

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MARCH 2010



## PER LOCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

### Facility Options

### 2030 Facility Recommendations

Library	current square feet	preferred facility improvements	proposed square feet low	proposed square feet high
Bonney Lake	6,480 sf	relocate and expand	38,200 sf	44,400 sf
Buckley	4,100 sf	expand	14,700 sf	17,100 sf
DuPont	3,610 sf	relocate and expand	11,800 sf	13,700 sf
Eatonville	4,000 sf	expand	9,300 sf	10,800 sf
Fife	-	expand and potentially relocate	10,200 sf	11,800 sf
Frederickson*	-	new library	19,700 sf	22,900 sf
Gig Harbor/Peninsula	15,214 sf	expand	35,800 sf	41,600 sf
Graham	7,152 sf	expand	30,700 sf	35,700 sf
Key Center	4,066 sf	expand	14,500 sf	16,900 sf
Lakewood	32,592 sf	relocate and expand	42,500 sf	49,400 sf
Milton/Edgewood	3,300 sf	relocate and expand	18,300 sf	21,300 sf
Orting	2,700 sf	relocate and expand	10,400 sf	12,100 sf
Parkland/Spanaway	15,576 sf	expand	44,300 sf	51,500 sf
South Hill	20,100 sf	expand	44,900 sf	52,100 sf
Steilacoom	4,039 sf	expand	10,100 sf	11,700 sf
Summit	7,424 sf	expand	26,100 sf	30,300 sf
Sumner	10,600 sf	relocate and expand	27,200 sf	31,700 sf
Tillicum	2,100 sf	relocate and expand	7,500 sf	8,700 sf
University Place	7,000 sf	expand	23,700 sf	27,500 sf
<b>System wide all locations, excluding PAC</b>	<b>150,053 sf</b>		<b>439,900 sf</b>	<b>511,200 sf</b>
<small>* Frederickson population includes population from Summit, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, and Graham.</small>				
Processing and Administration Center (PAC)	50,000 sf	no structural changes	50,000 sf	50,000 sf
<b>Systemwide, including PAC</b>	<b>200,053 sf</b>		<b>489,900 sf</b>	<b>561,200 sf</b>



## OVERVIEW

What do you want from your local library in 2030? That is the question Pierce County Library System asked and thousands of people answered in late 2008 and throughout 2009.

For a year, the Library worked collaboratively with more than 5,000 individuals to shape Pierce County Library 2030, a facilities master plan. The plan outlines library services and buildings to meet community needs during the next 20 plus years. Pierce County Library 2030 is a combination of discussions with the public, an assessment of current library services and buildings, information about future population trends, and best practices from libraries nationwide.

The plan is a guide to create buildings that are convenient for customers and offer up-to-date services. Pierce County Library 2030 charts a course for future buildings, expansions, or replacements of library buildings, and alternative ways to access services.

The plan calls for locating buildings in high-traffic, high-population regions of the Library's service area and in appropriate sizes to meet the needs of growing and changing communities. It also supports building flexible spaces to provide up-to-date library services for today and tomorrow.

### Pierce County Library 2030 gives communities:

- A vision for growing and meeting the challenge to create community centers that connect people.
- An outline to explore community partnerships and shared facilities which provide added value and benefits to the public.
- The Library's commitment to chart new territory of quality service and efficiency.
- A reflection of how the Library can help meet communities' needs today and tomorrow.



## BASIS FOR FACILITY MASTER PLAN

**Population Grew and Changed:** Since 1980, the population in the Library's service area has grown by more than 87% and has become increasingly diverse (1980 population: 294,000; 2010 projected population: 551,000). Regional planners project an additional 171,000 people will be living in the Library's service area by 2030, for a total of 717,800<sup>1</sup>. Voters approved the last major building project for the Library in 1986, with a bond that built nine new buildings to replace existing libraries, expanded three buildings, and built two new library locations. Library administrators planned that buildings built with the bond would serve a population of 431,000. The current population of the service area is 551,000, which is 28% greater than the population planned for the current facilities.

**Holistic Look at System Needed:** The Library needed a close examination to determine how best to serve the growing and changing population and position it to better serve communities in the future.

**Customer Expectations Changing:** What the public wants today is different from yesterday and it will be different from what they want and need tomorrow. Computers and express checkout are examples of new services that were not planned in the current buildings. Customers expect to access the Internet on computers, download books, have spaces for teenagers, and gather in places with others in their community.

## KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Key Findings:

- Buildings are too small: noisy, uncomfortable, and over-crowded.
- Too few seats.
- Not enough books and materials or accessible shelving.
- Too few computers/limited technology.
- Limited meeting rooms.
- Services need to be convenient and accessible.



### Key Recommendations

#### More space to read, learn, and gather.

**Current:** 200,053 square feet combined from all library buildings; 0.36 square feet per capita.

**Recommended:** 490,000-561,000 square feet; 0.61-0.71 square feet per capita. In 2008, the Western United States' best practice for library space was 0.62 square feet per capita.

**More seats. Current:** 716 seats combined at 17 libraries, for an average 1.32 seats per 1,000 residents.

**Recommended:** 2,400-3,000 seats combined, for an average 3.77 seats per 1,000 residents. The best practice for library seating is 3 seats per 1,000 people.

#### More books and materials. Current:

1.2 million books and materials; 2.15 items/capita. **Recommended:** 1.6-1.9 million items; 2.5 items per capita. Currently, 2% of the Library's materials are digital online formats; in 2030 it is anticipated that 20% of the materials will be digital online formats. Best practice for materials in libraries is 2.5-3 items per capita.

**Technology-computers. Current:** 310 computers; 0.56 per 1,000 people. **Recommended:** 1,240-1,525 computers; 1.93 computers per 1,000 people. Best practice for computers in libraries is between 1.5-2.5 computers per 1,000 people.

#### Meeting rooms and event/workshop space:

**Current:** 11 of 17 locations offer meeting room space. **Recommended:** all locations offer meeting rooms to accommodate 75 to 150 people. Best practice for meeting rooms is between 75 and 200 seats in a location.

**Partnerships:** The Library will seek partnerships with other organizations to ensure that efforts are not redundant and that resources and skills are fully maximized to best serve communities.

**Economic and environmental sustainability:** The public expects cost-efficient operations that are sustained both in terms of the economy and green building practices, such as automated systems to check-in library materials.

**Convenient/accessible services:** The Library will bring services to people in places outside of library buildings, such as high traffic or remote areas including grocery stores, transit centers, and places in partnership with other organizations:

- Lockers and other methods to return and pick up books and materials.
- Vending machines/ATM types of machines that dispense books, movies, and other items.
- Computers to download movies and music to mobile devices.
- Technology access, such as computers and/or Wi-Fi.

## DEVELOPING THE PLAN

### Review of the Current Buildings

In 2009, Pierce County Library operated with 17 locations with direct service to the public and one main processing and administrative center, serving 551,000 people over 1,600 square miles in all of unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns.

Pierce County Library staff and Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., an architecture research and planning firm, assessed the current buildings. The average age of a Pierce County Library building is more than 20 years old. The staff and consultants concluded that Pierce County Library facilities are in good physical condition, and they are well maintained. The most glaring deficiency in all of the buildings is the communities have outgrown the spaces; the libraries are too small.

### Examining Comparable Libraries and Future Trends

People are using libraries in new and evolving ways, from spaces to collaborate to working independently on laptops. Families visit libraries as a destination outing to attend classes and find books and movies. Also, during difficult economic times people turn to libraries more for help preparing resumes, finding jobs, and improving computer skills. Libraries continue to be significant third place spaces.

Compared with best practices from up-to-date libraries, Pierce County Library is nearly half the size of the trends for libraries nationwide, with the current space of 0.36 square feet per capita, compared to the current trend of 0.62 square feet per capita.

### Community Collaborations

The Library conducted numerous collaborative communications activities to develop an achievable, future-looking facilities master plan, which represents the needs of local residents. In all, the Library collaborated with more than 5,000 people using a variety of interactive strategies including print and online surveys; direct mail survey of people living in remote areas; strategic vision workshop with community leaders; community leaders advisory group meetings with city and school officials, business people, and other local leaders; community meetings in every library; presentations with community organizations; blog postings; and other activities.

## NEXT STEPS

Implementing the Facilities Master Plan is estimated to cost \$310 million (2010 dollars) for facilities and new service delivery methods.

The Library will continue to work with communities to determine when the timing is best to begin plans to fund the facilities master plan.



<sup>1</sup> Based on U.S. Census and Puget Sound Regional Council data.