

# Library Funding and the Library Budget FAQs

## Where does the Library get its funding?

About 98% of the Library's income comes from local property taxes. The rest comes from late fees, photocopy fees, and library card purchases. We also receive a small amount of grant money each year.

## How much of my property taxes go to support the Library?

Approximately 2.7% of your total tax bill goes to the Library.

## Who decides how much money the Library receives?

The Park Ridge City Council decides how much money the Library will receive each year.

## Why did the Library Board of Trustees reduce the budget?

The Library Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing an annual budget. The Library currently receives approximately \$550,000 less per year than it received in 2008. Budget reductions, including service reductions were necessary in order to reduce deficit spending.

## Why has the Library's income been reduced by more than \$500,000?

Since 2009 the City Council has reduced the amount of income received from property taxes three times.

The City Council also eliminated \$100,000 in revenue sharing that the Library had previously received. The result is that the Library's annual income has declined, and is now approximately \$550,000 less than it was in 2008.

## Library Levy History

		Increase/(Decrease)
2006	\$4,179,700	
2007	\$4,180,300	\$600
2008	\$4,190,500	\$10,200
2009	\$4,006,000	\$(184,500)
2010	\$3,953,000	\$(53,000)
2011	\$3,953,000	\$0
2012	\$3,737,907	\$(215,093)
<b>2013</b>	<b>\$3,737,907</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## How has the Library Board been dealing with this up until now?

The Library Board of Trustees and the staff have implemented a number of cost-saving measures over the past five years as our income has declined. These reductions were made in areas that did not impact Library hours and services.



FAQs Continued...



**PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

20 S. Prospect Avenue Park Ridge, IL 60068 (847) 825-3123 [www.parkridgelibrary.org](http://www.parkridgelibrary.org)

## What did the Library Board cut from the current budget and how did that impact Library services?

The Board's goal is to continue to provide the best library collections and services possible within the Library's reduced budget while maintaining core services. The chart below shows how the reductions impacted services.

Reductions starting May 1, 2014	Impact
New materials budget reduced by \$73,600	<p>The Library will purchase fewer new materials and some of our online databases (reference resources) will be eliminated.</p> <p>Having fewer copies of new best sellers on-hand will result in longer wait times for these new titles and we will have to rely on Interlibrary Loan for other items that we are not able to purchase.</p>
Personnel Costs reduced by \$182,200	<p>Library hours were reduced on Fridays &amp; Sundays by 1 hour each day and the Library is closed on Sundays in the summer. The Library will be open 9–5 p.m. on Fridays and 1–5 p.m. on Sundays.</p> <p>Some positions have been eliminated and some part-time staff have had their hours reduced.</p> <p>The Library is offering fewer programs for children and families due to the elimination of a full-time librarian position.</p> <p>We have eliminated staff participation at most events outside of the Library to reduce personnel costs.</p>
Building Repair Projects reduced by \$140,000	Projects have been postponed or spread out over several years
Other Reductions - \$37,500	Less money was deposited in the Technology Replacement Fund, we eliminated the off-site storage space we were renting and we reduced the budget for marketing Library programs and services.

## Why did the Library reduce the number of hours the Library is open?

The Board decided to spread the reductions across several areas in order to maintain our core services. By making some changes to the number of hours the Library is open, we are able to reduce our personnel costs while maintaining most of our services and programs.

## Is the Park Ridge Library the only Library that is closed on Sundays in the summer?

No, many public libraries are closed on Sundays in the summer. When it came to Library hours, the Board reviewed a number of days and times as options for closing the Library, such as Thursday mornings, but the impact on children's programming was too great.

## What is meant by "core services"?

Core Services are the services that a community expects its public library to provide. They include: access to books and other materials in a wide array of subjects and formats; access to and assistance in finding the information residents need when they need it; support for students' educational needs; early childhood development, literacy and lifelong learning; assistance for those with visual and physical handicaps that need special help to use library services and materials; a place to use a computer, read a newspaper, learn a new skill, attend a program, or access Wi-Fi.

## What will happen in the future regarding the Library's budget?

The Library Board will continue to confront budget challenges unless the Library's income is increased.

## Are there other ways to increase the Library's revenue?

The Library Board is considering a variety of user fees for both residents and non-residents as a way to generate more revenue. On March 10, 2014, the Library began charging adults that do not have a Park Ridge library card \$3 per hour to use a computer in the Library and June 1, we began charging non-Park Ridge library card holders to attend some programs.