

New and Expanded Services Revealed for New Searcy Library

The preliminary plans reveal both expanded and new service spaces made possible with a facility three times the size of the old facility. The expanded opportunities provided with the extra space and prime location will transform the Searcy library into a popular community hub offering meeting spaces for larger groups, study rooms for smaller groups or individuals, a coffee shop, an exhibition gallery, a passport office, along with all the traditional library, computer, and information services and programs that the library will offer for children, teens, and adults.

(See attached layout with color coding showing comparison of new or expanded, and existing services)

First Floor Features:

Visitors will enter the new facility through a large foyer dedicated to honoring our donors that is open to the ceiling of the second floor. At the entrance, three primary service areas—Adult, Teen, and Children—are visible. Immediately to the right is the entrance to the Children’s Area. Looking straight ahead is the Front Desk for the Adult Collection Services. From the foyer, looking up to the second floor, the Teen Library is visible.

The Children’s Area will have 40% more shelf space and a separate program room dedicated to children’s programs. The Children’s Area will offer several comfortable seating areas with some spaces adjacent to the Adult Collection.

The Adult Collection area will also have more shelf space with shorter shelving units and wider spacing between units to make browsing the collection easier and more accessible than what is offered in the current facility. The adult space will include multiple individual and small group seating areas --all with charging stations available for patrons bringing in their portable electronic devices. The local history collection, adjacent to the Adult Collection, will have more shelf space to expand that unique collection. Notary and copy services will be available in the Adult Collection area.

Adjacent to the Adult Collection area are three small meeting/study rooms. Rooms will be available for reserve by the public at no charge. Patrons will be able to reserve rooms online or by contacting the library.

High-speed fiber internet access will be available to library patrons via WiFi both inside and outside the library.

The library will have a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility, making it one of only two places in White County that offer this service. The office will accept applications for a U.S. passport and take photos needed for the application.

Across from the passport office will be an elevator and a WCPL Friends Book Store where visitors can purchase used books and library promotional merchandise.

A coffee shop located on the first floor will offer three points of service—a small serving area inside the facility, an outdoor space with tables and chairs on the park side of the library, and a drive through window—making the venue an attractive business opportunity for a local vendor. The coffee shop will have its own outside entrance for coffee shop staff and customers on the park side of the library accessible even when the library is closed. The outdoor pavilion will be a place for both library patrons and coffee shop customers to meet with friends and relax in the outdoor setting.

A new bridge connecting the park to the library will join the two pieces of City property, Yancey Park and the Searcy library, to be used as one piece of property where visitors can move freely between the library, coffee shop, and park.

The drive through feature at the back side of the library will serve both library patrons and coffee shop customers. Two lanes—one marked “Books” and another marked “Coffee”—will merge to one lane as they approach the two drive through windows—one window for picking up reserved library materials and another for serving coffee shop customers.

Second Floor Features:

The second floor will contain a teen library, a public computer lab, a Small Business and Career Center, an Exhibition Gallery, and three public meeting rooms.

The new space for teens will be an attractive place for teens to meet after school or during summer. The space will provide 60% more shelf space for library materials than the current facility. Teens will have their own library program/media/game room, a study room, a YouTube recording studio, and several seating areas with charging stations.

The second floor will be home to an Exhibition Gallery, visible from the first floor Adult Collection area along the upper floor perimeter. The library will host traveling exhibits and feature local arts and crafts in the space that used to be an indoor walking track. An adjoining meeting room can be opened to the Exhibition Gallery to house larger pieces of an exhibit and/or to serve as a meeting area for groups visiting the exhibit.

The second floor includes three large meeting rooms available for reservation at no charge with the largest room seating up to 88 seated at tables. The second and third rooms can be joined as one space seating up to 80+ by opening a moveable partition. With the partition in place, the second room seats 30 and the third room seats 50. Like the study rooms, patrons will be able to reserve the meeting rooms online or by contacting the library.

The public computer lab will have 20 public computers in addition to a workspace for 6 patrons bringing in their own laptop. The lab will offer printing, fax, copy, and scan services.

Adjoining the public computer lab will be a Small Business and Career Center offering specialized resources and assistance for job seekers and small businesses. Computers in this area will feature special software such as Cypress Resume, Canva, InDesign, and other Adobe Suite Products. Patrons will be able to make appointments with library staff for one-on-one assistance, if needed. A large format printer will be available in the Small Business and Career Center for printing poster-sized signage. The Center will seek partnerships with other agencies and nonprofits to promote and facilitate services offered by the Center.

RECAP

New Services:

Teen Library with dedicated program/media/game room, YouTube Recording Studio, and Study Room

Program Room for Children's Programs

Small Business and Career Center

U. S. Passport Acceptance Facility

Exhibition Gallery

3 Study Rooms on First Floor

3 Meeting Rooms on Second Floor

Coffee Shop

Outdoor Pavilion for patrons and coffee shop customers

Drive through windows—one for picking up reserved library materials and one for the coffee shop

WCPL Friends Book Store

Expanded Services:

Expanded collection space for children, teens, and adults

Expanded public computer space—more computers and wider workstations

Expanded seating areas for children, teen, and adults