

Manatee County Library Master Plan leads to New Long Range Plan

In 2019, Godfrey Associates were contracted to provide a comprehensive guide for library facilities, operations and services for the next 10 years. Sponsored by The Manatee Library Foundation, the consultants' review identifies strengths and needs.

Strengths:

Library staff, particularly professional Librarians ▪ Programs & services offered ▪ Collections of books & media, both print & electronic

Needs:

There are five areas of needs identified.

Access ~ Expand and standardize the hours of service at all facilities

Services ~ Workforce training ▪ Small business support ▪ Lifelong learning for all ages educational resources ▪ Job skills ▪ Entrepreneurship ▪ Adult literacy

Staffing ~ Move toward the goal of meeting minimum Florida Public Library Standards for Access & Staffing ▪ Retain talented & knowledgeable employee base ▪ Additional para-professional staff to support the professional Librarians currently on staff & additional hours open

Technology ~ Provide state-of-the-market technologies that improve the customer experience ▪ Support staff workflow efficiencies ▪ Implement RFID to enhance inventory control & self check-out functions ▪ Install current audio-visual technology in all Meeting & Study Rooms ▪ Provide mobile technologies for borrowing & in-Library use – laptop computers, tablets & mobile power pack

Facilities ~ Complete & open the East County Branch Library ▪ Modernize the Central & Branch Libraries to include improvements to Teen Areas, Meeting Rooms, Staff Work Areas & Makerspaces ▪ Construct all future & replacement Manatee Branches from 5,000 to 35,000 square feet on easily accessible sites ▪ Install one or more modular kiosks to provide 24/7 service in underserved areas of Manatee County – Myakka City, Parrish, Washington Park, and Pride Park ▪ Establish a Workforce Development Center at the Central Library with space for mentoring & classes for individuals & businesses

To view the entire PowerPoint presented to the Manatee County Commissioners, click [here](#).

As a result of the Library Master Plan, Library Services has published a new [Long Range Plan](#) with four goals, that reflect the findings of the study. Library Services is moving ahead with the Long Range Plan with hopes of having many goals underway or completed prior to the opening of the new library on Rangeland Parkway.