GRAND FORKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

1903 - 1972 Carnegie Building

1972 - 2008 Present Building
CAPSULE HISTORY OF THE GRAND FORKS PUBLIC LIBRARY

1892 A group of Grand Forks women contribute $5.00 for books, store them in an office, and take turns as librarians.

1897 Grand Forks Federation of Women's Clubs vote to work for the establishment of a tax supported Public Library.

1900 Grand Forks City Council establishes library levy, School Board appoints first Library Board, and the Public Library opens in rented quarters at the Odd Fellows Temple May 5.

1901 Andrew Carnegie agrees to donate funding for a new Public Library building.

1902 Library Board purchases one quarter block on the corner of 5th and Alpha for $5,000, awards contracts for construction at $23,000, and purchases equipment for $4,000.

1903 Public Library opens with 500 books for persons of good deportment.

1905 Children's story hour offered on a regular basis.

1911 Bids are accepted to wire the Library for electricity.

1931 Library hours reduced because of difficult economic times.

1939 Auditorium in basement is remodeled into a Children's Room.

1957 Bookmobile service is started in the city.

1965 Anna Lindaas bequeaths her estate of $30,000 to the Library.

1969 Library bond issue for construction of a new library passes with a 68.29% "yes" vote on June 10.


1971 Cooperative agreement with Public Schools for processing is approved in March and the first Mail Order Library Service starts.

1972 Library opens May 22 at the new location, 2110 Library Circle, and is officially dedicated on October 24.

1974 Grand Forks County contracts with Grand Forks Public Library for library service to county residents.

1980 Computerization begins.

1984 Library expansion project added 4,500 sq. ft. with a second floor Children's Department and Electronic Library section established with 10 computers. School system moves to new facilities.

1986 Library faces financial problems due to loss of federal money. Library hours reduced and some fees instituted.

1988 Library card catalog automated, connecting users with card catalogs of other ND libraries.

1989 Library catalog completely online - paper card catalog no longer updated.

1996 Internet access available to the public via 7 computers.

1997 Red River flood. Library and in-house materials undamaged, but many checked out materials lost. 1706 donated books added to collection. Plans for remodeling put on hold.

2008 Task Force established to study and suggest future vision for the Grand Forks Public Library.
**1972**

**GRAND FORKS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Square Feet:** 35,075  
31,415 usable sq. ft.  
18,928 Public Service Area including  
Children’s Area  
676 Library Office Space  
1,352 Meeting Rooms  
676 Grand Forks Room/Board Room  
1,200 Bookmobile garage  
3,100 Leased to school system

**Finances:** $903,000  
$425,000 Bond Issue  
$230,000 Federal LSCA allocated by NDSL  
$125,000 from sale of old building  
$123,000 from library building fund and interest

**Expenses:** $903,933 total:  
$667,672 construction  
$137,851 equipment  
$ 45,000 site  
$ 53,409 architect and miscellaneous  
(Phase II is a project of $90,000: $54,000 Federal Funds; $36,000 Local Funds includes air conditioning, more parking, exterior trees, interior plants, additional furnishings, watering system, etc.)

**Collection:** The Library has 74,000 books and 4,000 records. The new Library with its present equipment plus Phase II will accommodate 114,000 books and 12,000 records.

**Broad Objectives of Building:**  
A. Serve the Library needs of the City and area well for 30 years.  
B. Have internal expansion area economically converted to use.  
C. Provide the utmost flexibility to accommodate change.  
D. Provide a pleasant atmosphere in which to use library material.  
E. Have convenient meeting rooms for public use in small or large groups.  
F. Offer complete access to handicapped.

**2007**

**GRAND FORKS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Square Feet:** 37,415  
18,928 Public Service Area  
1,400 Children’s Area  
676 Library Office Space  
1,275 Meeting Room & Story Room  
150 Grand Forks Room  
676 Board Room  
1,416 Mail order & interlibrary loan area  
1,772 Electronic Library  
312 Cataloging, processing, & overdues

**Finances:** $1,602,732 revenue  
$1,527,340 Real estate taxes & State Aid  
$ 41,683 Library fees  
$ 9,134 Donations & grants  
$ 24,575 Interest & miscellaneous

**Expenses:** $1,547,758  
$1,046,952 staff salaries & benefits  
$ 283,464 collection  
$ 217,342 other operating expenditures

**Collection:** The Library has 308,497 books; 341 print serial subscriptions; 25,108 audio items (cassettes, CDs, and a few phonograph records); 21,054 DVDs and videos; 6,000 Electronic books; and access to 20 licensed databases.

**Computers:**  
32 Internet public access  
2 Office, publisher programs for public use  
2 Children’s learning games  
11 Library computer catalog for public use  
30 Staff computers

**Hours of operation:** Mon. – Thurs. 9 am – 9 pm,  
Fri. & Sat. 9 am – 5 pm, Sun. 1 – 5 pm  
The GFPL is open 68 hours a week.

**Staff:** 25 FTE  
6 librarians with ALA-MLS degrees, 14 full-time staff, and 34 part-time staff.