

Library Usage Stats	
Physical Items Borrowed	6,011
Hoopla Items Borrowed	914
cloudLibrary & Comics Plus Items Borrowed	354
Website Visits	1,251
Event Attendance	338
Door Count	1,546

Yearly Stats are updated on the first of every month and can be found online at:

<https://gardinerpubliclibrary.org/about-us/library-statistics/>

- **Summer Reading Program 2022:** Our 2022 Summer Reading Program is over! From June to August, the library hosted 41 events which had a total attendance of 805. A total of 83 youth participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and 40 completed the full challenge, a completion rate of 48%. This is up from 25% in 2021 and 44% in 2019. No Summer Reading Program was held in 2020.
- **The Numbers:** Dive into those numbers above! The amount of physical items borrowed from the library (6,011) and the number of items borrowed through our various Digital Library services (1,268) were the highest that I (Library Director Justin Hoenke) have on record since 2019. The word is getting out and more people are using the Gardiner Public Library.
- **Museum & Park Passes:** One of our biggest success stories this summer was our Museum & Park Passes Program. I will share the total number of times that these passes were borrowed in the Fall once most of the museums & parks close for the season, but what I will share is this amazing memory of one Friday in August at the library...we had 3 people in line waiting to sign up for one of the passes and at the same time we kept getting calls from folks interested in reserving this passes. It was a glorious day! In the Fall of 2022, we will begin offering new museum & park passes to various venues around Maine such as the Maine Discovery Museum & the Farnsworth Art Museum. Stay tuned for more!
- **Gardiner Middle School:** I've connected with Dr. Sara Sims at the Gardiner Middle School and I hope to collaborate with them a lot in the Fall to get their students connected to the library. The first thing that we've done together (along with Healthy Communities of the Capital Area) is to start a Storywalk at the Middle School.
- **Fall Events:** Head on over to <https://gardinerpubliclibrary.org/events/> to check out our slate of events at the Library for Fall 2022. There's even more to come...we're just adding the finishing touches so once again stay tuned.
- **Gay Grant Book Release Fundraiser:** On August 31, the library hosted the book release party for local author Gay Grant's new book "Around the Kennebec Valley: The Herman Bryant Collection". All proceeds from the sale of this book were donated by the author to the Gardiner Library Association. Over 80 attendees came to this event. This event was covered in the Kennebec Journal: <https://www.centralmaine.com/2022/08/30/kennebec-region-featured-in-latest-book-from-south-gardiner-historian/>
- **All Staff Training Day:** On August 26, 2022 the library was closed to the public so that the library staff could have an all staff training day. We visited the Bangor Public Library to look at their setup, their services, and more. Thank you for supporting the continuing education of the library team. We all had a great and educational and mind expanding day.

- **Boys & Girls Club:** Many thanks to the Boys & Girls Club for so many great donations! We received some great play sets for youth that are now at home in our 2nd Floor Children's Room, along with a full sized refrigerator for our staff room.
- **All Things Gardiner Public Library Building:** The Gardiner Library Association is hard at work on maintaining and restoring our amazing Gardiner Public Library Building. In August 2022 numerous projects were completed: a remote HVAC controller was installed to help monitor heating/cooling levels, a rather large wasp nest was removed from the roof, and our volunteers once again did an amazing job at keeping up with the gardens around the library. Upcoming projects include renovation of the Teen Library (funded by the J.W. Robinson Welfare Trust) and the cleaning and restoration of the brownstone around the library building (funded by the Gardiner Library Association).
- **Job Descriptions:** And finally, I have begun work on looking at and reviewing job descriptions for the library staff. My goal is to take a fair but critical eye towards what the daily work of the staff looks like and also look at what it may look like in the next 2-3 years as libraries and our community continue to change and grow.

Written and submitted by Justin Hoenke on Friday September 2, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hoenke". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Justin" and last name "Hoenke" clearly visible.