

HILLSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE TOPIC OVERVIEW

Library Services



Where does this topic fit within the new Comprehensive Plan?

Hillsboro's updated Comprehensive Plan is organized around seven core topic areas. These core areas cover broad, interconnected subjects that help define and guide the future growth and development of Hillsboro.



Library Services is one of the six topics that make up the **Enhancing Livability and Recreation** core area.



The full background report is available at plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov/livability

Library services play an important role in enhancing Hillsboro's livability and appeal to residents of all ages and backgrounds. In addition to providing a range of useful items and resources, Hillsboro's libraries have become important community gathering places.

Existing Activities

Hillsboro is served by two library facilities, the Main Library on Brookwood Parkway and the Shute Park Library. In total, these two facilities provide over 92,000 square feet of library space and around 350,000 items—including books, CDs, DVDs, and even bakeware and gadgets—available for checkout.

Issues and Challenges

One challenge in particular—access—limits the reach of Hillsboro's library services. The Main Library is located in an industrial area rather than in a residential area, which can

make it difficult to access via walking or bicycling. While the Main Library is accessible by bus on weekdays, TriMet’s Line 46 does not run on weekends. Additionally, both the Main Library and the Shute Park Library are located on the west side of Hillsboro and are therefore not easily accessible to residents living on the east side.

Emerging Trends and Opportunities

A number of trends and opportunities should be noted and addressed in future plans. These include:

- **Ongoing Demand for Community Gathering Space** — Hillsboro’s library facilities are increasingly viewed and used as places for visitors and residents to meet, work, and connect. Demand for conference rooms and study rooms, for instance, continues to increase, with study



rooms at the Main Library being booked between 90 and 97 percent of the time. This trend should be noted and addressed in future plans.

- **The Book-O-Mat** — The Book-O-Mat kiosk is the first of its kind in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Located on the Civic Center Plaza in Downtown Hillsboro, the stand-alone automatic kiosk offers 200 items for checkout, in addition to accepting library returns.
- **The Library of Things** — The Library of Things supports lifelong learning and creativity by providing the physical tools necessary to explore new areas of interest. Offering a collection of items, from robotics kits to ukuleles to ice cream makers, the Library of Things takes the concept of borrowing from the library to the next level.

Recommended Updates and Policy Considerations

Library services will continue playing an important role in enhancing Hillsboro’s livability and appeal to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

- **Continue to support and enhance the city’s vibrancy and sense of community.**
- **Enhance accessibility to library services for all community members.**

Find Out More

For more information, including upcoming events and opportunities to get involved, please visit plan.hillsboro-oregon.gov.

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