



## LIBRARIES

The Garfield County Public Library District marked its 75th anniversary in 2013 with the continued tradition of providing high quality customer service, passionate promotion of books, technology and literacy, and broad community engagement through partnerships, initiatives, and events. The district is comprised of six new state-of-the-art library buildings, has 37 full and 26 part-time staff members, and is funded through a quarter cent sales tax and 1 mill of property tax.

Consistent with a strategic plan that was established in 2007, the district completed new libraries in Parachute and Rifle in 2010, celebrated grand openings of new libraries in New Castle and Silt in 2012, and in 2013 completed the last two new libraries in the Carbondale and Glenwood Springs branches. In 2013, the district lent more than 675,000 items and hosted almost 1,400 events.

Garfield County's libraries serve as key community gathering places. Their public computers and wireless access offer a comfortable environment in which to work, study, stay up with current events, or keep in touch with friends. Their meeting rooms are a popular destination for civic groups, non-profits, and organizations of all kinds. All of the county libraries

offer study rooms that double as office space, tutoring classrooms, or just a quiet place to contemplate or meet friends.

Library programming is designed to meet the needs of users of all ages. For young children, the libraries offered more than 600 story times, which saw over 10,000 attendees in 2013. The early literacy skills that children learn in storytime help them translate words to images, develop their brains, and nurture the cognitive, emotional and social skills they need to develop the habits of life-long learners. School-age children and teens have many opportunities at the libraries to participate and advance their skills in a safe environment. Adult programs and classes include technology training, skills development, and computer literacy, and in 2013 also included discussion opportunities for books and films, a Civil War series, and the America's Music series. Additionally, the libraries offer a summer reading program, which consists of activities for children, teens, and adults and set a new record in 2013 for the number of participants.

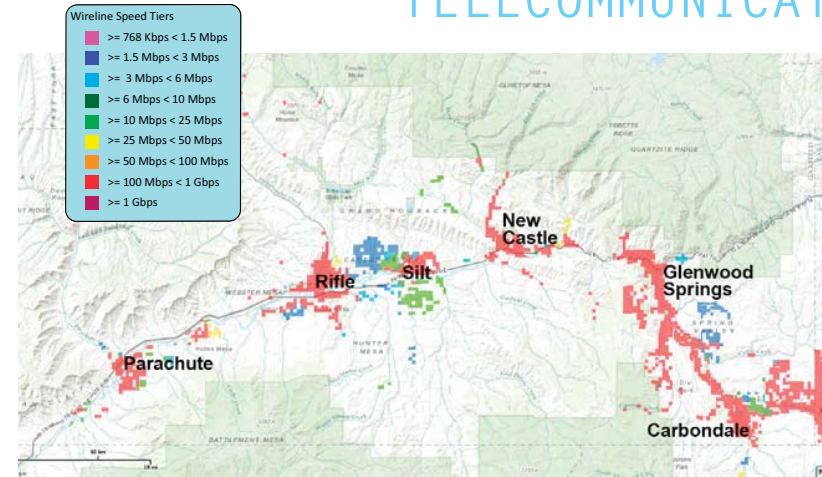
The fiber optic telecommunications infrastructure and demand for broadband services in Garfield County are concentrated along the I-70 and Highway 82 corridors. Broadband services are primarily located in community anchor institutions located in the municipalities.

Private internet providers exist throughout Garfield County, including cable, fiber, and wireless service providers. The most reliable internet connection for business use in the City of Glenwood Springs is the Community Broadband Network. This fiber optic service is a highly dependable, affordable, business-class internet solution. Enterprise services available include speeds up to one gigabyte per second, private network connections and priority bandwidth. The Town of Carbondale and the City of Rifle offer fiber optic connections throughout their communities. Community Anchor Institutions, as well as local providers of broadband, can be found by using the State's website <http://maps.co.gov/coloradobroadband/>.

Garfield County and its member municipalities are participants in a joint, mini-region Broadband Study with Mesa County, to assess the existing broadband infrastructure and to work with private and public stakeholders, to provide abundant, reliable, redundant, and affordable broadband services to community anchor institutions, citizens, businesses and visitors. This plan is expected to address the design and implementation of middle-mile broadband throughout Garfield and Mesa counties. The study is expected to be completed in 2015 and to launch public/private partnerships, such as Open Access Network approaches, and help to leverage resources of both private providers and local governments to improve broadband access.

Figure 19: Garfield County area Broadband Mapping  
Source: Colorado Office of Information Technology

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS



# GARFIELD COUNTY

COLORADO