

Memorandum

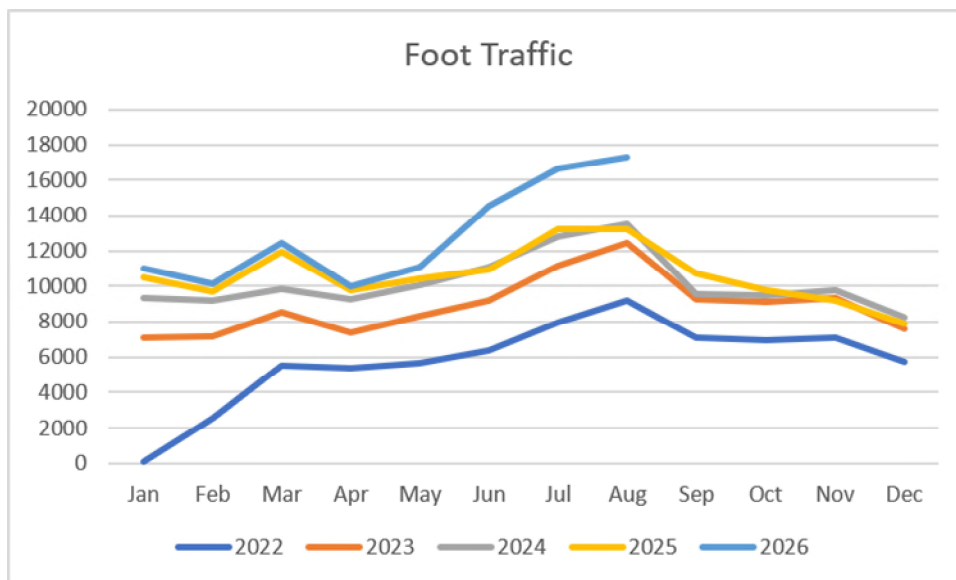
To: Council for September 29, 2026 Budget Workshop

Submitted by: Hilary Bloom, Director of Library Services

Subject: Squamish Public Library 2027-2036 Financial Plan

2026 Highlights

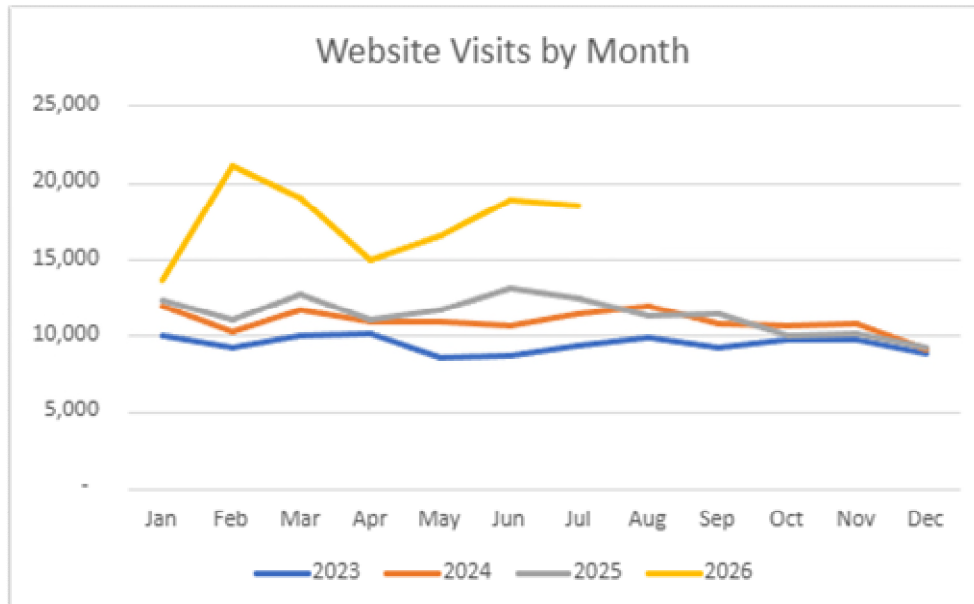
The District of Squamish's support made several initiatives possible this year. We expanded our open hours in June, which contributed to significant growth in foot traffic. August saw 17,302 visitors, the highest ever in a single month. It's worth noting, however, that while our new hours account for a 15% increase in open hours, we have seen a 30% increase in foot traffic.



The continuation of our public technology upgrade enabled us to launch our digitization station, upgrade the accessibility of our meeting room with Auracast bluetooth technology, and make our public printing, scanning and copying solution more secure and streamlined.

Thanks to provincial enhancement grant funding, several other projects were realized, including the service delivery plan presented to Council in June. The project, funded in part by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, will guide the library's long-term service and facilities planning for the next 20-25 years.

The enhancement grant also made our new website project possible. Launched in February, it is seeing a very high number of visits due to its improved and accessible design.



Other key projects realized in 2026 include the successful launch of our new holds pick-up locker at Brennan Park Recreation Centre. Library staff service the locker three times a week, and by mid-September (two months after launch), almost all the lockers are full on each delivery. Patrons are using the return bin at a high rate as well, with over 300 items per month already at this early stage.

We've introduced the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Project, to allow patrons to self-identify if they have a non-apparent disability and might need extra time, patience, or support. Our Summer Reading Club saw such large participation that we ran out of completion medals. We expanded our outreach and programming for seniors, including monthly tech coaching at Westwinds, Shannon Falls and Hilltop House and an afternoon book club.

Our social media content and new merchandise have both had a significant impact, drawing in new patrons and followers, and promoting our culture of friendly, welcoming service.

2027 Initiatives

1. \$100,000 capital request for e-cargo van: vehicle, retrofitting interior, wrap on exterior, EV charging infrastructure
 - This aligns with the mobile library service project introduced to Council in 2025 and which began this year with the \$60,000 investment in the Brennan Park holds locker (funded by the library via provincial enhancement grant funding).
 - With a suitable library vehicle, we will be better able to service the demands of the new holds locker and offer outreach and pop-up services to our vast service area.
 - The library has objectives to increase services to underserved populations, improve the borrowing experience, and apply an accessibility lens to programs and services. With one central branch located in downtown Squamish, the library is limited in its ability to reach all residents. Offering reliable mobile service would positively impact community members who have limited ability to travel.
2. \$20,000 capital request for Library Board Computer Equipment
 - Laptops are required for Library Board members to ensure compliance with District Records Management and IT Security requirements. Continued reliance on personal devices, external email accounts, and third-party solutions presents a significant risk to the organization. To mitigate these risks and align with established governance practices, Library Board members must be provided with District-managed accounts and devices, consistent with the approach taken for District of Squamish Council members.
3. \$4,500 increase to software budget (currently \$15,500; request to increase to \$20,000)
 - Software pricing continually increases, as does our community's demand for expanded access. An increase to the budget will enable us to continue to provide current digital access and explore additional resources to consider adding to our suite of offerings.

For further information on recent activities, please see the [Squamish Public Library's 2025 Annual report](#)