



Frequently Asked Questions: The Belvedere Tiburon Library

1. Why does the Belvedere Tiburon Library need more space?

The Belvedere Tiburon Library serves more than 17,500 people on the Tiburon Peninsula each year, and has become a central part of the community. The demand for programming, meeting, technology, and collection space continues to grow. At only 10,500 square feet, we are not able to offer the space, equipment, programs and collections that the residents of Belvedere and Tiburon expect and deserve.

As the role of the public library has evolved from a quiet place to read and check out books to a community space, technology center, and general meeting spot for the community, so too has the need for additional space increased. Our new plans have been designed by leading industry experts to meet those needs and provide an outstanding state-of-the-art library for current users and future generations alike.

2. How much space are you adding? What are the plan details?

The new space will add approximately 9,000 square feet to the Library, bringing the total size of the Library to about 19,500 square feet. We worked through an extensive evaluation process with a library building consultant to determine the necessary size. The plan will provide additional space to every section of the library, including common areas, independent library operations, children, teens, general library collections, community programs space, technology access, and learning areas. Space for the Corner Books used book store and the addition of a coffee and snack bar are also planned to help generate revenue for ongoing Library operations.

3. What are some of the other details of the project?

A great deal of thought has been put into the new plans. Some highlights include:

- A new Children's Library, providing materials for children up to 12 years old, new storytelling space, and increased study and homework areas.
- New Teen Center including a study room, digital resources and equipment, and additional learning resources.
- New community program spaces including a conference room to accommodate as few as 14, a program & event area for 100 people, as well as individual/small group study rooms.
- A new computer skills and technology training center, a creative learning space, and a digital lab.
- New work and storage space in the office area for Library employees and volunteers.

4. How will it be funded?

The new space for the Library is being supported through a private, community-driven investment campaign. The Library Foundation is leading the campaign to raise the funds necessary to ensure that the Library meets our community's needs. A decision was made that an increase in property taxes or a bond measure would not be sought.



“A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert.”

- Andrew Carnegie

Proposed space added includes:

- **Collections**
- **Expanded Children's Area**
- **Increased Technology Space**
- **New Teen Center**
- **and more!**



5. How much will the enhanced space cost?

Major investments in the community, like the new space for the Belvedere Tiburon Library, are often significant. New construction and the renovation of the existing Library, along with design, permitting, and furnishings will cost \$17 million, including the cost of the new plaza.

6. Will the library remain open during construction?

Construction began in the fall of 2019, and will take approximately 1 year to complete. With the help of a construction phase plan, the Library will remain open during most of this period.

7. Will views and dedicated marsh land be affected?

An Environmental Impact Report has been approved and was a thorough study of the area. The Marsh Management Plan requires that the parking lot be set back to protect this area. The marsh is and will remain a natural habitat after the construction. At the same time, the parking lot currently sited between the Library and Town Hall will be relocated to allow for expanded park use and open space. Views of Old Saint Hilary's will not be significantly impacted by the project.

8. How does this project compare to similar library systems nearby?

After completion, the Belvedere Tiburon Library will be comparable in size, features and programming capability to many other recently renovated libraries in similar communities throughout the Bay Area. Currently inadequate for meeting user demand, the increased space will enable our Library to offer the same amenities that these other communities enjoy.

9. Will the Foundation name donors to the new space?

Yes. While some of the donors we work with prefer their philanthropy to remain anonymous, those donors who wish to have their participation in our campaign made public will be recognized and honored as the campaign progresses.

10. How can the Library Agency Board of Trustees support the enhanced library without increasing tax support?

The Library's Agency Board has thoroughly analyzed the costs with experts from the construction industry and from the library field. We know we can operate the expanded space with the minor addition of one and a half persons, utility costs will actually decline from energy efficiency technology and our long experience of operating the current Library within budget. The Foundation will continue to support the Library through its annual appeals, special events and Bookmarks volunteer group.

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