

**Milton-Freewater Public Library
Strategic Plan
April 2026-April 2030**



Location:

8 SW 8th Ave / Milton-Freewater OR, 97862

Building Size: 13,000 Square Feet

Built: 2003

Service Population:	11,475
City of Milton-Freewater:	7,151 (Census 2020)
Unincorporated:	4324

Vision Statement

A community where everyone is safe to learn, play, create and belong.

Mission Statement

To inspire lifelong curiosity, the library provides practical & diverse resources, inclusive spaces, and expert staff, empowering our community to meet a changing world with creativity and confidence.

Priority: Celebrate Diversity: Residents will have programs and services that promote appreciation and understanding of a variety of lifestyles, backgrounds and unique qualities that make us all individuals.

Goal: All community members will feel included regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, political beliefs or sexual orientation. Everyone will have a voice in the library and in the community.

Goal: The library is a welcoming and inclusive place for all community members.

Activities:

Outreach

- Library staff will attend at least five outreach events per year. Targeted events include: School District events like Gib Science Night, ELL Night, and Dual Language Night, OCDC/Headstart Family Nights and community events like Farmer's Market, Cinco De Mayo and Friday Nights on Main.
- Library staff will create outreach materials focusing on library services that specifically pertain to the audience of outreach. Example: information about our Spanish Language Collection will be distributed on ELL Night and Dual Language Night.
- Go to Summer Lunch Bus stops three times per summer to distribute free books and information to families about the library and summer programming.

Events:

- Host a multi-cultural family event each year. This event will include foods from different countries/ethnicities and short activities for families to engage in and learn about other cultures residing in our community.
- Monthly Bilingual pre-school story-times
- Host "Voices of the Valley" programs and invite local speakers to present their heritage and family stories.
- Library will host one LGBTQ+ family night each June for Gay Pride Month.

Collections/Displays

- Prominently display bilingual books, and pair English & Spanish Books together for local Dual Language students from the school district
- Increase use of Spanish Language Materials

Priority: Welcome to the United States: Services for New Immigrants

New immigrants and refugees will have information on citizenship, English Language Learning, employment, public schooling, health and safety, available social services and any other topics they need to participate successfully in American life

Goal: The library will be a place in the community that immigrants and refugees can go to get the information they need.

Activities:

- Purchase additional items on English Language Learning, and Adult Basic Skills in Spanish
- Create a partnership with OCDC and local bilingual citizens and newcomers to help them navigate the community and library & community resources.
- Create list of referral organizations for Citizenship help for immigrants.

Priority: Target Underserved Library Populations

Goal: Ensure the library is providing services for patrons of all ages, and intellectual ability by ensuring our hours, services, collection, and fees are best serving all our patrons.

Activities:

Outreach

- Visit Senior Center during a lunch gathering and present our library services, ask for suggestions for programming, and implement feasible ideas.
- Reach out to Horizon Project Inc for ideas for programming geared towards adults with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Events:

- Host events for children with sensory issues by limiting the number of participants, creating a quiet space and simple activity or craft.
- Host a Senior Event at the library to engage our community retirees.
- Host a teen event including pizza and video games
- Consider "Library Camp" days with multiple activities and food during Winter and Spring Break from school

Library Services

- Put suggestion boxes for library services, and item purchase recommendations at the front desk, children's collection area, and upstairs in the adult collection area.
- Provide simple crafts for visiting Horizon Project Inc groups using the library.
- All minor children receiving a library card will get a free book.

Strategic Plan Development Process

This plan was developed in 2025 & 2026 by Library Director Lili Schmidt, Library Staff, and the Library Board.

Thank you to all those who provided valuable input to our Strategic Plan:

Rhina Barahona, Library Staff

Laurel Estes, Library Board

Jennifer LeBlanc, Library Board

Margo Piver, Library Board

Randy Reese, Library Board

Lili Schmidt, Library Director

Brendan Smith, Library Staff

Connie Westman, Library Staff