

Annual Report

2022



Millburn Free Public Library
200 Glen Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041
www.millburnlibrary.org

Millburn Free Public Library Annual Report – 2022

People want to be at the Millburn Library.

The Millburn Library inspires and informs.

The Millburn Library helps people live better lives.

*These three statements comprise the **Vision of the Millburn Free Public Library**. In everything that we think or do, we ask ourselves how that idea or action supports this vision.*

2022 was an exceptional year for the Millburn Library. First and foremost, the library re-opened its beautifully renovated facility at 200 Glen Avenue. If you've been away for a while, we invite you to come in and see our refreshed building. But more than this, statistics show that 2022 was our busiest year ever, with more items borrowed than any other year on record and greater program attendance than any year in our history.

Thank you, as always, for your interest in, and support of, the Millburn Free Public Library. We are all very proud of the role we play in our community and hope that you find a way to enjoy one of our many excellent services, whether they be virtual or on site.

*Michael Banick
Library Director
January 6, 2023*



Above: Renovated lobby looking toward the William R. Swinson Art Gallery.

Cover photo: The entrance to the renovated Children's Room of the MFPL.

Renovation

After a seven-month long renovation, the Millburn Library reopened at 200 Glen Avenue in May 2022. It took a few more months to settle into our space and get everything “just right” before the official ribbon cutting ceremony on October 8, 2022.

This was the first major renovation of the facility since it opened in 1977.

While the main building was closed, the library operated very successfully out of a temporary site on Millburn Avenue, maintaining full service to the M-SH community for the entire duration of the project.

The first floor, mezzanine, and parts of the second floor were renovated. Changes in layout improve sightlines and safety and make for better use of the space. New lighting, flooring, and furniture help lighten the interior of the building and make things feel brighter and more inviting.

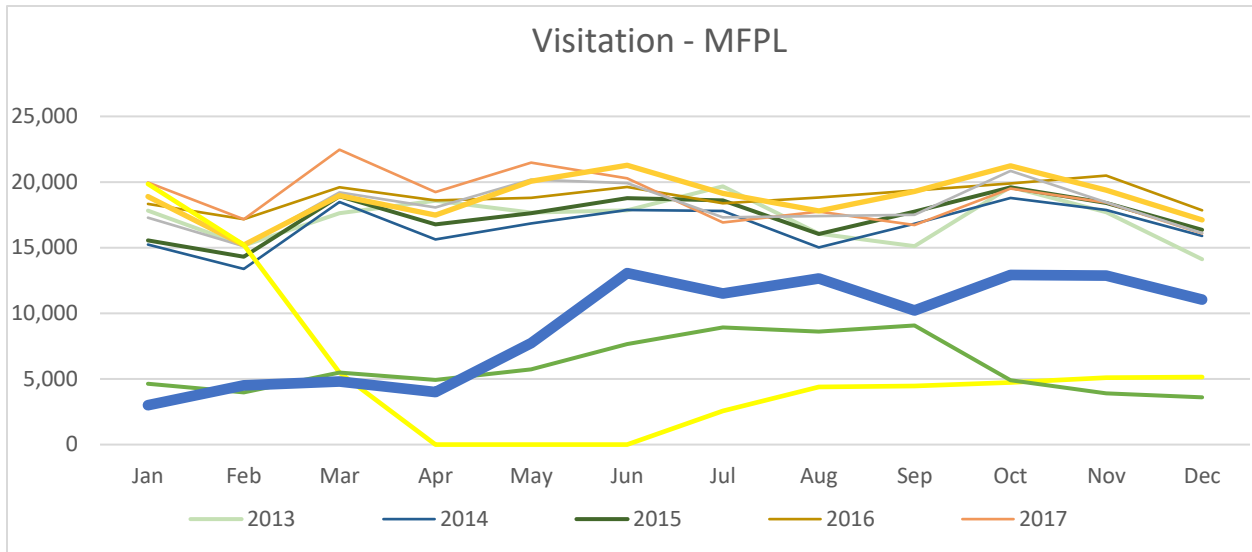
The biggest change took place in the Children’s Room, where interior walls were taken down in order to expand this space by 20%. The theme of the room is “Reading will take you anywhere you want to go,” and will hopefully inspire young readers to explore the world around them for years to come.

Improvements to the lobby, art gallery, circulation area, adult reference room, teen area, and staff workroom round out the first floor. To learn more about the renovation and to see photos, please visit www.millburnlibrary.org > About > Grand Reopening.



The newly renovated Children’s Room of the Millburn Free Public Library.

Visitation



Year	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Visitation	208,700	226,913	226,005	217,416	225,823	66,935	71,421	108,323

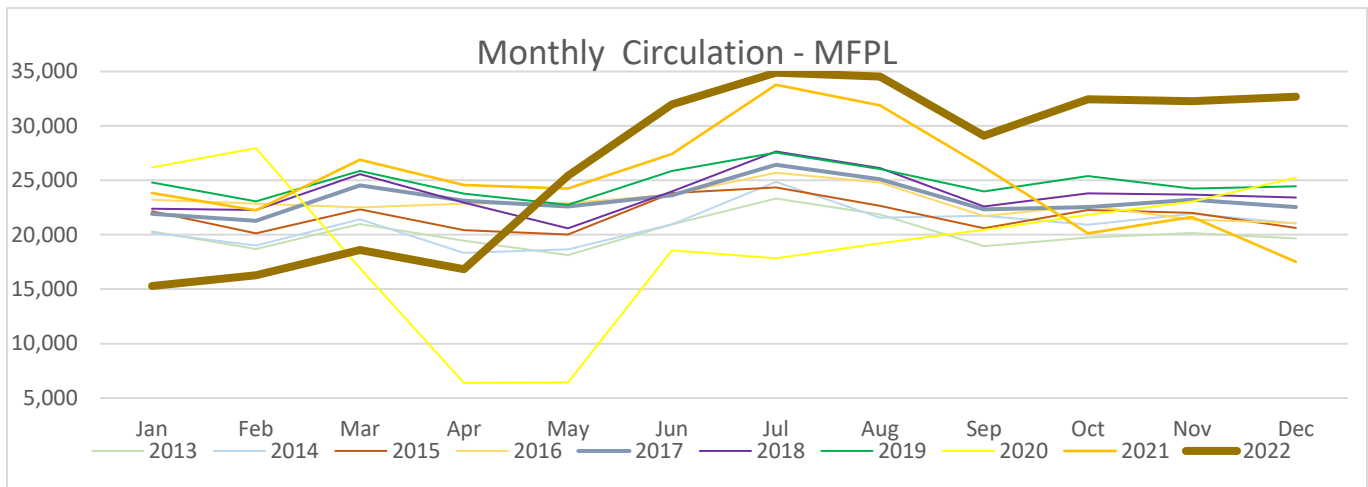
The library is continuing to rebuild its attendance in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Year 2022 was our biggest year for attendance since 2019, with a 50% increase over 2021. This is especially remarkable because the library was in a temporary storefront from January through April while the renovation of the main building continued. While this is still about half of library’s pre-pandemic attendance, we are encouraged by the growth we have seen, especially after reopening at 200 Glen Avenue.

On site attendance is only part of the Millburn Library’s service array. Virtual services, which don’t require a physical trip to the library building, have more than doubled over the last three years. These services include e-books and streaming services, live-chat reference, online database usage, and virtual programming, which are discussed in more detail on the next pages, under Circulation and Programming.



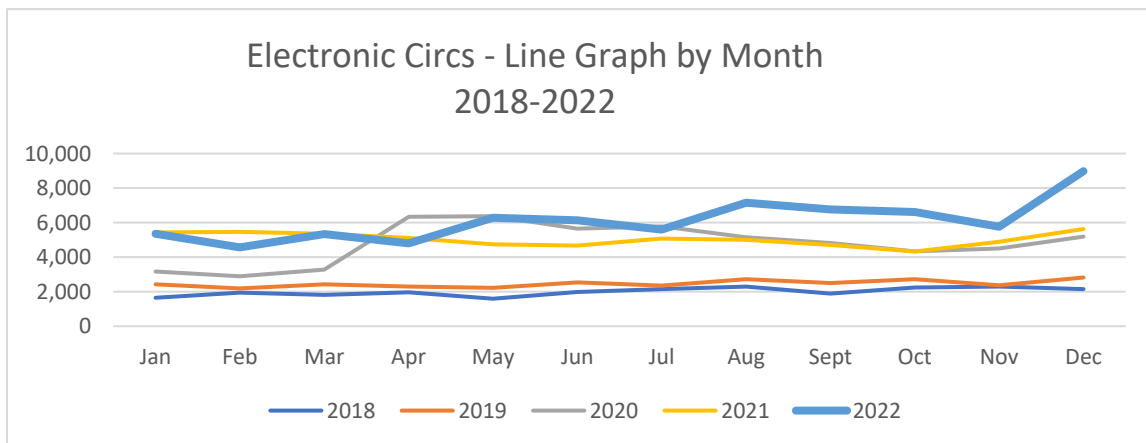
Looking toward the new Teen Room, located under the mezzanine.

Circulation



Year	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Circ	261,397	275,405	279,250	285,032	297,792	230,065	300,375	320,445

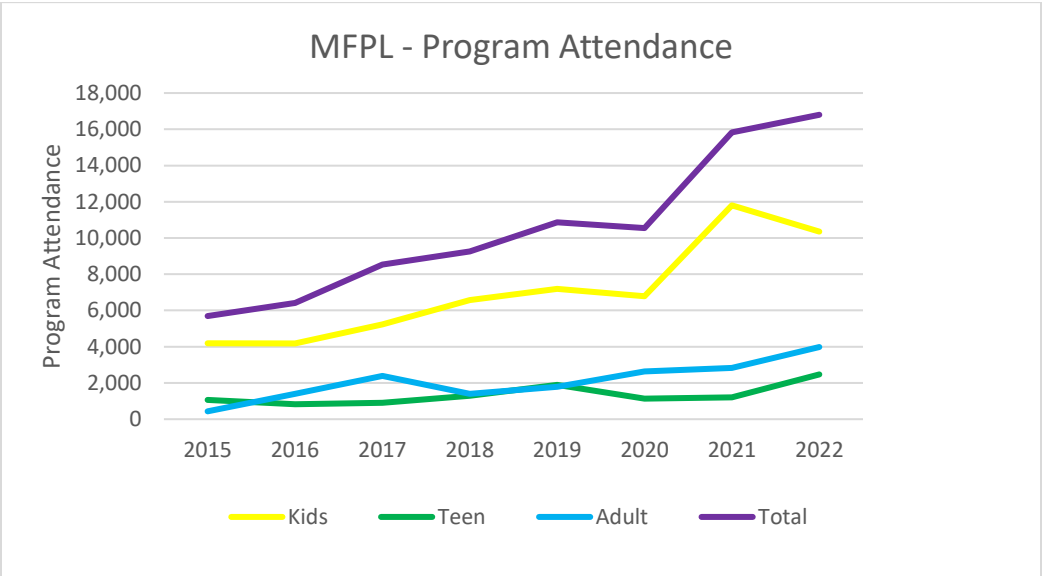
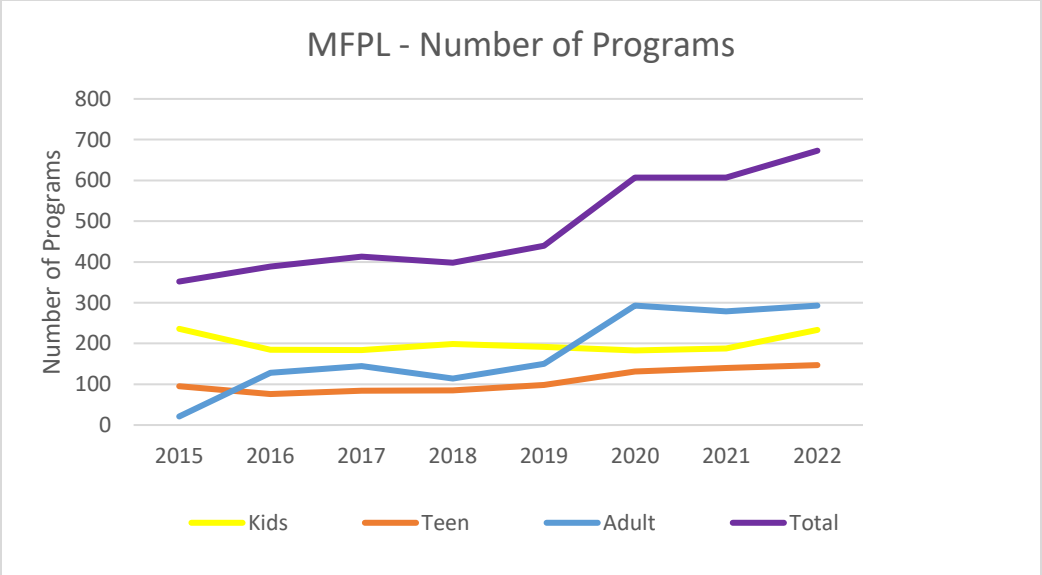
Millburn Library’s circulation figures – the total number of items borrowed – continue to climb into new record territory. This year was the second year where we exceeded 300,000 checkouts. Once again, Millburn is a top library in both BCCLS and the state of NJ for circulations per capita. We are pleased to see the surge in borrowing after reopening our renovated facility in May 2022. Perhaps the biggest surprise this year was the popularity of our jigsaw puzzle collection, which recorded over 1,200 checkouts. Electronic checkouts, including e-books and streaming services, remained high. Even after doubling in usage from 2019-2020, e-circs continue to grow at a double-digit pace, with 2022 finishing out 21% ahead of last year. E-circs continue to be the biggest area of growth, fueled in part by the convenience of online borrowing and post-pandemic changes in consumer behavior.



E-book usage and streaming have more than doubled in recent years and account for 23% of all checkouts.

Programming

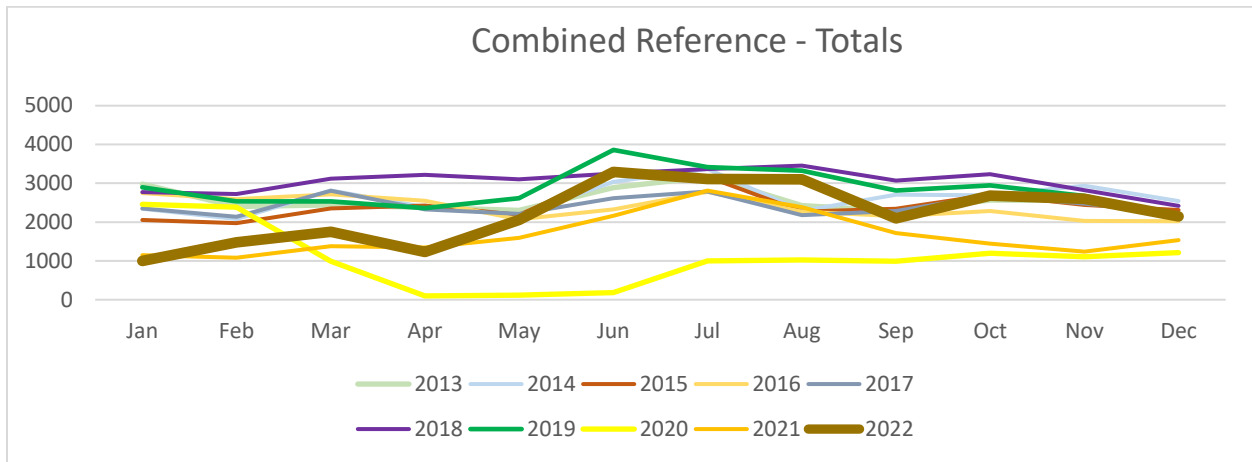
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AUDIENCE</u>	<u># PROGRAMS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>Attend. per Progr.</u>
2015	Kids	236	4,198	18
	Teen	95	1060	11
	Adult	21	434	21
	Total	352	5,692	16
2016	Kids	185	4,180	23
	Teen	76	825	11
	Adult	128	1,401	11
	Total	389	6,406	16
2017	Kids	184	5,234	28
	Teen	84	896	11
	Adult	145	2,396	17
	Total	413	8,526	21
2018	Kids	199	6,566	33
	Teen	85	1,296	15
	Adult	114	1,400	12
	Total	398	9,262	23
2019	Kids	192	7,188	37
	Teen	98	1,891	19
	Adult	150	1,784	12
	Total	440	10,863	25
2020	Kids	183	6,783	37
	Teen	131	1,136	8
	Adult	293	2,636	9
	Total	607	10,555	17
2021	Kids	188	11,802	63
	Teen	140	1,199	9
	Adult	279	2,831	10
	Total	607	15,832	26
2022	Kids	233	10,348	44
	Teen	147	2,470	17
	Adult	293	3,982	14
	Total	673	16,800	25



Good programming is one of the pillars of an excellent public library. The Millburn Library prides itself on its array of educational, cultural, and recreational programming for people of all ages. The charts above show how programming has risen to new levels in recent years, with tremendous growth beginning in year 2020. While most of the slate of programs has shifted back to in-person and on-site, there are still a number of online options for people who prefer to attend virtually.

Reference Interactions

The following chart shows the combined count of interactions at both the Children’s Desk and the Adult Reference Desk, as well as any remote interactions, such as reference by e-mail, live chat, and text-a-librarian services. The nationwide trend indicates a downward turn in reference interactions, but not in Millburn. While the pandemic dealt a blow to both visitation and reference interactions (which are tightly correlated), the last couple of years have shown a steady increase in interactions and the MFPL continues to outperform many of our peers. The chart above shows a big jump in count for year 2022, especially after moving back to our renovated building in May.



Year	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Reference	29,502	28,554	29,067	36,561	34,114	17,771	19,841	26,557

Collection Development

On December 31, 2022, the Millburn Library’s physical collection of catalogued holdings stood at 77,249 items. In year 2022, the library acquired 5,363 print books and 375 pieces of non-print media, such as DVDs and audiobooks on CD. A total of 6,801 items were withdrawn. These withdrawals include damaged and worn copies as well as superseded and outdated titles. In addition to these physical holdings, the Millburn Library acquired access to 422 e-Books exclusively for Millburn cardholders. This is in addition to the 1.5 million electronic titles available through our e-Book and streaming services.

Personnel

The library bid farewell to two staff members in 2022: part-time maintenance worker Booz Valcin and full-time library assistant Insha Fitzpatrick. Then, with the return to full service hours and the return to a renovated facility, the library filled several part time positions that had been held in abeyance. Mei Mei Chan, Tracy Dante, Nick Consales and Lucianna Duarte all joined the ranks as part-time staff.

Labor negotiations began in earnest once the renovated facility opened. In early December, a tentative agreement was reached. At the time of this report's writing, that agreement is still awaiting ratification, but once that is done, we will have a labor contract in place through December 31, 2025.

New Services and Outreach

In 2022, the library expanded its world language collections and commenced a formal program series to help non-native speakers learn English. Our popular tech talk series and special one-on-one tech help programs have been very popular with people trying to get the most out of their smart devices. The MFPL launched a library-by-mail service for residents who are physically unable to get to the library due to illness or mobility issues. And, new to our "library of things," the MFPL now has Amazon Fire Tablets to lend to resident cardholders in good standing.

Friends of the Millburn Library

The Friends of the Millburn Library – a 501(c)3 charitable organization – is the fundraising arm of the Millburn Free Public Library. Contributions to the Friends, whether through annual membership dues or by special donation, help make additional library programs and services possible, such as the annual Summer Reading program and the Millburn Library's very popular museum pass program, which now includes over a dozen highly-regarded cultural institutions. The Friends also hold an annual book sale, which is more than just a fundraiser, but has grown into a hugely anticipated community event, with great outreach and great results. The Friends contributed over \$100,000 toward the library's recent renovation, including a special "Founders' Campaign," which was launched specifically to assist with this project.

Goals for the Future

Improvements to the 2nd Floor. With the library's long-awaited renovation of the first floor now complete, we will turn our eye to the areas of the second floor that were not part of that project, including the Auditorium, Meeting Room B, the second floor restrooms, and connecting hallways. Shelving on the mezzanine is also at end-of-life and should be replaced with durable steel shelving.

Strategic Planning. The MFPL's latest strategic plan guided the library through the end of 2022. In November 2022, the Board of Trustees selected Library Strategies to assist with the development of our next long-range plan. Work will begin in January 2023 and should take 6-8 months to complete.

Continued expansion of digital services. Recent years have shown us the importance of access to digital collections and virtual services. The library will continue to explore additional ways to deliver more content in this popular format.

Board of Trustees - 2022

Ruthie Binder, President	Term expires 12/31/2026
Sara Sherman, Vice President	Term expires 12/31/2023
Judith Eisner, Treasurer	Term expires 12/31/2024
Amy Ipp, Secretary	School Superintendent's Rep. Statutory seat.
Maggee Miggins, Trustee	Mayor's Rep. Statutory seat.
Dorothy Kelly, Trustee	Term expires 12/31/2022*
Lisa Chenofsky-Singer, Trustee	Term expires 12/31/2025

* *Appointed terms are for five years. Trustee Dorothy Kelly was reappointed to the Board of Trustees at the Township Reorganizaion Meeting on 1/3/2023 for a new term that will end on 12/31/2027.*