



Searcy Public Library Needs A Larger Facility

What's the issue?

The Searcy Public Library is bursting at the seams and can no longer meet the demands for service, especially for library programming and computer use. The population of Searcy as well as the number of items checked out from the library (books, movies, audiobooks) has more than doubled since 1966.

Increased library traffic means also that parking is at a premium and there are times when library visitors must either postpone or cancel their library visit when they cannot find a place to park. The library facility no longer has space for a meeting room or study rooms though the library is often expected to offer this service.

A recent needs assessment conducted by Godfrey's Associates, Inc. in 2015 found that the Searcy Public Library, based on population trends, needed 41,000 square feet to adequately serve the library service needs of this community. Searcy's population continues to grow.

A City/County Organization

The Searcy Public Library facility is owned and maintained by the City of Searcy. Three full-time and two part time library staff are employees of the City of Searcy.

All other staff, all materials, and all other computer and library services are funded through the White County Regional Library System which derives the majority of its revenue from the county's 1 mill property tax.

According to law, this millage cannot be used for new construction but is designated for library operations and maintenance.

In April 2015, the City of Searcy designated the site which was occupied by the old city pool (adjacent to Berryhill Park) as the location for a new library.



Searcy Public Library
10,000 sq. ft.

Constructed in 1966; expanded in 1978

What's happening at the library?

In 2016 the Searcy Public Library recorded:

- **186,341** visitors (up 27% over 2012)
- **29,619** sign-ins for computer use (up 15% over 2012)
- **320,383** items were checked out (up 31% over 2012)

Average attendance of 621 people per day!

What would a larger facility offer to the Searcy Community?

A larger facility would ideally offer enough space to have:

- An expanded children's area and a new children's programming room and homework center
- An expanded teen area and increased programs for children, teens, and adults
- Three times as many public access computers including some in an area that would serve as a computer training lab
- More library materials—books, magazines, movies, audiobooks as well as more materials in electronic format
- A meeting room with a capacity for 100 people that can be used even when the library is closed
- Several small study rooms and more areas where individuals can comfortably use the library's Wi-Fi with their own electronic devices
- An expanded genealogy/local history room
- Adequate parking and improved handicap access

Want to show your support?

Join the WCPL Friends Foundation, a 501(c)(3) volunteer organization dedicated to enriching and supporting the resources, capabilities and services of the White County Regional Library System.

Information and membership forms are available at the library or online at:

Whitecountylibraries.org/Friends