Libraries

Program Description

Fairfax County Public Library branches differ in size, collection, and customers served. The libraries all have one thing in common: a commitment to provide easy access to a multitude of resources for the education, entertainment, business, and pleasure of Fairfax County, Town of Herndon, Vienna, and City of Fairfax residents of all ages.

Link to the Comprehensive Plan

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan, Public Facilities Section includes the following established objectives:

- Locate library facilities to provide service to the greatest number of persons within designated service areas, and provide high visibility, safe and easy access, and ample size for the building, parking areas, landscaping, and future expansion.
- Library facilities should be compatible with adjacent land uses and with the character of the surrounding community and should be sized to provide adequate space for the population to be served.
- Library facilities should sustain adequate levels of patronage.

Source: Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition; Policy Plan-Public Facilities, Amended through 4-9-2019

Program Initiatives

Changing demographics highlight a growing diversity among residents and among communities within Fairfax County. Expanding technologies offer new opportunities and users demand improved access to information resources and service delivery. The Library System must provide a network of facilities that offer library services responding to the needs of the community in which each library is located, and it must provide system-wide mechanisms to share resources among branches. New facilities must be designed to utilize new technologies for information and service delivery, and existing facilities redesigned and renovated to maximize the use of space and incorporate modern technologies.

The Library Board of Trustees, whose members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the School Board, and the City of Fairfax Council, are responsible for library policy. Planning is based on "Recommended Minimum Standards for Virginia Public Libraries," published by the Library of Virginia, which sets basic requirements for receiving supplemental State Aid. The priority of construction projects is based on many factors, including the age and condition of buildings, projected population growth in the service area, usage patterns, insufficiencies at existing facilities, and demand for library services in unserved areas of the County. Library projects have been primarily financed with General Obligation bonds.

In the fall of 2020, the voters approved a bond referendum in the amount of $90 million to support four priority library facilities. These libraries include Kingstowne Regional, Patrick Henry Community, Sherwood Regional, and George Mason Regional libraries. The Kingstowne Library site was previously purchased by the County to replace the existing leased space with a newly constructed library. Construction began at the end of 2022 for the Kingstowne Complex which will include the Regional Library, the Franconia Police Station, the Franconia District Supervisor's Office, the Franconia Museum, an active adult center, and childcare facility in one comprehensive facility. The design also includes garage parking and a County fueling station. The Patrick Henry Library renovation will support a proposed joint development project between Fairfax County and the Town of Vienna (Town) to renovate the Library and provide an additional parking structure for the Library

and the Town. Sherwood Regional and George Mason Regional Library renovations will support upgrades to all the building systems, including roof and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacement, which have outlived their useful life and accommodate current operations and energy efficiency. In addition, the renovations provide a more efficient use of the available space, meet customers' technological demands, and better serve students and young children. The quiet study areas and group study rooms are improved, with space to accommodate a higher number of public computers and wireless access.

Current Project Descriptions

1. **Centreville Regional Library – 2026 (Sully District):** $18,000,000 is estimated to renovate the Centreville Library which opened in 1991. This location has suffered from recurring issues with the HVAC, flooding in the staff areas, inadequate electrical wiring to support device usage by customers, and a myriad of other facility related repairs/incidents. Based on the age and condition of the facility, it is difficult to make significant changes to the overall layout or enhance the infrastructure required to support the technology requested by library customers. Renovation is required to upgrade building systems and infrastructure that are well beyond the end of their life cycle and to meet current and future operational needs of the Library System. This project is proposed as part of the 2026 Library Bond Referendum.

2. **George Mason Regional Library - 2020 (Mason District):** $15,000,000 has been approved to renovate and upgrade building systems and infrastructure that are well beyond the end of their life cycle and meet current and future operational needs of the Library System. While the population in the service area has not grown significantly, usage patterns at this location places it amongst the busiest of libraries in both door count and circulation. The current floor layout does not provide for efficiency in operations or reflect a modern library design. This location has suffered from recurring issues with the HVAC, inadequate electrical wiring to support device usage by customers, and a myriad of other facility related repairs/incidents. Based on the age and condition of the facility, significant renovation is needed to revamp infrastructure and new technology is required to support customer needs. A feasibility study to evaluate potential additional co-located uses has concluded and pre-design work continues. This project was approved as part of the 2020 Library Bond Referendum.

3. **Herndon Fortnightly Community Library – 2026 (Dranesville District):** $13,000,000 is estimated to be required to renovate the Herndon Fortnightly Community Library located in the Town of Herndon. Renovation is required to upgrade building systems and infrastructure that are well beyond the end of their life cycle and to meet current and future operational needs. The building layout and footprint are difficult to change due to the interior design having been built in a circular pattern. This location is also unique in that it is a two-story facility. Staffing is currently configured to support the second story operations (information and circulation) leaving the lower floor, which houses the community meeting rooms and restrooms, unmanned. Based on the age and condition of the facility, it is difficult to make significant changes to the overall layout or enhance the infrastructure required to support the technology requested by library customers. This project is proposed as part of the 2026 Library Bond Referendum.

4. **Kings Park Community Library – 2026 (Braddock District):** $15,000,000 is estimated to be required to renovate the joint Kings Park Community Library and Board of Supervisors Office. Kings Park is the busiest community location in the Library System operating at a level comparable to a small regional. Customers at this location are diverse and represent a cross-section of County population. Usage patterns indicate that of the locations in this cluster, this branch is a preferred destination of many customers. Based on the age and condition of the facility, it is difficult to make significant changes to the overall layout or enhance the infrastructure required to support the technology requested by library customers. The high usage results in greater wear and tear. Renovations are required to upgrade building systems and infrastructure that are well beyond the end of their life cycle and meet current and future operational needs of the Library System. This project is proposed as part of the 2026 Library Bond Referendum.

5. **Kingstowne Regional Library - 2020 (Franconia District):** $36,500,000 has been approved for the Kingstowne Regional Library which is currently located in leased space within a shopping center. The leased space has significant challenges, including space constraints, ongoing issues with water leakage, disruption to operations due to maintenance, and inadequate parking. A larger collection area, additional meeting rooms, and significant technology infrastructure upgrades are required to meet current and future operational needs of the Library system. The site for a new library was previously purchased by the County to replace the existing leased space with a newly constructed library. This collocated project is in the construction phase and will co-locate the Kingstowne Regional Library with the Franconia Police Station, the Franconia District Supervisor's Office, the Franconia Museum, an active adult center, and childcare facility into one comprehensive facility on this site. The project also includes garage parking and a County fueling station. Funding of $2.5 million was previously approved for the design associated with the Library project and $34 million was approved as part of the 2020 Library Bond Referendum.

6. **Patrick Henry Community Library - 2020 (Hunter Mill District):** $30,163,000 has been approved for a joint development project between Fairfax County and the Town of Vienna for a replacement Library and an additional parking structure for the library and the Town. Per the Design and Construction Agreement between the Town and Fairfax County, the Town contributed $663,000 towards the design phase upon design contract award in January 2022. The Town has committed to pay up to $850,000 in design costs and up to $4,200,000 towards construction costs. Patrick Henry Community Library is one of the busiest community locations in the library system, operating at a level of a small regional library. Upgrades are required to building systems and infrastructure that are well beyond the end of their life cycle to meet the current and future operational needs of the Library System. The building is one of the oldest and does not adequately reflect modern library design and usage. Based on the age and condition of the facility, it is difficult to make significant changes to the overall layout or outfit the facility with the infrastructure required to support the technology requested by library customers. This project was approved as part of the 2020 Library Bond Referendum and is currently in the design phase.

7. **Reston Regional Library - 2012 (Hunter Mill District):** $3,500,000 remains from the previously approved $10 million for the replacement of the Reston Regional Library. The existing facility was constructed in 1985 and is located within the overall master plan area that reconfigures and provides integrated redevelopment of the 47 acres currently owned by Fairfax County and Inova at Reston Town Center North (RTCN). The plan addresses the development potential consistent with the needs of the community. A total of approximately $58 million is proposed for a replacement Reston Library, community space, and common infrastructure at RTCN. Funding of $6,500,000, approved as part of the 2012 Library Bond Referendum has been redirected to support other library project shortfalls. Economic Development Authority bond financing is now anticipated to fund the entire $58 million required to implement the plan. Development concepts for the proposed library location and procurement options are being reviewed.

8. **Sherwood Regional Library - 2020 (Mount Vernon District):** $18,000,000 has been approved for the renovation of the Sherwood Regional Library. Renovation is required to upgrade building systems and infrastructure that are well beyond the end of their life cycle and meet current and future operational needs of the Library System. This Library is located off a main thoroughfare and is unique in that it serves a large middle school population from the Walt Whitman Intermediate School, located next door. This location has suffered from recurring roofing problems, inadequate electrical wiring to support device usage by customers, and a myriad of other facility related repairs/incidents. In its present configuration, the layout does not adequately satisfy current operation needs and usage. Based on the age and condition of the facility, significant changes to the overall layout and systems may be required to support the technology requested by library customers. A master planning study for colocation with other public facilities is scheduled to take place in 2024. This project was approved as part of the 2020 Library Bond Referendum.

Project Cost Summaries

Libraries

($000's)

	Project Title Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	Total FY 2025 - FY 2029	Total FY 2030 - FY 2034	Total
1	Centreville Regional Library - 2026	B	***$0***				$500	$2,500	$3,000	$15,000	$18,000
	TBD										
2	George Mason Regional Library - 2020	B	***$500***	***$700***	***$3,400***	***$6,700***	***$2,900***	***$800***	$14,500		$15,000
	LB-000016										
3	Herndon Fortnightly Community Library - 2026	B	***$0***				$500	$2,500	$3,000	$10,000	$13,000
	TBD										
4	Kings Park Community Library - 2026	B	***$0***				$500	$2,500	$3,000	$12,000	$15,000
	TBD										
5	Kingstowne Regional Library - 2020	B, G	***$25,500***	***$9,000***	***$1,000***	***$500***	***$500***		$11,000		$36,500
	LB-000012										
6	Patrick Henry Community Library - 2020	B, X	***$2,310***	***$15,375***	***$11,365***	***$1,113***			$27,853		$30,163
	LB-000015										
7	Reston Regional Library - 2012	B	***$1,500***	***$1,500***	***$500***				$2,000		$3,500
	LB-000010										
8	Sherwood Regional Library - 2020	B	***$1,000***	***$2,000***	***$8,800***	***$5,000***	***$1,000***	***$200***	$17,000		$18,000
	LB-000014										
	Total		***$30,810***	**$28,575**	**$25,065**	**$13,313**	**$5,900**	**$8,500**	**$81,353**	**$37,000**	**$149,163**

Notes: Numbers in bold italics represent funded amounts. A "C" in the 'Budgeted or Expended' column denotes a continuing project.

Key: Source of Funds

B	Bonds
F	Federal
G	General Fund
S	State
U	Undetermined
X	Other