



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



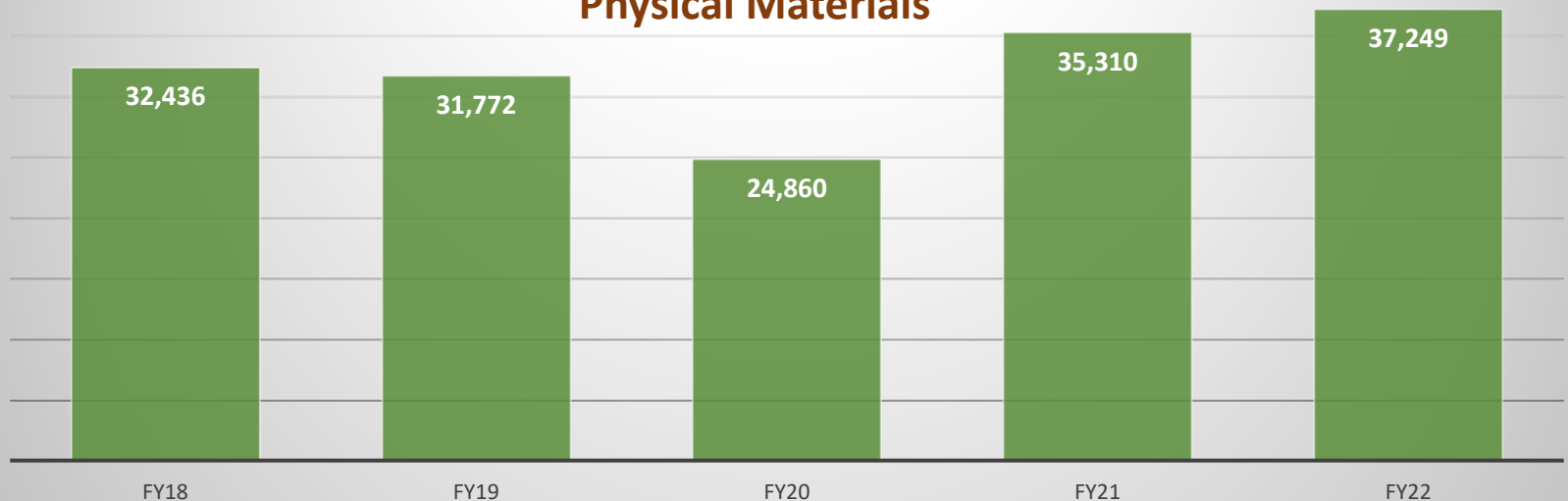
- Six PT staff and one FT Director at the Bacon
- Open 44 hours a week in addition to special evening and weekend outreach events and programs.
- While staffing and library materials are maintained separately from the Morse Institute, there is a great deal of collaboration between the two libraries.
 - 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 continues to hold strong with 37,249 physical items circulated in FY22. This is a 5% increase over FY21 and is stronger circulation than prior to the pandemic.

BACON FREE LIBRARY CIRCULATION Physical Materials



Programming

plays an important role in connecting with the community. We currently offer programs in a variety of formats to meet the needs of all of our patrons. We have a mix of virtual, hybrid and in-person programs for all ages. Our most popular programs are seasonal outdoor programs on our historical grounds. For indoor programs, our *Jammin'With You* series of musical programs geared for ages 0-3 average over 35 attendees per session. We partner with many town departments and local non-profits to offer programming that keeps the majority of our programs local, while offering some virtual programs that allow us to bring in speakers from all over the world.

FY22 = 304 programs serving 4,122 patrons



Our Seed Lending Library offers patrons the opportunity to “check out” seeds to take home and plant or swap with extra seeds from their own garden.





Programming



Programming is such a vital part of public libraries that we have included it as a new initiative in our town budget for FY24. While we receive funding from the following outside sources -

- Friends of the Bacon Free Library
- The Bacon Free Library Corporation
- Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants
- Sponsorships, etc.

- additional funding will allow us to offer our most popular programs year-round and increase the overall number of high-quality programs we can offer for all ages.



Changing Art Exhibits showcase area artists and give patrons the opportunity to view various works of art on a rotating basis.

Bacon Free Library

FY24 Proposed Budget: \$233,005.00

DESCRIPTION	FY23 Budgeted	FY24 Request	% Change	Notes on % change
SALARIES MANAGEMENT	\$83,623.00	\$84,222.00	0.7%	
SALARIES TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL	\$109,121.00	\$111,849.00	2.5%	
LIBRARY PROGRAMMING	0	\$2,500.00	N/A	
FACILITY REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0%	
COMPUTER MAINTENANCE	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0%	
MINUTEMAN LIBRARY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP	\$7,650.00	\$5,179.00	-32.3%	Reduced based on MLN projected FY24 budget.
HEAT (OIL & GAS)	\$5,500.00	\$7,150.00	30%	Projected increase in utilities.
PRINTED MATERIALS	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	0%	
LIBRARY SUPPLIES	\$1,500.00	\$1,605.00	7%	Projected increase in paper supplies.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$227,894.00	\$233,005.00	2.2%	

