



CENTRAL PLANNING ZONE





WH WALNUT HILLS



NW NORWOOD



AV AVONDALE

**CR - CORRYVILLE**

CL - CLIFTON

**SB** - ST. BERNARD

NS - NORTHSIDE



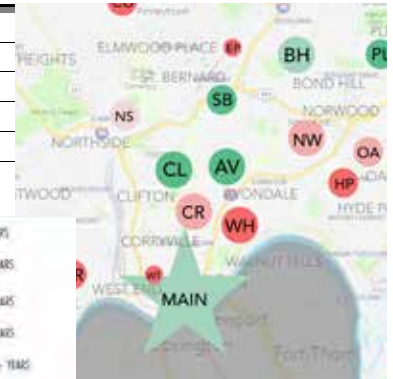
WE WEST END



renovation
at current
4,550 SF

Planning Zone and Library		Existing Usable Square Feet	Effective Age in 2020	10 - YEAR RECOMMENDATIONS	Proposed Square Feet
AV	Avondale	9,896 SF	6 yrs	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	9,900 SF
CL	Clifton	8,189 SF	5 yrs	Strategic Investment	8,190 SF
CR	Corryville	9,839 SF	23 yrs	Scheduled Maintenance	9,840 SF
NS	Northside	5,778 SF	21 yrs	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	5,780 SF
NW	Norwood	10,237 SF	20 yrs	Strategic Investment	14,790 SF
SB	St. Bernard	7,145 SF	5 yrs	Strategic Investment	7,150 SF
WH	Walnut Hills	10,624 SF	114 yrs	Renovation and Expansion	18,000 -22,000 SF
WT	West End	4,549 SF	59 yrs	Renovation	4,550 SF

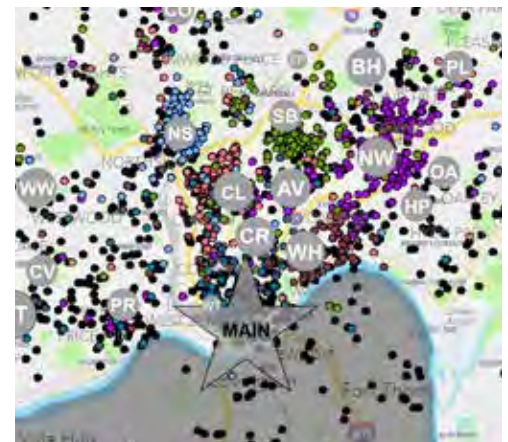
Main			
North& South Building		22 yrs	South Building Electrical Upgrade, HVAC, FP
South Building		22 yrs	South Building Skylight, Elevator Replacement
North & South Building		22 yrs	Small Scale Reorganization (100,000 SF)
Vine St. Plaza		38 yrs	Vine Plaza Extensive Reconstruction
New Stairs in Atrium		-	New stairs in the Atrium



Age of buildings: About half of the branches in this zone are overdue for renovation



Accessibility: The majority of buildings are ADA accessible except for Norwood and Walnut Hills branches



Customer mapping: library customers in the Central Zone – contrary to the other planning zones – tend to visit their neighborhood library instead of travelling among the branches.

CENTRAL ZONE PROFILE

The Central Planning Zone is located at the heart of the City of Cincinnati and includes eight branches, the downtown Main Library, and the Distribution Center. The zone serves approximately 145,000 residents with a moderate amount of library space per resident (~0.46 square feet/capita, near the systemwide average). This zone includes the following areas: Avondale, Camp Washington, Central Business District, Clifton, Clifton Heights, Corryville, English Woods, Evanston, Fairview, Fay Apartments, Lower Price Hill, Millvale, Mt. Adams, Mt. Auburn, North Avondale, North Fairmont, Northside, Norwood, O'Bryonville, Over-the-Rhine, Paddock Hills, Pendleton, Queensgate, St. Bernard, South Cumminsville, South Fairmont, University Heights, Walnut Hills, West End, Winton Hills, Winton Place, and Winton Woods. Customer mapping: Many customers travel and visit more than one branch in the planning zone. The alternative choice for Central customers would be to visit the downtown Main Library for the services that meet their needs.

The Central Zone is the most well-connected planning zone in terms of public transportation, which is important because in many neighborhoods in this zone 20% or more of residents are without a car. The zone has a geographically even distribution of branches; however, some neighborhoods are partially or completely surrounded by highways, railroad tracks, and/or industrial complexes that present challenges to those dependent on public transportation to get to libraries. Recent residential growth in Western Cincinnati neighborhoods like Lower Price Hill involves families where English is their second language. In some of these cases, children grow up speaking both English and Spanish. The Central Zone is not the largest by population, but includes the majority of residents that live below Hamilton County's median poverty level, and is densely populated. It is also the zone which houses the fewest senior citizens and the most residents under the age of 18.

The branches in this zone vary in size, maintenance need, and historical significance. While Avondale, Clifton, and St. Bernard were recently renovated; Walnut Hills, West End, Norwood, Corryville, and Northside are in immediate need of facility improvements. The 10-year plan aims to address these issues in various ways, identifying Walnut Hills as the future Big Next Generation Library of the Central Zone. Norwood is also recommended to become a Next Generation Library in order to meet the needs of its community. The remaining branches will receive Strategic Investments and/or Capital Maintenance work that will improve library services and address pressing maintenance issues.

The downtown Main Library, with its North and South Buildings, has a variety of Capital Maintenance and other needs that will be met to ensure it will continue to serve as the flag ship for the library system well into the future, offering a full range of typical library services alongside several specialized services, including its large makerspace and genealogy department.

Taken together, these changes will provide a variety of updated spaces for residents of this zone and support a full range of traditional and contemporary services.



DOWNTOWN MAIN LIBRARY

SMALL SCALE REORGANIZATION (100,000 SF)

SOUTH BUILDING ELECTRICAL UPGRADES HVAC AND FP

SOUTH BUILDING SKYLIGHT AND ELEVATOR REPLACEMENT

VINE PLAZA EXTENSIVE RECONSTRUCTION

NEW STAIRS IN THE ATRIUM

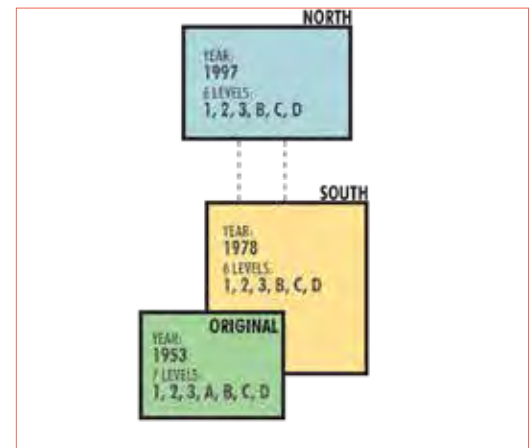
OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN LIBRARY

The current 540,000 SF downtown Main Library is situated between the business district and an area of urban renewal. The 380,000 SF South Building includes portions built in 1953 and expanded in 1978; the 160,000 SF North Building, connected by a multi-story bridge, opened in 1997. In 2007 and beyond, the Main Library underwent a service model redesign that created many innovative and successful “flagship” services, including a popular library, a large and vibrant maker space, a generous teen space, and expanded local history space with specialized genealogy collections. The downtown Main Library also provides a systemwide role housing the majority of Library collections shelved in both accessible and closed stacks.

In December, 2017, the Library Board of Trustees confirmed the desire to retain the North Building, and to have both buildings of the downtown Main Library re-envisioned to better meet customer needs.

2023 UPDATE

For project details, please check
[CHPL.org/next-generation/main](https://chpl.org/next-generation/main)



Plan and section diagrams of Main Library spaces, depicting periods of expansion and public/private levels



Concepts for a redesigned downtown Main Library atrium. Artist renderings. All recommendations are subject to change.

MAIN LIBRARY INTERIOR IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

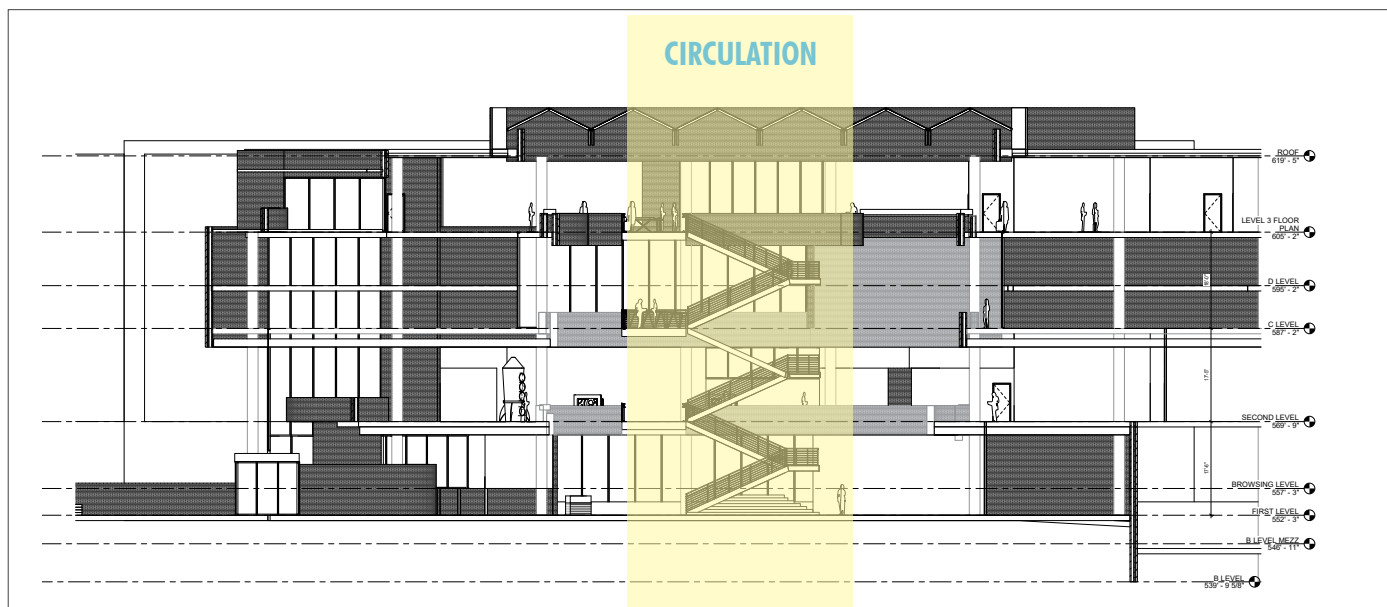
In 2007 the downtown Main Library reorganized and updated interiors to a 21st century service model. Main Library open houses, a Community Listening Session, and staff workshops identified many challenges with the current organization and opportunities to again improve customer experience. Priorities include:

- Rethink the size, offerings, and location of the popular library and children's library (and consider locating them in the same building);
- Continue making improvements to the South Building atrium to support some of the more successful pop-up services tested in 2019;
- Improve the locations and types of spaces providing technology;
- Acoustically improve the varied spaces enjoyed for recreational, social, collaborative, and individual work;
- Improve wayfinding and options for traveling between floors;
- Improve sightlines for better functionality and security.

A major renovation of the downtown Main Library could easily approach \$100 million, and knowing the magnitude of need in the branches, more modest renovation options were identified. There is approximately 175,000 SF of publicly-accessible space located on Floors 1, 2, and 3; multiple options for different levels of renovation and extents of such work were proposed. Other options to recapture some space along the atrium, on the non-public Floors C and D, were also considered. These spaces could be considered for use by community partners that share some of the same customer base as the library. These projects could also be potentials for new revenue.



Current atrium in the downtown Main Library



Section study of the downtown Main Library atrium circulation. Artist rendering. All recommendations shown are subject to change.

THE ATRIUM AS A CONNECTING ELEMENT

The Main Library's iconic atrium is located in the "80s expansion" (commenced in 1978 and dedicated in 1980) to the South Building, and exists as a landing point between Vine Street and Walnut Street, offering views to the library's five above-ground floors. While this grand space has the opportunity to define the interior experience of the building, for years it remained empty without a sense of civic identity. In 2018, the Library took the first step in improving the atrium space by replacing the outdated brick flooring and providing new, flexible furniture. The improved restroom access and enhanced visibility resulting from the project helped visitors feel welcome to inhabit and rediscover this public space. Today, Library staff are experimenting with innovative pop-up services and different space layouts to bring both short-term and long-term vitality to the atrium's ground level. This effort has been commended by the community.

The 2019 opening of the Library's Distribution Center has greatly eased operational burdens, and has created greater opportunity to open up atrium and other space uses at the downtown Main Library.

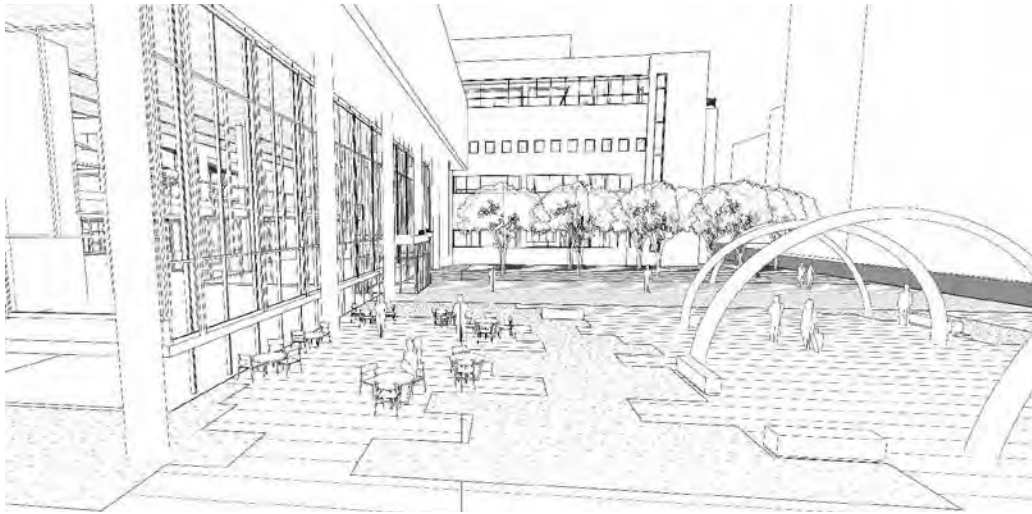
Several architectural concepts to transform the atrium and offer a new spatial experience were explored during the FMP process. Concepts propose new circulation through the building and reimagine the multiple rooms around the atrium as an active space. For instance, a new stand-alone staircase could function as a connector, improving customer wayfinding both visually and physically. Connecting the public levels could also reduce load on elevators, which themselves would be improved as part of these concepts.



Boston Public Library after its renovation in 2016. A newly glazed facade made the ground floor interiors more inviting and accessible.

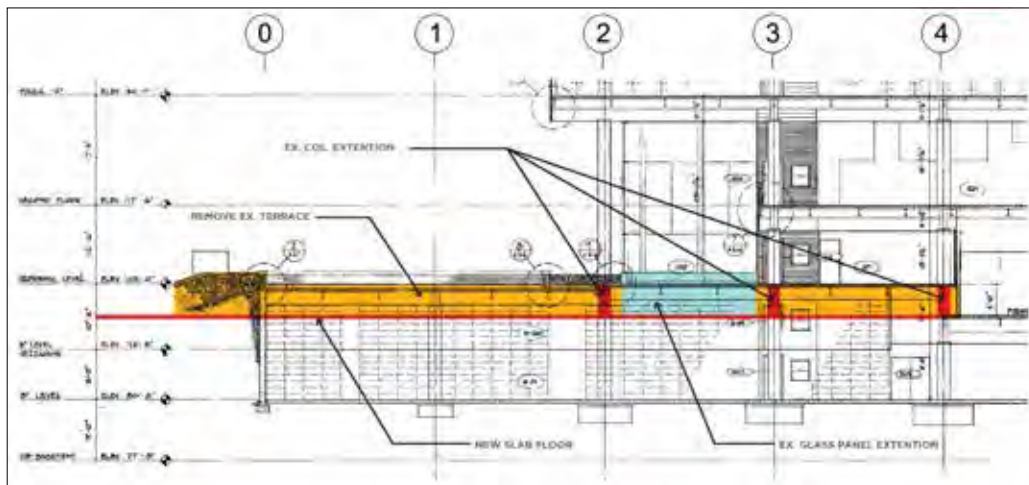


The Halifax Central Library auditorium features flexible performance space seating



Artist Rendering: Main Library plaza from Vine Street

2021 update: Work to replace the elevators and skylight, which have both come to the end of their functional lifespans, begins in summer 2021. We anticipate that in fall of 2021, work will begin on the first floor of the South Building and Vine St. entrance and plaza. On Vine St., the plaza will be lowered to street level and re-envisioned, and the entrance expanded. Inside, the first floor will get a makeover, including reconfiguring the stairs and renovating the space to accommodate priorities identified by the community, such as additional spaces for gathering and a reinvigorated space for youth. In April 2021 the Board of Trustees approved an overall budget of \$24 million for this work. An initial community engagement session was held on this topic in February 2021. Slides and the recording from that session can be found on the Next Generation website at cincinnati.library.org/next-generation/main/



Section showing the reconstruction of the plaza and the realignment of building and plaza levels

Initial concept for the reconstruction of the Vine Street plaza. The recommendation includes lowering the level of the entrance and making the Vine Street facade more transparent. Artist renderings. All recommendations seen above are subject to change.

Susan Kent, library consultant and former director of major urban public libraries in New York, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles, provided experience and expertise from libraries that renewed their atriums and refreshed their public spaces with staircases, new materials, and more open facades.

The award-winning renovation of Boston Public Library was introduced as an example of a newly-revitalized space that helped transformed a heavy, midcentury building lacking connection to the street into a twenty-first century urban library that reconnects the interior space to the city and greatly rethinks its spaces and programs.

Halifax Central Library, in Nova Scotia, is another building that drew the attention of Library staff and of the Master Plan’s Community Advisory Council. It quickly established a reputation as a popular gathering place since opening in December 2014. One of the many points of interest is the flexible auditorium. This space is housed in the ground floor of library and can be used both as a reading place and as a performance/event space. The hall also features stowable seats for flexibility and acoustic ceiling baffles that support different kinds of performances and events.

MAIN LIBRARY EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

Vine Street Plaza Redevelopment

Responding to the role of the downtown Main Library as a countywide destination for “flagship” services, Group 4 prepared complementary concepts that more significantly rebranded the south building. These concepts also sought to address safety concerns, create a more welcoming and family-friendly space, enhance the building’s curb appeal, and increase visibility from the library to the street. A glass-clad tower introduced in the plaza could house a new café and an exhibition space for local artwork or an open space for the Library to advertise its programs and activities. The tower could also serve as a landmark for downtown Cincinnati. The brick facade would no longer be inactive, but serve as the backdrop for artwork that reflects the vibe of the city and the thoughts of its people. It also introduces an undulating canopy and transforms the curb appeal to promote easy access for all. In general, the proposal aims to increase the transparency of the building and to reimagine it as the center of innovation and inclusivity for all Cincinnati and Hamilton County residents. Some elements of Group 4’s concepts for the downtown Main Library are beyond the scope of work the Board of Trustees approved in April 2021 with the overall \$24 million budget; however, these ideas could serve as inspiration if additional funds became available after the Facility Master Plan project is completed.



The multi-level plaza on Vine Street hinders accessibility to the Main Library.



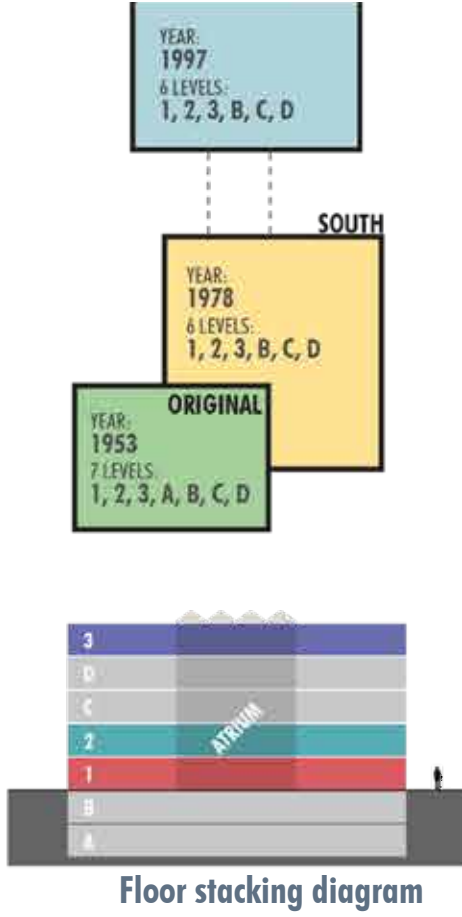
The narrow walkway that leads to the entrance of the Main Library from Vine Street is known to be problematic, according to staff and library visitors



Revised Vine Street plaza concept. An open and inviting public space could reflect the local values and welcome visitors to the building. All recommendation are subject to change.

MAIN LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONAL DIAGRAMS

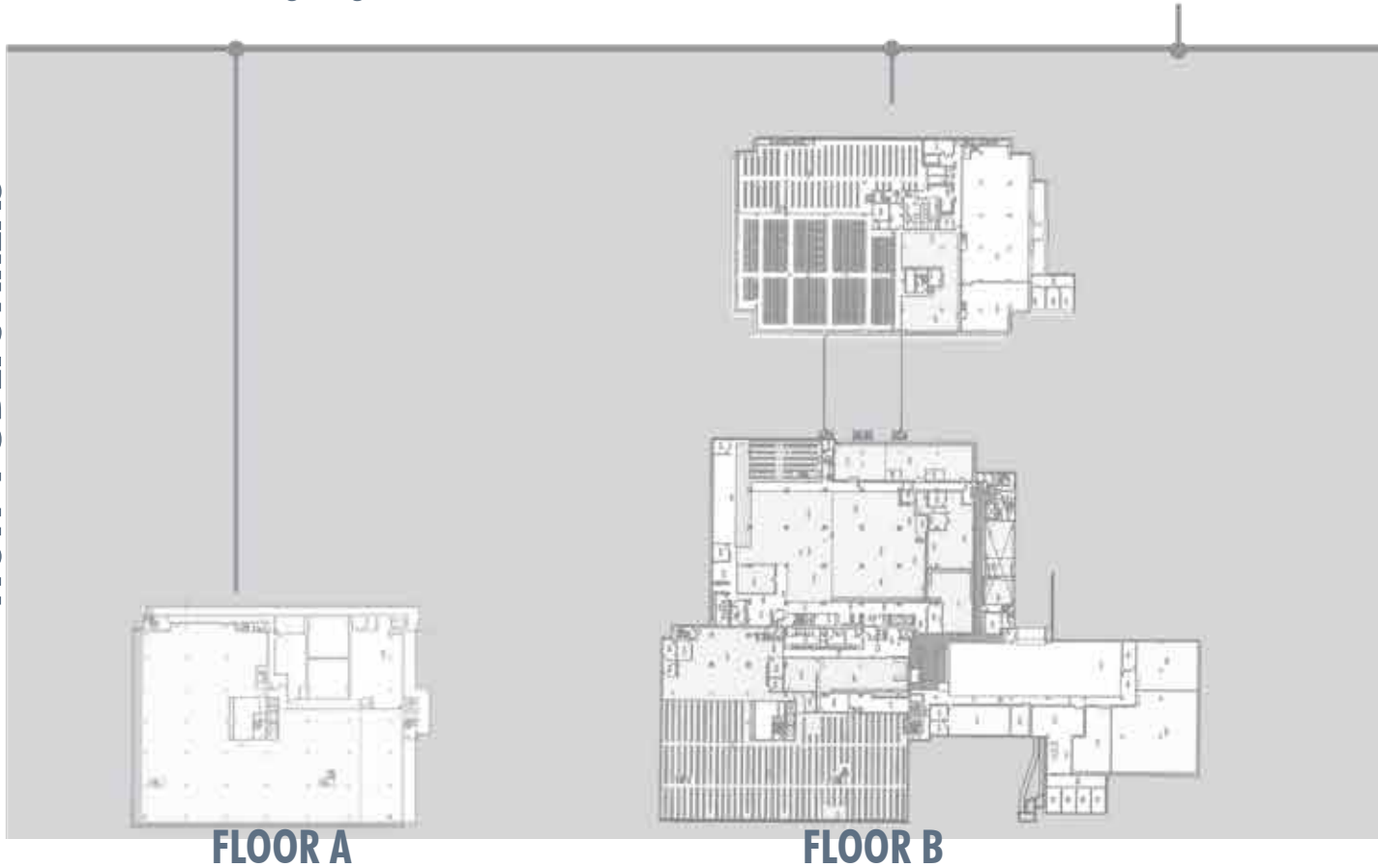
PUBLIC AREAS



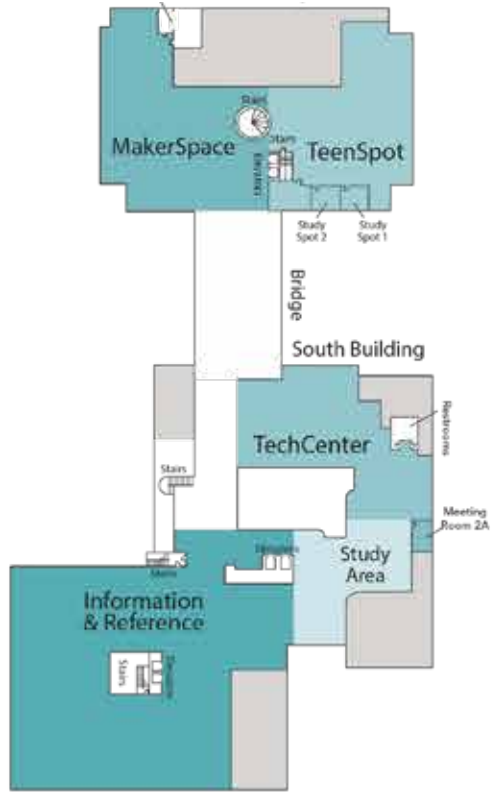
1ST FLOOR



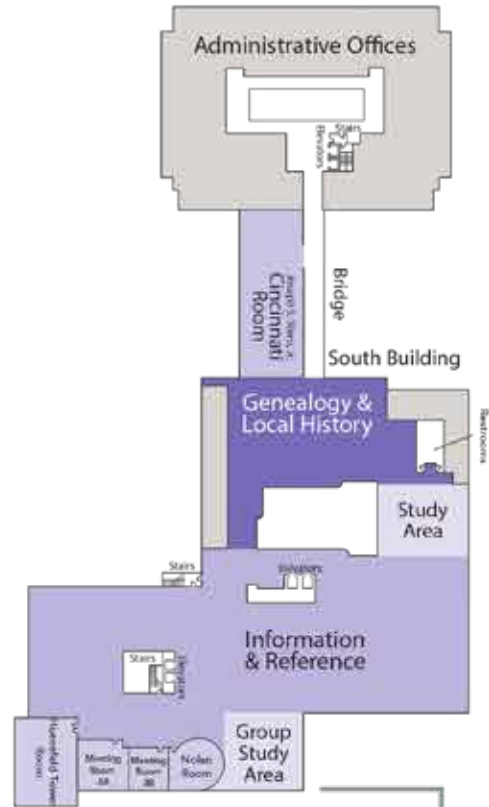
NON-PUBLIC AREAS



2ND FLOOR



3RD FLOOR



FLOOR C



FLOOR D



Walnut Street Frontage Development

The Walnut Street frontage of the South Building presents a significant development opportunity. The Walnut Street entrance, due to its elevation, is more open than that on Vine Street, providing better visibility and augmented security for visitors. However, half of this block is fenced in as a staff parking lot and is publicly inaccessible. The lot is too small to accommodate the downtown Main Library's staff, but would be large enough to host other functions. Three concepts were explored during the FMP process.

The simplest concept proposes the development of a small, multi-level parking structure that could fit approximately 250 vehicles. Retail along the ground floor could attract more visitors and revenue for the library. The existing entrance would be enhanced by repurposed hardscape and the introduction of a small garden.

A second concept reconfigures the library entrance at its original location, and proposes a block-long development with much more parking and opportunities for new library spaces, such as a 250- to 350-person multi-purpose room/auditorium. The lack of an auditorium at the downtown Main Library was identified by many stakeholders as a deficiency, and such an addition would be welcomed in the future. Retail tenants would occupy the ground floor.

A third concept, similar to the nearby Court and Walnut development that placed housing and parking above a Kroger downtown grocery store and eatery, explores how the library's Walnut Street frontage could be a high-density, mixed-use development. Active retail and event space would occupy the ground floor, and new residential units could be placed above. Such a project has the potential to enhance and completely transform this part of downtown Cincinnati.

In any case, modification will likely be explored for the Walnut Street frontage of the downtown Main Library, including relocating one of the library's entries back to its previous orientation toward Eighth Street. There are a variety of project funding structures that could be explored, such as a public-private partnership or land lease, either of which could provide funding for library construction projects improving public service spaces and funding systemwide improvement efforts. These concepts are beyond the scope of the 10-year Facility Master Plan implementation project, but these ideas could serve as inspiration if additional funds became available after the Facility Master Plan project is completed.



The Central Library parking garage at Kansas City Public Library (MO) features retail on the ground floor and four tiers of parking for library visitors.



The "Kroger Development" is a major new mixed-use project just around the corner from the Main Library.



Downtown Main Library today. The entrance on Walnut Street is slightly elevated from street level. The open lot at right currently accommodates parking for library staff.



Walnut Street Concept A: Parking structure for about 250 vehicles and retail on the ground floor. Artist Rendering. All recommendations are subject to change.



Walnut Street Concept B: Parking structure for about 500 vehicles, with retail and library event spaces on the ground floor. Artist Rendering. All recommendations shown are subject to change.



Walnut Street Concept C: Mixed-use development that includes residential units and parking, with retail and event space on the ground floor. Artist Rendering. All recommendations shown are subject to change.

AVONDALE

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE +
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD



The Avondale Branch Library was completed in 1913. It is one of seven remaining of the original Hamilton County area libraries, built with funds provided by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. The Spanish Colonial-style structure was extensively renovated in 2014. This renovation included an elevator and restroom addition, which allow full accessibility for public entry and to both public service levels. Due to surrounding development, there is no opportunity for expansion of this facility on the currently owned land at this location. Public service is presently consolidated to the main level. The multi-level design of the Avondale Branch presents service challenges and its age limits its ability to support new service models and technology upgrades. There is no dedicated parking on site, however limited public street parking is available. This branch is served by three metro routes.

The Avondale Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence contains a population of 9,397. The Avondale Branch draws customers predominantly from within a two-mile radius. While the branch is located prominently in the neighborhood, mapping shows that many nearby residents regularly chose to use other libraries. The Branch does have a flex space on its main level, which may be reserved as a meeting room, and has a 50-person capacity. A large portion of its customer base is made up of local youth.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Increase access through more public parking and public transportation
- Maintain safe and welcoming spaces with particular focus on improved acoustics
- Develop dynamic, engaging, and inclusive spaces for teens and children

RECOMMENDATION

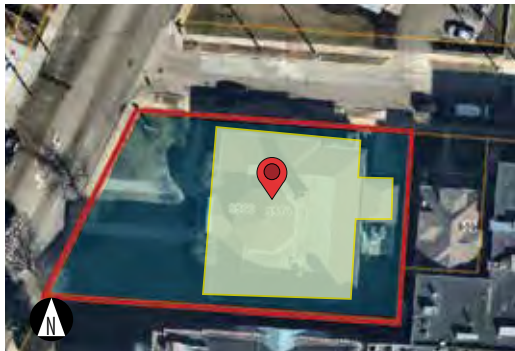
As a Scheduled Maintenance project, the Library's Facilities Department will improve waterproofing at this location. A Strategic Investment is recommended to enhance service. A process led by Library staff with community input will identify how this investment should be made.

LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding becomes available, the Library may explore renovating the basement. The basement includes staff and storage spaces which could be reconfigured for additional public service space and improve noise control.

Avondale and its surrounding communities are currently seeing mixed-use developments in the Innovation Corridor at MLK and Reading Rd. There is also development around the Zoo. The Library remains active and responsive as a long-standing member of an ever-growing community and will consider these and other surrounding developments as it engages in opportunities for growth. Once the nearby Walnut Hills Branch is renovated and expanded into a Next Generation-sized branch, the Library will evaluate whether customer usage changes for Avondale, and consider making further improvements or tailoring spaces and services based on customers' evolving needs.

PROJECT DATA	
Usable Building Area (1 story + basement)	9,900 SF



	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
CR	Corryville	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance	1.8 mi
CL	Clifton	NBHD	Strategic Investment	2.0 mi
NW	Norwood	NBHD	Strategic Investment	2.1 mi
WH	Walnut Hills	BIG NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	2.3 mi
SB	St. Bernard	NBHD	Strategic Investment	2.8 mi
NS	Northside	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	3.7 mi
HP	Hyde Park	NBHD	Improved Accessibility	4.2 mi

MAINTENANCE NEEDS

roof HVAC painting sidewalk lighting windows ceiling floor furniture electrical upgrade accessibility signage



CLIFTON

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD



The Clifton Branch Library was originally built as a home residence in 1895. Donated to the library, Parkview Manor, an architecturally rich home, was completely renovated for library service and opened in May 2015. The facility's redesign incorporates an elevator to allow accessibility for public entry and to all three public service levels, while preserving as much of the original architectural features as possible. Its multi-level design does present some service challenges, and its age and uniquely residential nature also limits its ability to support new service models and technology upgrades. Due to an already maximized development of the currently owned land and surrounding development, there is no opportunity for expansion at this location. This branch has a dedicated parking lot and some additional street parking is available. Customers also frequently use supplemental transportation such as community bicycles and electric scooters. This branch is served by three metro routes.

The Clifton Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence contains a population of 18,059. It draws customers primarily from within a two-mile radius. The branch offers three study rooms which accommodate 1-6 individuals and one dedicated meeting room with a 25-person capacity. This branch predominantly serves adults and university students.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Develop interactive spaces with more community-focused opportunity
- Improve indoor and outdoor seating with areas that allow food/eating
- Delineate spaces for kids/teens/adults with particular focus on improved acoustics

RECOMMENDATION

As the recipient of a Strategic Investment, the Clifton Branch Library will explore many possible ways to enhance service. A process led

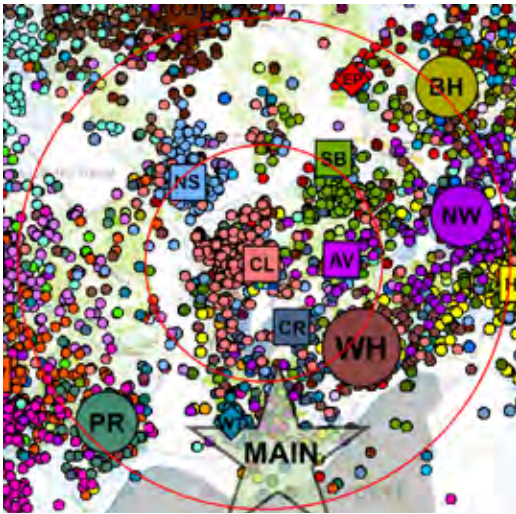
by Library staff with community input will identify how this investment should be made.

LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding and opportunity becomes available, the Library may explore opportunities at this branch such as to further enhance this branch's services in ways that may incorporate community partnerships and improve existing spaces acoustically and service flexibility. Any improvements shall be done in ways that are respectful and complimentary to this branch's unique style and beauty.

Clifton and its surrounding communities are seeing development with businesses on Ludlow. There is a huge university presence in the area. The Library remains active and responsive as a long-standing member of an ever-growing community and will consider these and other surrounding developments as it engages in opportunities for growth. Once the nearby Walnut Hills Branch is renovated and expanded into a Next Generation-sized branch, the Library will evaluate whether customer usage changes for Clifton, and consider making further improvements or tailoring spaces and services based on customers' evolving needs.

CUSTOMER MAP



PROJECT DATA

Usable Building Area
(2 stories + basement)

8,190 SF

CL - CLIFTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
CR	Corryville	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance	1.0 mi
AV	Avondale	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	2.0 mi
SB	St. Bernard	NBHD	Strategic Investment	2.3 mi
NS	Northside	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	2.3 mi
WH	Walnut Hills	BIG NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	2.5 mi
NW	Norwood	NEXT GEN	Strategic Investment	4.1 mi

OVERVIEW OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

	roof	HVAC	painting	sidewalk	lighting	windows	ceiling	floor	furniture	electrical upgrade	accessibility	signage
MAINTENANCE NEEDS												



Site plan

BASEMENT



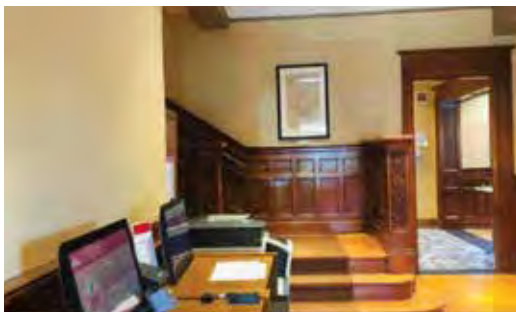
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



Floor plans



Entryway

CORRYVILLE

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD



Originally completed in 1907, the Corryville Branch Library is one of the remaining seven of the original Hamilton County area libraries, built with funds provided by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. A Renaissance Revival style building, the facility underwent a major renovation in 1996 to include a new elevator tower which allows accessibility for public entry and to both public service levels. Customers are primarily serviced on the main level. The Corryville branch's multi-level design presents service challenges and its age limits its ability to support new service models and technology upgrades. Due to an already maximized development of the currently owned land and surrounding development, there is no opportunity for expansion on the currently owned land parcel at this location. There is a dedicated parking lot on site and additional street parking is available. On-site parking is frequently utilized to full capacity. This branch is also served by five metro routes.

The Corryville Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence contains a population of 3,521. It draws customers primarily from within a two-mile radius. A basement includes a dedicated meeting room with a 65-person capacity. This branch predominantly serves university students.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Delineate space by activity with particular focus on technology including maker materials, computer lab, and laptop kiosk
- Develop dynamic, engaging, and inclusive spaces for teens
- Utilize outdoor spaces more effectively

RECOMMENDATION

As the recipient of a Scheduled Maintenance project, the Library's Facilities Department has identified a need for roof repairing at the Corryville Branch.

2021 update: Since the building assessment work that happened in 2019 as part of the development of this plan, CHPL has learned that the building's foundation needs major work. We anticipate that this will happen in mid to late 2021.

2023 UPDATE

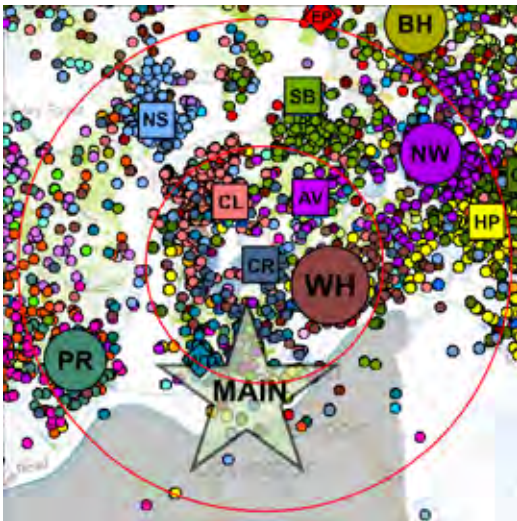
For project details, please check
[CHPL.org/next-generation/corryville](https://chpl.org/next-generation/corryville)

LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding becomes available, the Library may explore opportunities at this branch, such as recapturing space in the basement. It presently houses several staff and storage spaces, which could be considered for renovation for possible additional public service space such as study or maker spaces.

Corryville and its surrounding communities are seeing developments of short-term housing for university students and young professionals. The Nearby Short Vine is home to many operating businesses and is seeing some developments of new business in progress. The Library remains active and responsive as a long-standing member of an ever-growing community and will consider these and other surrounding developments as it engages in opportunities for growth. Once the nearby Walnut Hills Branch is renovated and expanded into a Next Generation-sized branch, the Library will evaluate whether customer usage changes for Corryville, and consider making further improvements or tailoring spaces and services based on customers' evolving needs.

CUSTOMER MAP



PROJECT DATA

Usable Building Area (1 story + basement)	9,840 SF
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Site plan



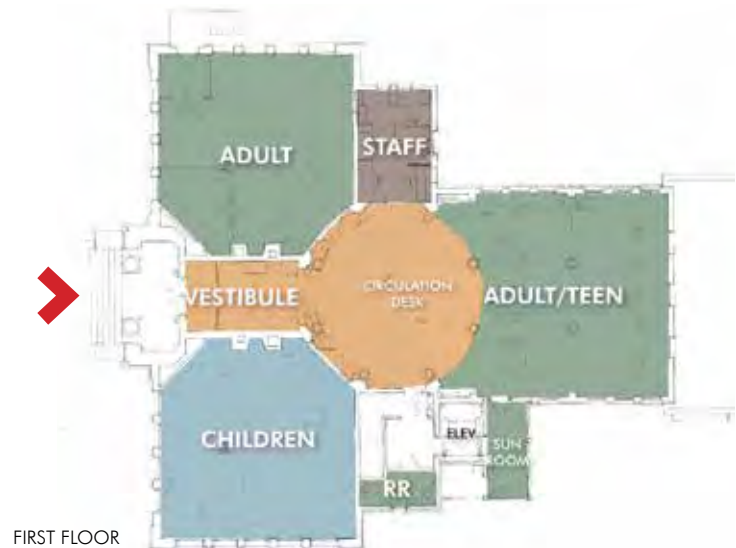
Adult/teen computers

CR - CORRYVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
CL	Clifton	NBHD	Strategic Investment	1.0 mi
WH	Walnut Hills	BIG NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	1.5 mi
AV	Avondale	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	1.8 mi
SB	St. Bernard	NBHD	Strategic Investment	3.1 mi
NS	Northside	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	4.0 mi
NW	Norwood	NBHD	Strategic Investment	4.6 mi

OVERVIEW OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

	roof	HVAC	pointing	sidewalk	lighting	windows	ceiling	floor	furniture	electrical upgrade	accessibility	signage
MAINTENANCE NEEDS												



Floor plans

NORTHSIDE

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE
+ STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD



Opened to the public in April of 1908, the Northside Branch Library is one of seven remaining of the original Hamilton County area libraries, built with funds provided by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. Renovation and remodeling of the facility took place in 2000 to improve accessibility; however, the elevator does have some access issues from the parking entry. The facility's multi-level design presents service challenges and its age limits its ability to support new service models and technology upgrades. Customers are primarily serviced on the main level. The Northside branch holds a good location in the community, however due to surrounding development, there is currently no opportunity for expansion at this location. There is a dedicated parking lot on site, although it is frequently at capacity. Limited additional street parking is available. This branch is serviced by three metro routes.

The Northside Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence contains a population of 7,488. Its dedicated meeting room is located on the lower level and has a 30-person capacity. This branch predominantly serves a large amount of youths, especially during after school periods.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Develop dynamic, engaging, and flexible spaces with particular focus on social spaces for community use
- Maintain historic elements while expanding technology and WI-FI capacity
- Utilize outdoor spaces more effectively while increasing parking

RECOMMENDATION

As the recipient of a Scheduled Maintenance project, the Library's Facilities Department has identified a need for exterior tuckpointing as well as thorough interior painting at the Northside Branch Library. A Strategic Investment is also recommended and could be used in many possible ways to enhance service. A process led by Library staff

with community input will identify how this investment should be made.

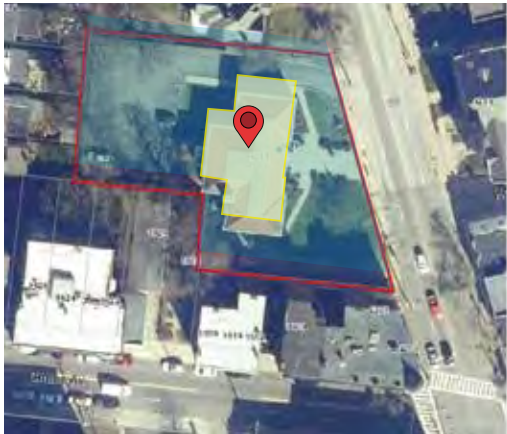
LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding becomes available, the Library may explore opportunities at this branch such as addressing accessibility issues at the elevator entry. Additionally, it may be possible to renovate the lower level spaces to be more flexible and able to help meet fluctuating service needs such as community collaborations and partnerships.

Northside and its surrounding communities are seeing a rapidly changing neighborhood with a wave of Urban renewal. The Library remains active and responsive as a long-standing member of an ever-growing community and will consider these and other surrounding developments as it engages in opportunities for growth. Once improvements are made to other branches in the Central Zone, the Library will evaluate whether customer usage changes for Northside, and consider making further improvements or tailoring spaces and services based on customers' evolving needs.



PROJECT DATA	
Usable Building Area (1 story + basement)	5,780 SF



Site plan



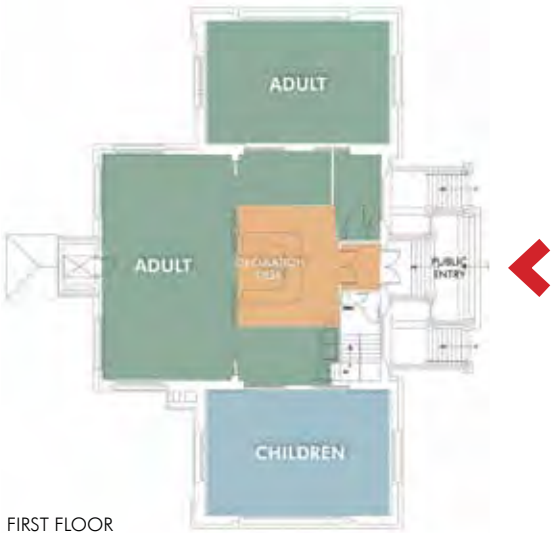
Meeting room

NS - NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
CL	Clifton	NBHD	Strategic Investment	2.3 mi
SB	St. Bernard	NBHD	Strategic Investment	3.3 mi
CR	Corryville	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance	3.3 mi
AV	Avondale	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	3.7 mi
CO	College Hill	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Interior Updates	4.0 mi
WH	Walnut Hills	BIG NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	4.7 mi

OVERVIEW OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

	roof	HVAC	pointing	sidewalk	lighting	windows	ceiling	floor	furniture	electrical upgrade	accessibility	signage
MAINTENANCE NEEDS												



Floor plans

NORWOOD

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

☐ NEXT GEN



Completed in 1907, the Norwood Branch Library is one of seven remaining of the original Hamilton County area libraries, built with funds provided by the Andrew Carnegie Foundation. In 2001, the Italian Renaissance style structure received a number of improvements, including the restoration of some of the building's original architectural elements. However, the facility is need of major HVAC, electrical, lighting, and telecommunications/data updates. The interior layout is not flexible and responsive to fluctuating service needs. By way of a retro-fitted concrete ramp off the street entry, public entry and main level public service is currently accessible. However, the lower level and upper level, which is currently blocked off and unused, are not. Public service is currently consolidated to the main level. Minimal opportunity for expansion is available on site. Its prominent location in Norwood and limited opportunity for space available elsewhere in the area make it a great candidate for a thorough renovation. It is served by three metro routes. Though parking is limited, community input suggests that an improved library at this location will still be visited by residents who will find parking on street or nearby.

The Norwood Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence is the largest in this planning zone, and contains a population of 23,657. The lower level houses this branch's dedicated meeting room, which has a 50-person capacity, and is not presently accessible. This branch predominantly serves adults and families.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Delineate space by activity with particular focus on technology and meeting rooms
- Maintain historic elements
- Utilize outdoor spaces more effectively while increasing parking

RECOMMENDATION

As a Design Project, it is recommended that the Norwood Branch Library undergo a major renovation and small expansion. This is intended to recapture the upper level and give full accessibility to all three levels by incorporating an elevator tower. New ADA restrooms

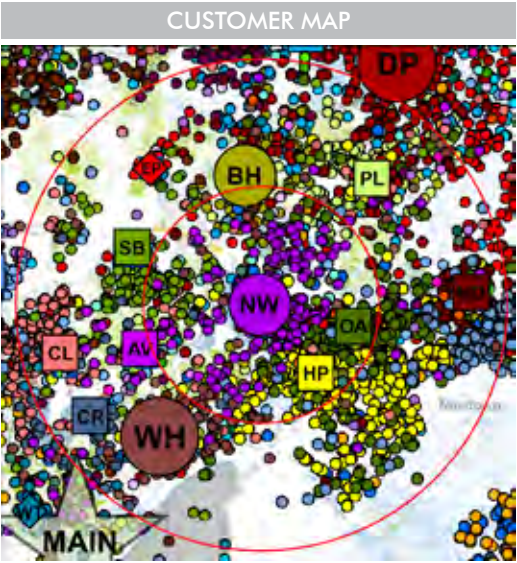
would be added as well. This will increase usable square footage to around 13,300 SF to 16,300 SF (see facing page).

2023 update: To date, we have not been able to acquire property despite several attempts. As such, we have elected to defer the project in order to move forward with those projects where more immediate opportunities exist. This does not reflect a lack of interest, but rather a lack of opportunity currently for necessary land acquisition to make the robust renovation and expansion for the Norwood Branch Library.

LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding becomes available, the Library may seek to expand this branch even further. With present site restrictions, that would likely be at a new location elsewhere in the community. This site has significant parking constraints, and therefore should consider expansion opportunities for parking, should they arise.

Norwood and its surrounding communities are seeing new developments in residential zones as well as areas like the Montgomery Corridor Project. The new Quality of Life Commission is also diligently striving to increase the quality of life of every citizen in Norwood via improvements to community elements such as public spaces. The Library remains active and responsive as a long-standing member of an ever-growing community and will consider these and other surrounding developments as it engages in opportunities for growth.



PROJECT DATA	
Usable Building Area	10,240 SF
Total Proposed Library	13,300 SF - 16,300 SF
Existing Site	16,250 SF
Added Parking Area	5,000 SF



Site plan. There is a possibility of leasing the parking area west of the current site



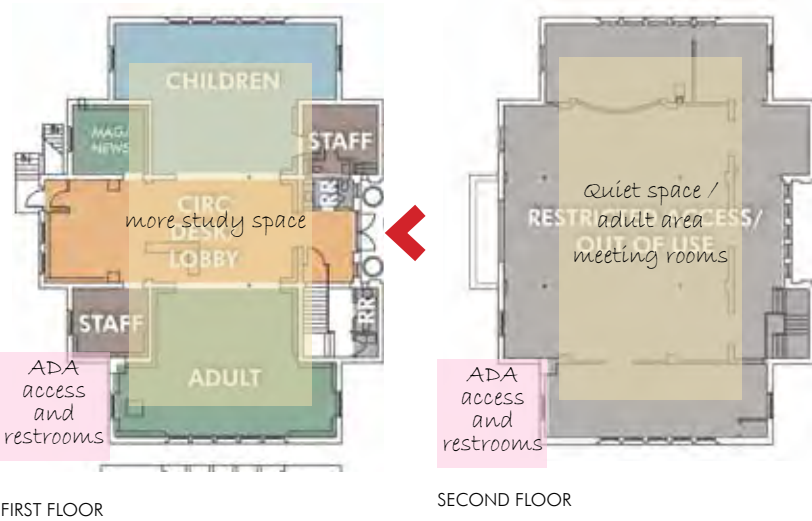
Precedent project: Paris-Bourbon County (KY) Public Library recently completed an addition to a Historic building

NW - NORWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
OA	Oakley	NBHD	Strategic Investment	2.1 mi
AV	Avondale	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	2.1 mi
BH	Bond Hill	NEXT GEN	Strategic Investment	2.4 mi
HP	Hyde Park	NBHD	Improved accessibility	2.7 mi
WH	Walnut Hills	BIG NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	2.8 mi
SB	St. Bernard	NBHD	Strategic Investment	3.0 mi

OVERVIEW OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

	roof	HVAC	painting	sidewalk	lighting	windows	ceiling	floor	furniture	electrical upgrade	accessibility	signage
MAINTENANCE NEEDS												



Floor plans

ST. BERNARD

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD



One of the newest library facilities in the system, the current St. Bernard Branch Library opened its doors in 2015. Conflicting needs for kids and adults can be a challenge in the space, as well as tightly spaced bookshelves. This facility is fully accessible. There is no opportunity for expansion on the presently owned land parcel at this location. The facility does have a dedicated parking lot located ½ block East of the facility. Additional street parking is available. It is served by one metro route.

The St. Bernard Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence contains a population of 4,245. Customers to this branch come primarily from within a two-mile radius. The facility is bound within a tight footprint and efficiently integrates a variety of spaces including a computer lab, makerspace, three study rooms, and 40-person capacity meeting room. This branch predominantly serves young teens and tweens, with a mix of adults and others.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Delineate spaces for kids/teens/adults with particular focus on improved acoustics
- Improve accessibility and layout of the collection and technology
- Noted support for maintaining study rooms

RECOMMENDATION

A Strategic Investment is proposed for the St. Bernard Branch Library and could be used in many possible ways to enhance service. A process led by Library staff with community input will identify how this investment should be made.

LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding becomes available, the Library may explore opportunities at this branch such as a small renovation or redesign of interior spaces, or acquiring land adjacent for an expansion, should an opportunity arise.

St. Bernard and its surrounding communities are seeing a new combined Elmwood Place and St. Bernard elementary school and high school. There have also been a couple of new businesses that have moved nearby. The Library remains active and responsive as a long-standing member of an ever-growing community and will consider these and other surrounding developments as it engages in opportunities for growth. Once improvements are made to other branches in the Central Zone, the Library will evaluate whether customer usage changes for St. Bernard, and consider making further improvements or tailoring spaces and services based on customers' evolving needs.

CUSTOMER MAP



SB - ST. BERNARD NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

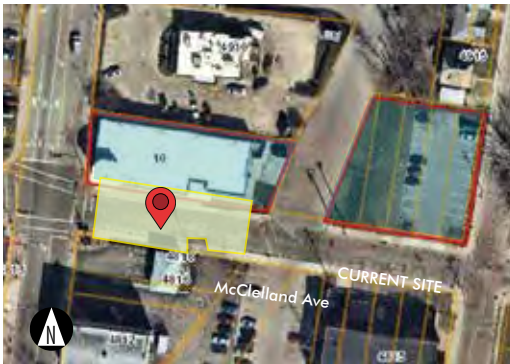
	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
EP	Elmwood Pl.	FOCUSED	Interior updates	1.5 mi
CL	Clifton	NBHD	Strategic Investment	2.3 mi
AV	Avondale	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	2.8 mi
NW	Norwood	NBHD	Strategic Investment	3.0 mi
BH	Bond Hill	NEXT GEN	Strategic Investment	3.1 mi
WH	Walnut Hills	BIG NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	4.1 mi

PROJECT DATA

Usable Building Area (1 story)	7,150 SF
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OVERVIEW OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

	roof	HVAC	painting	sidewalk	lighting	windows	ceiling	floor	furniture	electrical upgrade	accessibility	signage
MAINTENANCE NEEDS												



Site plan



Floor plan



Children's area



Teen computers

WALNUT HILLS

RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

BIG NEXT GEN

The Walnut Hills Branch Library opened in 1906; it was the first of the nine original Hamilton County area libraries in Cincinnati built through the generosity of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. It is one of the seven which still remain today. This French Renaissance style structure has never had a significant renovation and all original building systems are well past their useful life. The building is not accessible and lacks most infrastructure needed to support contemporary library service. Only the first floor is usable at this time. While the building has a full basement that included a meeting room, because of water damage and other deficiencies, the lower floor is not in use. There is a small, second floor used exclusively by staff. In 2019 the Library purchased property adjacent to the branch, which allows significant opportunity for expansion. There is a dedicated parking lot on site, but it is challenging and hazardous to navigate. Additional street parking is available. The branch is serviced by three metro routes.

The Walnut Hills Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence contains a population of 7,707. Because of the current small size, inaccessibility, and outdated condition, a great number of Walnut Hills area customers chose to use other libraries. This branch predominantly serves kids using the branch after school as well as those coming to the branch for internet access and use of technology.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Make the branch fully accessible
- Desire for public art and creative spaces through renovation of underutilized spaces
- Maintain historic elements
- Activate outdoor spaces with particular focus on safety and walkability
- Delineate spaces for adults, teens, and children
- Offer more study rooms and community meeting spaces

RECOMMENDATION

As a Design Project, it is recommended that this location undergo an extensive renovation and expansion. The recently purchased parcels will enable the library to expand to approximately 16,000 –



20,000 SF. This will allow full accessibility to all public service areas. An expansion will bring this branch up to a Next Generation Library size with a full range of traditional and contemporary library spaces and services. The Library was also gifted a parcel across the street, which may be utilized for expansion. When the library is expanded, it is anticipated that this will become a destination for residents in the Central Planning Zone.

2023 UPDATE

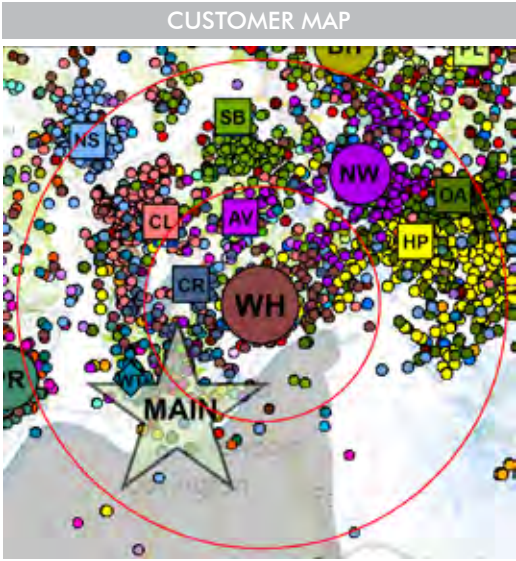
For project details, please check

[CHPL.org/next-generation/walnut-hills](https://chpl.org/next-generation/walnut-hills)

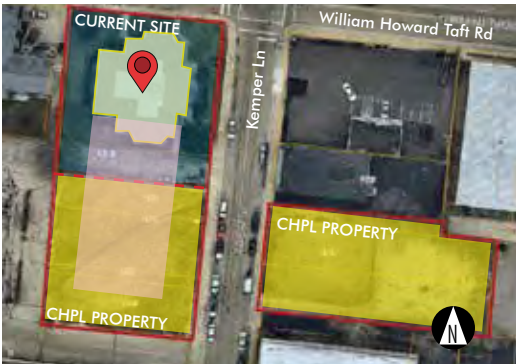
LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding becomes available, the Library may explore opportunities to incorporate partnerships in the new addition and renovated spaces. This expansion is intended to be evolving and responsive to the dynamics of its growing community.

Walnut Hills and surrounding communities are seeing much development on E McMillan near I-71. The Walnut Hills Redevelopment Foundation is pursuing equitable resources, such as a local fresh food market. The Library remains an active and responsive member of the community, and will consider these and other area developments as it explores opportunities for growth.



PROJECT DATA	
Usable Building Area (2 stories + basement)	~10,620 SF
Proposed Expansion	~18,000-22,000 SF



Site plan. The Library recently acquired adjacent lots.



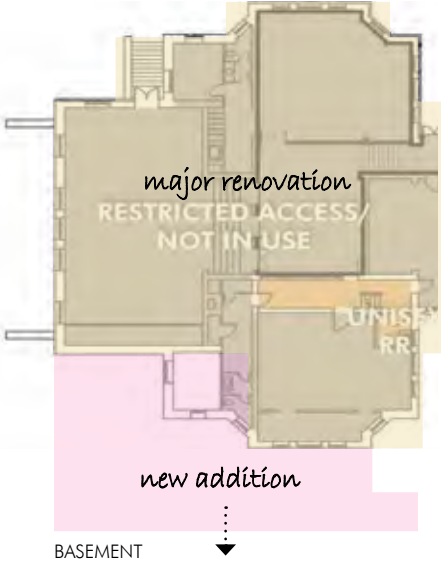
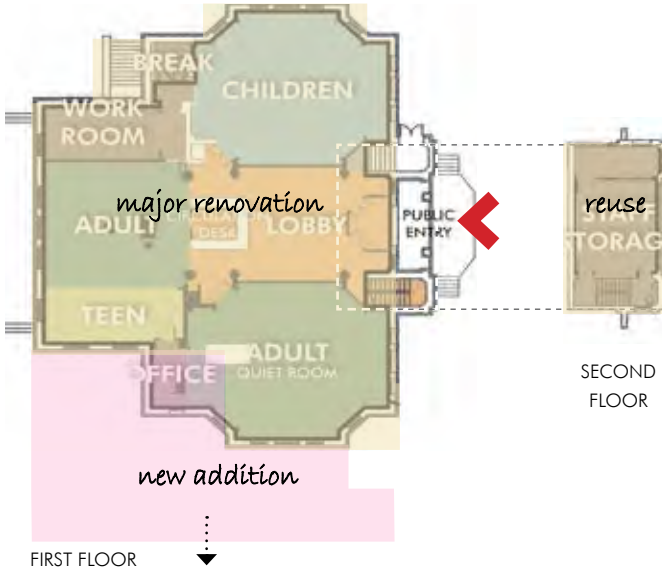
Precedent proejct: Paris-Bourbon County (KY) Public Library recently completed an addition to an historic building

WH - WALNUT HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
CR	Corryville	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance	2.2 mi
AV	Avondale	NBHD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	2.3 mi
CL	Clifton	NBHD	Strategic Investment	3.1 mi
WT	West End	FOCUSED	Renovation	3.3 mi
NW	Norwood	NBHD	Strategic Investment	3.4 mi
HP	Hyde Park	NBHD	Improved accessibility	4.2 mi

OVERVIEW OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

	roof	HVAC	painting	sidewalk	lighting	windows	ceiling	floor	furniture	electrical upgrade	accessibility	signage
MAINTENANCE NEEDS												



Floor plans

WEST END

RENOVATION



FOCUSED



The West End Branch Library opened in 1961. It is the closest branch to the downtown Main Library. Some limited improvements have been made, but this facility has not seen any major update since its original build. The West End Branch Library has challenges with the lack of available space and absence of designated quiet areas. There are some accessibility barriers at its parking lot entry with a constricted vestibule, and at its street side entry with some site grading. There is minimal opportunity for expansion on the presently owned land parcel at this location. This branch does have limited dedicated parking on site, but it can be somewhat hazardous to navigate. Additional street parking is available. This branch is served by two metro routes.

The West End Branch Library's Area of Dominant Influence contains a population of 3,481. There are no reservable rooms or any designated makerspace available for the public at this location. This branch has a primary service group of young teenaged customers.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Develop dynamic, engaging, and flexible spaces with particular focus on social spaces for community use
- Increase access through more public parking
- Delineate spaces for kids/teens/adults with particular focus on improved acoustics and designated quiet zones
- Noted support for current branch location

RECOMMENDATION

As a Design Project, the West End Branch Library will receive a major renovation. Depending on feasibility, this may include capturing the courtyard spaces adjacent to the building, which are currently unused for safety reasons. Renovation should cater to community needs, considering acoustics and incorporating flexible spaces to serve a variety of anticipated customer needs.

2023 UPDATE

For project details, please check

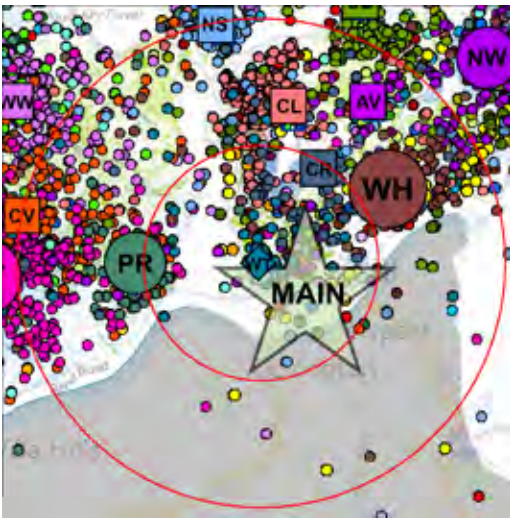
[CHPL.org/next-generation/west-end](https://chpl.org/next-generation/west-end)

LONG-TERM VISION

Beyond the recommendations of this FMP, as additional funding becomes available, the Library may explore opportunities at acquiring additional adjacent property in this neighborhood or to relocate to a location where further expansion would be possible. This would allow for the ability to partner with local organizations and further expand community spaces.

West End and its surrounding communities are seeing developments from FC Cincinnati, Tender Mercies, The Regal Theater, Hamilton County Landbank, and more. The Library remains active and responsive as a long-standing member of an ever-growing community and will consider these and other surrounding developments as it engages in opportunities for growth. Once improvements are made to other branches in the Central Zone, the Library will evaluate whether customer usage changes for West End, and consider making further improvements or tailoring spaces and services based on customers' evolving needs.

CUSTOMER MAP



WT - WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

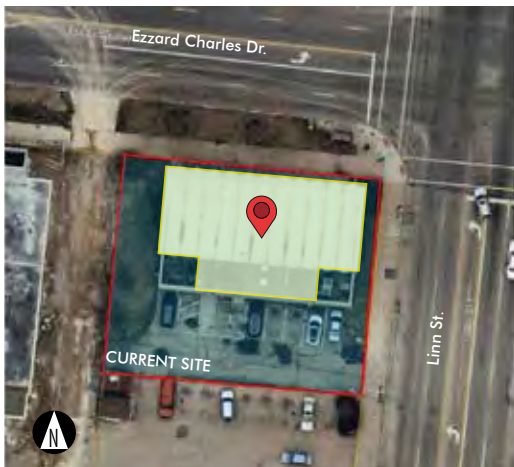
	Branch	Type	Strategy	Distance
PR	Price Hill	NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	2.7 mi
WH	Walnut Hills	BIG NEXT GEN	Renovation and Expansion	3.1 mi
CL	Clifton	NHBD	Strategic Investment	3.6 mi
CR	Corryville	NHBD	Scheduled Maintenance	4.1 mi
AV	Avondale	NHBD	Scheduled Maintenance + Strategic Investment	5.8 mi

PROJECT DATA

Usable Building Area (1 story)	4,550 SF
Existing Site	12,000 SF
Parking	5,000 SF

OVERVIEW OF LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

	roof	HVAC	painting	sidewalk	lighting	windows	ceiling	floor	furniture	electrical upgrade	accessibility	signage
MAINTENANCE NEEDS												



Site plan



Floor plan



Circulation desk



Children's area



Wyoming



College Hill



Elmwood