

Why Swain County Needs A New Library

A 45-year-old facility

The Marianna Black Library falls 54% below the median space size per resident for communities of similar size to Swain County. The current library can neither support the weight that a second story would add nor can it be enlarged on the current .53-acre property.

Library usage

Approximately 40% of Swain County's full-time and seasonal residents have library cards. About 3,400 people attend programs at the library each year. In the current facility, it is increasingly difficult to meet the needs of these individuals as well as an additional 3,755 computer guest-users per year.

Because of the rural nature of Swain County, many residents do not have internet access and many cannot afford to pay commercial providers for the type of service that is available to them. Library patrons enjoy free use of the library computers for job searches, to submit resumes, for coursework, for personal research and to stay in touch with family and friends.

Challenges in the current facility

- Teens and young children share the same space
- All computers are in common areas; no lab for workshops
- The sole meeting room is also a storage area
- No opportunities for simultaneous programming
- No areas for quiet study or tutoring
- Parking is limited and is not safe
- Accessibility is limited for the physically impaired

Creating a new library for the 21st Century

Libraries today are doing far more than what they have always done. Modern libraries are vibrant, adaptable gathering places as well as vital information centers for their communities. A larger building will allow the library to improve and increase services, offering greater access to new technology and personal enrichment opportunities for people of all ages. Increased services will spur increased library use.

What the new library will include

- Comfortable reading areas for patrons
- Large children's area for reading and activities
- Separate space for teen materials, activities and group work
- Improved Internet access for public use
- A separate computer lab for both informal use and software training to improve job-related skills and for life-long learning
- Conference room for small programs and meetings
- Large, adaptable multi-purpose room for community programs, workshops and movies
- Small rooms for quiet study, tutoring or collaborative projects
- Ample parking and safe, attractive entrances and exits
- Accessible building design and parking for individuals who are physically impaired
- Convenient location with outdoor space for community activities

For a lot more information, ask for our 12-page Case Statement. Contact Jeff Delfeld, Swain County Librarian, at 828-488-3030, ext. 128.

Quick Facts

Current library: 9,291 sq. ft. on .53 acres
New library: 34,300 sq. ft. on 9 acres
Single-story construction

Current # of computers: 14
Planned # of computers: 38

Estimated project budget \$7.2M
(includes construction; architect; engineering fees; furniture, fixtures & equipment; and contingency)

Land donation in May, 2014; requires construction in 7 years

Ways To Give

- Pledges and monetary donations
- Gifts of stock or property/real estate
- Matching gifts
- Planned giving
- Naming opportunities

Designated gifts for library building construction

Community Services of
Swain County
PO Box 812
Bryson City, NC 28713

*Make check payable to: Swain County
Library Capital Fund.*

Designated gifts to furnish and equip the new library

Marianna Black Library Fund
Attention: Ms. Deb Lawley
33 Fryemont Street
Bryson City, NC 28713

*Make check payable to: Fontana
Regional Library.*

Marianna Black
Library
**Our
Future
Starts
Now**
Campaign