



FORT WORTH
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Fort Worth Public Library Facilities Master Plan

FINAL REPORT | 12 February 2020





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Fort Worth Public Library (FWPL) has more than 120 years of history providing excellent library service to the Fort Worth community. The City's first purpose-built library was funded by Andrew Carnegie, and opened to the public in 1901. Over time, FWPL has grown in both size and reach; today it operates a large downtown Central Library and 14 library branches¹ (one is leased and not part of this master plan). Three more branches are currently in progress, and all are expected to open within the next three years.

In 2019, FWPL completed a strategic planning process that included significant community engagement as well as library staff and stakeholder participation. The strategic plan identified six key areas in which FWPL will increase service and impact: Arts and Culture; Books and Reading; Education and Growth; Community Vitality; Customer Engagement; and Employee Empowerment. Recognizing the critical role that library buildings will play in supporting each one of these strategic goals, FWPL then initiated a planning process for the future of its facilities.

The master plan process built on the vision established by the strategic plan. Current library facilities were assessed from a variety of perspectives, including: the physical condition of library buildings and sites; the capacity of library facilities to support 21st century service; and the amount and geographic distribution of library space throughout the city. The process engaged members of the Library's leadership team as well as representatives of other City departments including the City Manager's Office, Planning and Data Analytics, Neighborhood Services, and Park and Recreation.

¹ One of the branches is Cambridge Court, a leased facility. The other 13 are buildings owned by the City of Fort Worth.

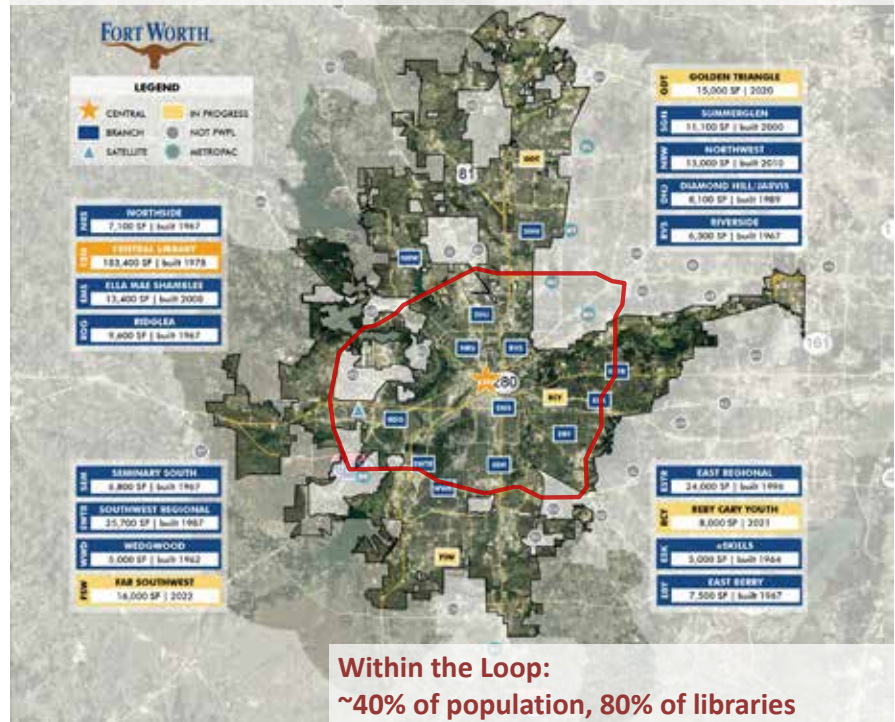
Fort Worth Public Library buildings today

- Central Library
- 13 full-service library branches
- 1 satellite branch

+ LVTRise – opening 2020

+ 3 new full-service branches opening 2020-2022

- + *Golden Triangle* (2014 bond)
- + *Reby Cary* (2014 bond)
- + *Far Southwest* (2018 bond)



CURRENT STATE OF LIBRARIES IN FORT WORTH

Overall, library buildings in Fort Worth are very well maintained. They are clean and comfortable, and have a low backlog of deferred maintenance needs. That said, due to their age, many of FWPL's buildings will be due for moderate to significant life cycle maintenance and accessibility upgrades over the next decade.

Because the demand for library service typically grows as the population increases, the need for library space tends to grow in proportion to community growth as well. In Fort Worth, growth in library space has not been keeping up with the population. Despite a library building boom in Fort Worth over the last 40 years, the average Fort Worth resident has access to less library space today than they did in 1980. And today's library space is inequitably distributed; residents inside the Loop and in east Fort Worth have more than three times the space than residents in the rapidly-growing communities in the north, west, and south.

The downtown Central Library is a significant asset for FWPL, particularly in terms of the amount of space it provides: nearly half of all of Fort Worth's library space today is in the Central Library. However, the current Central Library has many challenges, not the least of which is the lack of connectivity to the street, the downtown retail core, and the City's civic district.

Most of Fort Worth's current libraries — including the Central Library — are out of alignment with the vision for 21st century library service and community impact described in FWPL's strategic plan. The vision is of libraries as a place for people and programs — described by FWPL staff as “program-rich environments” and “inspiring spaces filled with people doing what they love.”

By contrast:

- Most of FWPL's current libraries are small and crowded, and many lack sufficient or appropriate space for programs.
- Tall shelving limits the capacity and flexibility for other services and seating.
- Public furniture is often heavy and uncomfortable.
- Most library facilities predate the rapid technological evolution over the past 20 years — including the widespread adoption of smart phones, tablets, laptops, and other personal devices that require access to both power and Wi-Fi.
- Staff desks and other 20th century service model elements conflict with the vision of agile, proactive staff interacting with customers on the public floor at the point of need.

FWPL has been making continuous changes to address these and other challenges. In fact, some of the conditions observed in library tours at the beginning of this master plan process had already been addressed by the end of the process: several large staff desks were replaced with updated models, comfortable lounge seating was added in a number of branches, and several underutilized spaces were reimagined. But the gap between FWPL's current buildings and the vision of libraries as vibrant places for people and programs remains significant, and will continue to grow along with the population unless more comprehensive improvements are made.



Large staff desks, such as this one at Seminary South Library, do not align with modern library service models.



FWPL is in the process of supplementing or replacing heavy tables and chairs, such as these at Riverside Library, with more comfortable choices.



Tall, densely-packed shelves are used even for children's materials, as shown above at Northside Library.

21st century libraries: a place for people + programs



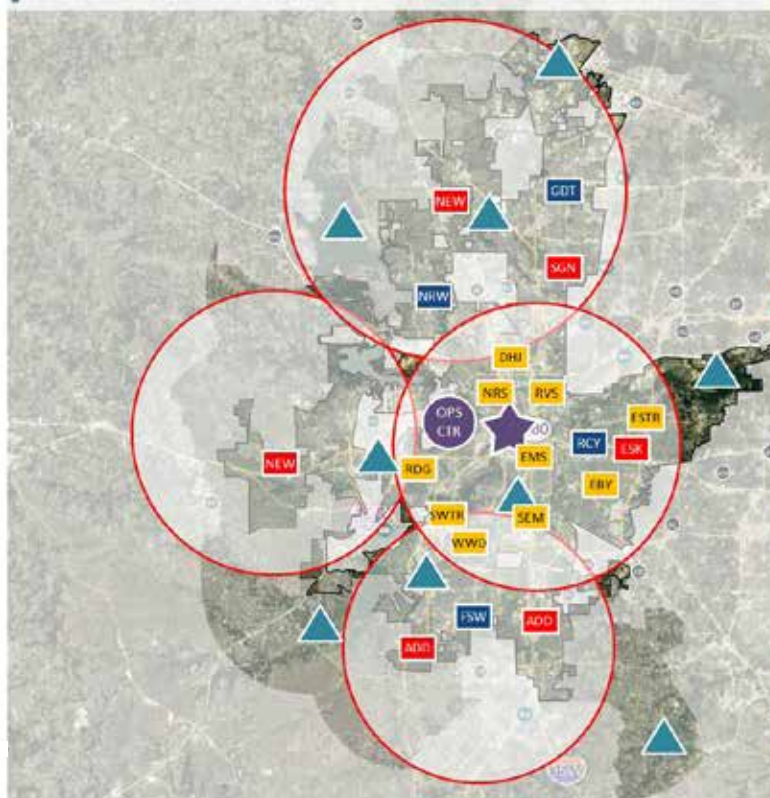
MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

FRAMEWORK AND STRATEGIES

The master plan is intended to provide a flexible framework that can be adapted and updated over time in response to changing needs and opportunities. Key strategies recommended in this master plan to improve library service and space in Fort Worth include:

- **Renovate existing branches.** Most of FWPL's current branches can — and should — be renovated to address upcoming life cycle maintenance needs and update accessibility as well as to realign the facilities with the vision for 21st century service. All of the branches can achieve a better balance of space for people, programs, and the collection, as well as increased flexibility and enhanced infrastructure for library and customer technology.
- **Expand library space.** In order to provide the capacity for diverse, 21st century services, FWPL should provide at least 0.3 square feet of branch library space per Fort Worth resident. Geographic planning zones are proposed in order to improve equity of access, particularly for the fastest-growing north, west, and south communities. Expansion should emphasize the development of larger destination branches — such as FWPL's East Regional and Southwest Regional libraries — which tend to provide greater service more cost-effectively than small branches.

Master plan vision: 2020-2040



- Renovate**
 - Riverside
 - East Berry
 - Seminary South
 - Wedgwood
 - Northside
 - Ridglea
 - Southwest Regional
 - Diamond Hill-Jarvis
 - Ella Mae Shamblee
 - East Regional
- Build**
 - Replace/expand eSkills
 - Expand Summer Glen
 - Add ~100,000 SF of branch library space in North, West, and South zones (locations/ sites TBD)
- Relocate**
 - Genealogy
 - Operations Center
 - Central Library
- Enhance access**
 - (locations + strategies TBD)
- Maintain**
 - Ongoing / as needed

- **Enhance access with outside service strategies and partnerships.** The effectiveness of the library space planning target is predicated in part on FWPL's continued commitment to providing service beyond the branches, out in the community. Library staff can deliver outreach programs and services in partner and community spaces. Alternative service delivery strategies such as book vending will provide 24/7 access to books and materials, while satellite mall branches and other new facility models will increase access to services. These and other outside strategies will relieve some of the pressure on library facilities, which otherwise would require a higher space planning target.
- **Relocate selected systemwide resources.** Genealogy, History & Archives should be moved out of the Central Library basement and into a facility that can better preserve and protect rare and fragile resources. Development of an Operations Center is recommended for FWPL divisions and staff that would benefit from relocation out of downtown.
- **Transform Central Library.** More than just a bigger branch with more books, Central Library is a citywide destination for unique, high-impact services, programs, and resources. Whether it stays in its current building or relocates to a proposed new municipal complex development, the Central Library should rebalance its space to provide a wider variety of spaces for people, whether they come to work alone, collaborate in groups, or participate in large civic and cultural events. It should also improve the customer experience within the building — including access to natural light — and increase connectivity with the retail, entertainment, and civic center districts.

Master plan-recommended projects

BRANCH NETWORK				
	RENOVATE + MAINTAIN	BUILD CAPACITY	CENTRAL LIBRARY	SYSTEM RESOURCES
2020-2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diamond Hill/Jarvis ➤ East Berry ➤ Ella Mae Shamblee ➤ East Regional ➤ Northside ➤ Ridglea ➤ Riverside ➤ Seminary South ➤ Southwest Regional ➤ Wedgwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Replace + expand eSkills ➤ Expand Summerglen ➤ New Far West Branch ➤ New Far Northwest Branch ➤ New South Branch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transform Central Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocate to new municipal complex, or • Renovate + reorganize current Central Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Operations Center ➤ Relocate Genealogy + Archives
2030-2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ongoing maintenance (as needed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest • Reby Cary Youth • Golden Triangle • Far Southwest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Confirm library space targets, population projections, project opportunities ➤ Build additional space to achieve target SF/capita in each zone 		

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

The table above summarizes the capital projects recommended by the master plan, as well as proposed projects for implementation in the first and second decades of this 20-year plan. These general implementation timeframes will likely evolve and be refined as FWPL confirms the scope, budget, and timing of each project.

It is strongly recommended that FWPL revisit the master plan at least at the mid-point to confirm or adjust recommendations in light of evolving community needs, updated development and population projections, and new opportunities.

Because FWPL has not yet confirmed funding strategies, this master plan does not propose specific phases or timing for individual projects. That said, the master plan does propose priority projects for implementation in the first 10 years, and those that could wait until the second half of this 20 year plan.

This master plan was developed during a period of high volatility and escalation in the local construction market. Rather than lock FWPL and the City into potentially inaccurate budgets for two decades, the master plan does not include specific budget numbers for the recommended projects. As FWPL identifies funding strategies and potential timelines for individual projects, it can work with the City’s Property Management department to develop capital budgets based on up-to-date construction market conditions and priorities for the anticipated year of construction.

INTRODUCTION

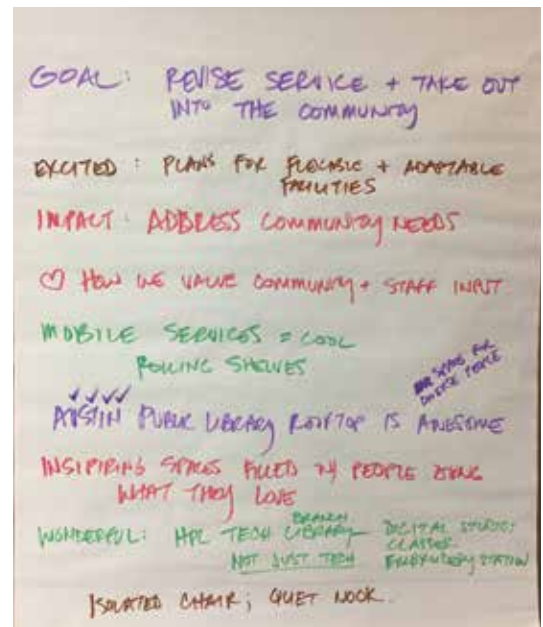
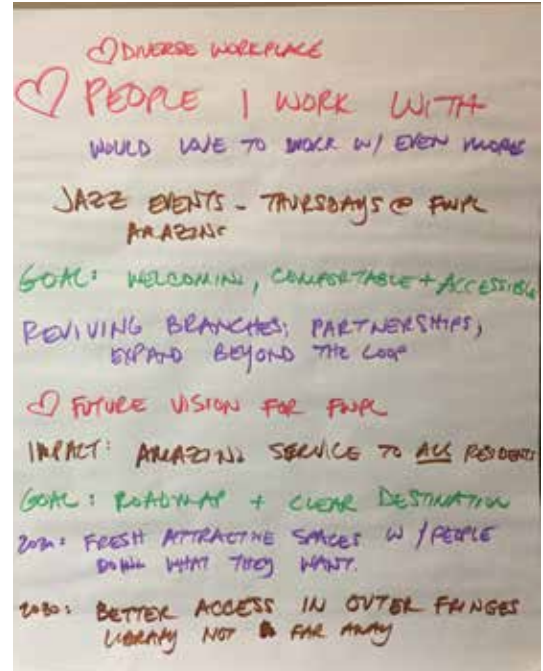
PROJECT BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Fort Worth Public Library (FWPL) is charged with providing service to all residents living within the city limits of Fort Worth. Like other departments of the City of Fort Worth (CFW, City), the Library is proactive about maintaining its assets, assessing community needs, and planning for the future. Long-range plans developed by FWPL in 2003, 2010, and 2011 have guided decision-making about library facilities for the past 15 years. Many of the recommendations of these plans have been implemented or are in progress, including the new Golden Triangle, Reby Cary, and Far Southwest libraries.

In 2019, FWPL completed a robust strategic planning process that identified new directions and key goals for service, organizational development, and community impact. The strategic planning process was informed by extensive engagement of staff, stakeholders, and community members sharing their ideas and priorities for library service in Fort Worth. Many of the strategic goals and objectives have clear implications for library facilities.

In order to ensure that its buildings are in alignment with strategic initiatives and community needs, FWPL followed up the strategic plan with a master planning process for facilities. Goals for the facilities master plan process and product included:

- Assess the condition and capacity of current library facilities to support 21st century service and adapt to future changes;
- Identify appropriate metrics and "triggers" to guide action;
- Recommend improvements to current library facilities and new location needs;
- Explore alternative service and facility models and partnerships;
- Create a roadmap for capital investments, including near-term and long-term priorities; and
- Propose a realistic, implementable, and flexible plan.

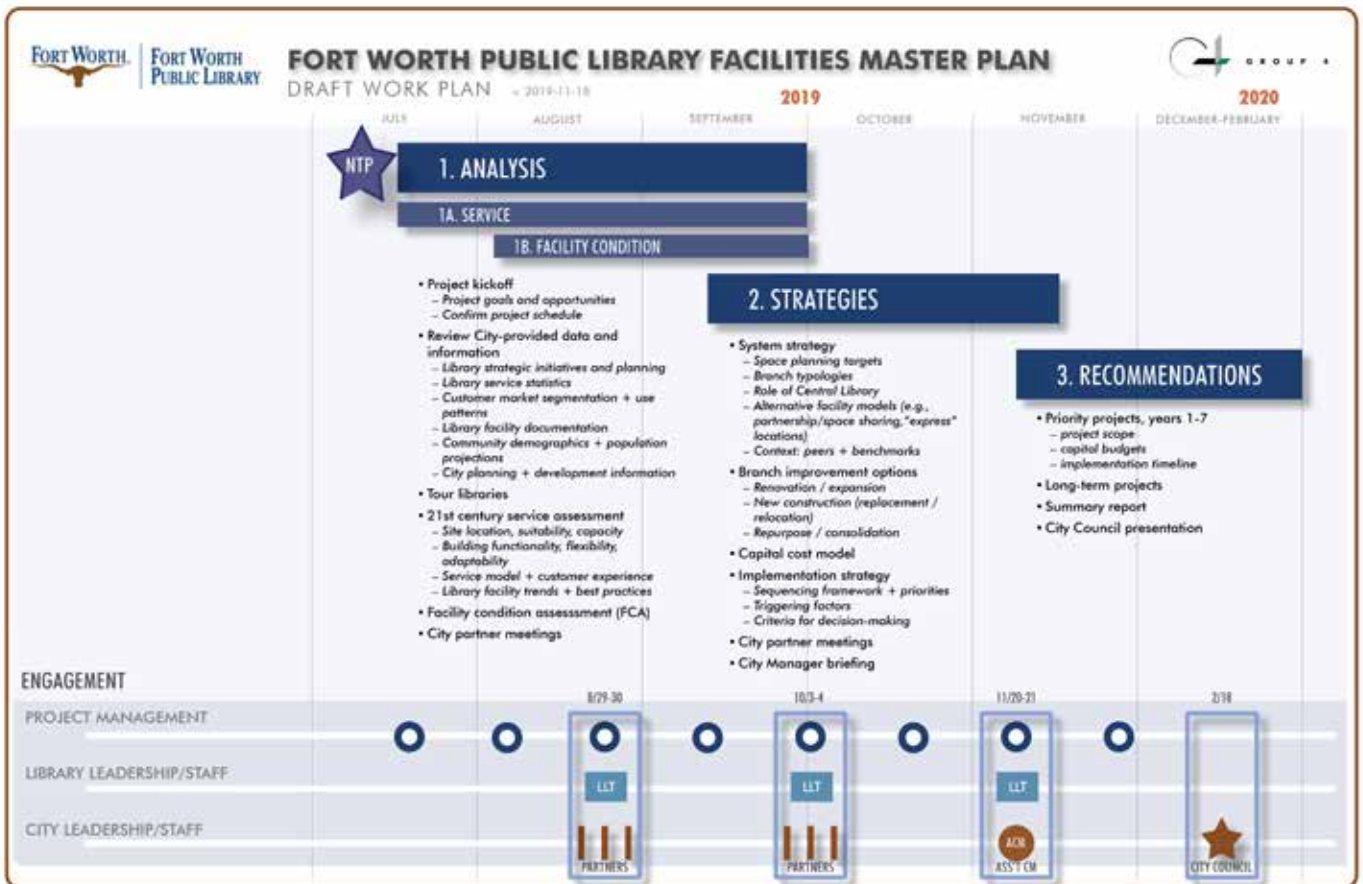


MASTER PLAN METHODOLOGY

The Library selected Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc. to facilitate development of the facilities master plan. The eight-month planning process included:

- Close collaboration with a Project Management Team (PMT) composed of FWPL’s director, assistant directors, and facilities division leadership;
- Tours of FWPL facilities to observe current services, operations, and the customer experience;
- Workshops with a Library Leadership Team (LLT) composed of senior staff members;
- Meetings with representatives of select city partner departments, including Park and Recreation, Neighborhood Services, and the City Manager’s Office; and
- A final presentation to City Council.

Bureau Veritas (formerly EMG) conducted facility condition assessments of FWPL’s current facilities to inform the planning process.



PROJECT PARTICIPATION

FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Project Management Team

Manya Shorr, Library Director

Marilyn Marvin, Assistant Library Director

Michele Gorman, Assistant Library Director

Deanna Wright, Facilities Supervisor

Library Leadership Team

Osei Baffour, Regional Librarian Supervisor

Sheila Barnett, Regional Librarian Supervisor

Theresa Davis, Communications Coordinator

Deborah Duke, Librarian Manager

Barbara Henderson, Regional Librarian Supervisor

Jana Hill, Regional Librarian Supervisor

Lee Johnson, Administrative Supervisor

Paul Orr, Management Analyst II

Tim Shidal, Administrative Services Manager

L. G. Swift, Regional Librarian Supervisor

CITY OF FORT WORTH

Department Representatives

The following individuals provided valuable input and data for development of the FWPL master plan:

Jay Chapa, Assistant City Manager

Amy Connolly, Assistant Director, Neighborhood Services

Brenda Hicks-Sorensen, Assistant Director, Economic Development

Monique Hill, District Superintendent, Neighborhood Services

Kelli Pickard, Assistant Director, Park and Recreation

Joel McElhany, Senior Landscape Architect, Park and Recreation

Michelle Swindle, IT Solutions Manager – GIS

Natalie Watkins, IT Solutions – Senior IT Programmer / Analyst; former Senior Planner, Planning and Data Analytics

Christina Medlyn, IT Solutions Intern – GIS





City Council

The master plan recommendations were presented to City Council at the end of the planning process.

Betsy Price, Mayor

Carlos E. Flores, District 2

Brian Byrd, District 3

Cary Moon, District 4

Gyna Bivens, District 5

Jungus Jordan, District 6

Dennis Shingleton, District 7

Kelly Allen Gray, District 8

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PLANNING CONTEXT

A THRIVING CITY

With its strong economy, variety of cultural amenities, and low cost of living, it is no wonder that Fort Worth repeatedly graces lists of most livable cities in the U.S.¹ The thriving economy is fueled by a kaleidoscope of industries including healthcare, transportation, manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, aerospace, energy, and more. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington metro area boasted the fastest job growth rate of any of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) in 2019, and outperformed the nation overall.²

But it is not just the economy that draws people to Fort Worth. The “City of Cowboys and Culture” also offers a diverse range of world-class cultural arts, entertainment, and recreation options. Although its median age is lower than the rest of the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA, Texas, and the nation, Fort Worth is also an attractive place for retirees, contributing to a multi-generational community. Fort Worth is also home to a sizeable immigrant population, which adds further cultural richness and community diversity.

1 Casanova, A. (n.d.). What's it like to live in Dallas-Fort Worth, TX? Retrieved from US News + World Report: <https://realestate.usnews.com/places/texas/dallas-fort-worth>

2 Dallas-Fort Worth Area Employment — November 2019. (2020, January 06). Retrieved from US Bureau of Labor Statistics: https://www.bls.gov/regions/southwest/news-release/areaemployment_dallasfortworth.htm

A FAST-GROWING POPULATION

For all of these reasons and more, Fort Worth is one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States. The city has experienced double-digit growth rates for more than four decades, and the population has more than doubled since 1980. Today, it is the 14th largest city in the US, and is on track to move up the ranks within the next few years.

Fort Worth has a current population of about 900,000 people. About 40% of Fort Worth residents currently live within “the Loop” – a geographic area in the heart of the city bounded by I-820 and I-20. Through continued growth and densification, the Loop could see its population increase by 28% or more over the next 20 years.

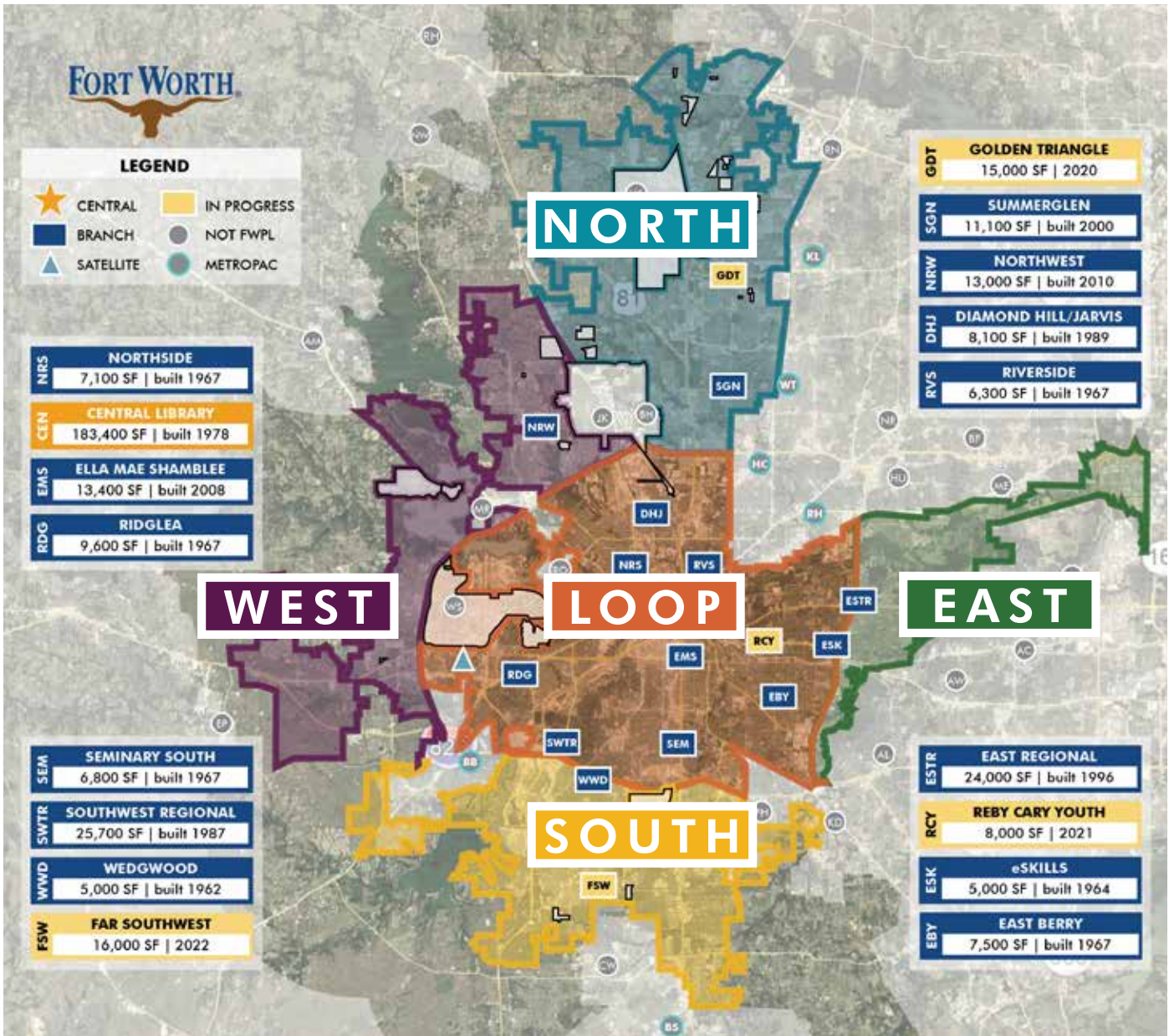
The majority of Fort Worth’s population lives outside of the Loop – which is also where the majority of community development and growth is expected in the future. The population outside the Loop could increase by 70% or more by 2040.

The current distribution of population and anticipated growth patterns are important to understand for the purposes of planning library facilities. The Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department’s most recent master plan established five planning zones that are a useful tool for understanding regional population sizes and predicted growth patterns.

- With little room to expand or annex beyond the current city limits, the East Zone is expected to grow modestly over the next 20 years, staying at about 7% to 8% of the overall city population.
- By contrast, future expansion and annexation to the north, south, and west is expected to be significant. The North and South zones are anticipated to grow by at least 50%, while the West Zone could more than double its current population. The Walsh Ranch development alone could add 50,000 people or more to Fort Worth’s population.

Fort Worth Assumed Population Growth by Zone

Zone	2020 Population	2030 Population	2040 Population	% Growth 2020-2040
Loop	380,000	420,000	485,000	28%
North	210,000	290,000	365,000	74%
South	160,000	200,000	250,000	56%
East	70,000	80,000	90,000	29%
West	80,000	150,000	190,000	138%
Total	900,000	1,140,000	1,380,000	53%



Planning Zones

The map above shows current and in-progress FWPL facilities layered over the planning zones established in the Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department's most recent master plan. These planning zones have been adapted for use in this library facilities master plan as well.



Southwest Regional Library



Summerglen Library



Ridglea Library

A COMMUNITY-FOCUSED LIBRARY

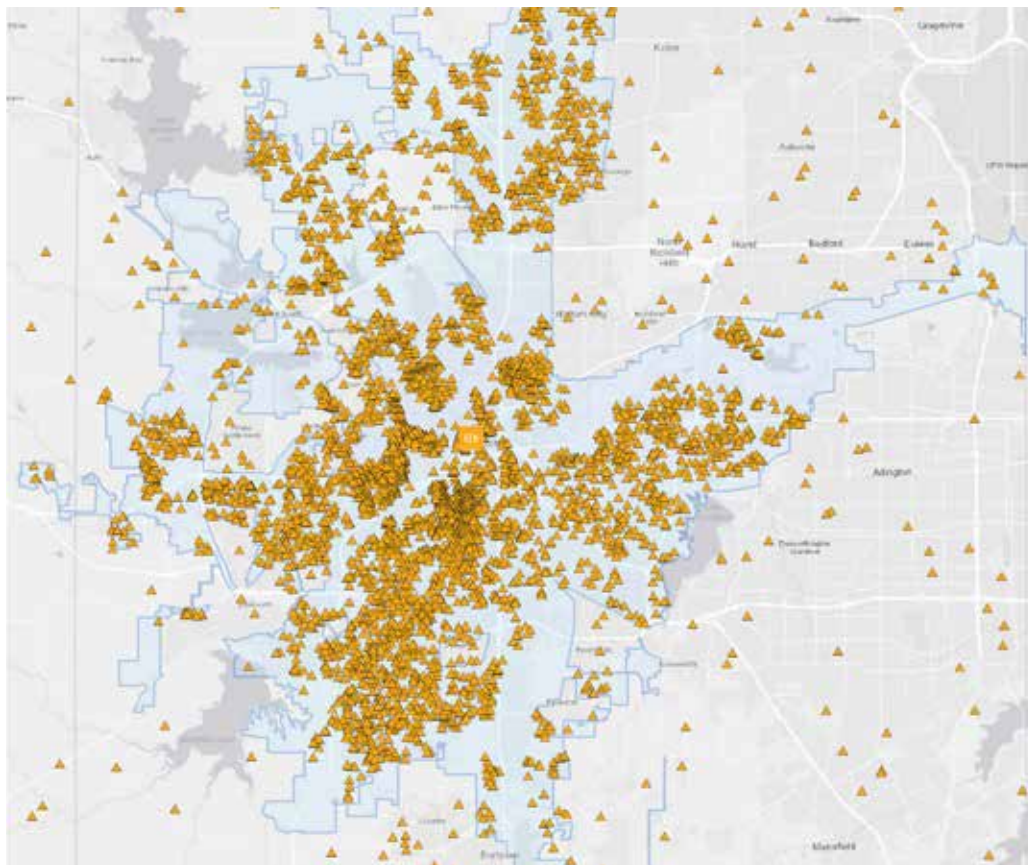
The Fort Worth Public Library is integral to the community's quality of life, providing an increasingly diverse range of programs, services, and resources. In recent years, FWPL has made some strategic changes to reduce barriers and expand access to service – to enthusiastic response from the community:

- In 2018, more than 1.2 million visitors flocked to FWPL facilities, attesting to the Library's foundational role in the community. Visits rose after FWPL adjusted and expanded its hours of operation in the summer of 2019.
- On an average day in 2018, customers borrowed at least 9,100 books and other physical items from the Library's collection. Borrowing rates also rose after FWPL went fine-free in the fall of 2019.
- In 2018, FWPL offered more than a thousand programs that attracted nearly 20,000 participants. Although traditional programs such as children's storytimes remain a vital part of its catalog, FWPL continues to increase its program variety and capacity to include options like job skills classes, passport services, tax assistance, maker activities, meditation workshops, jazz concerts, art exhibits, gaming opportunities, a puppetry festival, and more. Such offerings – both inside FWPL facilities and out in the community – will likely continue to draw more and more participation from the growing community.

Just as Fort Worth's communities differ in their demographics, interests, and needs, Fort Worth's libraries differ in what they offer. All FWPL facilities offer a similar set of core services, such as new and popular books to borrow. Certain branches also have areas of special emphasis; for example, the eSkills Branch offers programs and services focused on job skills and search, GED classes, and other career advancement resources.

It is not unexpected, then, to discover that FWPL branches experience different levels of use:

- Southwest Regional, FWPL's largest branch, had the highest circulation of any branch in 2018; on average, Southwest Regional customers checked out more than 1,500 items per day.
- Summerglen – which is less than half the size of Southwest Regional – had the highest number of visitors in 2018. On an average day, 430 people walked through the doors and checked out nearly as many items as at Southwest Regional.
- Ridglea – which is smaller still than Summerglen – had the third-highest number of visits and circulation in 2018.



A MOBILE COMMUNITY

For this master plan, a sample of FWPL circulation data was mapped by the City's IT Solutions-GIS team. The resulting maps showed that Fort Worth residents do not exclusively visit the library closest to their home. Rather, they visit the library – or libraries – that meet their needs, which may be different from day to day and week to week.

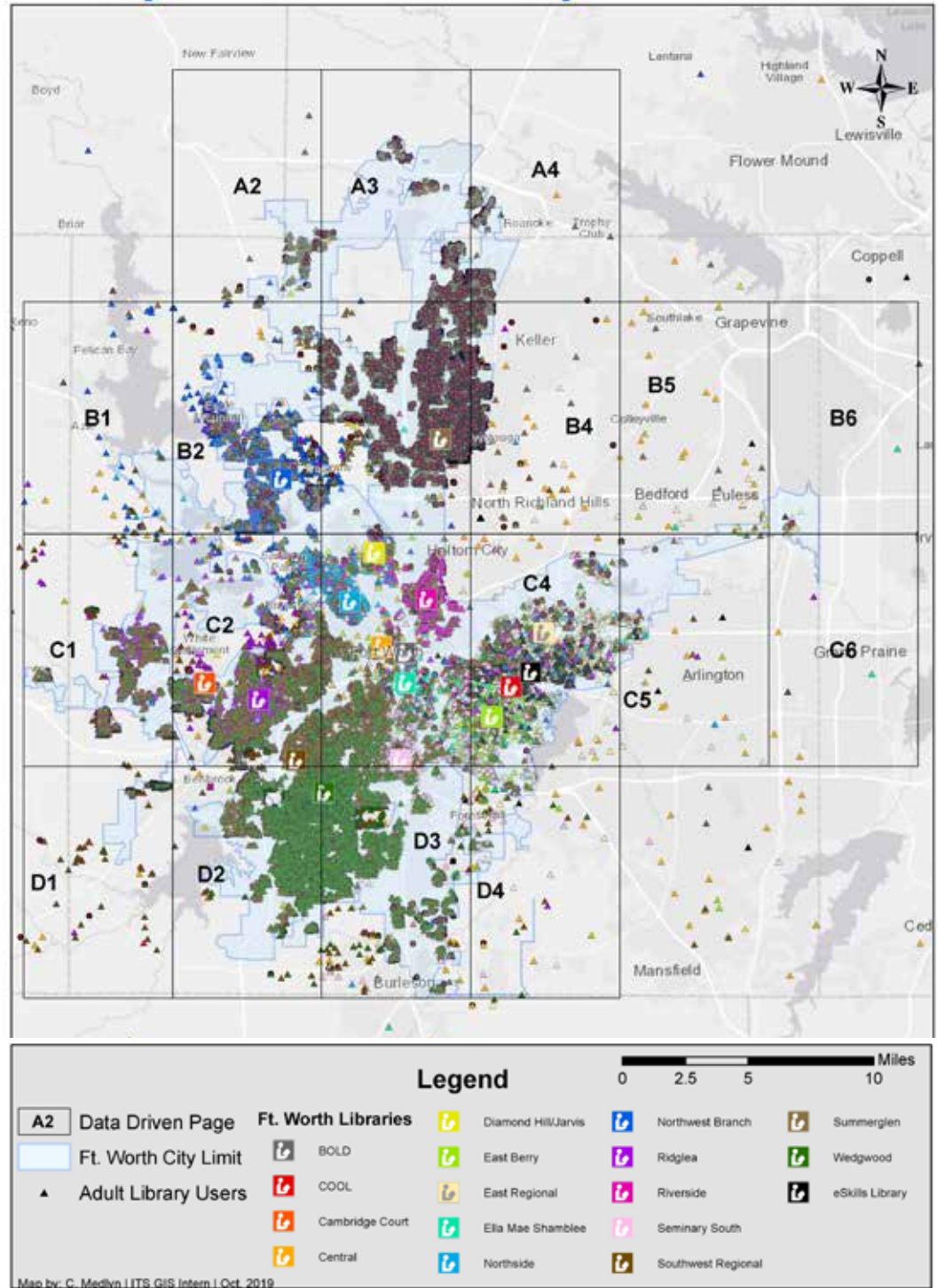
During the sample period, most branches had visits from people who live on the other side of the city. There were no populated areas of the city where customers did not visit at least one FWPL branch, if not more. No obvious gaps or barriers to access were observed. Even the maps of children's circulation data – which can serve as a proxy for populations with limited mobility – looked similar to the adult circulation data.

What this suggests is that Fort Worth communities are highly mobile. Residents can – and do – travel freely to access the services and resources that they need and want. This is of course not meant to suggest that all Fort Worth residents have equal mobility. However, for library planning purposes, it shows that FWPL can be strategic about how to locate new libraries.

The maps also showed that residents in all parts of Fort Worth have access to the downtown Central Library. This offers opportunities for FWPL to offer unique, high-interest, and high-impact programs and services at the Central Library.

Map of FWPL circulation data showing the home residence of customers who checked out items from the Central Library during the 2018-2019 sample period. Residents of all parts of the city visited the Central Library, which is a community-wide destination.

City of Ft. Worth Library Users - Adult



Map of a sample of FWPL circulation data from 2018-2019. The location of each triangle shows the home residence of a customer who checked out an item or items during the sample period. The color of each triangle matches the color of the branch where they checked out the items. There do not appear to be any populated areas of Fort Worth where community members did not visit at least one library during the sample period. Many branches received visitors from across the city.



CENTRAL LIBRARY

ROLE IN SERVICE DELIVERY

The Central Library plays multiple roles in the delivery of library service to Fort Worth communities. It is a full-service library in its own right, providing customers with a set of traditional programs and services similar to what they would find at FWPL's branches. Due to its size, the Central Library does offer many of these core resources – including books, computers, and seating – in larger quantities than its branch peers can. That said, the Central Library accounted for only 17% of total FWPL visits in 2018, and was third in overall circulation after the Southwest Regional and Summerglenn branches.

The Central Library also features special spaces and resources that make it a citywide destination. FWPL's largest-capacity program spaces are at the Central Library, where it supports high-profile, high-interest, and high-attendance programs. The attractive and spacious gallery in the north corner of the street level is also used for other City, civic, and community gatherings and events as well as library programs. FWPL's Genealogy collection and other archival materials are examples of citywide resources housed at the Central Library.

Last but certainly not least, the Central Library also houses FWPL's systemwide service and operations functions, including Administration, Collection Management, Technical Services, and Youth Services.



Fort Worth's original Central Library opened in 1901. The building was replaced in the 1950s and then relocated to its current site in the 1970s.



When it opened in 1978, the current Central Library was entirely underground. Two floors were added above it and opened in 1999.



The children's area is the only public space in the Central Library with windows. (The only other public space with access to natural light is the gallery, which has large skylights.)

CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING ASSESSMENT

HISTORY

Funded by a \$50,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie, Fort Worth's first public library opened in 1901. This stately, two-story building served as the community's only library for more than 35 years, during which time the city population grew nearly seven-fold. In 1939, the Carnegie library was replaced with a new, larger Central Library that was itself replaced nearly 40 years later by a larger building.

In the 1990s, two new floors were built on top of the 1978 structure – which expanded the Central Library building to its current size of almost 250,000 square feet. However, a portion of the expanded building's interior was never finished; even today, more than 25 years later, the entire second level remains unfinished and unoccupied. Portions of the first floor are also unfinished, with blacked out windows where these spaces face the street.

CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING ASSESSMENT

Located on the edge of downtown Fort Worth, the Central Library is separated from the vibrant retail and recreation core by several blocks of tall offices, hotels, and other commercial buildings. Visitors who do approach Central Library from the Sundance Square side encounter an essentially blank wall concealing all of the programs, services, and activity happening inside. The Library is also relatively disconnected from its partner departments at City Hall, which is located about a half-mile to the southeast.

Most public spaces in the Central Library offer essentially no access to natural light. On the street level, large windows bring light and views into the children's library in the southwest corner. Most of the rest of the street level is occupied by Library staff and other City uses (not all of these spaces have windows, either). The lower level of the building is entirely without windows and access to natural light other than what filters down through the two grand stairs.

The lower level of the Central Library houses (among other things) FWPL's Genealogy resources. Staff have attempted to control public access to the Genealogy, History & Archives area through the strategic use of file cabinets and equipment. However because it cannot be securely locked, FWPL still needs to provide full-time staff coverage for the Genealogy area during all hours that the Central Library is open. Because Genealogy is on the open floor, it is not possible to provide the controlled humidity and temperature conditions needed to protect the longevity of rare and fragile resources; these resources also are at risk from water damage if the fire sprinklers were to be triggered. FWPL staff report that confusion around parking at Central Library may contribute to lower-than-expected levels of use by the community.

Adjacent to Genealogy, History & Archives are a couple of spaces housing a portion of the City's archived records. These spaces are behind locked doors to control unauthorized public access. However, they also are not climate-controlled spaces, and are subject to the same risk of fire sprinkler damage as the Genealogy resources.

When it re-opened in 1999, the expanded Central Library offered a dedicated media center for audiovisual materials and services on the first floor, just beyond the lobby. In recent years, this space was converted into a spacious teen room; the former listening booths were converted into small group study spaces. Staff report that the teen area is infrequently used relative to some of the branch libraries, as Central Library is not a big destination for teens in general.

The children's area is the only space in the Central Library with windows, light, and street views. Although visitors can see into the children's area when they enter the building, they cannot actually get into the space from the main lobby. There is a dedicated and well-equipped program space where some children's programming is offered; some programs are also offered out in the main children's space. The children's area appears to be generously sized; the former teen area still remains underutilized, long after the teen materials have been moved out.



The Genealogy, History & Archives are at risk of damage and deterioration in the non-climate-controlled, fire sprinklered basement of the Central Library.



The teen space at the Central Library is generously sized but experiences low levels of use, according to staff.



The children's area is visible but not accessible from the main lobby.



Central Library is a collection warehouse for the entire FWPL system, housing approximately 40% of the current collection of books and other physical materials.

CENTRAL LIBRARY SPACE NEEDS

The Central Library appears to provide more than enough space for the range of library services it currently offers, the role it plays in the FWPL system, and current patterns of use by the public. In fact, FWPL does not even use the entire building; about 10% of the space is occupied by other City functions, such as the City's archives and the Communications Department. An unusually high proportion of the building is used for storage by the Library and even other City departments.

The Central Library currently houses about 40% of FWPL's total physical collection. Any proposed reorganization, consolidation, or relocation of Central Library would need to carefully consider what would happen to the collection. At present, the branches do not have the space for more materials, and the recommendations for future branch space do not account for any reallocation of materials from Central Library in the future.

Central Library also has about 30% of FWPL's total program space. This proportion is somewhat misleading, as the branches have a severe shortage of space for people and programs; 30% of not enough doesn't add up to much. The program spaces at Central Library – including the auditorium – are also too small to accommodate programs and events with citywide appeal. Major events, performances, and civic forums are usually held in the gallery space, with the stage and seating arranged awkwardly around the grand stair. The Central Library should offer more and better-equipped program space in a broader range of types and sizes.

A detailed assessment of the space needs for Fort Worth's Central Library was beyond the scope of this facilities master plan. However, FWPL can look to other major urban library systems for how they are reorganizing, revitalizing, and expanding space in their main libraries to support both traditional and new services.

- The Austin Public Library's new 200,000 square foot Central Library offers dozens of program, event, and collaboration spaces; expanded space for traditional and new collections; and hundreds of places to sit in a variety of quiet and active settings. Its event center and signature roof deck make it a destination for significant community gatherings such as weddings as well as library and civic programs and events.



Major events at the Central Library are often held in the attractive but functionally awkward gallery space.



- The 140,000 square foot Main Library in Dayton, Ohio includes multiple program and event spaces, including a 200-seat flexible forum and a black box theater as well as classrooms, innovation labs, and collaboration spaces.
- Vancouver, BC's Central Library features a diverse range of people and program spaces, including a theater, exhibition gallery, meeting and community rooms, and technology-rich creation spaces. Its co-location with City Hall functions increase access to library services and provides a welcoming face to city services.

Dayton's expanded Main Library features a flexible black box theater as well as program and meeting spaces in a variety of sizes.

Fort Worth's current Central Library could certainly be reorganized and renovated to accommodate many of these types of services and spaces.

At the time of this master plan, a new municipal complex development concept has also been proposed that would include new space for the public service functions of the Central Library. Administration and other systemwide functions would move into other space in City Hall or an off-site location. Focused study of the Library's space needs for traditional and 21st century services will be needed once the scope and scale of the joint-use project is better defined.





BRANCH LIBRARIES

Branch libraries are an essential component of large urban library systems. They increase access and convenience of library services in areas outside of the downtown core. They also are able to tailor programs, services, and spaces to the unique needs and interests of the communities in which they are located.

This chapter summarizes the assessment findings and opportunities for Fort Worth Public Library branches from a network perspective. Topics in this chapter include geographic access, amount of space to serve current and future populations, and the general condition and capacity of branch facilities to support modern service. The Facility Summaries chapter of this report provides more information about individual branch facilities.



The Northside Library opened in 1967 — one of five libraries to open that year — and is still in operation today.

HISTORY OF FORT WORTH'S BRANCH LIBRARIES

For the first half of the 20th century, the Central Library was the primary site for library service in Fort Worth. In the 1960s, Fort Worth's library network was born with a branch building boom. FWPL's first two purpose-built branches — Wedgwood and eSkills¹ — were built in the early 1960s with similar designs. In 1967, five more branches — East Berry, Northside, Ridglea, Riverside, and Seminary South — opened. All of these mid-century branches are still in operation today.

The effort to build a new Central Library was FWPL's primary construction focus in the 1970s. The next additions to the FWPL branch network came in the late 1980s with the opening of Southwest Regional and Diamond Hill-Jarvis. The 1990s and 2000s saw the addition of East Regional, Summerglenn, Ella Mae Shamblee, and Northwest to the network.

By the year 2010, Fort Worth had seen its population more than double since 1960, and had nearly tripled the amount of library space. The ratio of library branch space to the overall population size in 2010 was about 0.20 square feet per capita.² This was slightly less than the Fort Worth's historic high of 0.22 square feet per capita in 2000.

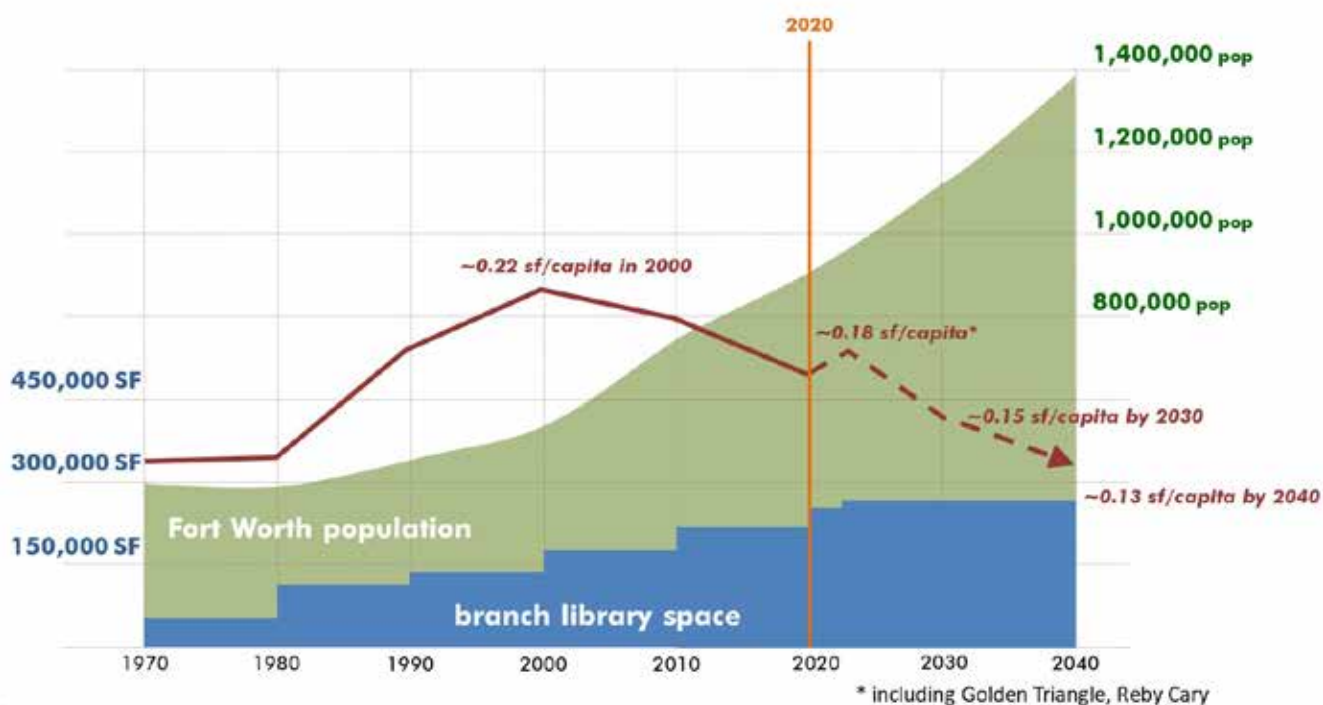
In 2011, the Fort Worth Library System Master Plan 20/20 Vision called for a slowdown in branch library construction, for various reasons including the economic recession, rapidly evolving technologies, and anticipated associated changes in library service. Through the City's 2014 and 2018 capital bond process, Fort Worth citizens approved the development of three additional branches — Golden Triangle, Reby Cary, and Far Southwest — all of which are in progress as of the date of this report.

However, Fort Worth's population growth did not slow down, but increased by more than 20% between 2010 and 2020. Because the rate of population growth over the past decade has exceeded the rate of library growth, the ratio of branch library space to the Fort Worth population size has been in decline. The closure of the BOLD Branch in 2019 and COOL Branch in 2020 further contributed to the drop in this ratio.

¹ Originally known as the Meadowbrook Branch Library.

² See page 25 for a discussion of the square foot per capita metric.

Library space hasn't kept up with population growth



SQUARE FEET PER CAPITA

The ratio of library space to population size (square feet per capita, or SF/capita) is a time-tested metric for the capacity of library facilities to support service. But as with many metrics, there is no universal scale or target that is right for all libraries or communities. Rather, this metric is best used to measure current conditions, establish an appropriate capacity target relative to population size, and gauge progress in facility expansion compared to community growth over time.

Space for systemwide functions (such as library administration, technical services, IT, outreach, etc.) may or may not be included in library capacity calculations, depending on individual circumstances and opportunities. For this section of the FWPL master plan analysis, the discussion of capacity is about branch library space only, and excludes space at Central Library.



Ridglea Library (1967) has been well maintained but is due for significant life cycle maintenance over the next decade.



Southwest Regional Library (1987) will also require major life cycle maintenance work by 2030.

LIBRARY BRANCH FACILITIES

This section summarizes the facility condition assessments (FCA) conducted by Bureau Veritas as well as general space and service issues observed through tours of FWPL branches. See the Facility Summary chapter of this report for more details about each branch.

BUILDING AND SITE CONDITIONS

Generally speaking, FWPL's branch facilities are well-maintained. Visitors to most branch libraries find them to be clean and well-lit, with furnishings and finishes that are in good repair. But it's not just on the surface; the facility condition assessments (FCA) prepared by Bureau Veritas for this master plan process confirm that most of FWPL's branch facilities have a low backlog of deferred maintenance needs. Only two of FWPL's branches — eSkills and Northside — were found to have enough near-term maintenance needs to be ranked as "fair" rather than "good" condition, and Riverside is right on the threshold between good and fair.

Looking farther out, however, the FCA suggest that a significant amount of maintenance is anticipated over the next five to 10 years — particularly for FWPL's oldest branches. The amount of maintenance at eSkills over the next 10 years is expected to cost nearly as much as the cost of simply replacing the building entirely. Ridglea and Wedgwood are each expected to need maintenance equivalent to at least half the cost of complete building replacement.

But even some of FWPL's younger branches, such as Southwest Regional, are coming up on significant life cycle upgrades and replacement of major elements such as roofs and mechanical systems. Continued maintenance at these facilities will be critical to reduce the risk of service interruption and building damage in case of reduced performance or failure.

It should be noted that the FCA scope did not include a detailed audit of site or building accessibility issues. While Bureau Veritas noted some accessibility-related issues and costs in selected FCA reports, a focused accessibility audit would be required to more fully identify those needs and costs.

Branch Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Branch	3-Year FCI	5-Year FCI	10-Year FCI
Northwest	0%	2%	5%
Ella Mae Shamblee	1%	8%	22%
East Regional	2%	8%	25%
Summerglen	1%	12%	16%
Diamond Hill/Jarvis	3%	20%	45%
Seminary South	4%	16%	39%
Wedgwood	5%	18%	50%
Ridglea	5%	18%	52%
Southwest Regional	6%	14%	40%
East Berry	8%	18%	37%
Riverside	10%	13%	48%
Northside	14%	21%	39%
eSkills	15%	33%	95%

FACILITY CONDITION INDEX

Facility condition index (FCI) is a standard metric used to assess a building's general physical condition. FCI is calculated as the simple ratio of the estimated cost of maintenance needs over a given time period to the assumed replacement cost of the entire building.

An FCI of 10% is often proposed as the threshold for a building to be considered in good condition. An FCI of less than 10% within the near-term — say, three years — is one that is fairly up to date and has a low deferred maintenance backlog.

A longer-term FCI (often five to 10 years) indicates the magnitude of anticipated ongoing and life cycle maintenance needs. Older buildings often have much higher 5- and 10-year FCIs than newer buildings, as more and more of their original systems become due for major repair or replacement. As the long-range FCI increases and the building is due for more — and more significant — maintenance, it is worth taking a step back and considering whether the building is worth the reinvestment, or whether the money might be better spent on a replacement building. (Of course, a well-maintained building with a low FCI could also be inadequately matched to its intended purpose.)



Tall shelves in the children's area at East Berry Library.

LIBRARY SPACE AND SERVICE

What the FCI metric does not adequately reflect is how well each branch building is performing as a library — whether it is the right size, in the right location, flexible and aligned with 21st century service, etc. These are assessed in different terms that, while mostly difficult to quantify, nonetheless have a big effect on the community's access to high quality library services and spaces.

- **Size.** Many of FWPL's branch facilities are small, which affects both the quantity and quality of service. Not all library programs and services can be scaled down successfully, and it can be difficult to truly offer "full service" out of very small buildings. Several of Fort Worth's library branches are smaller than its original Carnegie Library building — which offered a much narrower range of service to a much smaller population. On the other hand, FWPL does operate two large, destination branches — East Regional and Southwest Regional — which together account for about one-fourth of all branch visits and circulation each year.
- **Space for collections.** The lack of space in FWPL's smallest branches is compounded by the large amount of fixed shelving; examples include Ridglea and Seminary South, where the tall, full shelves dominate the interior space. But this condition is not limited to the smallest branches. Even the regional libraries have a significant amount of space taken up by tall, fixed shelving.
- **Flexibility.** At the eSkills Library, a significant amount of shelving has been removed as a result of programmatic changes over the past decade. As a result, eSkills has a relatively open and flexible interior compared to other branches, with increased capacity and variety of work and lounge seating. Furnishings can be moved out of the way to support different uses and programs in the main space. However, many of FWPL's branches do not enjoy nearly this same level of flexibility.



- **Space for programs.** The Northwest and Shamblee branches are perhaps the best examples in FWPL's branch fleet of modern library program rooms: comfortably-sized, well-equipped, and filled with natural light from copious windows. However, these two are standouts; many branches have undersized and/or windowless meeting rooms, and the rest lack dedicated program space at all. In some cases, FWPL offers programs in the main branch space; for example, the Library's jazz series was held at Riverside, amid the stacks and computer stations. However, these must be carefully scheduled, and it is difficult to make these spaces available to the community for their meeting needs.
- **Power and technology.** FWPL's older branches were designed well before anyone imagined that computers and technology would become an integral part of modern library service. Although these have been retrofitted with power and data, these systems may not be flexible enough to support easy reorganization of the space as services and community needs evolve. Most of FWPL's branches also did not anticipate the widespread adoption of laptops, tablets, smart phones, and other portable technologies that customers in the new millennium now bring to the library — often hoping to find a place to plug in.
- **Service model.** FWPL is proactively updating furniture in many branches in order to modernize its service model as well as to improve the customer experience. For example, the large, old-style staff desks at Wedgwood and Seminary South were both recently replaced with newer models that make it easier for staff to get out on the floor and provide service to customers. FWPL is also adding more lounge seating in many of its branches in order to offer its customers more diverse and comfortable choices.



Merchandising and curated displays promote browsability and discovery at eSkills Library.



The Panther Lab DIY/innovation space at Northwest Branch supports 21st century library programming.

LIBRARY BRANCH SPACE NEEDS

As of the date of this report, FWPL operates 13 branch libraries totaling approximately 142,600 square feet. For a 2020 population of approximately 900,000 people, today's branch network provides approximately 0.16 square feet of branch library space per Fort Worth resident. Together, the Golden Triangle, Reby Cary, and Far Southwest branches will add about 36,000 square feet of space, which will provide a small boost and — given continued population growth in Fort Worth — should maintain FWPL's overall branch network capacity at about 0.18 square feet per capita for the next few years.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPACE NEEDS

FWPL's physical collection in the branches is significantly constrained by the limited capacity of shelving — which cannot be expanded without encroaching on already-limited space for people and programs. If the Central Library is consolidated into the proposed new municipal complex development, a significant portion of its books and other materials may need to be relocated to the branches. Population growth will add further demand for collection materials and pressure on branch shelving.

To reduce the collection density in branches as well as implement best practices for shelving and display, it is estimated that at least 20% to 25% more branch space would need to be added to the current total — or about 0.04-0.05 square feet per capita. Depending on future collection growth targets and management strategies, additional space could be needed.

But the need for more space in FWPL branches is not just related to shelving. Additional space is also needed to support FWPL's strategic goals for library programs and services. Spaces to support these goals include group study and collaboration spaces; additional (and larger) meeting and program spaces; flexible labs for creative learning, technology, and other specialty services; and expanded space for individual reading and work. At a network level, it is estimated that FWPL could easily use at least another 35-50% more branch library space than it currently offers per capita to accommodate these types of programs.



TOTAL BRANCH SPACE NEEDS

The estimated need for branch library space for Fort Worth, then, can be calculated by adding the increased capacity needs noted above to the current branch total of 0.18 SF/capita. Together, these suggest the need for at least 0.3 square feet of branch library space per capita to meet needs and achieve best practices in Fort Worth.

Building capacity at the 0.3 SF/capita ratio should continue to be appropriate for FWPL over at least the next 10 years, given:

- A continued collection development emphasis on popular materials and regular weeding. Keeping materials longer would increase the need for space.
- Continued mobility and relatively free travel of the Fort Worth population. Future mobility gaps or significant increases in travel times may require the need for more space by zone.
- A new emphasis on building larger, destination branches of at least the size of East Regional and Southwest Regional. Continuing to build small branches will not achieve the economies of scale and broader access patterns, and would increase the overall need for space by zone.
- Continued commitment to and development of services beyond the branch, including alternative service delivery strategies, outreach, and partnerships.



RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter summarizes the recommended master plan strategies and capital projects for Fort Worth libraries over the next 20 years. More specific information about the recommendations for each FWPL facility is included in the Facility Summaries chapter.

EXPAND LIBRARY CAPACITY

SPACE PLANNING TARGETS

FWPL has established a space planning target of 0.3 square feet of branch library space per capita, to be achieved in each of the five proposed planning zones as well as for the city population overall. This target will significantly increase access to libraries for Fort Worth residents — including expanded library space for people and programs as well as for continued collection growth.

It is recommended that FWPL revisit this space planning target at least at the mid-point of this 20 year master plan. This will give FWPL and the City the opportunity to re-confirm or adjust the target as needed to reflect changing community needs and priorities; continued evolution of library services and technology; and updated population projections and community development plans.

The table below lists the assumed 2020 and 2040 populations for each of the proposed planning zones, as well as the current and projected need for branch library space in each zone and citywide.

Fort Worth Assumed Population and Library Branch Space

Zone	2020 Population	2020 Branch Square Feet (SF)	2040 Population	2040 Branch SF at 0.3 SF/capita
Loop	380,000	97,500 SF	485,000	145,000 SF
North	210,000	23,100 SF	365,000	109,000 SF
South	160,000	5,000 SF	250,000	75,000 SF
East	70,000	24,000 SF	90,000	28,000 SF
West	80,000	13,000 SF	190,000	56,000 SF
Total	900,000	162,600 SF	1,380,000	413,000 SF



FWPL is encouraged to consider opportunities for joint facilities that can build capacity, improve access, and enhance service to the community, such as the proposed new joint recreation center-library facility in Arlington, TX.

CAPACITY STRATEGIES

This 0.3 SF/capita planning target represents a significant increase in the amount of library space in Fort Worth — particularly in the fastest-growing zones. FWPL is strongly encouraged to grow capacity by building large, destination libraries rather than neighborhood-scale branches. East Regional and Southwest Regional are great examples of how larger facilities can deliver more — and more diverse — services more efficiently and effectively than their smaller counterparts.

FWPL should also evaluate opportunities to replace existing small branches with larger facilities. Although most current library sites are too small to accommodate expansion, FWPL may be able to relocate to nearby sites with more capacity.

FWPL need not build capacity solely through new construction, but can look for opportunities to acquire and transform existing buildings. There are many examples of communities that have transformed former retail/commercial, office, recreation, and other facilities into vibrant 21st century libraries. Depending on the condition of the existing facility and extent of renovation needed to convert it for library service, there may (or may not) be opportunities for the City to achieve significant savings compared to new construction. There can also be other benefits to this strategy beyond first cost savings, such as acquiring a particularly well-located, high-profile site.

FWPL is also encouraged to consider opportunities to develop joint facilities in partnership with complementary service providers, such as the City's Park and Recreation and Neighborhood Services departments. Developing joint facilities with shared spaces can be a very cost-effective way to build capacity while also enhancing access and service to the community. Such strategies will require — and encourage — strong collaboration and well-coordinated programs.

ENHANCE SERVICE

RENOVATE EXISTING BRANCHES

Most of FWPL's existing library branches should be renovated to better support the vision of 21st century library service. Changes needed at many or most branches to improve service and the customer experience include a better balance of space for people and collections; expanded space for library programs and community meetings; increased space for small group work, study, and collaboration; more flexible shelving and furniture; and more diverse and comfortable places to sit, work, read, and reflect.

Over the next decade, most of FWPL's current branches will be due for moderate to significant life cycle maintenance and accessibility updates — some of which will require temporary branch closures to implement. FWPL could leverage these closures to also include service and customer experience updates at each branch.

The sequencing and timing of branch renovations will be shaped by many factors, not the least of which is the availability of capital funding. Other considerations for developing the schedule for branch renovation projects should include:

- **Critical maintenance needs** — The facility condition assessment results can be used to inform project scheduling based on when facilities are due for major maintenance and accessibility upgrades. For example, a branch with a higher 10-year FCI score could be prioritized for implementation before a building with a lower score — i.e., take care of the “worst first.”
- **Strategic service goals** — Low performance on traditional service metrics (e.g., circulation) may indicate a higher need for transformation through renovation, which could suggest a higher priority for early implementation. Branches with higher operating costs may also be candidates for earlier renovation in order to improve staff efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Continuity of service** — FWPL should schedule projects to avoid the simultaneous closure of branches that are close to each other in order to preserve community access to service.

Given the magnitude of additional library space needed to accommodate community growth over the next 20 years (see previous section), FWPL may want to look for opportunities to relocate and expand some of its smaller branches rather than re-invest in maintenance.

Renovate library branches for 21st century service

- Address life cycle maintenance needs
- Improve flexibility + adaptability
- Rebalance + enhance space for people + programs
- Update staff service points
- Improve customer service and experience



Northwest Library

Central Library: better connectivity = bigger impact

- Opportunities for Central Library
 - Improve location + raise profile for increased usage
 - Better space for programs + collaboration
 - Improve connectivity + synergy with other City departments



Value of Public Space Consider a large New Municipal Complex

Value of Public Space Consider a large New Municipal Complex



TRANSFORM CENTRAL LIBRARY

The master plan recommends that the Central Library be transformed into a citywide destination for high-impact services, programs, and resources. As branch library space is added throughout the city, the Central Library's current role as FWPL's collection warehouse will be significantly reduced, enabling it to expand space and services for people and programs.

At the time of this master plan, a new municipal complex development concept has been proposed that would include a smaller, but significantly improved Central Library. The Central Library space would be focused on service to the public, while Administration and other systemwide functions would move into other space in City Hall or an off-site location. In a joint municipal complex development, the Central Library will have the greatest public access and impact if it is highly visible and accessible. Ideally it should have a high-profile, street-level entry as well as copious windows offering views of the services and activity inside. In addition to people and program spaces within the Central Library space, FWPL can also provide programs in City Hall meeting, event, and collaboration spaces in order to maximize service and use.

As an alternative, FWPL should consider renovating the existing Central Library building to enhance visibility, accessibility, and connectivity with downtown Fort Worth as well as to improve the balance of space for programs and collections. FWPL could consider reorganization of the building to move all public services out of the basement and up into the light. Moving FWPL system services and other City functions out of the first floor would expand space for public service and increase access to natural light; passersby would enjoy new views of vibrant library programs and services from the street. FWPL could also finish the building's second level for public service space.

The City would likely seek funding for the proposed municipal complex development through its four-year capital project ballot cycle. A project of that scale could take four years or more to go through design and construction. Therefore, if the community approved funding for the project in 2022, it would likely be at least 2026 before the new building would be open and ready for occupancy.

IMPROVE ACCESS + OPERATIONS

RELOCATE GENEALOGY, HISTORY & ARCHIVES

Genealogy, History & Archives should be relocated to space that is appropriately designed for the protection and conservation of rare and fragile resources. The facility should have a central location to be accessible to the whole Fort Worth community, ideally with sufficient parking as well as reasonable public transit connectivity. An independently operable space or facility is recommended so that FWPL can align staffing and hours of operation with the community's need for access.

At the latest, this project needs to be ready to receive Genealogy, History & Archives materials by the time the Central Library either moves or undergoes renovation. Earlier implementation is highly recommended in order to reduce the risk of deterioration or damage in the current Central Library basement space.

CREATE OPERATIONS CENTER

The master plan recommends the development of an Operations Center to accommodate Library divisions and functions that do not need to be located in downtown Fort Worth. Courier, Outreach, IT, and Facilities Maintenance are examples of Library divisions that would benefit from a location with better highway access in order to serve FWPL branches and customers throughout the city. Courier, Collection Management, and Technical Services would benefit from a facility with a loading dock. All of these divisions would also benefit from more staff parking than is currently provided at Central Library.

Many library systems have been able to purchase and easily transform an office building, warehouse, or other existing facility into an Operations Center. A focused space needs assessment will be required to determine the amount and type of space required to support all functions at the Operations Center.

This project should be up and running by the time the Central Library either moves or undergoes renovation. Earlier implementation would support earlier improvements to operations, efficiency, and service to the community, as well as additional capacity to support increased branch space.

Relocate selected library services

- Relocate genealogy, local history, and archives
 - independent operations
 - appropriate space for archives + sensitive materials
- Create a Library Operations Center
 - right-sized and well-equipped for modern library operations
 - well-located for highway access to serve entire city
 - enhance service + efficiency



Enhance community access to library service

- Branches beyond the loop
- Alternate service delivery (ASD) strategies
- New facility models
- Partnerships – public/private, non-profit, inter-department



EXPAND OUTSIDE SERVICES

FWPL is committed to delivering service not just within its facilities, but also out in the community. It is actively building its capacity for outreach services, such as providing library programs in community spaces. It is implementing Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) strategies such as automated kiosks and book vending systems, which can provide 24/7 access to collection materials and other library services. FWPL is exploring new facility models, such as satellite libraries in retail and partner spaces. It is also initiating and building public/private, non-profit, and inter-departmental partnerships to support expanded service access and quality.

It is beyond the scope of this facilities master plan to make specific recommendations for outside and ASD strategies, most of which have — by design — a shorter lifespan than library facilities. However, it is critical that FWPL continue to build and maintain its capacity for outside services to complement and enhance the services provided inside its library facilities. FWPL's intent and commitment to expand outside services was a key consideration in the establishment of the space planning target; without them, more branch library space would be needed to meet the community's needs for service.



The Chula Vista Public Library opened its Otay Ranch Branch in a lifestyle mall in 2012, offering a small collection, computers, seating, and a group study room. Due to the overwhelming success of the branch experiment, in 2014 mall management offered CVPL another unit to develop into program space — called "The Hub."

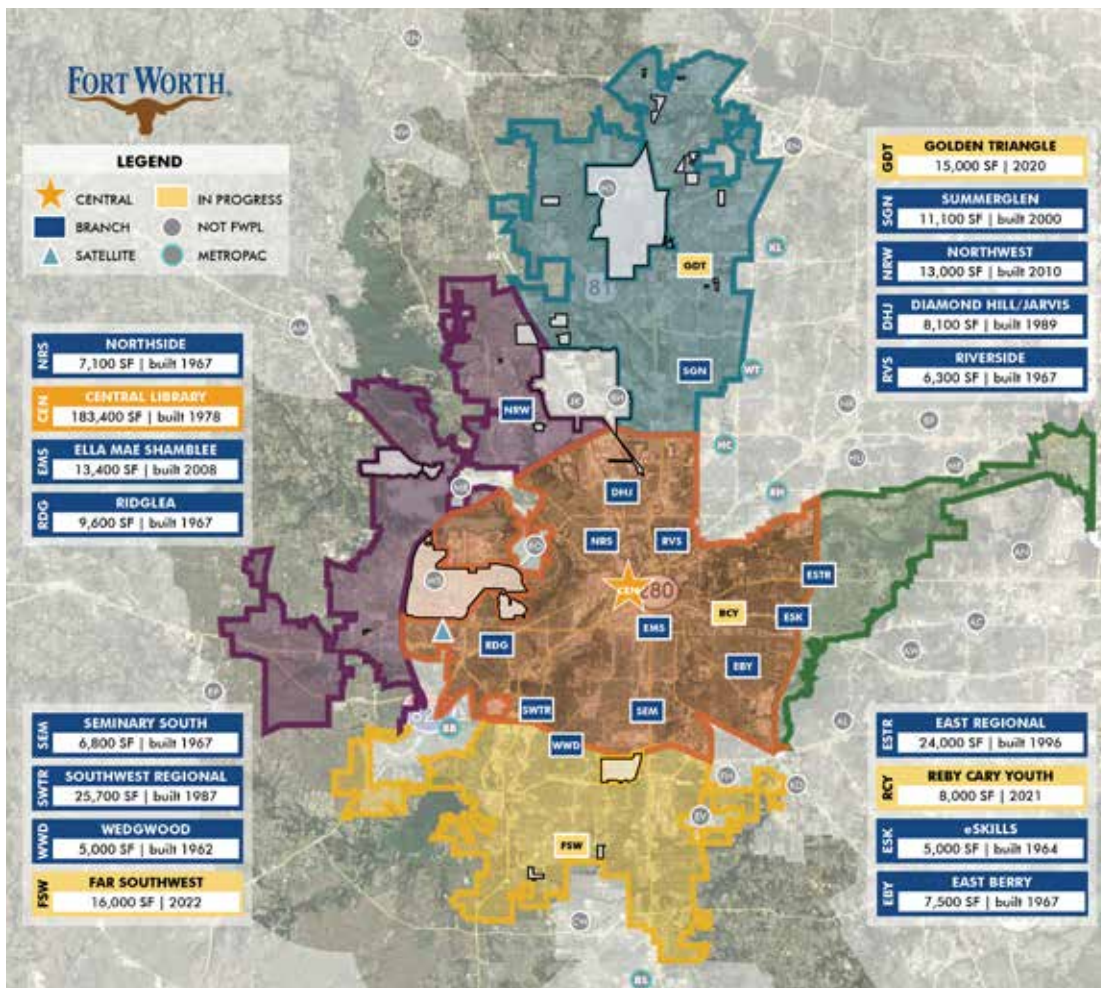
FACILITY SUMMARIES

This chapter summarizes the current conditions, opportunities, and recommended improvement strategies for each of the libraries currently in operation in Fort Worth, as well as three branches currently in planning, design, and construction phases. This chapter does not include summary pages for proposed future branches, and therefore is not a complete set of the master plan recommendations. Refer to page 6 for a summary of all master plan-recommended strategies and projects.

Branch facilities in this chapter are organized alphabetically within each planning zone: Loop, North, East, South, and West. A summary page about each zone — including recommendations for additional space needs — precedes the facility summary pages. For more information about the planning zones, refer to page 13.

Facility condition index (FCI) data included in this chapter are drawn from the facility condition assessments developed for this master plan. Refer to page 27 for more information about how the FCI is calculated and what it means.

CURRENT FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES



CENTRAL LIBRARY

**RENOVATE/RELOCATE
2020-2030**



Central Library
Council District 9

~250,000 square feet (total building)
Built 1978; expanded 1999

Facility Condition Index



CENTRAL LIBRARY

500 West 3rd Street, Fort Worth, Texas

Built in 1978, the Central Library is located on the edge of downtown. Despite its relatively low-profile location, Central attracted more than 200,000 visits in 2018, and visitors came from across the city, as evidenced by library patron mapping.

Central plays a unique and very important role in the FWPL system. It is a full-service library offering destination services and resources including genealogy collections, a digital instruction lab, large meeting spaces, an art gallery, and more. It accounts for approximately 30% of all of FWPL's program space citywide, and houses more than 40% of the system's collection. Library administration and system operations are also currently located at Central.

Although the building is almost 250,000 square feet in total, the Library occupies less than 120,000 square feet. Half of the public library space is located in the windowless basement. The building has vast unfinished areas, including the entire upper level.

Nearly 25,000 square feet are used for unrelated City functions such as the Communications Department. Because the building has not been used for other functions, an unusually high proportion of space is used for storage by the Library and even other City departments.



Light-filled gallery serves as large event space

The facility condition assessment study completed for this master plan confirmed that the Central Library is well-maintained overall. However, given its size, the costs of upcoming maintenance can be significant. The FCA concluded that the Central Library is due for at least \$4.6 million in life cycle maintenance needs over the next decade. Replacing the carpet on the lower level alone could cost almost \$1 million.

Some of the services currently at Central Library would benefit from moving out of downtown Fort Worth. Moving Genealogy, History & Archives to an independently operable facility with better parking could improve access and efficiency. Other systemwide services, such as Collection Management and courier services, would benefit from a facility with a dock in a location with good freeway access.

At the time of this report, there is a proposal for a new municipal complex with a relocated Central Library. This would help raise the Library's profile, increase public access, and improve connectivity with other City departments as well as downtown Fort Worth. The amount of space in the proposed complex for library services has not yet been confirmed; focused study of the Library's space needs for traditional and 21st century services will be needed once the scope and scale of the project is better defined.

As an alternative to the municipal complex proposal, major reorganization and renovation of the Central Library is recommended.

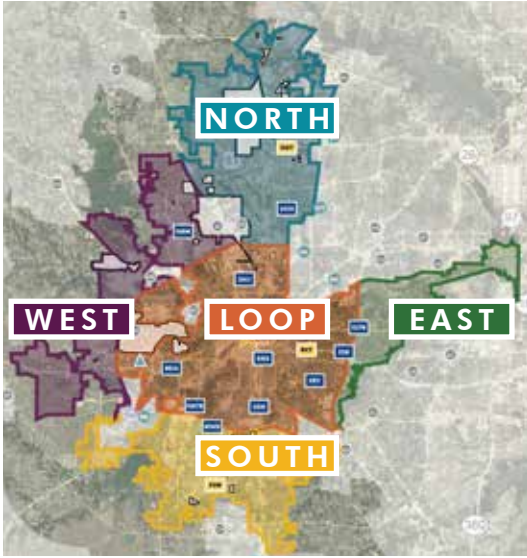


Lower level



Interactive children's area

LOOP PLANNING ZONE



LOOP ZONE

Bounded by I-820 and I-20 in the heart of Fort Worth, the Loop is the only one of FWPL's five branch planning zones that will not grow in geographic size over the next 20 years. Currently, approximately 40% of the Fort Worth population lives in the Loop. Continuing development within the Loop will bring both increased density and population growth; the residential population of the Loop is anticipated to grow by about 28% by 2040.

FWPL currently operates 10 branch libraries in the Loop:

- Cambridge Court (leased facility; not included in this master plan)
- Diamond Hill/Jarvis
- East Berry
- Ella Mae Shamblee
- eSkills
- Northside
- Ridglea
- Riverside
- Seminary South
- Southwest Regional

Currently in design, the 8,000 square foot Reby Cary Branch Library will be the 11th branch in the Loop when it opens in 2021 (anticipated). Although the Central Library is located within the Loop, it is not assigned to the Loop Zone (or any other planning zone) because it is a citywide resource.





Branches in the Loop include many of FWPL's oldest facilities, most of which are expected to need moderate to significant maintenance over the next 10 years. For this reason, the primary emphasis of master plan-recommended capital projects within the Loop Zone over the next decade is on renovation in order to support modern library service as well as to keep the facilities in good condition.

In the second decade of the 20 year master plan, the emphasis for the Loop will shift to building additional branch library space that may be needed to address population growth. For efficient operations and enhanced service, FWPL is encouraged to focus on expansions, and to limit the number of additional branches. Expansion may require relocation to larger sites if the existing library branch sites cannot accommodate a larger building. FWPL can evaluate the potential for relocation and/or expansion on a case-by-case basis or as opportunities arise.

DIAMOND HILL/JARVIS LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



Diamond Hill/Jarvis Library
Council District 2
~8,100 square feet; opened 1989



Facility Condition Index



3-year → 5-year → 10-year

DIAMOND HILL/JARVIS LIBRARY

1300 Northeast 35th Street, Fort Worth, Texas

Built in 1989, the teal-tiled Diamond Hill/Jarvis Branch is a beloved neighborhood institution. Adjacent to Diamond Hill High School, the library's one-acre site is owned by the Fort Worth Independent School District. The library branch is well-situated — multiple public schools and the Diamond Hill Community Center are within a couple of blocks.

Library staff make the most out of the compact, 8,100 square foot facility, organizing events like movie screenings in the shared public space, as well as in the meeting room, which can be accessed after hours. A glass curtain wall at the back of the branch creates inviting lounge areas with lots of natural light. Diamond Hill/Jarvis also benefits from a clear, open floor plan and bilingual signage.



The branch is well maintained (its three-year FCI is 3%), but with no major renovations in the past three decades, the building is showing its age. The 45% 10-year FCI reflects numerous upcoming maintenance needs. There are complaints about the HVAC system. The graffiti-resistant tiled exterior has successfully deterred graffiti but appears dated. As of the date of this report, the oversized information and check-out desks were within feet of each other. The windowless meeting room feels dark and could be greatly improved with more natural light.

Most of Diamond Hill/Jarvis Branch's challenges could be addressed with a renovation. FWPL will need to close the branch for large upcoming maintenance and accessibility projects. This will be a great opportunity to also implement service and operational improvements. Diamond Hill/Jarvis can be realigned with current visitor needs and expectations by updating systems, finishes, lighting, and shelving. Consolidating staff desks and eliminating empty shelves could help rebalance the space and provide more room for popular programs and comfortable seating.



The meeting room is small and in high demand; high-interest library programs such as movie screenings are often offered in the main space.



EAST BERRY LIBRARY

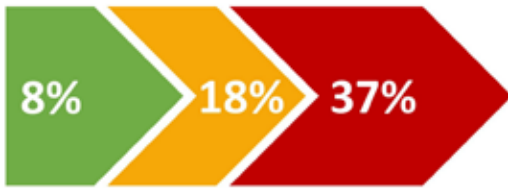
**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



East Berry Library
Council District 5
~7,500 square feet; opened 1967



Facility Condition Index



3-year → 5-year → 10-year

EAST BERRY LIBRARY

4300 East Berry Street, Fort Worth, Texas

East Berry Branch was built in 1967 and renovated in 2005. The 7,500 square foot facility houses rich African-American and Spanish collections and offers ESL classes among other programs.

The small building benefits from a clearly organized open floor plan. It does not have a separate meeting room, so programs are organized on the branch floor. Lower shelves display attractive collection merchandising, but some overly tall shelves remain, blocking sightlines. A glass curtain wall provides a lot of natural light on one side of the building, although the rest of the space lacks windows. The windowless facade provides few hints about what lies inside.

East Berry would greatly benefit from a renovation. As the 10-year FCI of 37% indicates, the branch will require major life cycle upgrades within the next decade. Based on circulation data, visitors are less interested in borrowing materials, so with less focus on the collection, more space can be dedicated to people and programs. Consolidating the staff desks would also free up space for visitors.

LOOP ZONE



ELLA MAE SHAMBLEE LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



Ella Mae Shamblee Library
Council District 8
~13,400 square feet; opened 2008



Facility Condition Index



ELLA MAE SHAMBLEE LIBRARY

1062 Evans Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas

Ella Mae Shamblee Branch was built in 2008 and named in honor of Fort Worth’s first African-American librarian. The following year, this cherished neighborhood destination won the Texas Library Association’s Libraries Change Communities Award.

The 13,400 square foot facility is a favorite for many because of its public art, comfortable spaces, and whimsical assortment of windows providing lots of natural light. The Shamblee Library has a bright, spacious meeting room that is part of a historic schoolhouse that was integrated into the design. This popular community gathering space can be operated independently from the rest of the library.

Customer demand is high for programs, study spaces, and computers. Storytime and Early Childhood Matters programs are particularly popular. The DVD collection is also highly valued.

Although the branch has been well-maintained, there are some lingering issues such as roof leaks and basement flooding. The basement conference room lacks effective acoustic separation from the meeting room above, making it unusable if the meeting room is in use.



Renovation of the Ella Mae Shamblee Library is recommended to rebalance and improve spaces, update the service model, and address upcoming maintenance needs. According to the FCA study, renovation of the Shamblee Library is less urgently needed than at some of FWPL's other branches. In the interim, there are relatively simple but beneficial changes that FWPL could make, such as addressing acoustics in the lower-level conference room and replacing the large service desk. The spacious gallery between the library's two entries provides opportunities for displays, seating, and other amenities.



Colorful glass windows in the periodicals section (top), computer area (above) and children's area (below)



E-SKILLS LIBRARY

**REPLACE + EXPAND
2020-2030**



eSkills Library

Council District 5

*~5,000 square feet; opened 1964
as Meadowbrook Branch Library*

Facility Condition Index



3-year → 5-year → 10-year



eSKILLS LIBRARY

2800 Stark Street, Fort Worth, Texas

The eSkills Library originally opened in 1964 as the Meadowbrook Branch Library. In 2011, the branch underwent a renovation to transform it from a neighborhood branch into a citywide destination for career-related resources, programs, and technologies. Much of the physical collection was moved out in order to make room for individual and collaborative learning spaces, including a classroom. In recent years, eSkills has scaled back its career emphasis and shifted back toward a more neighborhood-focused model.

With fewer shelves than most of FWPL’s other branches, eSkills provides a good balance of space for visitors to sit, work, and learn. Its circulation is understandably low relative to other branches; however, it is a busy branch, with customers coming in for other programs and services. eSkills’ open floor plan offers good sightlines for staff, and copious windows bring natural light into the main space. That said, eSkills is one of FWPL’s two smallest branches (along with Wedgwood), which limits its capacity for service.



The FCA conducted for this master plan found that eSkills is due for significant maintenance, including a new roof, parking lot repavement, new exterior and interior finishes, electrical system replacement, and more. Its 10-year FCI of 95% suggests that the cost to address all of eSkills' maintenance needs over the next decade will be nearly as much as simply replacing the building.

Given the limitations of the existing eSkills Branch and the magnitude of upcoming maintenance, it is recommended that FWPL replace it with a new, larger building. A project to replace eSkills with a new library of about 8,000 square feet on the existing site has been proposed. Should the existing site prove unable to accommodate this expansion, FWPL may want to look for an alternate site nearby with more capacity.



NORTHSIDE LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



Northside Library
Council District 2
~7,100 square feet; opened 1967



Facility Condition Index



NORTHSIDE LIBRARY

601 Park Street, Fort Worth, Texas

Northside Branch originally opened in 1967. The attractive 7,100 square foot mid-century branch offers spectacular views of downtown Fort Worth from its bright, open reading room. Located in a residential neighborhood and across from a middle school, this branch is heavily used by children and families.

The Northside Branch’s original design did not include a dedicated program room. The main space has relatively flexible furnishings that can be moved out of the way for programs. The compromise is that the collection — including children’s materials — is housed on very tall shelves around the perimeter of the room. A project to convert a small, windowless storage room on the lower level into a space for meetings is currently underway.

Northside is one of three FWPL branches rated in “fair” condition rather than good by the FCA. Its 10-year FCI score suggests that the City will need to invest around 40% of the building’s replacement value in maintenance projects over the next decade. Many of these projects, such as replacing the roof



and carpets, are to be expected, given the building's age and high level of daily use.

It should be noted that the FCI did not identify all projects and costs associated with addressing accessibility barriers. Northside's mid-century designers did not seem to anticipate use by customers with mobility challenges, nor that library staff might come in all shapes and sizes. The branch's narrow doors and steeply-sloped ramps are also a challenge for operations, including daily courier service and delivery of supplies.

That said, the Northside Branch appears to have good bones, and can be updated to improve service. Renovation is recommended to address maintenance and accessibility needs, improve the balance of shelving in the space, and further increase the flexibility of the space to support programs and services.



Tall shelves (above) are used to hold the collection — even children's materials — in order to maintain a flexible area for programming in the main space (facing page).

RIDGLEA LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



Ridglea Library
Council District 3
~9,600 square feet; opened 1967



Facility Condition Index



3-year → 5-year → 10-year



The Library Leadership Team reimagined the Ridglea Branch to include significant expansion of seating and programming space, among other opportunities.

RIDGLEA LIBRARY

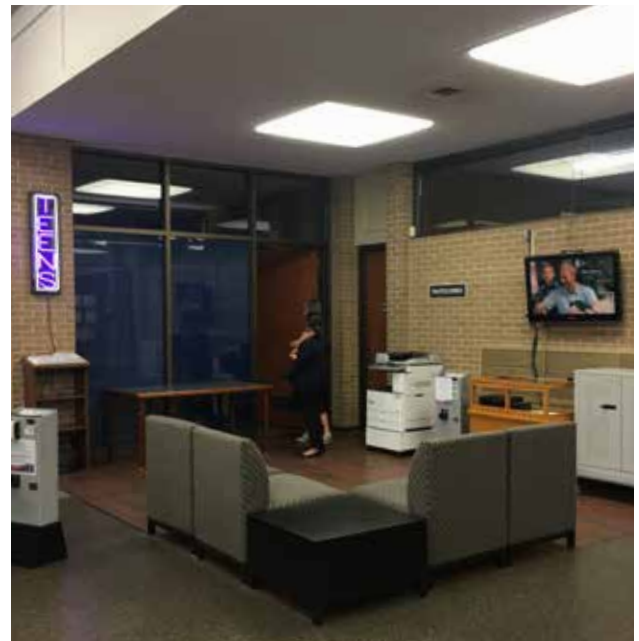
3628 Bernie Anderson Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas

Built in 1967 and renovated in 2012, Ridglea Branch attracts many visitors, ranking third in both number of visitors and items borrowed among Fort Worth’s library branches.

The 9,600 square foot facility has an open floor plan that is easy to navigate. High windows bring light into the interior but limit the ability of passersby to see the activity within. Tall shelves dominate the space, including the relatively small children’s area. Ridglea does not have a dedicated program room.

Although the branch has been well maintained, the facility condition assessment suggests that Ridglea will be due for major maintenance over the next decade. This branch is a good candidate for major renovation not only to address life cycle maintenance needs, but also to update the service model and customer experience to support 21st century library service. Opportunities include rebalancing and upgrading shelving for the collection to improve navigation and browsability; expanded seating; and appropriate spaces for programs and group collaboration.

LOOP ZONE



RIVERSIDE LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



Riverside Library
Council District 9
~6,300 square feet; opened 1967



Facility Condition Index



3-year → 5-year → 10-year

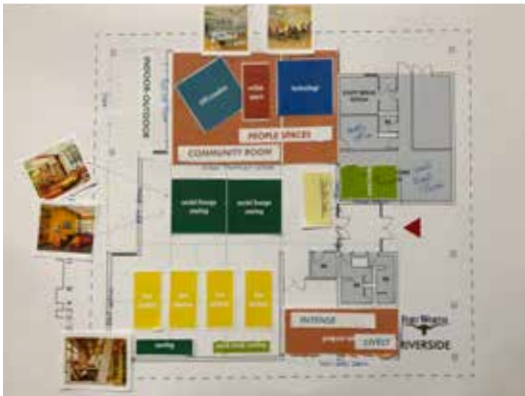
RIVERSIDE LIBRARY

2913 Yucca Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas

The Riverside Library is one of the many FWPL branches built in 1967. It is located in a residential neighborhood a couple of blocks away from two public schools.

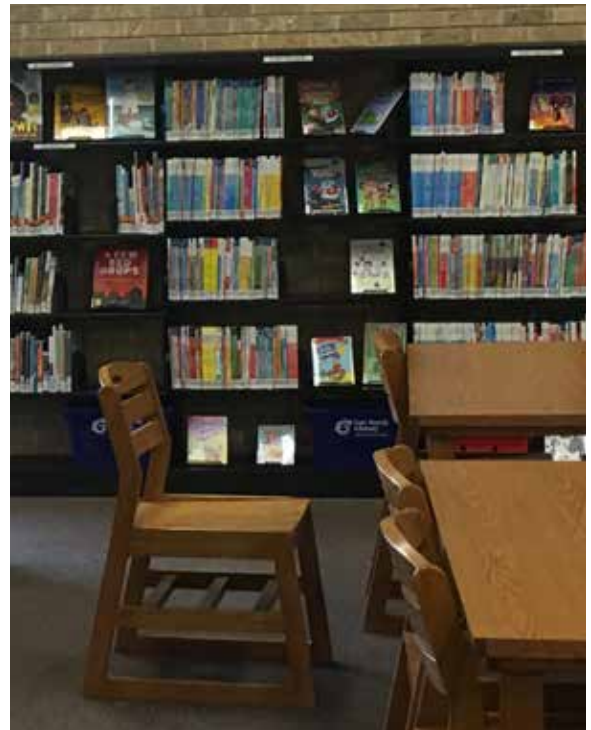
Riverside attracts loyal visitors who check out lots of materials. The 6,300 square foot facility does not have a dedicated program room, so programs such as the jazz series are organized out on the branch floor.

The facility condition assessment ranked Riverside right on the threshold between “fair” and “good” condition, and suggested that Riverside is due for major maintenance over the next decade. The master plan recommends renovation of the Riverside Library to both address maintenance needs and update the branch for 21st century service. Library staff identified opportunities to realign the branch to support customer needs and interests, such as providing more appropriate and flexible space for collaboration.



The Library Leadership Team reimagined the Riverside Library to provide significant expansion of space for people and programs, as well as stronger indoor-outdoor connectivity.

LOOP ZONE



SEMINARY SOUTH LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



Seminary South Library
Council District 9
~6,800 square feet; opened 1967



Facility Condition Index



SEMINARY SOUTH LIBRARY

501 East Bolt Street, Fort Worth, Texas

Seminary South Branch was built in 1967 and updated in 2006. This 6,800 square foot facility is well-maintained, but has a high 10-year facility condition index (39%) and would benefit from some updates. The huge staff desk is a fortress, serving as a barrier between staff and visitors. Tall shelves block visibility. The narrow windows high above the line of sight do not provide much natural light and do not advertise library services to passersby.

Seminary South needs to be renovated, and in the process, it could reinvent itself, rebalancing spaces to meet and exceed visitors' expectations. The branch can take advantage of its simple floor plan, which can easily be transformed into a flexible space with clear sight lines. Increased natural light, lower shelves, and a smaller staff desk could make the space more welcoming.



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**

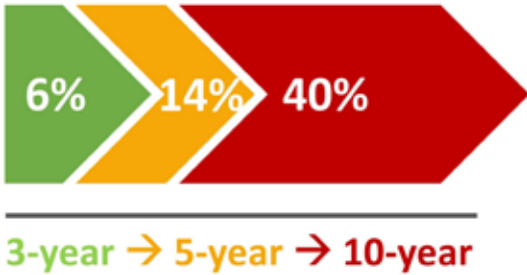


Southwest Regional Library
Council District 3

~25,700 square feet; opened 1987



Facility Condition Index



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY

4001 Library Lane, Fort Worth, Texas

Built in 1987, the 25,700 square foot Southwest Regional Branch is FWPL's largest library branch. It houses and lends the most materials; in 2018, Southwest Regional loaned an average of more than 1,500 items every day, outpacing even Central Library's circulation. Southwest Regional also attracted the second most visits of any Fort Worth library branch that year.

Southwest Regional was designed with a strong architectural parti that, while striking, presents some compromises for library space and service. The program room lacks windows; staff also report that maintaining a comfortable temperature in the program room is challenging. The "points" of the triangular floor plan are awkward spaces to occupy. Staff areas are disunited, with the break room and other staff support spaces at the opposite end of the building from back-of-house work areas.



Southwest Regional will be due for significant maintenance over the next decade, and there are many opportunities for concurrent service model updates. Given the amount of circulation through this branch, Southwest Regional will likely continue to house a significant collection; that said, shelving could be reorganized and improved to increase browsability and discovery, as well as enhance light and flexibility in the main space. FWPL could consider opportunities to create appropriate spaces for collaboration and group study.



REBY CARY YOUTH LIBRARY

MAINTAIN



Reby Cary Youth Library
 Council District 8
 ~8,000 square feet; opening 2021



REBY CARY YOUTH LIBRARY

3851 East Lancaster Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas

The future Reby Cary Youth Library will be situated on the well-trafficked East Lancaster Avenue. To make the best use of its 8,000 square feet, the branch will specialize in services for children, teens and caregivers. According to architectural renderings, high ceilings and windows on all sides will make the library a bright, attractive space. Study rooms along the perimeter of the large open area will provide acoustic isolation and allow visitors to pursue a variety of concurrent activities.

The master plan recommends maintaining the branch once it opens and renovating as necessary in the coming decades.



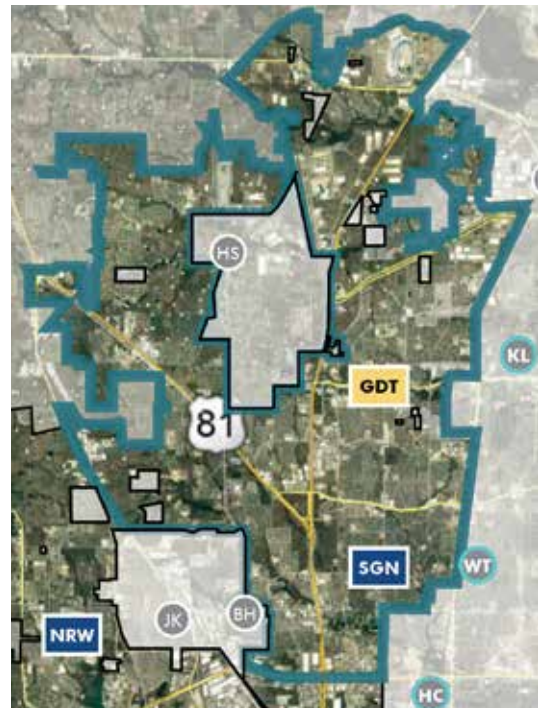
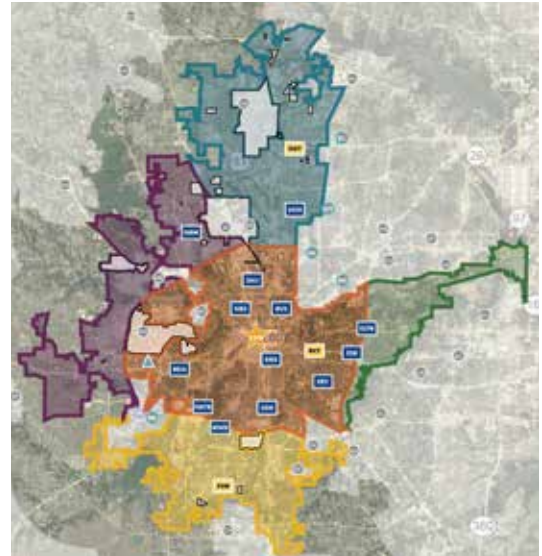
NORTH PLANNING ZONE

NORTH ZONE

The North Zone encompasses a rapidly developing area in the north of Fort Worth. With approximately 210,000 residents today, it is the second most populous zone in the city. Its rate of growth over the next 20 years is expected to be second only to the West Zone. The population in the North Zone is anticipated to reach at least 360,000 people by 2040.

FWPL currently operates only one branch in the North Zone: the Summerglen Library. The Golden Triangle Library will be the second branch in the zone when it opens later this year. However, even with Golden Triangle open, the North Zone will only provide about 0.11 square feet of library space per capita — about a third of what is recommended for the current population.

The primary emphasis of master plan-recommended capital projects within the North Zone is on expanding space. At the time of this master plan report, FWPL is hoping to include an expansion of Summerglen and a new Far Northwest Library on the City's 2022 capital program ballot measure. Additional capacity will be needed as the North Zone population continues to grow by as much as or more than 70% by 2040. FWPL is encouraged to develop partnership opportunities with complementary City departments such as Neighborhood Services and Park and Recreation, which also want to expand significantly in the North Zone.



SUMMERGLEN LIBRARY

**EXPAND
2020-2030**



Summertown Library
Council District 4

~11,100 square feet; opened 2000



Facility Condition Index



SUMMERGLEN LIBRARY

4205 Basswood Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas

Built in 2000, Summertown Branch is an incredibly popular local hub. Despite its modest size (11,100 square feet), Summertown attracts more visits than any other FWPL branch and loans more materials than any other branch except for Southwest Regional. It even loans more materials than Central Library. Diverse visitors of all ages crowd the building, particularly at storytime.

All areas of the branch are heavily used, and there is demand for more types of spaces. Summertown provides frequently used computers, but there are no study rooms or lounge seating. The meeting room can be conveniently accessed after hours, but it lacks natural light and is too small to meet community needs. The awkwardly shaped staff work room hinders efficient workflow.

This well-maintained, 20-year-old building is an important community asset, and could be significantly improved with a renovation and an expansion. The lawn at the back provides the perfect opportunity for an addition. One possibility to explore would be to move staff to the current meeting room area and build a new large meeting room as an addition.



The site offers space for expansion on the north side of the existing building.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE LIBRARY

MAINTAIN



Golden Triangle Library
 Council District 7
 ~15,000 square feet (whole building);
 opening 2020



GOLDEN TRIANGLE LIBRARY

4264 Golden Triangle Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas

Projected to open in 2020, the new Golden Triangle Branch will serve the rapidly growing population in the far north of the city. The 15,000 square foot facility will house both the library branch and a municipal court. Some spaces, such as the large meeting room, will be shared.

Golden Triangle is a good example of a 21st century library with ample natural light, an open floor plan, and a single point of service. Visitors will have diverse choices of activities and environments, including browsing the collection, reading and working in comfortable seating, and participating in library programs.

The master plan recommends maintaining the branch once it opens and renovating as necessary in the coming decades.

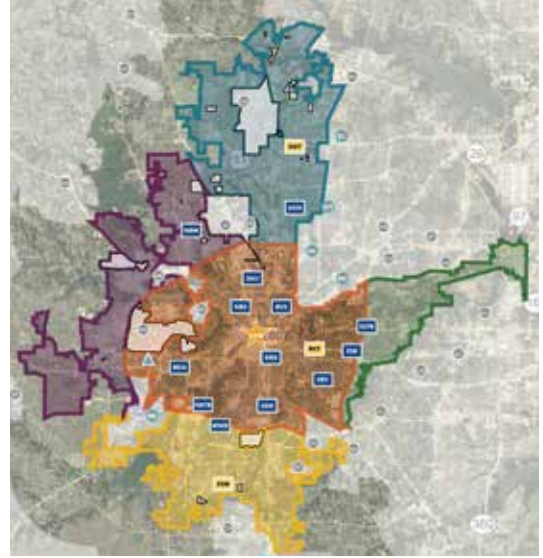
EAST PLANNING ZONE

EAST ZONE

The East Zone has the smallest population of Fort Worth's planning zones. It is bound by Arlington in the east, preventing further expansion/annexations. Although some development and densification is anticipated, this zone is expected to remain significantly smaller than the others, reaching perhaps around 90,000 people by 2040.

FWPL currently operates one facility in the East Zone — the East Regional Branch, which is the second largest library in the FWPL fleet. This zone's current branch library capacity is approximately 0.34 square feet per capita, the highest of any zone in the city. Even with future population growth, the East Zone is expected to stay above 0.3 square feet per capita through 2040.

As such, this master plan recommends that FWPL focus its capacity-building resources on other planning zones. That said, FWPL should consider opportunities to expand service and access in the East Zone through outreach, alternative service delivery strategies, partnerships, and reciprocal agreements.



EAST REGIONAL LIBRARY

**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



East Regional Library
Council District 4
~24,000 square feet; opened 1996



Facility Condition Index



EAST REGIONAL LIBRARY

6301 Bridge Street, Fort Worth, Texas

East Regional Branch was built in 1996 on a large, 4.9-acre plot of land visible from the freeway. FWPL’s second largest library branch is 24,000 square feet and features multiple study rooms, a popular conference room, and a meeting room that can be used after hours. Special collections include business, investment, and testing materials, in addition to foreign-language collections.

Staff report that visitors gravitate to the lounge seating and suggested replacing some shelving with additional seating. The children’s area has some built-in story platforms that limit the flexibility of the space. The program room is one of FWPL’s largest and can be operated independently from the rest of the branch; however, like many of FWPL’s program rooms, it is also windowless.

The building is clean, tidy, and well maintained, as evidenced by the low three-year facility condition index. Renovation to address upcoming life cycle maintenance needs and update the service model is recommended.

EAST ZONE



Curved platforms in the children's area limit flexibility

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SOUTH PLANNING ZONE

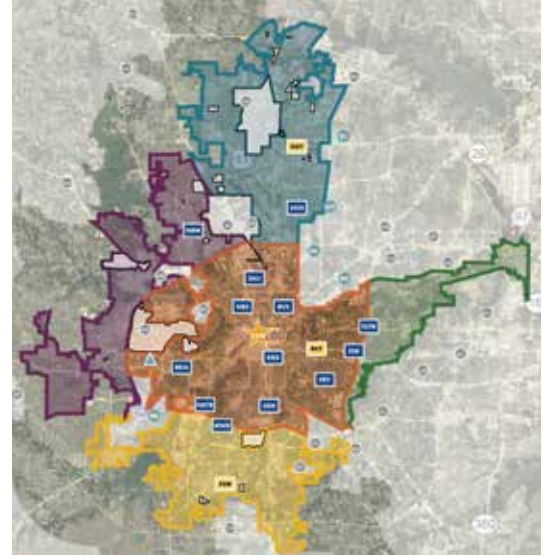
SOUTH ZONE

The South Zone’s population continues to expand along with the Fort Worth city limits. Substantial infill developments are planned, and future annexations are a strong possibility. The South Zone currently represents about 18% of Fort Worth’s total population, and is projected to reach about 250,000 people by 2040.

Currently, the only branch in the South Zone is the Wedgwood Library, which is located at the northern edge. A new Far Southwest Library — approved by voters in 2018 — is scheduled to open in 2022. Together, these two branches will provide about 0.12 square feet of library space per capita in this zone, or about 40% of the 0.3 square foot per capita space target recommended in this master plan.

The primary emphasis of master plan-recommended capital projects in the South Zone is on expanding space to meet growing population needs. FWPL is encouraged to develop partnership opportunities with complementary City departments such as Neighborhood Services and Park and Recreation, which also want to expand significantly in the South Zone.

Wedgwood Library is recommended for significant renovation to address life cycle maintenance needs and update the service model and customer experience.



WEDGWOOD LIBRARY

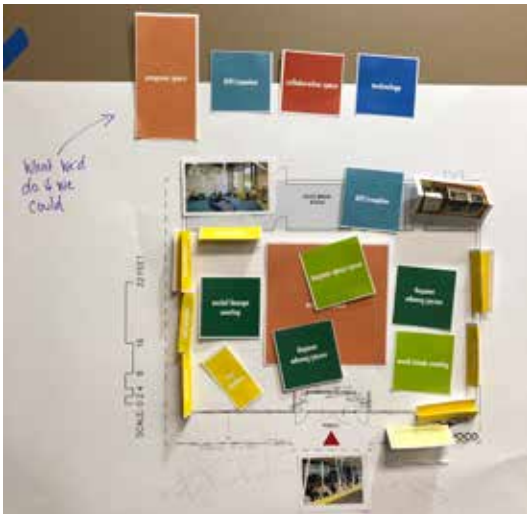
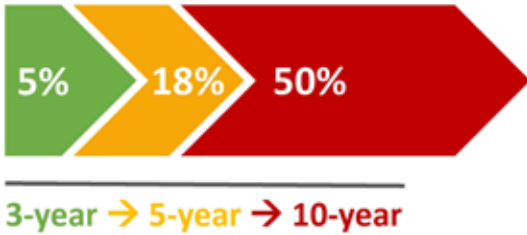
**RENOVATE
2020-2030**



Wedgwood Library
Council District 6
~5,000 square feet; opened 1962



Facility Condition Index



Reinvention opportunities for the Wedgwood Library proposed by the Library Leadership Team, including replacing much of the existing shelving with flexible seating and program space.

WEDGWOOD LIBRARY

3816 Kimberly Lane, Fort Worth, Texas

Built in 1962, Wedgwood Branch is one of FWPL's smallest and oldest branches. The local community loves its little library, which rivals Summerglenn's circulation stats on a per-square-foot basis. But shelving dominates the interior, and there is little room for programming, seating, and other services.

Wedgwood has been well-maintained. FWPL has made some recent changes such as interior paint, an updated service point, and restroom improvements. That said, Wedgwood is an aging building and will be due for significant maintenance over the next decade. Renovation for upcoming maintenance needs will offer opportunities for additional service model updates, such as creating more flexible space for library programming.

SOUTH ZONE



Tall shelves in the children's section



FAR SOUTHWEST LIBRARY

MAINTAIN

Far Southwest Library

Council District 6

~16,000 square feet; opening ~2022



FAR SOUTHWEST LIBRARY

880 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas

The South Zone will gain another library branch in the future when Far Southwest Branch is built. Funded through the City's 2018 capital bond program, a 16,000 square foot branch is in progress.

WEST PLANNING ZONE

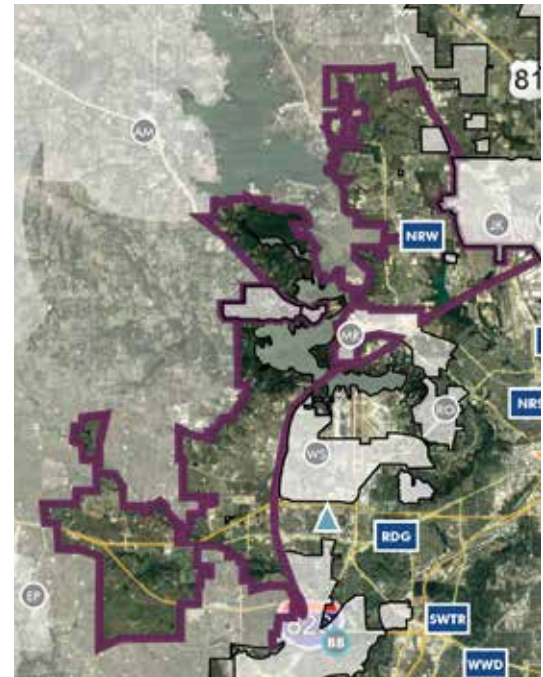
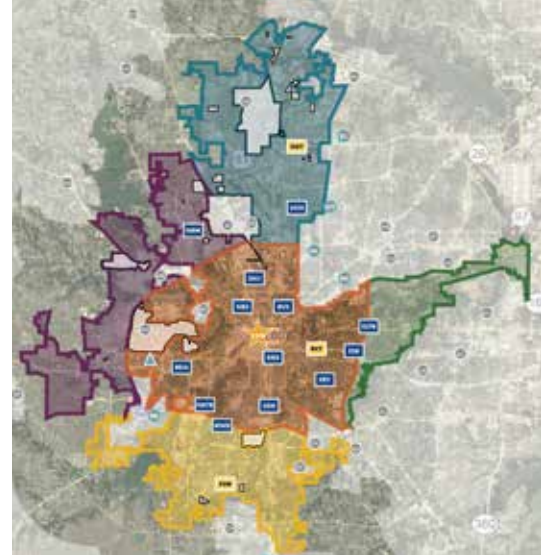
WEST ZONE

The West Zone is expected to be the fastest growing part of the city, with growth fueled by annexations as well as large new community developments such as the proposed Walsh Ranch. The population of the West Zone is expected to more than double, increasing the population from about 80,000 today to nearly 200,000 or more by 2040.

The Northwest Library is the only branch currently operating in the West Zone. At 13,000 square feet, it provides only about half of the recommended library space for the current population. As the population grows, significantly more space will be needed.

The primary emphasis of master plan-recommended capital projects within the West Zone is on expanding space. At the time of this master plan report, FWPL is hoping to include a new Far West Library on the City's 2022 capital program ballot measure. For this and other capacity projects, FWPL is encouraged to develop partnership opportunities with complementary City departments such as Neighborhood Services and Park and Recreation, which also want to expand significantly in the West Zone.

During the second decade of the 20 year master plan, the Northwest Library will be up for its first round of major life cycle maintenance repairs and updates. This may offer opportunities to refresh the branch and align it with evolving service model and customer experience goals.



NORTHWEST LIBRARY

MAINTAIN



Northwest Library
Council District 2

~13,000 square feet; opened 2010



Facility Condition Index



3-year → 5-year → 10-year

NORTHWEST LIBRARY

6228 Crystal Lake Drive, Fort Worth, Texas

Built in 2010, Northwest Branch is FWPL’s newest facility and reflects current community interests and aesthetics. Surrounded by City-owned greenery, the 2.9-acre site is conveniently situated across from an elementary school. Unsurprisingly, lots of visitors come with children.

The 13,000 square foot facility benefits from bright walls of windows with decorative panes of colored glass — visitors particularly enjoy comfortable lounge seating near the windows. Low shelves create a pleasant browsing experience and maintain clear sightlines. The meeting room and kitchenette can host large programs and can be used after hours. Northwest also boasts the Panther Lab — the library system’s first dedicated creative program space. Library visitors love the 3D printer, open studio time, and classes.



Panther Lab DIY/innovation program space



The building is in good condition, with years of anticipated life left on its original systems. Renovation for life cycle maintenance needs is not expected to be a priority within the next decade, but may come due in the second decade of this 20 year master plan.

In the meantime, there are opportunities to realize big impacts from small improvements. Examples include more flexible and comfortable furnishings that can be more easily rearranged to meet changing customer and library programming needs. Staff reported that the need for additional reader and work seating has grown, while use of the desktop computer stations has decreased.



Northwest has abundant windows, including in the meeting room (top) — one of the largest program spaces in FWPL's branch fleet.

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