



Seven-Day Schedule Here to Stay (for now)

With many library users saying they prefer visiting on the weekends, Rochester Public Library (RPL) leaders plan to keep the current 7-day schedule.

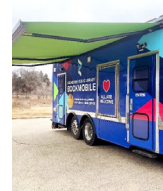
Library Director Karen Lemke says the daily schedule implemented in June of 2021 appears to be successful. “When we started opening back up last year, we intentionally chose days that we thought would be more accessible. We theorized that being open every day of the week might remove barriers to access, especially with free parking available on the weekends.”

A recent survey confirms that hypothesis, with half of respondents indicating that Saturdays and Sundays are the most convenient days to visit. 34% of survey respondents said Saturday is the easiest day of the week to visit RPL, and 16% indicating Sunday as the easiest day of the week.

Prior to the pandemic, RPL’s summer schedule changed based upon the school calendar, with Saturdays limited to just four open hours of service and Sunday closures. The current schedule is consistent, making it more customer friendly.

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Lemke says ideally the hours will become permanent, but it's unclear if funding will be available to cover Sunday premium pay.

"Over the last year, there has been little to no programming offered on Sundays due to COVID concerns," explains Lemke. "We're hoping to have a more 'typical' series of Sundays later this year so we can assess our staffing levels and determine potential costs related to staying open longer on Sundays."

The move to offering longer Sunday hours is unique. While other Minnesota libraries are open on the weekends, few, if any, are open a full eight hours on Sundays.

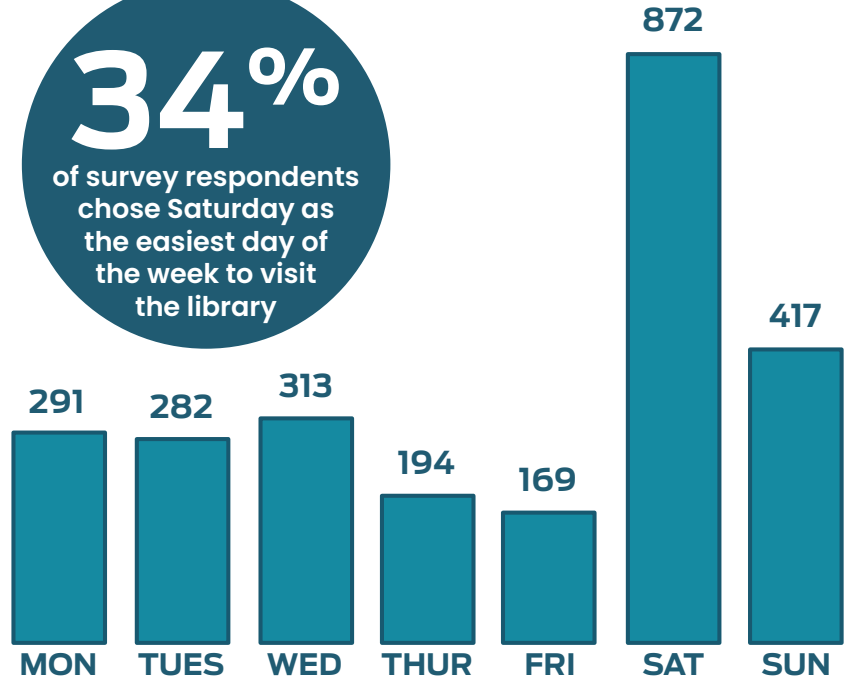
Aside from conducting a survey, RPL staff also reviewed usage patterns during October 2021 and partnered with the Diversity Council to host a focus group and interviews with individuals from often under-represented communities. Both the study findings and usage patterns support keeping the library open seven days a week. The busiest day for the library throughout the month of October 2021 was Saturday, with the highest concentration of visitors in the mornings.

"I love that the library is open more hours per day, and later — especially on Fri/Sat/Sun. The hours it was closed before were often the exact ones I wanted to visit during :) The new schedule is great!"

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
10AM-8PM

Friday - Sunday
10AM-6PM



3,203

Hours Survey Respondents



50%

Hours Survey Respondents said Saturday & Sunday are the easiest days to visit.



66

Individuals from diverse communities participated in a focus group



92%

Hours Survey respondents agree or strongly agree that they feel welcome when visiting the Bookmobile

Friends' Rochesterfest Book Sale

Monday, June 20 | 5-7PM (Members Only Preview)

Tuesday, June 21 | 10AM-7PM

Wednesday, June 22 | 10AM-7PM

Thursday, June 23 | 10AM-6PM

Memberships can be renewed or purchased at the door.

www.rplmn.org/friends

SAVE THE DATE

Letter from the Foundation Director

Thank you so much for all you've done to make our library stronger with your gifts through our Library Foundation. Last year, we were able to fund an awning for the bookmobile to keep staff, patrons, and materials out of the elements. We were also able to purchase 25 new Wi-Fi enabled laptops that anyone can checkout at RPL. There is already a waitlist which proves the great need for this resource in our community. We were able to help the library purchase a new scanning station that translates 100 languages, as well as books, materials and more!!

Many of you attended our second successful virtual Wit, Wisdom & Wine this January, enjoying foods and wines in your home, curated by People's Food Co-op, Chef Eman, and MasterChef Season 10 celebrity chef, Shari Mukherjee, as well as sessions from many wonderful speakers. We hope to be back in person at the Library, January 28, 2023!!



We also appreciate your participation bidding during our second annual online Holiday Auction. This event gets more successful each year, so please look to donate items or bid again this November!

You can support us in July by rounding up when shopping at People's Food Co-op or by making purchases at Charter House's Sidewalk Sale - which will run for the first time in three years at the old K-Mart in Rochester.

We are so grateful for your dedication throughout these last few unpredictable years. Because of your support, we are helping neighbors in our area make their lives better.

We can't say thank you enough!



Brenda Kardock
Rochester Public Library
Foundation, Executive Director





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In Appreciation

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*in appreciation of all
dedicated RPL staff*
Dr. Gail Gamble
*in appreciation of
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Leon & Linda Gregg
*in appreciation of
Bookmobile Staff*
Sylwia Bujak
*in appreciation of
Brenda Kardock*
Douglas & Linda Hillenbrand
*in appreciation of
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Susanne Todd Daood
*in appreciation of my
book club*

Sara Patalita
*in appreciation of
Reference printing and
computer help!*
Laurel Kniskern
in appreciation of RPL
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*in appreciation of the
library staff*
Jane & Mary Campion
*in appreciation of the
staff at RPL*
Brenda Kardock
*in appreciation of
Wit Volunteers*

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in honor of Louise Moe
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*in honor of
LuAnn Betcher*
Rebecca Pierce
*in honor of my reading
friends: Susanne, Pam,
Jan & Cathy*
Moses & Emily Margritt
Rodriguez
*in honor of our
grandchildren*

Tana Elias
*in honor of
Patricia Calvert
Kimberly Edson &
Angela Joyce
in honor of RPL Staff*
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Carl Most
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Margaret Pennings
Deborah Martell
Karen & Frank Marano

Summer PLAYLIST

June 4 - August 28
rplmn.org/playlist

This year's all ages adventure & reading program officially starts Saturday, June 4.

Participants can find Summer Playlist activity logs through August 28 at the Library, Bookmobile, BookBike, or on the Library website. Those who complete this year's program will receive a teal Summer Playlist bookbag and have an opportunity to share their completed logs in a community art display and in a printed 2022 Summer Playlist book.

rplmn.org/playlist



Meet Allison!

Allison serves as a Social Worker at the library.

This special partnership with Family Service Rochester is supported by a Rochester Area Foundation Better Communities Grant and the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

To learn more about all of our wellness services, including Social Worker Services, visit rplmn.org/wellness



Friends Recap 2021, Look Ahead to 2022

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the operations of the library and the Friends throughout 2021, there was a gradual improvement in the Friends operations starting in the second half of the year.

- Friends were able to fund \$11,851 worth of library programming and materials.
- The Bookstore gave the library a \$25,000 block grant.
- Over 3,400 donated items were added to the library collection or used to support the Neighbors Read program, with a value totaling almost \$60,000.
- Friends also continued to support other community organizations, even throughout the pandemic. The "Read with Me" book bags for babies program continues to be funded by Friends. Donated materials were forwarded to the Day Center; mini libraries; schools in Rochester, Chatfield, Stewartville; Hometown Heroes; and Operation Paperback for Soldiers, among others.

Looking forward to 2022

- The Friends Board has elected new officers.
- We are always looking for new bookstore volunteers and new board members. Please contact the library volunteer coordinator, Marilyn Campbell at 507-328-2341.
- Friends are again accepting donations of gently used books; CDs, DVDs, even VHS tapes; and puzzles and games (complete sets, no missing pieces). Drop off donations during library hours in the bin near the Bookstore entrance or in the bins outside the library garage door on 1st Ave.

Val Kaliszewski, Friends' President

Friends' Book Store Hours

Monday - Thursday
11AM-6PM

Saturday
11AM-2PM

New inventory daily!

Watch our Facebook page for pop-up sales and other great deals!

www.facebook.com/FriendRochPubLibrary

Winterfest Book Sale

The Winterfest Book Sale was a resounding success! The Friends of the Library made \$7000 in the March sale which covers Friends' contributions to Youth Services Programming throughout the year! Our next sale will be in June. We hope to raise enough money to fund our contributions to the Seed Library and the "Read with Me" book bags for babies program.

Operation Paperback

Your donations to the library get used in many ways!

Some items that aren't suitable for library use or in Friends' sales are perfect candidates for the Operation Paperback program, which sends gently-used books to American troops, veterans, and their families.

"I just wanted to let you know that I have received your package safely. I really appreciate it and look forward to reading what you sent! You're all very great and generous people for doing what you do. It really makes a positive impact on the soldiers out on deployment.

With gratitude,

Vincent M. Torres
SGT, S3 CUOPS
C CO. 319TH ESB



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Karen Lemke, Library Director
klemke@rplmn.org

Nicole Henry, Layout/Design

Find Us Online

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Summer Activities for Kids Head Outdoors This Summer

Head outside and meet RPL at the park this summer!

For the first time since 2019, the BookBike and ArtCart will be out in local parks every week this summer June 6 through September 1. According to Heather Acerro, Head of Youth Services, the visits are part of a partnership with Rochester Parks and Recreation. In addition to offering materials checkout and art projects, this year's schedule will include storytime and outdoor game events. The BookBike & ArtCart will visit Soldier's Field, Riverside Central Elementary School, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Silver Lake Park, and Slatterly Park each week.

RPL is also planning to host kids' activities at the Gage Elementary School and Nachreiner Park Bookmobile stops on Fridays June 10 through September 2.

Youth Services will be at Quarry Hill Nature Center this year with storytimes in the pavilion at 10AM on Saturdays June 18, July 23, and August 20.

Please note outdoor activities will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. To see the current schedule of activities for kids, visit our online calendar at rplmn.org/events.