

Minimum Site Requirements for New Facility

The Board of Trustees of Normal Public Library recognize a new library facility must:

1. Provide the residents of Normal a very high level of library services;
2. Serve the community well into the future;
3. Allow for efficient and effective staffing;
4. Reflect the fact that the library is the primary destination for the vast majority of its visitors.

With these goals in mind, and based on many years of board and staff study and discussion, customer experience surveys, extensive reviews of community library needs, and extensive input from a highly regarded library architect, the Board acknowledges any site to be considered as a possible location for a new library must meet the minimum requirements listed below.

The site and/or facility must:

1. Allow for future growth, optimal sustainability and minimal operational expense.
2. Provide safe, intuitive access and infrastructure for multiple modes of transit, serving well the residents who walk, bike, use mass transit or drive to the library. For those who drive, parking that is of appropriate design, safety, flexibility and sufficient quantity will be required.
3. Provide for safe drop-off of patrons, including children, seniors and those with limited mobility, and for safe delivery of goods. Provide for safe loading and unloading of buses.
4. Offer an open, flexible interior with a single entrance, optimal sight lines and natural lighting.
5. Provide a very high-quality user experience.
6. Ensure safe, accessible, healthy operations and experiences.
7. Enable the library to serve and represent the community as a civic icon.
8. Provide for expanded outreach, bookmobile and drive-up service.
9. Provide programming, exhibit and auditorium spaces to best serve the public.
10. Provide outdoor programming space and park-like patron spaces.

The Board recognizes a new library will serve residents in myriad ways. A new library will serve as a catalyst for economic development, a community anchor, and an opportunity to spark additional community growth. A new Normal Public Library should reflect the vibrant, well-educated and innovative community of Normal. The design of the facility should focus on the future, and fully enable the library as an organization to fulfill its mission of providing the best possible services, collections, programs and spaces to the residents of Normal.

The Board will design with high expectations for future innovations and growth, yet acknowledge the importance of best serving current residents. A successful design will allow the Board and staff to provide great services to a great community for many years to come.