



SUN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY EXPANSION & RENOVATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does Sun Prairie need to renovate and expand the library?

The library is the place where everyone gathers and connects. It is the heart of the community, and the community is always at the heart of the library. When the current library opened in 1999, the population of Sun Prairie was 20,400; today it is 36,800, an 80% increase, and growing rapidly. Renovating and expanding this Sun Prairie landmark will:

- Reflect the rich diversity of our community
- Provide more innovative and flexible spaces for modern public library services
- Expand the children's areas with a larger storytime room, comfort room, and sensory room
- Provide a distinct teen space
- Offer unique outdoor spaces
- Offer more community gathering and meeting spaces
- Provide additional study/discussion rooms
- Offer a new makerspace and creativity center with increased collaboration with the SP Media Center
- Incorporate sustainability features such as solar panels, microgrid system, and electric vehicle charging stations
- Enable us to meet the Dane County Library standards
- Serve the community for the next 20 years

Are libraries really needed in the age of technology?

Yes!

- Library staff help patrons successfully navigate and find accurate information in all formats
- Professional librarians provide one-on-one technology assistance
- The Library provides classes and workshops to develop and foster digital literacy skills for all levels, ages, and needs
- Library staff select trusted electronic databases for informational needs
- The library invests in digital collections for free streaming content for e-books, e-magazines, audiobooks, music, and video content
- The library provides the necessary hardware and software and access to broadband to successfully and safely stay digitally connected
- Physical books are critical to early childhood literacy and are still enjoyed widely by people of all ages
- Library makerspaces provide innovative equipment and technology for exploration, usage, and mastery

How much will it cost and who will pay for it?

The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$26M:

- The City of Sun Prairie's portion is \$22.5M
- The SPPL Foundation is raising \$3.5M through a capital campaign

What is the tax impact of the expansion and renovation?

Based upon 2023 values for the average homeowner, the tax impact will be \$125/year or \$10.42/month.

Will there be an increase in general operating costs for the expanded library?

Yes. Currently an additional \$543,911 is included for the operations of the library. These funds will be allocated over 2-3 years, between 2025-2027. The increase will be used to support the operating costs of the expanded facility, an expanded collection, and expanded programming.

How will other local and regional library projects affect the Sun Prairie Public Library project?

Ultimately, public libraries plan their services and resources, including facilities, to meet the needs of their local community. Our community is the focus of the expansion and renovation. The Sun Prairie Public Library's Conceptual Plan is based on:

- Sun Prairie's municipal population - extended service population is not factored in this plan
- Dane County Library Standards - Dane County standards are based on municipal population only
- 2020 Census data and projections based on the 2020 Census

When will the new library be open to the public?

- Construction begins June 2024. Phase One will be complete June 2025.
- Target opening of Spring 2026.

How can I help?

The campaign offers many ways for people to support the expansion and renovation of the library, including:

- Naming opportunities for larger gifts
- In-kind donations
- Gifts of any amount
- Gifts to support a specific feature (sustainability, amphitheater, fish tank)
- Sharing your library story to inspire others
- All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law

How will donors be recognized?

Every gift to the library is an important step toward making the vision of the renovated and expanded library a reality. Gifts will be recognized in many ways including:

- Naming opportunities for specific areas in the library
- Larger gifts will be recognized in a prominent place in the library
- Anonymity to be strictly respected if requested
- Gifts at all levels will be recognized throughout the campaign

Where can we get more information?

For more information about the Capital Campaign, contact:

Theresa Stevens, Foundation Executive Director
execdirector@sunlibfoundation.org (608) 886-0718

For more information about the expansion, visit the Sun Prairie Public Library's Expansion page:

sunprairiepubliclibrary.org/library_expansion, contact:

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