

Mission

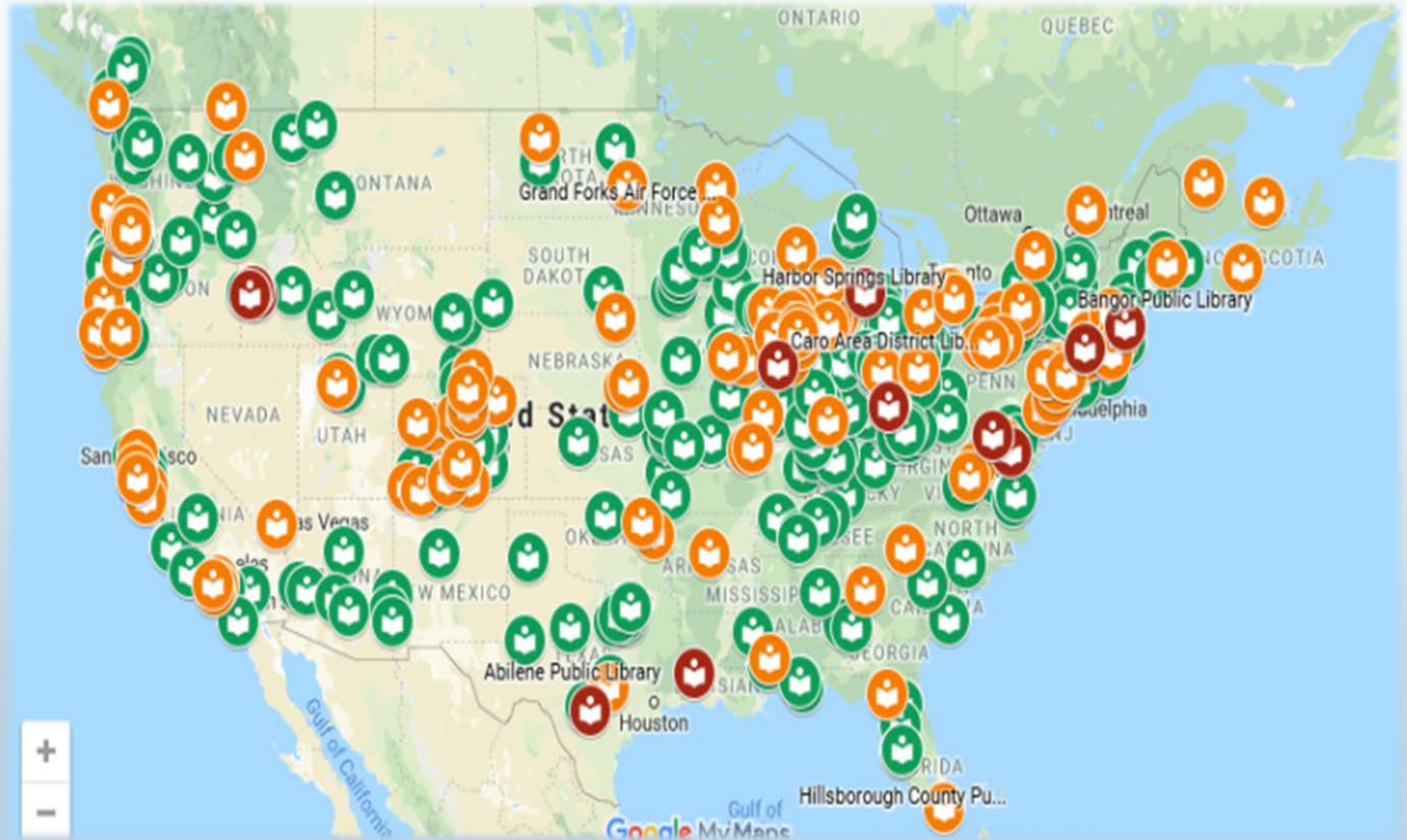
The Sarasota County Public Libraries offer equal access to information, foster lifelong learning and inspire community engagement.

Vision

A diverse community of learning, connected by knowledge, conversation and ideas.

Elimination of Library Late-Return Fines

376
Fine Free Libraries



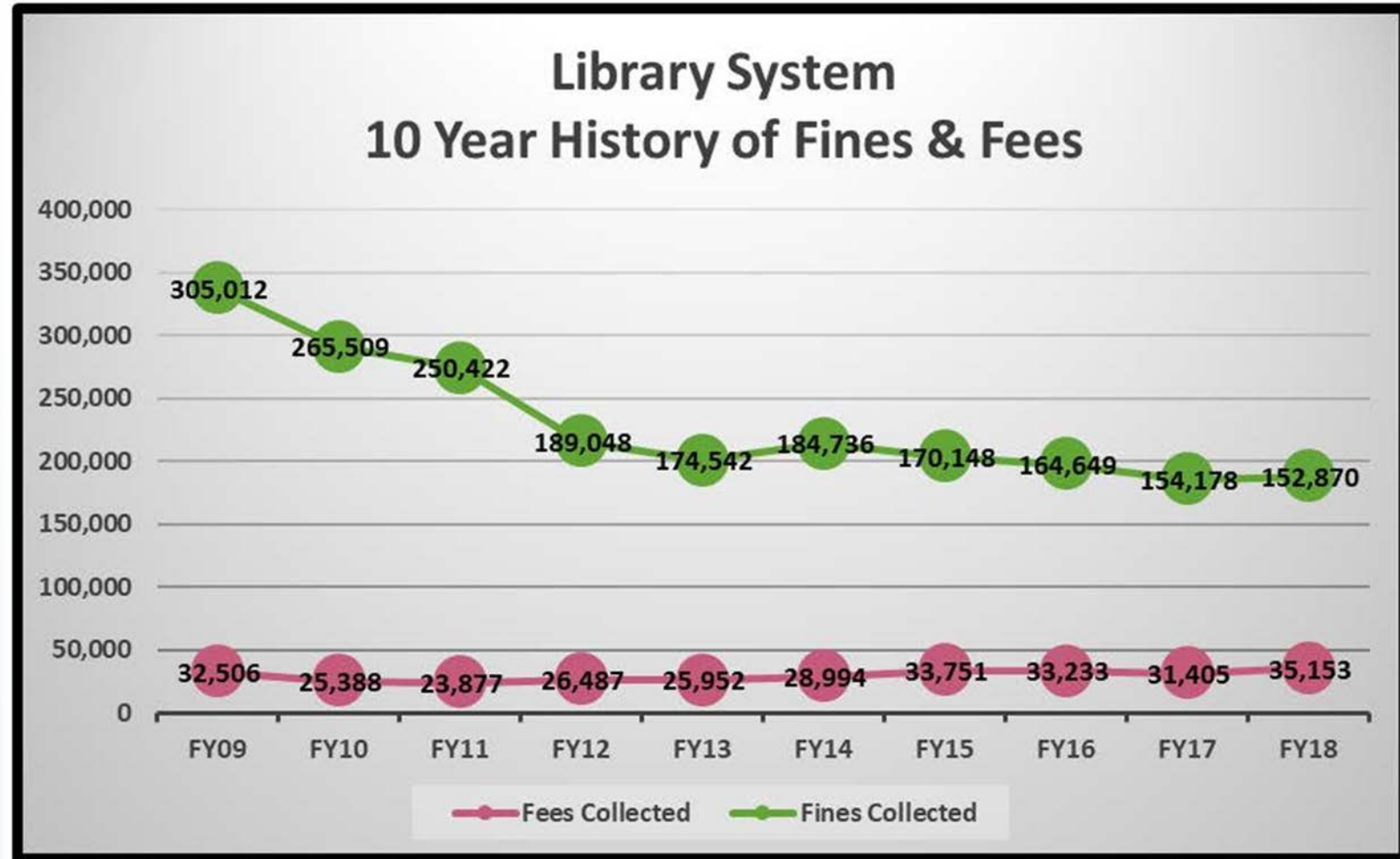
Results from Fine-Free Libraries

- ↑ Increased return of library materials
- ↑ Increased registrations for borrower cards
- ↑ Increased borrowing from library collection
- ↑ Increased participation in programs
- + More productive use of staff time
- + Positive interactions between staff and patrons

Elimination of Library Late-Return Fines

**\$ FINES
vs.
\$ FEES**

**50%
Decrease
Fines
Revenue**



Time Devoted to Cash Handling

- On average, library employees spend 9.8% of work time on tasks related to fines and fees collection
- Front-line staff spend over 19% of work time devoted to cash management
- The total estimated cost associated with staff time related to cash handling was \$1,125,522 in FY 2018

Optimize Staff Time

Increased staff time in these areas:

- Direct customer service
- Assistance with research
- Instruction and technology assistance
- Program planning and implementation
- Collection management and maintenance
- Community outreach and engagement

Implementation

- **Patrons will be billed for items not returned within 14 days of the due date**
- **Fees are assessed for unreturned, lost, damaged, or incomplete items**
- **Renewal policy will not change**
- **All other borrowing policies will remain in place**
- **Collection recovery activities will continue**

***Staff recommends the authorization of a public hearing on a proposed ordinance eliminating late-return fines for Chapter 82, Article I, of the County Code, pertaining to library fees and fines.**

**The recommendation was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of County Commission on September 11, 2019.*