

SONOMA VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY



Service Area Map + Demographics

2000 Service Area Population: 40,400
 2025 Service Area Population: 51,262

Population by Age:

0-4 years	5%
5-19 years	16%
20-44 years	30%
45-64 years	24%
65+	25%

Population by Ethnicity:

White	88%
Black + African-American	1%
American Indian	1%
Asian	1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%
Other	7%
Two or More Races	3%

Hispanic or Latino* 18%

Recommendations
 Strategy: Improvement
 Building Area: 27,650-30,550 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

The Sonoma Valley Regional Library was constructed in 1978. The library currently serves the southeastern portion of the county from the area near Kenwood to the Bay and east to the Napa County line. The library is used heavily by both seniors, who prefer to sit and read at length, and children, who often come unaccompanied by parents. Approximately 18% of Sonoma Valley’s service area is Hispanic/Latino; 23% of survey respondents reported an interest in Spanish language materials.

Likely due to geographic isolation from other communities, only 16% reported that they use other libraries such as Central Santa Rosa, Petaluma, and Rincon Valley.

Library Needs

Sonoma Valley’s collection is a little more than half the recommended size, and only a few public computers are available. Seating becomes very difficult to find in the afternoon, when students and tutors come in. Space deficiencies force the Friends of the Library to use a shed for their sorting and storage operations. Inadequate parking has resulted in strained relations with the owner of the adjacent property, where patrons choose to park when the library’s lot is full.

Sonoma Valley Regional Library patrons described their library in this way...

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

Recommendations

Because the Sonoma Valley Regional Library’s service area is so far removed from other communities and includes a large

Service	Current	Future
Population served	40,400	51,262
Building size	10,000 sf	27,650 – 30,550 sf
Collection	50,225 vols.	121,750 – 134,600 vols.
Computers	10	50 – 55
Seats	100 seats	200 – 250 seats
Group study area	0 seats	20 – 25 seats
Storytelling space	0 seats	40 – 45 seats
Meeting room	57 seats	120 - 135 seats

geographic area, there is a large difference between the city and service area populations. Over 60% of the population growth through 2025 is projected to occur near Sonoma but not within the city limits, with the remainder distributed throughout the service area. Because Sonoma remains the regional commercial center and growth will be concentrated in that area, the master plan recommends maintaining a single facility within Sonoma’s city limits.

The current site, however, is not large enough for the recommended building size on a single level and the associated parking. If the current site cannot be expanded, a new site would have to be located. Any new location for the library should maintain the current facility’s high visibility and central location.

Implementation

The Sonoma Valley Regional Library is recommended for priority Group 1 because of its small size in relationship to the population it serves. Planning should begin now in order to address the needs and to allow the City to take advantage of potential funding opportunities.

The present location for the library is good because of its convenient access to Highway 12 and central location within the service area. In order to accommodate the recommended building size, a larger site will be needed.

Prior to construction, a library service needs assessment and a detailed building program should be completed by experienced professionals. This information then would be used for a feasibility study to consider siting options. These should be undertaken as part of a focused predesign study setting out project requirements, budget, and schedule in detail.



Sonoma Valley Regional Library

What residents said:

“It’s the community’s lifeline.”
survey respondent

“I panic if I don’t have one or two books around!”
survey respondent

“I grew up with this library. It’s a part of me.”
survey respondent

“The library is key to our democracy.”
survey respondent