



CHAPTER 7

LIBRARIES

For more than one hundred years, the Library has been standing strong and proud in this city, serving as a community gathering place and point of entry for those who are seeking to better themselves or learn something new. The Fort Worth Public Library delivers services across 16 locations, as well as virtual and outreach services.



1

Flagship Central Library



14

Branch Libraries



1

Satellite Library



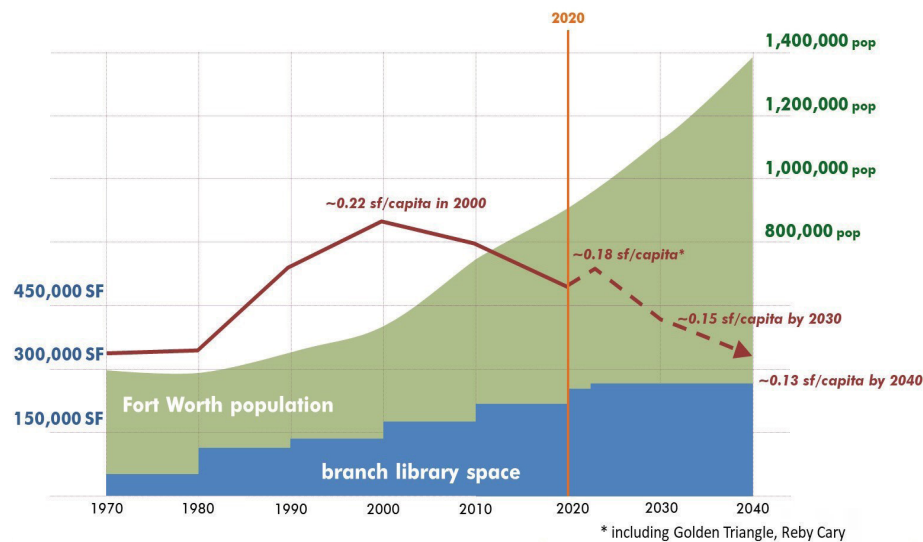
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Libraries Opening 2020 - 2022

INTER-CITY LIBRARY COORDINATION: MetroOPAC

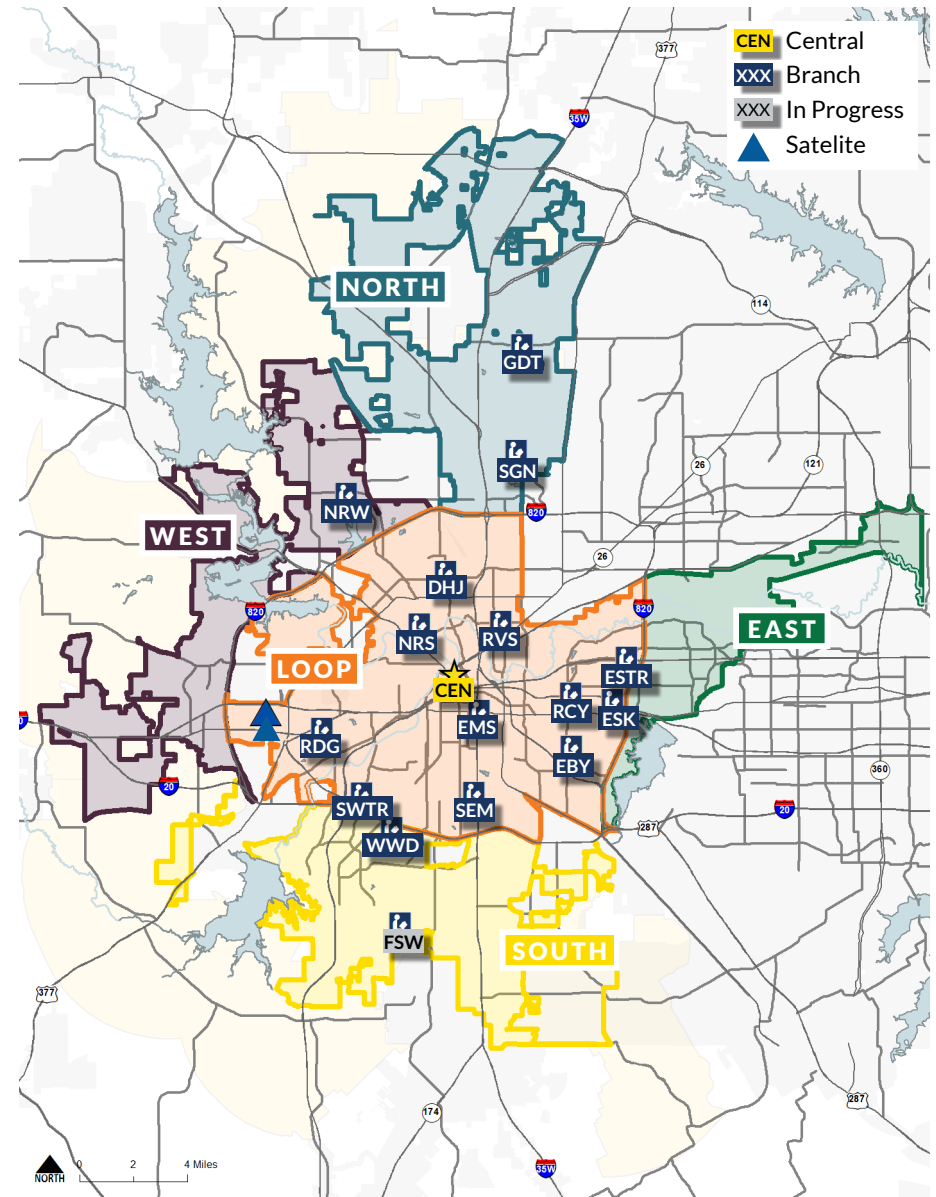
The cities of Fort Worth, Burleson, Haltom City, Keller, Richland Hills, and Watauga have an agreement (MetroOPAC) by which residents of the six cities may use their library cards at each respective library. Fort Worth provides automation services to these libraries for a fee.

LIBRARY SPACE & POPULATION: 1970-2040



Source: City of Fort Worth, Public Libraries Department, 2021.

FACILITIES



LIBRARY STRATEGIC SERVICES PLAN

The 2019 Library Strategic Services Plan is a roadmap to drive the expansion and evolution of the Fort Worth Public Library system. The plan provides a blueprint for staff and decision-making stakeholders to position the Library as a relevant and essential civic asset, responsive to the many ways the Library can and will serve the community now and in the future.

Primary Objectives of the Strategic Services Plan:

- Re-envision the Library's programs and services to create meaningful and impactful customer experiences;
- Lay the groundwork for future community partnerships and collaborations with other like-minded organizations; and
- Provide library staff with direction for the future.

During the strategic planning process, the team identified community needs, strengths and assets of the Fort Worth Public Library, challenges currently facing the Library, and opportunities for future innovations and expansion. With this information, six clear, strategic focus areas emerged:

- Customer Engagement
- Books & Reading
- Arts & Culture
- Community Vitality
- Education & Growth
- Employee Empowerment

Service needs were identified and key strategies were defined for each of these focus areas. Several plan objectives were advanced with the implementation of two key decisions:

- Expansion of library hours
- Elimination of fines and fees

IMPLEMENTATION: ELIMINATE FINES AND FEES

In October 2019, the Library eliminated daily late fines for all ages. With this change, the Library saw a continued increase in the use of library services. We also looked at policies and procedures that created barriers or were inconsistent. For example, a change was made to increase the loan period for DVD's. With this change, repeated checkouts of physical materials decreased.

IMPLEMENTATION: EXPANDED HOURS

In April 2019, the Library added 202 additional open hours per week across the city. As the library works to break down barriers to access and create a more welcoming and inclusive environment, being open when families are able to visit is extremely important. When libraries are open during the times needed, more residents will use this valuable city service. The graphic below demonstrates the positive impact of initial plan implementation, prior to COVID-19.

40%

Increase in New Library Cards Issued



43%

Computer Sessions Increase in 2019



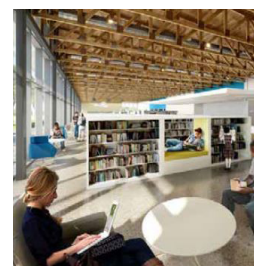
33%

Program Attendance Increase



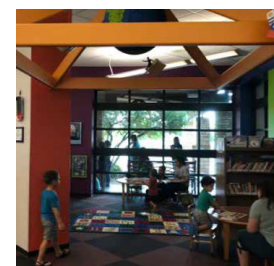
27%

Library Use Increase with no added staff.



13%

Library Visits Increase 2018 to 2019



5%

Circulation Increase



Top Left: Proud library cardholder. Top Middle: Adults at public-use computers. Top Right: Cultural programs include dance class. Bottom Left: Modern Library use. Bottom Middle: Library visits by children. Bottom Right: Employees at the circulation desk. (Source: City of Fort Worth, Public Libraries Department, 2021.)

Most of Fort Worth's current libraries – including the Central Library – are out of alignment with the vision for the 21st century library and the community impact described in the Strategic Services Plan.

Most of the current libraries are crowded and lack sufficient or appropriate space for programs. Overall, library buildings in Fort Worth are very well maintained. However, the growth of library space has not kept up with population growth.

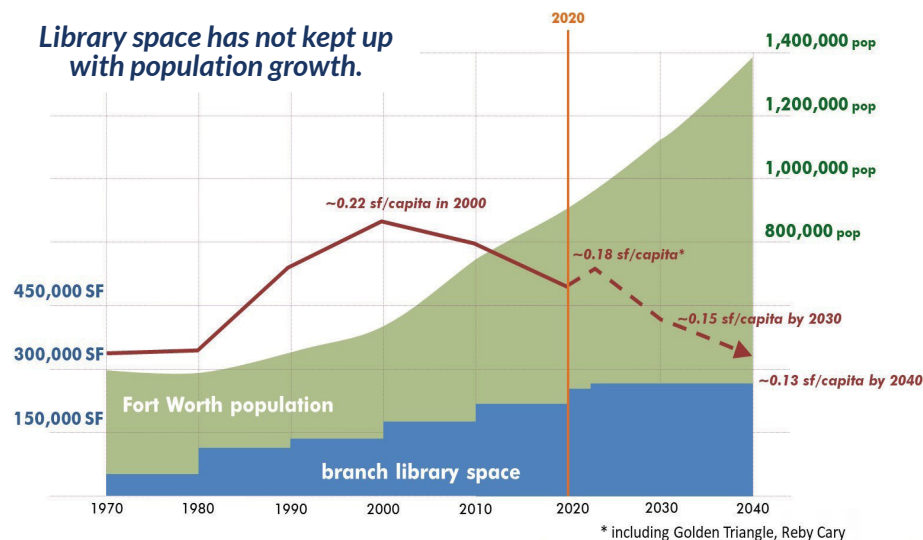
The average Fort Worth resident has access to less library space today than they did in 1980. Today's library space is primarily located within or near the central part of the city. Residents inside Within Loop 820, approximately 40% of the population has access to 80% of the library space. However, the average age of libraries within or adjacent to Loop 820 is aging compared to branch libraries in growing parts of the city.

VISION

Your community gathering place for learning, self-discovery, shared experiences, and personal growth.

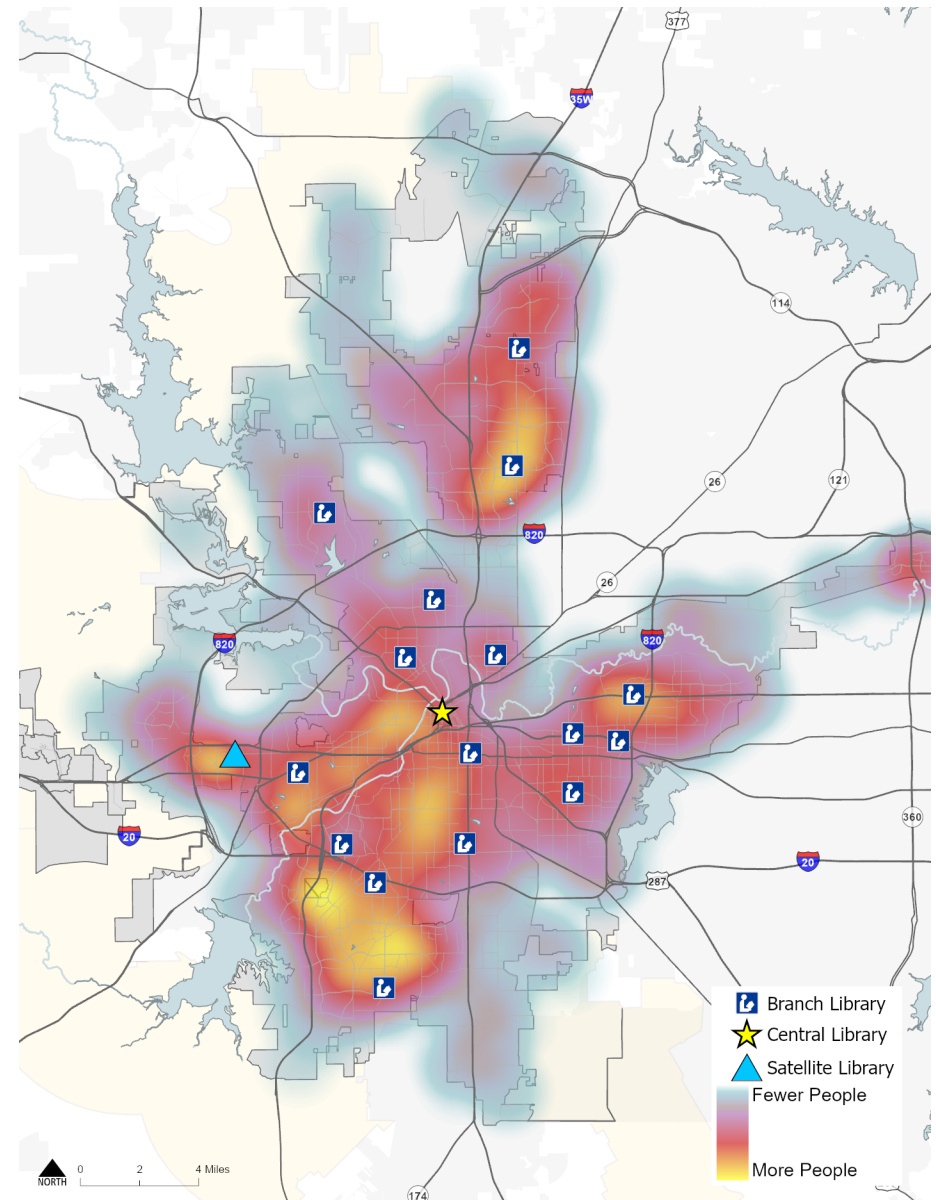
Residents inside Loop 820 have more than three times the space than residents have in the rapidly-growing communities in the north, west, and south.

LIBRARY SPACE & POPULATION: 1970-2040



Source: City of Fort Worth, Public Libraries Department, 2021.

CURRENT POPULATION & LIBRARY FACILITIES



LIBRARY FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

The primary purposes of the Facilities Master Plan are to determine the current physical condition of library buildings and sites; ascertain the capacity of library facilities to support 21st century services; and identify the amount and geographic distribution of library space needed for the next twenty years. The proposal is to renovate existing library space in years 1 to 10; and expand or relocate in years 11 to 20. New facilities built between 2015 and 2022 will receive lifecycle maintenance repairs, updates/refreshes to align with evolving service models over the next twenty years. In the north, west and south, a lack of library space requires new facilities to be built. In the south, space is at 40% of targets. In the north where population is expected to double, library space is at 33% of targets.

RENOVATE & MAINTAIN LIBRARY BRANCHES

- Riverside
- East Berry
- Seminary South
- Wedgwood
- Northside
- Ridglea
- Southwest Regional
- Diamond Hill-Jarvis
- Ella Mae Shamblee
- East Regional

BUILD NEW OR EXPAND BRANCH

- Replace or Expand eSkills (ESK)
- Expand Summer Glen (SGN)
- Add ~100,000 square foot of new branch library space in the North, West, and South zones

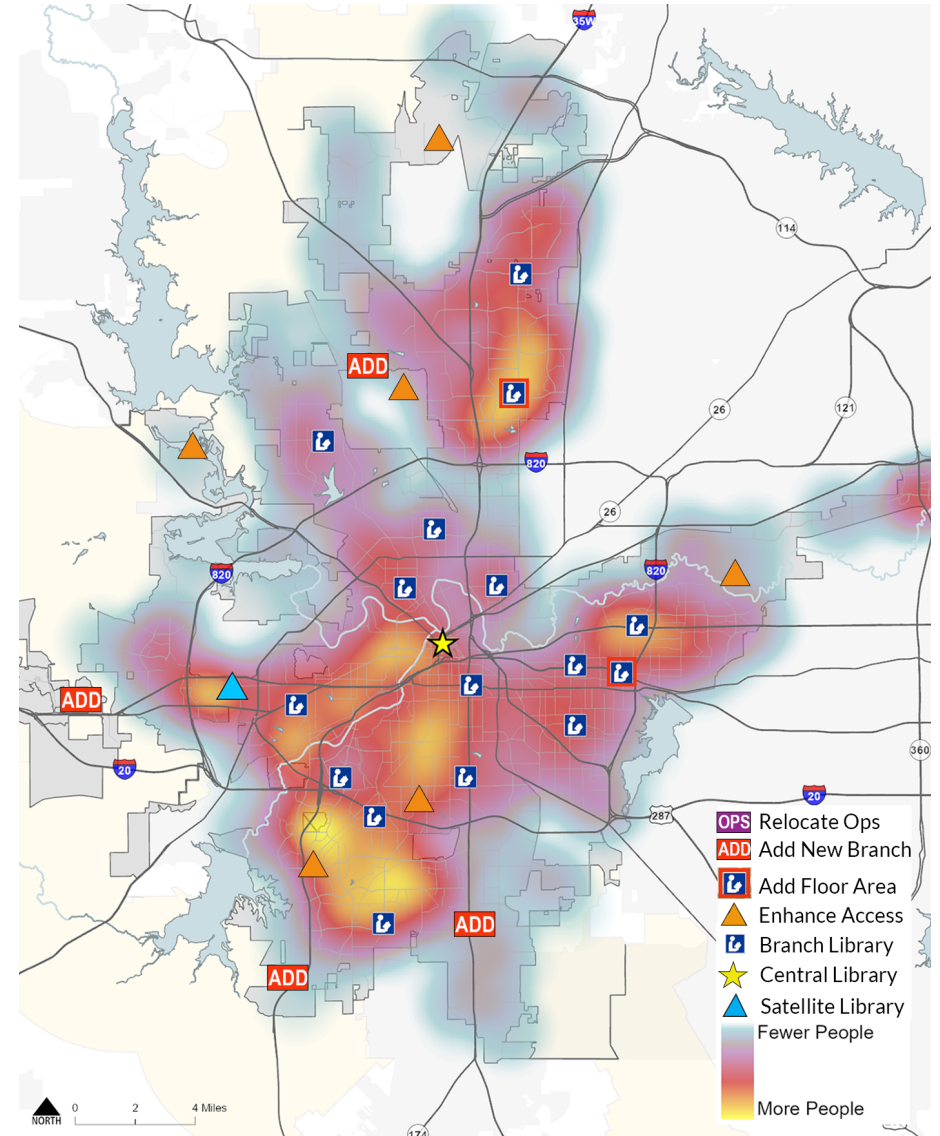
RELOCATE

- Genealogy
- Operations Center
- Central Library

ENHANCE ACCESS

- Locations & Strategies TBD

MASTER PLAN VISION 2020 - 2040



The Facilities Master Plan has identified areas of the City that will increase in population over the next twenty years in order to plan for new library facilities.

Source: City of Fort Worth, Public Libraries Department, Facilities Master Plan, 2020.



CEN CENTRAL LIBRARY
120,000 sf | Built 1978



DHJ DIAMOND HILL/JARVIS
8,100 sf | Built 1989



EBY EAST BERRY
7,500 sf | Built 1967



ESTR EAST REGIONAL
24,000 sf | Built 1996



EMS ELLA MAE SHAMBLEE
13,400 sf | Built 2008



FSW FAR SOUTHWEST
16,000 sf | 2023

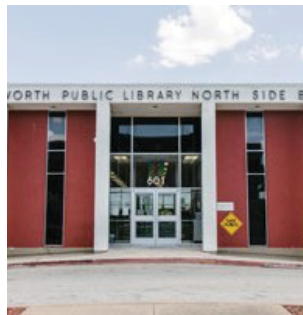
Design has not been finalized as of January 2022.



GDT GOLDEN TRIANGLE
15,000 sf | Built 2020



MBK MEADOWBROOK
5,000 sf | Built 1964



NRS NORTHSIDE
7,100 sf | Built 1967



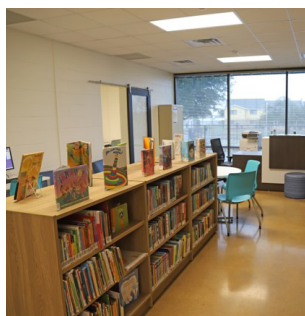
NRW NORTHWEST
13,000 sf | Built 2010



RCY REBY CARY YOUTH
8,000 sf | 2021



RDG RIDGLEA
9,600 sf | Built 1957



RISE RISE
900 sf | Built 2021



RVS RIVERSIDE
6,300 sf | Built 1967



SEM SEMINARY SOUTH
6,800 sf | Built 1967



SWTR SOUTHWEST REGIONAL
25,700 sf | Built 1987



SGN SUMMER GLEN
11,100 sf | Built 2000



WWD WEDGWOOD
5,000 sf | Built 1962

Source: City of Fort Worth, Public Libraries Department, 2021.

The Fort Worth Public Library's uses the follow goals and objectives to build a community of learners, dreamers and doers. To fulfill this mission, the Fort Worth Public Library (FWPL) identified community needs and strengths, the assets of the Library, challenges currently facing the Library, and opportunities for future innovations and expansion.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

1 Customer Engagement

- Reduce barriers to access.
- Expand the Library's reach.
- Evolve services beyond buildings.

2 Arts & Culture

- Contribute to the City's thriving arts scene while celebrating the past and embracing the future.

3 Education & Growth

- Enrich out-of-school time and make learning fun and enjoyable.

4 Books & Reading

- Cultivate a community of readers.
- Serve as the literary hub for the City.

5 Community Vitality

- Nurture economic development, entrepreneurship and opportunity for all.

6 Employee Empowerment

- Support City goals.
- Develop employees.
- Align capacity with strategy.



All About the Orchestra



Adults enjoying the library.



Music and Movement



Community tax preparation at a branch library.



Public participating in the Strategic Plan process.

The City of Fort Worth uses the following strategies to create a community gathering place for learning, self-discovery, shared experiences, and personal growth.

STRATEGIES – STRATEGIC SERVICES PLAN

Customer Engagement

- Increase the percentage of city residents and students with an active library card.
- Begin implementation of an outreach services plan.
- Improve access to technology by implementing a mobile printing service option at all library locations.
- Increase the use of new express check service equipment at all library locations.

Arts & Culture

- Create a service plan for local history to increase programming & strengthen partnerships.
- Promote civic engagement; engage the community through voter registration/polling places.
- Provide programs to support the arts in all its forms.

Education & Growth

- Develop and implement service plans for youth and adults.
- Increase the number of STEAM programs throughout the system.
- Increase the number of early literacy programs throughout the system.
- Develop a Technology Master Plan.
- Increase participation in the Mayor’s Summer Reading program.

Books & Reading

- Increase programming related to books and reading.
- Complete an internal audit of the collection management department.
- Increase partnerships with the school districts in Fort Worth.

Community Vitality

- Reinvent library spaces.
- Expand workforce development programs.

Employee Empowerment

- Implement a learning management system for library staff.
- Develop a comprehensive Training and Development Plan.

STRATEGIES – FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Expand Library Capacity:

- Achieve the recommended space planning targets of 0.3 square feet per person in each planning zone and Citywide.

Enhance Service at Libraries

- Renovate existing branches to meet 21st century needs.
- Transform the Central Library into a citywide destination.

Improve Access & Operations:

- Relocate Genealogy, History & Archives.
- Create an operations center to accommodate library divisions and functions away from downtown and outside of the Central Library.
- Expand outside services to complement inside library services.