



Mayor Coleman's 2009 Proposed Budget:
Financial Stability. Wise Investments. Strong Management.

Saint Paul Public Library

Overview

In a move to increase access for all, the Saint Paul Public Library will add morning hours at six branch libraries – Arlington Hills, Hamline-Midway, Hayden Heights, Merriam Park, Rice Street and Riverview Branches – increasing total library hours throughout the City to 775 each week, the most in more than 30 years. The library's staff will increase by 4 full-time equivalent positions. The additional staff members will provide direct service to the public, and will make possible the additional hours of morning service.

The additional staff and morning hours will make it possible for the library to provide more programs for customers. Morning programming will address the special needs and interests of seniors, young children and their parents and caregivers, and job-seekers.

Investing in children, families, and neighborhoods

Mayor Coleman is committed to providing greater access to the library's resources and services. The additional hours will be a convenience to everyone, but will be especially helpful to four segments of the community.

- *Seniors.* Services to seniors, including computer training and informational programs, are a high priority for the library. Seniors traditionally favor morning hours, which frequently provide a welcome contrast to the busy after-school hours.
- *Young children.* Morning hours are also favored by parents and caregivers of young children. These additional hours will expand the library's ability to support early literacy with programs such as *Read Around Saint Paul*, which involves staff and volunteers in every branch in a multifaceted approach to promoting reading in the library and at home.
- *Job seekers.* Library users looking for information on career development and work readiness will value the additional hours to access the library's strong collection of specialized informational materials and technology. It will also give the library more time to expand its award-winning program of classes for job-seekers.
- *People using computers.* The public demand for access to computers continues to grow, even as the library adds additional public workstations throughout the library system. (In 2007, reflecting the significant increase in the number of computers at Rondo and on the East Side, the use of public computers increased 63% over 2006.) In 2009, the 45 additional morning hours each week will significantly increase availability of computers for public use.

Programs

In 2007, 93,664 adults and children attended 3,445 library programs. In 2008 the library is on pace to increase both the number of programs and their attendance. The additional hours in 2009 will provide more opportunities for the library to present programs that inform, engage and delight residents of all ages.

Technology

Funding for technology will increase to meet 2009 requirements. The number of public computers will continue to grow to meet the continually increasing demand for access. The additional morning hours will provide 45 hours more access to computers each week. The library will continue to add innovative, web-based services in order to provide direct customer service from the library user's home, school or workplace.



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Collection

The Mayor's proposed budget maintains the budget for library materials. There will be no reduction in the funding for the books and other library materials that residents of all ages use so heavily. The library will continue to provide up-to-date materials that are useful, relevant and accurate.

The proposed funding will enable the library to maintain the rich collection of over 1.3 million items that serves Saint Paul's diverse community. In 2007 the library purchased 117,419 books, 12,691 visual materials, 7,816 audio materials, and a broad selection of online information resources. The maintenance of funding will assure continuation of the library's ability to meet public demand for current books and other library materials.

Facilities

The Mayor's proposed budget will continue to support the library's program of planning for the future of our buildings while significantly upgrading interior spaces and improving security. In 2009 the library will continue to invest in capital maintenance improvements such as the 2008 re-carpeting and re-painting of branches and the addition of security equipment to seven buildings.

The budget will also target additional projects through the Capital Improvement Budget through partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department:

- Arlington Hills Library/Merrick center through the Payne Maryland Partnership.
- Highland Park library/Hillcrest Recreation Center.
- Sunray Library/Conway Recreation Center.