

Delaware Libraries

Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Milton Public Library

Address:

121 Union St.
Milton, DE 19968

Contact Information:

(302) 684-8856
(302) 684-8956 FAX

Library Exterior:



Estimated Size: 4,689 SF (recently expanded to 15,665 SF)

Hours:

Monday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday	10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday	1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Sunday	CLOSED



Milton Adult Stack Area



Milton Periodical Area

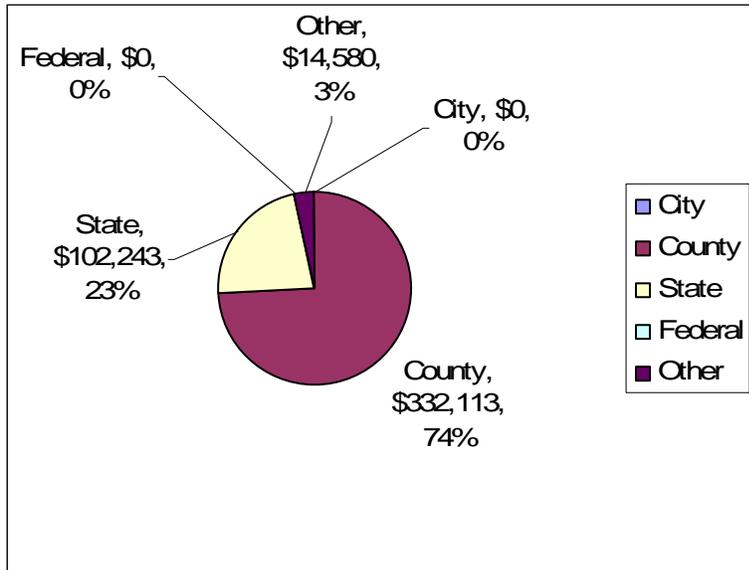


Milton Children's Area

Estimated Hours Open 2003:

2,327 hours

Financial Breakdown – Income:



History:

The Milton Public Library was organized in January 1875 and was housed in Welch’s Drug Store. Initially the library consisted of just one bookcase of 200 volumes. The library became part of the Milton Century Club in 1913 and was relocated into the J.O.A.M. Building, with Miss Agnes Lacy serving as the first librarian. At this time, books were donated by members and the membership fee was \$1 per year.

After moving for a brief period to the Palmer Building, the library relocated again in 1920 to the Odd Fellows Building. The library and the Century Club worked closely together with Club members serving on the library commission and working as librarians. As years went by, the townspeople of Milton continued to support the library on a volunteer basis. When the school districts combined and the new Cape Henlopen District emerged, the library became a tax-supported public library with a total annual budget of \$7,100.

During the last part of the century, the library has seen many changes. The new Milton Public Library on Union Street was dedicated on July 22, 1980. Additions include the Governor’s Room (1987) for meetings, programs and other activities; the Conwell Room (1990) for additional meeting space; and a Toddlers Room (1991). Disaster struck during 1993 when the library was forced to close due to damage from the Union Street bridge replacement. Library services were

provided for almost a year in the Milton Civic Center Building with the library reopening in September 1994.

The Milton Public Library has grown dramatically from its humble beginnings of 1875. The library boasts a circulation of more than 47,000 from a base collection of more than 24,000 library materials. In addition, the library offers HOLLINET, an integrated automated library system which provides county-wide access to materials and on-line data-bases. Programs for adults and children, space for tutoring and meetings, computers, orientation programs, and library tours for school-age children can all be found at the Milton Public Library.

General Description:

The Milton Library is located in a converted storefront near the center of the community. The consultants have not visited the Milton Library since its expansion. The Library had been quite crowded. Shelving was filled to capacity and the density of bookstacks limited the amount of space available for user seating. A second floor meeting room was accessible by a stairway.

Five Year Circulation History

- 1999 – 47,097
- 2000 – 43,626
- 2001 – 51,756
- 2002 – data was not available
- 2003 – 61,539

Five Year Circulation Trend:

The data is incomplete, with no circulation reported for 2002. However, between 1999 and 2003 circulation increased by thirty-one percent (30.7%). There was a decrease in 2000.

2003 Library Visits: 37,936

2003 Registered Borrowers: 2,971

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)

Total Holdings	27,622
Audio Holdings	373
Video Holdings	2,373
Periodical Titles	208

Holdings per Capita:

- 2.1 items per person in service area
- Sussex County mean is 2.8; Delaware mean is 2.8
- State target is 3.09

2003 Circulation Breakdown:

Total Circulation	61,539
Juvenile Circulation	24,015
Adult Circulation	37,524

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)

Turnover 2.23
Sussex County mean is 2.26; Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: \$ 288,480

Estimated Service Population:

2004/05 (Estimate)	12,903
2009/10 (Projection)	14,476
2015 (Projection)	15,835
2020 (Projection)	17,067
2025 (Projection)	18,104

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: \$ 22.36 per capita

Cost per Circulation: \$ 4.69

Cost per Hour Open: \$ 123.97 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 4.8 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 13.12 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 26.45 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.36 SF per person (before expansion)

Library is over 1.0 SF/capita after expansion

State target is 1.0 SF/capita

Library Visits per Capita: 2.9 visits per capita

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 23.03%

Total Units of Service*: 102,636

Total Units of Service per capita: 7.95

*Total Units of Service includes circulation, library visits, reference transactions, and number of persons attending programs.