

Lake Stevens Community Library



The Lake Stevens Library (left) is adjacent to North Cove Park and City Hall. Story time is popular with many young families moving into the area.

Recommendation

Replace the Lake Stevens Library with a new, larger building.

Reasoning

The Lake Stevens Library is too small to meet existing and future community needs. Public comments collected for this plan indicate strong interest in building a new library within the community. The following factors were also considered:

- The current library cannot support requested community events and library programs. In an attempt to accommodate some events and programs, library staff book space in other public facilities, such as the Lake Stevens Senior Center.
- Programs at the library generally use the small children's area, which limits access to the children's area as well as other parts of the library.
- Residents often use libraries in neighboring communities due to inadequacies of current facility.
- Forecast growth is expected to strain the size and services provided at the library.
- Expanding the facility at the current location is not possible.



Current Library

The Lake Stevens Library is located in city center near North Cove Park. Renovated in 1992, the facility lacks seating, public computers and general space for studying, reading and socializing. It also does not have a meeting space for community groups or library programs.

- **Use:** In 2014, the library circulated a total of 168,223 materials and averaged 44 visitors per hour.
- **Access:** On average, current customers travel 3.3 miles to reach the Lake Stevens Library. Less than a quarter (17 percent) of customers live more than five miles away from the library.
- **Size:** The Lake Stevens Library is 2,500 square feet. The library currently serves 16.6 people per square foot and is forecast to serve 19.1 people per square foot by 2025.

Growth Impacts

This already dense area is expected to become one of the most heavily populated areas in the library district, with an anticipated population of 47,713 by 2025. The fastest growing areas of the community are on the west side of the lake.

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 building is drastically undersized and parking is too limited.
- A larger library should offer more books and other materials, group study spaces, a children's area, a meeting room, computers, space for programs, quiet reading areas, and community gathering space.
- Interest in co-locating a larger library with other public services.

Key Themes

The community has outgrown the current library and is interested in a larger Lake Stevens Library facility to address needs for adequate space to enable programs for young people similar to the Marysville and the Snohomish libraries. A new library should be sized to accommodate increased population and meet a diverse set of needs, including meeting/event space; study and quiet areas; a large browsing collection in all formats; designated spaces for children and teens; and comfortable seating. Access to public transportation is important.