THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

Facilities Plan

August 2016

Overview

Our Library consists of the Main Library and 40 branch libraries.

- Main and 16 branches are in the City of Cincinnati
- 17 branches are in other cities or villages
- 7 branches are in townships

A good rule of thumb is 1 sq. ft. of library space for every resident so how do we measure up?

First the population

- The county population totals 804,520
- The City of Cincinnati population is 297,517
- Hamilton County without the City of Cincinnati population is 507,003

Square footage

- Main and 40 branches is 931,809
- Main alone is 542,382
- Cincinnati branches only 146,325
- County branches only 243,102

Use of Facilities

Transactions (reference questions, program attendance, items borrowed and computers sessions) per square foot varies:

- Our average for all locations is 20.3.
- The average for branches in the City of Cincinnati is 22.5 ranging from 11.1 to 40.6
- The average for branches in the county is 36 ranging from 16.6 to 102.5
- Main Library's is 6.9

Do we meet the standard?

Without Main both the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County are at about 50% of the square feet needed to adequately serve the community.

However, we are not recommending a significant expansion of branches at this time.

Age of Facilities

7 of our branches were built 100 or more years ago – 2 have never been renovated!

- Avondale 1913/2014
- Norwood 1907/2001- limited ADA
- Corryville 1907/1997
- Hyde Park 1912/1970
- Northside 1904/2001
- **Price Hill 1909 – non-ADA**
- **Walnut Hills 1906 – non-ADA**

Age of Facilities

3 of our branches were built in the 20s or 30s, 1 has never been renovated.

- Pleasant Ridge 1929/2012
- **Madisonville 1925 – non-ADA**
- Westwood 1931/2002

Age of Facilities

10 of our branches were built from the late 1950s through the early 1970s. 7 have never been renovated.

- **Mt. Washington 1958**
- **Wyoming 1959 – limited ADA**
- Delhi 1968/1999
- **Forest Park 1969**
- **College Hill 1966**
- Cheviot 1962/2001 – limited ADA

Age of Facilities

1950s-1970s continued

- **West End 1961**
- Blue Ash 1964/1987
- **Monfort Heights 1971**
- **Mariemont 1972**

Age of Facilities

10 of our branches were built from the 1980s through the early 2000s. Only 1 has been renovated.

- Anderson 1981/1998
- **Sharonville 1983**
- **Oakley 1989**
- **Symmes 1991**
- **Green Township 1990**
- **North Central 1990**

Age of Facilities

1980s-2000s continued

- **Madeira 1993**
- **Covedale 1998***
- **Harrison 2001**
- **Groesbeck 2002**

*A renovation of an older building into a branch library

Age of Facilities

Reading, Clifton*, and St. Bernard were built in 2015.

*A renovation of an older building into a branch library

Age of Facilities

7 of our branches are in facilities not owned by the Library.

- Bond Hill 2007
- Loveland 1993/currently under renovation
- Mt. Healthy 1961
- Deer Park 1997
- Greenhills 1954 – non-ADA
- Miami Township 1983 – contributed space
- Elmwood Place 1977 – contributed space

Age of Facilities

Of the 33 branches owned by the Library:

- 10 are between 85 and 112 years old and 3 of these have never been renovated

- 10 are between 44 and 58 years old and 7 of these have never been renovated

- 10 are between 15 and 35 years old and only 1 of these has been renovated

- 3 are new

Main Library

Consists of more than half of our total square footage.

Serves multiple functions in one facility:

- Houses centralized services
- Houses a permanent collection
- Serves as a regional reference center
- Serves as a large branch library

But, is underutilized as a branch library and a regional reference center

Options for Main Library

Investigate relocating centralized services into an Operations Center.

Utilizing a facility designed for shipping, a call center, technical services and other services would increase efficiency and functionality while reducing operating costs.

Options for Main Library

Consider consolidating public services at the Main Library into the South Building.

A space utilization study by GBBN found that the space remaining after centralized services are moved from Main, is sufficient to house all services with additional space for growth and new services.

Options for Main Library

Re-purpose the space in the North Building or sell it, if services are consolidated into the South Building.

A recent appraisal valued the North Building at just under $8.5 million

Re-purposing could add meeting/training space, retail/café space, an auditorium or other uses

Funding Needs

We have identified more than $18 million in maintenance/renovations needed.

Major renovations, branch replacements and accessibility projects are estimated at $36 million.

Bringing the total unmet need to $54 million.

There is currently no funding for these projects and no timetable for completion.

What's Included?

- Making all facilities fully accessible
    - Madisonville
    - Walnut Hills
    - Price Hill
    - Norwood – auditorium and accessibility
    - Cheviot
    - Wyoming
- Renovating Hyde Park

What's Included?

- Completing deferred maintenance work
- Updating furniture and fixtures and facilities in general
- Acquiring/constructing branches to replace Miami Township, Mt. Healthy, Elmwood Place and Greenhills
- Re-purposing Main Library space

Priorities

Highest

- Funding the maintenance/renovation work needed at the branches and Main.

Next

- Moving centralized services into an Operations Center

- Renovating Main services into the South Building only

Current Funding is Inadequate

At our current rate of funding $2 million annually toward maintenance/capital improvements the work will be completed in 2044 – 27 years.

Since 2000 we have funded annual maintenance only 3 times, due to funding reductions or other funding priorities.

From 2001-2009 we did no maintenance packages a loss of $18 million in work

Benefits

Provides each community with a branch that is well-maintained, accessible and up-to-date, in a reasonable timeframe

Reduces the operating costs of the Main Library – without reducing services

Increases functionality of centralized services through an Operations Center

Mandate

It is imperative that we serve all residents of Hamilton County with comparable facilities across our system.

To do so we must invest in the upkeep of our facilities now and in the future.

Additionally, we must be good stewards of our funding, making changes as technological advances and other societal changes impact Library use.