

## Community Culture Action Area Library Services

### Existing Comprehensive Plan Goals

The current Comprehensive Plan does not contain a goal or policy for library services. The current 2035 vision statement for Community Culture recognizes “Our outstanding library, parks and community amenities provide a wide range of amenities and cultural events.” Goals and policies developed through the Comprehensive Plan process would support and uphold that vision. New goals and or policies will need to be developed to support library services.

### **People, Places and Prosperity (show nested diagram)**

Library resources support a sustainable Lake Oswego in the following ways:

- **People:** Provides opportunities for lifelong learning, self-education, arts and culture enrichment and community interaction.
- **Places:** Provides community gathering and place for sharing of information and ideas; as a physical facility, can work to reduce its ecological footprint and maximize savings over time.
- **Prosperity:** Supports Lake Oswego’s reputation for educational quality, sense of community and thoughtful leadership.

### **Background**

The Lake Oswego Public Library (Library) offers informational, cultural and recreational opportunities for the community.

- The Library was established in 1930 and was located in City Hall. In May, 1962 a new, 7,000 square foot Library was dedicated at Fourth and D. After a period of rapid growth, a new library was constructed on the same site, and in 1983 a library of 27,100 feet was opened.
- The Library has the highest annual per capita library use in the State of Oregon. It serves over 1,000 visitors daily, with circulation of over 1.3 million items per year. The Library is busy, and it represents a 7 day a week function that creates foot traffic and parking needs, and community engagement opportunities beyond 8-5 Monday to Friday.
- The Library provides current, high-demand materials, both fiction and non-fiction, in a variety of formats and media for persons of all ages, to meet the informational, cultural and recreational needs of the community. As technical options have expanded, the Library has added new materials to their collection such as DVDs, Books on CD, and EBooks.
- In 2010, the Library was again ranked first overall for Oregon Libraries in Hennen’s National Library Report.
- The Library maintains and builds upon a local history collection of maps, oral histories, newspaper stories, historic photographs, and some physical items representing the history of the city and its surrounding community.

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- The Library also provides opportunities for community gathering and personal enrichment with many events throughout the year, including the Lake Oswego Reads program; music, performing arts and author series; discussion groups; and computer classes.
- The Library is supported with help from the Friends of the Lake Oswego Public Library, an all volunteer non-profit association that has been helping the Library since 1953. Their bookstore, the Booktique at Mercantile Plaza, has provided over \$1,300,000 to the Library in grants over the past 18 years of its operation.
- In 1988, a citizen Task Force on Library Growth found that “the present library facility...has essentially reached its designed capacity. It will be inadequate for the population in a few years...” Since then, several studies have explored library facility needs.
- In 2010, the Lake Oswego Redevelopment Agency began to consider plans for a 60,000 square foot Library facility at 1st and B Avenue downtown.
- One of the long-noted major deficiencies of the current site is the lack of a community space; i.e. an auditorium or large meeting room. Other additions to a new library would include a dedicated teen room space, a local history room (which addresses part of the Library mission to archive and provide access to materials relating to local history) and study/small meeting rooms.

These performance indicators show some of this data.

	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	Est. 11-12
<b>Population Served</b>	<b>43,689</b>	<b>43,998</b>	<b>37,302</b>	<b>37,433</b>	<b>37,500</b>
<b>Registered Borrowers</b>	32,495	33,123	35,769	29,778	30,000
<b>Library Visits</b>	374,446	366,827	367,848	353,765	355,000
<b>Total Library Materials</b>	206,697	208,242	229,316	237,565	240,000
<b>Total Circulation</b>	1,453,509	1,431,123	1,377,737	1,352,929	1,352,929
<b>Hours Open Per Week</b>	65	65	65	65	65
<b>Total Annual Public Service Hours</b>	3,286	3,193	3,252	3,285	3,250
<b>Children Programs</b>	355	361	325	328	330
<b>Adult Programs</b>	194	210	249	285	300
<b>Program Attendance</b>	24,264	24,742	21,911	22,056	23,000
<b>Volunteers</b>	453	495	518	592	600
<b>Internet Terminals</b>	33	33	33	34	34
<b>Performance Measures</b>	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	EST 10-12
<b>Hennen's American Public Library Rating (HAPLR)</b>	880	887	884	873	860
<b>Circulation per population served</b>	33.2	32.5	36.9	36	36
<b>Importance of Library Services as reported in Community Attitudes Survey</b>	3.6	n/a	3.4	n/a	n/a
<b>Quality of Library Services as reported in Community Attitudes Survey</b>	4.4	n/a	4.4	n/a	n/a

## **Library Goals and Initiatives**

- Manage operation of the Library to ensure a high level of efficiency and quality service to patrons and the community.
- Maintain vital, high quality collections and services.
- Provide successful programs for children and adults, including our annual Lake Oswego Reads community events.
- Continue to increase participation in Lake Oswego Reads and other Library programs.
- Promote Library use by users of all ages, including newborns, toddlers, elementary, junior high, high school, and home school students by sponsoring programs including but not limited to story times, summer reading programs, special guest performances, monthly Teen Advisory Group meetings, and events such as gaming tournaments and book discussion groups.
- Provide outreach visits to local schools to promote interest in Library collections and programs.
- Continue to support the Friends of the Library “Booktique” Bookstore, which has provided over \$1,300,000 to the Library in grants over the last 18 years of its operation.
- Investigate further methods of Library service to patrons, including possible Library stations or materials kiosks, to meet increased demands of our users and Council sustainability goals.
- Work with the Redevelopment Agency to study the feasibility of a multiple use Library in downtown Lake Oswego.
- The Lake Oswego Public Library is proud to have the highest annual per capita use in the State and with over 1,000 visitors daily, the Library will continue to provide public access to an excellent collection of books, magazines, audiobooks, movies, compact discs and computer software, and provides programs and services for patrons of all ages.

### **Adult Services**

The Adult Services Division provides readers’ advisory services to Library customers and selects fiction, periodicals, audio books, music CDs, and movies for purchase.

### **Youth Services**

The Youth Services Division serves young people through high school with programs such as booktalking visits to schools, storytelling visits, and summer reading clubs. The Division offers a range of in-house programs to encourage Library visits, including preschool storytimes, craft programs, puppet shows, special guest performances, and a summer reading club.

### **Protecting and Presenting Lake Oswego’s History**

The Library maintains and builds upon a local history collection of maps, oral histories, newspaper stories, historic photographs, and some physical items representing the history of the city and its surrounding community. The Library works with other local agencies including the Oswego Heritage Council, The Historic Resources Advisory Board and most recently with the Lake Oswego School District. The District presented the Library with a rare 140 year old ledger documenting the birth of the Lake Oswego School District. The Library also recently added to its local history collection, the journal of a young Oswegan whose family was affiliated with the historic Iron Industry. In his journal he documented his daily home life and school days during the early 1800s.

## **North Anchor Project**

The concept of the Library at the North Anchor Project is based on the premise that Lake Oswego needs a library of approximately 60,000 square feet. Based on review of library studies prepared over the years since the existing 27,100 SF library opened in 1982, and on updated analysis of current and projected library programming needs, a library of 60,000 SF is recommended to serve the community's needs now and into the future. The existing library presents operational and programming challenges due to size constraints and condition – inadequate staff and volunteer work space, limited parking, a leaky roof, inadequate space for materials presentation, storage and archiving, and limited capacity to meet demand for computer time and community meetings and programs.

The North Anchor site appears to be a feasible location for a library-based, mixed-use project. The project site includes parcels at the northwest corner of First and B and the northeast corner between State and First. The site is large enough to accommodate a 60,000 SF library, along with other public and private uses that meet LORA revitalization objectives. The concept would include a parking garage, housing, retail including retail on the library's ground floor. LORA is working on assembling the site and acquiring funding for the site development.

A library-based project could serve as a strong anchor to strengthen the First Street retail corridor and add to downtown vitality. Research findings indicate that library users combine library visits with shopping. The Lake Oswego Library currently has just over 1,000 visitors a day – traffic that would have convenient access to downtown shopping and dining from the First and B location. Housing uses would also add to foot traffic for downtown retail and restaurants – and a public parking garage would benefit downtown retailers and drive pedestrian traffic within the retail core.

While a direct catalyst effect is difficult to predict, the Leland consulting team explored the potential for redevelopment of the First Street blocks between A and B Avenues in order to gauge feasibility and future capacity for parking, utilities, and traffic. The team concluded that maximized development of approximately 500,000 SF (in addition to the North Anchor project) is feasible if small parcels can be assembled to allow efficient project design. Parcel assembly is the most significant impediment to redevelopment and may require public subsidy and facilitation.

## **Sources**

- Lake Oswego Public Library Mission Statement, adopted September 16, 2008
- Lake Oswego Adopted Budget 2011-2012, Library Narrative and History
- North Anchor Feasibility Study Report
- <http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/library/>