

## Who wants the library expanded?

**1. The community survey** conducted in October 2018 revealed that 90% of respondents highly agree “the library is important for the community;” and “a key resource for education and literacy in our community.”

**2. The Community Conversations**, held around Baraboo in November 2018, revealed that although a majority of respondents value the historic Carnegie library building, a majority also place medium to high priority on:

- Remodeling the youth services area
- Having more comfortable spaces for reading, working, and relaxing at the library
- Updating restrooms
- Adding more private and quiet areas
- Providing dedicated collaborative work and creation spaces
- Creating library space just for teens and tweens

**3. Previous surveys** revealed similar public opinions and desires:

**2010** - the public strongly asked for:

- Meeting rooms
- Individual tutoring spaces
- More quiet reading spaces
- Small study rooms

**2004 & 2001** - the public cited the need for:

- More meeting rooms
- Quiet study spaces
- A young adult area
- A dedicated children’s programming area.

## What will this expansion cost the community?

If building begins in **2021**, architects estimate a price tag of about \$10 million to remodel the existing library and add an expansion of approximately 12,000 square feet. Delays in construction will cause this price to rise by 3% to 5% per year.



Members of the public turned out on February 20 to see preliminary building designs, and offer their opinions about the designs.

## What can YOU do to help with the expansion process?

1. **Know** the facts.
2. **Share** your opinion with your friends, neighbors, and Common Council representative!
3. **Get Loud for the Library!**



230 Fourth Avenue | Baraboo, WI 53913  
608-356-6166 | [baraboopubliclibrary.org](http://baraboopubliclibrary.org)



**VOICE YOUR OPINION**

## Baraboo Public Library Expansion: The Case for 2021

- Why does the library need to be expanded?
- What are the consequences of delaying library expansion?
- What can you do to help the expansion process?

## Important Dates for the Library Expansion Project

**May 11 - Reading Rally** read-in on the Courthouse Lawn during Fair on the Square **from 12 PM to 1 PM**

**May 20** - Library Board sees detailed schematic design

**May 22 - Community Forum** sessions - Detailed design presented to the public at **10 AM and 5:30 PM**  
Architects will use input from these sessions to adjust design.

**May 28** - Baraboo Common Council sees revised detailed schematic design

## Why does the library need to be expanded?

**1. The existing library**, designed for a 15,000-person service population, currently serves over 19,583 people.

Additional space is also needed for:

- Programs for adults, teens, and youth
- Meeting rooms for small groups and tutoring pairs
- Quiet study areas
- Easy access designed for elderly and disabled patrons, and parents with strollers
- Safe working conditions for staff members
- Storage

**2. Aging HVAC systems** will need replacing within a few years, costing approximately \$231,000.

**3. Deferred maintenance** items currently cost \$80,000; this cost will rise at a rate of \$17,000 per year.



Due to insufficient space at the library, the Youth Services department rented space at the Al. Ringling Mansion to hold Turkey Bingo 2018.

## What are the consequences of delaying library expansion?

**1. The City of Baraboo** will incur costs to repair and/or replace failed infrastructure in the next few years. Engineer estimates those costs to the City of Baraboo will be \$430,000.

**2. Putting off the expansion** raises the cost of building. Construction costs increase at a rate of 3% to 5% each year.

**3. Groups from the community** will continue to be frequently unable to hold meetings at the library due to the library's single program room already being reserved.

**4. Our collections** of fiction, non-fiction, large print, and foreign language books cannot grow without more space.

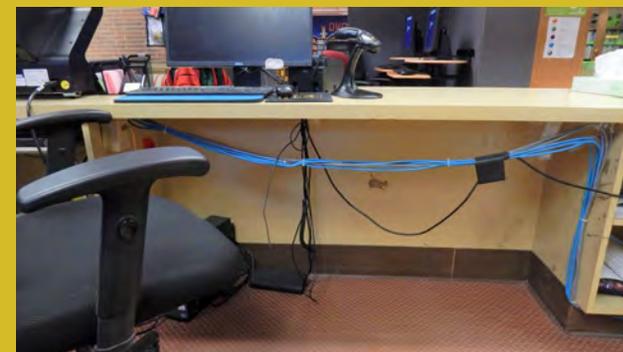
**5. Our staff members** will continue to work in crowded, uncomfortable, unsafe, and inefficient spaces.

**6. Our collection of tools and equipment** for people who want to create things will be limited by a lack of space for storing and using them.

**7. Elderly and disabled patrons**, and patrons with children in strollers will continue to be inconvenienced by entrances with poor accessibility.



The aged boiler at the library is expected to fail within the next few years. It is part of an HVAC system in need of replacement.



A tangle of cables behind the service counter in Youth Services is an example of how the library uses makeshift solutions to provide service in our aged physical infrastructure.