

October 29, 2018

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Community Members:

Your library is busy. Very busy.

Last year, more than 227,000 people stepped through the doors of our library. In fact, the Library District's patrons checked out more than 678,000 items and participated in more than 1,000 programs last year.

As the library district's population has grown, so has the demand for library materials, programs and services. Over the past 20 years, the population has increased from 3,900 residents to more than 40,000.

To provide room at the Huntley Area Public Library to address the rapid increase in its service population, the Library District purchased three used trailers about eight years ago to serve as the Children's Area and Program Room. These trailers do not come close to providing the space that is needed given the size of our population. For example, the Children's Area has an occupancy limit of 12. The trailers are also quickly reaching the end of their useful lives.

The trailers will need to be retired in the next few years. The Library District will then be faced with the challenge of moving the Children's Department and programming space back into the already cramped main library, drastically changing your library experience.

To address this, the library may seek voter approval for a building program in the April 2019 election. Proceeds would be used to expand, reconfigure and upgrade the existing library, including the following improvements:

- Expanded, permanent children's area
- Expanded, permanent program rooms
- New drive-thru book-drop and service window
- Addition of quiet reading areas
- New collaborative study rooms
- Dedicated technology & digital spaces
- Dedicated space for local history
- Replacement of the aging, leaking roof
- New comfortable seating throughout
- Addition of a teen area
- New patio area
- Replacement of the outdated HVAC system
- Additional parking

The proposed improvements would provide an additional 16,500 square feet of space, and would dramatically improve the Library District's ability to meet your needs.

The estimated tax impact of the \$12.9 million bond measure the Library District is considering placing on the ballot would be \$2.07 per month per \$100,000 of a home's market value, or about \$24.80 per year.

The Library District currently has no outstanding debt (the building and property are paid off), has always operated within its budget, and has been extremely frugal with taxpayer funds.

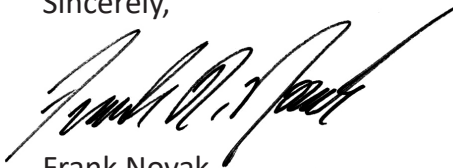
Nothing is set in stone at this time. In the coming weeks, the Library District will be mailing a public opinion survey to your home. We also encourage you to participate in one of our upcoming community input sessions, each of which will be hosted at the Huntley Area Public Library (11000 Ruth Rd, Huntley, IL 60142):

- Saturday, November 10, 11:00 am – Noon
- Monday, November 12, 10:00 – 11:00 am
- Thursday, November 15, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

The Library District is committed to keeping you informed regarding continued planning efforts, future findings and key library board decisions. Enclosed are preliminary plans of the proposed improvements as well as additional details on what the improvements would offer to our community.

This is your library. Your input will play a lead role in determining if and how the Library District moves forward in addressing its highest priority facility needs.

Sincerely,



Frank Novak  
Director, Huntley Area Public Library District  
FNovak@huntleylibrary.org  
847-669-5386 x211

# What new or improved spaces are part of the Huntley Area Public Library District's proposal?

**Children's Library:** This permanent space would hold children's materials and technology, providing an environment specifically designed for young people, as well as a children's service desk. A family restroom would be easily accessible here.

**Program Room(s):** This would be a permanent space for programming, designed as a large, multi-functional space that could be divided into three rooms. When fully open, the space could accommodate up to 150 people.

**Drive-Thru Window:** A key feature of the improved library would be a service window (drive-thru) to accommodate a variety of user needs. Patrons could drop off or pick up books and materials from their vehicle.

**Quiet Reading Room:** An existing space within the library would be reconfigured to create a room specifically for quiet reading and study. This area of the library already features a fireplace and would include new comfortable seating that is conducive to dedicated work and study. Patrons would also have easy access to magazines and newspapers in this area.

**Collaboration and Small Study Rooms:** These spaces would allow students, local businesses, job seekers and others to communicate through digital meeting platforms and collaborative online programs.

**Technology Space and Digital Creation Areas:** These spaces would provide opportunities to learn digital literacy skills and create digital content. The rooms would also be used for computer classes, job skills training, hobby classes and related programming.

## **Local History and Friends Foundation:**

This space would be used for local history and genealogy research. The Corner Book Sales by the Friends Foundation, the organization that helps provide funding for library programs and materials, would also operate out of this area.

**Reading Terrace:** A secure outdoor reading and programming space that faces east toward the neighborhood park would be created.

**Community Hub:** This area would be a mingling place for everyone. Soft seating and open study spaces would be available for groups and individuals seeking an open and inviting library space. Movies and music for checkout would be available in this area, along with a vending/refreshment area.

**Welcome Desk:** This space would be the first stop for people needing directional guidance related to programming or access to resources and services.

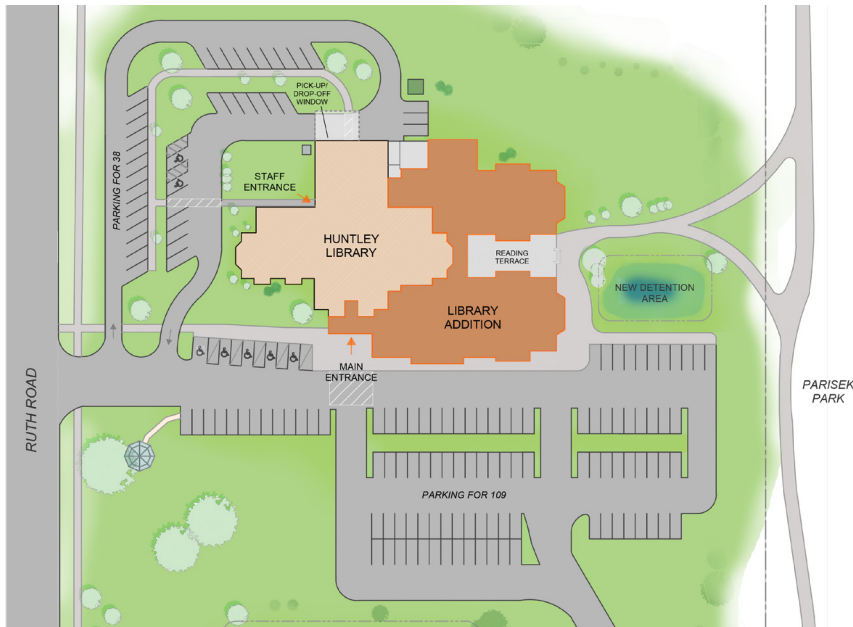
**Circulation and Reference:** This is the primary checkout and service desk in the library.

**Nonfiction and Fiction:** Most of the library's books would be in this area. Fiction materials would be closer to the front of the library to facilitate quicker access to popular materials.

**Staff Work Areas:** These are basic staff areas for day-to-day operations and behind-the-scenes services, including processing new materials for patron use.



# Proposed Site Plan



# Proposed Floor Plan

