

LIBRARY BUILDING PROJECT - PARKING AND PEDESTRIAN PATH TO LIBRARY

Updated June 2023

Access to convenient parking is essential for library patrons. In 2021, the City of Appleton hired Walker Parking Consultants to help address parking concerns in the area around the library.

Walker worked with city staff and held a stakeholder meeting that included SOM architects, library volunteers, library trustees, the Library Building Project Advisory Committee and Friends of Appleton Public Library.

Since then, the library design has been revised. The updated design does not extend as far to the south as the initial design, leaving more of the parking lot preserved. Library neighborhood parking will continue to be addressed through a multifaceted approach as follows:

Library Lot

The current library lot has 94 spaces.

Accessible parking is a priority in this lot and the initial design exceeds ADA requirements. In addition, the path to the library is barrier free with no curbs to navigate. The drive through area provides a speed table/crosswalk to slow down traffic and improve the arrival experience.

The specific design and number of spaces is still being finalized. We anticipate that the lot will retain close to the same number of spaces as it did previously.

Street Parking

Metered street parking provides 40 additional spaces in immediate blocks.

Yellow Ramp

The Yellow Ramp is 500 feet from the library and has over 1,100 spaces. Maximizing the existing ramp is important. According to Walker, structured parking in Wisconsin for a free-standing above-grade, 300-500 space ramp can range from \$22,000-\$28,000 per space in construction costs.

This structure is well lit and clean with ample parking capacity for future library and neighborhood growth. Analysis from Walker factored in conditions for average weekday conditions as well as for peak special event conditions including the needs for the new Merge development and the library.

The following recommendations were approved by Municipal Services Committee and the City Council to prioritize convenient parking for library patrons in the library lot and the Yellow Ramp.

- Ordinance modification that overnight parking in the Yellow Ramp is permitted only on levels 6 and 7, effective January 1, 2023.
- Policy modification that city employees park in the 12-hour on-street meters or in the Yellow Ramp, not the library parking lot.
- Ordinance change to make 1st Floor West Bay (nearest the library) 3-hour parking in addition to other areas within the ramp totaling 50 three-hour stalls.

The [downtown parking map](#) shows more details about parking on the street, within surface lots and within ramps parking.

Walker also recommends pedestrian improvements in the library plaza and sidewalks between the library and the Yellow Ramp to lead patrons towards the southwest corner of the ramp through direct and indirect visual cues and wayfinding signage.

They also recommend informational signage within the library interior as well as the Yellow Ramp to direct patrons to and from the library. Finally, they recommend a destination guide sign at the SE corner of the library lot to direct pedestrians to the Yellow Ramp that also indicates the distance remaining.

Valley Transit is working on long-term planning for the future of their facility. Pedestrian safety and wayfinding is a priority in their planning and our architects have been working with them to ensure that both facility plans complement each other.