

Elkhart Public Library

Facilities Master Plan Update

20 October 2026

BOSTWICK DESIGN PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Plan 2024–26

01

Key Focus Area 1

Community Hub and Gathering Place

Elkhart Public Library will become the preferred gathering place for the diverse communities the library serves.

02

Key Focus Area 2

Community Engagement, Outreach, and Partnerships

Elkhart Public Library will actively pursue more collaboration opportunities, build new partnerships, and engage with community members in their neighborhoods and community spaces.

03

Key Focus Area 3

Programs, Resources, and Services

Elkhart Public Library will help address community needs through improved and strategic programs, resources, and services.

04

Key Focus Area 4

Marketing and Promotion

Communities in the library's service area will become more aware of the services, materials, programs and other offerings at Elkhart Public Library.

Mission

Elkhart Public Library informs, inspires, and empowers our diverse communities

Vision

Elkhart Public Library: Helping every person develop their fullest potential and our diverse communities grow strong and connected

Core Values

Trust – Respect – Adaptability – Compassion – Teamwork

ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bostwick Design Partnership

Facilities Master Plan Lead + Project Management

June Garcia LLC

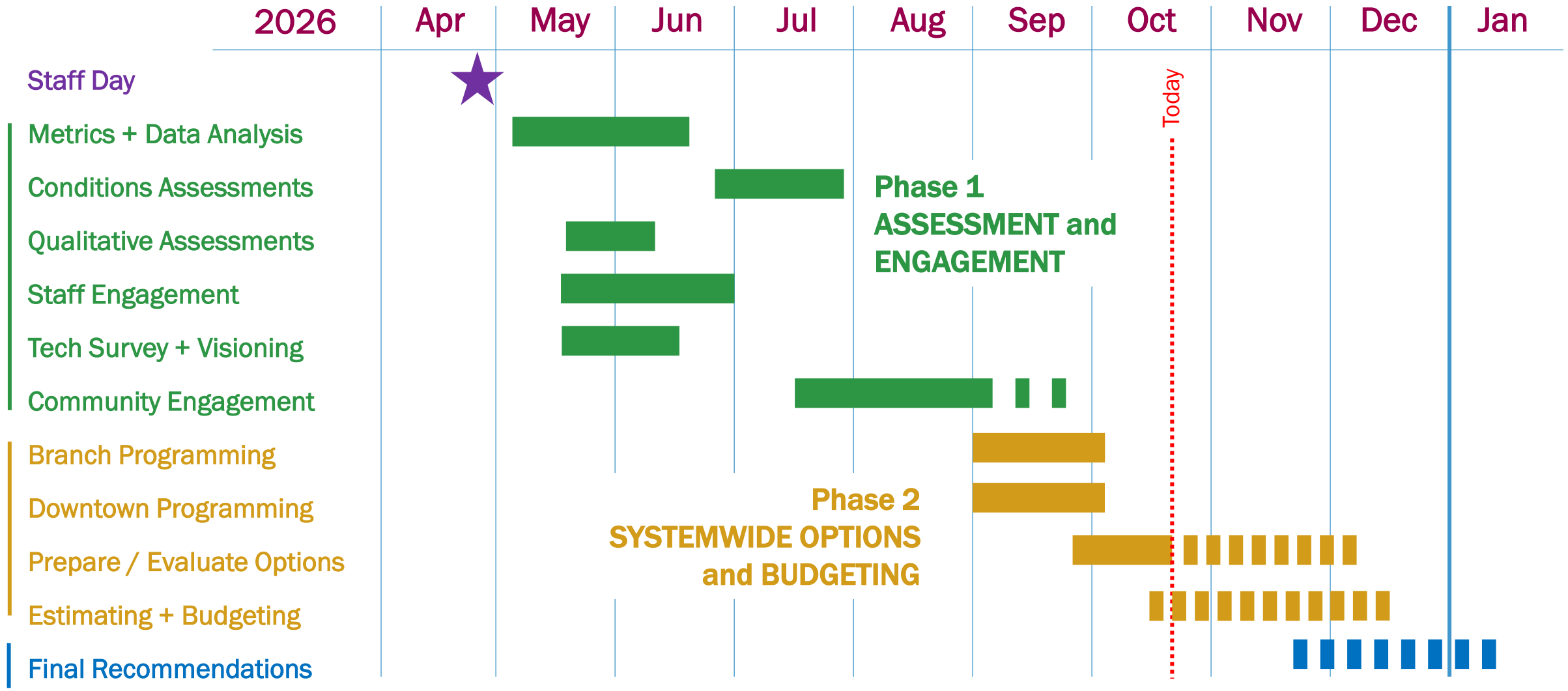
Library Consulting + Strategy

Carson Block Consulting Inc.
Technology Vision. Technology Power. Your Library.

Library Technology Assessment + Visioning

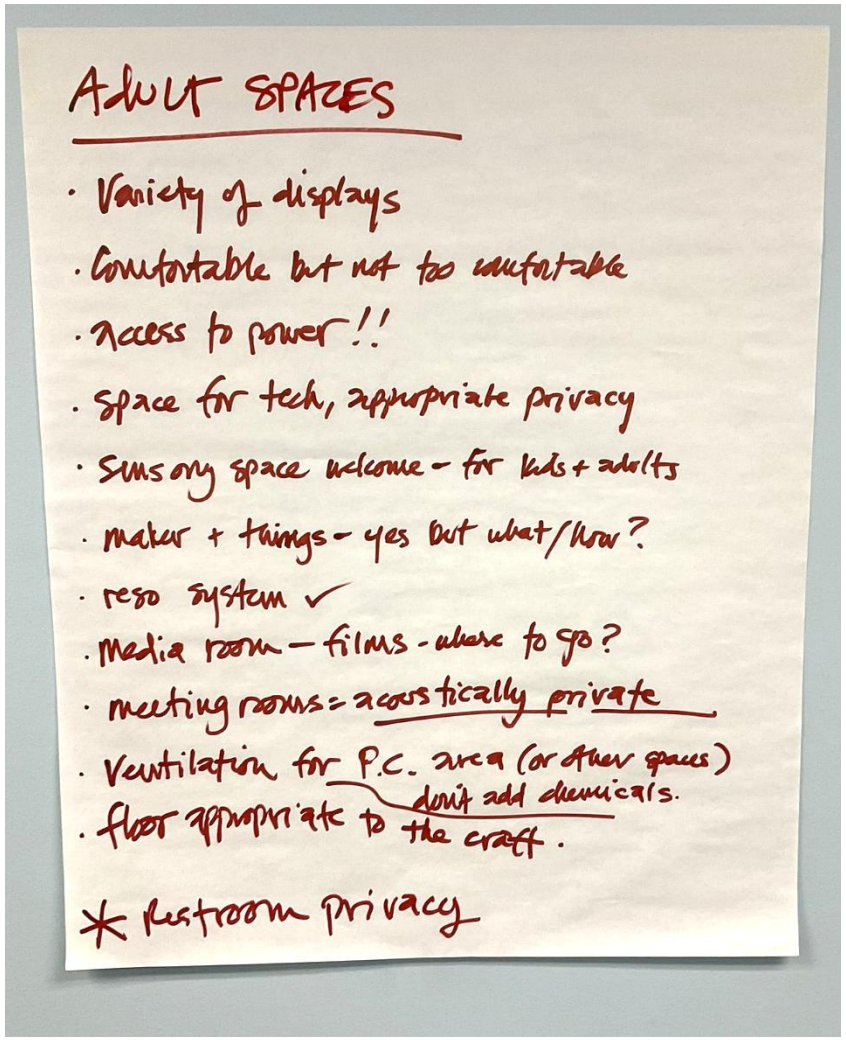
DESIGN COLLABORATIVE
People-first places®

Architectural + Engineering Conditions Assessment

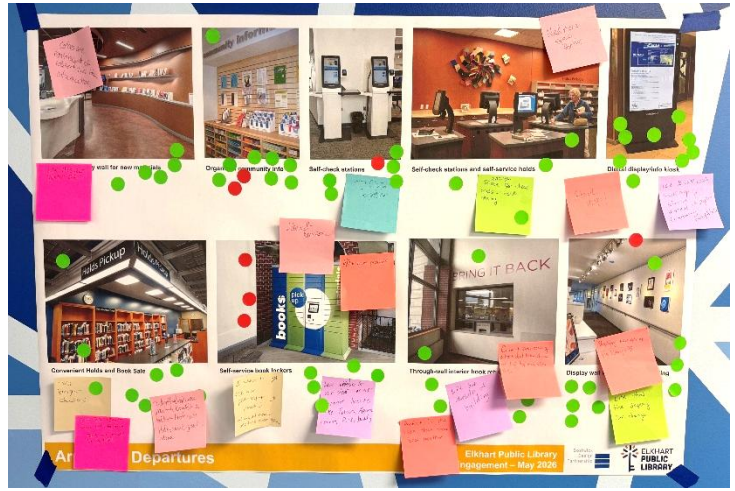

2026
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
Jan
Today
Staff Day
Metrics + Data Analysis
Conditions Assessments
Qualitative Assessments
Staff Engagement
Tech Survey + Visioning
Community Engagement
Branch Programming
Downtown Programming
Prepare / Evaluate Options
Estimating + Budgeting
Final Recommendations
Phase 1
ASSESSMENT and
ENGAGEMENT
Phase 2
SYSTEMWIDE OPTIONS
and BUDGETING

May 13 and14: Feedback Workshops + Tech Visioning



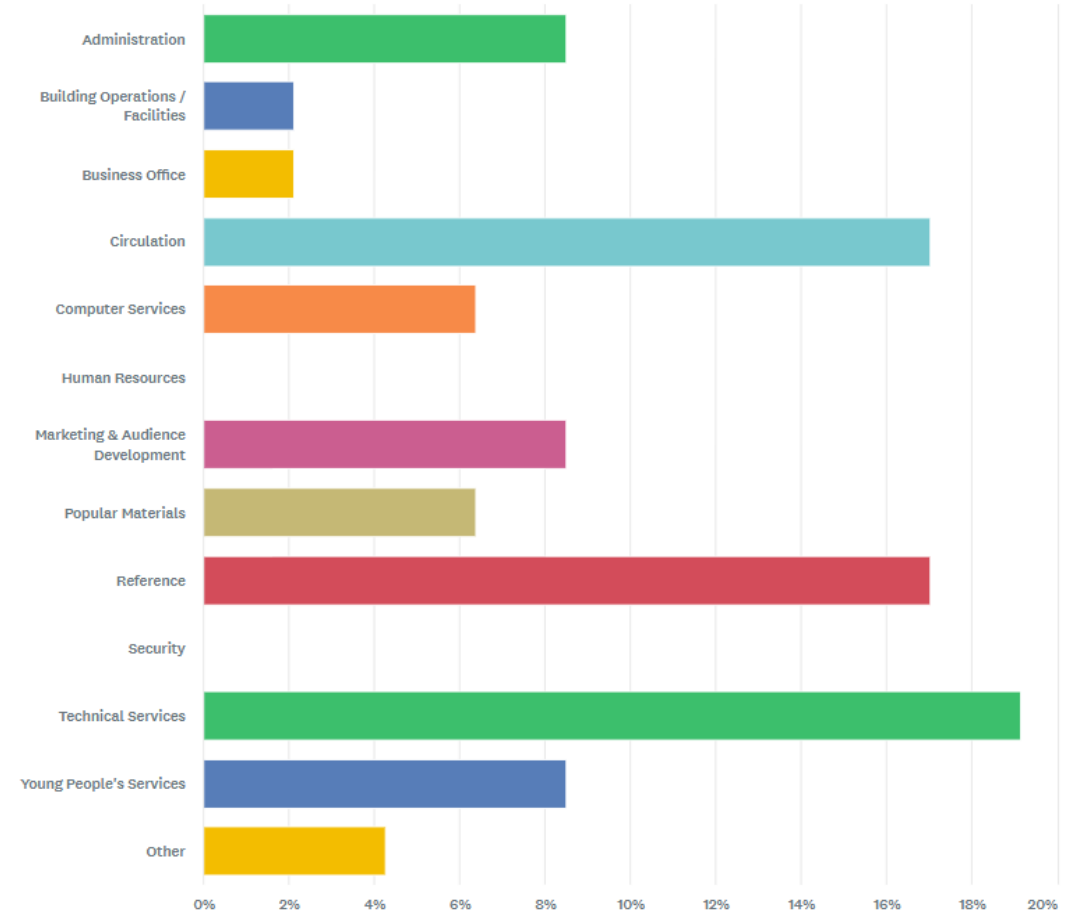




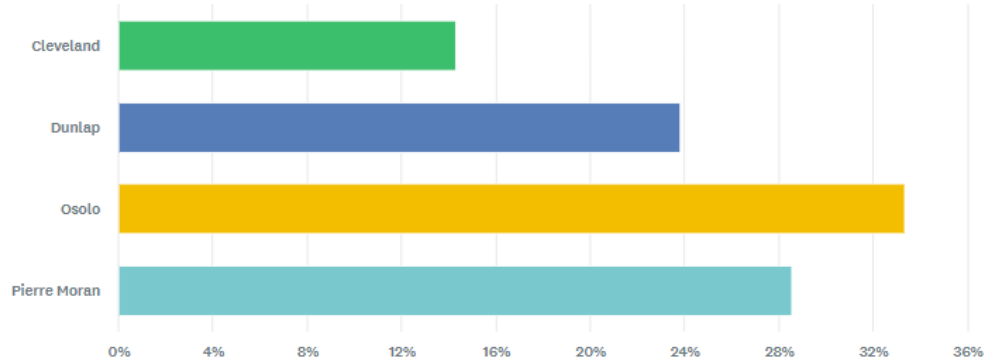


May 12 to 30: Staff Survey – 66 responses

For Downtown Library Staff: Please indicate your department from list below.



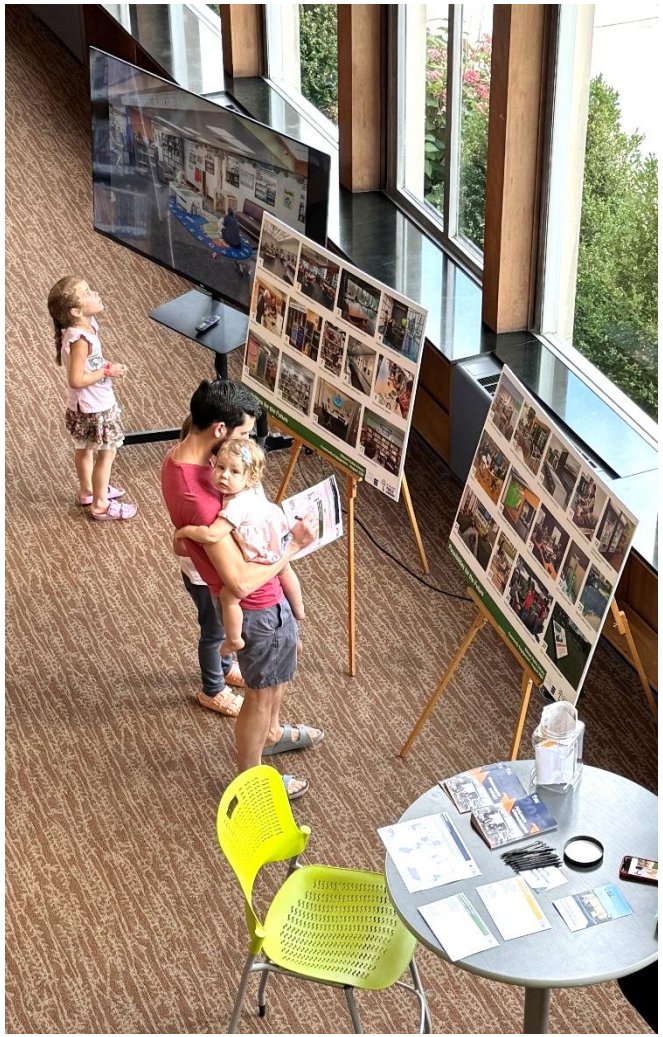
For Branch Library Staff: Please indicate your branch from the list below.



"In the children's room, the play area is very small, the shelves are very crowded due to needing more shelving, it feels like there just isn't enough walking space around sometimes."

Example staff comment - Downtown

Aug 6 to 8: Community Open Houses + Focus Groups – 247 comment cards collected (continued through end of August)





Spaces for Children
Community Engagement - August 2026
ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

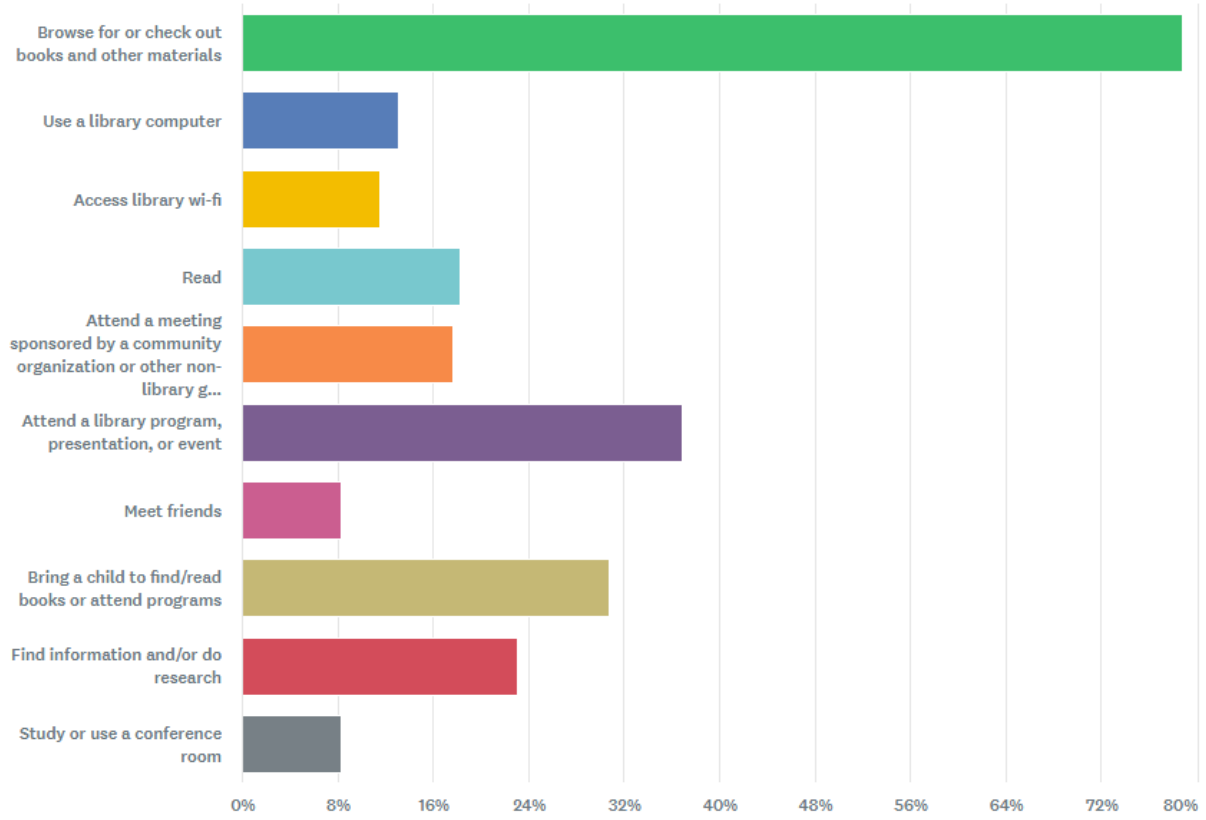
What do you **like** about the current spaces for Children at the Downtown library? What images of Children's spaces in other libraries do you **like** and why?	A few toys but focus on books. More Spanish books Comfortable seating for parents + adults Open space for story time. Short shelves + easy to reach books. Focus on quality childrens literature + story tim
What do you **dislike** about the current spaces for Children at the Downtown library? What images of Children's spaces in other libraries do you **dislike** and why?	Library is not for play necessarily. Maybe a dedicated Play Space downstairs, but children need to learn librarys are special because of books. No Super bright walls. Bright + Colorful, but nothing neon or Super bright.

Possibilities for the Future
Community Engagement - August 2026
ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

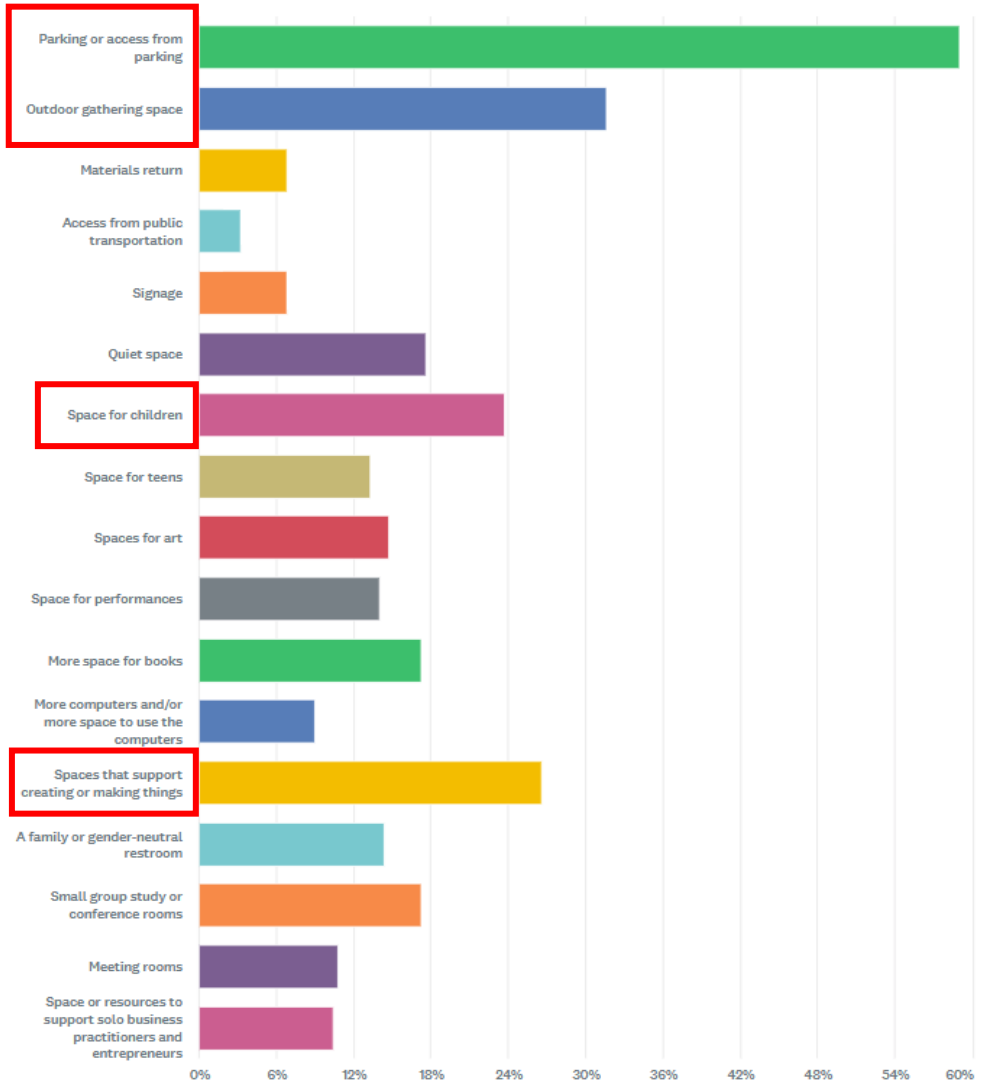
What images of services and spaces at other libraries do you **like** and why might they be a good fit for the Downtown library?	A way for English Speakers to learn or practice Spanish. More physical books. I see the importance of online books + videos, but miss classical, older books. Be nice to have quality homeschool fiction from Sonlight, Veritas or other high venders. More Spanish books I do like the set up of the library now. Adding maker spaces and areas for crafts may be nice. Redoing the "gardens" for butterfly gardens
What images of services and spaces at other libraries do you **dislike** and why might they **not** be a good fit for the Downtown library?	Librarys should be a place for media. No resturants or Vending machines. There are plenty of parks + places to enjoy outside w/o adding more at the library. Not sure what I think of "food pantry" ideas at the library leaning toward do not like. There are other pantrys nearby.

Aug 5 to 31: Community Survey Downtown – 420 Responses

What do you typically do at the Downtown library (select up to 4)?

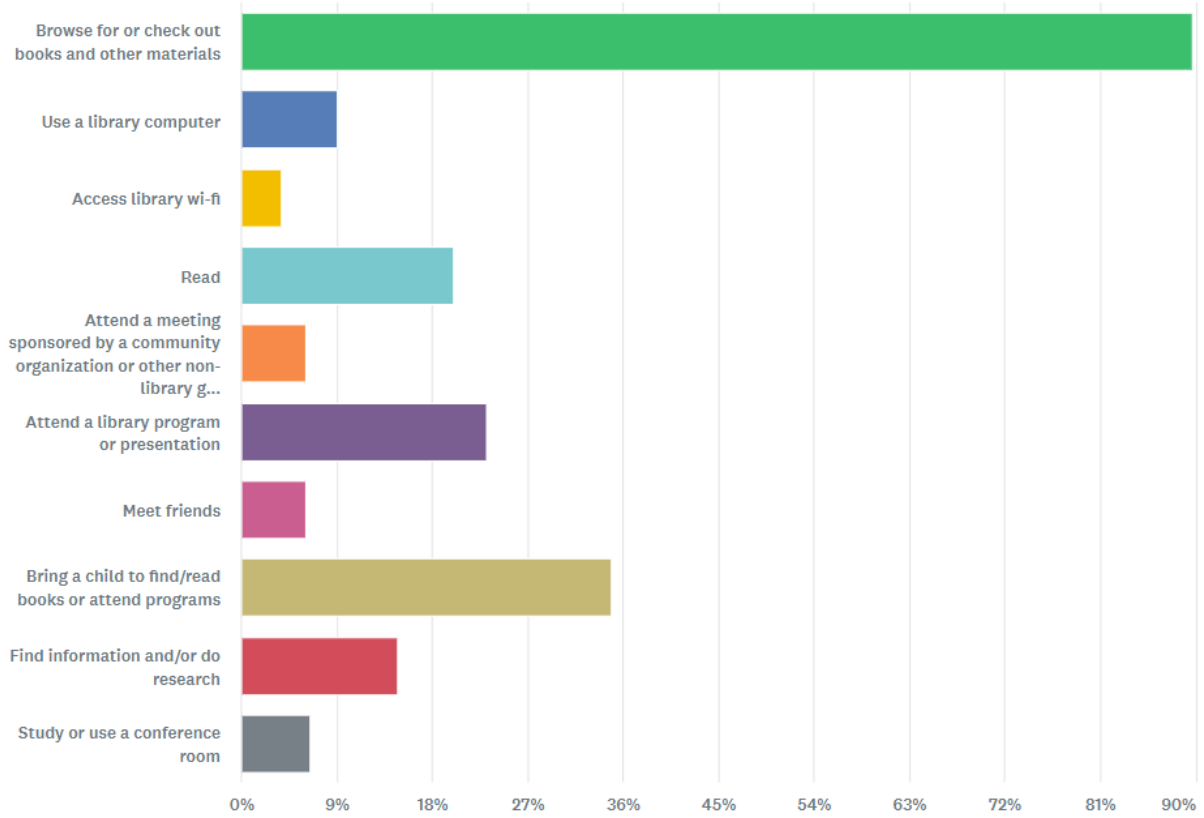


What features should be improved at the Downtown library (select up to 4)?

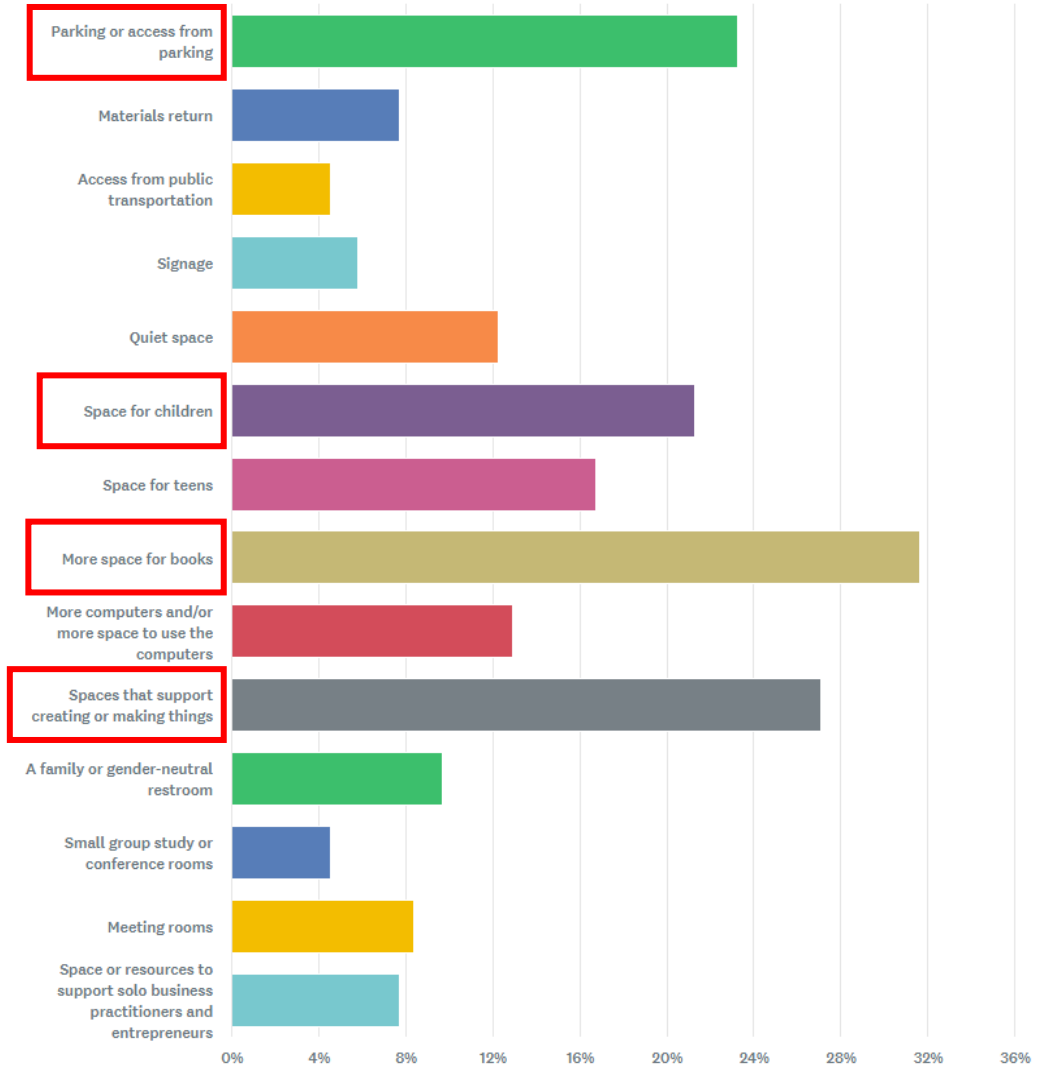


Aug 5 to 31: Community Survey Branches – 310 responses total

What do you typically do at the library that you visit most often? (select up to 4)



What features should be improved at the library you visit most often? (select up to 4)



Cleveland

Likes

- Friendly staff
- Peaceful setting
- Clean, uncluttered
- Arrangement of staff spaces

Dislikes

- Invisible from road
- Site not pedestrian friendly
- No enclosed program space
- Computers cramped
- YPS cramped
- Storage limited

Wants

- Purposeful green space
- More collection space
- Craft / maker space
- More/better conference rooms

Dunlap

Likes

- Friendly staff
- Convenient
- Clean + Quiet
- Separated kids area

Dislikes

- Storytime too close to desk
- No enclosed program space
- Computers cramped
- YPS cramped
- No ‘off-stage’ staff space
- Circ desk location / orientation

Wants

- Increased parking capacity
- More collection space
- Reconfigure circ/work areas
- More/better conference rooms

Osolo

Likes

- Friendly staff
- Park / playground access
- Separated kids area
- Clean, uncluttered

Dislikes

- Parking inadequate
- No enclosed program space
- Computers cramped
- Staff door confusing
- No ‘off-stage’ staff space
- Circ desk location / orientation

Wants

- Increased parking capacity
- More collection space
- Reconfigure circ/work areas
- Craft / maker space
- More/better conference rooms

Pierre Moran

Likes

- Friendly staff + bilingual
- Great location in community
- Small + intimate
- Good mix of interior space

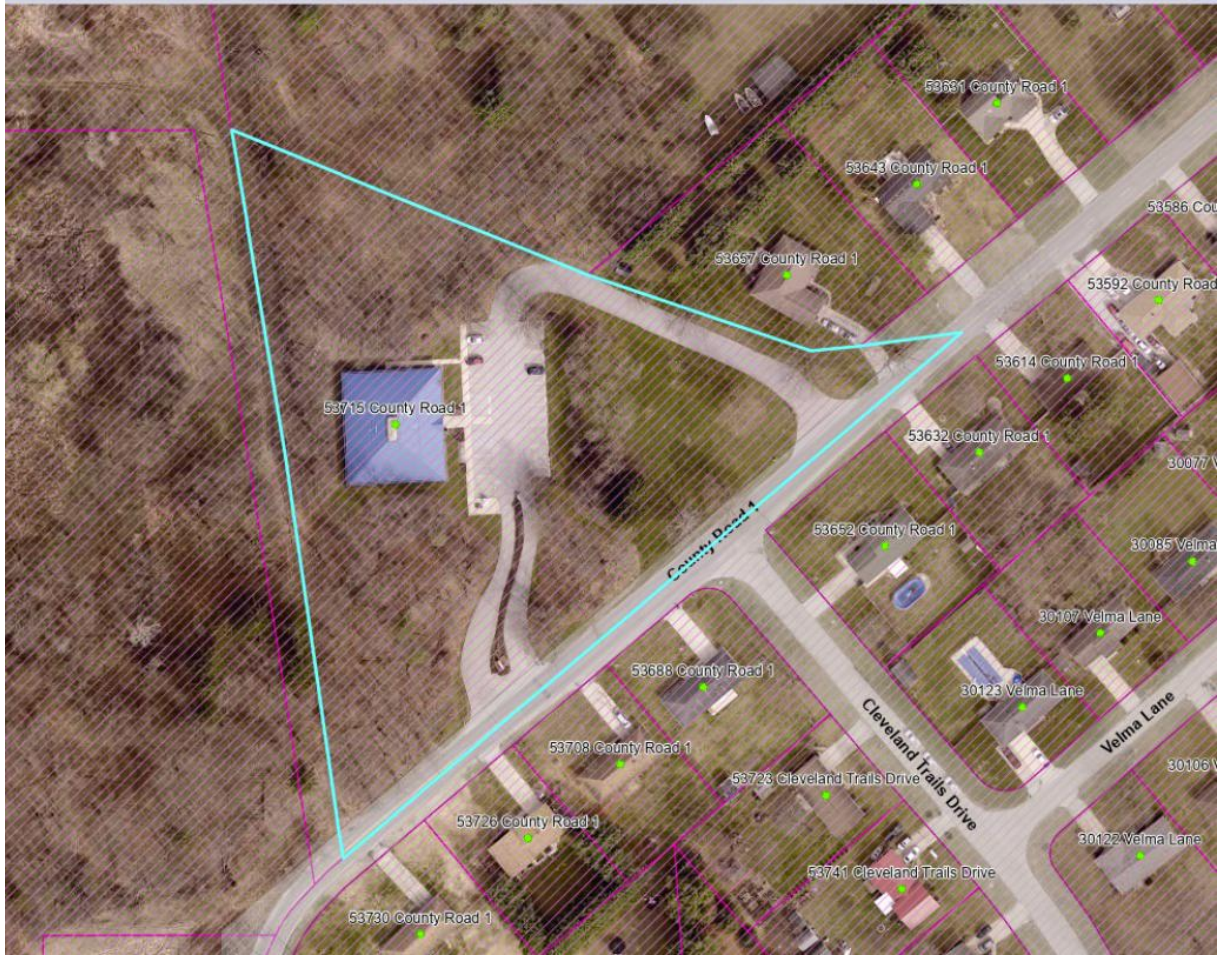
Dislikes

- Overall too small, cramped
- Site not big enough for events
- No space for teens
- Computers cramped
- No ‘off-stage’ staff space
- Circ desk location / orientation

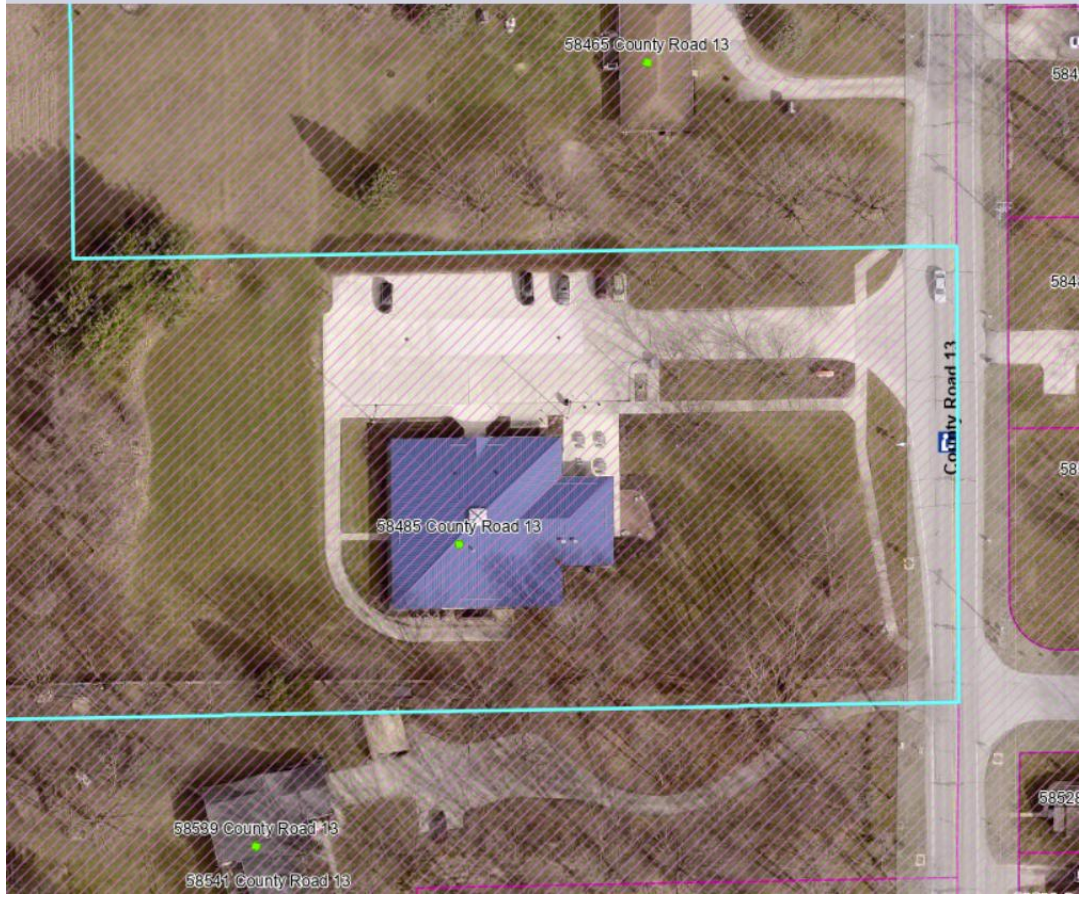
Wants

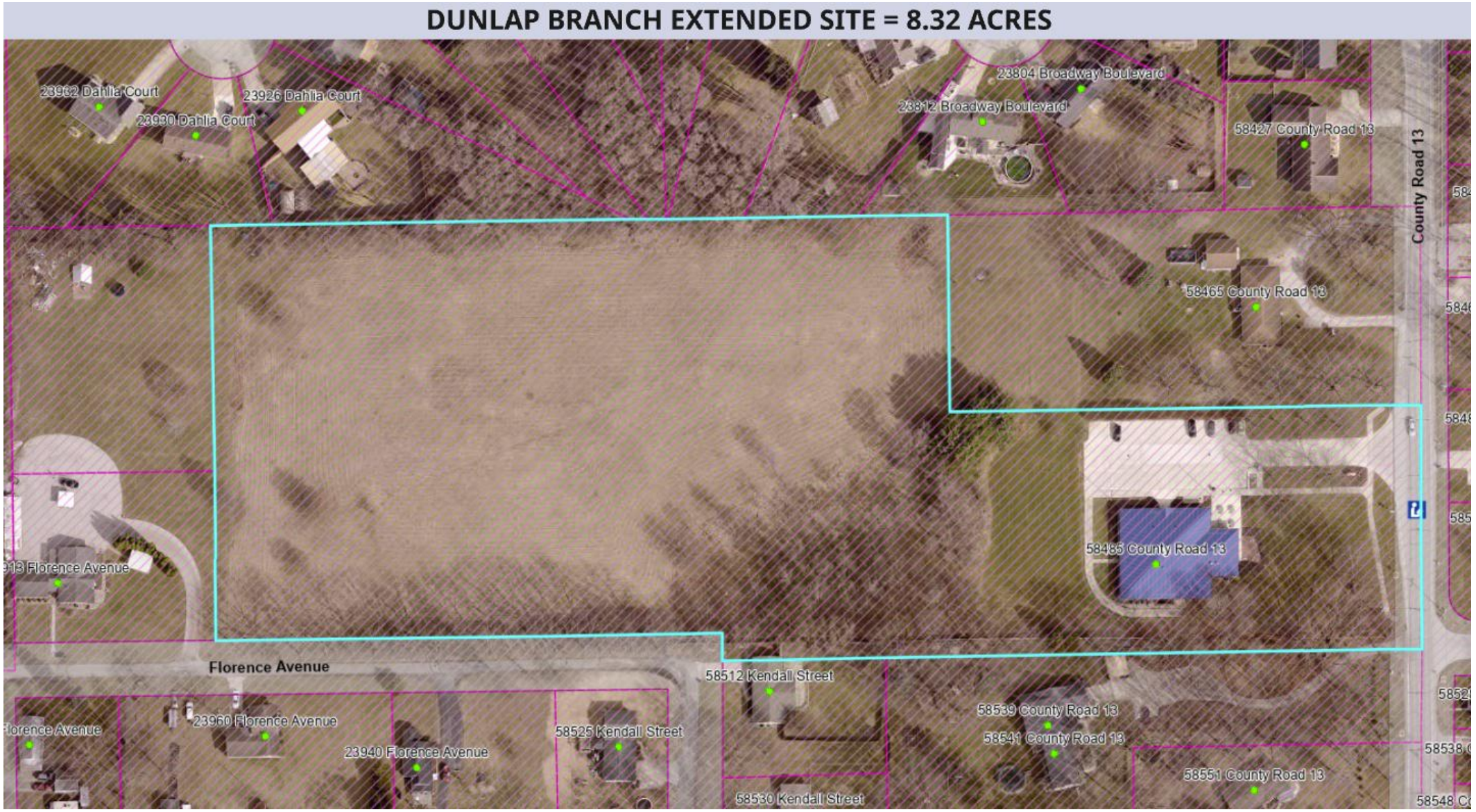
- More collection space
- Craft / maker space
- More/better conference rooms
- More collection space
- Reconfigure circ/work areas

CLEVELAND BRANCH SITE = 3.64 ACRES 30 PARKING SPACES



DUNLAP BRANCH SITE (PARTIAL) 30 PARKING SPACES




DUNLAP BRANCH EXTENDED SITE = 8.32 ACRES
23932 Dahlia Court
23926 Dahlia Court
23930 Dahlia Court
23804 Broadway Boulevard
23812 Broadway Boulevard
58427 County Road 13
County Road 13
58465 County Road 13
58485 County Road 13
Florence Avenue
58512 Kendall Street
23960 Florence Avenue
58525 Kendall Street
23940 Florence Avenue
58539 County Road 13
58541 County Road 13
58551 County Road 13
58530 Kendall Street

OSOLO BRANCH SITE = 1.4 ACRES 20 PARKING SPACES



PIERRE MORAN BRANCH = 0.76 ACRES 19 PARKING SPACES



Downtown

Likes

- Friendly staff
- Good location in Elkhart
- Love rooftop concerts
- Can find quiet space inside
- Atrium is nice + pleasant
- Meeting room variety
- Good access to collections
- YPS is good for families
- Staff have off-stage workspaces
- Workspaces near public spaces served
- Staff amenities (fitness, breakroom)

Dislikes

- Limited public + no staff parking
- Parking inconvenient to entrance
- Minimal outdoor spaces, no green space
- No outdoor programming spaces
- Building feels tired + dated
- YPS too small + Teen area misplaced
- Noise travels in/out of atrium
- Bad sightlines
- Tech space too small and dark
- No food areas
- No daylight in lower level
- Too few small meeting spaces
- Annex dark, awkward, inefficient
- Deliveries + materials management for TS
- Shipping + receiving requires elevator
- Circ workspaces out in the open
- YPS staff areas disconnected
- Lifts / stairs to Annex inefficient / inconvenient
- HVAC + systems aging
- Acoustical privacy in workspaces

Wants

- “Start over”
- Landscaped outdoor spaces for events
- Convenient, adequate parking
- New + easily maintained facility
- Make YPS a real destination
- Create a large community meeting space
- Add small study rooms
- Create a REAL teen space
- Improve quality of meeting rooms
- Remove stairs/lifts to staff work areas
- Add more flexibility
- Better collections shelving/merchandising
- Create spaces for art
- Add space for food + drinks
- Improve shipping + receiving

Downtown Current Size (rounded SF)	
Library Building (3 levels)	49,000 SF
Annex (5 levels)	19,000 SF
Total Downtown SF	68,000 SF
Library only above grade	36,000 SF
Library below grade	13,000 SF



Downtown Current Size (rounded SF)		Proposed Library ALL spaces (rounded SF)	Proposed Library Public spaces ONLY (rounded SF)	Proposed Library Support spaces ONLY (rounded SF)
Library Building (3 levels)	49,000 SF	90,000 SF	70,000 SF	24,000 SF
Annex (5 levels)	19,000 SF			
Total Downtown SF	68,000 SF			

Library only above grade	36,000 SF
Library below grade	13,000 SF

#	Program Area	Extg SF	Proposed SF
1	Entrance and Circulation Services	1,162	1,783
2	Meeting and Gathering Spaces	2,934	7,410
3	New Materials + Business Center	413	550
4	Audio / Visual	1,230	1,320
5	Technology and Creation Spaces	1,503	4,255
6	Children's Services and Collections	5,059	10,075
7	Teen Services and Collections	890	1,265
8	Adult Services and Collections	13,821	15,643
9	Genealogy + Local History	450	575
10	Staff Work Areas	15,761	23,880
11	Non-Assignable + Building Support Spaces	9,067	7,620
	Total Net Assignable SF	**52,290**	**74,376**
	Building Non-Assignable Space Allowance	15,319	14,875
	Total Building Gross Square Footage	67,609	**89,251**

#	Program Area	Proposed SF
1	Entrance and Circulation Services	1,783
2	Meeting and Gathering Spaces	7,410
3	New Materials + Business Center	550
4	Audio / Visual	1,320
5	Technology and Creation Spaces	4,255
6	Children's Services and Collections	10,075
7	Teen Services and Collections	1,265
8	Adult Services and Collections	15,643
9	Genealogy + Local History	575
10	Staff Work Areas	9,180
11	Non-Assignable + Building Support Spaces	6,000
	Total Net Assignable SF	**58,056**
	Building Non-Assignable Space Allowance	11,611
	Total Building Gross Square Footage	**69,667**

#	Program Area	Proposed SF
1	Entrance	334
2	Meeting and Gathering Spaces	180
3	New Materials + Business Center	0
4	Audio / Visual	0
5	Technology and Creation Spaces	0
6	Children's Services and Collections	0
7	Teen Services and Collections	0
8	Adult Services and Collections	0
9	Genealogy + Local History	0
10	Staff Work Areas	16,476
11	Non-Assignable + Building Support Spaces	3,108
	Total Net Assignable SF	**20,098**
	Building Non-Assignable Space Allowance	4,020
	Total Building Gross Square Footage	**24,117**