



YES, the Bloomfield Township Public Library is getting bigger! Here's why...

A few quick facts about the Bloomfield Township Public Library renovation and expansion project:

- in 1968 the Library was 32,000 square feet
- in 1988 the Library was 62,000 square feet
- in 2005 the Library was 62,600 square feet
- in 2008 the Library will be 101,600 square feet—a 62% increase and definitely bigger!

The Needs Assessment and Existing Conditions Study of 2001 (review this at <http://www.btpl.org/answers/Needs-Study.pdf>) found that, compared to other public libraries locally and nationally, this Library had already entered a deficit space situation—45% more space was needed to meet the collection and activity needs of 2001. By 2020 this Library would have a deficit of over 75% for recommended quality standards in public library facilities unless expanded.

In a 1998 print survey, focus groups held in 2001, and in a telephone survey conducted in 2004, Bloomfield Township residents said they wanted more from this library—more materials, more room for local history, more and faster public access computing, more of an open people-oriented community space, and more of the same, pavilion-oriented one-level facility design.

To be fiscally conservative and still meet the 2020 library needs of this community, the Board of Trustees brought to the community and in August 2004 voters approved, an extensive renovation project which will also expand the Library by 62% at a cost of \$23,651,932.

This includes:

- Addition to the north of two pavilions of Adult Services collections, including Business/Investment Center and Local History Room, plus the third centered addition of a new Information/Technology Center, AND 16 study rooms (there were only 12 constantly used rooms before—now there will be a total of 19 with one in a teen area and 2 more in Youth).
- Additions to the southeast for a Youth room--more family AND collection space!

- Addition to the east for mechanical equipment--bringing it up from the lower level for greater efficiency (when project is completed, no more sweltering summers or unevenly heated winters).
- Addition to the west to house part of the expanded AudioVisual collection now Media area, plus new, well-lighted and functional, easy-to-maintain restrooms.
- Addition to the southwest is staff work area, Friends office, and the new drive-up book return.
- And more computers--an increase from 50 public to 100, for computing, training, and on-site access to the Library's electronic information resources, PLUS public access catalogs throughout the collection at the ends of shelving ranges.

When Will It Be Done?

Because of the size and complexity of the project, and particularly because the Library is staying open throughout construction here at 1099 Lone Pine, the project will take three years to complete. It began August 2005.

The good news is that as public areas are completed, they will be opened to the public, getting the benefits of the renovations and expansion as soon as possible.

As of August 2006, look for the following:

- Adult Services and Technology Center to open spring 2007
- Business/Investment, Local History, Teen area to open spring 2007
- Lobby, Vending area, Friends' Store to open winter 2007
- Media (the new AV Room) area to open winter 2007
- Meeting Rooms (3 smaller rooms) to open winter 2007
- Youth Room to open spring 2008
- Community Room (large meeting room) to open spring 2008
- Drive-up book return to open spring 2008
- Reading Terrace, Children's Garden to open summer 2008
- Dedication fall 2008

As construction is impacted by weather, unforeseen industry and local conditions, and the need to maintain a safe environment for the public and staff, this schedule may change. Updated milestones can be found at http://www.btpl.org/About_Us/Construction/construction.html.

Look there, too, for slide shows of the construction in progress. Visit the model of the completed project on display at the Library.