



Everett Clinic's new facility (left) is one of many new services that have come to this growing area in north Snohomish County (below).

Lakewood/Smokey Point Area

Recommendation

A library demonstration project should be opened in the Lakewood/Smokey Point area.

Reasoning

Residents in the Lakewood/Smokey Point area are underserved by the library district. These residents are located in the southeastern portion of Arlington, northwest Marysville and adjacent unincorporated areas immediately east and west of Interstate 5. Library customers in this area are a significant distance from the existing Arlington, Marysville, and Stanwood libraries. Grouping Arlington, Marysville and Lakewood/Smokey Point together for analysis led to strategic recommendations to efficiently address library facility needs in these communities over the next 10 years.

The following factors were also considered in making this recommendation:

- The Arlington Library is too small to adequately serve the existing customer base and the Marysville Library is one of the most-used libraries in the library district.
- Travel times for Lakewood/Smokey Point residents to the Arlington or Marysville libraries



may result in access challenges to Sno-Isle Libraries facilities.

- School children attending six public schools, within approximately 3 miles of the Interstate 5/Lakewood/Smokey Point crossing, would benefit from a nearby library demonstration facility.

Current Library

There are no direct library services or facilities provided to Lakewood/Smokey Point residents.

Growth Impacts

The combined Arlington/Marysville/Lakewood/Smokey Point area is projected to grow by 16 percent to a population of 123,497 by 2025. The majority of the growth is expected to occur in the Lakewood/Smokey Point area, where increasing growth and density is occurring. Sno-Isle Libraries is concerned the distance to nearby libraries creates travel and accessibility challenges to current and new residents resulting in non-use of library services or facilities. Sno-Isle Libraries believes it is important to enable equal access to library services through a more conveniently-located library facility to better serve residents and to minimize the potential for overcrowding at libraries in neighboring communities.

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 area is rapidly growing with single and multi-family housing, as well as increased numbers of seniors and retirees living in the area.
- Sno-Isle Libraries' mobile library service "Library on Wheels" is good but the area needs more.
- Travel to Arlington, Marysville, and Stanwood by car or public transit for library service is challenging.
- This library should focus on meeting the needs of students from nearby schools.
- The library should provide ample parking and be located with nearby public transit service.
- Repurpose or renovate an existing structure.
- A library should address a diverse set of community and customer interests, including a suitable browsing collection in all formats, public computers and technology, a children's area, library programs and meeting rooms.
- Locate the library demonstration facility with safety in mind.

Key Theme

Providing library service in the Lakewood/Smokey Point area would benefit residents challenged by long distance travel to libraries in Arlington, Marysville or Stanwood. The area is home to a growing population of students, retirees and seniors who would benefit from a library in the vicinity. A library in Lakewood/Smokey Point should not divert resources from the Arlington Library.