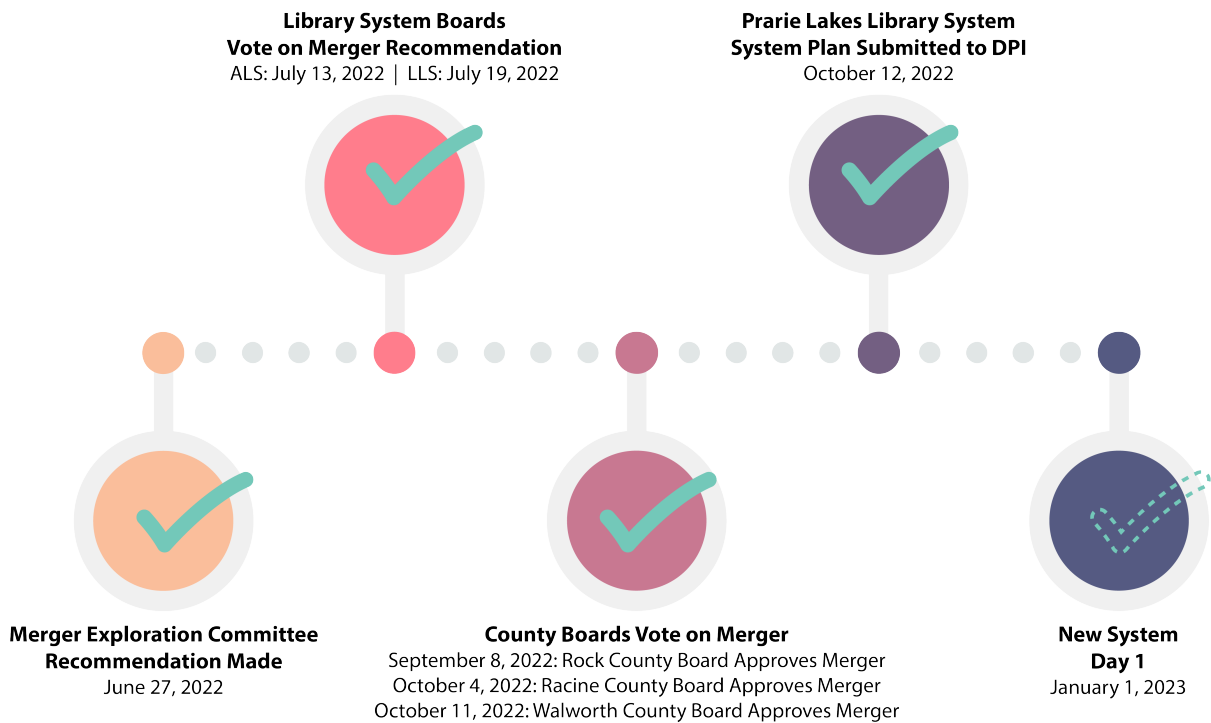




System Merger Approved!

Oct 18, 2022 | Announcement, News



For Immediate Release

Friday, October 14, 2022

Prairie Lakes Library System Gets Green Light; Debuting January 2023

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 – Milton, Wis. – Walworth County became the third and final county to approve the merger of Arrowhead Library System (ALS) and Lakeshores Library System (LLS). The newly merged entity, Prairie Lakes Library System (PLLS), will take effect on January 1, 2023, and will serve the counties of Racine, Rock, and Walworth.

Following Walworth County's vote and ahead of the October 15 deadline, the necessary annual system plan was filed with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction declaring the formation of PLLS and the dissolutions of ALS and LLS. A few of the next steps include appointing representatives to the PLLS board of trustees and developing policy recommendations for the new board to adopt.

"This merger process has been years in the making, really, but the last 10 months have been an intense stretch of research, planning, and collaboration," said Steve Platteter, director of Arrowhead Library System.

Steve Ohs, Administrator of Lakeshores Library System added, "It's tremendously rewarding to see the partnerships we've forged become solidified, the research the exploration committee completed used to inform our communities, and the strategic goals of this merger be embraced so enthusiastically not only by every library in both systems but also by all three counties."

Patrons will not be directly affected by the merger; local library boards will maintain local control over their policies and procedures as before (as outlined in state statutes), and because library systems are funded through state appropriations county budgets need not be altered. The merger's primary benefit is reduced overhead and administration costs, which will result in more dollars for services.

The ALS/LLS Joint Merger Exploration Committee's Final Recommendation Report, PLLS's System Plan, and other public documents relating to the proposed merge are available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kgm2-75arnZG2xBdV-LXVx28-JNL094m?usp=sharing>.

For Immediate Release

Monday, September 12, 2022

Rock County Board Approves Library Merger, Two Counties Yet to Vote

Thursday, September 8, 2022 – Janesville, Wis. – The Rock County Board of Supervisors is the first of three counties to consider a resolution to merge Arrowhead Library System (ALS) and Lakeshores Library System (LLS) and passed it with a vote of 26:0. Racine and Walworth counties must also pass similar resolutions approving the formation of the new, merged Prairie Lakes Library System (PLLS) ahead of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) October 15 deadline for annual Public Library System Plans. Committee consideration in Racine County begins Tuesday, September 13, and committee consideration in Walworth County begins Thursday, September 22.

Prior to the vote, Rock County Supervisor Bill Wilson summarized the benefits of a merger, "The result of the merger is fewer dollars being spent on administrative purposes and more dollars being available for direct services to aid libraries."

In August of 2021, the Boards of Trustees of ALS and LSS each voted to embark on a journey to determine if the two library systems should merge, thus forming a new regional library system that would serve the counties of Racine, Rock, and Walworth.

The eight-member ALS/LLS Joint Merger Exploration Committee identified and researched issues related to the merger. The committee compiled the issue research with background information, supporting documents, and an executive summary creating the detailed Final Recommendation Report. The Joint Merger Committee voted 7-1 to recommend a system merger. The ALS and LLS Boards of Trustees reviewed the final recommendation document. Then in July, each library system board voted unanimously to proceed with a merge.

"This merger is so exciting for our area because it solidifies a lot of partnerships patrons are already benefitting from and opens the door for additional improvements," says Steve Platteter, Director of Arrowhead Library System.

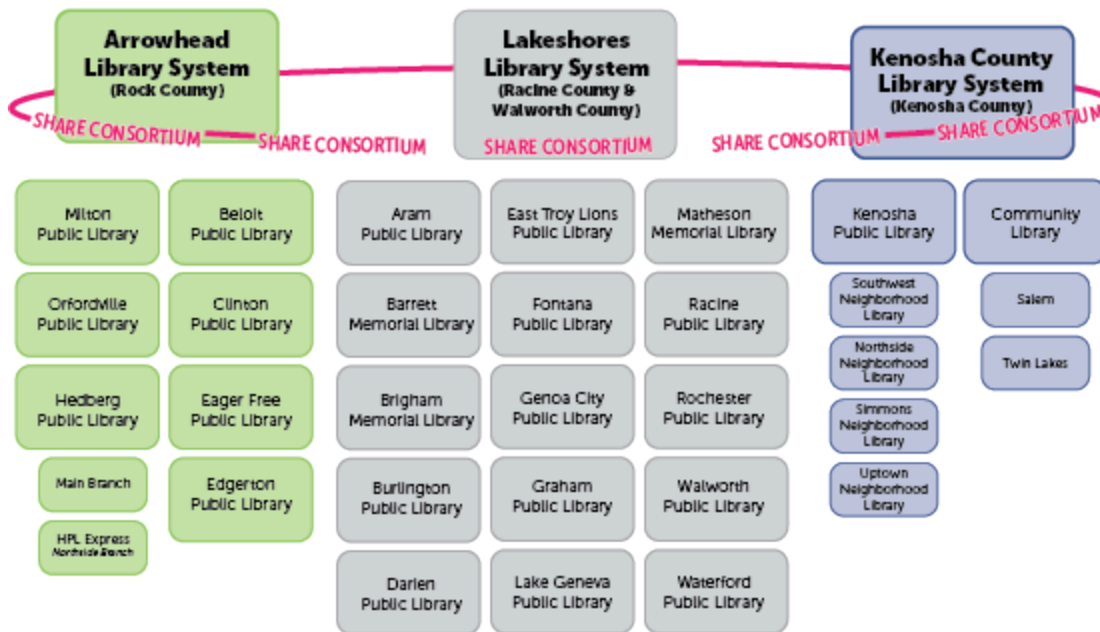
Prairie Lakes Library System would begin operation on January 1, 2023, and maintain current services and operations during its first year. PLLS also plans to engage in year-one strategic planning to align its services with the needs of its 22 public library members. Patrons will not be directly affected by the merger; local library boards will maintain local control over their policies and procedures as before (as outlined in state statutes), and because library systems are funded through state appropriations and fees to member libraries, county budgets need not be altered. The merger's major benefit is reduced overhead and administration costs, which will result in more dollars for services.



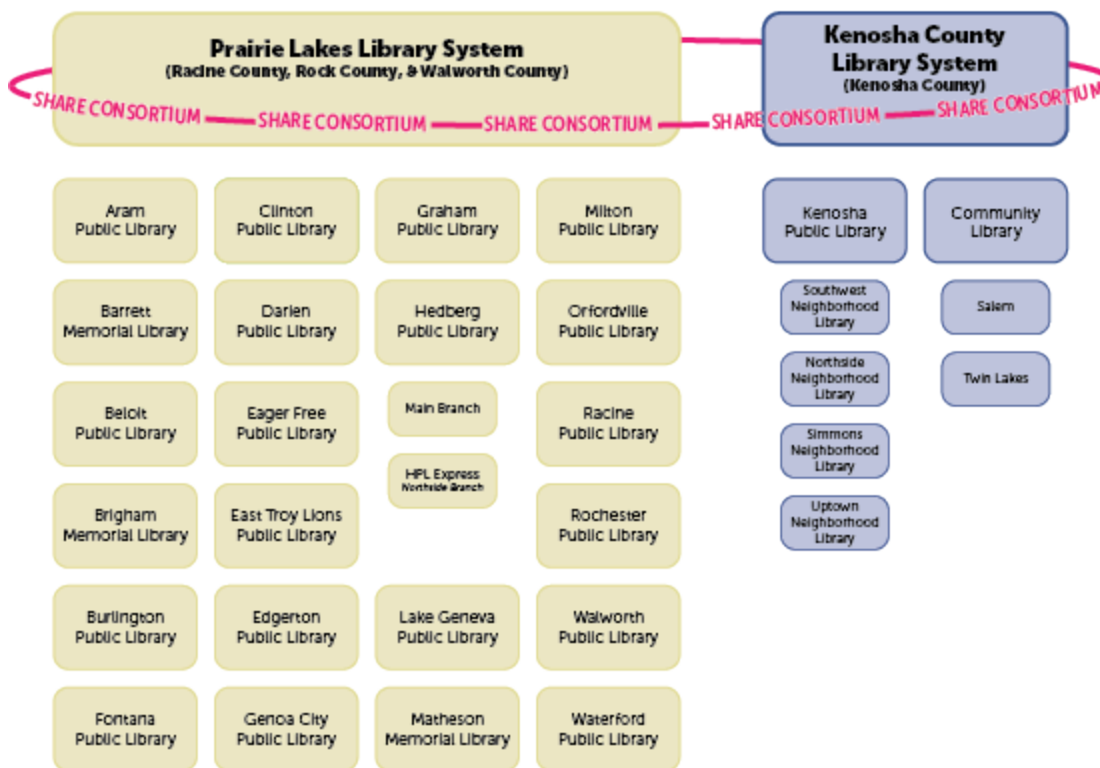
The ALS/LLS Joint Merger Exploration Committee's Final Recommendation Report and other public documents relating to the proposed merge are available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kgm2-75arnZG2xBdV-LXVx28-JNL094m?usp=sharing>. County Board meetings and meetings of the ALS/LLS Joint Merger Exploration Committee are open meetings with time for public comment. Send questions to als-llsjointcommittee@wils.org.



Current 3-System SHARE Consortium



2-System SHARE Consortium - Effective January 1, 2023



Search Site

Recent Posts

System Merger Approved! October 18, 2022

WAPL Conference 2022 May 6, 2022

Business Planning Just Got Easier April 27, 2022

Arrowhead and Lakeshores Explore System Merger December 28, 2021

Work with us! New position available. December 1, 2021



Categories

[Announcement](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Events](#)

[Grant](#)

[Library Shorts](#)

[News](#)

[Services](#)

[Staff Resources](#)

[Training Opportunity](#)

[Uncategorized](#)

Tags

[2018](#) [2019](#) [Animals](#) [Announcement](#) [Art](#) [BadgerLink](#) [Big Library Read](#) [CE](#)
[Celebration](#) [Conference](#) [Continuing Education](#) [DIY](#) [Fall](#) [Fun Stuff](#) [Hedberg Public Library](#)
[hydrology](#) [Kids](#) [Lakeshores Library System](#) [Learning](#) [Libby](#) [Libraries Rock](#) [Library Short](#)
[Library Shorts](#) [Math](#) [Milton Public Library](#) [mindfulness](#) [Music](#) [OverDrive](#) [Program](#)

rhythm Science SHARE snow snowflake Storytime technology Training Videos
Webinar Wellness WiLS WLA Workshop Writing Youth Services

Search the SHARE Catalog

Search:



[Beloit](#) [Clinton](#) [Edgerton](#) [Evansville](#) [Janesville](#) [Milton](#) [Orfordville](#)



430 E. High Street, Suite 200, Milton, WI | 608-868-2872 | info@als.lib.wi.us | Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

