

Freeland Community Library



The Freeland Library (left) nestles into the community and is one of three facilities serving south Whidbey Island. Founder Bettie Bell is honored in artwork (below).

Recommendation

Maintain the current facility.

Reasoning

The Freeland Library serves the south Whidbey Island area along with facilities in Clinton and Freeland. This plan recommends the Freeland, Clinton, and Langley libraries be considered collectively to serve residents of the combined areas.

The following factors were also considered:

- The Freeland Library parking lot is difficult to maneuver because of its slope and configuration.
- Due to site restrictions, it is unlikely parking could be expanded at the current location.

Current Library

The Freeland Library was built in 1994 by the Friends of Freeland Library. In 2006 ownership was transferred to the library district.

- **Use:** In 2014, the library circulated a total of 171,849 materials and averaged 38 visitors per hour.



- **Access:** On average, current customers travel 5.7 miles to reach the Freeland Library. Almost half (47 percent) of current customers live more than five miles away from the library.
- **Size:** The Freeland Library was expanded to its current 4,800 square feet in 2006. The library currently serves 2.1 people per square foot, based on population density. The library is forecast to serve 2.2 people per square foot by 2025.

Growth Impacts

Sno-Isle Libraries serves south Whidbey Island with three community-based libraries in Freeland, Langley and Clinton. Data shows significant cross-use by south Whidbey Island residents. It is appropriate to consider library service to the south Whidbey Island communities as a whole.

South Whidbey Island is forecast to have a population of 19,750, with a forecast population density of three people per 10 acre by 2025. This reflects an anticipated population growth of three percent.

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:

- Additional computers, seating areas and resources are desired.
- The meeting room is important to the Freeland community and should be larger.
- The facility is well-sized to accommodate projected population growth.
- The amount of parking is inadequate and difficult to maneuver.

Key Theme

The current library is appropriate to meet the needs of the community, with interest in addressing parking needs.