



Your Proposed New Library

Building for Our Community's Future

The library is a cornerstone of our community, providing not only books, but online resources, social interaction, expert assistance, and lifelong learning for all ages.

With visits up 60% and checkouts up 84% since 2001, Natrona County has outgrown its downtown library.

Your library Trustees have observed this growth and understand the need for a larger library to serve you and all citizens well. **The project has been in planning for over 3 years.**



A Temporary Tax:

A temporary one-cent sales tax would generate the project's \$43.25 million in approximately 27 months. Collection of the tax would begin in April 2009 and is projected to be removed by the time the new building opens in late 2011. So, the building would be paid for when it opens!

Key Facts:

- The tax **WILL GO AWAY**, by law
- The tax cannot be increased or extended
- Property taxes and groceries are NOT affected
- Out-of-town visitors and businesses help pay for the project



Project Costs:

\$30.5 Million	Construction
3.75 Million	Property
9.0 Million	Operating Costs (Staff, Furnishings & Books INCLUDED)
\$43.25 Million	Ballot Request

The Proposed Location: 435 West First Street, the former American Pipeyard



Key attributes of the site:

- No environmental cleanup necessary
- Good soil conditions for building
- New bus stop will be provided
- “Option-to-purchase” from Casper Redevelopment LLC. for \$3.75 million (current price of downtown property)

Why not expand at the current location?

Building up on the current site is both impractical and expensive. The library would have to be closed for several years while the building’s structure was re-engineered to handle added floors. A very expensive 4-deck parking garage would also need to be constructed over the current parking lot. The cost of such an on-site expansion would likely be more expensive than building at the new site. The Trustees believe the existing site and building have served our community well for the past 98 years, and it is now time to start building for the future on a new site.



The Current Building?

The NCPL Trustees and County Commissioners have already received inquiries from agencies and businesses interested in purchasing the existing library. Revenues from the sale of the building would be applied to future library operations.

The Prometheus Statue?

The Friends of the Library have offered to help pay for relocating this well-known sculpture.

The Timeline

Dec 2004	Trustees identify need to investigate long-term facility needs
April 2005	Survey reveals new library should be in downtown area
August 2006	Facility Needs Assessment completed by Library Planning Associates; identifies need for 100,000 square foot building on 7 + acres
2007	Site criteria developed and 10 downtown sites given in-depth consideration
Nov 2007	Architect Team hired: Burnidge Cassell Associates and Randall Hein
March 2008	435 W. First St. selected as most suitable site
Summer 2008	All six town councils and County Commission authorize placing the temporary 6th cent proposal on the ballot
November 4, 2008	Voters decide whether to approve the project
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<i>With funding approval:</i> (dates approximate)	
Spring 2009	Construction drawings created
April 2009	Temporary 6th cent tax begins to be collected
Fall 2009	Construction contract awarded & Ground-breaking
Fall 2009 - Fall 2011	Construction
Late 2011	Temporary tax ends
Late 2011	Your new library opens to the public



An overcrowded children's event in NCPL's only program room

The Need:

Compared with other Wyoming libraries, NCPL is currently one-third the size it should be to meet our citizens' diverse needs. In just the past 12 months the number of checkouts skyrocketed to 604,000, 84% higher than in 2001. The number of people entering NCPL's doors has increased by 60% in the same period of time.

Planning for a new library has focused primarily on expanded children's services, public program rooms, technology access, and sufficient parking. These especially well-used areas, when expanded, will allow many more people to use the library, while increasing the library's efforts to foster literacy and lifelong learning in Natrona County.

An Expanded Children's Department

- NCPL fosters literacy and educational achievement as community values.
- NCPL's children's staff led 834 programs which served nearly 30,000 people in 2007. Teen staff provided 234 separate programs with over 5,000 attendees.
- Over 3,000 youth participated in the 2008 Summer Reading Program.
- The Children's Department is filled to capacity. It should be four times its current size to accommodate more books to serve our growing population.

Public Program Rooms

- On average, 3 or 4 groups wishing to hold public programs are turned away weekly.
- The Crawford Room is NCPL's only public program area.
- Number of attendees at library programs often pushes the room's capacity.
- The Crawford Room was used for 322 library programs and 108 public programs in 2007. It was unavailable for library programs for 32 days during the Friends of the Library book sales.

Increased Access to Technology

- 29% of County residents do not have home Internet access. Many of these people use NCPL's Internet connectivity.
- In FY08 NCPL patrons logged into 74,038 computer sessions for a total of 43,586 hours of use.

Sufficient Parking

- NCPL has 65 parking spaces, yet serves over 1,000 people daily.

How would a temporary penny affect me?

If you spend:

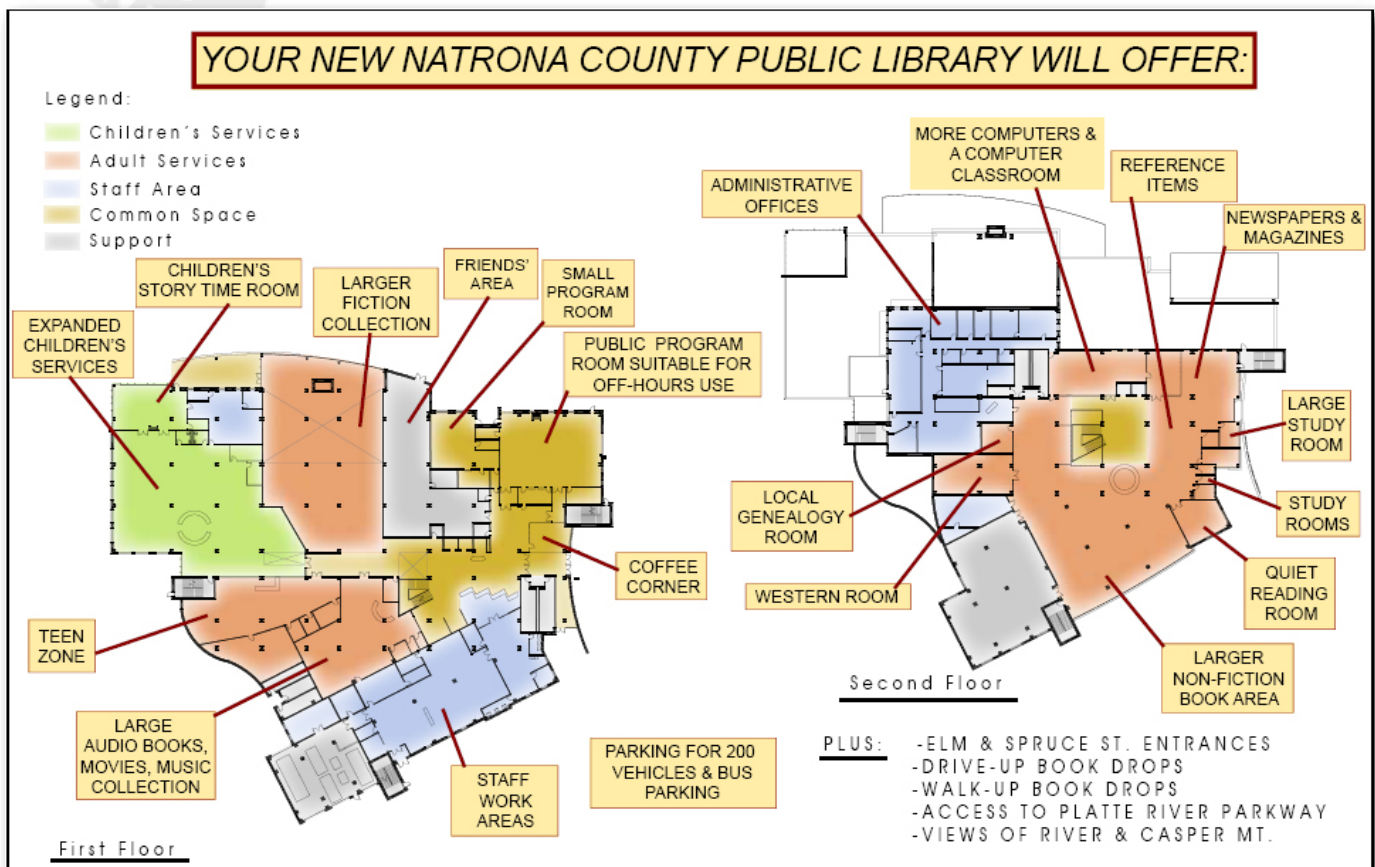
\$60 for a tank of gas:	+60¢	\$25 for a pair of Blue Jeans:	+25¢
\$20 for a Large Pizza (delivered):	+20¢	\$6 for a 6-pack of beer:	+ 6¢
\$1 for a Big-Gulp drink:	+ 1¢	\$ANY for groceries/prescriptions +	0¢

Building for Our Community's Future

The project to create a new library for Natrona County has focused on meeting the needs of our community. Our busy, current facility has served our citizens well. The NCPL Trustees believe now is the time to provide for more children's services, public program rooms, technology access and parking.

Your library serves EVERYONE... people of all ages, of every economic class and interest group. We strive daily to create a library that meets the unique needs of each patron. Building a long-lasting facility with environmentally sustainable features, tailored to central Wyoming's library needs will help continue NCPL's 98 years of service.

For more information, visit www.natronacountylibrary.org and click on "New Library Project Information" at the bottom of the webpage, or call 577-READ. Library trustees and staff welcome your input and questions.



Library Trustees:

Chris Mullen, President; Charles Robertson, Vice President;
Mary Ann Collins, Secretary; Randy Buffington, Treasurer;
Harper Lee Park

Bill Nelson, Library Director



Information provided by:

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