

BRANCH BY BRANCH SUMMARY

The narratives included here represent the consultants' recommendations for each branch. These are shaped by the quantitative and qualitative information gathered in the process and outlined in this document, and the community's feedback on the Facilities Master Plan Options and Recommendations document received by the board and presented to the community in January 2022. A summary of recommendations for each branch is outlined below, including a proposed size for new and expanded branches. **Note the square footages are a target, which will be re-validated at such time when the plan moves forward for each location.**

The combination of recommendations is illustrated after the branch narratives by a system-wide map along with the corresponding estimated budget range. As presented, the consultants recommend the library administration and Board consider a 15-branch system to accommodate Allen County Public Library's projected 10-year community needs.



Aboite Branch

Aboite is undersized to accommodate current demands in rapidly growing southwest Allen County area it serves. The building is in poor condition relative to other branches, including structural concerns and settling along a ravine to the north. The current site cannot accommodate expansion to meet the projected 10-year service demand.

A new 25,000 SF Aboite Branch is recommended on a new site to be determined in this service area. The existing branch property could be vacated and sold, but would remain open until the new branch is occupied.



Dupont Branch

Dupont is undersized to accommodate current demands in the rapidly growing north central and northwest Allen County area it serves. The building is in poor condition relative to other branches, with no major improvements since 1996. The current site cannot accommodate expansion to meet the projected 10-year service demand.

A new 25,000 SF Dupont Branch is recommended on a new site to be determined, in this service area and a little south of the current location to assist with appropriate branch distribution in northwest Allen County. The existing branch property could be vacated and sold, but would remain open until the new branch is occupied.



Georgetown Branch

Georgetown is undersized to accommodate current demands in the northeast quadrant of Fort Wayne. The building is in good condition relative to other branches, but experiences a volume of children and teens from nearby schools that exceed the building's capacity to satisfy. The current site cannot accommodate expansion to meet the projected 10-year service demand.

A 25,000 SF Georgetown Branch is recommended. The preferred way to achieve this would be to expand the current branch in place, requiring the acquisition of adjacent property not yet owned by ACPL. If this preferred method proves unachievable, the alternative would be to build a new 25,000 SF branch at a new site to be determined as near the current location as possible, possibly in nearby retail space of the appropriate size. In this option the existing branch property could be vacated and sold, but would remain open until the new branch is occupied.



Grabill Branch

Grabill is undersized to accommodate current demands in the growing northwest Allen County area it serves. The building is in decent condition relative to other branches, but the usage has outgrown the current branch size. The current site can accommodate expansion to meet the current projected 10-year service demand.

A 12,000 SF Grabill Branch is recommended, achieved by renovating the existing branch and expanding by approximately 4,000 SF on the current site.



Hessen Cassel Branch

Hessen Cassel is appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands in the southeast quadrant of Fort Wayne, although the configuration is poor, particularly in access to public meeting spaces. The building is in poor condition relative to other branches, including older infrastructure and a need for significant masonry repairs. The current site is capable of expansion should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A comprehensive renovation of the existing Hessen Cassel Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfiguration and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community. Special consideration to improve the meeting room is required.



New Branch in Huntertown area

The population growth in northern and northwestern Allen County has created a current and projected service demand that cannot be adequately served by the existing Dupont and Grabill branches. To accommodate this need, a new 10,000 SF minimum branch is recommended on a new site to be determined in this service area. The site should be large enough and the building should be designed to anticipate a branch expansion up to a total future branch size of 25,000-30,000 Sf over time.



Little Turtle Branch

Little Turtle is appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands northwest of downtown Fort Wayne. The building is in adequate condition relative to other branches, retrofitted from a former grocery store with the last renovation in 2006. The current site is capable of modest expansion, at the expense of parking, should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A renovation of the existing Little Turtle Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfiguration and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community.



Monroeville Branch

Monroeville is small relative to other branches but appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands in southeast Allen County. The building is in good condition relative to other branches, a well-maintained facility built in 2003. The current site cannot accommodate expansion, should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A renovation of the existing Monroeville Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfiguration and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community.



New Haven Branch

New Haven is appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands of this city and surrounding community in east central Allen County. The building is in adequate condition relative to other branches, although the site configuration has been noted as a challenge. The building is geometrically complex, but it and the current site could accommodate a modest expansion into some surrounding green space, should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A renovation of the existing New Haven Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfiguration and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community.



Pontiac Branch

Pontiac is appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands southeast of downtown Fort Wayne. The building is in good condition relative to other branches, a well-maintained facility built in 2004. The current site is capable of some expansion, at the expense of parking, should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A renovation of the existing Pontiac Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfigurations, possible site improvements to minimize distance from parking, and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community.



Shawnee Branch

Shawnee is appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands in the southeast quadrant of Fort Wayne, although the configuration and condition concerns outweigh space adequacy. The building is in poor condition relative to other branches, and being half-buried into the site creates unique access and egress challenges, as well as temperature control issues, leaks, and pest intrusion concerns. The current building configuration could not accommodate expansion should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A new 20,000 SF Shawnee Branch is recommended on a new site to be determined, as close as possible to the existing Shawnee Branch, possibly in nearby retail space of the appropriate size. The existing branch property could be vacated and sold, but would remain open until the new branch is occupied.



Tecumseh Branch

Tecumseh is appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands northeast of downtown Fort Wayne. The building is in adequate condition relative to other branches, with the last renovation in 2005. The current site is capable of modest expansion, at the expense of a new garden and/or some parking, should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A renovation of the existing Tecumseh Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfiguration and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community.



Waynedale Branch

Waynedale is appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands in this area, however the meeting room and staff workspaces are configured in a way that may necessitate a targeted expansion as outlined below. The building is in adequate condition relative to other branches, with the last renovation in 2005. The current site is capable of expansion, should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it or should an expansion be determined a beneficial priority among the options below.

A renovation of the existing Waynedale Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfiguration and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community. An expansion of the branch by approximately 2,500 SF is also recommended, to add a larger meeting space and correct accessibility and functional concerns in the staff area.



Woodburn Branch

Woodburn is small relative to other branches but appropriately sized to accommodate current and anticipated 10-year demands in east Allen County. The building is in good condition relative to other branches, a well-maintained facility built in 2003. The current site can be developed for programming and is able to accommodate expansion, should the service demand over time exceed the ability for the current branch to satisfy it.

A renovation of the existing Woodburn Branch is recommended, including targeted reconfiguration and system upgrades or replacements as appropriate to improve conditions and enhance service delivery to patrons in this community.



Main Library

As the flagship branch of ACPL, Main is appropriately sized to accommodate the combination of collections and services it offers patrons in Allen County and beyond. The building is in good condition, having benefitted from a comprehensive expansion and renovation completed in 2007. The site is capable of modest expansion at the expense of adjacent drives and/or landscaping, should the demands over time change in a way that necessitates growth.

Recommendations for Main are more qualitative than quantitative, and include targeted improvements such as: improve collection navigability to enhance patron experience; add medium and small meeting room spaces; design to improve function and acoustics in the great hall; address noise transfer between Genealogy and Readers Services; renovate the vacated café space to an appropriate public service area; and redesign the east entrance to be brighter and more welcoming.