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 providing easy access to a multitude of resources for the education, entertainment, business, and pleasure of Fairfax County, Towns of Herndon and Vienna, and City of Fairfax residents of all ages. This connects directly with the library's mission of building community, furthering literacy and promoting freedom of access and expression through programming, community spaces, technology, and collections of educational and recreational resources.

Link to the Comprehensive Plan

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan, Public Facilities Element includes the countywide objectives 1-7, which apply to all facility types and the library specific objectives 17-19 as shown below:

- 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 4-7-2024

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 responsive 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 Community, Patrick Henry Community, George Mason Regional, and Sherwood Regional libraries. The Kingstowne Library site was previously purchased by the County to replace the existing leased space with a newly constructed library that will become a regional branch. Construction began at the end of 2022 for the Kingstowne Complex which will include the Kingstowne 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 to renovate the Library and provide an additional parking structure for the Library and the Town. The rebuilt facility will be named the Vienna-Carter Community Library, in honor of the family who was instrumental in ending segregation in County libraries. George Mason Regional and Sherwood 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 lives and accommodate current operations and energy efficiency. In addition, the renovations will 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.

Equity Initiatives

Equity Review and Initiatives

The Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) demonstrates its commitment to racial and social equity by building community and promoting literacies for all through programming, community spaces, technologies and collections of educational and recreational resources; and making all policy decisions within an equity framework. The Library goals are to increase diversity in FCPL's management and leadership positions; improve diversity in FCPL's collection to mirror the diversity of community members; and to recognize the cultural and racial heritage of community members through displays and programs/events. The priority of capital 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 the demand for library services in unserved areas of the County.

Current Project Descriptions

1. **Centreville Regional Library (Sully District):** $37,000,000 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. It is anticipated that this library will be collocated with affordable housing and community spaces as part of a public private partnership administered by Housing and Community Development (HCD). EDA bond financing is anticipated to fund the required $37 million in FY 2029.

2. **Chantilly Regional Library/Technical Operations (Sully District):** $53,000,000 is estimated to renovate the Chantilly Library and Technical Operations site which opened in 1993. The Technical Operations site receives, processes, and coordinates the movement of all library materials throughout the entire Library system. The Chantilly Regional Library is one of the busiest locations in the system. Located off a major thoroughfare, this Library is unique in that it serves a large high school population from Chantilly High School which is located across the street. This facility has suffered from recurring roofing issues and inadequate electrical wiring supporting device usage by 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. Renovations are required to upgrade building systems and infrastructure that are beyond the end of their life cycle and meet current and future operational needs of the Library System. It is anticipated that this library site will be redeveloped and the library will be collocated with affordable housing and community spaces as part of a public private partnership administered by Housing and Community Development (HCD). EDA bond financing is anticipated to fund the required $53 million in FY 2028.

3. **George Mason Regional Library - 2020 (Mason District):** $21,000,000 has been approved to renovate and upgrade building systems and infrastructure that are well beyond the end of their life cycles 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. This project was approved as part of the 2020 Library Bond Referendum and is currently in the design phase.

4. **Kingstowne Regional Library - 2020 (Franconia District):** $36,500,000 has been approved for the Kingstowne Regional Library which is currently a community branch located in leased space within a shopping center. The leased space has significant challenges, including space constraints, ongoing issues with flooding, 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 project is in the construction phase and is scheduled to be completed in early 2026. The project co-locates 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 the 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.

5. **Patrick Henry Community Library - 2020 (Hunter Mill District):** $33,258,322 is currently available for a joint development project between Fairfax County and the Town of Vienna for a replacement Library and parking structure to support the Patrick Henry Library and the Town. Funding of $29,500,000 in County sources is available and $3,758,322 has been received from the Town of Vienna. An additional amount of up to $1,881,678 is anticipated from the Town of Vienna. 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 cycles and to meet the current and future operational needs of the Library System. The building is one of the oldest in FCPL 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. In February 2024, the Library Board unanimously confirmed that when the new library facility opens, the name will be changed to Vienna-Carter Community Library. This project was

approved as part of the 2020 Library Bond Referendum and is in the beginning of the construction phase.

6. **Reston Regional Library and Community Spaces (Hunter Mill District):** $63,000,000 is proposed for a replacement Reston Library, community space, and common infrastructure as part of the Reston Town Center North (RTCN) redevelopment project. The existing library 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). Funding of $6.5 million, approved as part of the 2012 Library Bond Referendum, has been redirected to the Patrick Henry Library project and the remaining 2012 bond funds of $5.2 million will be redirected to support shortfalls in other library projects. EDA bond financing is now anticipated to fund the entire $63 million required to implement the Reston Library, Community Spaces, and site infrastructure. This project is in the pre-design phase.

7. **Sherwood Regional Library - 2020 (Mount Vernon District):** $14,900,000 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 cycles 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 currently underway and multiple discussions have been held with the community about the master plan, including where the library would be placed 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 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	Total FY 2027 - FY 2031	Total FY 2032 - FY 2036	Total
1	Centreville Regional Library	B	***$0***			$37,000			$37,000		$37,000
	TBD										
2	Chantilly Regional Library/Technical Operations	B	***$0***		$53,000				$53,000		$53,000
	TBD										
3	George Mason Regional Library - 2020	B	***$7,800***	***$7,000***	***$6,000***	***$200***			$13,200		$21,000
	LB-000016										
4	Kingstowne Regional Library - 2020	B, G	***$36,053***	***$447***					$447		$36,500
	LB-000012										
5	Patrick Henry Community Library - 2020	B, X	***$14,786***	***$10,900***	***$7,072***	***$500***			$18,472		$33,258
	LB-000015										
6	Reston Regional Library and Community Spaces (part of RTCN Redevelopment)	B	***$0***	$63,000					$63,000		$63,000
	LB-000010										
7	Sherwood Regional Library - 2020	B	***$500***	***$1,500***	***$8,800***	***$4,100***			$14,400		$14,900
	LB-000014										
	Total		***$59,139***	**$82,847**	**$74,872**	**$41,800**	**$0**	**$0**	**$199,519**	**$0**	**$258,658**

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