

## Stanwood Community Library



*The Stanwood Library (left) is a community landmark which has made an impact on many residents, including speaker and author, Joshua Safran, shown reuniting with Stanwood residents after a library event (below).*

### Recommendation

Replace the library with a larger building.

### Reasoning

The Stanwood Library is too small to meet existing and future community needs. Public comments collected for this plan indicate strong interest in a new, larger library.

The following factors were also considered for this recommendation:

- The current location for the library may not accommodate an expanded library
- The City of Stanwood and the community are interested in a new library building.

### Current facility



The Stanwood Library was built in 1971 and renovated in 1986. The small meeting room is heavily used. Public seating, study tables and computers are limited due to lack of space.

- **Use:** In 2014, the library circulated 253,168 materials and averaged 45 visitors per hour.
- **Access:** On average, current customers travel 6.7 miles to reach the Stanwood Library. Over half (58 percent) of library customers live more than five miles from the library.
- **Size:** The Stanwood Library is 5,400 square feet. The library currently serves 3.9 people per square foot. By 2025, the library is expected to serve 4.4 people per square foot.

### **Growth Impacts**

The population surrounding the Stanwood Community library is projected to grow by 14 percent to 23,760 by 2025.

### **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:

- A library in a smaller town is a very important resource.
- The size and needs of the community have grown beyond the library's capabilities, with some customers and residents avoiding the library due to inadequate parking, crowded use, noise and lack of resources.
- A new library should provide a larger collection of books and other resources onsite.
- It's important for the library to offer additional titles and materials and space for children and teens.
- There is interest in multiple rooms for meetings, classes and community gatherings.
- Diverse responses were given on potential locations of a larger library in historic downtown or outside the flood plain, and interests in repurposing existing vacant buildings.

### **Key Theme**

The current library is considered inadequate to meet current and future needs. Expressed needs included additional space needed for community events, meetings, quiet study areas, public computers and more technology, as well as comfortable spots for reading.