

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 happening with the library building project?

The bid opening for the construction of a redesigned library revealed costs have escalated beyond the project team's most conservative estimations. The project team has recommended the City of Appleton Common Council reject all bids, allowing the team to rework the design and scope and re-bid. To best align with industry timelines and maximize competitive position in the marketplace, the team anticipates going back out to bid in early 2023.

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. The current timeline is below. It may fluctuate depending on factors such as supply chain, weather, etc.

Project Goes to Bid – Early 2023

Construction Starts – TBD

Opening Day – TBD

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 square feet.

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 operating costs.

How will the library function during construction?

The library is operating from 2411 S. Kensington Drive – the former east side Best Buy near Calumet Street and 441.

Why did the library move to a temporary location before securing a construction start date?

Moving ahead of construction is standard practice as part of the pre-construction phase. Several items need to take place in the pre-construction phase including remediation of the site, moving out furniture and fixtures, coordinating with state internet providers for network moves, setting up fencing and job trailers, and more. All these items can take several months. Our goal was to balance minimal disruption of service to the community with adhering to complex project requirements while avoiding construction delays.

Unfortunately, delays in construction have resulted due to extremely unusual economic times

and volatility in construction costs. The sequencing of events that need to take place prior to construction has proven to be difficult to schedule as we navigate delivering a project that fits into the approved budget.

Questions About the Temporary Location

What services/materials are available at the temporary location?

At the temporary location you can:

- 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 are taking 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 are 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).

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. Visit the Valley Transit website (myvalleytransit.com) for more information on route maps and schedules.

Why can't the library stay at the temporary location?

We are only able to provide a fraction of services at our temporary location and we are not able to meet the long-term needs of the community:

- no access to free public meeting and study rooms due to lack of space.
- no space for library programming.
- inefficient staffing operations due to lack of space.
- not centrally located, making it more difficult for some community members to access the library.

Have you thought of keeping a branch at the temporary location?

Previous studies have not recommended the creation of branches due to the increased operational costs.

Questions About the Budget

What is the budget for the project?

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 Friends of Appleton Public Library are also conducting a capital campaign with the goal of raising \$12 million. Ultimately, the library design will be scaled to fit available resources.

Questions About Parking

Where will library patrons park?

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

Parking will be addressed through a multifaceted approach. This includes approximately 47 on-site parking spaces, 44 street parking spaces, as well as maximizing the use of the Yellow Ramp located 500 feet from the library. More information about parking can be found at apl.org/building/spotlights.

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.

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