

GUERNEVILLE REGIONAL LIBRARY



Service Area Map + Demographics

2000 Service Area Population: 13,259
 2025 Service Area Population: 18,349

Population by Age:

0-4 years	5%
5-19 years	15%
20-44 years	29%
45-64 years	24%
65+	27%

Population by Ethnicity:

White	88%
Black + African-American	2%
American Indian	1%
Asian	1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%
Other	4%
Two or More Races	3%

Hispanic or Latino* 9%

Recommendations
 Strategy: Improvement
 Building Area: 11,000-12,100 sf

*The Hispanic or Latino designation reflects a cultural heritage and not an ethnic group. Therefore, this designation is reported separately from ethnicity.

Library Profile

Since 1981, the Guerneville Regional Library has served the lower Russian River area and the western and northern portions of Sonoma County, including Sea Ranch, Fort Ross, and Cazadero. The library is the primary community resource in the Russian River Valley and serves residents from Jenner and other coastal communities. Serving only unincorporated areas, this library is the only County-owned library in the system.

Guerneville’s population includes long-time residents, a growing number of ex-urbanites, and a large gay and lesbian community. Less than 10% of Guerneville’s service area is Hispanic or Latino. Approximately 45% of patrons surveyed at Guerneville reported that they visit other libraries in Sonoma County, especially Sebastopol and Central Santa Rosa. Nearly half of patrons surveyed said that they visit the library two or more times per week, with 20% visiting four or more times per week.

Library Needs

Compared to many other branches of the Sonoma County Library system, the Guerneville Regional Library currently provides its service population with a higher rate of collection materials. However, the collection still falls below the recommended guidelines, and its limited shelving space requires books to be placed on the uppermost and bottom shelves - out of the reach of many patrons with limited mobility. Parking, program areas, and seating are all reported to be sufficient, but computers are scarce, and group study space is not available.

Guerneville Regional Library patrons described their library in this way...

Liked most:	Improvements needed:
+ Friendly staff	- More books
+ Location and convenience	- Longer hours
	- More computers

Service	Current	Future
Population served	13,259	18,349
Building size	6,237 sf	11,000 – 12,100 sf
Collection	22,010 vols.	43,600 – 48,200 vols.
Computers	8	15 – 20
Seats	40 seats	70 – 80 seats
Group study area	0 seats	10 – 15 seats
Storytelling space	0 seats	20 – 25 seats
Meeting room	56 seats	70 - 80 seats

Recommendations

A significant increase in building area is required to meet the future needs of the Guerneville service area.

The current site, within Guerneville proper, is well located within the service area and is described by patrons as convenient. However, the small size and irregular geometry of the site will not likely support an addition or a completely new library. Therefore, a study of potential new sites, using the criteria from the master plan, should be conducted using the data from the needs assessment and building program. All alternate sites should keep the library in the community of Guerneville, convenient to Highway 116.

Implementation

The Guerneville Regional Library adequately meets its current service population, placing it in priority Group 3. Although the needs are not pressing, planning should begin now so that opportunities for funding can be developed and improvements can be completed in time to serve the needs of the growing service population.

Prior to proceeding with construction, an update of library service needs and a building program should be prepared by experienced professionals. These should be undertaken as part of a focused predesign study setting out project requirements, budget, and schedule in detail.



Guerneville Regional Library

What residents said:

"It's like a university at your fingertips."

survey respondent

"The library makes a world of information and imagination available, free of charge."

survey respondent

"A community without a library may as well not exist."

survey respondent

"The library provides books and computer access to those of us that cannot afford such things. Thanks."

survey respondent