

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



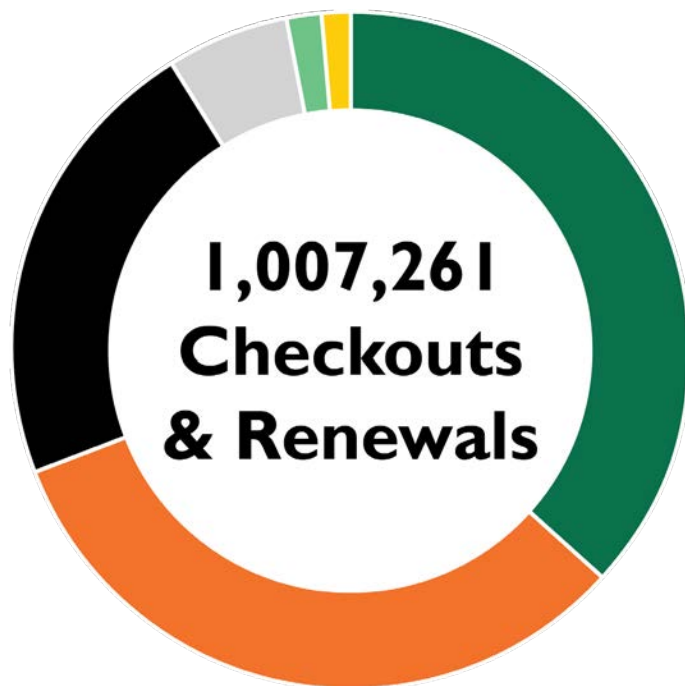
2024 BUDGET
GLANCE
Pages 10-11

ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY

The North Olympic Library System (NOLS) is a junior taxing district serving all of Clallam County, Washington. NOLS is primarily funded through property taxes, with a 2023 rate of 31¢ per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation. The Library also receives funding from fees, investments, and miscellaneous charges.

It is governed by a five member Board of Trustees appointed at large by the Clallam County Commissioners for five-year terms. The System consists of the main library in Port Angeles and branches in Clallam Bay, Forks, and Sequim, as well as the Bookmobile, Outreach Services for patrons who cannot travel to the library, and an array of online services.

FACTS, STATS & FIGURES JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023



LIBRARY USE & STATISTICS

CHECKOUTS & RENEWALS

Clallam Bay	16,492
Forks	58,198
Port Angeles	372,106
Sequim	325,002
Outreach Delivery Service	12,404
E-Circulation	223,059
Total	1,007,261

PATRON VISITS

Clallam Bay	9,501
Forks	33,243
Port Angeles	135,378
Sequim	104,432
Total	282,554

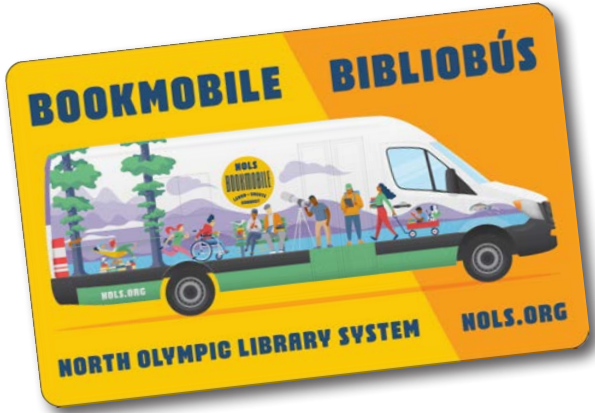
ACTIVE CARD HOLDERS 27,257

NEW CARDS ISSUED 3,829

- PORT ANGELES
- SEQUIM BRANCH
- FORKS BRANCH
- CLALLAM BAY BRANCH
- OUTREACH DELIVERY SERVICE
- E-CIRCULATION

27,257

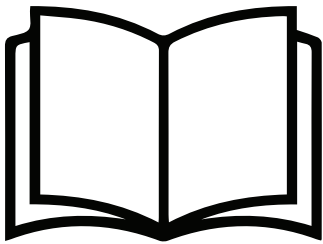
ACTIVE CARDHOLDERS



Limited-edition Bookmobile library card introduced in 2023.

212,405

PHYSICAL ITEMS IN COLLECTION



14,060

LIBRARY PROGRAM ATTENDEES



LIBRARY PROGRAM/ATTENDEES	
Clallam Bay	70 / 322
Forks	149 / 2,553
Port Angeles	286 / 7,618
Sequim	139 / 2,573
Virtual	76 / 994
Total Program/Attendees	720 / 14,060

MEETING ROOM USE/ATTENDEES	
Clallam Bay	69 / 310
Forks	139 / 869
Port Angeles	415 / 4,792
Sequim	0 / 0
Total Meetings/Attendees	623 / 5,971

COLLECTIONS Books & Other Materials	
Clallam Bay	13,800
Forks	25,146
Port Angeles	122,849
Sequim	50,343
Magazine & Newspaper Subscriptions	267
Total Physical Items in Collection	212,405

VIRTUAL LIBRARY	
Visits to NOLS.org & Catalog	239,495
Wi-Fi Sessions	86,359
Online Databases Available	63

HOURS OF PUBLIC COMPUTER USE	
Clallam Bay	2,755
Forks	2,464
Port Angeles	15,350
Sequim	5,771
Total Hours	26,340
Total Computer Prints	187,673

STAFF Positions/Full-Time Equivalents	70 / 58
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VOLUNTEER HOURS	925.73
Individuals/Full-Time Equivalents	93 / 0.47





NEW NOLS BOOKMOBILE STARTS SERVICE

NOLS has proudly reintroduced its Bookmobile service to Clallam County after 41 years, furthering its commitment to equitable access to library resources. This initiative seeks to deliver library services directly to residents who may find it difficult to travel to one of the four branches spread throughout the large county.

The Bookmobile can hold around 1,000 physical media items, including books in English and Spanish, audiobooks, and DVDs, fostering a love for reading in an inclusive setting. It features a ramp for accessibility and a colorful exterior illustration of diverse library patrons designed by Matthew Fleming of Sequim.

The Bookmobile celebrated its launch at various community events throughout 2023, including open houses and parades such as the Sequim Irrigation Festival, Clallam Bay Fun Days, Hoh Days, and Makah Days. It also participated in the Back to School Fair and a Halloween Party at the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal Center, and began route stops in Neah Bay, Blyn, and Three Rivers.

Funding for the vehicle came from timber revenue from Department of Natural Resources managed state trust lands and an American Rescue Plan Act grant. Additional support for book returns was provided by the North Olympic Library Foundation and the Port Angeles Friends of the Library on behalf of member Natalie Spiegel.



Top: The new NOLS Bookmobile. Middle: Children reading on the Bookmobile at the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's Halloween Party. Bottom: The original Clallam County Library Bookmobile. Service was offered from 1949 to 1981.










THE FIRST CLALLAM COUNTY POET LAUREATE

Exciting new experiences were added to our region's cultural offerings with the appointment of Jaiden Dokken as the first Clallam County Poet Laureate—the first role of its kind on the Olympic Peninsula. The significance of this position celebrates Jaiden's extraordinary talent and embodies the united vision of NOLS and Clallam County to foster creativity and literary expression. With the support of a stipend, the Poet Laureate brings poetry to our community through events, workshops, and advocacy for the transformative power of the written and spoken word.

Jaiden is a local writer, printmaker, ceramicist, cidemaker, and self-described highly persistent penpal. In the first year of their April 2023 to March 2025 term, Jaiden hosted 23 events across Clallam County, collaborating with every branch of the library system and local organizations such as the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center, Port Angeles Senior Center, Rainforest Council for the Arts, Sisterland Farms, and Sekiu Community Center. These events sparked excitement with open mics, write-ins, poetry panels, zines of local poetry, and participatory poetry challenges.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

-  Nearly **4,000 new library cards** were issued in 2023, including to an elder who signed up for his first ever library card at the Quileute Senior Center pop-up library in La Push.
 -  2,854 people of all ages registered for the 2023 **Summer Reading Challenge** and 1,452 people logged their reading for at least 30 days, earning a T-Shirt and grand prize entry.
 -  More than **14,000 books and other materials** were added to the NOLS collection.
 -  **Family Conversation Kits** were added to the NOLS collection. The kits are designed to spark conversation with middle-grade readers (approximate ages 8-12) and their families.
 -  NOLS hosted the exhibit **Confronting Violence: Improving Women's Lives/Enfrentando la Violencia: Mejorando la Vida de las Mujeres** from the National Library of Medicine with a panel discussion and documentary screening of *El Poder de Contarlo (The Power to Tell)* by M.i.A. Mujeres in Action.
 -  After a 3-year hiatus, the Art in the Library program returned to the Port Angeles Main Library with the **World AIDS Day** exhibition featuring regional artists impacted by HIV/AIDS.
 -  In partnership with **United Way of Clallam County**, NOLS hosted workshops, meetings and drop-in hours to connect community members with a **Student Financial Aid Liaison**. High school seniors and adults were provided assistance navigating the financial aid process for career training or college.
- Thanks to House Bill 1835 passed by legislature, a \$41,000 **Aim Higher Washington/FAFSA** grant administered by the Washington State Library funded the pilot program in 2022-23. The goal is to increase FAFSA applications in the two lowest performing educational service districts. ESD 114 is one of two districts, and includes Quillayute Valley, Cape Flattery, Crescent, Port Angeles, Sequim, and other nearby school districts.



SEQUIM LIBRARY EXPANSION & RENOVATION PROJECT

As the North Olympic Library System prepares for construction to begin on the Sequim Library Expansion and Renovation project in spring 2024, a lot has happened behind the scenes. The project architects have completed the design and construction drawings, staff are awaiting final permits, and the Library continues to receive generous grant and community support.

Nearly 10,000 square feet when complete, the renovated and expanded building will include ADA-accessible bathrooms, a fire-sprinkler system, increased space for collections, improved community access to broadband and computers, new study and conference rooms, adequate staff space, and more room for educational, cultural and civic events.

Construction Planning

SHKS Architects and NOLS staff hosted a Community Meeting to show the public design drawings and learn about project plans. Design elements like shelving and technology setups are nearly finalized, while stakeholder feedback is ongoing. Construction bid documents were finalized, as well as a preliminary commissioning plan to ensure proper installation of building systems.

Permits and Approvals

Site, easement, and building permits have been submitted to the City of Sequim. Planning is underway with SHKS Architects and Clallam PUD to relocate utilities as a condition of permit approval. A State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) permit and a Construction Stormwater permit have also been filed. Notably, a Conditional Use Permit was granted on September 28, necessary due to the site's residential zoning.

Temporary Location Preparations

The building and occupancy permit for the temporary location at 609 W. Washington St. was approved on December 27. Hoch Construction will implement essential improvements for safety and accessibility, including automatic door openers and restroom modifications. Security and fire alarm systems will also be installed. Olympic Moving and Storage has been contracted to relocate all Sequim Library materials to the temporary site in spring 2024.

Grants to Support Sustainability

The Sequim Library Project was awarded a significant grant of \$205,000 from the Solar Plus Storage for Resilient Communities program. This provides 70% of funding for a 50 kW solar array and a battery backup system to provide at least eight hours of power during outages. The grant application received support from Clallam County Commissioners, PUD and Emergency Management. NOLS continues to apply for additional grant opportunities to provide additional project funding.

Community Engagement and Fundraising

NOLS is seeking donations from community members. Staff and the Capital Campaign Host Committee promoted the project and secured donations at local events like the Irrigation Festival, Farmer's Market, and community group meetings. On December 12, the NOLS Board of Trustees recognized key donations, including a \$211,967 bequest from Dorothy DeLand to name the Outdoor Play Area, \$150,000 from the Friends of Sequim Library to name the Children's Area, and an \$80,000 grant from the Benjamin N. Phillips Memorial Fund for LEED Silver certification. NOLS has raised over \$3.5 million for the project.

Next Steps

As the project advances, design and construction plans will continue to be refined. Regular updates will keep the public informed as the Sequim Library Project progresses, aiming to create a resilient and sustainable library space for the community's future.



Youth Services Librarian Kristine Techavanich served on the **Newbery Award Selection Committee** to select “the most distinguished contribution to American Literature for Children.” In addition to naming three Newbery Honor books, the 15-person committee awarded the 2023 Newbery Medal to *Freewater* by Amina Luqman-Dawson.



National bestselling writer and illustrator Matt Kracht provided an author talk and book signing featuring *OMFG*, *Bees!* and *The Field Guide to Dumb Birds* books.

Award-winning YA author Aden Polydoros joined via Zoom to give a talk and answer questions at Teen Book Club.

Author John Kopp signed books and presented “From Oars to Engines: The Rescue Boat Crews of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and U.S. Coast Guard.”

Book giveaways and discussions commemorated the release of the major motion picture based on the book ***The Boys in the Boat***. The story follows Sequim legend Joe Rantz, a member of the UW rowing team that won the 1936 Olympics.

Page 6: Renderings by SHKS Architects of the new Sequim Library. Front entrance (top), main collection area (left), and teen area (right).

Page 7, Top: Patron and volunteer Deborah Scannell holds the Forks Forum with her guest column “Local librarian helps select nationwide children’s book winner.” Kristine Techavanich holds the Newbery books. Bottom: Author Matt Kracht presents at the main library.



NEW ELECTRIC SUV CUTS FUEL COSTS BY 65%

In late June, the NOLS fleet added the 2023 Nissan Ariya Venture+ FWD, a fully electric crossover SUV. Library couriers transport materials between branches six days per week, and the Ariya has helped cut fuel-per-mile costs by 65%, demonstrating NOLS' dedication to reducing carbon emissions.

With a charge range of at least 304 miles—reaching up to 385 miles in real-world use—the Ariya easily handles routes across Clallam County, proving both reliable and eco-friendly. This upgrade helps to minimize our environmental footprint and deliver exceptional service to our community.

41,000

MILES DRIVEN BY LIBRARY COURIERS

9,000

LIBRARY MATERIAL TOTES DELIVERED



LED LIGHTING BOOSTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Port Angeles Main Library has completed a lighting overhaul with economic and ecological benefits. The project involved replacing all indoor fluorescent lamps, exterior soffit lights, and parking lot lights with LEDs. The new LED lights are longer lasting, do not require expensive replacement parts like ballasts, and are less toxic to dispose of than fluorescent lights. As traditional fluorescent lamps face obsolescence, this proactive switch ensures a seamless transition to modern lighting standards. Plus, the upgrade decreases operational costs, qualifies NOLS for local utility rebates, supports the City of Port Angeles' Climate Resiliency Plan, and aligns with Washington State's Clean Buildings Performance Standard.

SITE SURVEY WILL LEAD TO BETTER ACCESSIBILITY

To enhance accessibility at NOLS, consultants from the University of Washington's Accessible Design and Innovative department completed a Facility Accessibility Survey in Clallam Bay, Forks and Port Angeles. Their findings identify actions that can be taken to bring each library building and exterior space up to current ADA standards and improve general accessibility for all users.

A comprehensive strategy is being developed to implement the recommendations. Staff will first take action on issues that can be resolved with resources already on hand. Planning has also begun for significant facility accessibility improvements that require additional resources.

2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (ACTUAL)

OPERATING REVENUES

Property taxes and other government revenue	\$4,671,744
Grants and donations	\$500,801
Investment interest	\$485,759
Miscellaneous	\$84,145
Library fees, goods, and services	\$30,743
TOTAL	\$5,773,192

\$5,773,192

OPERATING REVENUES

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Salaries and benefits	\$4,105,286
Supplies, services, utilities, and miscellaneous	\$913,702
Books and other library materials	\$455,821
TOTAL	\$5,474,809

\$5,474,809

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

CAPITAL REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

2023 Timber Revenues	\$543,687
2023 Capital Budget Expenditures	\$1,012,343

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The generous support of Friends of the Library groups helps to make NOLS great. Donations fund Summer Reading Program activities, supplies, and prizes; speakers; author events; programs for all ages; and much more.

THANK YOU, FRIENDS!

Friends of Sequim Library	\$25,000
Port Angeles Friends of the Library	\$17,500
Friends of the Forks Library	\$2,500
Clallam Bay Friends of the Library	\$1,600

SEQUIM LIBRARY PROJECT SUPPORT

Donations from foundations, civic groups, and community members will enable NOLS to make crucial updates to the Sequim Library. Listed below are notable funds received in 2023. Read more about the project on pages 6-7.

Friends of Sequim Library	\$150,000
Benjamin N. Phillips Memorial Fund	\$80,000
Individual Donors	\$37,812
DeLand Family Trust	\$25,349



Above: The Friends of Sequim Library made a significant contribution toward the Sequim Library project. The Children's Area at the new library will be named in recognition of their generous support.

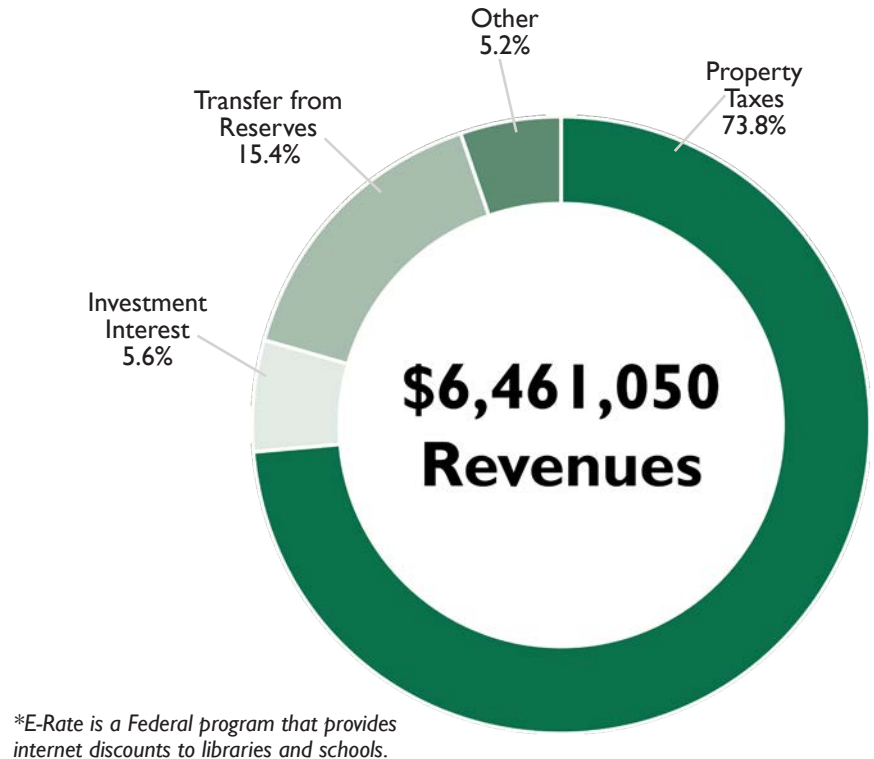
2024 BUDGET GLANCE

OPERATING BUDGET Adopted by the Board of Trustees on November 16, 2023

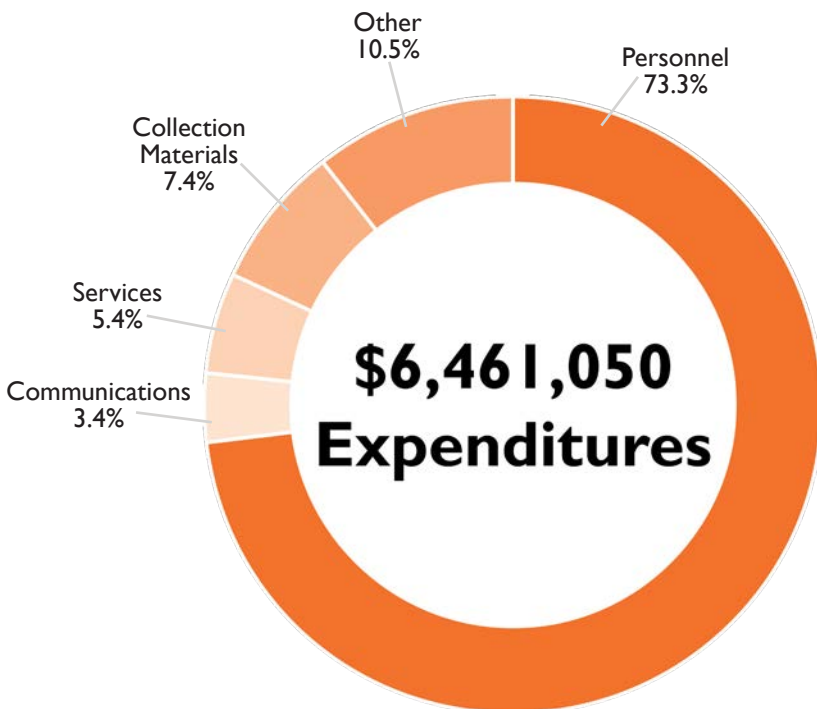
NOLS' Operating Budget funds expenditures such as salaries and benefits, library collection materials, technology and communication charges, operating supplies, repairs and maintenance, professional fees and services, utilities, insurance premiums, staff training, and more. 2023 revenues include a draw from Operating Reserves in the amount of \$914,480. Most of NOLS' extensive programming activities are funded by Friends of the Library donations.

OPERATING REVENUES

Property Taxes	\$4,769,147	73.8%
Transfer from Reserves	\$996,793	15.4%
Investment Interest	\$362,800	5.6%
Other	\$332,310	5.2%
Contributions	\$104,000	1.6%
E-Rate Discount*	\$100,000	1.6%
Transfer from Sequim Capital Fund	\$91,000	1.4%
Goods and Services	\$18,010	0.3%
Library Fees	\$15,000	0.2%
Miscellaneous	\$4,300	0.1%



OPERATING EXPENDITURES



Personnel	\$4,732,849	73.3%
Collection Materials	\$480,000	7.4%
Services	\$347,120	5.4%
Communications	\$222,124	3.4%
Other	\$678,957	10.5%
Repairs/Maintenance	\$155,665	2.4%
Supplies	\$143,175	2.2%
Insurance	\$136,800	2.1%
Utilities	\$108,100	1.7%
Leases	\$78,000	1.2%
Travel	\$28,800	0.5%
Miscellaneous	\$28,417	0.4%

2024 BUDGET **GLANCE**

CAPITAL BUDGET: \$828,750

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 25, 2024

Capital Budget Revenues from NCR:	\$435,250
Capital Budget Revenues from PACR:	\$393,500
Other Capital Budget Revenues:	\$0

The Capital Budget funds improvements and enhancements to NOLS facilities, purchases of capital machinery and equipment, and construction of capital assets

CAPITAL RESERVES

The **NOLS CAPITAL RESERVE (NCR)** functions as the repository for all timber revenues and is the primary revenue source for the Capital Budget, supplemented in some years by gifts and other designated capital reserve funds.

The **PORT ANGELES CAPITAL RESERVE (PACR)** was established and funded in connection with the Port Angeles Library Construction Bond. It provides funding for significant, large-scale infrastructure maintenance and replacement projects at the Port Angeles Main Library.

NCR Balance on 12/31/2023:	\$1,802,709
2023 Timber Revenues:	\$543,687
PACR Balance on 12/31/2023:	\$790,505

CAPITAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- New safety and security measures at each branch, including cameras and keycard readers.
- Replaced aging public and staff computers and printers.
- New meeting room reservation and program registration software.
- Public chair and desk replacements in the Clallam Bay and Forks Branch Libraries.
- Improved network equipment and technology security to maintain critical services and protect data.

CAPITAL BUDGET OUTLAYS

Machinery & Equipment:	\$287,250
Buildings & Structures:	\$52,500
Other Improvements:	\$489,000

NOTABLE 2024 EXPENDITURES

- 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
- Insurance increased 20% to \$136,800
- Heat Pump Replacement in Forks - \$25,000
- Firewall Replacement - \$25,000
- Meeting Room & Program Registration Software - \$12,000
- Meeting Room Chair & Table Upgrade, Clallam Bay & Forks - \$10,000



Above: Young patrons play games in the Clallam Bay Branch meeting room in 2023.

YOUR TAXES AT WORK

As a library tax district, the majority of NOLS' operating budget revenues come from property taxes. The 2024 levy rate is 29¢ per \$1,000 of county assessed valuation, down from a 2023 levy rate of 31¢ per \$1,000. Tax revenues are enhanced by use of investment income, reserves, and donations from Friends of the Library groups and other benefactors.

29¢ per \$1,000
2024 Levy Rate

MISSION

Nurturing imagination, connection, and understanding, to improve lives and strengthen community.

CORE VALUES

- Power of knowledge, imagination, and exploration
- Free and equal access
- Intellectual freedom and privacy
- Literacy and learning
- Responsible stewardship
- Transparency and accountability
- Community service
- Partnerships to support community vitality
- Flexibility, nimbleness, and adaptability to social and technological change
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As of December 31, 2023

Mark Urnes
Chair, Port Angeles Area

Jennifer Pelikan
West End Area

Bert Caldwell
Sequim Area

Cyndi Ross
Sequim Area

Ian Miller
Port Angeles Area

MANAGEMENT TEAM

As of December 31, 2023

Noah Glaude
Executive Director

Shane Miller
IT Manager

Meghan Sullivan
Public Services Director

Brian Phillips
Facilities Manager

Karyn Bocko
Marketing & Communications
Manager

Shaina Lent
Human Resources & Business
Manager

Jina Felton
Port Angeles Branch
Operations Manager

Erin Shield
Collection Services Manager

Troi Gale
West End Library Manager

Emily Sly
Sequim Library Manager

Amy Hough
Financial Operations Manager



NOLS staff at the fall in-service training day.

LOCATIONS

PORT ANGELES MAIN LIBRARY

2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-417-8500

SEQUIM BRANCH LIBRARY

630 North Sequim Avenue
Sequim, WA 98382
360-683-1161

FORKS BRANCH LIBRARY

171 South Forks Avenue
Forks, WA 98331
360-374-6402

CLALLAM BAY BRANCH LIBRARY

16990 Highway 112
Clallam Bay, WA 98326
360-963-2414