

Appleton Public Library Building Project FAQs

This is a working document and will be updated frequently. For the most up-to-date version, please visit apl.org/building/faq.

Questions About the Project

What is the project timeline?

The City of Appleton Common Council has awarded a contract to Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) and The Boldt Co. (Boldt) for design, engineering and construction services. Design work has started and construction will begin this year.

What size will the facility be?

The Skidmore, Owings & Merrill library design is anticipated to result in a building that is approximately 110,000 square feet. It is currently 86,600.

Will the building be environmentally friendly?

Yes. During design, various approaches will be reviewed to reduce the carbon footprint of the building. In addition, it is important that initiatives are taken to minimize operations costs.

How will the library function during construction?

The library will operate 2411 S. Kensington Drive – the former east side Best Buy near Calumet Street and 441.

Questions About Moving

Will you be closed during the move to a temporary location?

Yes, we will be closed for approximately six weeks – from Wednesday, April 13 to Sunday, May 22.

When is your last day of service at the current location?

Our last day of service is Tuesday, April 12.

Where should I bring materials for return during the closure?

Due dates for materials checked out at Appleton will be extended through our closure or you can return items to any InfoSoup library (infosoup.org/libraries).

Will holds pickup be available?

All holds for pick up at APL will be suspended starting Wednesday, March 30. You may pick them up when we reopen in our temporary space or select pick up at a different InfoSoup library.

Will interlibrary loan (ILL) be available?

Interlibrary loan will be temporarily suspended until shortly after we open in our temporary location.

How can I access services during your closure and move to a temporary location?

Need materials? Your library card is good at any InfoSoup library (infosoup.org/libraries) and they'd love to see you.

We have several online services you can access for free with your library card. Visit our downloads and streaming page (apl.org/downloads) or elibrary page (apl.org/e) to learn more.

In addition, we're continuing select programs! Visit our online calendar (apl.org/calendar) to learn more or our YouTube page to see past library events.

Questions About the Temporary Location**Where is the temporary library location?**

The library will operate 2411 S. Kensington Drive – the former east side Best Buy near Calumet Street and Highway 441.

When will you open at the temporary location?

Our opening date is Monday, May 23.

What will your hours be at the temporary location?

We will continue our normal operating hours -

School Year Hours (Labor Day – Memorial Day)

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Summer Hours (Memorial Day – Labor Day)

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, Closed

What is the phone number at the temporary location?

The phone number is 920-832-6173.

What services/materials are available at the temporary location?

The temporary location will be a scaled down version of the current library. You'll be able to

- Browse and check out materials
- Use the computers and WIFI
- Read or relax in one of our several seating areas
- Ask for reference or one-on-one help including Local History, Small Business and Job Connection sessions

Classes and events will take place in various spaces throughout the community or online. Check out our online calendar (apl.org/calendar) to learn more about programming and locations we're visiting.

Microfilm and microfilm machines will be in storage through the duration of construction. They will be available for use again in the remodeled library. During this time, we welcome you to check our online local history resources (apl.org/community/history), online genealogy resources (apl.org/e), and one-on-one local history and genealogy help service (apl.org/service). You can also email us at askus@apl.org or give us a call at 920-832-6173.

Study and meeting rooms will be unavailable at the temporary location.

Is there a bus stop near the temporary location?

Yes – there is a bus stop on Kensington Drive near the entrance to the temporary location. Visit the Valley Transit website (myvalleytransit.com) for more information on route maps and schedules.

Questions About the Cost

What will the renovation cost?

The total building project cost is currently estimated at \$39 million according to a jointly-produced estimate by architect Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) and construction manager The Boldt Co. (Boldt).

The City of Appleton has budgeted \$26.4 million for project costs spread across three years and \$2 million from the City's Federal American Rescue Plan Act allocation for broadband network infrastructure. The city is also pursuing additional funding to include state and federal grants and philanthropic support. Ultimately, the library design will be scaled to fit available resources without increasing the existing commitment from Appleton taxpayers.

How will the facility be paid for?

Part of the facility is expected to be funded in the same manner as other city capital projects. In addition, the city will pursue outside sources of funding including grants, philanthropic support and additional funding streams.

Questions About Parking

Where will library patrons park?

The planning process will ensure that the project incorporates adequate and accessible parking for library patrons. This includes looking at on-site parking and maximizing the use of the Yellow Ramp. It is likely the project will include design changes to make it easier for patrons to park in the ramp if they're able to.

General Library Questions

Why do we need an updated library facility?

The library serves everyone and is a key part of Appleton's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Based on the [City of Appleton](#) and [Appleton Public Library strategic plans](#), the current facility does not meet the needs of the community. As the library strives to fulfill its mission and vision, the facility is falling behind on standards for contemporary urban libraries. More information on prior studies related to the building project [can be found here](#).

Last Updated: 2/22/22