

## Mill Creek Community Library



*The Mill Creek Library (left) sits across Bothell-Everett Highway from the Mill Creek Town Center. School-age customers often use the space for studying (below).*

### Recommendation

Renovate the current Mill Creek Library.

### Reasoning

The Mill Creek Library is too small to adequately serve the existing customer base. This plan recommends the Mill Creek Library and Greater Mill Creek area to the east and south be considered collectively to serve residents of the combined areas.

Other factors considered include:

- The facility lacks a meeting room space for library programs and community meetings.
- Parking concerns have been significant and consistent.
- Significant growth is occurring in areas east and south of the current Mill Creek library.
- Community feedback from the greater Mill Creek area indicates that residents want the existing Mill Creek Library to remain at its current location in addition to a new library to serve residents and accommodate projected population growth.



## **Current Library**

The Mill Creek Library was built in 1988 and expanded in 1992. The library is centrally located within Mill Creek city limits. There are no meeting spaces at the library.

- **Use:** In 2014, the library circulated a total of 645,356 materials and averaged 84 visitors per hour, making the Mill Creek Library one of the most heavily-used libraries in the library district.
- **Access:** On average, current customers travel 3.1 miles to reach the Mill Creek Library. Twelve percent of customers live more than five miles away from the library. While some library customers do cross I-5 to reach the Mill Creek Library, transportation barriers may cause residents to either travel farther distances to get to a library or simply not use Sno-Isle Libraries' services or facilities.
- **Size:** The Mill Creek Library is 7,400 square feet. The library currently serves 22.3 people per square foot. By 2025 the library is expected to serve 24.7 people per square foot.

## **Growth Impacts**

The greater Mill Creek area is projected to have 182,853 residents and a population density of 69 people per 10 acres by 2025. New growth is expected to spread southeast. This projected growth would further strain the facility and services offered at the Mill Creek Library.

## **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 location is convenient; however, it is acknowledged that the facility is too small to provide services and the footprint does not allow expansion.
- Inadequate parking is a consistent concern.
- The current library does not provide needed meeting room/event space, quiet study areas, an adequate public computer and technology area or enough space for library materials.
- There is interest in locating and renovating a larger existing structure to replace the current facility or renovating and reconfiguring the current building to provide additional space.

## **Key Theme**

The lack of available parking is a concern, however, keeping a library at the current location is a consistent theme of the community.