

“Why would a new library benefit the City of Dodgeville?”

Whether you personally use the library or not, the Dodgeville Public library plays an essential role in our community. The library is a promotor of education, equality and democracy. Anyone can go, anyone can read, anyone can use the public computers and make use of the library for whatever they wish to learn about. This access is open to all and is transformational in people’s lives.

A new library would include public meeting spaces able to accommodate large events and meetings after-hours. Currently, all programs with more than 6 people need to take place in either the City Council Chambers or off-site (i.e. summer programs at Harris Park). Our library is regularly turning away requests from local groups who inquire about meeting spaces for large groups and limited in the types of programs that they hold and the times that they hold them. A new library would enhance the social structure of our community at a time when it is truly needed.

A new library would include a greatly expanded children’s section. Story-time at the library is a foundational moment for many of our youngest citizens. It opens their minds to new information, to new worlds and to new people. In its present location, story-time involves a lot of little ones squishing into an overcrowded space and no room for actions and arts.

A new library would include expanded and more welcoming teen and adult reading spaces along with dedicated study rooms. Many of our youth utilize the library as a gathering point between the end of school and the start of evening activities and practices. A new library would provide greater opportunities for educational collaboration, reading opportunities and face-to-face interaction in a safe space. Many individuals use the library as a place to complete exams for GED and collegiate degree programs. Currently, they must take these exams in storage rooms or out in the open where noise becomes a distraction. Dedicated study rooms in a new library would help Dodgeville citizens achieve their educational goals and dreams.

A new library would provide room for expanded collections and technology. The aisles of books throughout the library are so tightly packed with great volumes of literature and informational texts that at times, library employees simply cannot fit books onto shelves and they remain in storage. Despite the increasing use of e-books, demand for physical books and other media is still high. Over 58,000 were checked out from the Dodgeville Public Library in 2018 alone – nearly 200 each day! More space in a new library would allow the library to display the donated collection of Dodgeville’s renowned humorist Ron Dentinger, which is being held in storage due to lack of display space. New technology could allow the library to host interactive classes with universities around the world, create new programs with other organizations and bring groups together for major events.

A new library would serve as a city and community anchor for many decades into the future. We encourage you to stop in at the current library to see the architectural drawings now on display and attend the library open house and informational session on February 4th at 6:30PM.

– The Dodgeville Public Library Board of Trustees