## Facility Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>current square feet</th>
<th>preferred facility improvements</th>
<th>proposed square feet low</th>
<th>proposed square feet high</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonney Lake</td>
<td>6,480 sf</td>
<td>relocate and expand</td>
<td>38,200 sf</td>
<td>44,400 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckley</td>
<td>4,100 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>14,700 sf</td>
<td>17,100 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DuPont</td>
<td>3,610 sf</td>
<td>relocate and expand</td>
<td>11,800 sf</td>
<td>13,700 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eatonville</td>
<td>4,000 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>9,300 sf</td>
<td>10,800 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fife</td>
<td></td>
<td>expand and potentially relocate</td>
<td>10,200 sf</td>
<td>11,800 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederickson*</td>
<td></td>
<td>new library</td>
<td>19,700 sf</td>
<td>22,900 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gig Harbor/Peninsula</td>
<td>15,214 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>35,800 sf</td>
<td>41,800 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham</td>
<td>7,152 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>30,700 sf</td>
<td>35,700 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Center</td>
<td>4,086 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>14,510 sf</td>
<td>16,890 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>32,592 sf</td>
<td>relocate and expand</td>
<td>42,900 sf</td>
<td>49,400 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton/Edgewood</td>
<td>3,300 sf</td>
<td>relocate and expand</td>
<td>18,200 sf</td>
<td>21,300 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orting</td>
<td>2,700 sf</td>
<td>relocate and expand</td>
<td>10,400 sf</td>
<td>12,100 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkland/Spanaway</td>
<td>15,576 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>44,300 sf</td>
<td>51,500 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Hill</td>
<td>20,100 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>44,900 sf</td>
<td>52,100 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steilacoom</td>
<td>4,039 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>10,100 sf</td>
<td>11,700 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>7,424 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>26,100 sf</td>
<td>30,300 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumner</td>
<td>10,600 sf</td>
<td>relocate and expand</td>
<td>27,200 sf</td>
<td>31,700 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T tłucum</td>
<td>2,100 sf</td>
<td>relocate and expand</td>
<td>7,500 sf</td>
<td>8,700 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Place</td>
<td>7,000 sf</td>
<td>expand</td>
<td>23,700 sf</td>
<td>27,500 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemwide, all locations, excluding PAC</td>
<td>150,053 sf</td>
<td></td>
<td>439,900 sf</td>
<td>511,200 sf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Frederickson population includes population from Summit, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, and Graham.

** Systemwide, including PAC: 200,053 sf, no structural changes: 50,000 sf, proposed square feet low: 409,900 sf, proposed square feet high: 567,200 sf

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### Executive Summary

**Overview**

What do you want from your local library in 2030? That is the question Pierce County Library System asked and thousands of people answered in late 2008 and throughout 2009.

For a year, the Library worked collaboratively with more than 5,000 individuals to shape Pierce County Library 2030, a facilities master plan. The plan outlines library services and buildings to meet community needs during the next 20 plus years. Pierce County Library 2030 is a combination of discussions with the public, an assessment of current library services and buildings, information about future population trends, and best practices from libraries nationwide.

The plan is a guide to create buildings that are convenient for customers and offer up-to-date services. Pierce County Library 2030 charts a course for future buildings, expansions, or replacements of library buildings, and alternative ways to access services.

The plan calls for locating buildings in high-traffic, high-population regions of the Library’s service area and in appropriate sizes to meet the needs of growing and changing communities. It also supports building flexible spaces to provide up-to-date library services for today and tomorrow.

**Pierce County Library 2030 gives communities:**

- A vision for growing and meeting the challenge to create community centers that connect people.
- An outline to explore community partnerships and shared facilities which provide added value and benefits to the public.
- The Library’s commitment to chart new territory of quality service and efficiency.
- A reflection of how the Library can help meet communities’ needs today and tomorrow.

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Photos by Chris Tumbusch
Population Grew and Changed: Since 1980, the population in the Library’s service area has grown by more than 87% and has become increasingly diverse (1980 population: 294,000; 2010 projected population: 551,000). Regional planners project an additional 171,000 people will be living in the Library’s service area by 2030, for a total of 717,800. Voters approved the last major building project for the Library in 1986, with a bond that built nine new buildings to replace existing libraries, expanded three buildings, and built two new library locations. Library administrators planned that buildings built with the bond would serve a population of 431,000. The current population of the service area is 551,000, which is 28% greater than the population planned for the current facilities.

Holistic Look at System Needed: The Library needed a close examination to determine how best to serve the growing and changing population and position it to better serve communities in the future.

Customer Expectations Changing: What the public wants today is different from yesterday and it will be different from what they want and need tomorrow. Computers and express checkout are examples of new services that were not planned in the current buildings. Customers expect to access the Internet on computers, download books, have spaces for teenagers, and gather in places with others in their community.

Key Findings and Recommendations

Key Findings:
- Buildings are too small: noisy, uncomfortable, and over-crowded.
- Too few seats.
- Not enough books and materials or accessible shelving.
- Too few computers/limited technology.
- Limited meeting rooms.
- Services need to be convenient and accessible.

More space to read, learn, and gather. Current: 200,053 square feet combined from all library buildings; 0.36 square feet per capita. Recommended: 490,000-561,000 square feet; 0.61-0.71 square feet per capita. In 2008, the Western United States’ best practice for library space was 0.62 square feet per capita.

More seats. Current: 716 seats combined at 17 libraries, for an average 1.32 seats per 1,000 residents. Recommended: 2,400-3,000 seats combined, for an average 3.77 seats per 1,000 residents. The best practice for library seating is 3 seats per 1,000 people.

More books and materials. Current: 1.2 million books and materials; 2.15 items/capita. Recommended: 1.5-1.9 million items; 2.5 items per capita. Currently, 2% of the Library’s materials are digital online formats; in 2030 it is anticipated that 20% of the materials will be digital online formats. Best practice for materials in libraries is 2.5-3 items per capita.

Technology—computers: Current: 310 computers; 0.56 per 1,000 people. Recommended: 1,240-1,525 computers; 1.93 computers per 1,000 people. Best practice for computers in libraries is between 1.5-2.5 computers per 1,000 people.

Meeting rooms and event/workshop space: Current: 11 of 17 locations offer meeting room space. Recommended: all locations offer meeting rooms to accommodate 75 to 150 people. Best practice for meeting rooms is between 75 and 200 seats in a location.

Economic and environmental sustainability: The public expects cost-efficient operations that are sustained both in terms of the economy and green building practices, such as automated systems to check-in library materials.

Convenient/accessible services: The Library will bring services to people in places outside of library buildings, such as high traffic or remote areas including grocery stores, transit centers, and places in partnership with other organizations:
- Lockers and other methods to return and pick up books and materials.
- Vending machines/ATM types of machines that dispense books, movies, and other items.
- Computers to download movies and music to mobile devices.
- Technology access, such as computers and/or Wi-Fi.

DEVELOPING THE PLAN

Review of the Current Buildings

In 2009, Pierce County Library operated with 17 locations with direct service to the public and one main processing and administrative center, serving 551,000 people over 1,600 square miles in all of unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns.

Pierce County Library staff and Group 4 Architecture Research + Planning, Inc., an architecture research and planning firm, assessed the current buildings. The average age of a Pierce County Library building is more than 20 years old. The staff and consultants concluded that Pierce County Library facilities are in good physical condition, and they are well maintained. The most glaring deficiency in all of the buildings is the communities have outgrown the spaces; the libraries are too small.

Partnerships: The Library will seek partnerships with other organizations to ensure that efforts are not redundant and that resources and skills are fully maximized to best serve communities.

Community Collaborations

The Library conducted numerous collaborative communications activities to develop an achievable, future-looking facilities master plan, which represents the needs of local residents. In all, the Library collaborated with more than 5,000 people using a variety of interactive strategies including print and online surveys; direct mail survey of people living in remote areas; strategic vision workshop with community leaders; community leaders advisory group meetings with city and school officials, business people, and other local leaders; community meetings in every library; presentations with community organizations; blog postings; and other activities.

Examining Comparable Libraries and Future Trends

People are using libraries in new and evolving ways, from spaces to collaborate to working independently on laptops. Families visit libraries as a destination, outing to attend classes and find books and movies. Also, during difficult economic times people turn to libraries more for help preparing resumes, finding jobs, and improving computer skills. Libraries continue to be significant third place spaces.

Compared with best practices from up-to-date libraries, Pierce County Library is nearly half the size of the trends for libraries nationwide, with the current space of 0.36 square feet per capita, compared to the current trend of 0.62 square feet per capita.

Next Steps

Implementing the Facilities Master Plan is estimated to cost $310 million (2010 dollars) for facilities and new service delivery methods.

The Library will continue to work with communities to determine when the timing is best to begin plans to fund the facilities master plan.