

# Mobile Library & Summer “Learning” Program service outcomes

West Fargo Public Library

## Community assessment

Programming staff performed an environmental assessment in January of 2021 of the West Fargo School District to understand the community's needs for a mobile library bus route and summer learning opportunities. We referenced the below data sources, conducted interviews with community stakeholders and referenced knowledge gained from the Strategic Planning process. Our goal and purpose for performing this assessment was to gain a greater understanding of the community's needs and wants for summer programming. The results of the environmental assessment showed overarching themes to develop the following outcomes and route suggestions below.

Data Reviewed:

- [IXL - North Dakota pre-K math standards](#)
- [IXL - North Dakota ELA standards](#)
- [Early Childhood Education \(nd.gov\)](#)
- [ND Curriculum Selection Guide FINAL WORD 9-17-13.pdf](#)
- [Insights of North Dakota \(nd.gov\)](#)
- [Standards & Scales - ELA | North Dakota Regional Education Association \(ndrea.org\)](#)
- Gale Analytics Community Insights report through 2020 (internal tool)

Interviews Conducted:

- Paula Krogen and Cailin Shovkoplyas, Mobile Library Task Force
- Dr. Tom Gravel, WF Community High School
- Katie Ettish and Lance Belisle, WF Parks District
- Dr. Jennifer Fremstad, WF High School
- Mark Bernston, WF high school teacher
- Danielle Johnson, The Puzzle Place
- Lindsey Burkhart, SENDCAA

## Community narrative

Parents and caregivers are concerned about how COVID-19 disrupted the traditional classroom for their kids, and also recognize a traditional classroom setting is difficult for youth to absorb knowledge during the summer months. Parents and caregivers talk specifically about the lack of enthusiasm for learning and need for continued academic skill practice in the summer months. Parents and caregivers want their kids to keep reading and learning over the summer, but are concerned that if it too closely resembles "school" they won't enjoy it. They believe more experience driven programs are more likely to engage youth and teens. Parents and caregivers want their families to get outside and enjoy the nice weather in the summer months. They want to simplify their summer schedule and accomplish

multiple tasks in one stop. Parents and caregivers want to do activities as a whole family or attend events that have something for all family members. Parents and caregivers want to have more tools and to be better equipped to promote learning while at home.

Community organizers recognize several barriers to access the public library and mobile library, such as transportation, technology, language, and culture. Community organizers think we need to approach our underserved community members in different ways than our main library user base. If we leverage community partnerships already engaging our underserved community members, they will be more likely to trust the effort and step forward.

Adults want to continue learning, but will only invest time into their unique and specific interests or hobbies.

## Outcome statements

The following will drive program development for the summer “learning” program as a whole.

1. Youth and adults enrich their minds and bodies through experience driven programs.
2. Families build meaningful relationships each other and their community.
3. Underserved community members participate in summer learning program.
4. Youth maintain language arts skills.
5. Parents and caregivers discover and strengthen skills to support their child’s learning.
6. Youth are engaged learners.

## Route locations

List all route location options identified in community assessment or that you think correlate to the above outcomes in some way. A key question to ask when we select stops will be “How does this route location support the identified outcome(s)?”

### Daytime / Regular Route

- Horace Elementary School
  - A location to reach those who may experience transportation barriers
- Wilds Park or SheyWest
  - Both are a concentrated area of nonpatrons with kids and a presence of households making less than \$50,000
  - SheyWest is also the location of the Parks District Farmers Market in the afternoon from 3-6:30 pm
  - Wilds Park will hit the area between 40<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup>
  - A location for families to access the library while doing activities already in their schedule
- Rendezvous Park or The Lights
  - A concentrated area of nonpatrons with kids and a presence of households making less than \$50,000

- Rendezvous Park is the location of the Parks District daytime baseball program M-TH from 8 am to 1 pm
- A location for families to access the library while doing activities already in their schedule
- Central Park Apartments / Sanford Medical Center Hospital
  - A concentrated area of nonpatrons with kids and a presence of households making less than \$50,000
- Village West Park and / or Meadow Creek Parkway area
  - A concentrated area of nonpatrons with kids and a presences of households making less than \$50,000
  - A Bhutanese New American community
- Heritage Commons area / Dakota Boys and Girls Club
  - A place to reach multiple generations, New Americans, and those with disabilities
  - A concentrated area of nonpatrons with kids and presence of households making less than \$50,000
- Sheyenne Crossings / Elmwood Park
  - A place to reach multiple generations
- Harwood Elementary School

#### Past Route locations (not already)

- Shadow Wood Park
  - Popular location due to Splash Pad
- Maplewood Park
  - Close proximity to a number of daycare locations
- Goldenwood Park
- Independence Elementary School
- South/Veteran's Memorial Pool/Tintes Park

#### Evening / Weekend / Once a Month Route

- Grace Gardens / Willow Park area
  - A location to reach those that may experience transportation barriers
  - A location to reach the Somali New American community
  - A potential long-term outreach partner
- Elmwood Park
  - Evening summer baseball program from
  - A location to reach families already participating in community activities provided by the Parks District