

BUILDING A 21ST CENTURY LIBRARY



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J. V. FLETCHER LIBRARY
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THE GRANTS

**Four Town Meeting Votes to date to pursue:
Planning & Design Matching Grant, 2014-2016**

- **Awarded \$50,000 in 2014**

Public Library Construction Project Grant

- **Application submitted January 26, 2017**
- **Competitive, multi-year award cycle by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners**
- **Provisional \$7.85 million award notice received in July 2022 – one year early with six months to receive Town approval**



Thirty-four years after the most recent library addition, the current library is constrained to find the space to put “the public” in the public library!

THE LIBRARY FACILITY NEEDS COMMITTEE

From December 2014, the Library Facility Needs Committee met 36 times to meet the requirements of the Planning & Design Grant. The Library Facility Needs Committee has:

- 📖 Completed a comprehensive MBLC Library Building Program
- 📖 Hired an Owners Project Manager and the Architectural Firm
- 📖 Considered 5 alternate sites
- 📖 Considered multiple design options
- 📖 Conducted surveying, wetlands delineation, test boring and geo-technical testing
- 📖 Conducted a Hazardous Materials Survey
- 📖 Hired two independent Cost Estimators to calculate estimated project costs
- 📖 Met with multiple Town Boards, Commissions, Technical Review Staff and Commissions; formal review will follow the provisional grant notice

THE NEED

Since **2001**, the Library Trustees have been engaged in long-term space planning. Our current building footprint is inadequate to meet the needs of the residents who use it most, lacking:

-  An ample, imaginative, responsive Children's Area
-  Tween/teen Space reflecting new technology and trends
-  Sufficient study, research and tutorial spaces
-  Collaborative working, conference and community gathering spaces
-  Family Bathroom with space for a caregiver, a stroller, a toddler and an infant
-  Space to rock a fussy baby
-  Energy-efficient, Net Zero building systems
-  Code- and safety-compliant public areas



THE USAGE – FY22

-  **19,383** card holders
-  **1,439** daily checkouts
-  **293** days open per year
-  **152,032** hits on Library website
-  **1,374** Library Programs with **7,627** attendees
-  **460,368** All collections used
-  **1.4%** of local tax rate [two dimes and three pennies]
-  **\$13.60** Return on Investment

A Community Asset

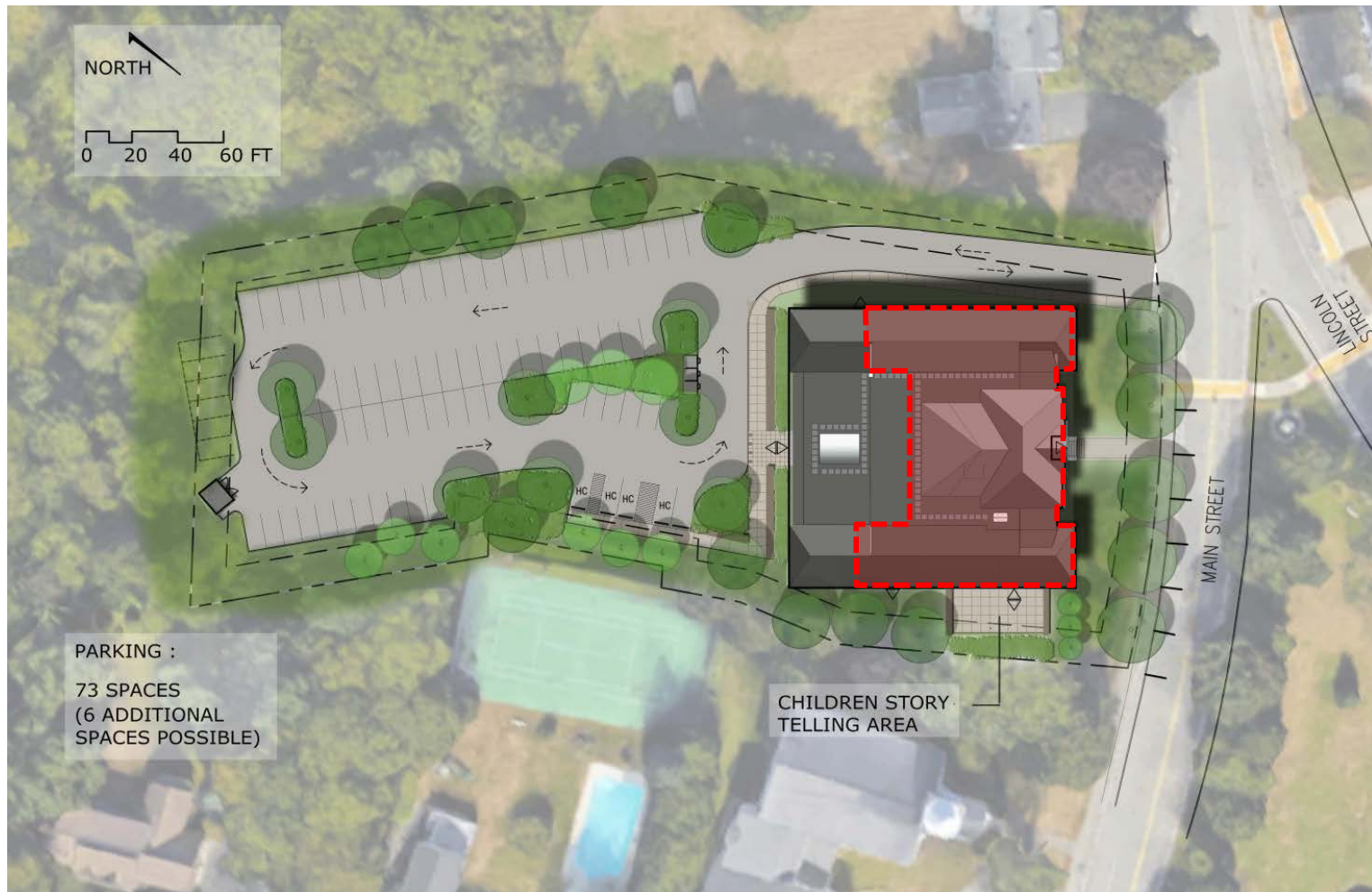
One of the **highest** Summer Reading Program registrations in the Commonwealth, with one of the **largest** Friends groups!

GRANTS & GIFTS, PAST & FUTURE

The Library has maximized the local tax dollar by pursuing two state-funded grants – the Planning & Design Grant [2014-2016] and the competitive Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Grant for which Westford is slated to receive just under \$8 million. The Westford Library has a strong history of gifts, donations, benefactors and grants:

-  1797 the Social Library was founded by 25 citizens
-  1859 the Social Library was donated to the Town
-  1873 the Agricultural Library was donated to the Town
-  1895 Jonathan Varnum Fletcher donated 75% of the funds to build a new library on the Common
-  1963 J. V. Fletcher's great grand-daughter Marian Winnek funded a basement Children's Room
-  1969 Renovation/addition funded by federal LSCA Title II grant
-  1979 Bookmobile funded by federal LSCA Title I grant
-  1988 Renovation/addition awarded MPLCP grant award
-  2007-12 Library Beautification funded by Friends of the Library fundraising
-  2022 Provisional MPLCP grant award notice

THE SITE



J. V. Fletcher Library | 50 Main Street | Westford, MA 01886-2599 | 978-692-5555 | www.westfordlibrary.org

LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



LEVEL 3



USER BENEFITS

The proposed design devotes almost all new space to the public and to the residents who use it most. This design:

- 📖 More than doubles the space for Children
- 📖 Triples the space for tween/teens and emerging adults
- 📖 Doubles community meeting spaces
- 📖 Centralizes Circulation functions
- 📖 Increases silent and collaborative study options
- 📖 Offers improved technology
- 📖 Offers improved traffic flow & increased parking
- 📖 Offers flexible spaces to accommodate future trends and community use
- 📖 Is fully handicapped-accessible and meets current fire, safety and building codes, and is planned for Net 0

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

For the Community, this design offers:

-  Pre-K Child Literacy and Language Development Programs
-  Formal Education Support
-  School Library Collaboration (PS/PL Collaborative)
-  Home-schooling, Tutoring and Independent Schooling Support
-  Free Life-long Learning Opportunities
-  \$13.60 Return on each public library dollar invested
-  Job Seeking and Small Business Support
-  ESL and Literacy Support
-  Meeting space, Conference space and work space
-  Boost in property values
-  Reclaim state taxes for re-investment in our community

VIEWS OF THE 21ST CENTURY LIBRARY: REAR ENTRY



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VIEWS OF THE 21ST CENTURY LIBRARY: REFERENCE



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21ST CENTURY REAR; HISTORIC FAÇADE REMAINS



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ESTIMATED PROJECT COST

Westford has a six-month window (until January 9, 2023) to approve funding and receive its provisional grant of \$7,851,994. Votes for funding will occur at Special Town Meeting October 17 and on the local ballot November 8. Project cost breakdowns for 2024 are estimated to be:

Town Share of Cost	\$23.4 M
MBLC Grant	\$ 7.8 M
Private Funds/CPA	<u>\$ 1.3 M</u>
Total Project Cost	\$32.5 M

The Town Bond is estimated at \$159 on the median household valued at \$660,500, or \$3.00 per week; this will be staggered into the Town's future debt schedule to smooth tax impact, replacing old debt. Because the construction grant is not a percentage of the total budget, nor does a project go back to the bottom of the list, library grantees are pursuing additional state funds in the supplemental budget. Westford can reclaim these tax dollars for our community.