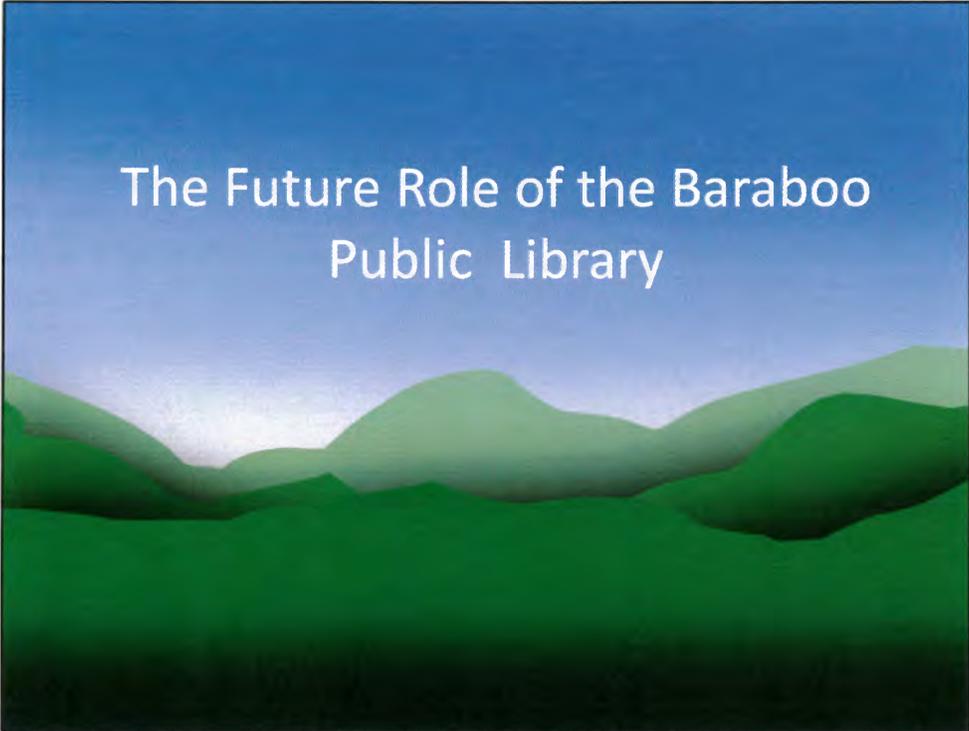


The library is a **FREE COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER**. The library offers a physical space for the public to have concerts, speakers, and other gatherings, as well as hosting its own cultural and social events.



Finally, the library currently offers both adult and children's OUTREACH AND OFF-SITE OPPORTUNITIES such as school visits, the storywalk, and nursing home sing-a-longs. Further outreach happens through delivery of materials to homebound patrons & nursing facilities, homeschooling programing, assisting area literacy groups, and partnering with other outside organizations.

This is the library when all of the roles are being supported.



The Future Role of the Baraboo Public Library

Library staff sees the future of the library as being intricately tied to the vitality of the community. Just as the funding allocated to the Baraboo Public Library is linked to the financial status of the City, the vitality and relevance of this building and services will exert a powerful effect on future viability of the City.

Here are some roles that staff feel should either be strengthened or added to the library, with physical space to accommodate these functions:

The Future of the Baraboo Public Library Reference and Technology

- Additional new technology
- Providing the "human face" of technology
- Become "cutting edge" role model
- Offer technology classes
- Provide information literacy services
- Ultimate, steady resource for the community
- Expanded, face-to-face and online reference services
- Tutoring
- Technology docents
- Faster access to new releases
- Expanded, easy to research Local History section
- Flexible space

In the area of Reference and Technology we look forward to:

Additional new technology

Equipment for in-house use of new devices and for check-out with sufficient quantity for demand

Continuously upgrade equipment, quantity and education

Continually increase bandwidth for technology advances

Providing the "human face" of technology

Unintimidating

One-on-one help

Education

Guidance

Human help

Become "cutting edge" role model

Offer Technology classes

Provide information literacy services

Ultimate, steady resource for the community

Expanded, face-to-face and online reference services

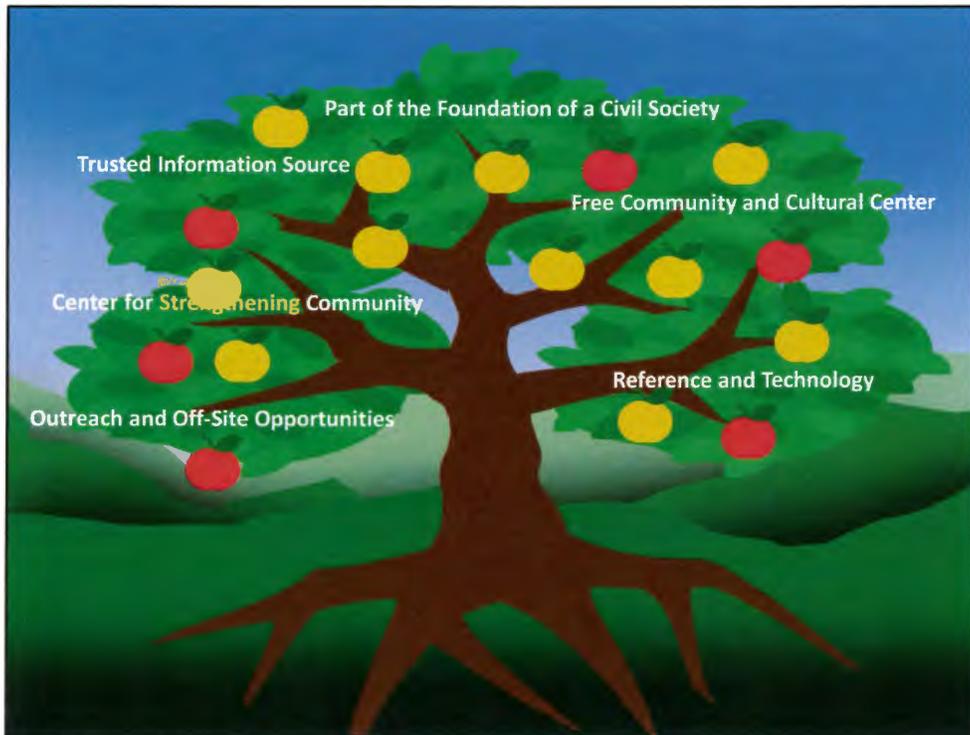
Tutoring

Technology docents

Faster access to new releases

Expanded, easy to research Local History section

Flexible space (including shelving) for changes in books, technology, and whatever comes next

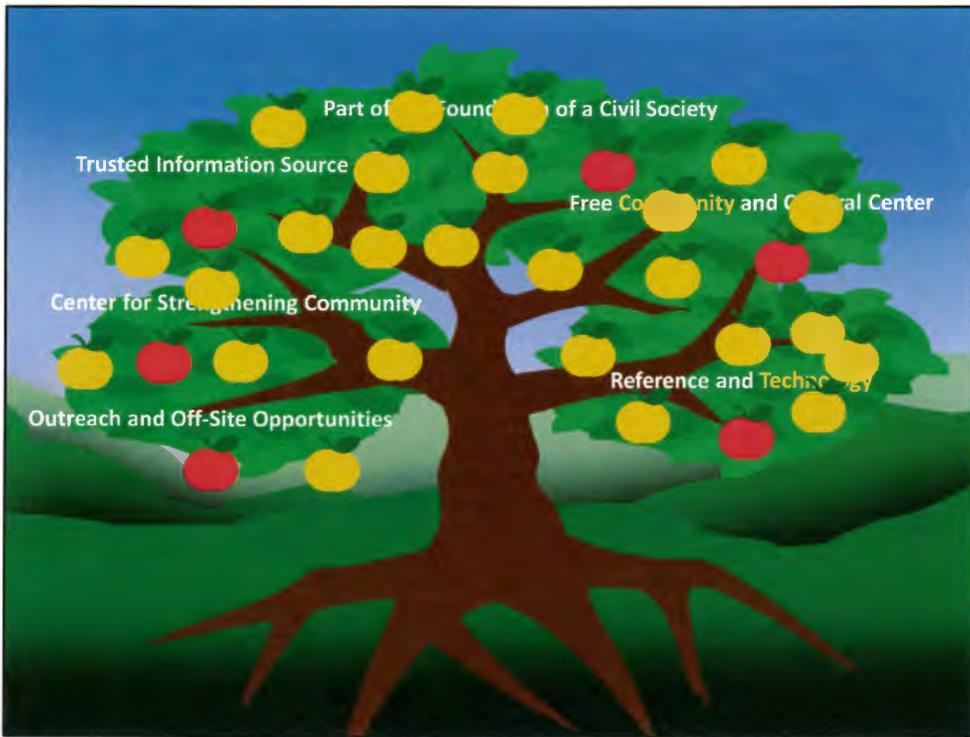


The Future Role of The Baraboo Public Library Free Community and Cultural Center

- Study and meeting rooms
- Kitchen for preparing refreshments and for cooking classes/demonstrations
- Expanded adult programming
- Expanded ELL programming and resources
- Coffee shop
- Sales room for books/bags/t-shirts
- Sectioned-off reading room for adults and children
- Maker space
- Exhibit space
- Something unique or intriguing to attract people
- Program garden
- Playground
- Courtyard that could be covered
- Theater with a stage

The future of our Free Community and Cultural Center might include:

- Study and meeting rooms
- Kitchen for preparing refreshments and for cooking classes/demonstrations
- Expanded adult programming
- Expanded ELL programming and resources
- Coffee shop
- Sales room for books/bags/t-shirts
- Sectioned-off reading room for adults and children
- Maker space (Area specifically for making, writing and other creative endeavors)
- Exhibit space (built-in and wall displays)
- Something unique or intriguing to attract people (roof garden, art)
- Program garden
- Playground
- Courtyard that could be covered
- Theater with a stage



The Future of the Baraboo Public Library Outreach and Off-Site Opportunities

- Bookmobile
- Lending library of special collections
- Collaborative social services offerings
- Additional off-site programming
- Source or resource for community calendar
- Shuttle service
- More StoryWalk sites
- Off-site/outreach Internet access
- Off-site outreach technology instruction

Outreach and Off-Site Opportunities

Bookmobile

Lending library of special collections: such as cooking equipment, hand tools, art supplies, sewing supplies

Collaborative Social services offerings

Family Resource Guide

Education about available services: such as warming shelters, Aging &

Disability Resource Center

Additional off-site programming

Senior living centers book clubs

Big-name speaker (with other organizations)

Community Read

Field trips for kids

Adult field trips to other libraries, APT, etc.

Source or resource for community calendar

Shuttle service for children and/or non-driving adults

More StoryWalk sites

Off-site/outreach Internet access (e.g., hot spot)

Off-site outreach technology instruction



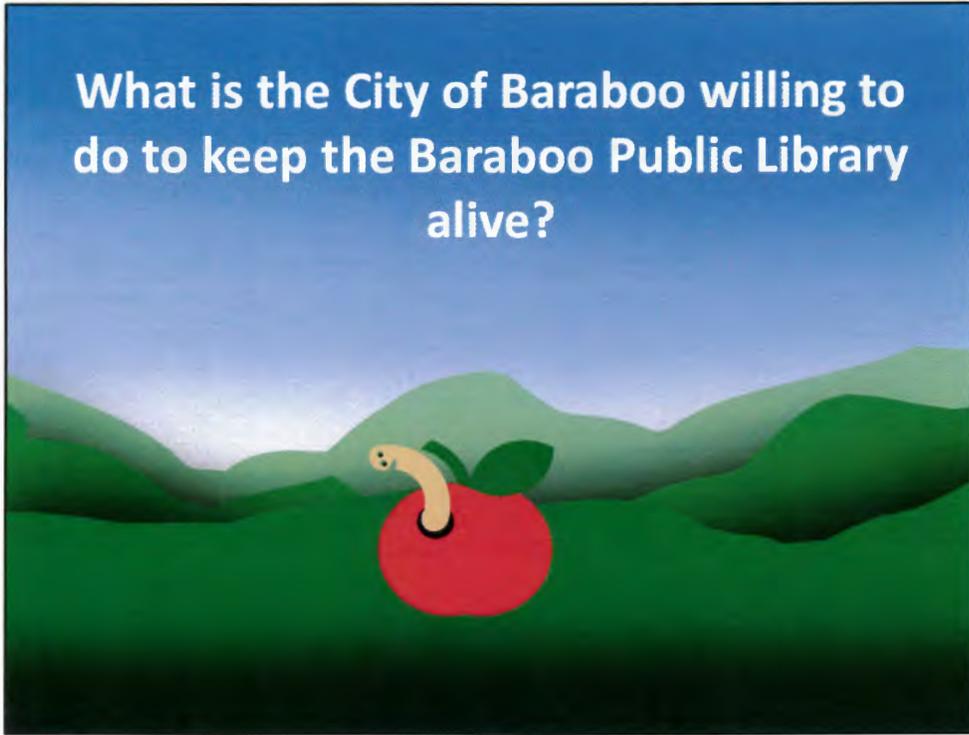
The Baraboo Public Library strives to continually nourish the people of this community.



You have already seen the limitations of our building: the antiquated heating & cooling system, accessibility, worn aesthetics, and overall lack of space. The urgency can be summed up in this message:

The missed opportunities come with a high cost to the “mental wealth” of our community.

What is the City of Baraboo willing to do to keep the Baraboo Public Library alive?



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