

# Bacon Free Library



The Bacon Free Library was established in 1880 by Oliver Bacon. It resides on land that is the original site of the Town of Natick, as well as being sacred land of indigenous peoples. The historic building houses both the Bacon Free Library and the Natick Historical Society. Both organizations operate under separate Boards of Trustees. The Bacon Free Library Board of Trustees oversee the care and maintenance of the historic building and grounds, while the Town of Natick funds and oversees the staff and library services provided to the community.

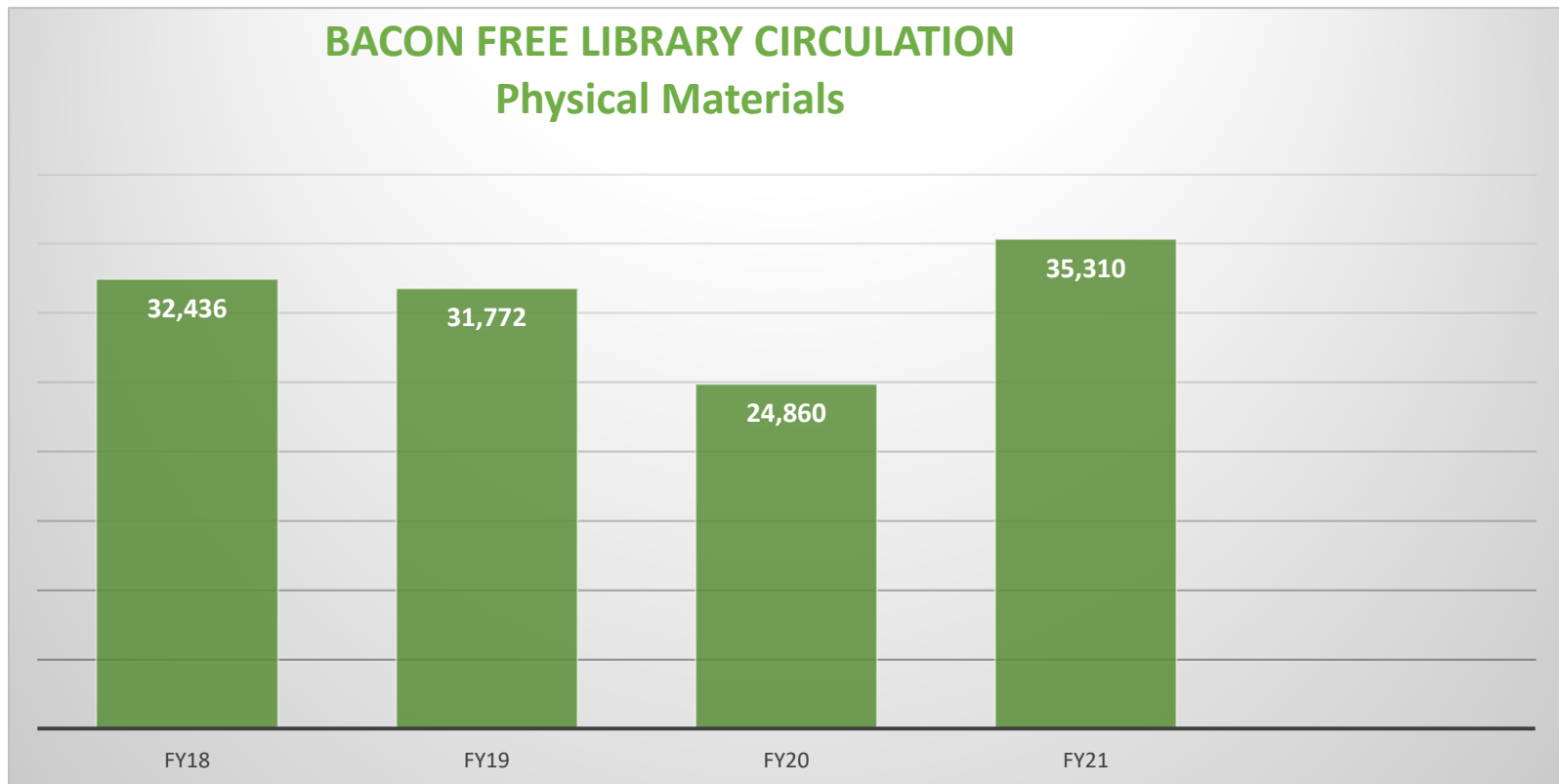
# Bacon Free Library Overview



- 6 PT staff and one FT Director at the Bacon
- Open 44 hours a week in addition to special evening and weekend outreach events and programs.
- While staffing and library materials are maintained separately from the Morse Institute, there is a great deal of collaboration between the two libraries.
  - Collaborative programming and outreach events
  - Shared marketing
  - Daily delivery services between the two libraries
  - Bookmobile services to patrons of both libraries and local schools

# Circulation

**Circulation** has seen a significant increase, with physical materials distribution increasing over 8% prior to the pandemic. Curbside pickups were implemented during the pandemic and have proved so popular, they have become part of our daily operations.



**Programming** plays an important role in connecting with the community. Various formats allow increased opportunities for patrons to access programs both locally and worldwide via Zoom. We currently offer popular outdoor programs for children and adults on our lovely historical grounds on the Charles River; we offer safe indoor in-person programs via our Personalized Story Hours and Read to a Dog programs; our virtual offerings have included conversations with local community members; a presentation on the cultural history of the Ukraine; trivia nights; story hours, and gardening programs as well as partnering with libraries statewide in order to provide access to many diverse offerings. We also offer hybrid options for our five Book Clubs.

*FY21 = 306 programs serving 2,728 patrons*



We are currently offering a Seed Lending Library in collaboration with the Morse Institute Library and Natick Community Gardens. Patrons can “check out” seeds to take home and plant.

# Some of our Summer Programs



# Focus on Equity & Access

- Natick Libraries went **Fine Free** in 2021 to ensure free and equitable access to materials, programs and services for all.
- **Deliveries** between the Natick libraries was implemented two years ago and continues on a daily basis providing patrons with library materials from either library within a 24 hour period.
- There were **2,463 Curbside Pickups** in FY21. This service will continue to be offered to meet patron demand and to help make the Bacon collections accessible to all.
- **Hotspots and iPads** are available for checkout to ensure the internet is accessible to all Natick residents.
- In person and virtual **One-on-One Tech Help** from Bacon staff help patrons navigate Zoom and online library resources such as e-books.
- **Program Collaborations** with the Morse Institute, the Natick Historical Society, Natick Community Gardens, Community Senior Center, Natick Organic Community Farm, Natick schools in addition to other local organizations, ensures that everyone has access to the Bacon's diversified programming.

# Shared Costs - Network Fees



Network costs are shared between the two Natick libraries.

- Includes cost of e-resources which gives access to over 76,000 items
  - Bacon patrons accessed e-resources over 5,700 times in FY21

Minuteman Library System reached a record-breaking 272,000 Overdrive circulations in January 2022. This illustrates the continued growth and importance of library digital lending of ebooks and audiobooks. Minuteman consists of over 41 libraries in Metrowest Massachusetts. A Natick library card gives access to materials at all of these libraries.





# Additional Shared Costs

The Morse Institute Library and the Bacon Free Library share many costs and services. This ensures the community receives continuity in library services along with cost savings.

- Daily deliveries between the two libraries
- Collaborative programming and outreach
- Shared marketing
- Bookmobile outreach services to patrons of both libraries





# Augmented Costs



While private contributions have remained somewhat stable, the cost of services continues to increase. The Bacon Free Library augments these costs with grants, donations, and contributions from the Friends and Trustees.



- The Bacon Free Library Friends and Board of Trustees will continue to work to raise funds for books and other library materials.
- The Friends will continue to fund programs, events, and museum passes.

# Augmented Costs - Bacon Free Library Board of Trustees



The Bacon Free Library Board of Trustees maintain and preserve the cultural heritage of the building.

Current projects include:

- Replacement of the 17+ year old HVAC system.
- Renovation of the historic third floor which will open the library up to more light and align it more closely to its original design.
- Updating the landscaping and grounds.

Recent past projects include:

- Replacing the windows to make the library more energy efficient.
- Replacing the historic markers on the exterior of the building.
- Repainting the interior.

# Bacon Free Library

## FY23 Proposed Budget: \$227,271.00

DESCRIPTION	FY22 Budgeted	FY23 Request	Dif FY23-FY22	% Change	Notes on % change
SALARIES MANAGEMENT	\$0.00	\$83,000.00	\$83,000.00	N/A	Director salary reinstated in Bacon budget.
SALARIES TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL	\$114,970.00	\$109,121.00	(\$5,849.00)	-5.1%	Extra staff hours minimized.
FACILITY REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00		
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00		
MINUTEMAN LIBRARY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP	\$5,800.00	\$7,650.00	\$1,950.00	31.9%	Network fees increased due to increased purchase of e-books.
HEAT (OIL & GAS)	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00		
PURCHASED SERVICES MISC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
PRINTED MATERIALS	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$0.00		
LIBRARY SUPPLIES	\$37,750.00	\$1,500.00	(\$36,250.00)	-96%	Programming costs paid by Friends group, grants & corporation.
	\$184,520.00	\$227,271.00	\$44,965.00	23.2%	



## Patron Quote

***“The Bacon Library has a unique personal feel. Its cozy interior, and its beautiful setting, make it so peaceful. And, the librarians are so incredibly welcoming, cheerful, and are genuinely interested in helping patrons find books they want. It just makes you want to be there as much as possible! Natick isn't a small town, but the BFL makes it feel less big somehow.”***

