

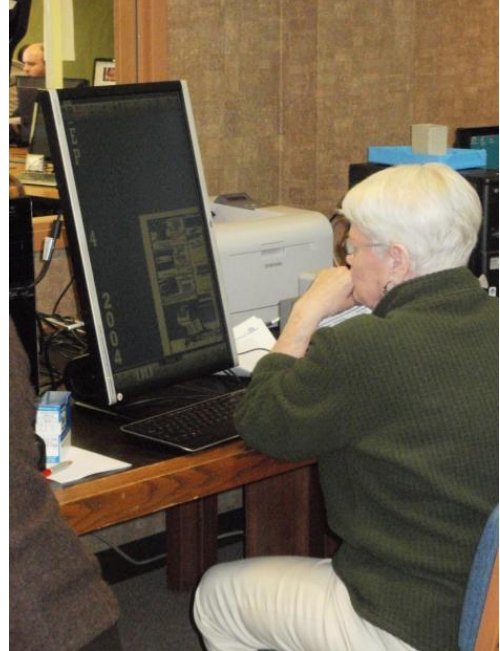
Frequently Asked Questions About the Grand Forks Public Library Revitalization Project

Q. Is it true that only patrons within the city of Grand Forks can benefit from the library's resources?

A. No, people from all over can visit the Grand Forks Public Library to take advantage of its resources. Many patrons from outside of Grand Forks visit to use the internet via a guest pass, browse the 122 periodical subscriptions held by the library, scan the newspaper ads before shopping local stores, or utilize the Grand Forks room and microfilm readers for genealogy research.

I think the library should be a more open, inviting, and comfortable space with a lot of natural light. I think there is a great need for more space and lighting between shelving areas to avoid the crowded feeling that exists as it is now. I would like to see a larger area dedicated to children and families, with more computers available for children's use. I think this space should also be more easily accessible for families with young children (not upstairs). A new library should also be more accessible to people with disabilities.

Speak Up For Your Library Campaign Part II, 12/9/11, Comment #336



Q. When people say that the library does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, what does that mean?

A. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990) "requires public facilities and public services to be accessible." This includes libraries. For example, in the Grand Forks Public Library, patrons in wheelchairs are unable to:

- Access the collection, because the aisles in between the stacks are too close together.
- Retrieve books from the top shelves because they are too high.
- Utilize the restrooms because the doorways and stalls are too narrow and difficult to access.

[I would like] Easier to browse book stacks. The current layout does not have enough space for people to move around and it is impossible for those using wheelchairs to access the collection.

Speak Up For Your Library Campaign Part II, 12/9/11, Comment #516



Q. After the proposed 1% sales tax increase, how would our taxes compare to Fargo's?

A. Sales tax currently being collected in the City of Grand Forks consists of 5% state sales tax and 1.75% city sales tax - for a total of 6.75%.

<http://www.grandforksgov.com/gfgov/home.nsf/Pages/Sales+Tax>

In Fargo, consumers pay an additional ½-cent county sales tax recently levied by Cass County.

<http://www.fmchamber.com/blog/blog/2011/03/18/cass-county-tax-takes-effect/>

The breakdown of Fargo tax collection as of April 1, 2011 is as follows:

5% state sales tax, 2% city sales tax, and ½% county sales tax -- for a total of 7.5%.

<http://www.cityoffargo.com/CityInfo/Departments/Auditor/Citysalestax/>

In Grand Forks, the proposed 1-cent city sales tax that will be voted on at the May 3 special election is to be used specifically for construction of a new public library. If approved by the voters, the sales tax will go into effect on October 1, 2011, and will continue until the \$20.8 million is raised OR for the period of 36 months - whichever happens sooner.

Information provided by Saroj Jerath, GF City Finance Director

Sales Tax Comparisons			
April 1, 2011		October 1, 2011 With Voter Approval from May 3 Special Election	
Grand Forks	6 3/4%	Grand Forks	7 3/4%
5% state sales tax		5% state sales tax	
1 3/4% city sales tax		2 3/4% city sales tax	
Fargo	7 1/2%	Fargo	7 1/2%
5% state sales tax		5% state sales tax	
2% city sales tax		2% city sales tax	
1/2% county sales tax		1/2% county sales tax	

Q. What are the immediate needs at the Grand Forks Public Library?

A. Should the vote fail for the 1-cent sales tax on May 3rd, the library has several issues that need to be addressed utilizing property tax dollars. These include:

- Replacing the elevator in 2012. This replacement is mandated by the manufacturer.
- Making the bathroom entrances and stalls ADA-compliant
- Making the stacks ADA-compliant, this means getting rid of about 1/3 of the existing shelving, maybe more.
- Replacing the HVAC system.
- Replacing the lighting system, as they are extremely dangerous and have already caused two fires.

Depending on how comprehensively the problems are addressed, the best guess for an initial cost estimate is between \$2 and \$5 million. This results in the use of tax dollars, one way or another.



For general information on the Grand Forks Public Library, visit the website at: gflibrary.com
 For more information – or to share comments and suggestions on the Library Revitalization process, visit the website at: SpeakUpForYourLibrary.com