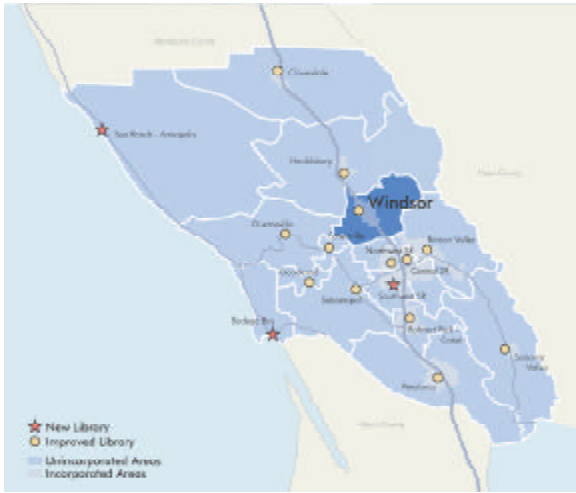


WINDSOR REGIONAL LIBRARY



Service Area Map + Demographics

2000 Service Area Population: 32,461
 2025 Service Area Population: 42,133

Population by Age:

0-4 years	6%
5-19 years	17%
20-44 years	33%
45-64 years	23%
65+	22%

Population by Ethnicity:

White	82%
Black + African-American	1%
American Indian	1%
Asian	2%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%
Other	11%
Two or More Races	3%
Hispanic or Latino*	20%

Recommendations
 Strategy: Improvement
 Building Area: 21,400-23,700 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

In 1996, the Windsor Regional Library opened in the renovated former water district office building. The building fronts on the Town Green and is an important part of the developing downtown core. The current location is a convenient walk for patrons on the west side of town and a nearby high school.

Windsor Regional Library serves the Windsor, Larkfield, and Wikiup areas, which boast one of the County’s highest percentage of residents under age 18. One-fifth of the population is Hispanic or Latino. Nearly one-third of patrons surveyed at the Windsor Regional Library reported that they also visit other branches, especially Santa Rosa Central and Healdsburg.

Library Needs

At 7,600 square feet, the Windsor Regional Library is significantly smaller than needed for its current population. The lack of shelving space has required an aggressive “weeding” program, and the number of holds on materials is growing. The Spanish collection is limited by lack of space, which adversely impacts the nearby English-Spanish Cali-Calamec Grade school and the Latino population. Adults often sit at children’s tables due to the general lack of seating throughout the facility. Focus group members from the Windsor community stated that the overcrowding and noise, especially after school hours, kept them from using the facility as anything more than a pick-up and drop-off location for materials.

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

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

Service	Current	Future
Population served	32,461	42,133
Building size	7,600 sf	21,400 – 23,700 sf
Collection	33,667 vols.	100,000 – 110,600 vols.
Computers	9	40 – 45
Seats	28 seats	120 – 135 seats
Group study area	0 seats	15 – 20 seats
Storytelling space	0 seats	35 – 40 seats
Meeting room	100 seats	120 - 135 seats

Recommendation

To serve the needs of this rapidly growing area, the master plan recommends nearly tripling the size of the current facility. Both the Sonoma County Library and the city officials wish to maintain a strong relationship between the library and the Town Green. A continued effort to provide joint programming is seen by both parties as mutually beneficial. Therefore, the recommendation is to keep the library directly on the Town Green.

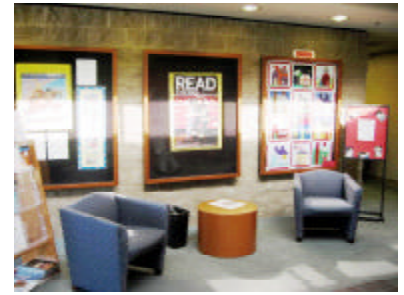
As it is configured now, the current site is too small for the recommended building size. It appears, however, that if the access road from the Old Redwood Highway was shifted north, enough space could be provided for a larger library. If this reconfiguration proves unfeasible, a new site fronting the Town Green should be identified, perhaps part of a mixed-use building with the library. In such a mixed-use project, the library should be located on the ground floor to maximize its visibility and ease of access for patrons.

Implementation

Because of its small size in relation to the size of the service area population and the projected large growth within the service area, the Windsor Regional Library is in priority Group 1. Planning should begin now in order to address the current needs and prepare for the future library service demands.

A library service needs assessment and a detailed building program should be completed by experienced professionals. A parking study based on these data should be prepared to confirm the future demand associated with the expanded library and the amount of parking that would be needed. The needs assessment and program also 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.

The current site will need to be expanded, as discussed above, to provide an adequate site for the proposed library. Parking would be shared with other uses in the Town Green area.



Windsor Regional Library

What residents said:

"Libraries contain the world."
survey respondent

"Information and literacy is the key to a growing community."
survey respondent

"My kids adore coming here. It gets them away from TV and video games, and teaches them the value of reading."
survey respondent