

Pierce County Lakewood Library Timeline

1963 – Tenzler Library opened on Wildaire Road, funded by the Tenzler Foundation.

1974-1975 – Tenzler Foundation funded an addition.

1982 – Library building owned by Friends of the Lakes District Library was renamed to Lakewood Library.

1986 – Pierce County Library System’s \$28.9 million bond approved by voters for system expansion program for 12 construction projects.

1991-1992 – Newly renamed FRIENDS of Lakewood Library donated the building and \$350,000 for renovation to the Pierce County Library System, because they could no longer afford to maintain the building.

1994 – Renovated and expanded library building reopened after nearly a year closure.

1995 – Lakewood incorporates as a city.

1996 – Lakewood annexes into the Pierce County Library System.

2006 – Pierce County Library System first ever levy lid lift passes, providing stable operating funding. Lakewood reopens after a complete remodel expected to last 20 years.

2009 – Major roof replacement completed. Lifespan projected to be 20 years.

2009-2021 – Repairs made to fix plumbing issues, maintain fire protection system, repair elevator, repair sewage system, repair heating and cooling system.

2010 – PCLS publishes Master Facility Plan projections to 2030, recommends relocating and expanding both Lakewood and Tillicum libraries.

2014 – Replaced air handler unit.

2016 – Emergency elevator repair.

2017 – Formal partnership between PCLS and City of Lakewood established with MOU to explore new facilities in Lakewood and Tillicum.

2018 – PCLS’s second levy lid lift passes providing stable operating funds.

2019 – PCLS conducts community engagement about library buildings in Lakewood and Tillicum; majority (then) desired new, bigger facilities.

2020 – PCLS prepares RFP, exploring funding options. COVID-19 pandemic resulted in all capital projects paused, basic maintenance only. PCLS offers online and curbside services at all locations. Condition assessments performed, walkthrough with architect and subsequent cost estimates conducted.

2021 – All libraries reopen for full services. Lakewood building assessment and cost-estimates conducted. Water damage required emergency roof repair.

2022 – Lakewood roof assessment and cost estimates conducted. Lakewood building assessment continues. Georgia Lomax retires, new executive director is hired. Library closes. Community Advisory Committee launches.

Timeline of Events Related to Closure

October 2021 – BUILDINGWORK assessment indicates substantial price tag to address building issues, warranted further discussion with Board given previous work had been done with community on new library.

December 2021 – Water leaking from roof, repairs completed but suggested full replacement of roof, highlighted the severity of the issue. Notified fire panel was also failing (\$100,000). Inspection by the roofing company revealed significant roof repairs are needed – some of this need was captured in the architectural assessment, some was new information.

January 2022 – PCLS hires an independent firm, Weatherholt, to conduct second opinion engineering assessment. “Wetherholt and Associates, Inc., is a neutral roofing, waterproofing, and building envelope consulting firm specializing in resolving building envelope and moisture related issues.”

February-March 2022 – Notified PCLS Board of condition and risks. Roof evaluation work conducted by Weatherholt.

April 2022 – Weatherholt report and cost-estimates delivered to library. Report identifies critical damage and recommendations and costs to repair/replace. The report recommended the entire roof be removed and re-engineered. This process would leave the interior of the building exposed for at least a year. PCLS leadership workshops to assess and consider options. Top concern is staying ahead of a catastrophic event. Executive Director Georgia Lomax retires.

May 2022 – Determined closure date and began move-out planning and interim services. Received appraisal report valuing building at \$0, land at \$1.5M. New executive director starts.

June 2022 – Closed for direct public service. Lease negotiations fell through for interim library, engaged broker to identify other properties that meet needs. Launched summer and outreach programs. Working with community partners, planning fall service plan. Community Advisory Committee launches.

July-August 2022 – Continued move-out activities reviewing all furniture, collections, technology, to evaluate for reallocations, storage, or surplus. Art packaged for storage. Continued to work with broker on available properties. Contracted independent assessments for mechanical, engineering, plumbing and seismic work and estimates to bring the building to code.

September 2022 – Fall service plans mostly complete. Still working on a lease for an interim space. Preparing the building best we can for the winter. Community Advisory Committee work underway with planned recommendation for fall 2022.