

Lincoln City Libraries

Facilities Planning + Condition Assessment

November 16, 2023

MSRDesign

BVH
ARCHITECTURE

CITY OF
LINCOLN
LIBRARIES

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NEBRASKA

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Lincoln City Library Branch Locations

Principles

These principles serve as our overarching guidelines for translating the Lincoln City Library's vision, mission, values, and goals. They apply to both the libraries at the system level and the branch level. While each community presents different circumstances and needs that will necessarily impact the library services at each location, these principles assist each library in embodying the core values of the Lincoln City libraries

One Lincoln – a common experience

Embody the Library's vision, mission, and values through shared services and experience. Together, each branch shares resources and programs to provide holistic services to the entire community.

Neighborhood – each branch is unique

Each branch is unique to its neighborhood, and specific services are tailored to meet their community's needs.

All Together – all branches working together

Partnerships, both inside and outside the building, to strengthen connections to the community and other services.

Executive Summary & Recommendations

Executive Summary

Facilities Plan and Conditions Assessment

A facilities Plan and Conditions Assessment (FCPA) for Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) provides information to help guide decisions for future capital investments. The FCPA utilizes three categories of inputs to help establish priorities and create a flexible approach to system-wide updates. The three categories are:

- Stakeholder Feedback
- LCL System, City, and Demographic Data
- Existing Facilities Observations

The plan provides an analysis of each branch within the system. The ability of each branch to serve the public is contextualized by comparing it to national trends in library service. Additionally, each branch is considered in the context of other branches and community dynamics to help reduce duplication and promote efficiencies. [The plan seeks to establish minimum update requirements, prepare each branch for the future, and promote system-wide use.](#)

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for hosting this group. [My son] was having a really tough 8th grade year, having trouble making friends, and was getting really depressed. The first night I picked him up after the T3RPG program, he was smiling bigger than I'd seen him smile all year and said "MOM, I FINALLY FOUND MY PEOPLE!" He looks forward to coming every month and talks about what's going on in the game the rest of the time. It's really made a huge difference in his life. We love coming to the library!"

Stakeholder Feedback

Lincoln City Library, BVH, and MSR Design held engagement sessions at all library branches, received 567 online survey responses, and spoke to over 25 organizations over the course of more than 40 combined hours of engagement.

The following themes have emerged from the community input:

- People love their librarians
- Neighborhood libraries are important
- Patrons commonly use multiple branches
- Both technology and collections are important
- A connection to nature is important
- Downtown parking is perceived as difficult

These themes suggest that the existing library facilities would benefit from:

- More/improved program spaces for all-ages
- Increased small study and meeting spaces
- Improved indoor/outdoor access
- Address each neighborhood uniquely



LCL System, City, and Demographic Data

Library Collection Key Points:

- The size of the physical collection is in line with the US average, although larger than most peer library systems which suggests there is the potential for strategic reduction if other space needs become apparent.
- Periodic weeding should continue at all branches to ensure the collection continues to stay relevant and all neighborhoods have access to materials that are desired.
- In the long-term, collection growth may necessitate a different approach to storage as the total collection grows to keep pace with the population. (e.g., keeping some collection off-site, higher density shelving for collections that aren't browsed as often, etc.)
- Future planning at a branch level should consider neighborhood browsing preferences and demographic makeup to make decisions about the proportions of program space to collection space.

A review of Lincoln/Lancaster County data in the context of the LCL system reveals the following:

- Development will likely follow planned infrastructure upgrades at a moderate pace, indicating branch expansion could happen in the future. There is unlikely to be immediate pressure for branch expansion.
- Heat maps indicate expansion of residential near the downtown following national trends.
- Continued residential activity will provide future pressure on branch services in key locations, exasperating some locations that are already stressed.

LCL Circulation and Use Data Key Points:

- Circulation rates are slightly higher than the peer library average, although the rates vary considerably between branches. This suggests that library users are using the library to access different types of services in different locations. Locations with the highest loans per capita typically have the lowest computer reservations per capita and vice versa.
- LCL has fewer library programs on average than their peer libraries, this is most likely attributed to staffing pressure and lack of programming space.
- Overall, the LCL system has fewer visits per capita than the average US library and peer libraries. Attendance at Gere and Walt, the locations with the most annual visits, falls below the average.

Demographic Data Key Points:

- Most branches operate as neighborhood libraries.
- O Street serves as a boundary; branches to the South are utilized more as a set of locations and branches to the North are utilized more individually.
- Bennett Martin differentiates and serves a broader cross section of Lincoln as well as the neighborhood. It has the most diverse usership, drawing on the neighborhood, commuters, and the University.

The Role of Libraries Today

Library services have changed dramatically since the early 2000's, with less emphasis placed on the physical collection and a greater emphasis on providing community gathering space, programming, active learning, and space for community partners. Maintaining traditional transactions exemplified by Carnegie Libraries, expanding programming opportunities around information access, and building partnerships for economic benefit should be central to any capital investments. By promoting a synergy between these three tenets Lincoln City Libraries can guide investments that bring the system in alignment with services provided in the next generation of libraries.



Furnishings that encourage lingering, alone or in small groups



Flexible meeting rooms with high visibility to library spaces



Dedicated teen spaces for browsing collection, studying, and gathering



A System Overdue for Investment

A review of branch operations and space layout for the LCL system reveals the following:

- All library locations, with the exception of Williams, were designed prior to major shifts in library service trends related to hands-on learning and mobile information access.
- Five branches have not had re-planning updates since mobile technology, wifi, and internet access have become driving forces in daily life.

- In the majority of the branches spaces for material handling and staff work are adapted from an outdated service model. Re-planning provides opportunities for greater efficiency and a potential net gain of usable space.
- The original design of several locations pose substantial challenges for adaption to current service needs. Particularly Bennett Martin, Eiseley, Walt and Gere.



Recommendations

1. Maintain and Invest in Neighborhood Libraries

The LCL system is overdue for investments in branch libraries. Moderate renovations in each location can bring the system in alignment with services provided in the next generation of libraries.

These system-wide needs include:

- Furnishings that are comfortable and encourage patrons to spend more time in the library to read, study, or socialize.
- Larger and more flexible meeting rooms to accommodate the community’s desire for library programs and space for partner organizations.
- Dedicated teen spaces in all branches to cater to an often overlooked demographic.
- Each LCL branch location serves a unique neighborhood and specific improvements should be tailored to their needs.

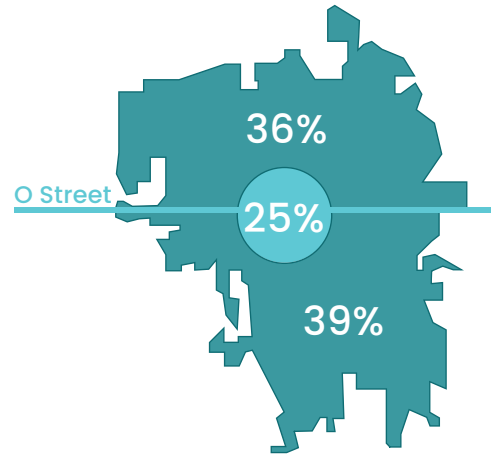
2. Develop High-Impact Community Assets

Major renovations or new construction projects at Eiseley, BMPL, and Gere will transform the existing branches and allow for expanded services and programming.

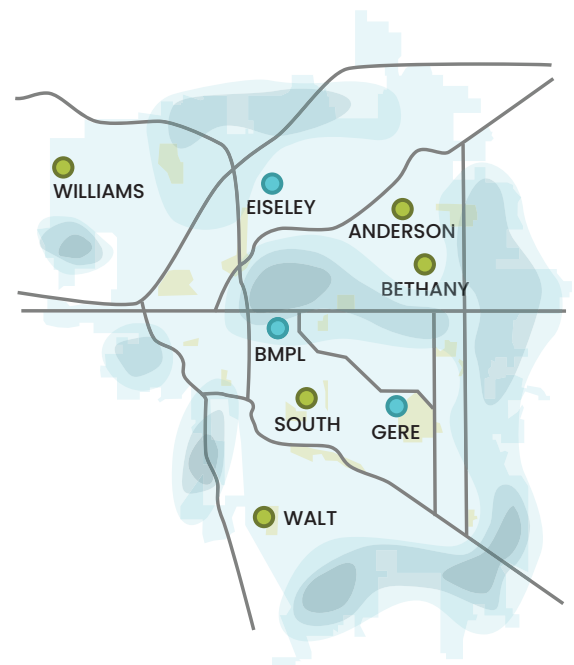
The city’s population is grouped in three main areas: North, Central, and South. Expanded services and programming in each area of the city can supplement basic library services at the neighborhood branches. Developing a community asset in each of these areas ensures access for all members of the community and high-impact library service.

3. Expand to Serve a Growing Population

Develop long-term plans for a new branch location to serve growing communities in the South and East parts of Lincoln.



Population Distribution



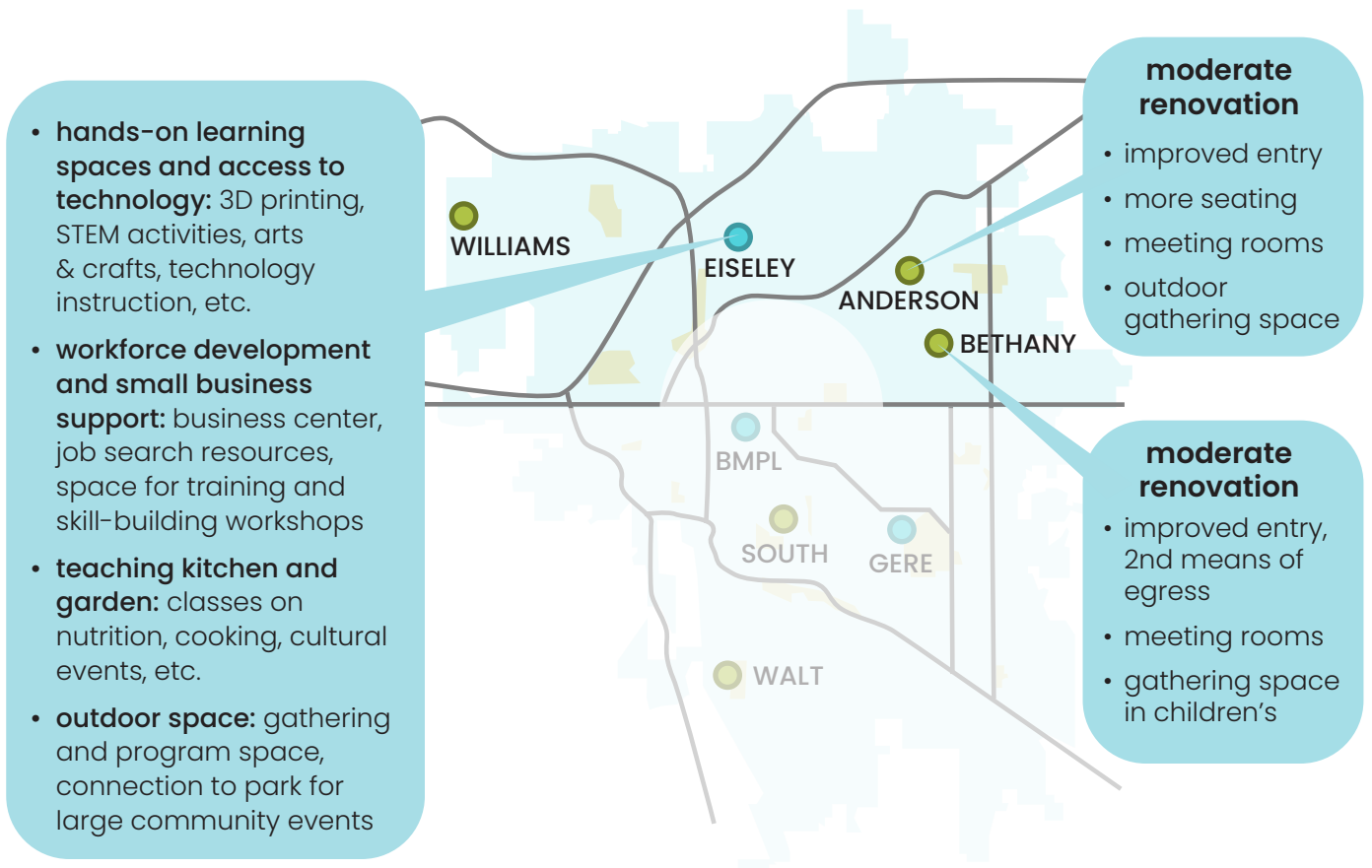
Residential Building Permit Heat Map
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Dept.

The return on investment for libraries can be substantial. Studies in Texas, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Minnesota corroborate this with ROI’s ranging from \$2.38 to \$6.96 for every dollar spent.

Bureau of Business Research IC² Institute

Recommended investments in North Lincoln

- **Short term** | provide a major renovation and addition to Eiseley Branch Library. The existing building layout will pose several challenges when considering adaption to the next generation of library services. Inefficiencies with the current plan offer good potential for a net gain in usable square footage. The renovation should be considered as a major reconfiguration of all internal spaces. An addition of 1,500 to 2,000 square foot should be considered to provide adequate programming space. Anderson Branch Library is more highly adaptable and should be considered an alternate site for expansion if the cost of major changes to Eiseley Branch Library prove challenging.
- **Medium term** | moderate renovations to Anderson and Bethany should be planned to increase effectiveness and service capabilities.
- **Long term** | Williams Branch Library should be substantially expanded. A future study should take place to help determine size and services to be provided.



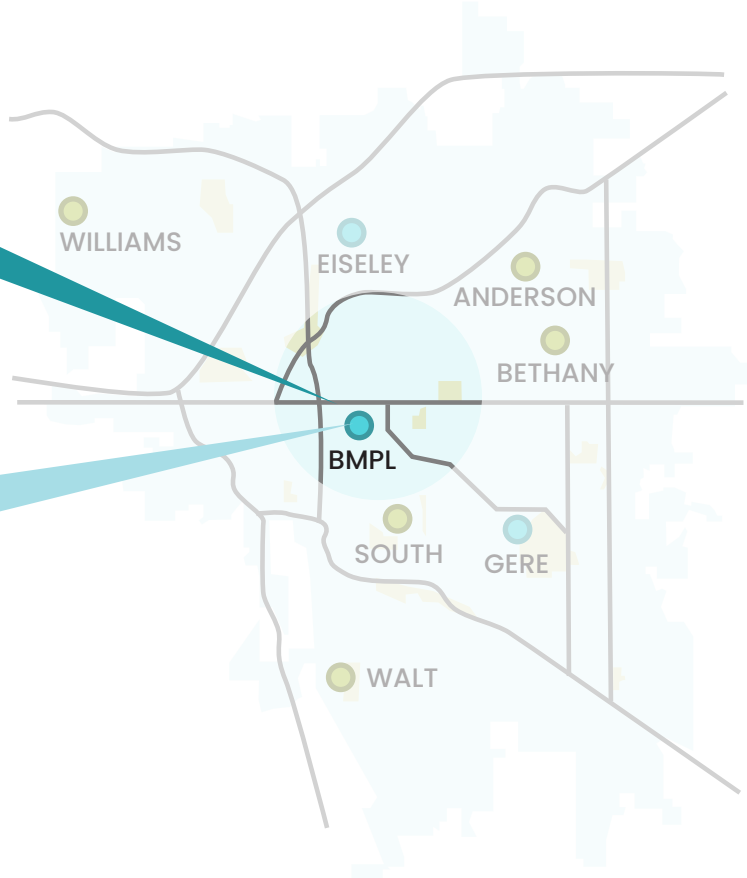
**36% of Lincoln's current population
33% of library system square footage**

Recommended investments in Central Lincoln

- **Short term** | provide a replacement for Bennett Martin Public Library. Several studies over the last two decades indicate the inadequacy of Bennett Martin Public Library. The analysis remains correct with the last major renovation occurring about the time the first commercial PC was released. Bennett Martin Library’s neighborhood and user profile is the most diverse in the system while also attracting visitors from across the city. The replacement should provide more square footage for additional community space and make special collections more accessible. The location and size of special collections and administrative spaces should be considered during planning with the potential of relocation to other branches.
- **Medium term** | collection size and distribution should be revisited in the medium term to better understand the impacts of the new facility. Bennett Martin is decades behind in its ability to serve the neighborhood / Lincoln and a new library will change circulation patterns.
- **Long term** | A replacement facility in the short term is considered a decades long solution and long term funding should focus on upkeep, attention to service, and flexibility.

Demographics from the Central portion of Lincoln indicate the most diverse use patterns driven by the neighborhood, commuters, and the University. Reinvestment in BMPL addresses growth downtown and along the O Street redevelopment corridor

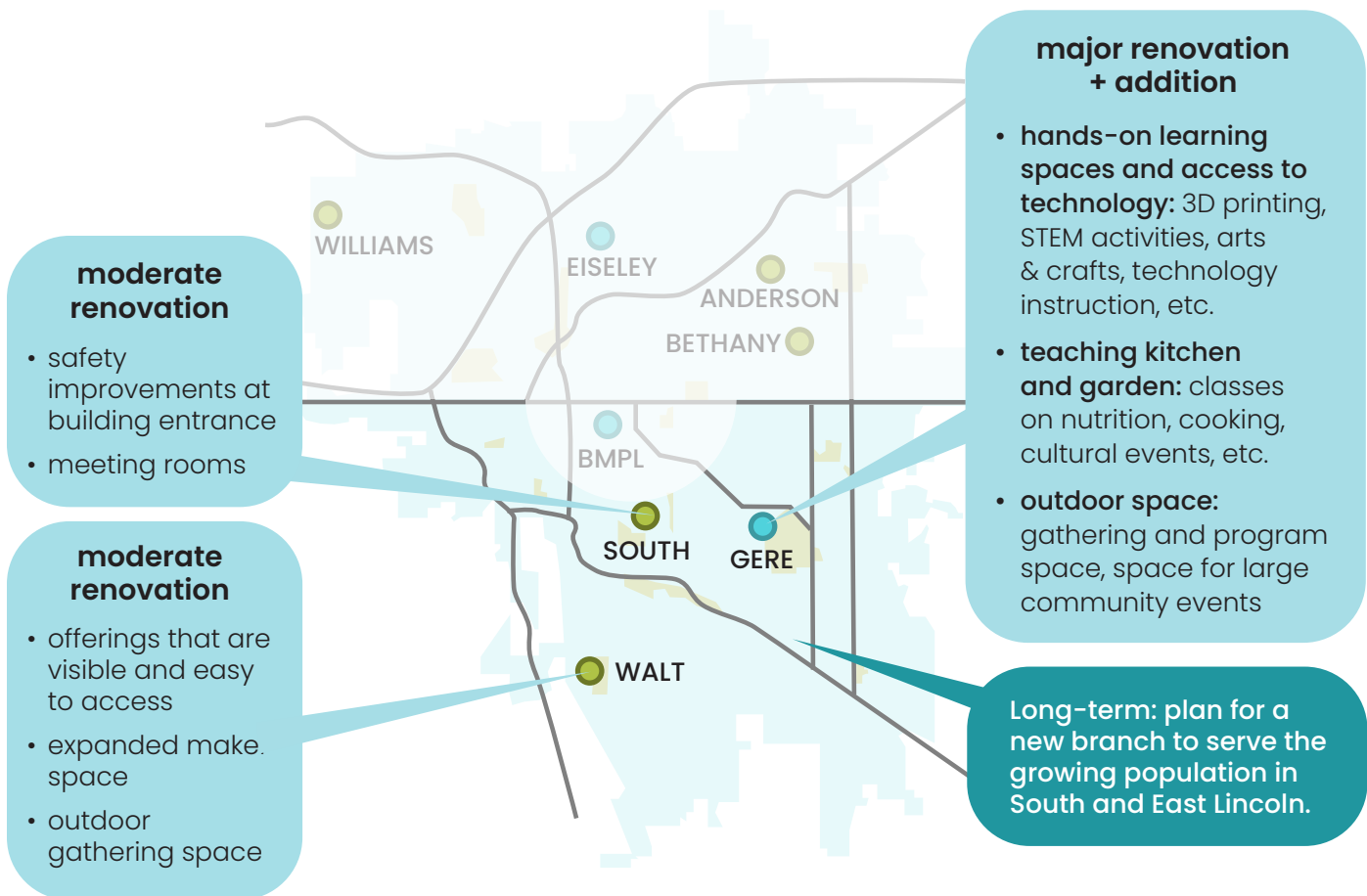
- new construction facility**
- **LCL’s special collections:** Polley Music Library, Heritage Room of NE Authors, Local History
 - **programs that complement special collections:** recording studio, writing workshops, performance spaces
 - **workforce development and small business support:** business center, job search resources, space for training and skill-building workshops
 - **LCL Administration and Operations:** consolidate spaces for more efficiency



25% of Lincoln’s current population
20% of library system square footage

Recommended investments in South Lincoln

- **Short term** | provide a major renovation and addition to Gere Branch Library. Although Gere Library shares many features of Anderson, the later additions complicate the prospects of a renovation. It is expected that a net gain of nearly 10,000 new and highly functional space is required. The planning should account for the expense of correcting the functional problems while considering the cost to value. The long term plan should consider an additional branch library in the Southeast of Lincoln. During planning for Gere Branch Library the overall cost should be considered to determine whether moderate renovations of both Gere and Walt can correct inefficiencies at a better value then prioritizing a new branch earlier.
- **Medium term** | Walt Branch Library requires a major renovation and addition to address next generation library services. Walt Branch benefits from shared use of Gere, Walt, and South Branches easing the urgency of needed updates. However, the library suffers from the same layout challenges that Eiseley faces and attention to correcting the inefficiencies should be made.
- **Long term** | A new branch should be considered in the long term to build on multi-branch use and expand service potential.



39% of Lincoln's current population
46% of library system square footage

Bringing the Conversation to Lincoln

Each region of the Lincoln face challenges in service due to lack of investment; Central Lincoln faces the most challenges.

1

Assign target capital investment commitment for facilities in North, Central, and South Lincoln

2

Priority one is Central Lincoln, priority two is North Lincoln, priority three is South Lincoln

3

North and South recommendations ideally occur simultaneously or shortly after Central Lincoln

4

Determine proper location of administrative space, and (special) collections as part of priority one

5

Remain diligent and build upon success to finish medium and long term recommendations



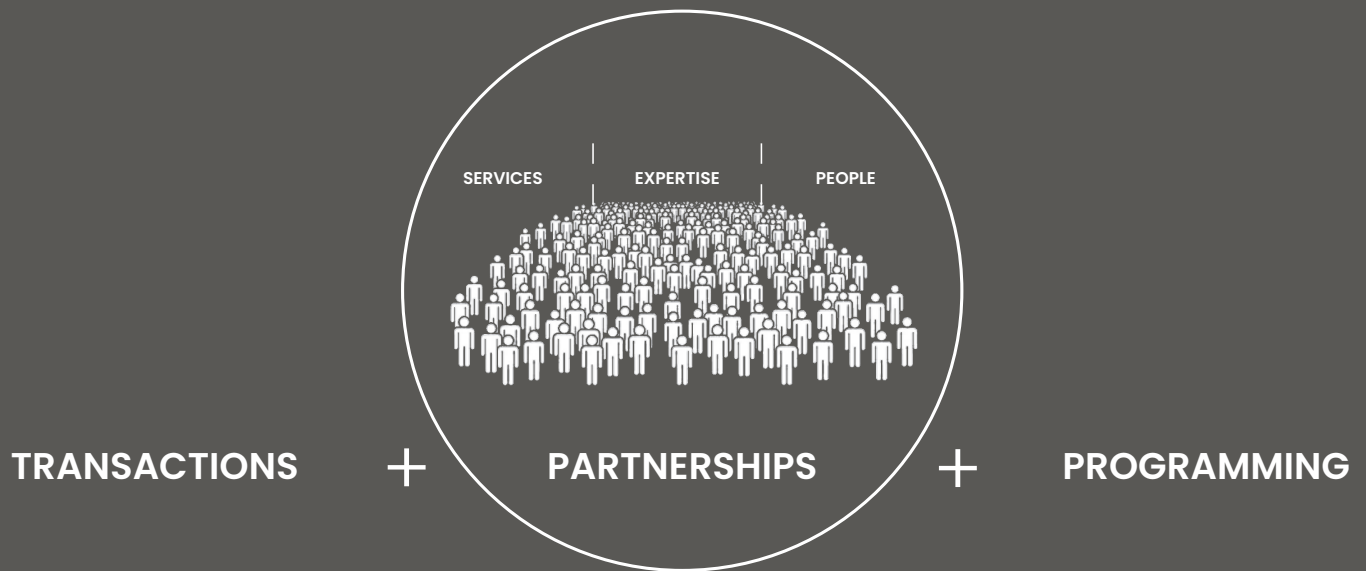
Next-Generation Library Service

THE NEXT GENERATION OF LIBRARIES

TRANSACTIONAL MODEL - CARNEGIE

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM MODEL - THE LAST 15 YEARS

PARTNERSHIP MODEL - CURRENT FOCUS



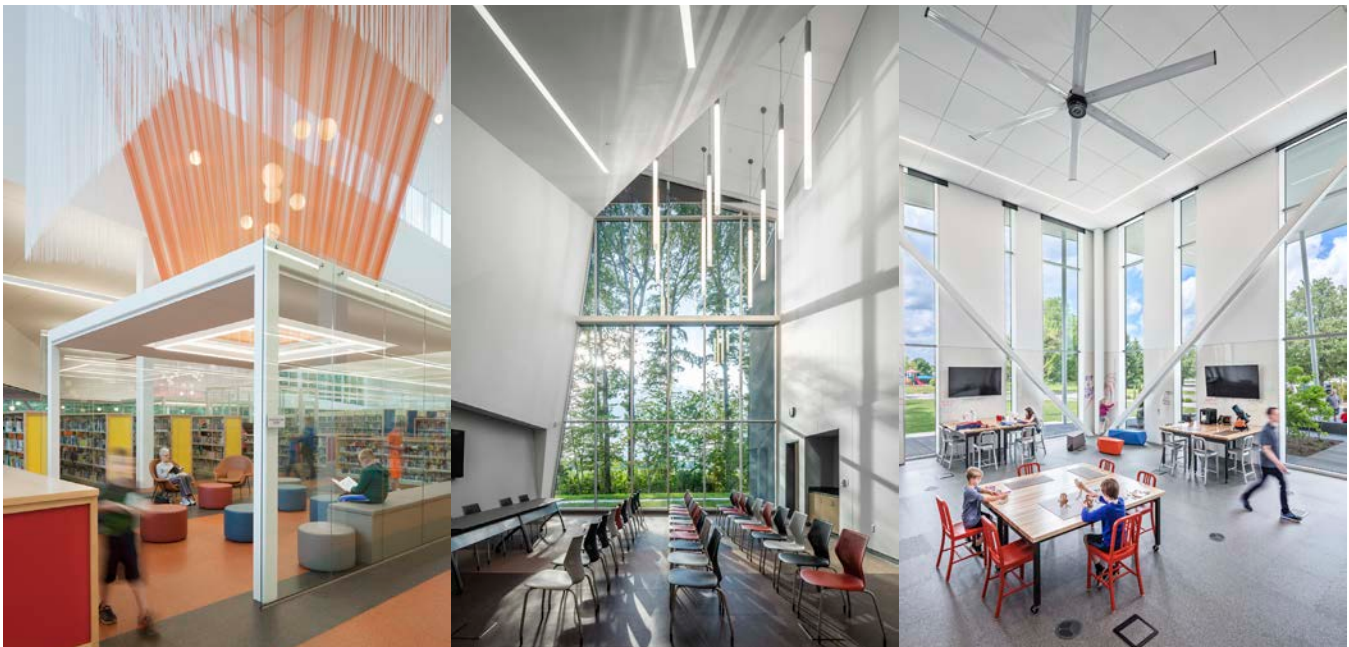
CASE STUDY 1: THREE LIBRARIES

MORE SERVICE | LESS SPACE | EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

CASE STUDY: LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

SOUTHWEST, SOUTH CENTRAL, AND NORTHEAST REGIONAL LIBRARIES

In the late 2000's Louisville Free Public Library began a planning process much like the planning Lincoln City Libraries is embarking on. They determined that an update to all their branches was required to address the lack of investment over decades of population growth. Many large areas of population were greater than six miles from a library. The plan indicated 120,000 GSF of new library space was needed. The plan called to meet the demand with three new regional libraries built simultaneously in strategic parts of the city. Initially, funding was realized for only one library instead of all three. Upon completion of the first regional library, its success provided a tangible example of how next generation libraries serve the public as compared to libraries designed just ten years prior. Success enabled the construction of all three regionals and the ability to provide relevant service more efficiently.



2015 TRANSACTIONAL
40,000 GSF

BOOKS, READING, MEETING, PROGRAM,
TECHNOLOGY, CHILDREN'S

2017 PROGRAM MODEL
38,500 GSF

2015 TRANSACTIONAL PLUS MAKER
SPACE, ADDITIONAL PROGRAM RM

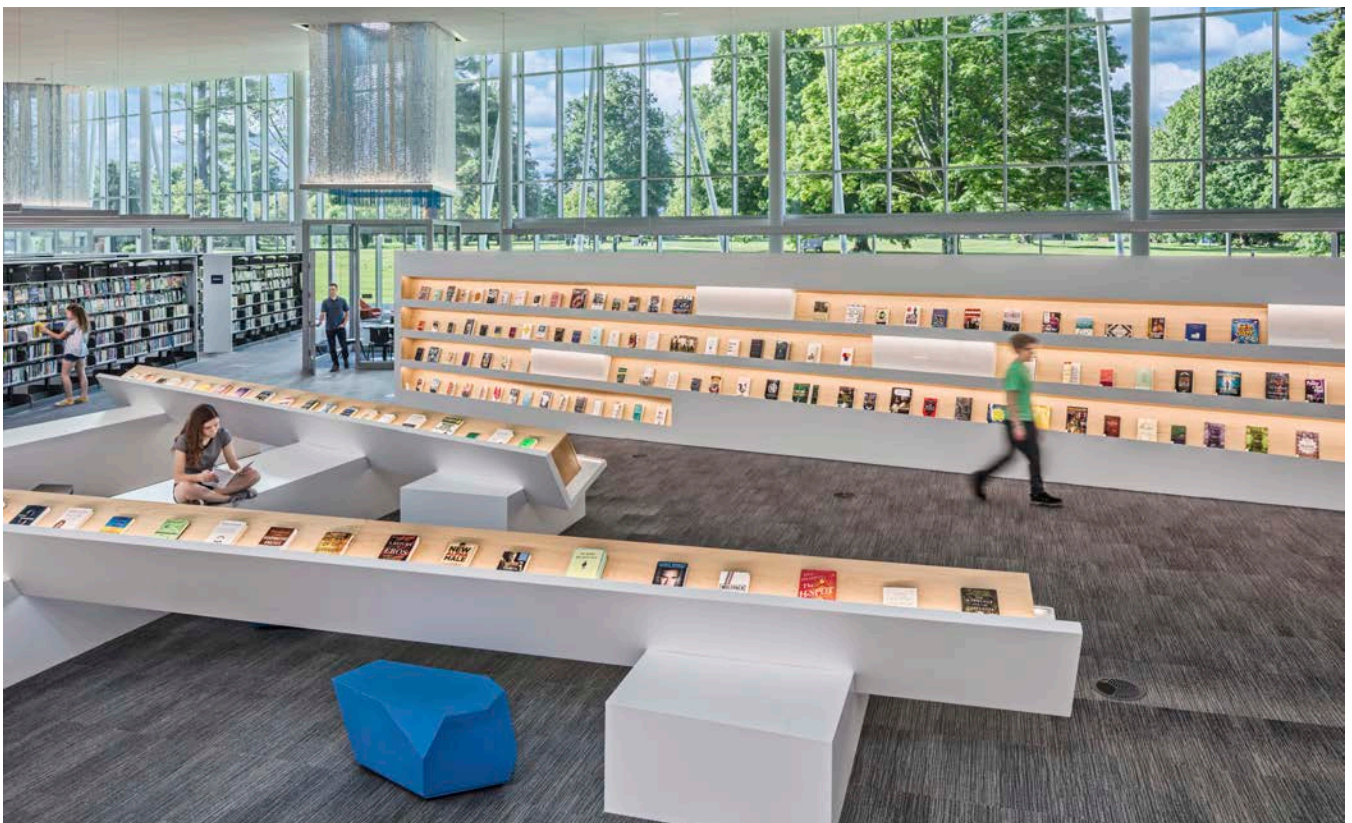
2019 PROGRAM MODEL
36,500 GSF

2017 PROGRAM PLUS DOUBLE
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING SPACE

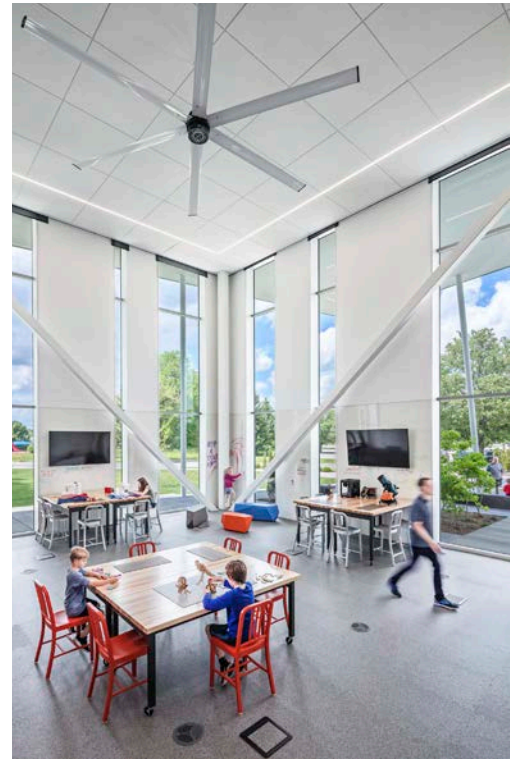


2017 regional library added maker space, a program room, and endowed an artist in residence

2019 regional library used browsing strategies to increase circulation and double community space



NEXT-GENERATION LIBRARY SERVICE



2019 regional library incorporated 5 highly flexible community rooms and varied seating arrangements
2019 regional library is a “loud library” with acoustic control in strategic areas



CASE STUDY 2: BEST LIBRARY IN THE WORLD

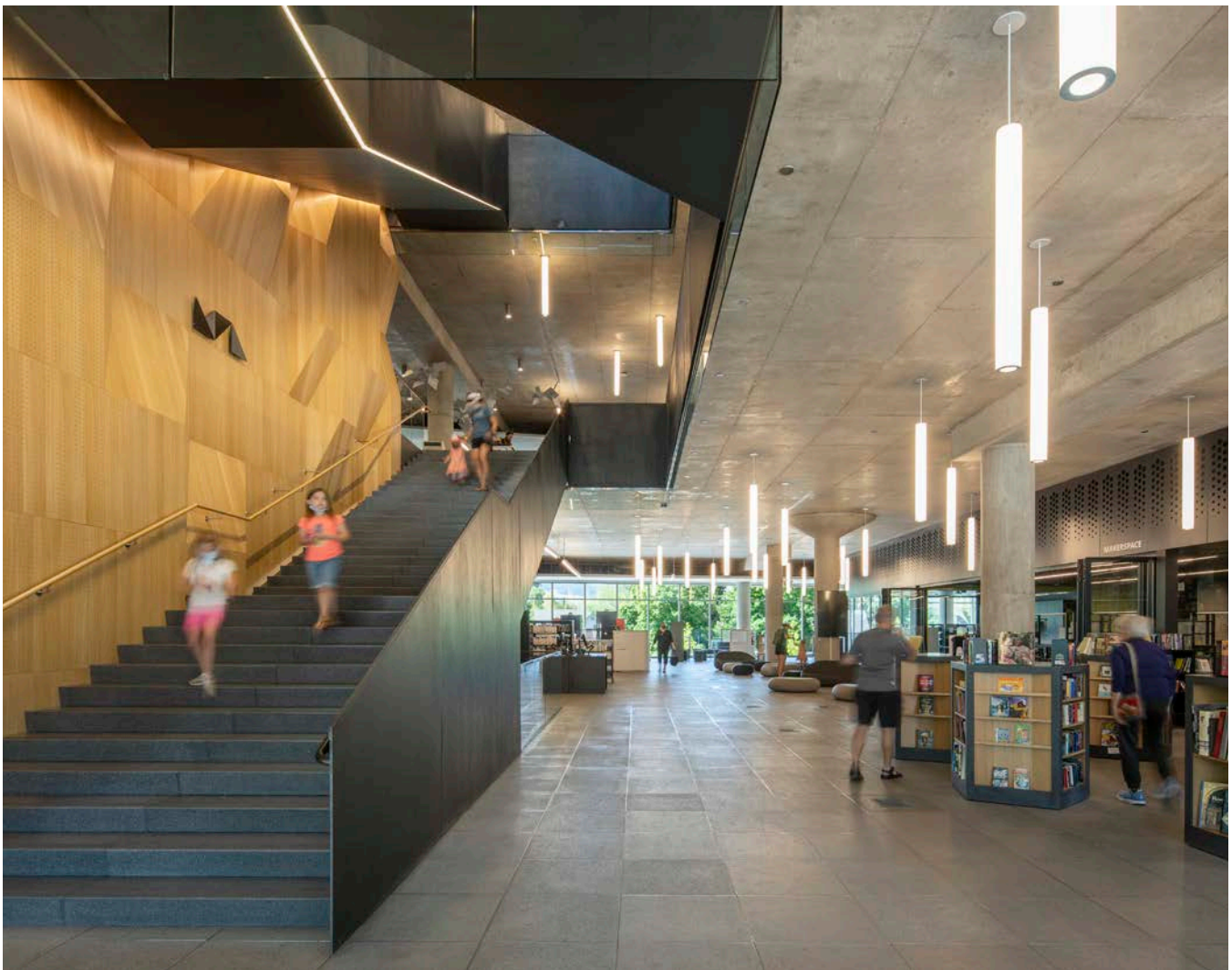
WHY? | THE PARTNERSHIP MODEL | CULTURE HUB

CASE STUDY: MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY

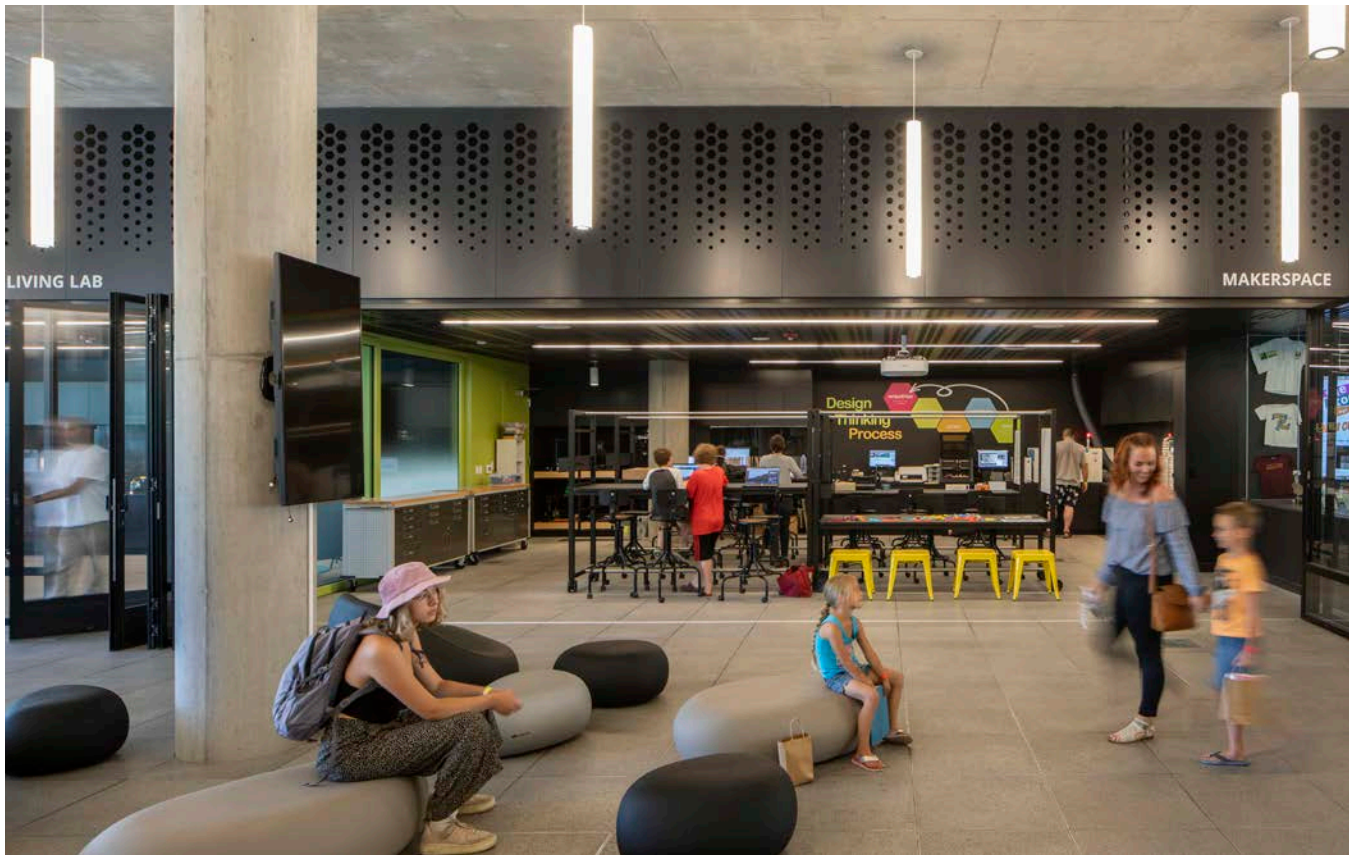
IFLA (INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS) PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE YEAR

AWARDED IN 2022 – FIRST IN THE AMERICAS TO WIN THIS AWARD

Missoula Public Library is a partnership of six organizations: Public Library, UM technology lab, STEM Living Lab, Families First Living Lab, Community Access Television, and Trapper Peak Coffee. It is an example of how partnerships can be fully integrated and providing synergies that reduce redundancies, improve efficiencies, and create more engagement. The result is a library where you spend your day and linger more often.



NEXT-GENERATION LIBRARY SERVICE



Technology lab run by experts adjacent to library market space

Cafe's success is bolstered because the library is now a culture hub, a place to spend the day





Library reading space also provides teaching kitchen, seed bank, and community gardens

Entrance to STEM lab and children's library organization provides interactives





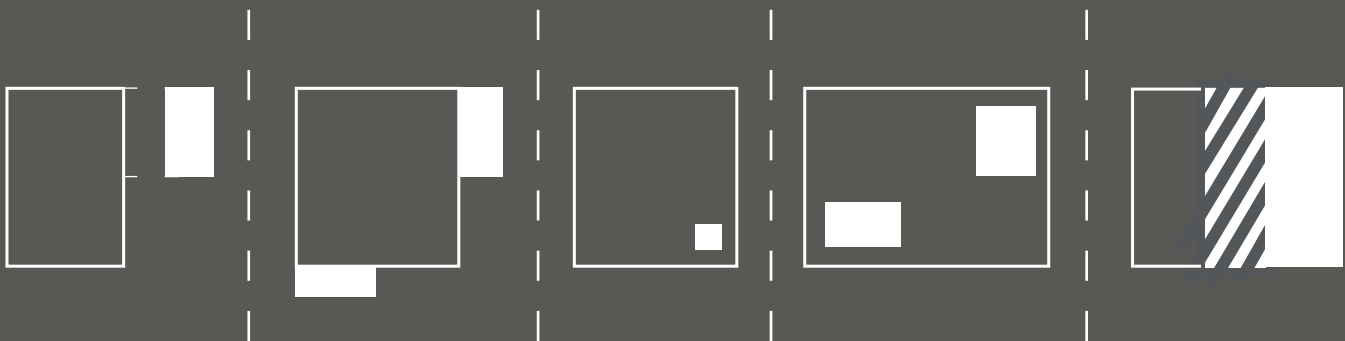
THREE REGIONALS EVOLVE FROM 2015 - 2019

THE NEXT EVOLUTION IS BRANCH RELATIONSHIPS

+
PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Partnerships can take many forms, the important question is: *“what is the right form?”*

TYPES OF PARTNERSHIPS



ADJACENT

ATTACHED

POP-UP

INTEGRATED

MERGED

Community Engagement

Engagement Summary

5

Full-day sessions
(across all 7 branches)

250+

Participants

40+

Hours of In-Person
Discussion

5

Open, Public
Sessions

567

Survey Responses

25+

Local Organizations
Engaged

250+

Heat Mapping
Contributions



Library Staff Engagement

Staff Engagement Meetings

BVH Architecture and MSR Design held meetings with branch library staff to discuss the existing scope of library services and programs, and opportunities for improvement to better cater to the community's needs.

Our findings from these meetings indicate that each branch library holds a unique identity, predominantly influenced by its committed staff. The range of services and programs exhibits distinct qualities across libraries, thoughtfully tailored to fulfill the particular needs of their respective communities.

There are two primary obstacles to expanding library services and programs: staffing and facilities. Staff feedback frequently mentions limited staff time as an obstacle to providing basic library services and expanded services and programs. Service space in the existing facilities are not set up for maximum staff or material flow efficiency. In addition, the buildings have inadequate meeting and programming space in which to hold community events.

Addressing communication challenges with the community regarding library services and programs also remains a pressing issue.



Staff inservice day engagement activities



Public Engagement

Key themes from public meetings

The Lincoln City Libraries system is deficient on diverse meeting and program spaces that support contemporary library service expectations. Lack of accessible makerspaces, content creation studios, flexible programming spaces, and social services support is broadly observed by the public.

The lack of integrated partnerships that generate an interactive relationship for the library and the partner has eroded the perceived relevancy of libraries in Lincoln. Furthermore, partnerships with the appropriate spaces and services are missing to robustly promote library activity.



Public meetings at Gere and Eiseley

The regions of Lincoln use their libraries differently. Users residing north of O Street generally desire a neighborhood library. This is in contrast to users south of O Street who will travel to branches for specific programs, services, or content.

Unfortunately, current library facilities inadequately address the uniquenesses of the areas served in favor of carbon copy building solutions. Walt and Eiseley are the same building but serve a demographic with different needs and different demands for content. Anderson is a smaller version of Gere, yet Anderson serves a neighborhood while Gere is the hub for collection distribution to the community simultaneously providing content expected of a neighborhood branch.

Downtown is a desired location for a branch library to serve the downtown neighborhood and contribute to the vibrant entertainment and arts district. Access to parking will be paramount to successful use of the downtown library. Additionally programming and spaces to support that programming will need to be flexible and distinctly different than the other branches. The downtown branch should integrate outdoor spaces for programming and community use.

Areas in north Lincoln should promote and consider library expansion in underserved areas with a neighborhood branch solution. South Lincoln can support underserved areas by preferencing program and meeting space.

All of Lincoln seems to support a quick content browse or retrieving content placed on hold rather than browsing through a large quantity of stacks.

Facility Survey Findings

Facility Survey Summary

BVH Architecture and MSR Design facilitated a five-week online survey seeking broad community feedback on the state of the library system facilities.

Over 98% of respondents utilize the LCL system with nearly 50% visiting 3 or more of the branches throughout the city. The responses heavily biased the Gere and Walt branches with over 50% of those surveyed claiming one as their neighborhood branch. If patrons travel to branches outside their neighborhood library, it's to access the collection or specific content.

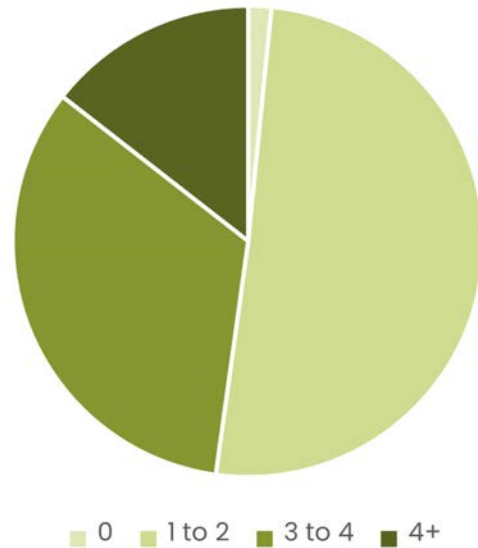
Major Themes

Primarily, the respondents use the library to access the collection, consult a librarian, or access content through the available technology and streaming services. As a result, the findings skew in favor of expanded content offerings.

At present, the library system is not capturing patronage that use the library as a venue for group work, tutoring, and community gatherings.

Respondents rated the LCL service, staff, and collection highly. The rating of the quality of the facilities begins to show where respondents desire access to different amenities. Most respondents rate the LCL system as average in furniture options, diversity of spaces, and usable meeting rooms. There is a resounding amount of importance placed on the children's, young adult, and adult areas.

There is clear parity in the importance of access to technology, comfortable seating, study tables, various meeting room sizes, acoustic control, social spaces, and outdoor opportunities. Likely,



How many branches have you visited this year?

this results from most current patrons using the library strictly to access the collection. Data suggests that if higher quality amenities are offered, people would use the library differently. Updating the library interior ranked second only in priority to increasing the collection.

Further, a majority desire for their library to have a connection to nature, be environmentally friendly, and offer creation or discovery zones.

Communal spaces and community partnerships were identified as critical to encourage lingering, extended use, and higher participation.

“Connecting kids with community programs. Having more partnerships within Lincoln. It would be awesome to have opportunities to introduce kids in a kid friendly way to groups that are making a difference in our community...”

Where LCL is currently succeeding?

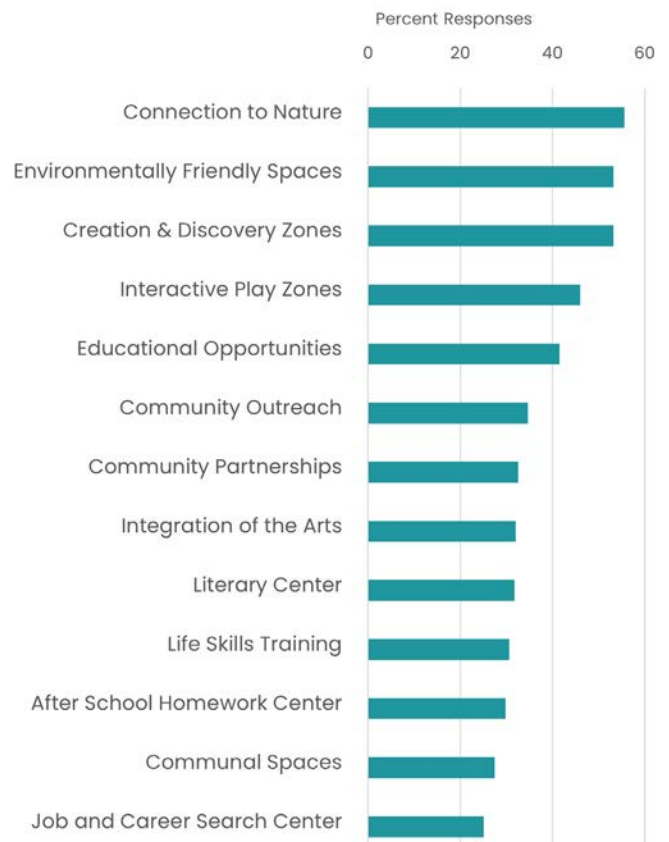
- Collection
- Staff: Users routinely note the friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable staff.
- Programs and services: users especially note story Times and book clubs.
- Accessibility
- Welcoming environment

"I love Lincoln City Libraries. From growing up within your system as a child, checking out every science book you offered, to an awkward teenager just looking for a safe place to relax after school, to now a parent offering my children so many opportunities to learn at all the different branches, you have been a big part of my life!"

"Many of the buildings are dark, square, brick buildings that are very unappealing and unwelcoming. I would love to see more inviting exteriors, natural lighting, higher ceilings, and more open layouts that make for more appealing buildings inside and out."

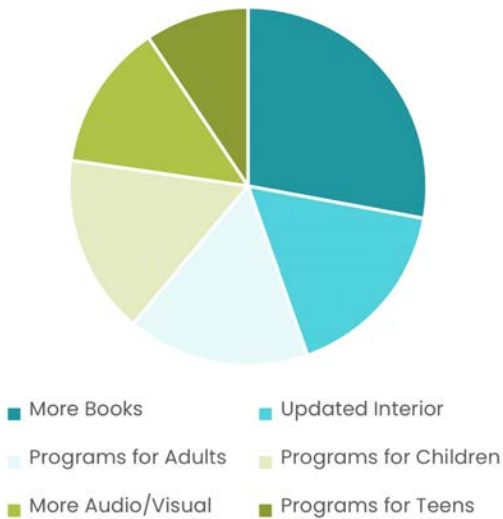
What concepts and services are appealing?

- Connection to nature and environmentally friendly spaces
- Creation and discovery zones: These spaces offer access to new skills such as 3D printing, coding, and other hands-on activities.
- Interactive play zones for children and families
- Integration of visual and performing arts: Libraries can provide space for artists to work and for the public to experience art.
- Communal spaces: People would like to see more spaces for meeting, socializing, and collaborating as a local community.
- Community partnerships
- Educational opportunities: After-school homework help, job search assistance, and literacy programs were mentioned.
- Life skills training: Libraries programs can facilitate skill growth classes such as financial literacy, cooking, and home repair.



What system improvements would you like?

- Improve customer service
- Improve the collection of books and other materials
- Update the facilities and technology
- Expand the range of programs and services offered



What branch improvements would you like?

- More books, audio, and video: This is the most common suggestion in part as a result of the patronage the library currently attracts
- Updated library interior and landscaping:
- More study and workspace
- More meeting rooms and communal social space: In addition to working and reading, patrons would like more social spaces.
- More specialty spaces: Maker spaces, recording studios, and object lending libraries greatly expand the library user base.
- More activities and programs for all ages:
- Open more hours

How could LCL better serve the community?

- More community outreach: Several people suggested that the library should do more to publicize its resources and programs.
- More programming (for all age groups): Adult programming was particularly sought-after.
- Better promotion of existing programs and resources: Some people said that they were not aware of all that the library offers.
- A larger and more diverse collection
- Partner with other organizations such as schools, museums, and businesses
- Provide more technology access
- Create more community spaces
- More support for those experiencing homelessness
- More locations and longer hours

Open-ended public comments:

- Many responses expressed gratitude to the great and knowledgeable staff and the many services the library provides.
- There was a lot of support for building a new downtown library, with many people saying that the current library is too small and outdated.
- Need for more quiet spaces
- A few people expressed concerns about materials with divisive themes being prominently featured in the children’s section.

“The quality of the Lincoln libraries is one of the things that makes our city great.”

LCL Demographics and Circulation Data

Demographics

The analysis of demographic data provides us with a comprehensive view of the service area for each branch of the Lincoln City Library. By examining demographic factors such as population, age, race, education, household income, etc., we can construct a holistic profile of the communities served by each branch.

This profile serves as a valuable tool for determining the specific services required by each community and it enables each library to optimize its facilities by reorganizing services to better meet local requirements. Moreover, this data assists in making decisions about potential renovations, expansions, or the addition of new Lincoln City Library branches.

Population and Growth

The city and county have exhibited growth over the last decade and are projected to continue growing at a rate of 1% for the next three decades. Statistical data indicates that both Lincoln’s and Lancaster County’s populations are expanding at a faster pace compared to the overall state population growth rate.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department describes expected future growth as steady and stable, reaching a population of around 400,000 in 2040.

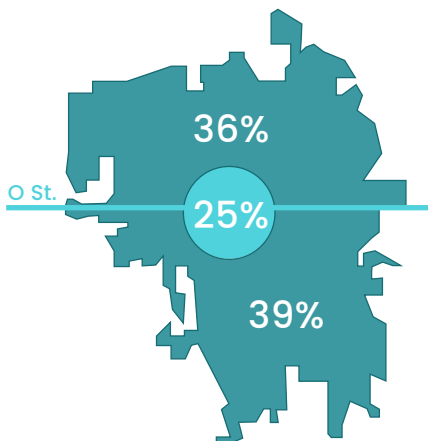
Branch Library Service Populations

Library service areas do not always perfectly align with geographical boundaries. Data indicates that people in Lincoln often utilize a minimum of three libraries rather than the library closest to their residence. Residents of Lancaster County account for approximately 6.3% of circulation activity.

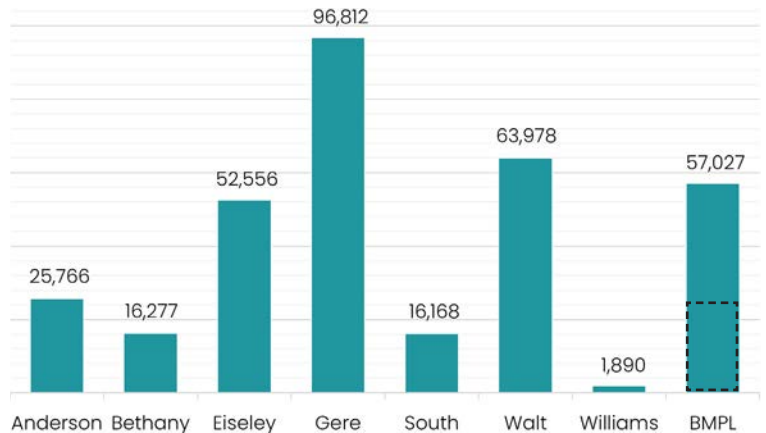
Census data and circulation patterns were used to define the service area and service population for each library. The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from. The service population is then calculated using the population of the zip code boundaries.

There are exceptions for establishing the service population for BMPL. Despite its location within the 68508 zip code, only 40% of the population in this area utilizes BMPL, with the 60% majority using other branch locations. Considering the circulation activities, the estimated service population for BMPL is approximately 23,000. However, the actual service population, determined by its geographical boundaries, should be around 57,000.

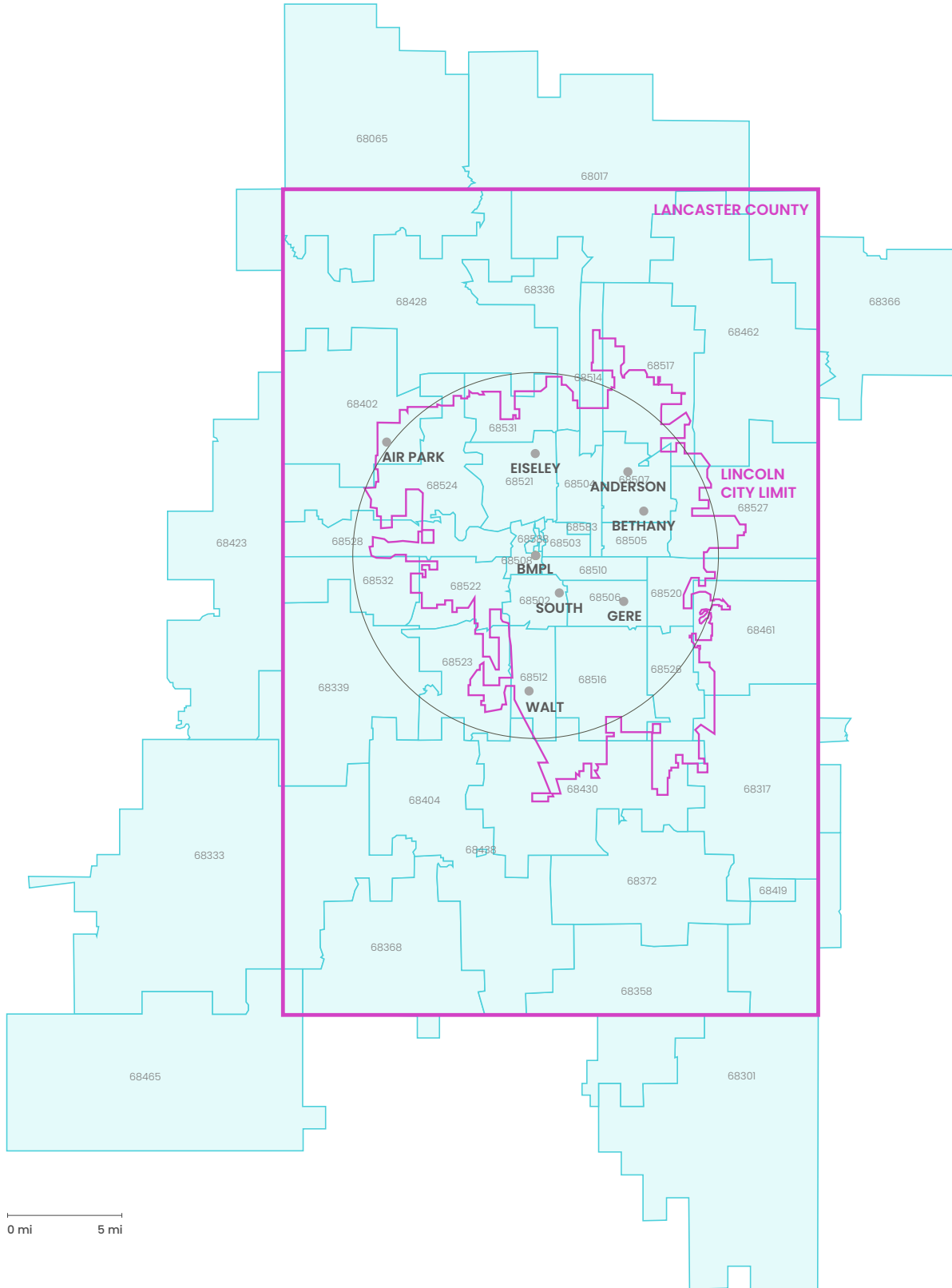
Population Distribution



Branch Library Service Population



LCL DEMOGRAPHICS AND CIRCULATION DATA



Boundary Map

Boundaries are defined by Zip Code with an overlay of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County limits. The City or County boundary doesn't perfectly overlap with the boundaries defined by zip codes. According to Census data, the County's population is 320,301, while the City's population is 299,302. This indicates that 93.43% of the population resides within city limits.

Household Composition

A comparison of household composition data reveals that most communities demonstrate similar proportions of households with children, accounting for approximately 30% of the total. However, Williams stands out with the highest percentage of households having children, while BMPL has a notably lower percentage in this category. On the other hand, BMPL boasts the highest percentage of single person households, comprising over 56%. Additionally, it has a substantial proportion of households without children, nearly 75%, closely followed by Anderson at 73%.

These trends are expected to continue as the population of residents aged 65 years and older increases, leading to a reduction in household size and altered composition. These differences have implications for the specific library services required by each community

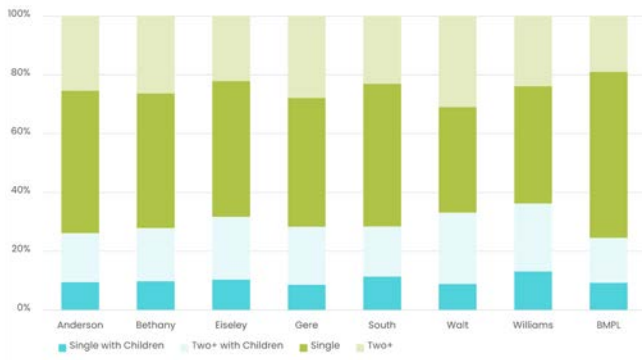
Age

Nebraska’s population demonstrates a well-balanced distribution among different age groups. The demographic segment comprising toddlers through grade school students makes up 20% of the total population. In Lincoln, the population of residents aged 65 and older is projected to increase by 14.2% by 2050, aligning with a nationwide trend in the United States. These shifting demographics indicate the need to develop programs and library services that cater to both children and the senior population.

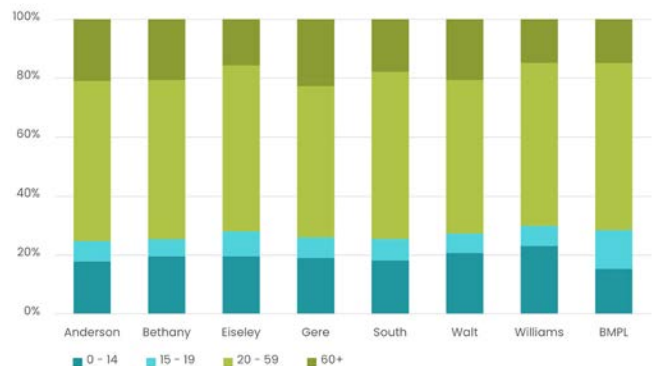
Of particular note, BMPL has the lowest percentage of grade school students at 9%, notably lower than the average of 14% in other communities. At the same time, BMPL boasts the highest young adult population.

“Many of the library cards I issued this month were to families who were preparing to start the school year, and quite a few had just moved to Lincoln. There was a lot of excitement about the amount of materials and programs offered by LCL.”

Household Composition



Age



The increase in the older age group will result in more households without children. Additionally, new growth around the outskirts of the city will contribute to more households with children.

BMPL experiences its highest population count in the age group of 20 to 34, driven by students from the University of Nebraska and other governmental and business sectors.

LCL DEMOGRAPHICS AND CIRCULATION DATA

Race & Ethnicity

While the average white population in the metro area stands at approximately 84%, surpassing the state average of 76.4%, it's noteworthy that the service area of BMPL in downtown Lincoln exhibits the highest level of diversity in the entire state. The South and Williams service areas have a significantly larger Hispanic population in comparison to other locations.

Census data indicates that diversity will become more pronounced over the next 30 years, with an anticipated increase in the minority population.

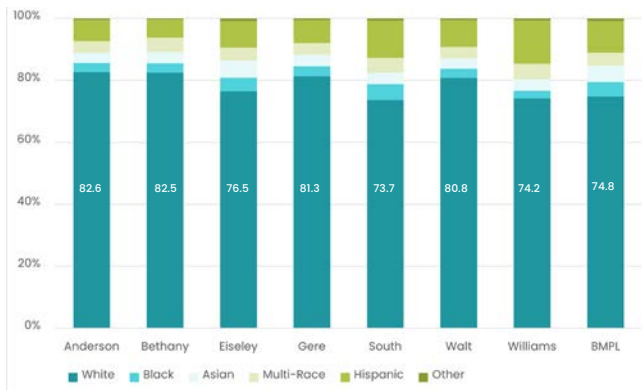
Education

Situated in the heart of the city, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) significantly bolsters the educational landscape of Lincoln. The presence of this major university contributes to a increased level of education among the local population.

Aligning with a broader pattern seen across many communities in the Lincoln metro area, the percentage of individuals possessing a bachelor's degree in Nebraska is approximately 38%.

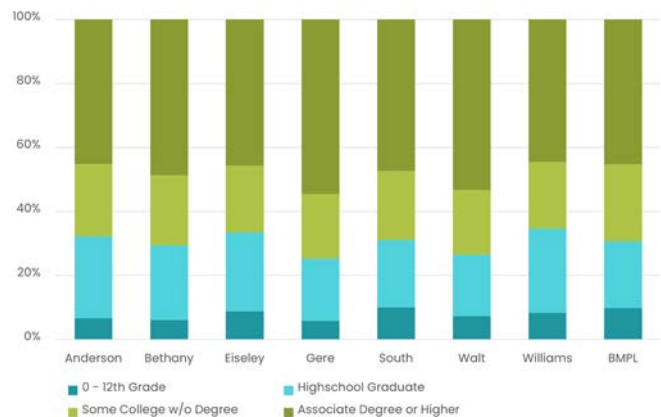
"LCL did outreach at Downtown 101 and both said there were several UNL students who were excited to discover there was a public library so close to campus."

Race & Ethnicity



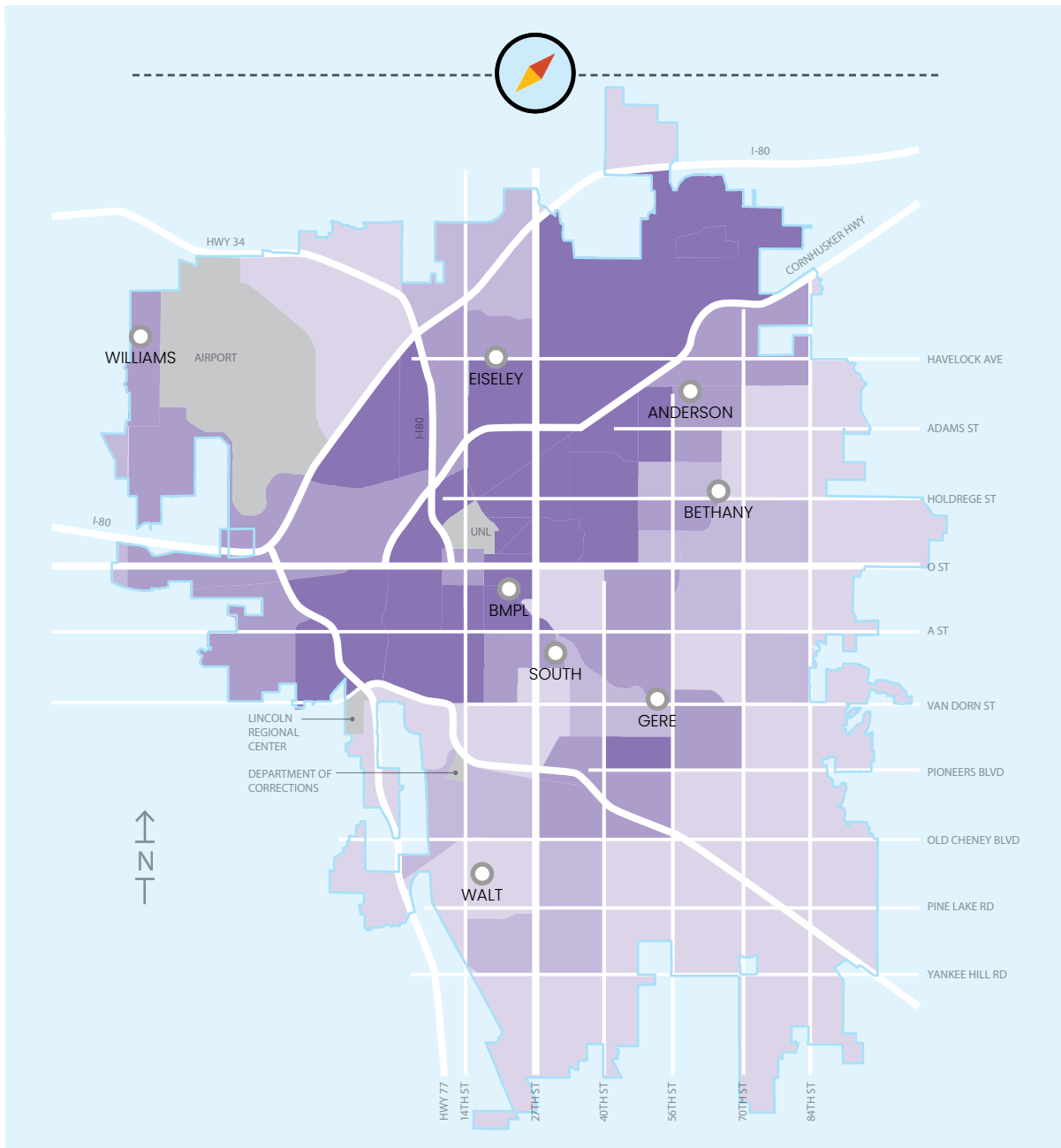
The average minority population currently constitutes 20.5% in Lancaster County, and this figure is projected to rise to 35.5% by 2050.

Education



Lincoln has a relatively high percentage of residents with bachelor's degrees or higher due to the influence of UNL.

LCL DEMOGRAPHICS AND CIRCULATION DATA



- Less vulnerable
- |
- More vulnerable
- Excluded
- 2023 City Limits

Data Source: CDC/ATSDR
 Map: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD)

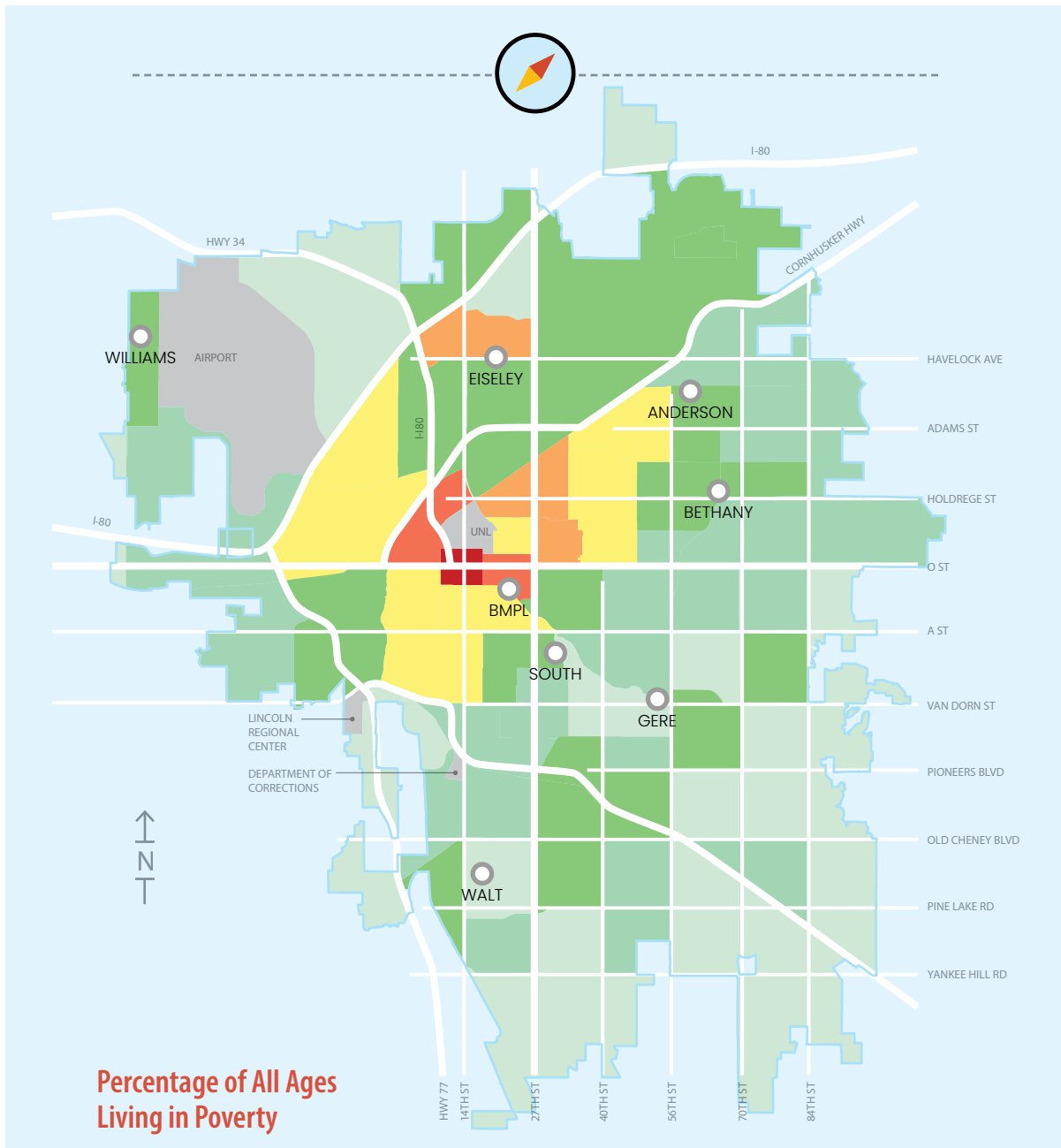
Social Vulnerability Index 2020

The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) uses U.S. census data to rank census tracts on 14 social factors and group them into four related themes (socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing and transportation).* SVI assists public health and other local officials in identifying neighborhoods that could benefit the most from health promotion initiatives or may need support before, during, and after a hazardous event (e.g. tornado, disease outbreak).

* This index shows how Lincoln's census tracts rank compared to Nebraska census tracts.
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>

3

Graphic Source: Place Matters 5.0 report 2023, Community Health Endowment of Lincoln



Percentage of All Ages Living in Poverty

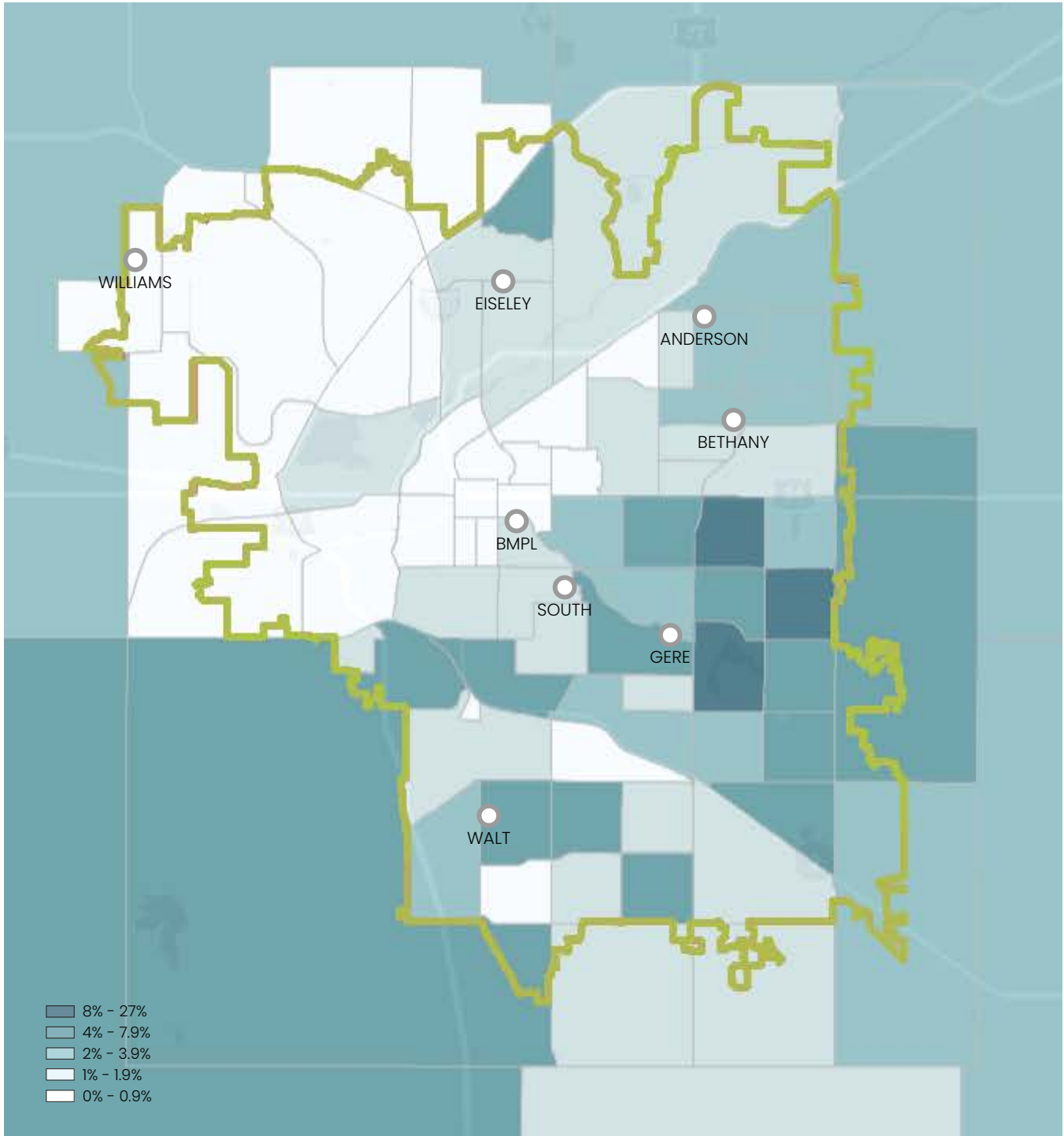
- 0-5%
- 5.1-10%
- 10.1-20%
- 20.1-30%
- 30.1-40%
- 40.1-50%
- 50.1-60%
- Excluded
- 2023 City Limits

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-year estimate
 Map: LLCHD

Poverty 2021

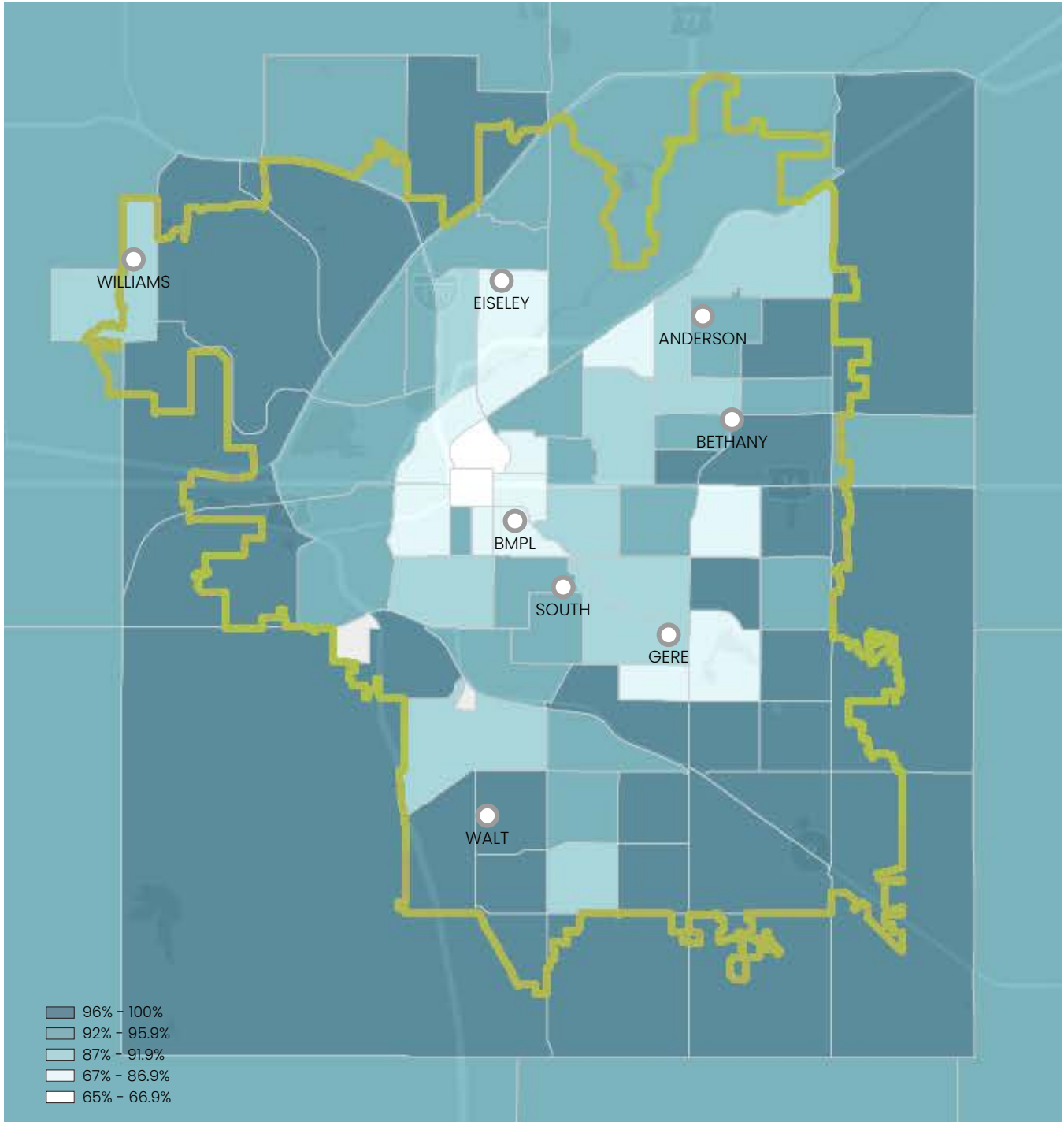
The most current data shows that 12% of Lancaster County residents live in poverty. Of the 77 census tracts mapped, 27 (35.1%) exceed a 12% poverty rate. Among the seven census tracts with the highest poverty levels ($\geq 30\%$), the average life expectancy is 70.7 years. Among the 20 census tracts with the lowest poverty ($< 5\%$), the average life expectancy is 81.3 years.

Graphic Source: Place Matters 5.0 report 2023, Community Health Endowment of Lincoln



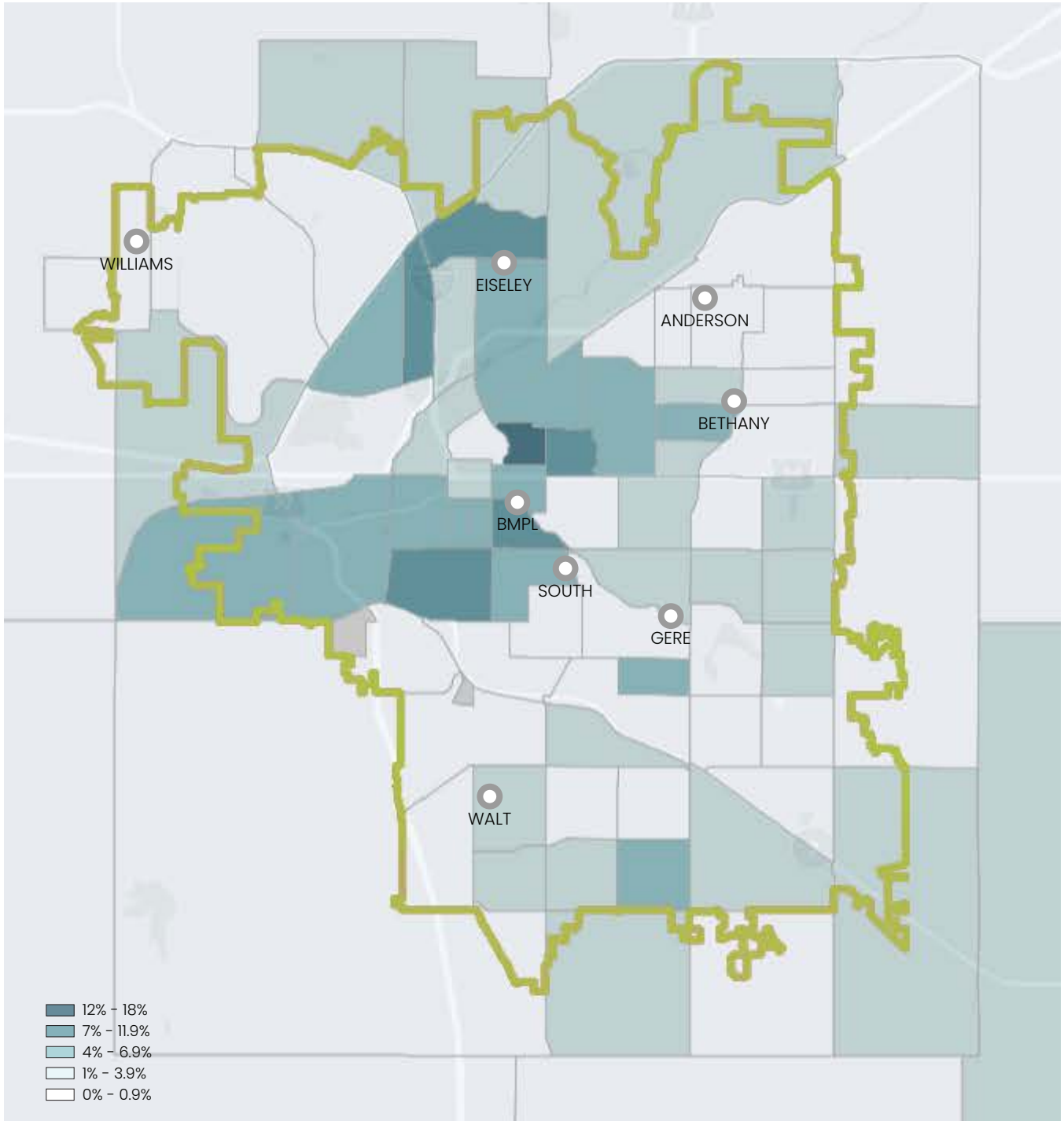
Percent Population Over 65 Years of Age

“A woman called BMPL because she hadn’t received her Meals on Wheels delivery. She’d called the number listed in the phone book, but no one answered. Laura let the woman know that Tabitha Health Care Services was the administrator for Meals on Wheels and got her a phone number that would be answered on the weekends in order to sort out her meal situation. **The woman had said she didn’t know who else to call, so she called the library.**”



Percent Households with Computer Access

"A woman came to the BMPL desk and said she just doesn't know anything about computers, but she needs to do a food handlers permit. I helped her get started. Eventually we got her through initial hurdles and she was able to proceed through the training module. At the end of the module, after she passed all the units, she was excited to print out her certificate."



Percent Limited English-Speaking Households

Library Use

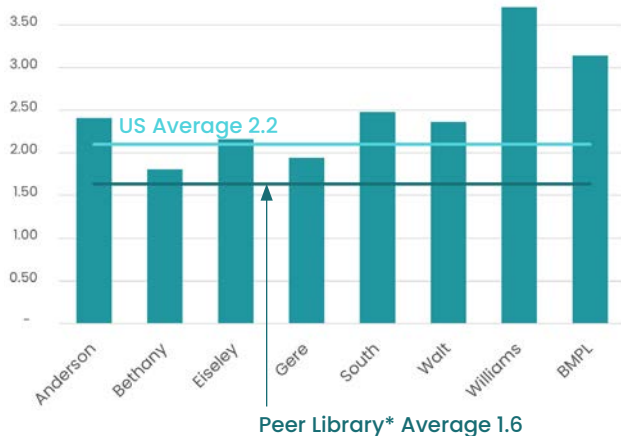
Library Collection Size

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average collection size in U.S. public libraries is 2.2 times the service population. LCL’s peer libraries* have an average collection size of 1.6 times the service population.

In the case of Lincoln City Libraries (LCL), the collection sizes closely align with the U.S. average, ranging from approximately 2.0 to 2.5. (This comparison excludes Williams Branch and BMPL, as their unique size and distinct characteristics.)

In light of circulation activities and future demands, it is believed that LCL branches maintain appropriately sized collections. However, some libraries may have the potential to reduce their current collection size to accommodate other library programs.

Collection Per Capita

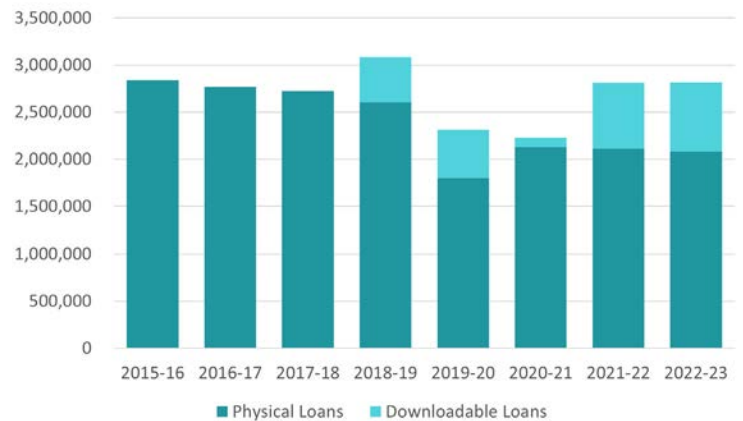


The collection per capita at LCL branches is higher than the 1.6 average at peer libraries.

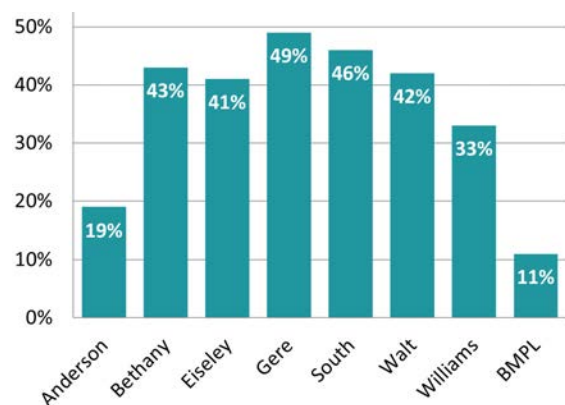
Library Circulation

Overall circulation has held steady over the past 8 years, with the exception of a drop during the COVID-19 pandemic. While there has been a decline in the circulation of physical materials during this time, there is a corresponding increase in downloadable materials.

Total Loans Per Year



Average Percent of Collection Checked Out



Approximately 25% of the BMPL collection is non-circulating, contributing to the lower check-out percentage.

*LCL’s peer libraries are other library systems across the US that serve populations between 308,000 - 336,000 people with multiple branches. These include Lexington Public Library (KY), St. Paul Public Library (MN), Durham County Library (NC), St. Louis Library District (MO), and others. All data is supplied from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Refer to the Appendix for more detailed metrics on each of the peer library systems.

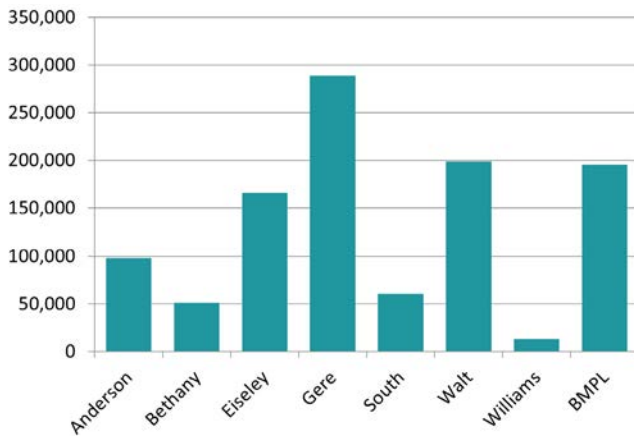
LCL DEMOGRAPHICS AND LIBRARY USE

Annual Library Use Data

The annual number of visits is closely related to the population that the library serves. However, the mere count of library visits itself doesn't provide sufficient perspective on how well the library is performing within the community. To gain a better understanding of library activities, it's important to compare the annual visits against the overall service population.

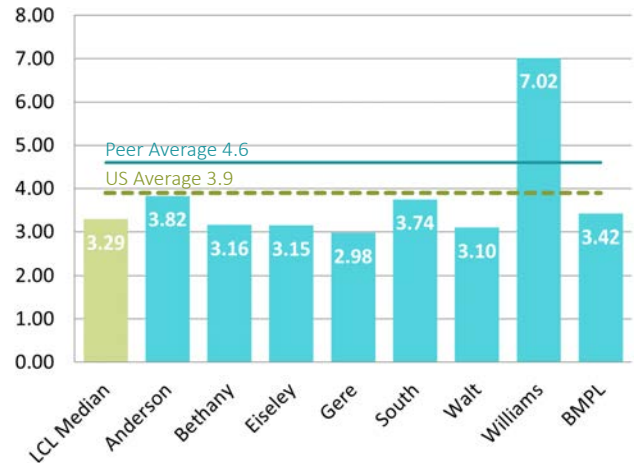
According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average library visits per population in the US is 3.9. In contrast, LCL's peer libraries demonstrate notably higher library visits per capita at 4.6. Patrons visit the library for different services, branches with higher loans per capita typically see fewer computer reservations per capita and vice versa.

Annual Visits
(FY 2018-2019)



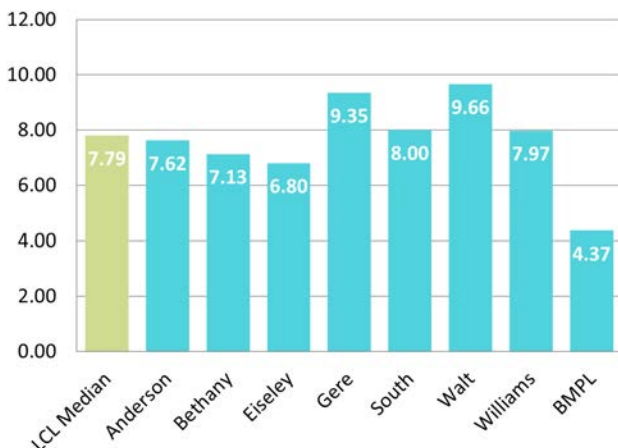
The Gere and Walt Branches have the highest annual visit counts in the LCL system. However, when looked at in relation to the service population (see adjacent chart) they are close to the LCL median.

Annual Visits Per Capita
(FY 2018-2019)

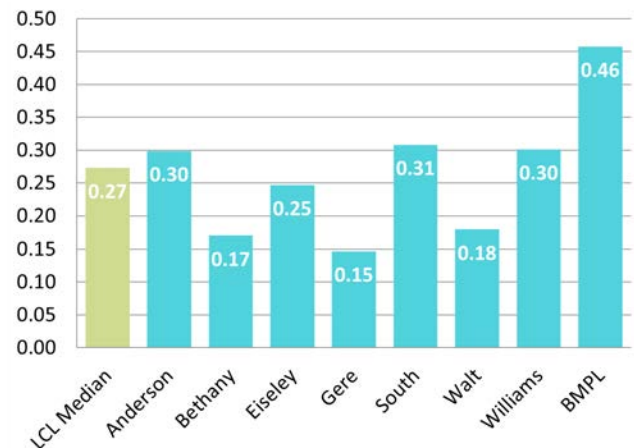


Use per capita is fairly consistent across all branches, Williams is likely an outlier in the data because of the new location.

Annual Loans Per Capita
(FY 2018-2019)



Computer Reservations Per Capita
(FY 2022-2023)

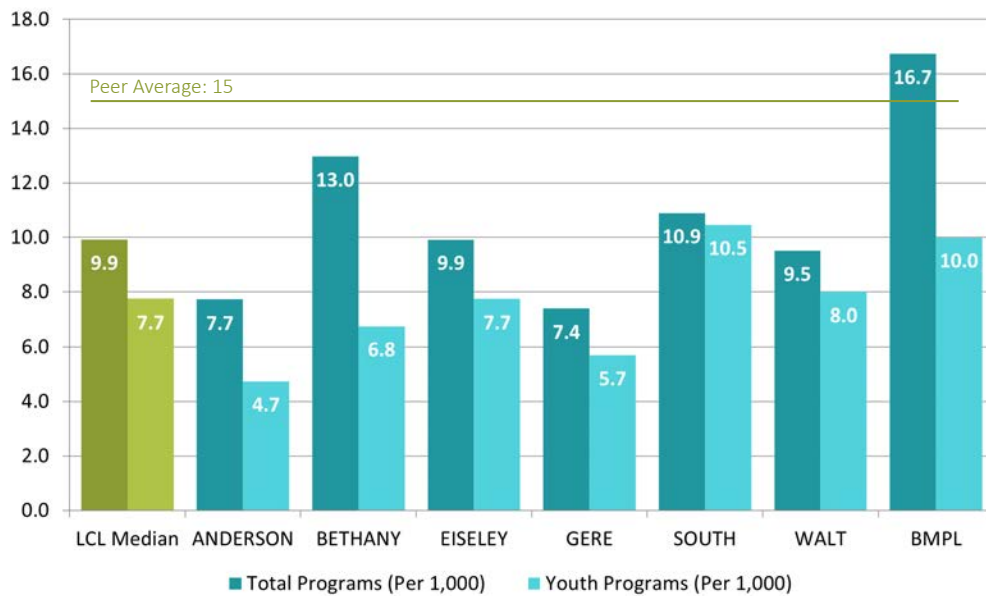


Library Programs

Library programs give community members opportunities to learn about topics of interest, expand their skills, and access technology. Programs draw new people to the library, encourage ongoing library use, and build community. Drop-in and informal programming for teens can support connected learning and provide opportunities outside of school and home to socialize with peers. Programming for children can support literacy and provides caregivers with opportunities to connect.

LCL’s peer libraries offer an average of 15 programs per 1,000 people. Almost all LCL branches fall below the average, likely due to lack of programming space and staffing constraints.

LCL Total Programs Per 1,000 People
(FY 2018-2019)



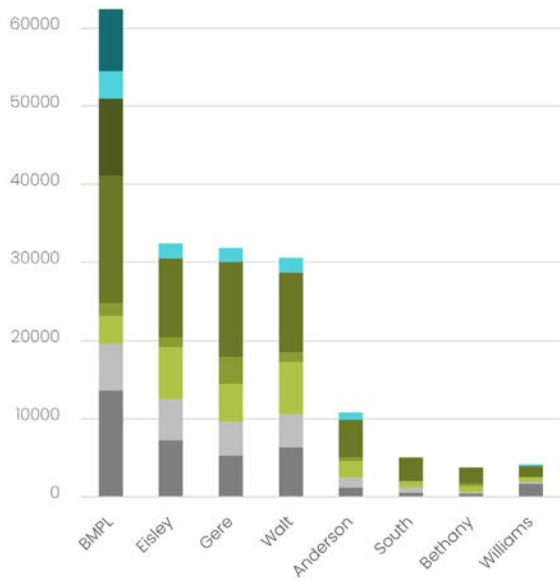
Past programming events at LCL locations

Space Use Data

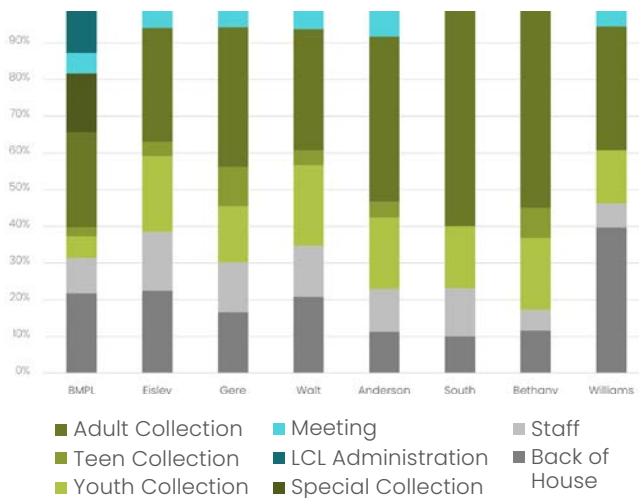
Due to the complexities of building design there is not a fixed square foot per capita target for a library system. General rule-of-thumb standards range from 0.5 SF/capita to 0.75 SF/capita. The median SF/capita of LCL branches is 0.43 which suggests additional space is needed across the system. Engagement findings reinforce this finding. Most branches do not have the space needed to support the community’s desire for an increase in programming and collections.

BMPL, Eiseley, Gere, and Walt Branches have large portions of the building occupied by staff and back of house functions. It is possible that with a more efficient layout of these spaces more space could be dedicated to public functions in these buildings.

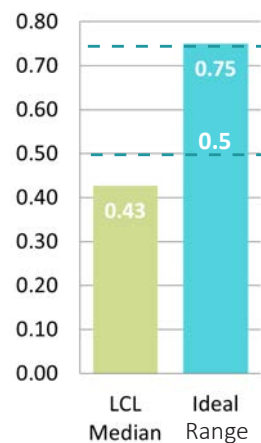
Total Building Square Feet



Space Use at Each Branch



Building Square Feet Per Capita



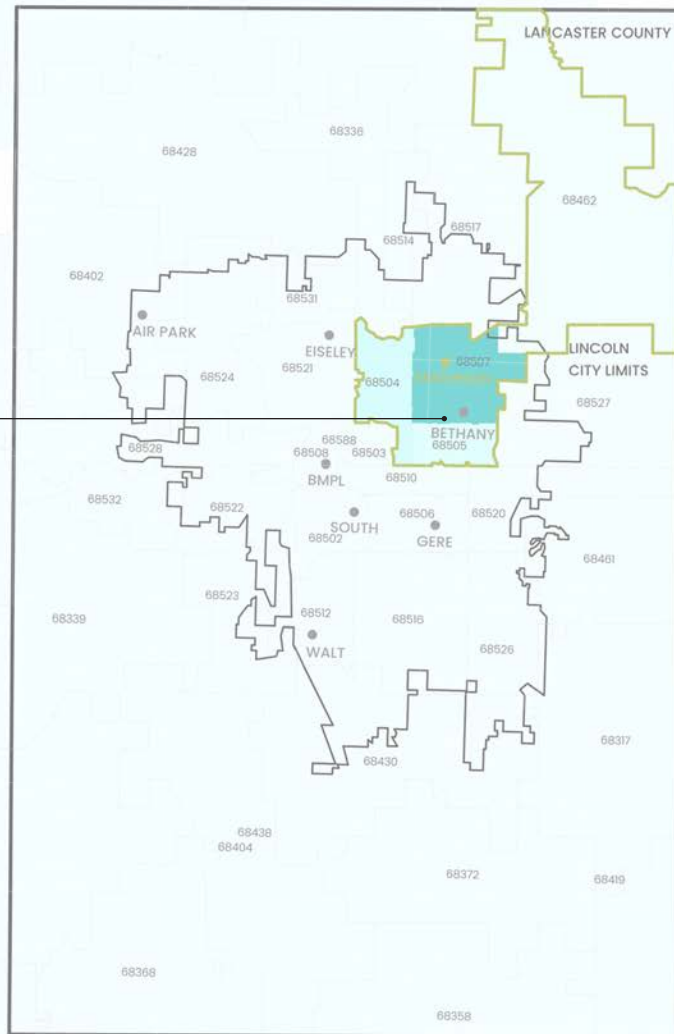
Lincoln City Libraries

Anderson Branch

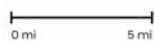
Branch Information

Square Feet:	11,000	Annual Circulation:	146,757
Collection Size:	62,077	Annual Visits:	55,416
		Annual Program Attendance:	6,775

The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.



Service Population Map of Anderson Branch



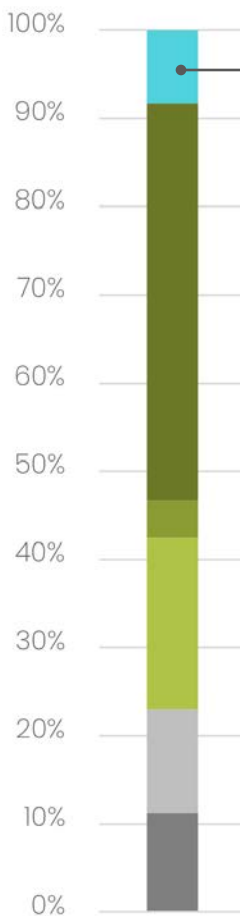
> 15,000
 10,000 - 14,999
 5,000 - 9,999
 1,000 - 4,999
 < 1,000
 Service Area Boundary includes top 75% of ZIP code populations

Library Service Assessment

Anderson Branch is located in a working-class neighborhood and serves as a vital resource for multiple generations. This branch sees an average amount of use in comparison to the other LCL branches.

The existing facility has a single open collection space which is adequate to house the library collection and seating areas. A public meeting space is located near the entrance, yet it lacks visibility to the library and the irregular footprint makes the room difficult to use.

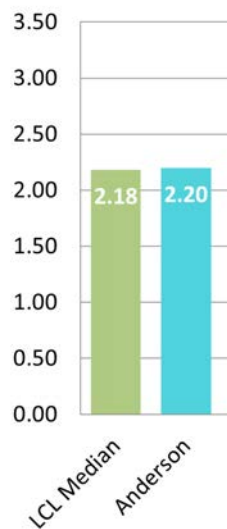
Space Use Allotment



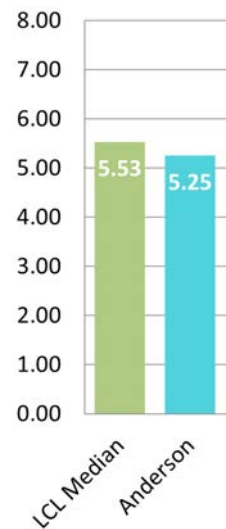
Inadequate meeting space to support library programs

- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other

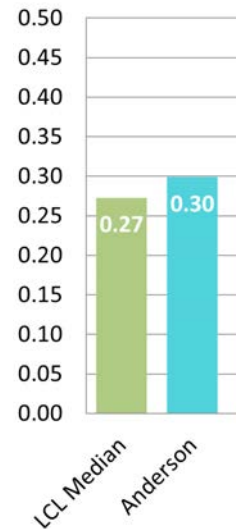
Visits Per Capita



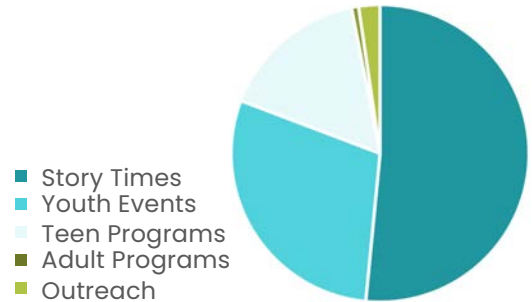
Loans Per Capita



Computer Use Per Capita



Program Types



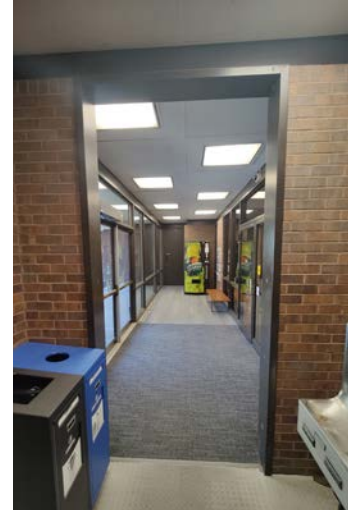


1. Inefficient meeting space, poor visibility into library
2. Poor entry sequence with lots of unused space
3. Inadequate teen space
4. Inefficient technology layout in spaces that could be better utilized as study and meeting rooms

- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other



Meeting room shape complicates use and makes for oversized vestibule



Dense collection layout lacks seating or congregation space



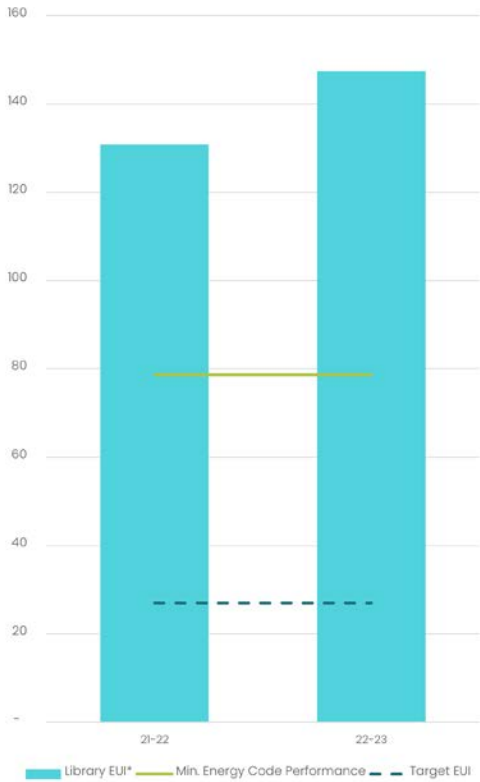
Business center and computer lab are not spatially efficient and are out of date



Facilities Assessment

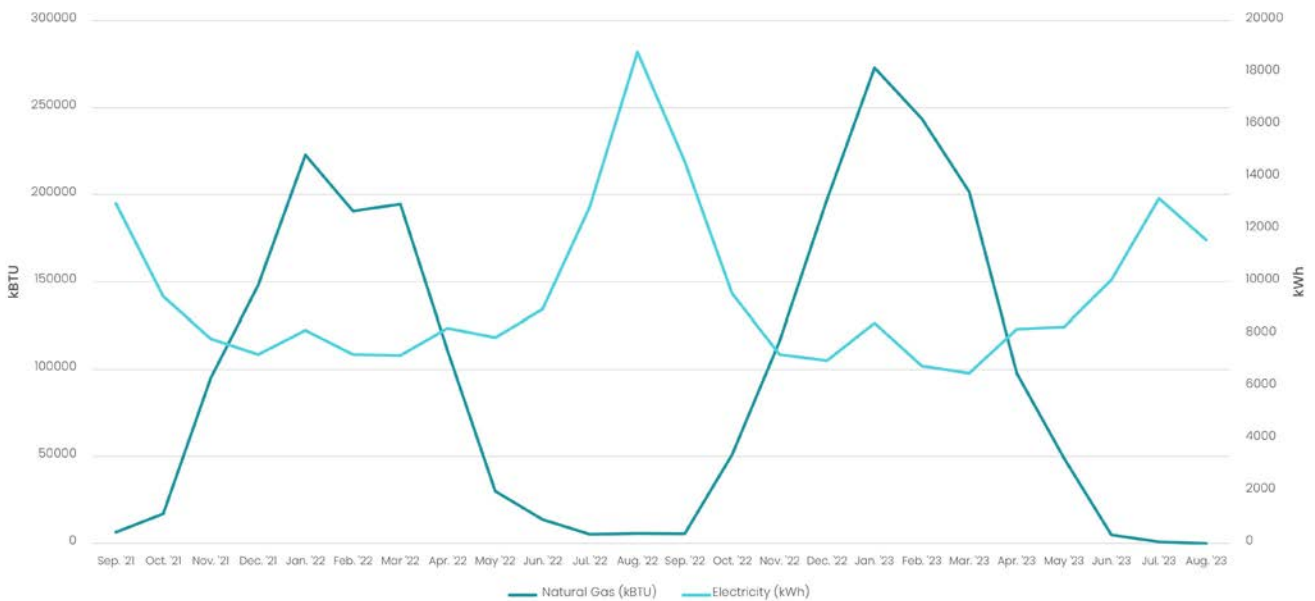
Date Constructed	1971
Floors	One
Gross Square Feet	11000
Overall Average	3.2
Site Condition Grade	3
Site Renovations	2020 - Parking and new sidewalk railing added.
Exterior Envelope Grade	2
Primary Exterior Materials	Brick, metal panel, soffit panels
Exterior Envelope Notes	Exterior soffits and HM Frames rusted. Efflorescence on brick. Soffit panels in poor condition.
Roof Condition Grade	4
Roof Type	EPDM
Roof Replacement Date	2016
Interior Condition Grade	3
Interior Upgrade Renovations	2016 - Carpet
Interiors Notes	-
Furnishings Grade	4
Electrical Systems Grade	3
Electrical/Lighting Renovations	2020 - LED lighting. 2022 - Door Access/Security
Electrical Systems Notes	Dated but functional
Mechanical Systems Grade	4
Mechanical Renovations	2020 - New Air Handler/Boiler. 2013 - New chiller.
Mechanical Systems Notes	Appears to be working fine.
Plumbing Fixtures Grade	3
Plumbing Fixtures Notes	Fixtures are working, but dated and in semi-functional set up.
ADA Compliance Grade	3
ADA Compliance Notes	No accessible doors from inside into meeting room. Staff entrance not accessible.
Code Compliance Grade	3
Code Compliance Notes	No panel seen or FDC. Not sprinkled.

EUI Analysis (2021-2023)



* EUI (Energy Use Intensity) – A building’s annual energy use per unit area. A lower EUI indicates a more energy-efficient building.

Energy Use by Source (2021-2023)



Recommendations

What does this branch need to be a great neighborhood library?

- Improved entry sequence: better visual connection to the street, smaller service desk, more materials display
- Flexible meeting room with high visibility to library spaces
- Reduction in collection or a building addition to accommodate more patron seating
- Computer stations integrated into collection areas to free up enclosed rooms for meeting space
- Connection to outdoor gathering space
- Dedicated teen space with study and lounge spaces
- Furnishings that encourage lingering, alone or in small groups



1. New outdoor reading space
2. Expanded meeting room
3. Reworked entry sequence
4. Larger teen space, enclosed study and meeting rooms
5. Addition to increase program, collection, and seating space

- Addition
- Outdoor Space
- ▨ Major Renovation
- Renovation

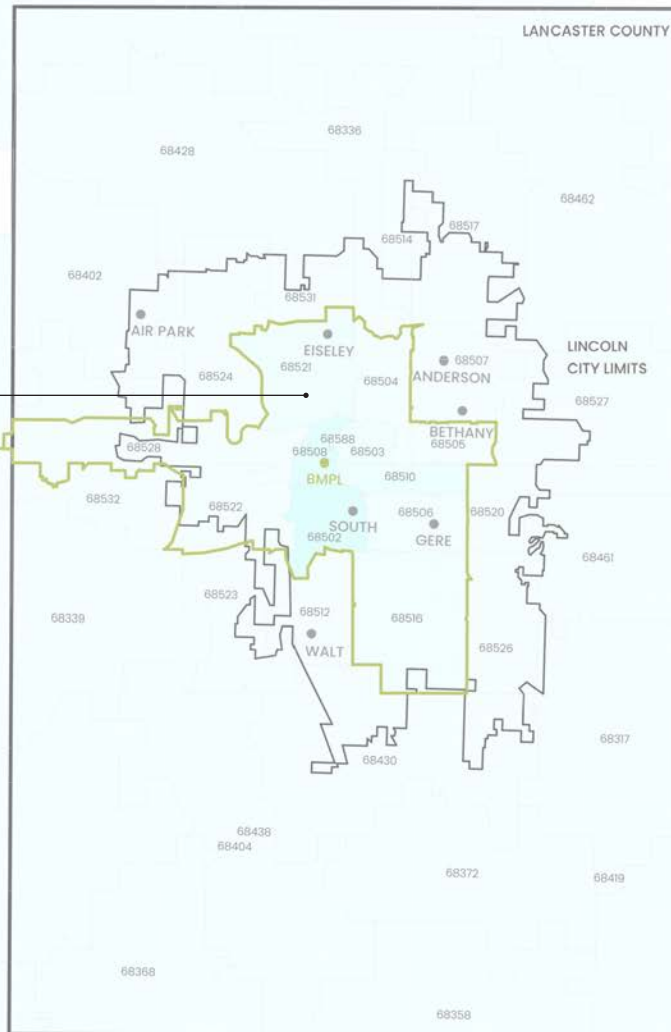
Lincoln City Libraries

Bennett Martin Public Library

Branch Information

Square Feet:	64,000	Annual Circulation:	171,314
Collection Size:	178,951	Annual Visits:	106,302
		Annual Program Attendance:	19,070

The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.



Service Population Map of Bennett Martin Public Library



Service Area Boundary includes top 75% of ZIP code populations

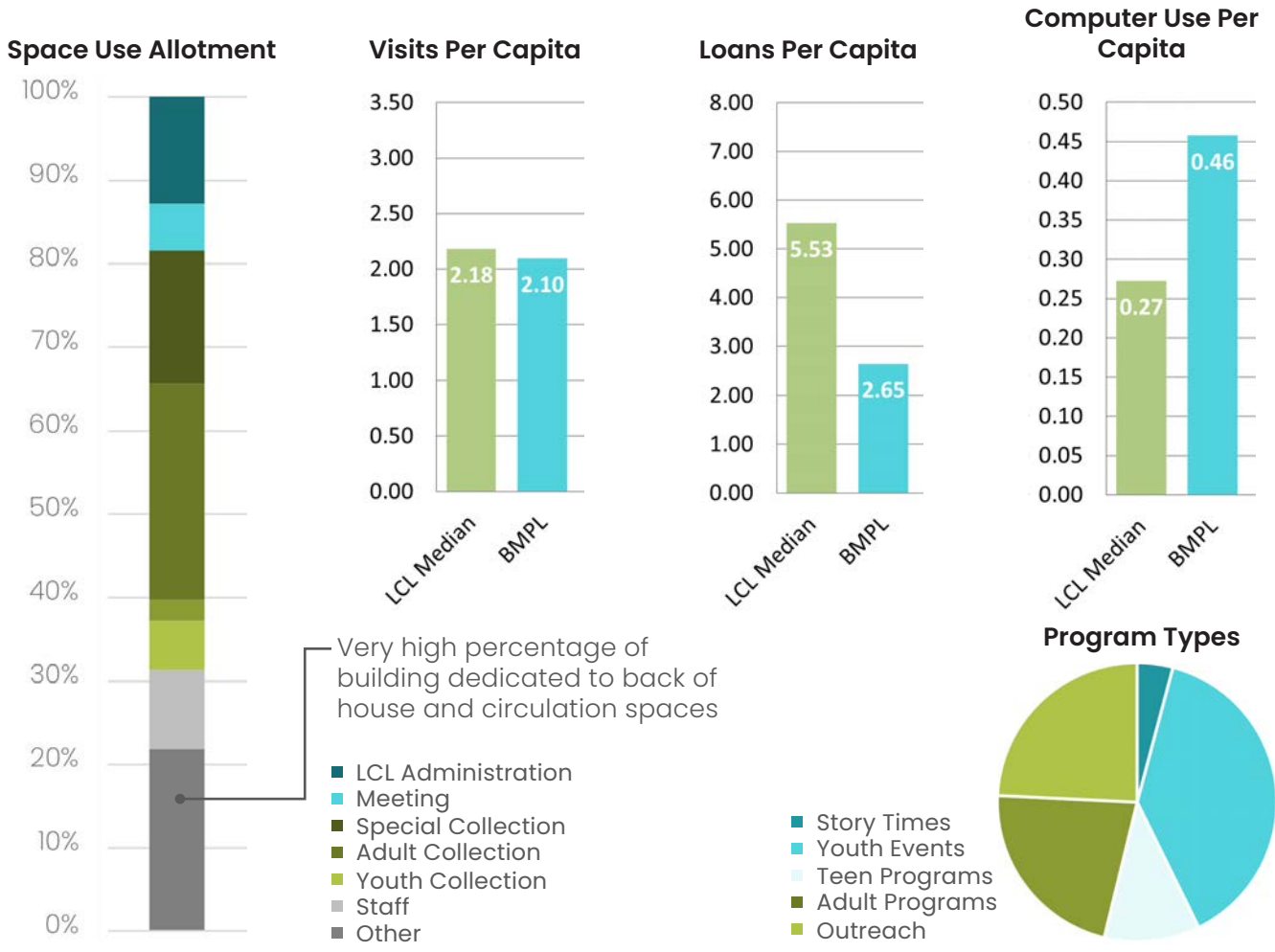
Library Service Assessment

BMPL serves a community that is more diverse and younger than other areas of Lincoln. This community has less access to computers and a high percentage of residents living below the poverty line.

The existing facility is inefficient and poorly functioning. Small irregular floorplates make wayfinding difficult for visitors, and creates inefficiencies for staff. Special collections and large meeting room spaces are not visible or easy to find for visitors, making them less of a draw for a city-wide audience.

LCL Administration and Operations functions are located in this branch and spread between multiple levels, often mixing with branch staff spaces.

Patrons living outside of downtown have a perception that BMPL is difficult to access due to limited parking. These concerns are not voiced by patrons who frequently use BMPL; although parking should be addressed.





1. Underutilized collection space
2. Sequestered and inefficient staff and circulation spaces
3. Low visibility and difficult to access meeting and special collection spaces
4. Irregular floorplates and firewalls disrupt wayfinding and complicate staff sightlines

- LCL Administration
- Meeting
- Special Collection
- Adult Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other

Level 1



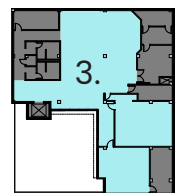
Level 0



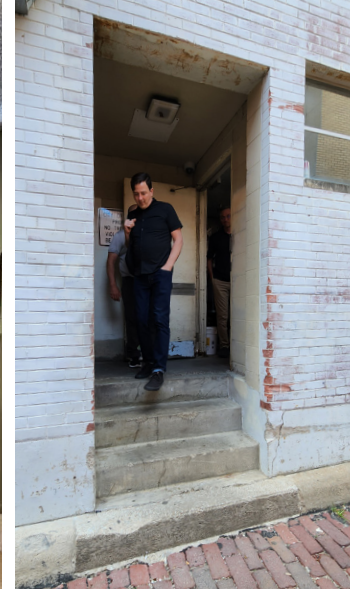
Level 2



Level 3



Level 4



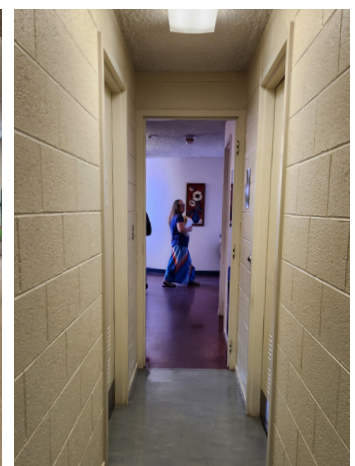
Children's space lacks space for families to congregate; loading door in the alley is difficult for deliveries



"A patron told me that he "was having the best day." He had been coming to Bennett Martin daily to apply through immigration for the ability to work in the United States. Every day he can be seen in the computer lab working on the computer or in the Biography room reading. He shook my hand and said now he will be able to get a job so he "can rise up." A few days later he flagged me down and told me he wanted to show me something. He pulled out an Employment Authorization card and handed it to me.

He said it is because he could use our computers and all the times we helped him on the computers, that he was able to get that card. Without BMPL, he said he would have never been able to accomplish this. He said he is very excited because many doors are now open to him, and he plans to continue to use the computers here to apply for jobs in the area."

Wayfinding and efficient staffing is difficult due to small, irregular floorplates

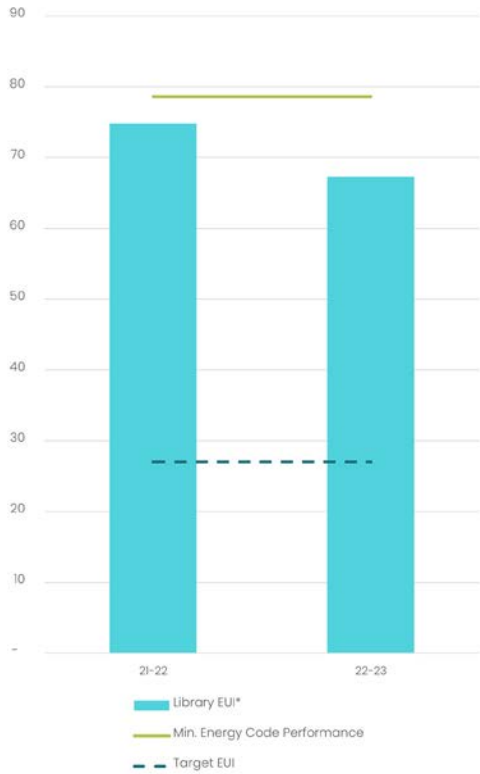


Public spaces lack adequate daylight and furnishings; numerous spaces are non-ADA compliant.

Facilities Assessment

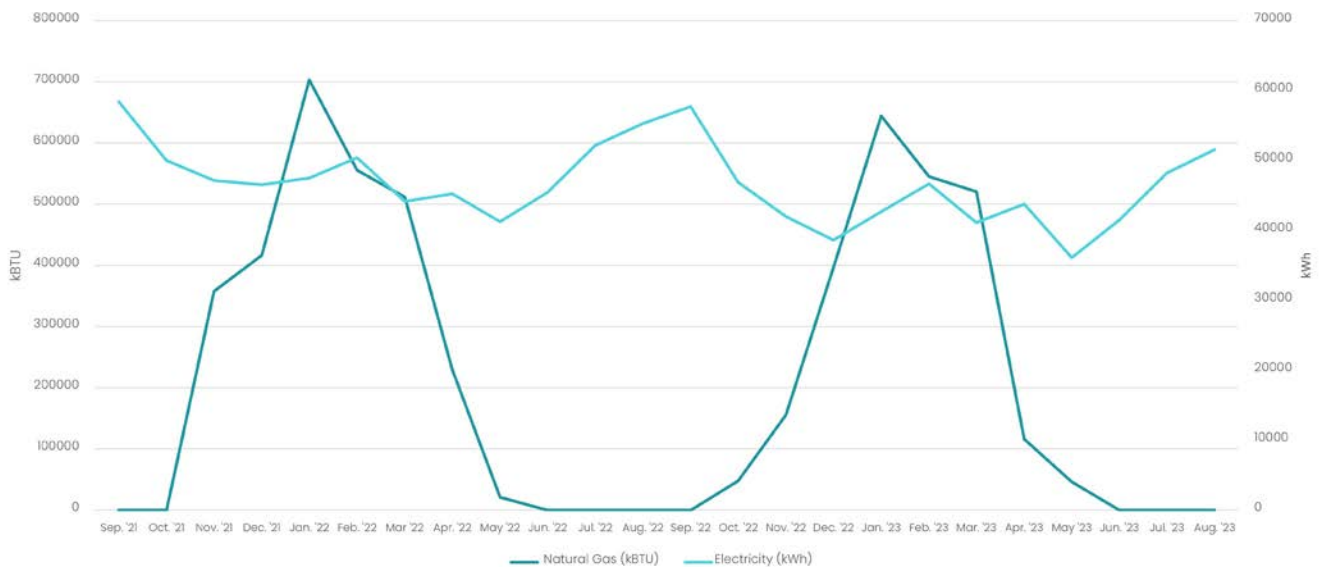
Date Constructed	1960
Floors	Five
Gross Square Feet	64000
Overall Average	1.9
Site Condition Grade	3
Site Renovations	-
Exterior Envelope Grade	2
Primary Exterior Materials	Limestone, Glass
Exterior Envelope Notes	Limestone spalling and single pane windows present.
Roof Condition Grade	2
Roof Type	EPDM, ballasted
Roof Replacement Date	1985
Interior Condition Grade	1
Interior Upgrade Renovations	1988 - Carpet
Interiors Notes	-
Furnishings Grade	2
Electrical Systems Grade	2
Electrical/Lighting Renovations	2007 - Main renovation. 2023 - LED lighting
Electrical Systems Notes	80% LED fixtures.
Mechanical Systems Grade	2
Mechanical Renovations	2015 - New Boiler
Mechanical Systems Notes	B-1: Single use system. 2nd: Heat pump. 3-4: Heat pump on loop.
Plumbing Fixtures Grade	2
Plumbing Fixtures Notes	-
ADA Compliance Grade	2
ADA Compliance Notes	-
Code Compliance Grade	2
Code Compliance Notes	Limited EMS. Fire Panel at end of life. Security Access end of life as well. Exit doors without crash bars. Additionally, existing guardrails don't meet code.

EUI Analysis (2021-2023)



* EUI (Energy Use Intensity) - A building's annual energy use per unit area. A lower EUI indicates a more energy-efficient building.

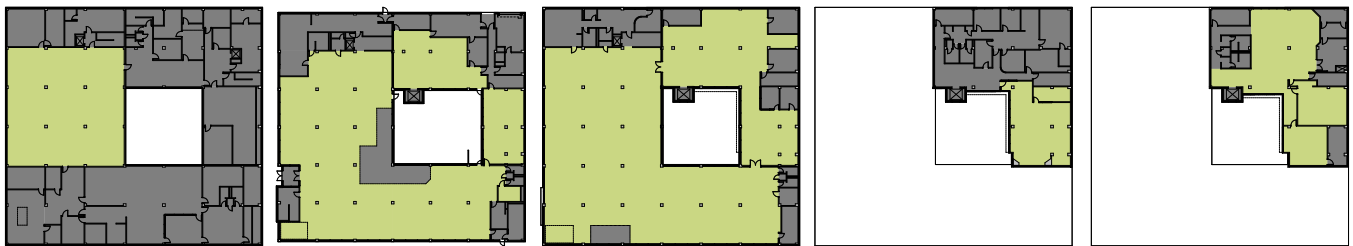
Energy Use by Source (2021-2023)



Recommendations

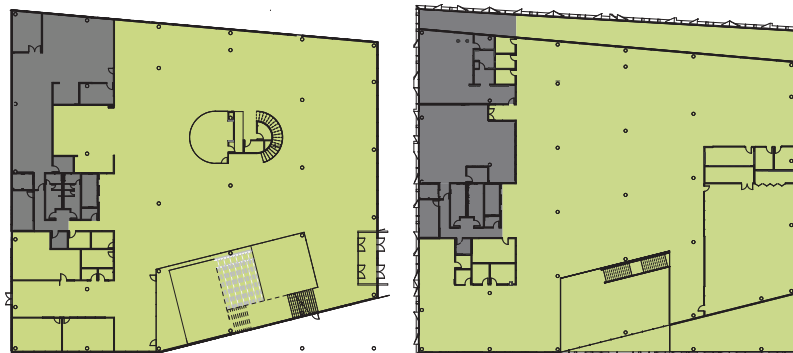
What does this branch need to be a great neighborhood library?

- For the best long-term value, we recommend a new construction facility to replace the existing BMPL Branch. Refer to the following page for additional information.
- Offerings that are visible rather than hidden away (Heritage Room, Polley Music Library, meeting rooms, study rooms, outdoor space)
- Flexible partner/program spaces with high visibility
- Dedicated teen space with study and lounge spaces
- LCL Administration and Operations functions consolidated into a non-public area, or relocated to another branch
- Furnishings that encourage spending time in the library, alone or in small groups



BMPL (Existing) | 64,000 SF

43% Non-Public
(Staff + Back of House)



Example New Construction | 62,000 SF

16% Non-Public
(Staff + Back of House)

More efficient floor plate means more space for meeting space, collection, seating, programs, partnerships, and enhanced accessibility.

New Construction vs. Renovation?

Renewing the Bennet Martin Public Library is a necessity to adequately serve residents of downtown Lincoln and the surrounding neighborhoods. This renewal can take the form of a major renovation or a new construction facility. For many projects, a major renovation can be as successful and more cost effective as new construction. *However, given the deteriorated condition of building systems and the inefficiency of the floor plate it is our recommendation that a new construction project is pursued. New construction will be more cost-effective in the long-term.*

The existing facility has been operating for over 60 years and is in need of a major renovation in order to continue operation into the future. Major systems in need of upgrade/replacement include:

- Exterior walls: the existing exterior walls are poorly insulated and leak water and air into the building. They will need to be replaced in their entirety with walls that are well-insulated, well-sealed, and made of durable materials.
- Heating & cooling systems: the existing heating & cooling systems are inefficient and at the end of their useful life.
- Electrical systems: the existing electrical system is at the end of its useful life.
- Fire alarm system: renovating the building will require that the existing fire alarm system be replaced with a system that meets current building code requirements.

- Lighting systems: exterior and interior lighting systems are inefficient and at the end of their useful life.
- Elevators: existing elevators are at the end of their useful life and need refurbishment. The location and quantity of elevators is not ideal for library operations.
- Interior finishes: flooring, interior walls, and ceilings will be replaced in order to reconfigure the building interior for current operations and to increase accessibility.
- The original building was built prior to the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many spaces in the building do not meet current guidelines and will need to be substantially reconfigured to make the library accessible and welcoming to all.

Once major systems have been replaced, all that remains of the original building are the structure, vertical circulation, and fire separation walls. A public library ideally includes large flexible spaces that can be used for a wide variety of activities. BMPL's existing irregular floor plates with numerous internal columns, inefficient location of vertical circulation, and low ceiling heights are undesirable for library service space.

The ability for staff to safely and efficiently monitor library use is limited by the existing structure. Multiple small floors require inefficient staffing in order to maintain a presence on each level. Fire separation walls that break up the floor plates into smaller zones exacerbate the issue.

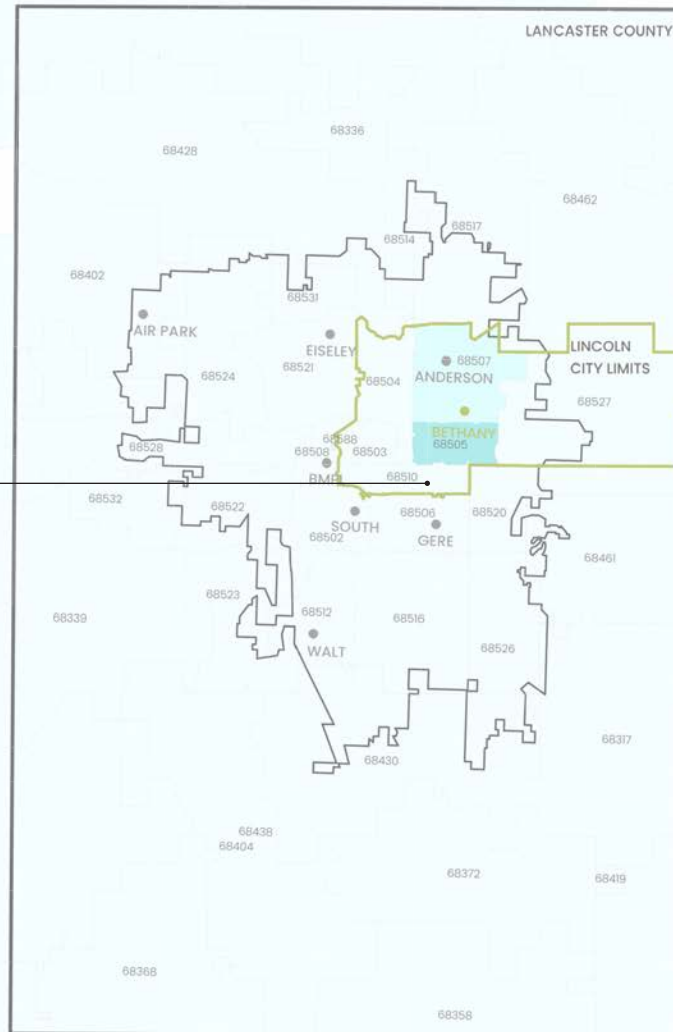
Lincoln City Libraries

Bethany Branch

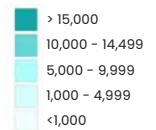
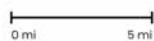
Branch Information

Square Feet:	3,800	Annual Circulation:	100,896
Collection Size:	29,422	Annual Visits:	34,337
		Annual Program Attendance:	5,922

The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.



Service Population Map of Bethany Branch



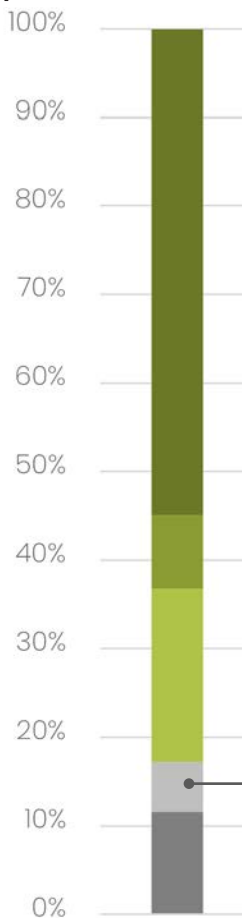
Service Area Boundary includes top 75% of ZIP code populations

Library Service Assessment

The community around Bethany Branch is very similar to the average age, education level, and income in Lancaster County. Staff have noted that young families have been moving into the neighborhood in recent years.

Bethany Branch has lower than average computer reservations and higher than average loans per capita. Despite its small size and lack of a dedicated meeting space this branch has above-average levels of programming per capita.

Space Use Allotment



No dedicated meeting space, very small staff space

- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other

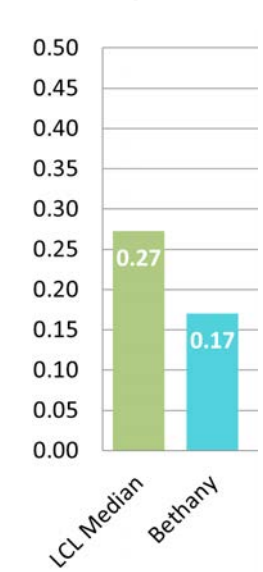
Visits Per Capita



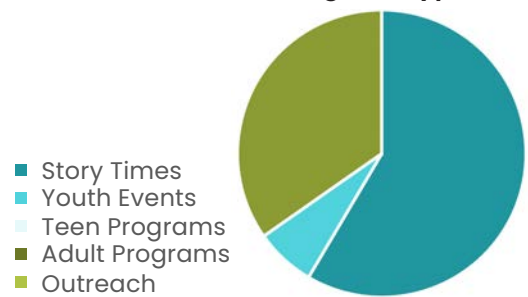
Loans Per Capita



Computer Use Per Capita



Program Types



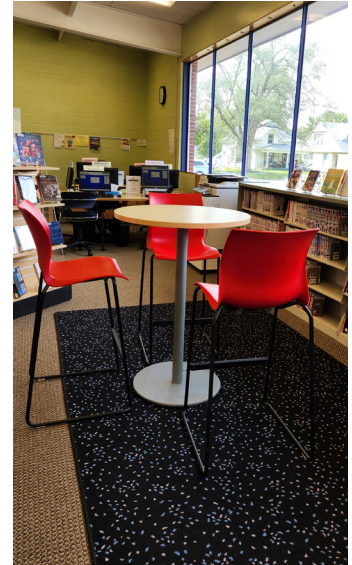


1. Entrance and library activities lack visibility from the street
2. Lack of dedicated meeting space
3. Very constrained staff space

- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other



Gathering spaces are not adequate to support collaboration or desired programs



Interior lacks comfortable seating spaces for lingering and reading

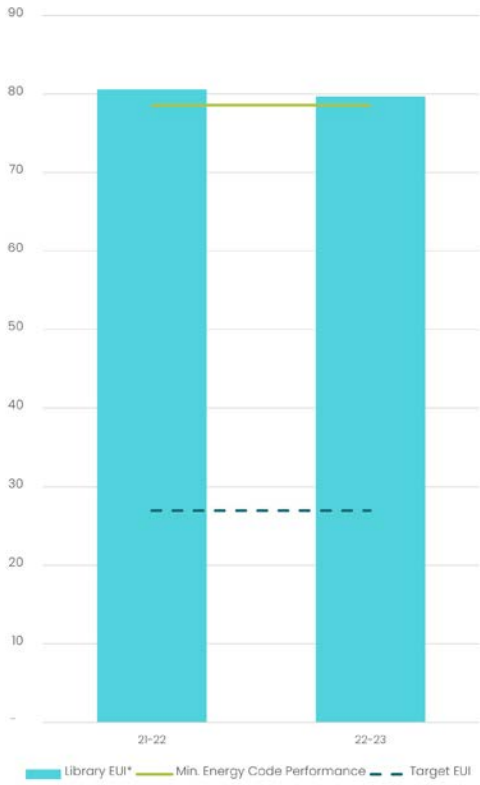


Entrance and library activities lack visibility from the street

Facilities Assessment

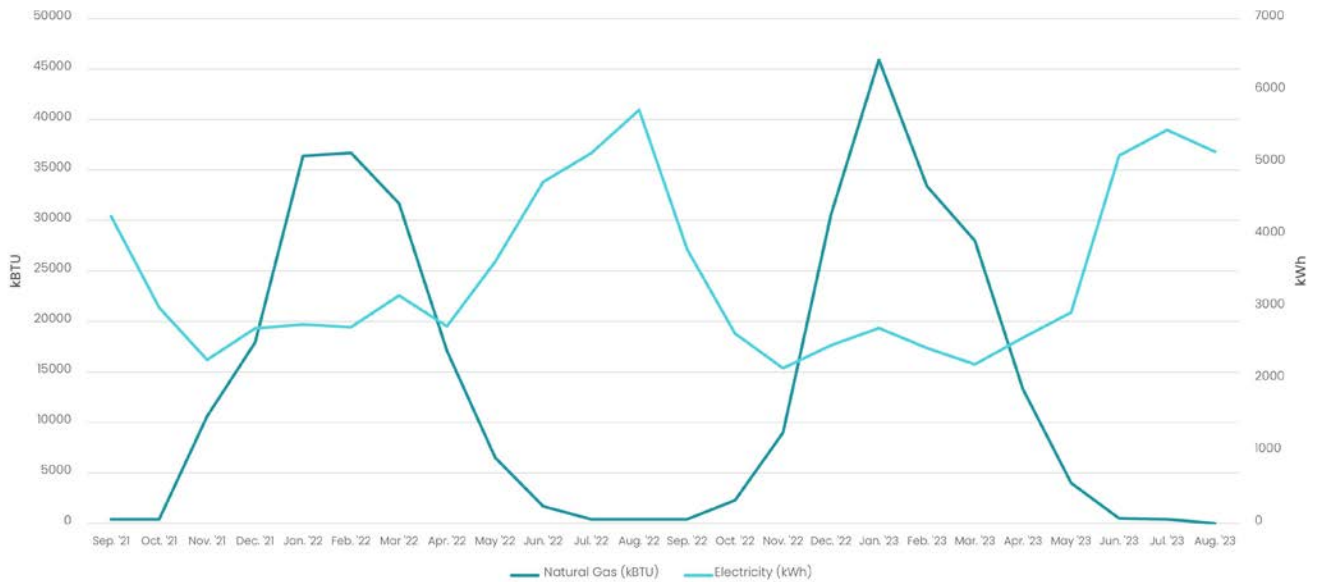
Date Constructed	1958
Floors	One
Gross Square Feet	3800
Overall Average	3.2
Site Condition Grade	2
Site Renovations	-
Exterior Envelope Grade	2
Primary Exterior Materials	-
Exterior Envelope Notes	Existing building has single pane windows.
Roof Condition Grade	4
Roof Type	-
Roof Replacement Date	2019
Interior Condition Grade	2
Interior Upgrade Renovations	2011 - New Carpet
Interiors Notes	Dirty and dated finishes including carpet, wall finishes, trim, Tectum roof deck.
Furnishings Grade	3
Electrical Systems Grade	3
Electrical/Lighting Renovations	2020 - LED Lighting
Electrical Systems Notes	-
Mechanical Systems Grade	3
Mechanical Renovations	2014 - New Heat Pumps
Mechanical Systems Notes	Split System. Dated but functional
Plumbing Fixtures Grade	4
Plumbing Fixtures Notes	Single ADA compliant restrooms
ADA Compliance Grade	4
ADA Compliance Notes	Appears to meet ADA, but has an awkward and difficult entry condition.
Code Compliance Grade	4
Code Compliance Notes	2022 - New Fire Panel

EUI Analysis (2021-2023)



* EUI (Energy Use Intensity) – A building’s annual energy use per unit area. A lower EUI indicates a more energy-efficient building.

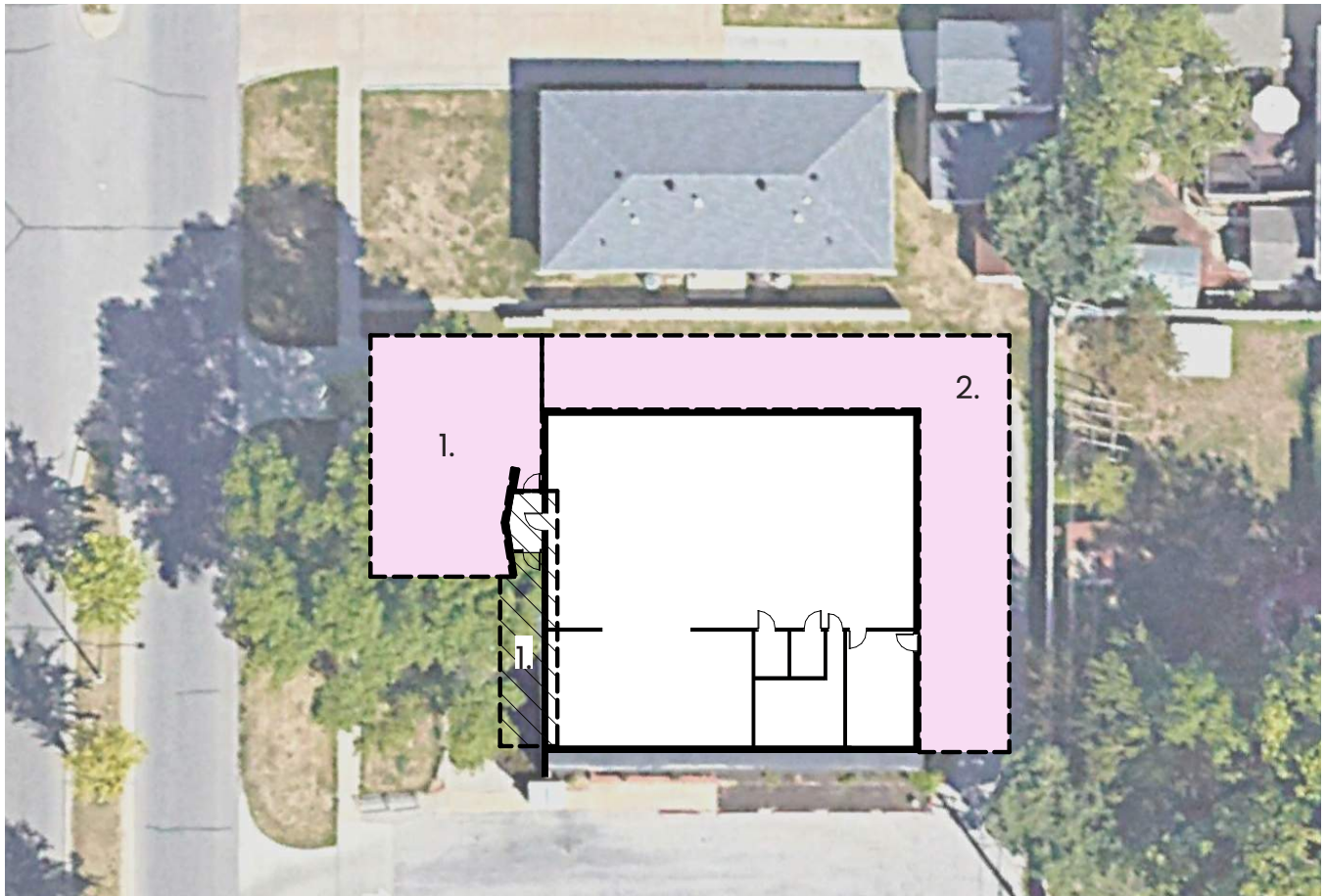
Energy Use by Source (2021-2023)



Recommendations

What does this branch need to be a great neighborhood library?

- Improved entry sequence: better visual connection to the street, smaller service desk, more materials display
- Programming and play & learn space to attract families moving into the neighborhood
- Small study and meeting rooms
- Fewer computer stations, with more efficient layout.
- Connection to outdoor gathering space and second egress door.
- Furnishings that encourage lingering, alone or in small groups



1. Improve entrance and enhance visibility from the street
2. Opportunity for outdoor space and second means of egress

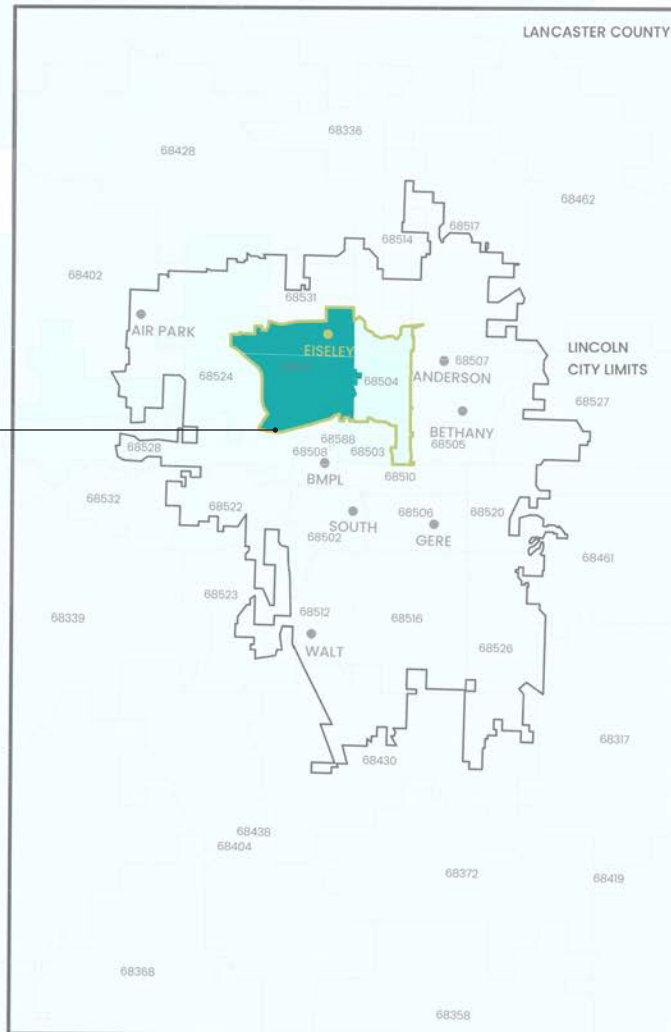
- Addition
- Outdoor Space
- ▨ Major Renovation
- Renovation

Lincoln City Libraries
Eiseley Branch

Branch Information

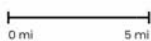
Square Feet:	33,600	Annual Circulation:	294,896
Collection Size:	113,617	Annual Visits:	96,115
		Annual Program Attendance:	26,292

The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.



Service Area Boundary includes top 75% of ZIP code populations

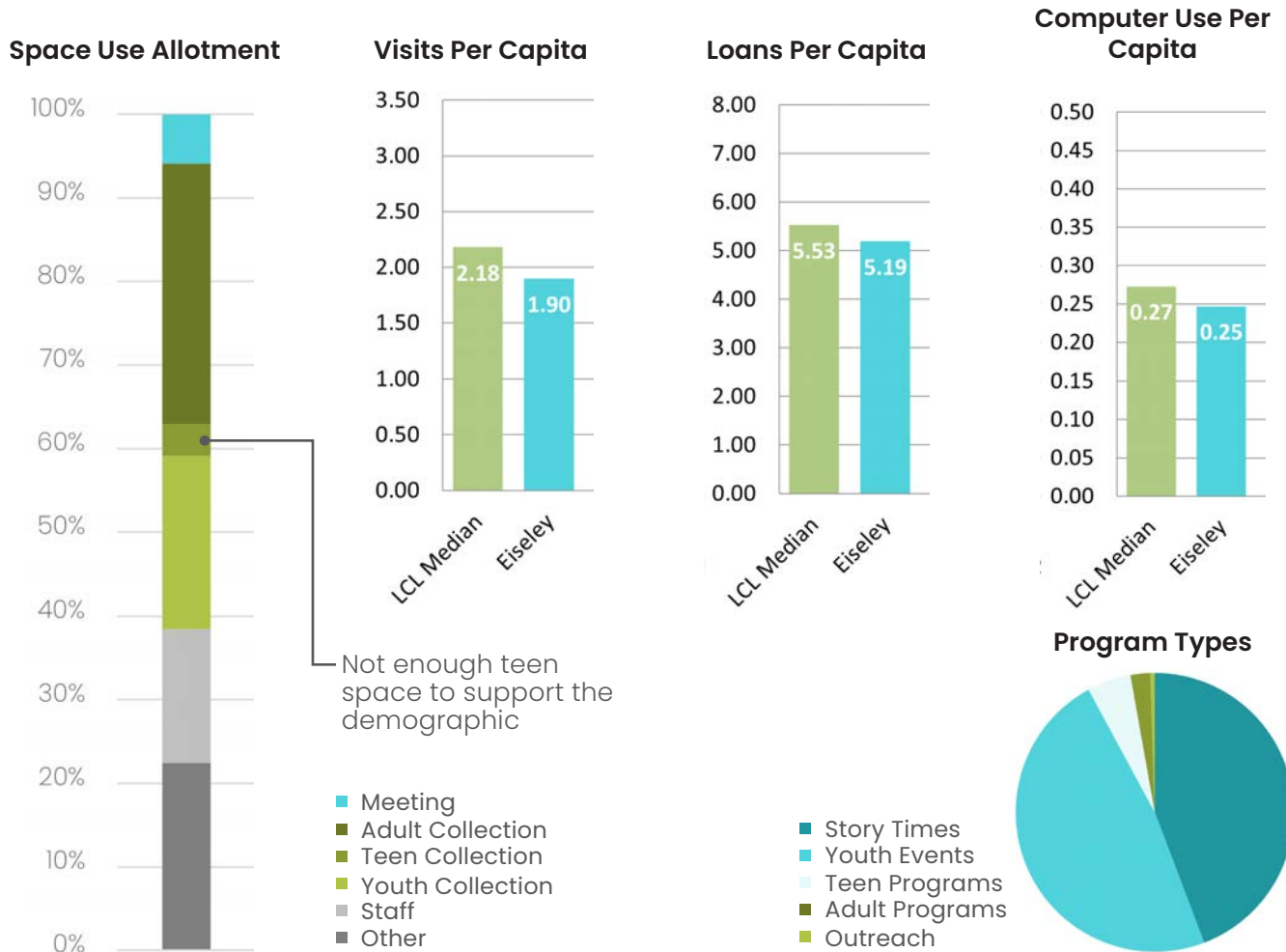
Service Population Map of Eiseley Branch



Library Service Assessment

The community around Eiseley Branch is more diverse and younger than the average Lincoln household. Access to computers is lower than average and the surrounding neighborhoods have higher than average poverty rates.

Despite having an adequate amount of square footage for the service population, the Eiseley Branch has lower-than-average visits, loans, computer reservations, and programs per capita. This suggests that there are barriers to use that prevents the community from using the library, and/or a misalignment of services being offered and services that the community needs.



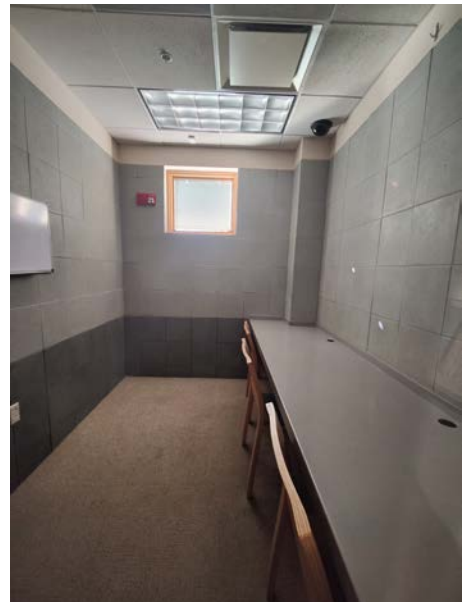


1. Excess staff and back of house space
2. Lack of program space and seating/meeting areas
3. No connection to the park
4. Meeting space is inadequate and poorly connected to library
5. Service desk is not visible from entrance

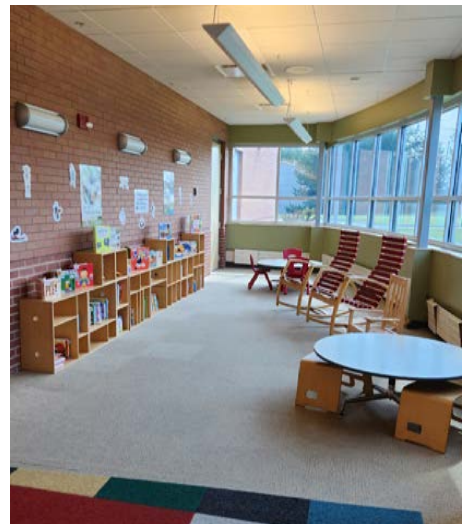
- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other



Primary circulation corridors are crowded with furnishings, complicating wayfinding and accessibility



Teen and collaboration spaces are dim and furnishings do not facilitate extended use

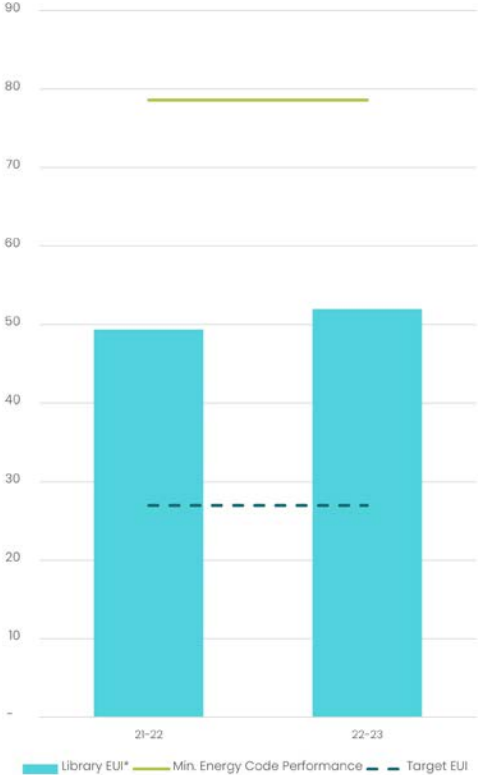


Spaces for gathering and spending time hidden away

Facilities Assessment

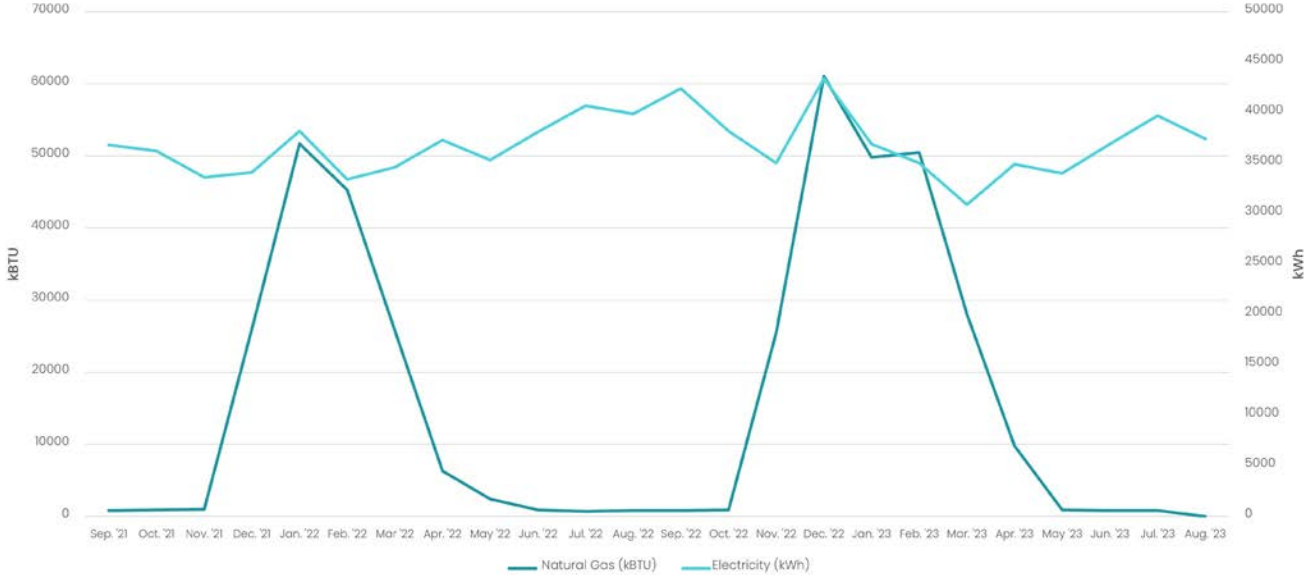
Date Constructed	2002
Floors	One
Gross Square Feet	33600
Overall Average	4.2
Site Condition Grade	4
Site Renovations	2021 - Parking Lot
Exterior Envelope Grade	3
Primary Exterior Materials	-
Exterior Envelope Notes	Mold at existing book drop
Roof Condition Grade	5
Roof Type	-
Roof Replacement Date	2022
Interior Condition Grade	4
Interior Upgrade Renovations	-
Interiors Notes	Generally in good condition with some areas starting to show wear.
Furnishings Grade	4
Electrical Systems Grade	4
Electrical/Lighting Renovations	2020 - EMS Added. 2020 - LED Lights. 2002 - Security Access
Electrical Systems Notes	-
Mechanical Systems Grade	4
Mechanical Renovations	2020 - New Boiler EMS
Mechanical Systems Notes	Room on west of the building was much colder than all other spaces.
Plumbing Fixtures Grade	4
Plumbing Fixtures Notes	Fixtures work fine, but are dated
ADA Compliance Grade	5
ADA Compliance Notes	Nothing noticed that is an ADA concern.
Code Compliance Grade	5
Code Compliance Notes	Nothing noticed that is a code concern.

EUI Analysis (2021-2023)



* EUI (Energy Use Intensity) – A building’s annual energy use per unit area. A lower EUI indicates a more energy-efficient building.

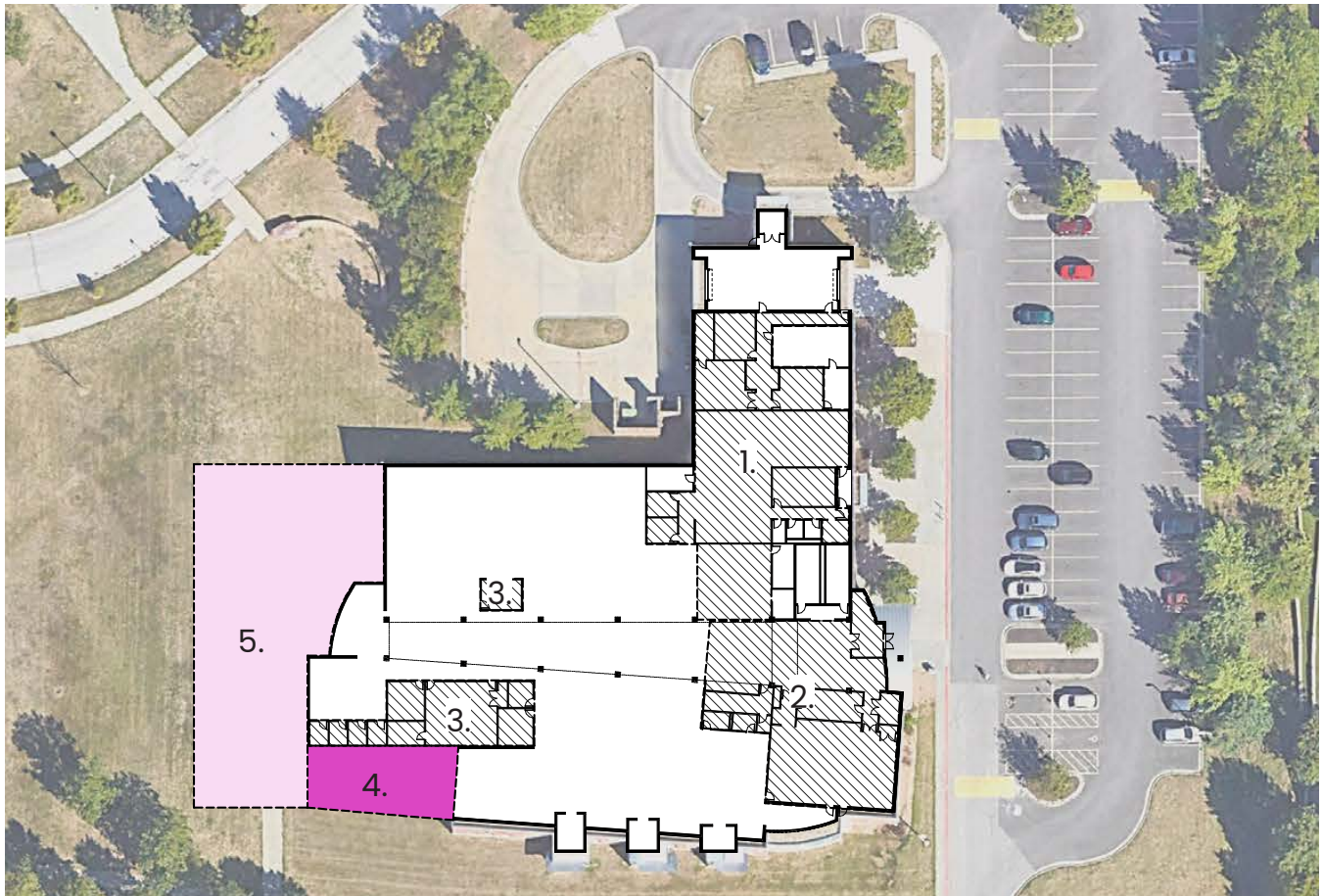
Energy Use by Source (2021-2023)



Recommendations

What does this branch need to be a great neighborhood library?

- Improved entry sequence: better visual connection to the street, visible service desk
- Flexible meeting room with high visibility to library spaces for programs and community partners
- Offerings that are visible rather than hidden away (computers, study rooms, play & learn space, seating areas, meeting room)
- Reduction in collection or a building addition to accommodate more patron seating
- Connection to outdoors and neighboring park
- Dedicated teen space with study and lounge spaces
- More efficient staff space to improve workflow and give space back to public use



1. Increase staff space efficiency to give floor space back to public
2. Improved meeting space and entry sequence
3. Improve sightlines and wayfinding for collection and program space
4. Potential program addition
5. New outdoor space with connection to park

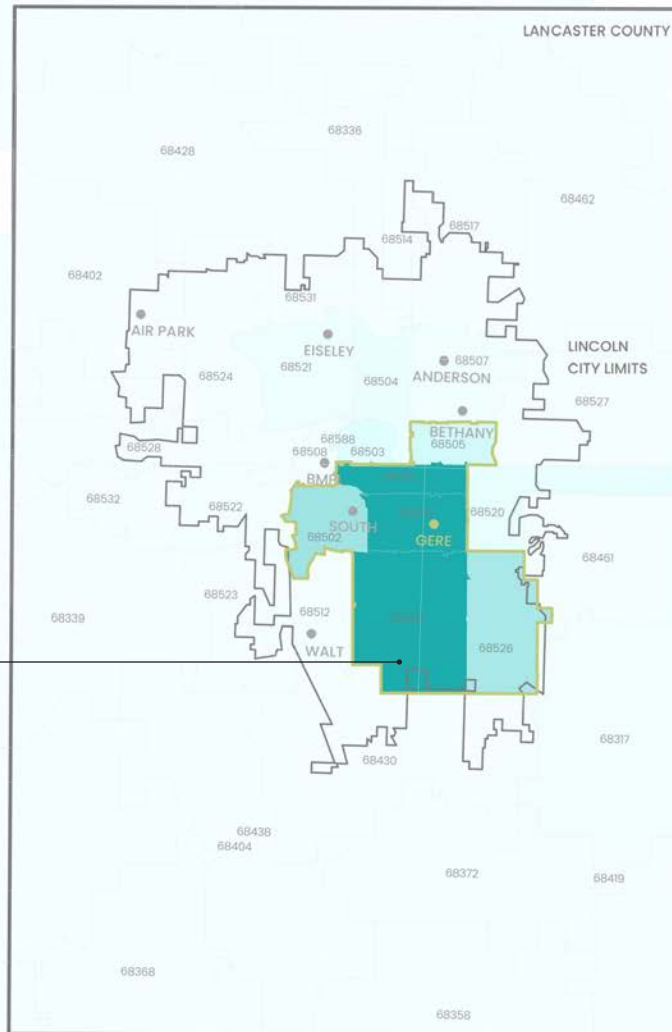
- Addition
- Outdoor Space
- ▨ Major Renovation
- Renovation

Lincoln City Libraries
Gere Branch

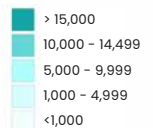
Branch Information

Square Feet:	33,000	Annual Circulation:	765,627
Collection Size:	187,688	Annual Visits:	204,524
		Annual Program Attendance:	19,104

The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.



Service Population Map of Gere Branch

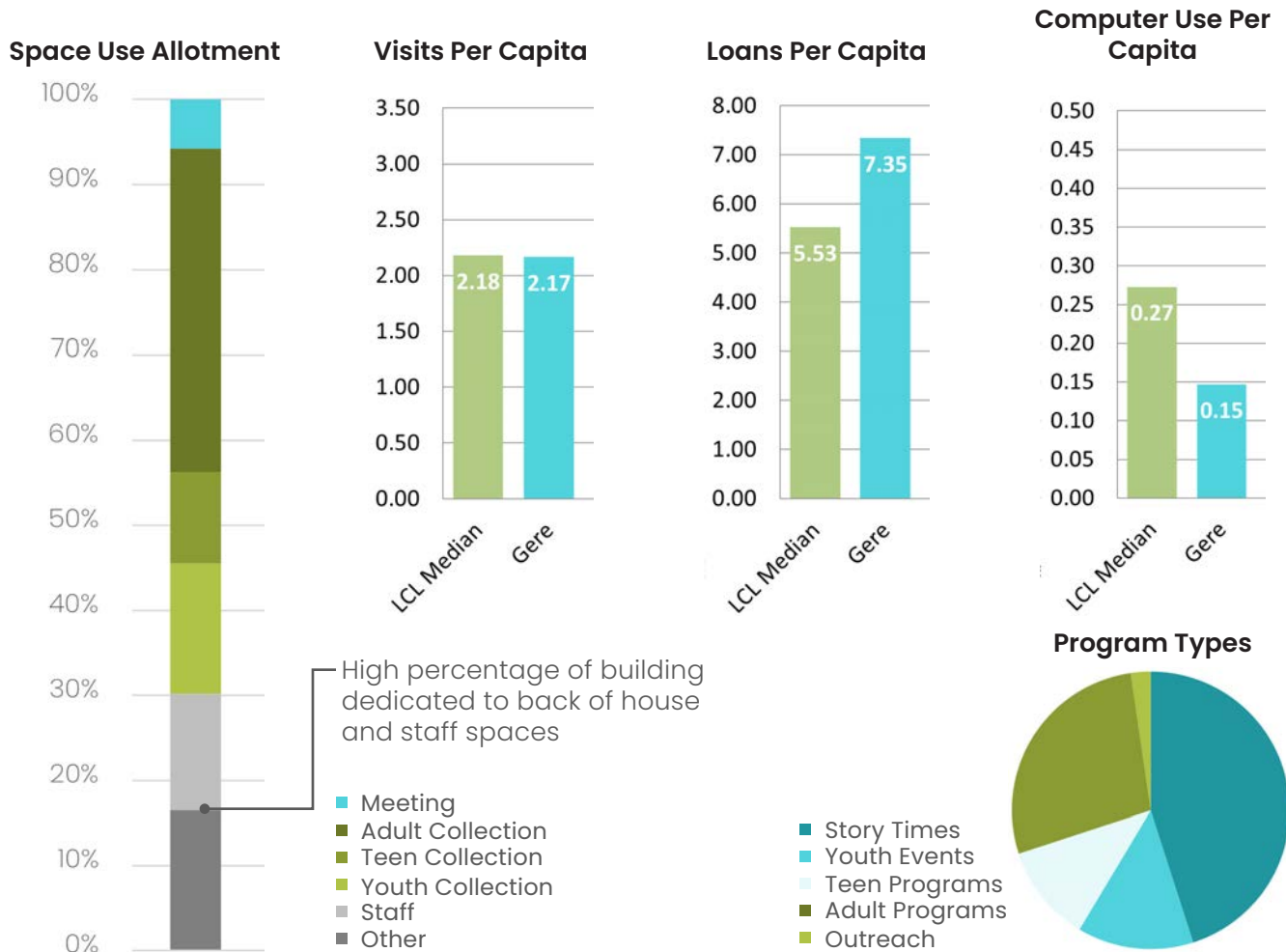


Service Area Boundary includes top 75% of ZIP code populations

Library Service Assessment

The community around Gere Branch is the oldest and one of the least diverse in Lincoln.

Gere Branch is the busiest library in the LCL system based on the number of visits. However, when the number of visits is considered per capita Gere falls below the LCL median. Loans are higher than average per capita, computer reservations and programs are lower than average per capita.





1. Inefficient layout of staff space
2. Inadequate meeting space with poor connection to library and vestibule
3. Dense collection areas lack seating space

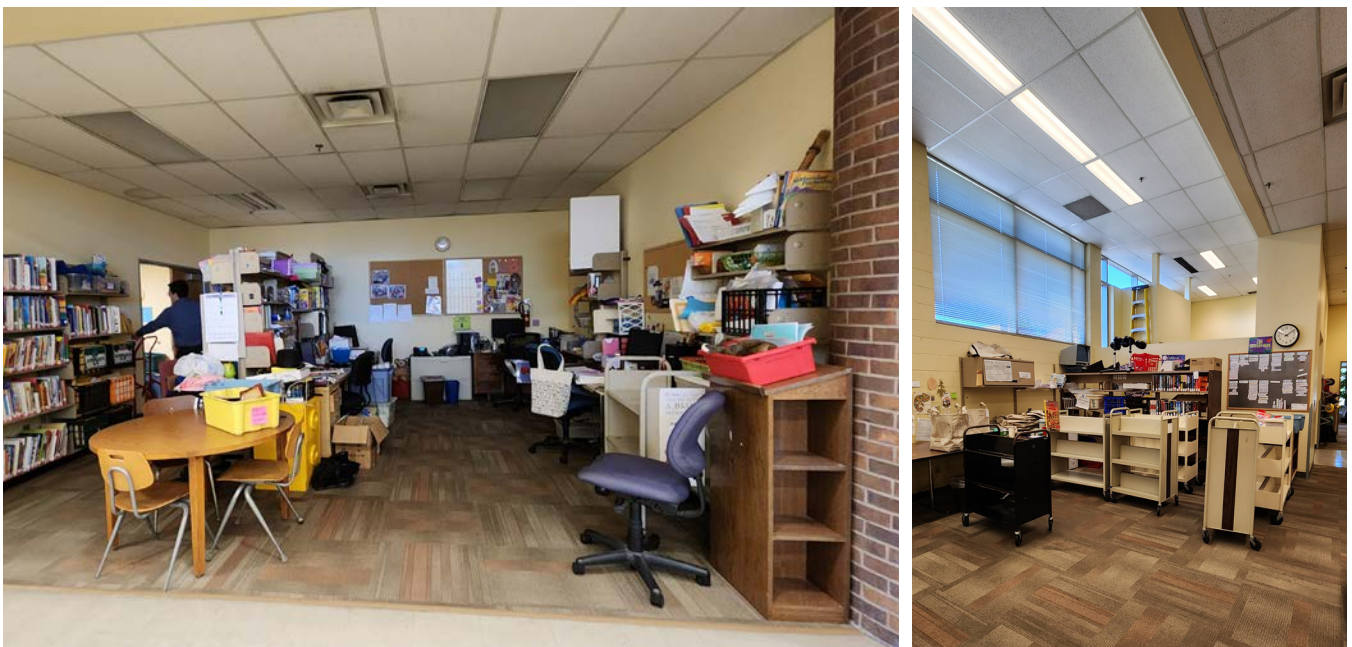
- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other



Large stacks obstruct sightlines to gathering and seating spaces; cathedral ceiling amplifies sound from children's area



Computer lab and business center splits the collection and complicates the organization of other space

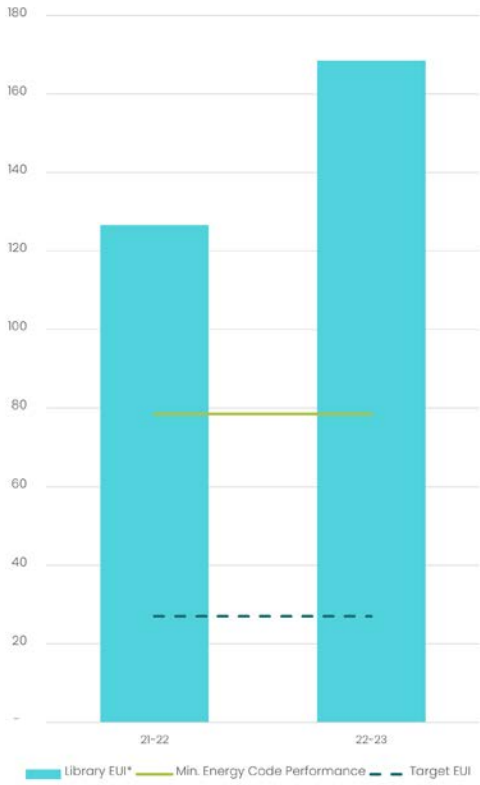


Staff spaces are inefficient in layout

Facilities Assessment

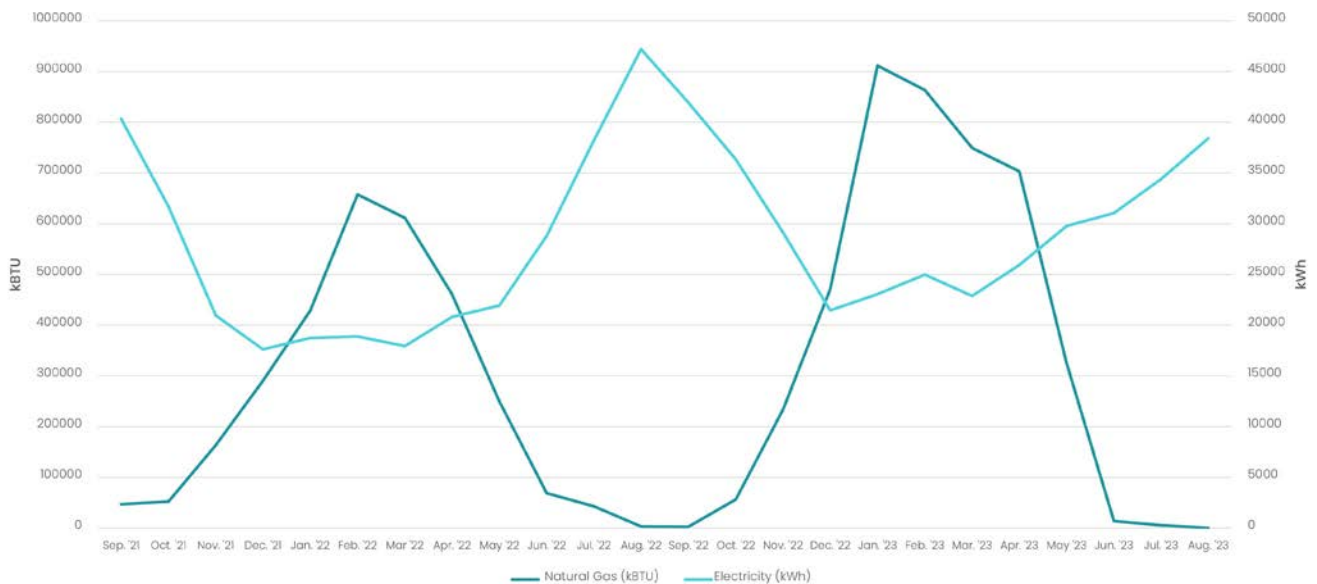
Date Constructed	1971
Floors	One
Gross Square Feet	33000
Overall Average	3.9
Site Condition Grade	4
Site Renovations	2023 - Parking Lot
Exterior Envelope Grade	4
Primary Exterior Materials	Brick
Exterior Envelope Notes	Existing exterior brick is delaminating
Roof Condition Grade	4
Roof Type	-
Roof Replacement Date	2015
Interior Condition Grade	3
Interior Upgrade Renovations	2015 - Carpet
Interiors Notes	-
Furnishings Grade	3
Electrical Systems Grade	4
Electrical/Lighting Renovations	2020 - LED and EMS
Electrical Systems Notes	-
Mechanical Systems Grade	4
Mechanical Renovations	2021: New boiler/Air Handler
Mechanical Systems Notes	-
Plumbing Fixtures Grade	3
Plumbing Fixtures Notes	-
ADA Compliance Grade	5
ADA Compliance Notes	-
Code Compliance Grade	5
Code Compliance Notes	Fully Sprinkled

EUI Analysis (2021-2023)



* EUI (Energy Use Intensity) – A building’s annual energy use per unit area. A lower EUI indicates a more energy-efficient building.

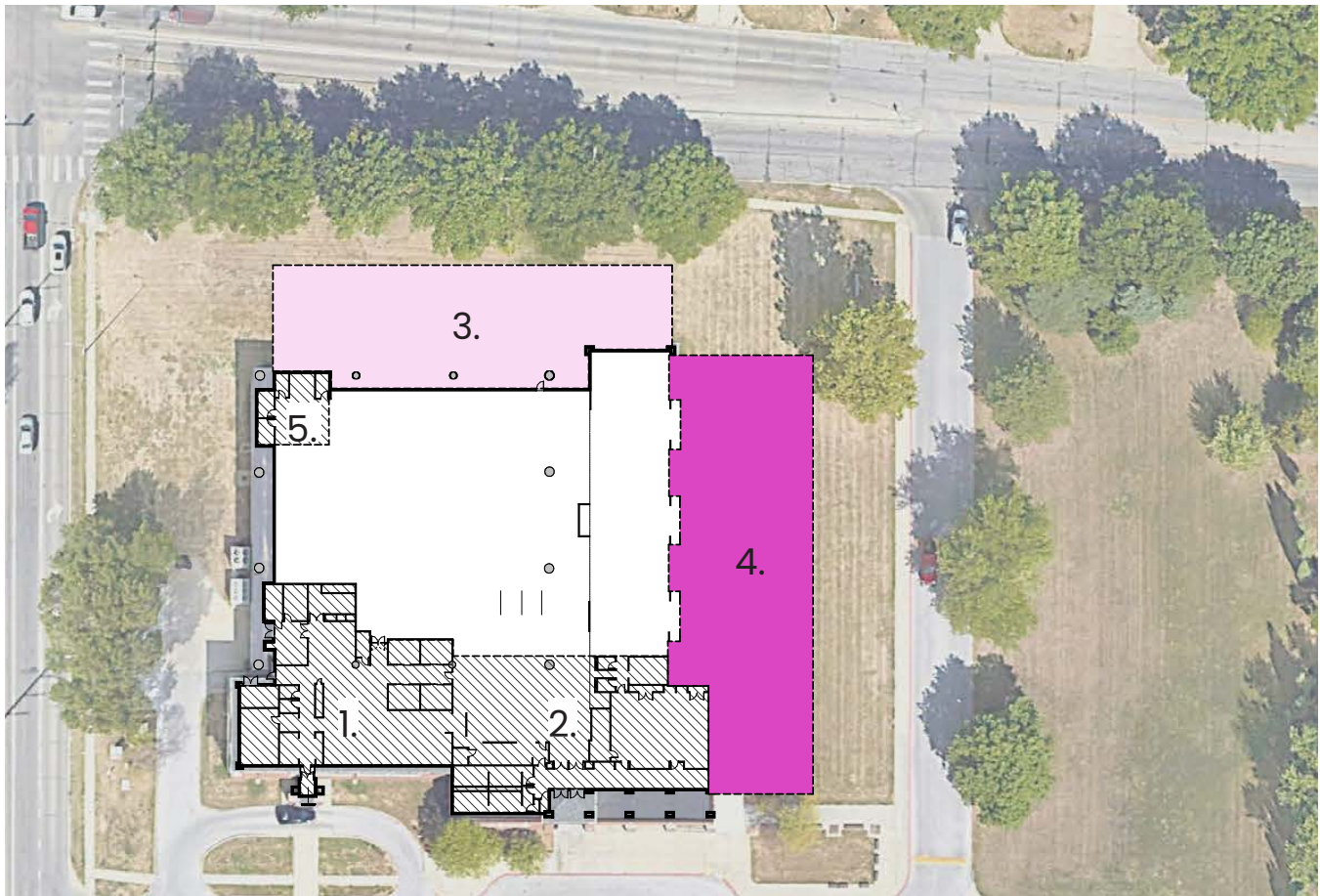
Energy Use by Source (2021-2023)



Recommendations

What does this branch need to be a great neighborhood library?

- Improved entry sequence: better visual connection to the street, smaller service desk
- Larger, more flexible meeting room with high visibility to library spaces for programs and community partners
- Reduction in collection or a building addition to accommodate more patron seating
- Connection to outdoors gathering space
- More efficient staff space to improve workflow and give space back to public use
- Furnishings that encourage lingering, alone or in small groups



1. Increase staff space efficiency to give floor space back to public
2. Enhanced meeting space and entry
3. New outdoor space
4. Addition to increase program, collection, and seating space
5. Updated meeting room facilities

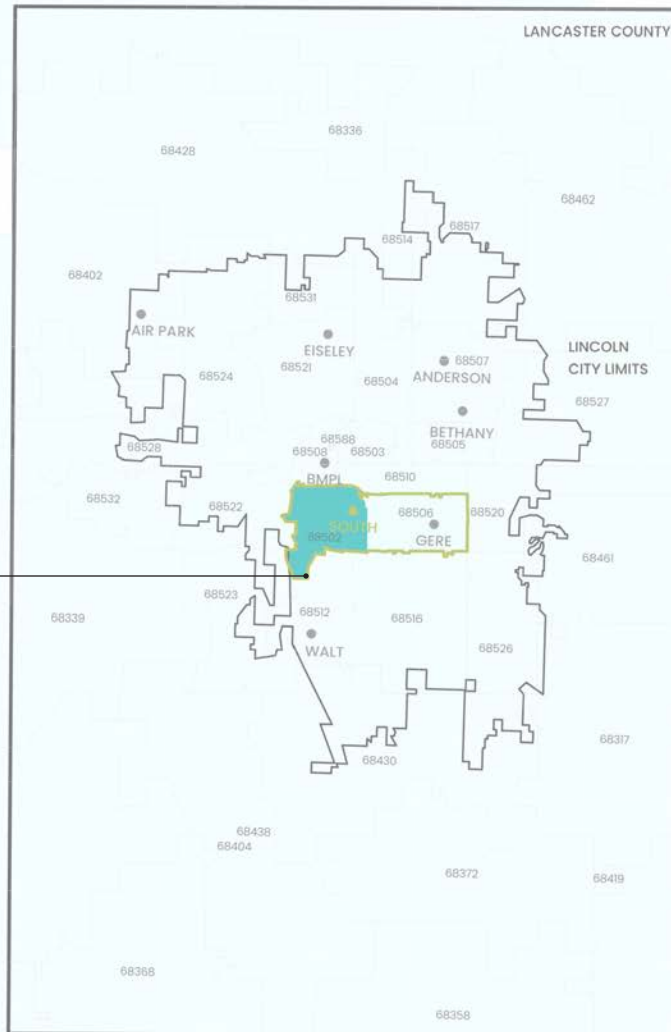
- Addition
- Outdoor Space
- ▨ Major Renovation
- Renovation

Lincoln City Libraries
South Branch

Branch Information

Square Feet:	4,900	Annual Circulation:	116,187
Collection Size:	40,051	Annual Visits:	40,571
		Annual Program Attendance:	6,526

The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.



Service Population Map of South Branch



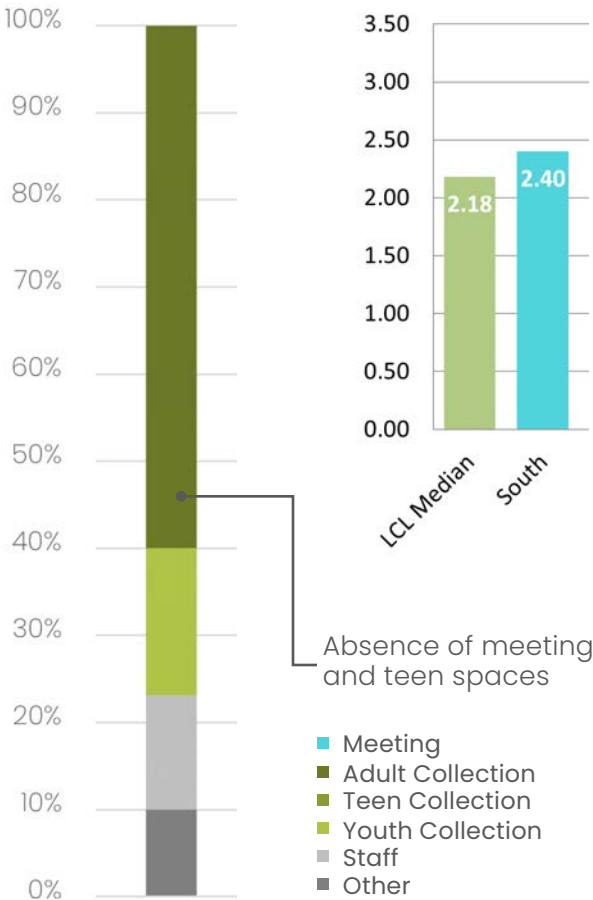
Service Area Boundary includes top 75% of ZIP code populations

Library Service Assessment

The community around South Branch is the most diverse in Lincoln with a higher than average poverty rate. The majority of the service population resides within close proximity to the library.

Despite its small size, South Branch has higher than average visits, loans, and computer reservations per capita than the LCL median. Even without a dedicated program space, the South Branch has more programs than the average LCL branch. The children’s area attracts young families during inclement weather.

Space Use Allotment



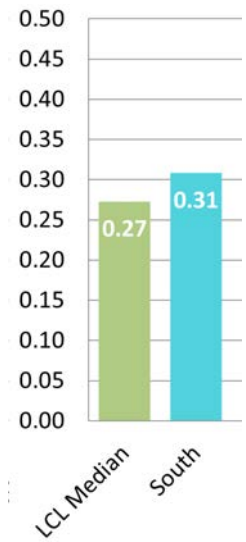
Visits Per Capita



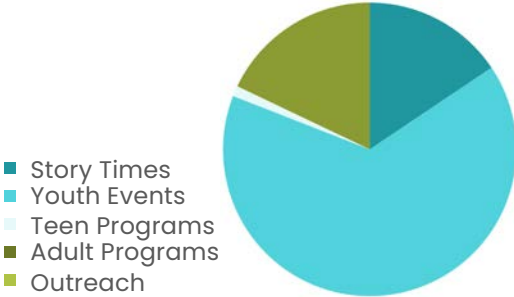
Loans Per Capita



Computer Use Per Capita



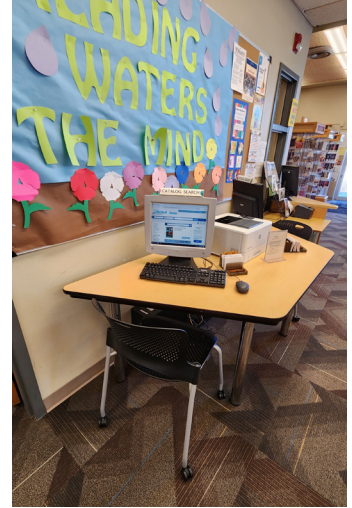
Program Types



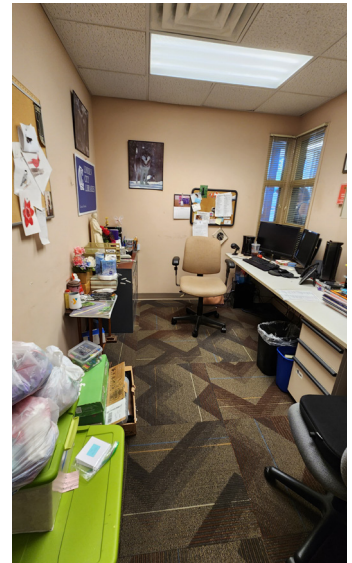


- 1. Lack of meeting or teen space
- 2. High traffic entry

- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other



Interior space lacks distinction between study, lounge, display, and dense collection areas



Staff space is hindered by inadequate storage solutions and an inefficient layout of workstations

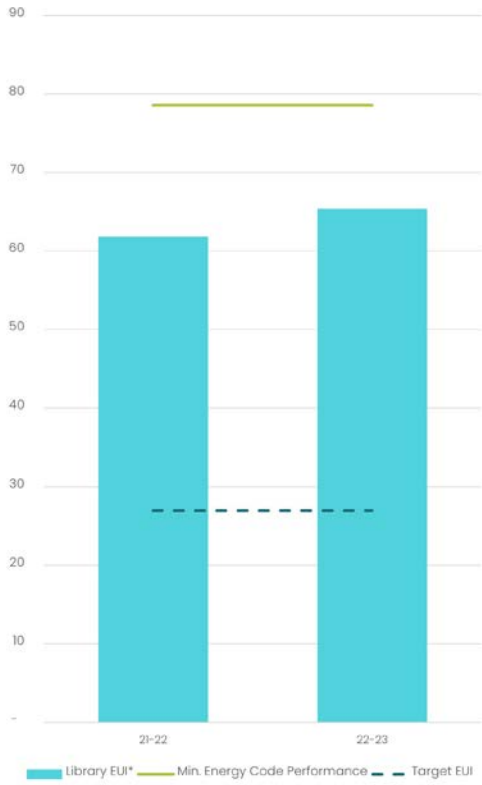


Entry is along a busy street and needs a streamlined ADA solution

Facilities Assessment

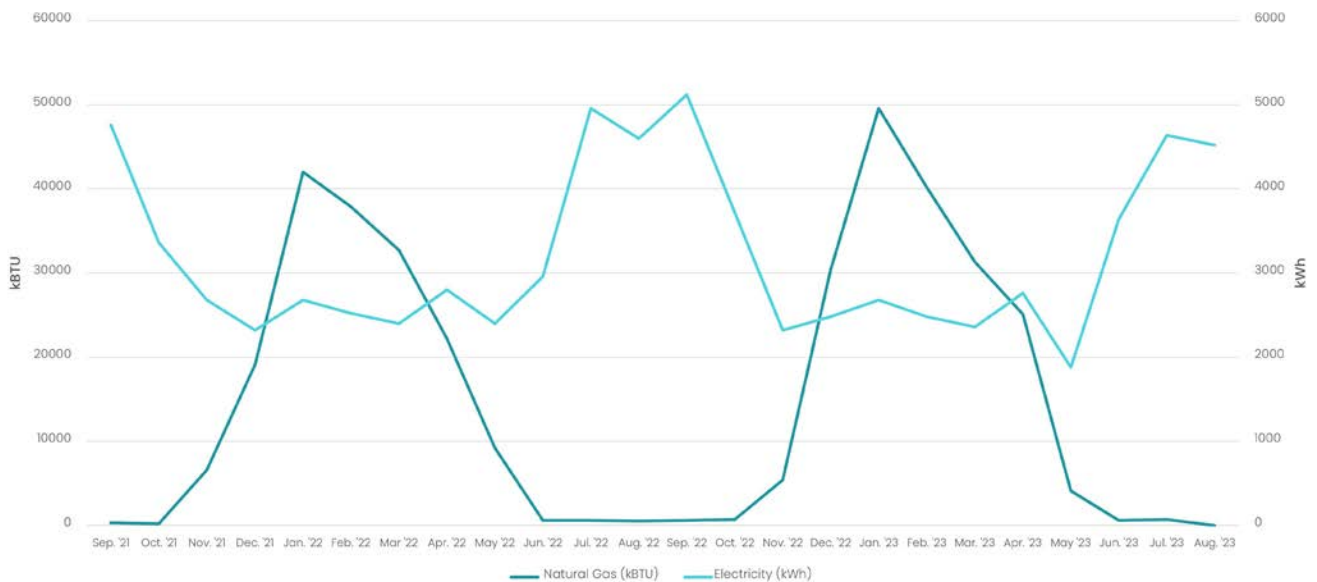
Date Constructed	1955
Floors	<input type="text" value="One"/>
Gross Square Feet	4900
Overall Average	3
Site Condition Grade	2
Site Renovations	New ramp and parking. Subpar access to building.
Exterior Envelope Grade	2
Primary Exterior Materials	Brick
Exterior Envelope Notes	Limestone spalling. Single pane windows.
Roof Condition Grade	4
Roof Type	EPDM
Roof Replacement Date	2019
Interior Condition Grade	3
Interior Upgrade Renovations	2020 - Carpet
Interiors Notes	Functional, but dated and worn.
Furnishings Grade	4
Electrical Systems Grade	2
Electrical/Lighting Renovations	LES Retrofit Program
Electrical Systems Notes	Above ground connections. Outdated equipment and fixtures. Existing conduits and extension cords out of wall.
Mechanical Systems Grade	3
Mechanical Renovations	2009 - Split Units
Mechanical Systems Notes	-
Plumbing Fixtures Grade	4
Plumbing Fixtures Notes	-
ADA Compliance Grade	2
ADA Compliance Notes	Accessible path does not lead to "main" entrance with vestibule.
Code Compliance Grade	3
Code Compliance Notes	2023 - Fire Panel, No EMS System, Security Access, non sprinkled

EUI Analysis (2021-2023)



* EUI (Energy Use Intensity) – A building’s annual energy use per unit area. A lower EUI indicates a more energy-efficient building.

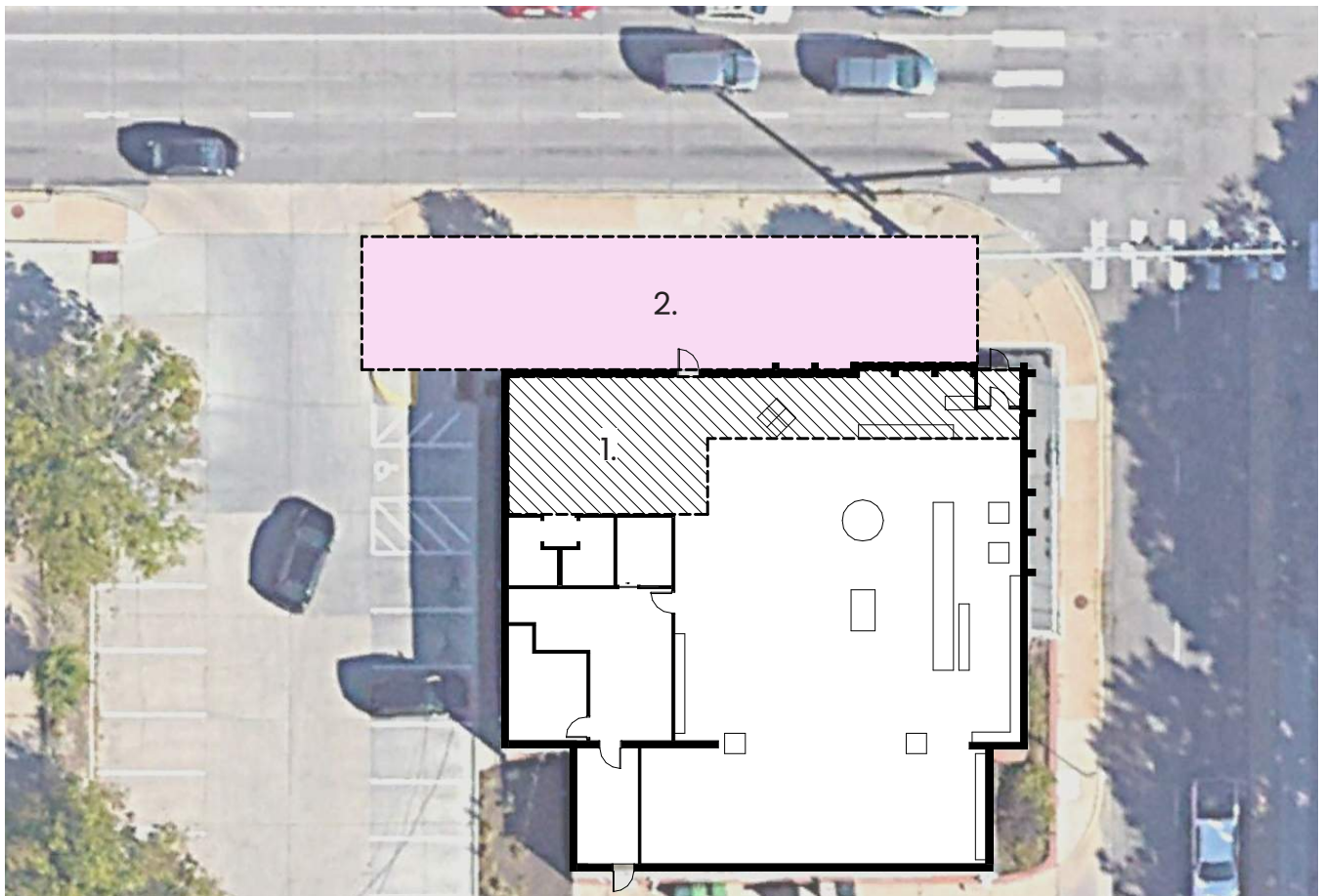
Energy Use by Source (2021-2023)



Recommendations

What does this branch need to be a great neighborhood library?

- Safer and more welcoming exterior entrance
- Reduction in collection to accommodate more patron seating
- Small study and meeting rooms
- Dedicated teen space with study and lounge spaces
- Furnishings that encourage lingering, alone or in small groups



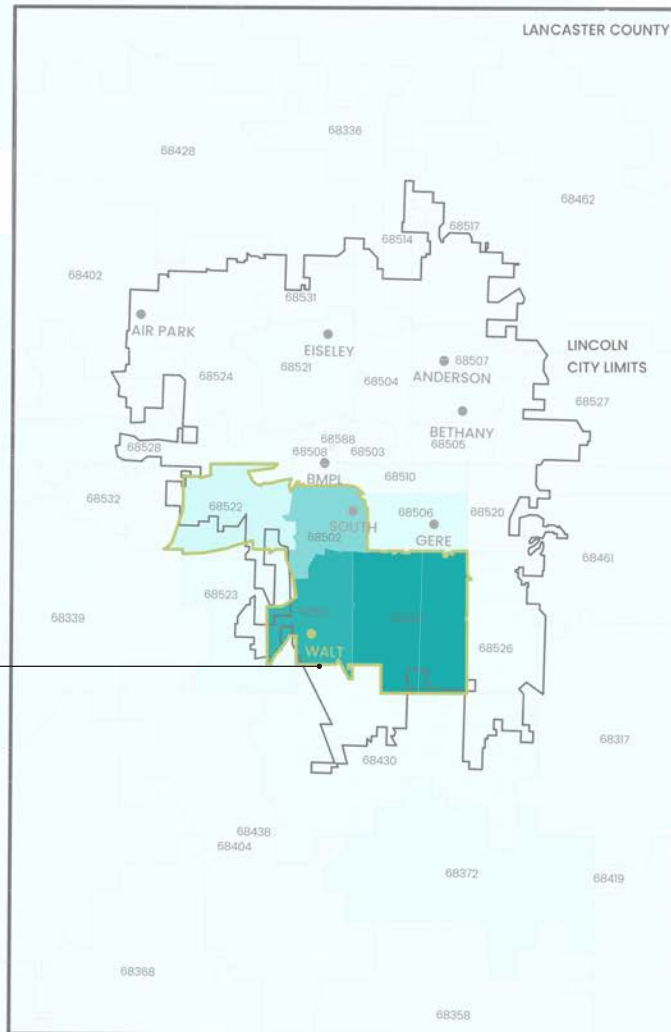
1. Renovation to provide new entry and program/teen space
2. Create a safe and welcoming entrance

- Addition
- Outdoor Space
- ▨ Major Renovation
- Renovation

Lincoln City Libraries
Walt Branch

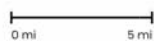
Branch Information

Square Feet:	31,800	Annual Circulation:	513,235
Collection Size:	151,082	Annual Visits:	133,384
		Annual Program Attendance:	37,658



The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.

Service Population Map of Walt Branch



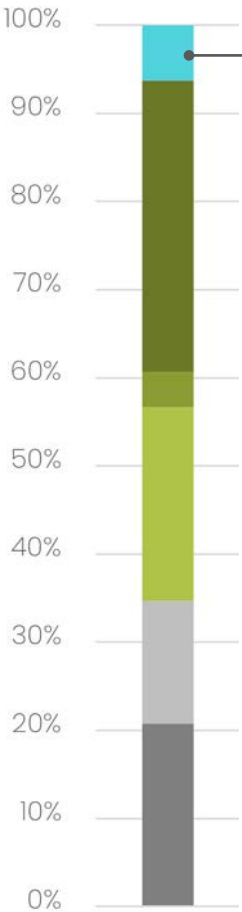
Service Area Boundary includes top 75% of ZIP code populations

Library Service Assessment

Walt Branch serves a community that has more children and more older adults than the average neighborhood in Lincoln. Poverty levels are far below the county average.

Visits per capita are a close match to the LCL median at Walt Branch. Loans are higher-than-average and computer reservations are lower-than-average. This branch has LCL's only maker space which draws patrons from across the city and county to attend STEAM and craft-related programming. Waitlists are common suggesting that more of this programming should be offered across the system.

Space Use Allotment



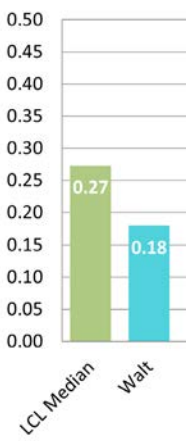
Visits Per Capita



Loans Per Capita



Computer Use Per Capita



Inadequate meeting and program spaces to support community needs

- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other

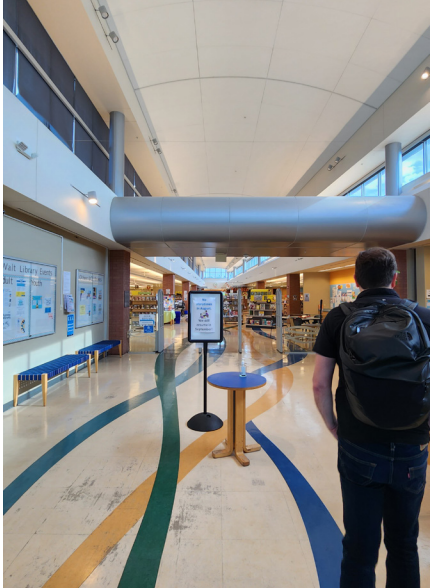
Program Types





1. Inefficient staff space
2. Inadequate meeting space with poor library connection
3. Lack of program and gathering space
4. No connection to outdoors
5. Service desk is not visible from entrance

- Meeting
- Adult Collection
- Teen Collection
- Youth Collection
- Staff
- Other



Meeting rooms lack visibility from library space; entry sequence is long and lacks a view to the service desk



Dense collection layout lacks seating display areas and obstructs wayfinding

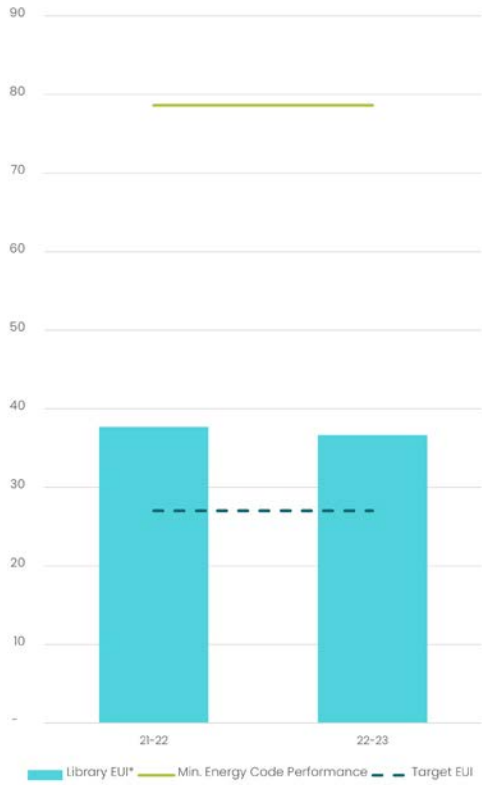


Staff spaces is split up between numerous smaller rooms, taking up excess space and complicating workflows

Facilities Assessment

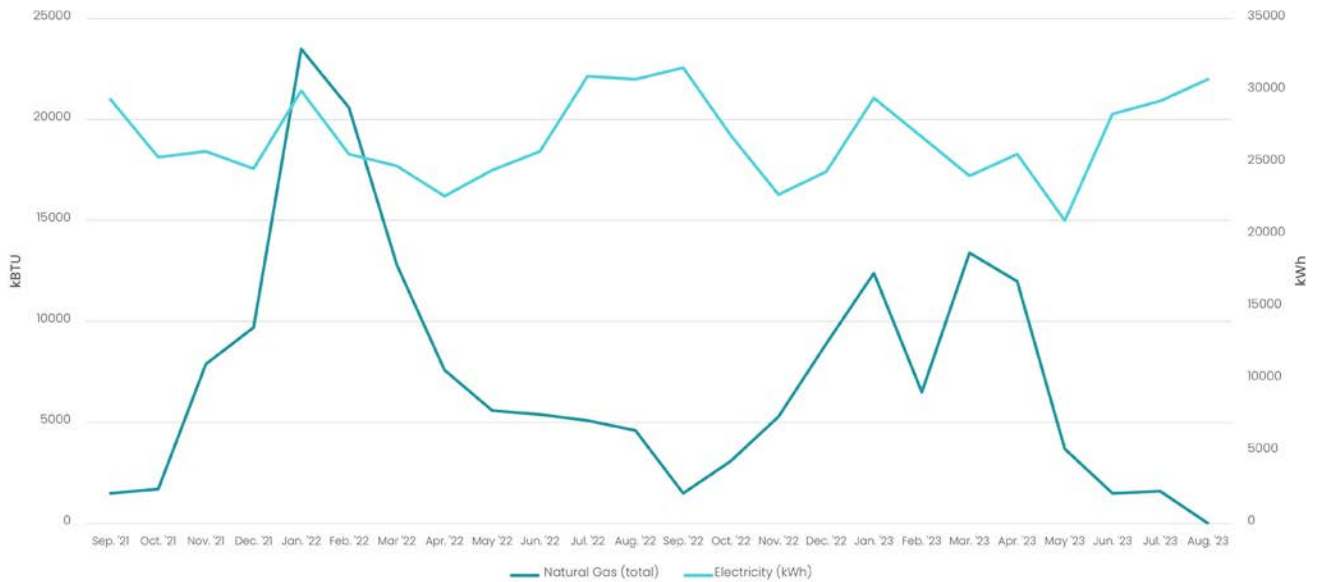
Date Constructed	2002
Floors	One
Gross Square Feet	31800
Overall Average	4.6
Site Condition Grade	4
Site Renovations	2021 - Parking Lot
Exterior Envelope Grade	4
Primary Exterior Materials	-
Exterior Envelope Notes	Limestone spalling.
Roof Condition Grade	5
Roof Type	EPDM
Roof Replacement Date	2022
Interior Condition Grade	4
Interior Upgrade Renovations	-
Interiors Notes	Original Flooring
Furnishings Grade	4
Electrical Systems Grade	5
Electrical/Lighting Renovations	2020: LED. New security system has been added in the last 3 years.
Electrical Systems Notes	-
Mechanical Systems Grade	5
Mechanical Renovations	2020 EMS
Mechanical Systems Notes	24 ground source heat pumps
Plumbing Fixtures Grade	4
Plumbing Fixtures Notes	-
ADA Compliance Grade	5
ADA Compliance Notes	No noticeable accessibility concerns
Code Compliance Grade	5
Code Compliance Notes	No code concerns.

EUI Analysis (2021-2023)



* EUI (Energy Use Intensity) - A building's annual energy use per unit area. A lower EUI indicates a more energy-efficient building.

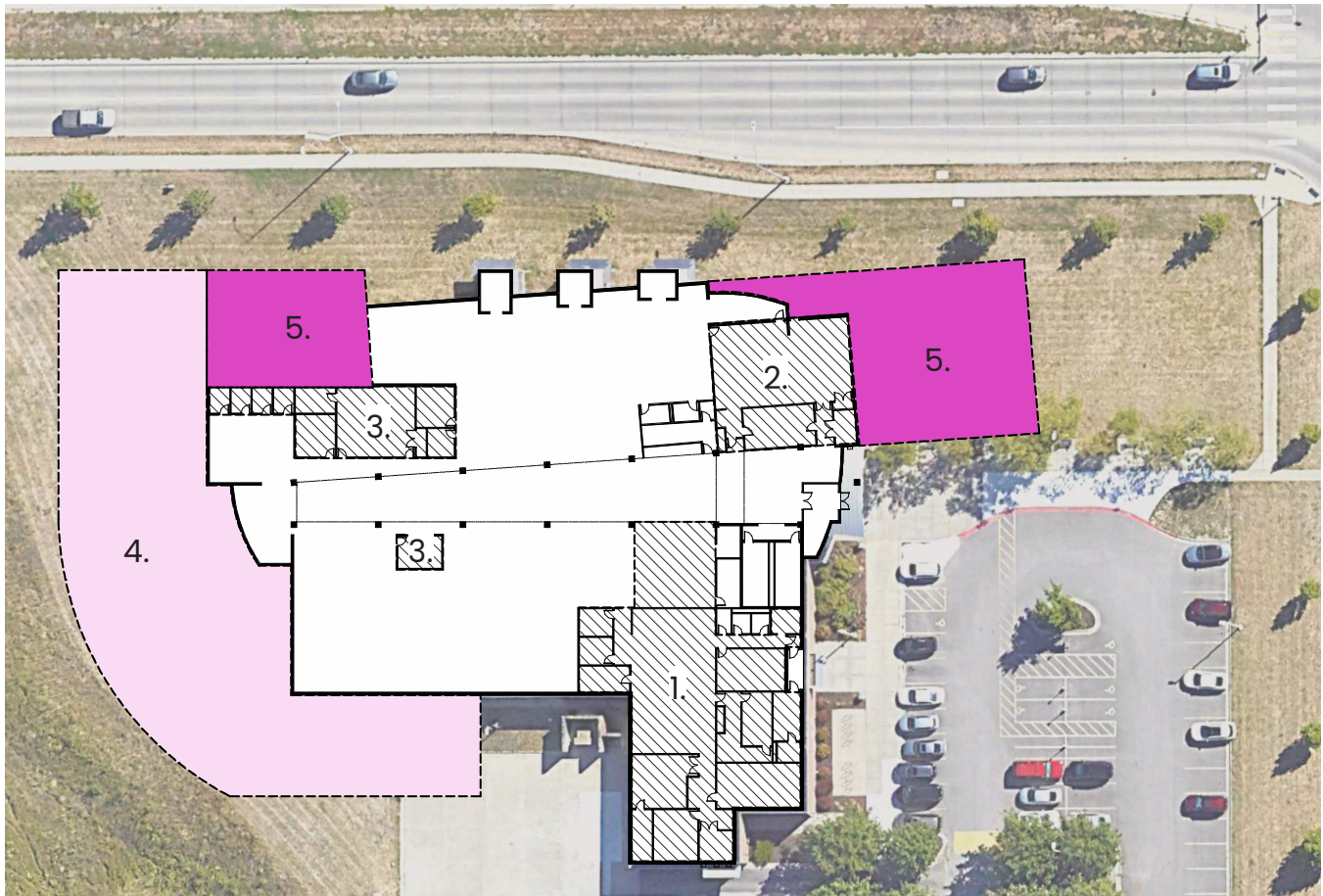
Energy Use by Source (2021-2023)



Recommendations

What does this branch need to be a great neighborhood library?

- Improved entry sequence: better visual connection to the street, visible service desk
- Flexible meeting room with high visibility to library spaces for programs and community partners
- Offerings that are visible rather than hidden away (computers, study rooms, play & learn space, seating areas, meeting room)
- Reduction in collection or a building addition to accommodate more patron seating
- Connection to outdoors gathering space
- Dedicated teen space with study and lounge spaces
- More efficient staff space to improve workflow and give space back to public use



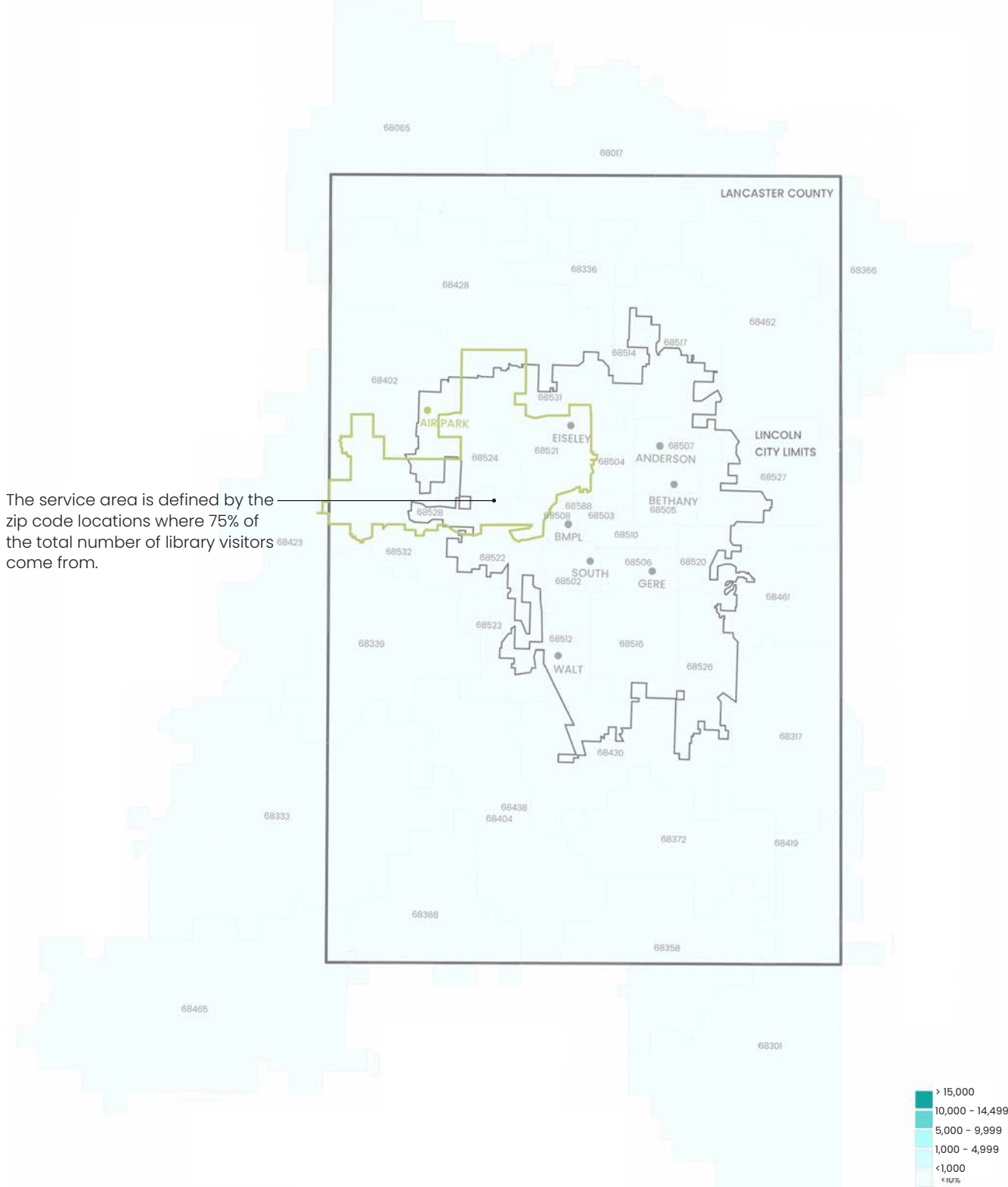
1. Increase staff space efficiency to give floor space back to public
2. Enhanced meeting space
3. Improve sightlines and wayfinding for collection and program spaces
4. New outdoor space
5. Potential addition to increase program, collection, and seating space

- Addition
- Outdoor Space
- ▨ Major Renovation
- Renovation

Lincoln City Libraries
Williams Branch

Branch Information

Square Feet:	4,700	Annual Circulation:	8,776
Collection Size:	7,010	Annual Visits:	6,620
		Annual Program Attendance:	n/a



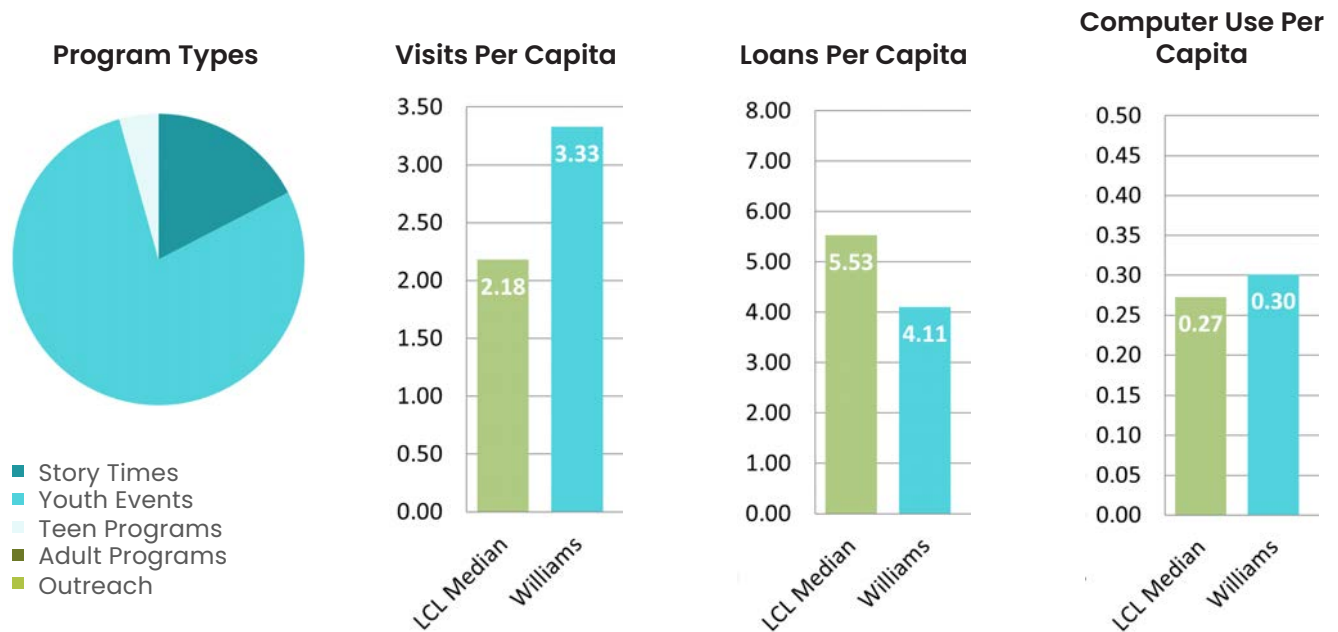
The service area is defined by the zip code locations where 75% of the total number of library visitors come from.

Service Population Map of Williams Branch

Library Service Assessment

The community around Williams Branch is younger and more diverse than other areas in Lincoln.

Use during the first year after opening can be atypical; this should be considered when reviewing the data regarding visits, loans, computer reservations, and programs per capita.



Recommendations

The Williams Branch opened in its new location very recently so the collection, furnishings, and spaces are all in new and functional conditions. We are not recommending any additional investments in this branch in the near-term. In the long-term, growth in this area of Lincoln/Lancaster County may necessitate a larger branch location in this neighborhood.

Lincoln City Libraries | Facilities Planning + Condition Assessment

Appendices

Appendix A: Library Staff Engagement

Library Staff Engagement Summaries

Anderson Branch

Located in a working-class neighborhood, the library serves as a vital resource for multiple generations. Despite offering a diverse range of programs, it encounters difficulties stemming from limited space, and resource and staffing constraints. A further hurdle lies in effectively communicating with the community to promote the library's services and programs, aiming to attract an increased number of patrons. Additionally, addressing the issue of limited exterior visibility plays a role in drawing visitors to the library. Enhancing visibility through clear signage or thoughtful spatial arrangement could mitigate this challenge.

The library staff conveyed their preference for prioritizing fundamental services over additional ones, especially when faced with limitations in staffing and resources.

The library's collection is notably extensive for its size, and the holds collection is growing. There is a need for a deeper exploration of its contents to create room for additional programs.

Needs expressed by staff:

- Spaces for intergenerational programming
- Functional outdoor space for programming
- Divisible meeting room offering flexibility and a view into the library.
- More space and programs for kids, such as a play area, developmental play, and manipulatives.
- More space for using technology and charging devices

Bethany Branch Library

The Bethany Branch is the smallest library in the system and its demographic makeup is undergoing a shift from a retirement community to a community with a higher number of young families. Growth at the eastern city border may increase visitors to the library.

The existing facility is deficient in meeting room space and only has a single exit door, thereby hindering the ability to host community gatherings and restricting the number of participants for library programs like children's story time and ELL (English Language Learner) sessions. Additionally, there is a pressing requirement for improved seating within the library. Enhancing the comfort and availability of seating would provide patrons, particularly older individuals, with a space for socializing and reading newspapers

Owing to its size, the library's services are constrained, rendering it incapable of meeting the community's requirements.

Needs expressed by staff:

- More seating / charging space
- Meeting / community space
- Additional parking
- Staff break room

Eiseley Branch

The area surrounding the Eiseley Branch is higher on the social vulnerability index than other branch locations. Visits, loans, and computer reservations are lower at this location than the LCL averages suggesting that the building/collection/programs are not drawing the community to the library, or that there are hurdles for the community to use library services. The library has a higher than average portion of outreach programs to serve the neighboring community.

The existing meeting spaces are aging and no longer functioning well to meet the community's needs. There is no dedicated young adult area which likely limits use by young adults. Although the library is located next to a park, there is no easy access to park amenities from the library so outdoor programming opportunities are limited.

Needs expressed by staff:

- Young adult space
- Meeting/community spaces for adult programming
- Support space for outreach services

Gere Branch

The Gere Branch has the most annual visits of any library in the LCL system, however the per capita visits are close to the LCL average visits. This location has higher than average loans per capita. The library's size is sufficient to support the current use, however, the abundance of collections spread throughout the space hinders the possibility of introducing additional programs and services. The presence of several partners neighboring the library provides a wide array of programs for patrons. Nevertheless, challenges arise due to insufficient staffing, a lack of outdoor space, and the absence of flexible meeting areas.

Currently, the library boasts four study rooms, which patrons actively utilize for meetings and tutoring sessions. There is a desire to incorporate a built-in Zoom function to facilitate conference calls and job interviews.

Needs expressed by staff:

- Additional meeting/community spaces for adult programming
- Story time room
- Functional outdoor space for programming

South Branch

The South Branch is among the smallest libraries in the system. The library's size is inadequate for the area it serves. Visits, loans, and computer reservations are higher at this location than the LCL averages suggesting that there is a high demand for library services in this area.

The existing facility presents immediate programmatic challenges, notably the absence of meeting space for small group gatherings, tutoring, and story time activities, which currently occur on the floor. Being situated along a bus route provides convenient access to the library, but the main entry's proximity to the sidewalk and street raises safety concerns for library staff.

Needs expressed by staff:

- Flexible meeting space
- Study rooms
- More seating, computers and technology.
- More parking spaces

Walt Branch

The Walt Branch has the highest loans per capita in the LCL system. While the library's size seems suitable for its current load and population, there's considerable underutilization of space, with a majority dedicated to shelving.

Catering to a diverse demographic, the library offers a wide array of programs spanning from story Times to adult activities like sewing, crafts, and calligraphy. These programs cater to various age groups, reflecting an effort to draw patrons from beyond the immediate service area. Programs often have waiting lists, however the existing facility does not have enough space to accommodate larger groups and staff do not have time to plan additional programs.

This library houses the sole maker space in the LCL system. While focusing on technology-oriented programs through this space, its limited and irregular layout poses challenges.

Needs expressed by staff:

- Flexible meeting space
- Enhanced maker space
- Functional outdoor space for programming

Williams Branch

The Williams Branch recently opened as a part of the Air Park Community Center. The surrounding neighborhood is much younger than the average neighborhood in Lincoln with almost a quarter of residents being under 18 years of age.

Needs expressed by staff:

- None identified at this time, due to the short duration the branch has been operational.

Bennett Martin Public Library

The library no longer functions as a central hub but rather offers services that often overlap with its branch counterparts. Loans per capita fall far below the LCL system average. However, visits and computer reservations are above the system averages. While unique programs exist, (Polly Music Library, local history, and genealogy), these alone struggle to set the central library apart from the branches.

The downtown locale, however, provides abundant opportunities to collaborate with local businesses and institutions like bookstores, the Children’s Museum, Lincoln Literacy, and YMCA, enabling the provision of diverse and distinctive programs. The location also presents challenges associated with a perceived lack of parking and discomfort with the presence of persons experiencing homelessness.

Clearly, BMPL needs a transformation into a destination library in Lincoln. This involves offering spaces that foster gathering, interaction, demonstration, and exploration—both indoors and outdoors. While maintaining traditional services such as circulation and library programs, the library must adapt to become an engaging community space that draws residents downtown.

Needs expressed by staff:

- More kids & teen space and programs
- Flexible meeting / community space
- Small private spaces for social services
- Parking
- Collaboration space for UNL students
- Destination space
- Outdoor/green space
- Gallery, coordinated display space
- Demonstration kitchen

Appendix B: Public Engagement

Public Engagement Summaries

Anderson Branch Summary

Total of 52 people

- Need more diversity in enclosed meeting and study spaces
- Parking at downtown branch should be easily accessible or free
- Makerspaces are desired
- Development of robust integrated partnerships with mutually beneficial relationships, i.e. UNL Innovation Campus, Parks & Rec, LPS
- Enhance wayfinding
- Keep balance of books and technology but supplement with additional programming space.
- Enhance acoustics
- Expand into underserved growth areas of Lincoln
- Libraries should serve as a community gathering space—spaces and advertising that changes the narrative that libraries are relevant in quality of life
- Downtown location should provide unique programming opportunities through the collection and types of spaces offered.

Gere Branch Summary

Total of 65+ people

- South branch entry needs to be addressed due to safety concerns adjacent to South Street.
- Development of robust integrated partnerships with mutually beneficial relationships, i.e. Luxe, Duncan Aviation, Bay High,
- Need more diversity in enclosed meeting and study spaces
- Downtown location should focus on how to spend longer encouraging spending the day at the library or the day downtown.
- Parking at downtown branch should be easily accessible or free
- Makerspaces focused on content creation and e-gaming
- Focus on health and wealth and life skills
- Sustainability features including access is important to the community
- Keep balance of books and technology but supplement with additional programming space.
- Meeting spaces shortage for non-profits and other organizations that need a cheap to free option

Walt Branch Summary

Total of 40 people

- Libraries should develop as a place to consume, produce, and exchange information.
- Need more diversity in enclosed meeting and study spaces
- Parking at downtown branch should be easily accessible or free
- Access to social services should be provided but discrete due to the nature of service required, i.e. Matt Talbot, HSLA, Lincoln Literacy, Nebraska AIDS, Cedars, Centerpointe, etc.
- Library needs to attract the 18-30 year old demographic.
- Develop robust integrated partnerships with mutually beneficial relationships, i.e. Children's Museum, Innovation Campus, CLCs, Public TV, UNL College of Engineering
- Location is important for access
- Promote libraries as a place to do your work with appropriate amenities to do so, i.e. business centers, meeting spaces, Zoom rooms, etc.
- Extended hours to provide additional access
- Outdoor spaces to promote additional library uses
- Library can be a gateway to hobby development, health and wellness, or educational exposure, i.e. yoga, laser cutters, language classes

BMPL Branch Summary

Total of 52 people

- The ability to easily browse is important
- Outdoor spaces to promote additional library uses
- Multi-functional programming space is necessary
- Parking at downtown branch should be easily accessible or free
- Extended hours to provide additional access
- Downtown is a neighborhood with a library that should serve the demographic.
- Downtown library should be a significant building and a source of pride for Lincoln
- Location is important for access
- Develop robust integrated partnerships with mutually beneficial relationships, i.e. Children's Museum, Aging Partners, First Friday's, Park & Rec, YMCA
- Downtown location should serve as a community hub contributing to spending time downtown.
- Programming at downtown location should augment the entertainment and arts district.
- Unlock the potential of libraries to show the relevance to Lincoln (especially after the lack of investment in facilities for decades)
- Downtown location should focus on programming and the spaces necessary to do so.

Eiseley Branch Summary

Total of 47 people

- Programming and spaces to support social services.
- Build in choice and variety for programming and space type
- Better and encouraged access to the adjacent outdoor spaces and park.
- Demographic that uses Eiseley is constrained on time or limited access to transportation to effectively use library
- Develop robust integrated partnerships with mutually beneficial relationships (can be achieved through a pop-up strategy), i.e. Center for People in Need, CLC's, Lincoln Literacy, Belmont Community Center, Children's Museum, Innovation Campus, Lux, UNL
- Sustainability features including access is important to the community
- Makerspaces to include traditional equipment and augmented with fix-it programs.
- Need more diversity in enclosed meeting and study spaces
- Focused design and programming for teen and young adults
- Clear wayfinding strategies to promote ease of use
- Eiseley is inadequate in space type to serve demographic well
- Sound control is important, especially with after school patrons.

Appendix C: Facility Heat Mapping

Facility Heat Mapping Summaries

Anderson Branch Summary

Dot Responses 67
 Specific Comments 28
 Survey Responses 11

- Ease of access to collection materials: 8.7
- Spaces for programs, story times, etc: 6.9
- Community meeting rooms: 6.7
- Ease of physical access: 8.0
- Overall Safety and security: 7.6
- Combined Average: 7.6

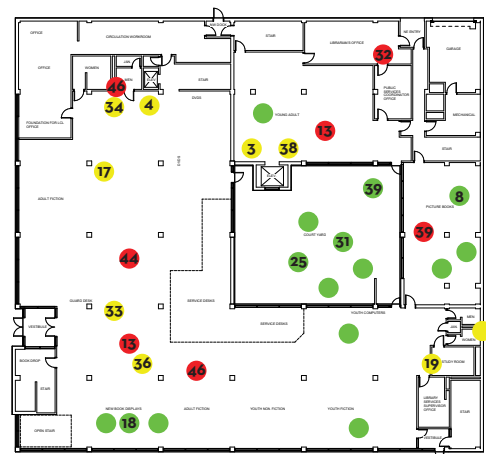
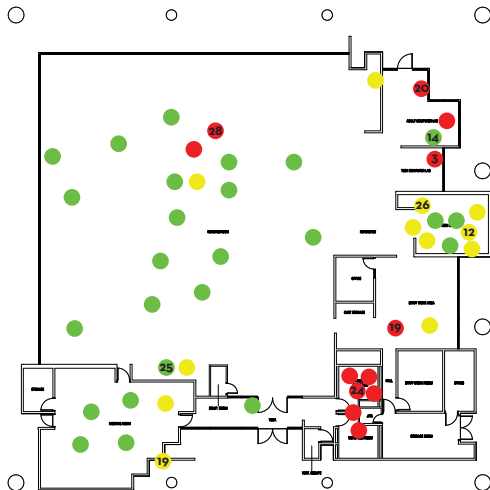
- The glass and natural light of this facility is appreciated
- Access to outdoor/green/park spaces, seating areas, etc were requested
- Better seating and ventilation
- Additional study rooms are desired
- Upgrades to public restrooms and staff restrooms were requested

BMPL Branch Summary

Dot Responses 71
 Specific Comments 52
 Survey Responses 36

- Ease of access to collection materials: 7.5
- Spaces for programs, story times, etc: 5.4
- Community meeting rooms: 5.2
- Ease of physical access: 4.8
- Overall Safety and security: 5.9
- Combined Average: 5.8

- The outdoor courtyard is very appreciated
- Accessibility issues were noted
- Modernization and updates are needed throughout facility, for both finishes and amenities
- Parking is a barrier to use
- Spaces for programs, study rooms, children’s area, etc are needed or need upgrades
- Security is a perceived issue due to homeless population
- Charging stations are desired
- Specialty collections are appreciated (Polley music and Nebraska authors/heritage collections)



Bethany Branch Summary

Dot Responses 22
 Specific Comments 21
 Survey Responses 10

- Ease of access to collection materials: 8.5
- Spaces for programs, story times, etc: 5.5
- Community meeting rooms: 4.9
- Ease of physical access: 8.0
- Overall Safety and security: 8.9
- **Combined Average:** 7.2

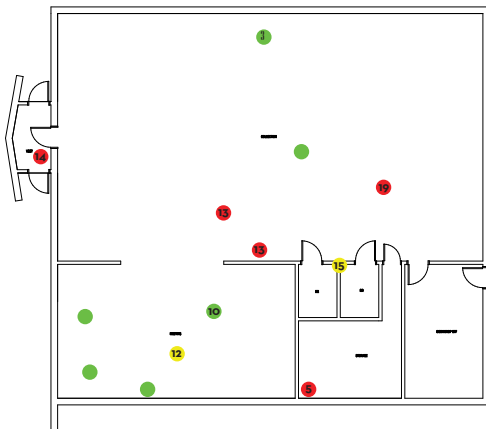
- Several comments related to keeping this “small but mighty” branch were recorded
- Several comments related to replacing or expanding this branch were recorded
- The one-way parking traffic was noted as dangerous and undersized
- The glass and natural light of this facility is appreciated

Eiseley Branch Summary

Dot Responses 5
 Specific Comments 18
 Survey Responses 11

- Ease of access to collection materials: 8.6
- Spaces for programs, story times, etc: 8.6
- Community meeting rooms: 8.6
- Ease of physical access: 8.9
- Overall Safety and security: 7.5
- **Combined Average:** 8.5

- Additional toys and other children’s amenities are requested
- Mulch and acorn trees were noted as problematic
- After-school use by teens was noted as noisy and creating conflicts with other patrons’ use
- Sound control needs improvement



Gere Branch Summary

Dot Responses 188
 Specific Comments 54
 Survey Responses 28

- Ease of access to collection materials: 8.8
- Spaces for programs, story times, etc: 8.0
- Community meeting rooms: 7.5
- Ease of physical access: 8.6
- Overall Safety and security: 8.8
- **Combined Average: 8.3**

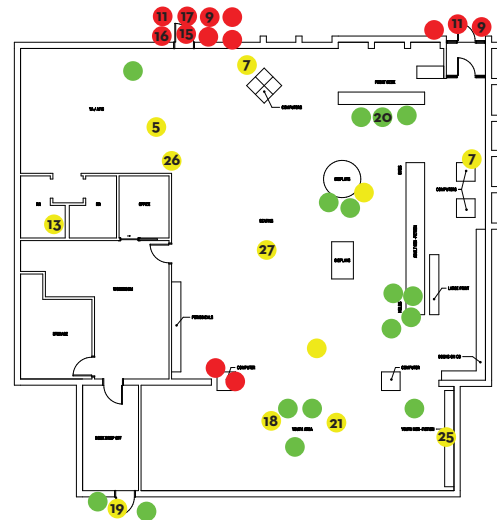
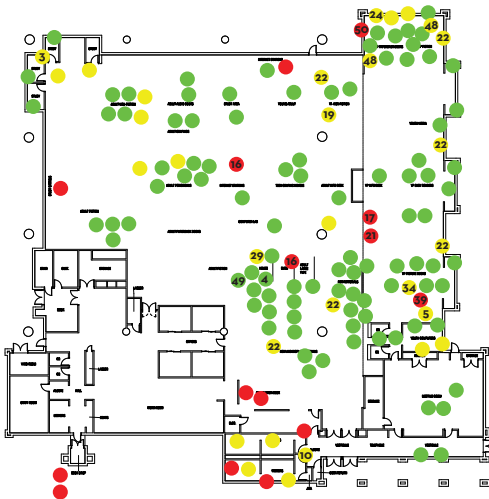
- Parking lot poor condition was noted
- Outdoor book drop was noted as difficult to navigate
- Community meeting rooms need improvement
- Expanded children’s area
- Noise control/separation for children’s area
- Multiple comments noted a need for a “southeast” new library
- Additional outdoor spaces and native landscaping requested

South Branch Summary

Dot Responses 51
 Specific Comments 21
 Survey Responses 28

- Ease of access to collection materials: 7.3
- Spaces for programs, story times, etc: 5.7
- Community meeting rooms: 3.6
- Ease of physical access: 5.9
- Overall Safety and security: 6.9
- **Combined Average: 5.9**

- South and 27th Streets traffic causes safety concerns
- Front door and book drop locations preferred to be off busy street side of building
- More seating options and variety desired
- Preferences for small, neighborhood branches for accessibility and convenience expressed
- Desire for moving this branch to a safer location
- Drafty/noisy windows were noted



Walt Branch Summary

Dot Responses 48
 Specific Comments 27
 Survey Responses 16

- Ease of access to collection materials: 8.8
- Spaces for programs, story times, etc: 8.6
- Community meeting rooms: 7.6
- Ease of physical access: 7.8
- Overall Safety and security: 8.8
- **Combined Average: 8.3**

- Add more study rooms
- Add Staff restrooms
- Sound/noise control needed
- Outdoor seating area desired
- More community rooms desired



Appendix D: Peer Library Data

Peer Library Data

Library Name	Service Area Population	Branch Libraries	Registered Users	Physical Visits	Physical Visits Per Capita	Total Circulation	Total Circulation Per Capita	Total Library Programs	Total Library Programs (Per 1,000)	Children's Programs (Per 1,000)	Total Program Attendance	Total Program Attendance (Per 1,000)	Children's Program Attendance (Per 1,000)
LCLS LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM (FL)	335,879	15	128,357	1,481,278	4.5	1,595,710	4.9	7,574	23.1	9.4	171,673	523.0	346.7
LEX LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY (KY)	322,193	5	207,300	1,688,104	5.3	3,343,159	10.4	4,419	13.8	7.8	107,101	333.8	192.0
HOWARD HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM (MD)	317,233	6	249,083	1,963,559	6.2	7,539,540	23.8	10,224	32.2	15.2	314,071	990.0	713.0
ANOKA ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY (MN)	331,854	7	154,304	730,819	2.3	2,214,457	7.1	2,106	6.7	4.5	49,016	156.2	130.1
SPPL SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY (MN)	313,010	12	304,911	1,997,933	6.8	2,499,389	8.4	5,919	20.0	6.8	78,664	265.8	169.0
ST. LOUIS CITY OF ST. LOUIS MUNICIPAL LIBRARY DISTRICT (MO)	319,294	16	63,225	1,736,737	5.4	2,598,354	8.1	5,991	18.8	13.2	163,159	511.0	349.2
DCL DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY (NC)	308,345	6	190,066	1,326,760	4.3	2,509,572	8.1	6,245	20.3	11.4	145,023	470.3	338.0
LCL LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES (NE)	317,272	7	212,180	1,079,277	3.4	3,086,474	9.7	3,253	10.3	8.0	98,664	311.0	286.8
HDPL HENDERSON DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARIES (NV)	310,244	3	88,491	745,472	2.4	1,704,345	5.5	1,712	5.5	2.8	47,266	152.4	109.6
CRPL CENTRAL RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL LIBRARY (VA)	316,603	12	208,439	1,334,975	4.2	4,144,935	13.1	4,626	14.6	7.1	118,359	373.8	258.6
CCPL CHESTERFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (VA)	333,963	9	278,517	1,163,250	3.5	2,237,970	6.7	2,881	8.6	3.9	70,542	211.2	110.2
HCPL HENRICO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (VA)	321,233	10	290,670	2,055,948	6.4	4,101,113	12.8	5,066	15.8	10.2	119,830	373.0	296.2
Median Value	318,283	8	207,870	1,408,127	4	2,553,963	8	4,846	15	8	112,730	353	273