



Bee Cave Public Library

Long-Range Plan 2024

Mission Statement

The Bee Cave Public Library will provide intellectual, cultural, educational, and recreational resources in a variety of formats. The library will offer an inviting environment, promote lifelong learning, and foster a sense of community.

Situation Assessment

Bee Cave Public Library is in its nineteenth year of operation, having grown from a tiny collection of 7,500 mostly donated volumes housed in a portable building to a thriving, full-service library of 30,000 volumes in its physical collection and nearly twice that number of electronic items in its digital collection. The library has a team of 11.5 full-time equivalent staff members serving an active community of approximately 9,500 active cardholders. The library serves 70,000 visitors per year and offers award-winning programs across a wide range of interests and ages.

Bee Cave Public Library operates as a department of the City of Bee Cave. Since 2007, the library has operated in its current space of 4,200 square feet on the first floor of Bee Cave City Hall, located in the heart of the Hill Country Galleria, a mixed-used development of retail, office, and residential space. As the library outgrew its collection, office, and programming spaces on the first floor, it gradually expanded to additional space on the second floor but is currently in dire need of an expanded space. At the time of this Long-Range Plan, the library is engaged in the design phase for a new 24,000 square feet, two-story building projected to open in 2026.

Current Challenges

Bee Cave City Hall, where the library is currently located, shares space with other city departments including administration, finance, communications, municipal court, parks and facilities, and planning and development. All departments share restrooms, conference rooms, multi-purpose meeting rooms, break rooms, mail room, and so on. During municipal, county, state, and national elections, the shared meeting rooms are used for early voting and election days, forcing the library to cancel or reschedule programs due to lack of space. The physical collection of books, audiobooks, DVDs, and other materials has reached maximum capacity in terms of shelf space, requiring a very active program of year-round weeding and de-accessioning of materials to keep the collections usable and current. The ability to innovate and add new programming as designed by

library staff or requested by patrons is severely limited by the space constraints the overcrowded building places on hiring and operations.

As part of the design phase for the new library, a consulting firm conducted a variety of outreach to the community to seek input from stakeholders on their needs and wishes for the new building. Focus groups were conducted with a wide variety of stakeholders over multiple days; vision boards with ideas for the new space were shared with over 500 people at various programs and events who voted on their favorite ideas; an extensive online survey was completed by 450 people; and interviews were conducted with library staff, city officials, and other stakeholders as part of the information-gathering phase.

Through these various methods, stakeholders identified challenges and desired solutions that are addressed in the action plan laid out below.

ACTION PLAN

1. Collections

GOAL: Patrons of all ages will have ready access to a variety of materials in print and digital formats to meet their intellectual, cultural, recreational, and educational needs.

ACTIONS:

- Keep all collections fresh and current through active acquisition of new materials and de-accessioning of weeded materials while in existing limited space.
- Plan for the expansion of all collections in the new building by collating and purchasing supplemental opening-day collections for the new building.

2. Programs and Services

GOAL: The library will provide a variety of programs and services to meet the lifelong learning needs of our growing community.

ACTIONS:

- Ensure that library programs, services, and collections continually adapt to meet community needs through the use of surveys, suggestions, and outreach.

- Expand regular programming for underserved populations, ages, and interests as resources allow.
- Maintain status as an accredited Family Place Library™.

3. Technology

GOAL: Bee Cave Public Library will provide its patrons with access to evolving technology to support their intellectual, cultural, recreational, and educational needs.

ACTIONS:

- Provide access to technology for library visitors on-site through public workstations.
- Provide access to technology for library patrons through the circulation of laptops, hot spots, and other devices as resources allow.
- Provide free connectivity and charging stations for mobile devices throughout the library and adjacent spaces.

4. Facilities

GOAL: Bee Cave Public Library will offer an inviting environment that promotes lifelong learning and fosters a sense of community.

ACTIONS:

- Continue to utilize available space in the existing library, City Hall, and surrounding area to provide a full range of programs and services until the new library opens.
- Design spaces for the new building and its surrounding grounds that facilitate a flexible offering of programs and services by creating spaces that can be modified and adapted as community needs change.
- Design spaces for the new building to be welcoming and accessible to patrons of all ages and abilities.
- Design spaces for the new building to facilitate individual study, small group work, collaborative teamwork, quiet reading, and other types of usage.
- Design spaces for learning through play in the new library and its surrounding grounds to support the goals of Family Place™ libraries.

5. Staffing

GOAL: The library will employ a professional, friendly staff dedicated to delivering innovative, high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of our growing community.

ACTIONS:

- Add additional staff as needed to expand hours of operation.
- Add additional staff to design and carry out additional programs and services.
- Provide robust opportunities for continuing education and training for staff in all positions.

SUMMARY

Bee Cave Public Library is a vibrant, thriving library serving a rapidly growing population. During the design and construction of the new library, Bee Cave Public Library will continue to provide outstanding collections, programs, and services while researching and planning for expansion, growth, and innovation in the future.

Approved by Bee Cave City Council, 3/26/2024