

Arlington Community Library



The Arlington Library is close to several schools and the downtown Arlington area.

Recommendation

Replace the Arlington Library.

Reasoning

The Arlington Library is too small to meet existing and future community needs. The following factors were also considered:

- The library is located close to an elementary school and two middle schools.
- The library lacks a meeting room, and limited space for technology and children's programs.
- There has been consistent community interest expressed to replace the facility and maintain library services near its current location.

Current Library

The Arlington Library was built in 1981.



- **Use:** In 2014, the library circulated a total of 248,752 materials and averaged 44 visitors per hour.
- **Access:** On average, current customers travel 5.1 miles to reach the Arlington Library. Thirty percent of current customers live more than five miles away from the library. The library is located close to an elementary school and two middle schools.
- **Size:** The Arlington Library is 5,055 square feet. The library currently serves 5.6 people per square foot and is forecast to serve 6.2 people per square foot by 2025.

Growth Impacts

The population in Arlington and Marysville is forecast to grow by 16 percent to 123,497 by 2025. Sno-Isle Libraries expects this level of growth would lead to additional demand at the current library. Data and community feedback indicated that planning for the future of library facilities in this region should be based on a collective review of the Arlington, Marysville and Lakewood/Smokey Point areas.

Community Response

The final recommendation reflects the consideration of input, comments and feedback received from community members and leaders during initial and later outreach phases. Sno-Isle Libraries heard the following general themes from this community:

- The current library is not meeting the needs of the community due to space limitations.
- The current library is dark, cramped and outdated.
- Meeting and community rooms need to be available.
- Children and teens need improved space and more materials.
- A better physical space with more natural light, windows are needed.
- An improved library could become the hub of the community.
- The current location is close to several schools and the library gets overcrowded at the end of the school day.
- Build a larger library across the street from the current facility.
- Provide improved parking.

Key Themes

The community views the Arlington Library as cramped, outdated and inadequate. The community consistently expressed interest in replacing the current library with a new facility at or near the current library rather than renovating the current facility.

A library replacement should offer more shelf space for larger collections, quiet reading and study areas, teen and children’s activity areas, community rooms, more computers, and better parking.