

Oak Harbor Community Library



The Oak Harbor Library (left) shares space with Skagit Valley College. The co-location makes it attractive to a broad range of customers (below).

Recommendation

Maintain the current facility.

Reasoning

The Oak Harbor Library shares a facility with Skagit Valley College. The library is well-sized for the community and can accommodate projected population growth.

Current Library

The Oak Harbor Library was built in 1993. The library is the Whidbey Island Region Reference Center, houses a health and medical special collection and shares a multipurpose room with the Skagit Valley College.



- **Use:** In 2014, the library circulated 362,618 materials and averaged 67 visitors per hour. Library programs at the Oak Harbor Library are popular with high attendance.
- **Access:** On average, current customers travel 4.3 miles to reach the Oak Harbor Library. Twenty-three percent of customers live more than five miles away from the library.
- **Size:** The Oak Harbor Library is 11,200 square feet. The library currently serves 3.2 people per square foot. By 2025, the library is expected to serve 3.4 people per square foot.

Growth Impacts

The population in the area surrounding the Oak Harbor Community library is expected to increase to 38,560 with a population density of nine people per 10 acres by 2025. This reflects an anticipated population growth of 6 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:

- The library is easy to access and fosters a sense of community.
- There is desire for a large collection of materials, comfortable reading areas, quiet study areas and community event space.
- The recommendation to maintain the facility was endorsed.
- Interest in a larger facility is tied to growth in community population and college enrollment.
- Diverse responses were given on potential locations of a larger library and whether existing vacant buildings should be used.

Key Theme

The current facility is considered appropriate to meet the needs of the community, with interest expressed in pursuing a larger facility when population and college enrollment growth demands exceed the capacity of the current library building.