



Updated January 2015

Overview

Hennepin County Library, in partnership with Property Services and County Administration, has developed a strategy for buildings (2015–2024) that aligns the Library’s Strategic Plan 2011–2025 with Hennepin County’s five-year capital improvement program. This alignment synchronizes planning and prioritization between the Library and Property Services, assists County Administration with capital funding prioritization, and allows for well-coordinated implementation of various types of library-related capital projects to better serve the community.

The Hennepin County Library and Property Services departments operate 41 library buildings located throughout Hennepin County. Nationally recognized as one of the top libraries in the United States, Hennepin County Library serves 1.2 million residents in Hennepin County and offers more than 5 million books, CDs, DVDs, newspapers, magazines and online resources including databases and downloadable materials, plus more than 1,900 public computers. The Library is committed to serving as Hennepin County’s partner in lifelong learning with programs for babies to seniors, new immigrants, small business owners and students of all ages.

The Library and Property Services departments are finishing the goals and outcomes set in two separate documents: Hennepin County Library Framework for the Future: Capital Plan and Minneapolis Public Library: Outlook 2010. Since 1999, the Library and Property Services have planned and built libraries that have an open and flexible floor plan that is now resulting in reduced costs to renovate existing buildings.

This strategy is not intended to serve as a budget document and is intentionally flexible in nature; priorities, timelines or monetary allocations may need to be adjusted to respond to changing library services or programs, maintenance requirements, site acquisition issues, site developmental issues or construction costs, or to react to unanticipated economic or natural events.

Informing Documents

- Hennepin County Library Strategic Plan 2011–2025
- Hennepin County’s five-year capital improvement program
- Hennepin County Library Framework for the Future: Capital Plan
- Minneapolis Public Library: Outlook 2010

Goals and Strategies

The Hennepin County Library Strategic Plan 2011–2025 includes seven objectives.

Objective four is to develop physical and virtual services that support patron access.

These goals and strategies fulfill objective four.

GOAL: Implement ongoing digital revolution that complements but is not bound by bricks and mortar

Strategies:

- Building plans support use of mobile tools by staff and patrons
- Multiple and parallel technology options available for staff and patrons
- Offer flexible technology options or access points
- Collaborate with technology and business partners to create and deliver training and content using mobile and virtual tools
- Support integrated, collaborative learning for staff and patrons
- Support both self-reliant and staff-reliant service points that best support patron access. These may include way-finding, digital walls, mobile technology for person-to-person interactions, etc.

GOAL: Configure space to reflect new and broader purposes

Strategies:

- Connect with the community through integration of indoor and outdoor social and pedestrian spaces with the library design, e.g., bike racks, seating, walkways, green-space and art
- Provide learning spaces for individuals and groups of all ages
- Provide collaborative, experiential spaces for creation, e.g., maker spaces
- Self-service is enhanced by technology
- Flexible spaces, wireless networks and bandwidth allow for expansion, adaptation and use of current and potential future technologies
- Create patron and staff spaces that promote collaborative thinking and working
- Allow for partnerships with the community
- Welcome groups and support County teams with meeting room space

GOAL: Upgrade and maintain facilities based on Hennepin County standards

Strategies:

- Efficient, sustainable buildings
- Fiscally responsible through ongoing maintenance and preservation
- Maximized utilization of facilities
- Spaces are flexible for growth and program changes
- Support healthy living initiatives
- Support County vision for diversity and inclusion

GOAL: Create library environments that are welcoming, safe and secure

Strategies:

- Improve sight lines
- Spaces meet ADA requirements
- Improve user experience through comfortable, varied and adaptable furniture, equipment and flexible environments
- Staff are mobile, friendly, engaged and prepared
- Intentional spatial planning to encourage positive social interactions
- Initiate co-creation and collaborate opportunities to foster innovation and investment in the library and community
- Ensure acoustical features to support a collaborative and quiet environment
- Spaces recognize the diversity of patrons and provide an inclusive environment

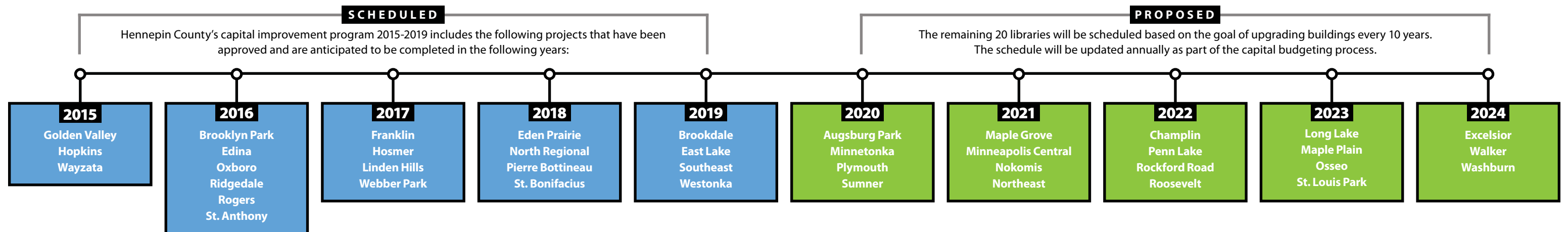
GOAL: Provide innovative service points in buildings, online and in the community

Strategies:

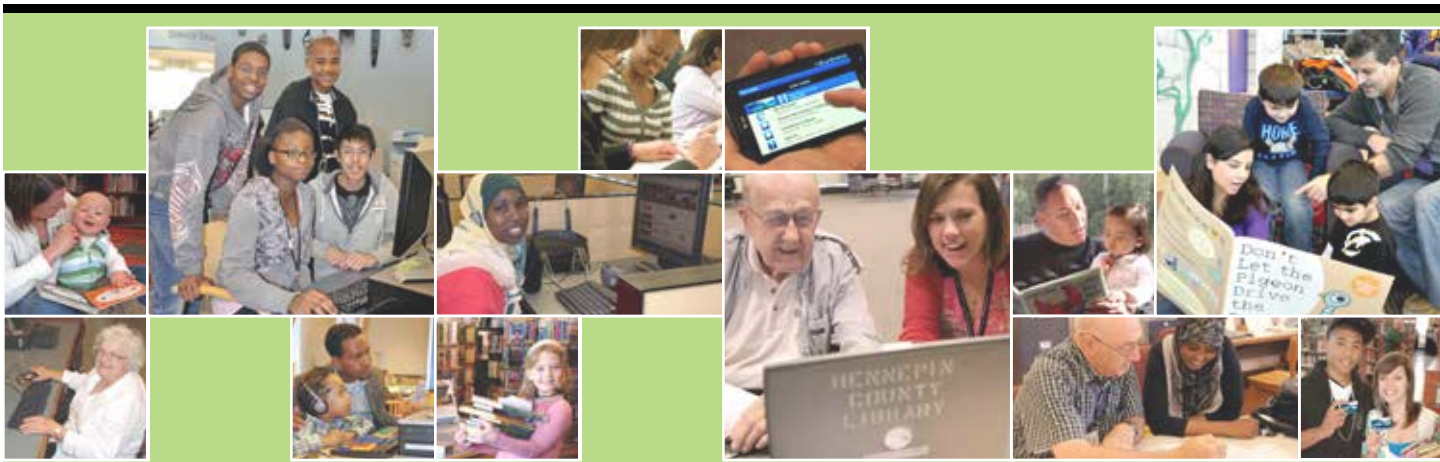
- Accessible service points are created through the use of social media, mobile staff, mobile tools and co-locations within the community
- Digital service points are enhanced through increased use of e-tools including reference, training and downloadable content
- The building plans allow staff to be adaptable and versatile
- Staff training, roles and expectations continue to evolve to support patrons and are parallel to physical building, technology and service changes
- Increase use of social media as a tool for reference and two-way communication
- Utilize digital tools to extend training, communication, resources and collections to new and additional user groups
- Maximize public/private partnerships

TIMELINE FOR LIBRARY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The overall goal of the Library’s buildings strategy (2015–2024) is to build, renovate or remodel each library every 10 years in partnership with Property Services. The 10-year timeline allows Hennepin County to maintain and upgrade buildings within a timeframe that balances the expected life span of materials with cost efficiencies. The strategy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.



TO BE DETERMINED: Southdale



PATRON-FOCUSED • SUSTAINABLE • FORWARD-THINKING

Benefits

Guiding Principles to fulfill the Library Strategic Plan 2011–2025

Hennepin County Library buildings will provide:

Access to physical and virtual collections and resources that cultivate a lifelong love of learning and reading for all ages.

The support needed to use current and potential future technology as a fundamental tool for learning, working, reading, collaborating and outreach.

Spaces, programs and volunteer opportunities for community connecting, learning, partnerships and engagement.

The support to maintain facilities that are green, sustainable and flexible enough to adapt to the changing needs of the community.

A comfortable, modernized, and safe environment with works of art, updated furnishings, updated equipment and improved security.

Library service that is accessible, responsive and flexible.

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