MARIANNA BLACK LIBRARY
EXPANSION

Why Swain County is Renovating and Expanding the Marianna Black Library

The Library is expanding and renovating to improve and increase services. Built in 1970, the facility's needs have not kept pace with what is necessary to enhance opportunities for our community members now and in the future.

A renovated, larger building will allow the library to offer greater free access to new technology, hands-on learning, and personal enrichment opportunities for people of all ages.

Our user-centered design approach will enable creativity and growth by focusing on the customers and how they use the library - individually and with others. A new flexible design will allow for adaptation of spaces when needed.

Meeting Community Needs with New and Expanded Services

Words in bold below are new or expanded services or renovations.

- A separate **Career & Technology Center** for informal computer use and software instruction, as well as robotics, STEM, 3-D printer, music recording, & other collaborative projects. The desks and tables will be smaller with more flexibility of arrangement.

- **Updated to meet ADA accessibility requirements** on the site and in the interior of the building.

- **Small group rooms for meetings,** NC Works career center, collaborative projects, tutoring, etc.

- A large, **adaptable multi-purpose room** to provide for a variety of programming: guest speakers, workshops, group projects, classes, movies, and space to produce content for e-learning & other virtual programs.

- **After-hours access for groups** to community room, restrooms and **prep kitchen**.

- Outdoor spaces for **free, after hours Internet access** and safe entering & exiting the building

- **An Appalachian Studies Room** for reference and study about the area; and to serve as a small **meeting room**.

- **Larger children's area** for reading, using tablets and devices; for group activities and programming, as well as a small restroom.

- **A designated space for teens** with their own age-appropriate books, music and video collections, where, they can socialize, use computers/tablets reserved for them and plug in their own digital devices.

- The ability to provide **simultaneous services/programming**. For example a children's program in their area, a blood drive in the community room, and several gatherings in the group rooms.

- **More computers & technology** • **A drive-up book drop**   9/2024

Quick Facts

Library built in 1970: 9,029 sq. ft. on .53 acres in downtown Bryson City, NC.

Project: Complete renovation with expansion to 15,225 sq. ft.

Budget: $6.5 million
$4.7MM from government
$1.8MM from grants, individuals, etc.

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New and Expanded Services for the Library

The diagram demonstrates how we are expanding on two sides of the current Marianna Black Library building, and renovating the interior. In the expanded library, **YELLOW areas** indicate new services such as a designated space for teens, meeting/collaborative work rooms, a career & technology center, Carolina Reference room, drive-up book return and more.

2nd Floor Plan

1st Floor Plan

New Services

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