

# SANTA ROSA SOUTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY



## Service Area Map + Demographics

2000 Service Area Population: N/A  
 2025 Service Area Population: 60,681

Population by Age:

0-4 years	6%
5-19 years	17%
20-44 years	34%
45-64 years	25%
65+	17%

Population by Ethnicity:

White	62%
Black + African-American	3%
American Indian	3%
Asian	4%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%
Other	21%
Two or More Races	6%

Hispanic or Latino\* 36%

Recommendations  
 Strategy: New Library  
 Building Area: 23,350-25,800 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

Currently, residents of the southwestern portion of Santa Rosa use the Central and Northwest Santa Rosa libraries, although its population is somewhat cut off from these branches by freeways and distance. The southwestern service area has the highest percentage of non-white residents in the County, and significant representation among Latinos and Hispanics.

## Library Needs

The southwest part of Santa Rosa has a population larger than either Petaluma or Rohnert Park, but its access to the Library is impractical due to the distance from the Central Library and the physical barrier of Highway 101. With its relatively high proportion of Hispanic and Latino residents, this service area may have a somewhat higher requirement for a language collection than other libraries in Sonoma County. Beyond their need for access to the library’s collection, however, residents of this area of the city also require access to the “people spaces” — group study areas, public meeting rooms, and the like — that modern libraries strive to provide to the community.

## Recommendations

The new Santa Rosa Southwest Regional Library is intended to serve the two fastest growing areas of Santa Rosa: the southwest quadrant (bounded by Highways 12 and 101) and the southeast area (between 101 and Petaluma Hill Road). A good location may be along Hearn Avenue which would permit good connections across 101 towards Petaluma Hill Road. Transit service connects southeast Santa Rosa along Hearn Avenue with routes that run every 30 minutes and require approximately 10 minutes travel time compared to 40 minutes for routes connecting to downtown Santa Rosa.

## Implementation

While population is projected to grow to 60,681 by 2025, the southwest Santa Rosa area does not currently have a library of its own. Therefore, a new library for this area is included in priority

Service	Current	Future
Population served	0	60,681
Building size	0 sf	23,350 – 25,800 sf
Collection	0 vols.	115,300 – 127,400 vols.
Computers	0	50 – 55
Seats	0 seats	115 – 125 seats
Group study area	0 seats	23 – 25 seats
Storytelling space	0 seats	38 – 42 seats
Meeting room	0 seats	120 - 130 seats

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Group 1. As with other Santa Rosa libraries, the Southwest branch would be an excellent candidate for a development partnership with another community facility such as a recreational center, community center, or school.

Prior to proceeding with development, a needs assessment specific to this service area and a detailed building program should be prepared by experienced professionals. From this information a site feasibility study should be developed that addresses opportunities at the current site and other site options.

The library should be located in the center or somewhat east of the center of the service area and located convenient to north-south and east-west connector streets. For example, the area near the present Southwest Park would allow access to Hearn Avenue, making the library accessible to residents west of Petaluma Hill Road and, by way of Stony Point Road and Dutton Avenue, to the southern and northern portions of the service area.