

The Future of the Grand Forks Public Library

DRAFT - Online Input Summary

Over an eight week period in June-August 2013, the Library Working Group asked the citizens of the county to complete a short questionnaire, either online or in hard copy. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their views on the most important factors relating to the Grand Forks Public Library looking into the future. Responses were gathered based upon a five point scale of relative agreement or importance. The questionnaire featured two general open-ended questions.

718 respondents completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire was offered freely and openly to the public without sampling or controlling for the population. Therefore respondents are self-selected, limiting the input to those who personally chose to respond. This may cause the results to be overly representative of those who are passionate about the issue, or those with a specific message to deliver.

The questionnaire was designed with three goals in mind:

1. Gauge the community's overall support for the concept or institution of a public library in Grand Forks
2. Understand how the community values various criteria about library design, operation, and function
3. Gather input about various additional library offerings ancillary to the core mission of a library, such as a community information center or coffee shop

Questions on criteria for a library of the future were designed to cover the broad aspects of a future decision while asking the community what it values. For instance, how do Grand Forks citizens view the relative importance of future availability of books compared to public meeting space?

Key findings:

- Respondents support the idea of a library as a sound public investment. 78% strongly agree that a library is a worthwhile public investment
- Respondents slightly favor the idea of a new building over remodeling the current facility. On a 1-to-5 scale with 3.0 at the median, respondents rated a remodel at 2.79 and a new facility at 3.60.
- Respondents expressed a strong desire for a highly accessible library of the future, with ease of access to materials for residents of all ages and abilities, located in an easy to find, accessible location.
- Citizens recognize the shift towards electronic media, but there remains strong support for the offering of print books at the Grand Forks Public Library.
- Responses indicate the strongest support for core library functions, such as the availability of books and other materials, ahead of other functions like public meeting space and adult programming.
- Support for "extras" such as a coffee shop, community information center, entrepreneur center, or shared rented space significantly lags support for core library offerings.
- Respondents view library funding as a public responsibility, but support exists for the idea of private fundraising as well.

Summary Results

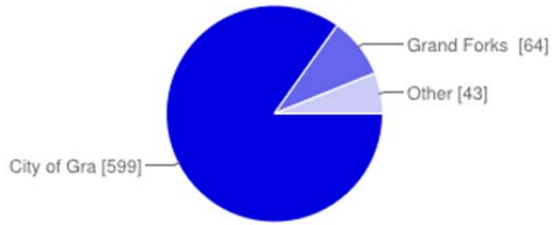
Fundamental Questions	Responses	Average	Number of "5" Scores	Number of "1" Scores
Library as an investment	720	4.69	558	23
Remodel	699	2.79	127	159
Build new	702	3.60	300	98

Decision Criteria	Responses	Average	Number of "5" Scores	Number of "1" Scores
Safe and Accessible	704	4.66	558	3
Functional space	710	4.49	508	8
Print Books	717	4.49	500	17
Materials for checkout	714	4.49	468	20
Computer access	714	4.34	429	29
Visible, transit, parking	701	4.32	458	28
E-books and audiovisual	714	4.32	418	15
Programs for Children	709	4.28	366	21
Staff	703	4.27	383	29
Activity space	715	4.27	379	29
comfortable space	714	4.13	352	29
Partnerships	705	4.03	335	22
Operational cost efficiency	702	3.97	276	21
Meeting space	712	3.75	240	72
Programs for Adults	712	3.71	231	57

Extras	Responses	Average	Number of "5" Scores	Number of "1" Scores
Private Funding	698	3.99	247	31
Learning Labs	709	3.88	186	69
Coffee shop	708	3.28	140	145
Community info hub	604	3.26	150	99
Space for non-profits/groups	702	3.06	93	122
entrepreneur center	705	2.78	59	154

Community info hub "5" and "1" totals is weighted

Self-reported residence of respondents:



City of Grand Forks	599	85%
Grand Forks County (outside the City of Grand Forks)	64	9%
Other	43	6%

Responses to Open-ended Questions

Glossary of Responses

What is the single most important factor the community should consider when planning for the Grand Forks Public Library of the future?

Accessibility

Universal accessibility--the library should be of use to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, education level, income, or ability.

Accessibility (to handicapped, people without transportation, etc)

wheelchair accessible aisles between book shelves and accessible bathrooms should be a priority as it is neither at this time.

Adequate space for more than 1 person in the aisles between stacks, e.g. fully handicapped accessible.

access for all ages

The library should be highly accessible to all Grand Forks residents, which means paying closer attention to those with lower income, reliant on public transportation, and who may need study and leisure areas that are highly usable for persons in wheelchairs or with other particular needs.

Accessible collections in all formats for the entire user community. Don't be techno-chauvinists. Buy what the public enjoys in formats that can be used (and are useful) to all. Cater especially to those who actually use the library, and not just those you want to use the library, think will use the library some day, or desperately hope will enter your building if you offer them everything but actual library services. Try being a very excellent library before you try being a very excellent restaurant, movie theater, classroom, etc. Be certain that all programs are relevant to and reference your core mission.

Make sure there is convenient access to various materials for all the citizens of GF.

Adequate space for more than 1 person in the aisles between stacks, e.g. fully handicapped accessible.

Providing a safe, accessible structure for people of all ages and economic backgrounds to check out books.

Universale accessibility--the library should be of use to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, education level, income, or ability.

access for everyone

Ease of access both within town and within the building

The new library must be easily accessible to everyone in GF, particularly those who frequent it most.

Please make sure the least of us can use it -- poor, elderly, disabled, etc.

Accessibility - it should be enjoyed by all. This means easily reached from all areas of the city, clearly visible for those not from here, handicap accessible, and easily navigable.

Disability access

easy public access to the facility, and once you are there, access to books and other media

Accesibility. Right now the library is in a good, accesible spot, that many people can easily get to. I think that should be one of the main things taken into consideration.

The library should be accessible.

That the library be accessible to everyone, inviting everyone to utilize the facility in some way and meet the future needs of library users.

Accessibility and parking.

Accessibility for all

Accessibility for all GF residents (both building and location)

Very accessible to all persons and easy access to all material. Would really like to see a drive through for drop off and pick up.

The public library should be accessible and able to offer something for everyone in the community, regardless of age, ability, income, and location.

something everyone can use i cannot access the stackes because it is difficult to see the titles also the lighting is not good

Accessibility

Access for all people.

ADA compliance, and adherence to fire and safety codes. Improved wages--there are people working at the library with master's degrees or higher for only \$10 an hour. They are overworked and underpaid. Also, continue to provide quality programs for children. Our children love the story time and summer reading program.

It needs to be the core of the community, accesible to all community residents. if possible.

Accessibility for people with disabilities.

Equal access for those who are disabled. Continuation of access to paper and printed books and materials.

Complying with ADA will result in an extreme waste of space and resources. Disabled patrons can ask for--and receive--assistance from library staff or volunteers; but shelf height must NOT be compromised to satisfy the needs of the < 1%. Find an exemption, or do nothing.

It is important that it is accessible to families (meaning it does not become just another arm of the public schools, or like a day care) and that good classic printed materials are kept.

Accessibility (to handicapped, people without transportation, etc)

Ease of availability of resources, i.e. books on shelves that are both high and low reachable.

Accessible to all - for some people, this is their ONLY access to books, media, and the internet...

Accessibility by college students, and general public together

Wheelchair accessible aisles between bookshelves and accessible bathrooms should be a priority as it is neither at this time.

A Library should be a place for everyone and everyone should have easy access to it.

The ability for all community members to have easy access to the library and its programs and materials.

ADA accessibility within the library

Accessibility to all.

Access to information and space for all citizens, but especially those who can't afford to access it in other ways.

Accessibility - in all aspects

ADA accessibility - the aisles should be wide and the books low enough to reach for those in wheelchairs. I get claustrophobic just walking down the aisles.

Accessibility to all citizens, regardless of economic status.

The Library is a great resource, and should be available and accessible to everyone.

The Grand Forks Public Library should be accessible for all citizens.

We must make sure to continue to have a safe and accessible building that provides all the needs of the community as far as a library should provide.

Access for all.

The most important factor is that the library will be accessible to all people, and will provide learning opportunities for children and adults.

Accessibility

Accessibility both physical and to easily found information

Accessibility. Current materials.

Better accessibility via bus and more parking and a large enough facility for a long time.

To me the important factor is accessibility. I have found the library staff to be extremely efficient and helpful, checkout of books is rapid. The location of the present library is very convenient for me, therefore I am in favor of remaining on that site.

The library should be accessible to all, not just the physical aspects, but the ability for people to get to the library via mass-transit, etc. I like the current location of the library. I feel that given the small size and aging status of the current facility, I think there are two choices: Building a new facility adjacent; or Adding on to the old facility and remodeling it.

Community access to the variety of services available

Having a nice, clean, safe environment that is accessible.

Books, Emerging Technologies, and the Future of Libraries

A well balanced approach by not sacrificing the printed books for newer technologies. A library that explores and embraces new technology for information as well as keeping archived printed books and new books circulated. something everyone can use i cannot access the stacks because it is difficult to see the titles also the lighting is not good

Books are going less popular and e books are getting used way more.

Changing technologies moving away from printed material

Literary resources should be the main focus. This means maintaining the current selection at the library and expanding the future selection. Libraries were built for books and should remain the focus, even if it's an e-book, magazine or audio cd.

The internet has killed libraries. Use is very limited. Would be a waste to invest too much in this project.

To stay open and to continue lending printed books. Not all citizens can afford an E-Reader, not all citizens like E-Readers.

Books are going less popular and e books are getting used way more.

The library seems to have lost its focus--books and other checkout materials. Forget about meetings and fancy programs and computer access. Remodel the current building. Also why was the library never maintained over the past 42 years? Where are the funds for that going to come from in the future if library is remodeled? What is really being checked out?-- books or DVDs? The book aisles are a lot emptier in recent years compared to 20 yrs ago. Perhaps a lot of the books need to go!

Libraries are dying and will be used less and less by the general public. The GFPL needs to accept its place as a resource for materials by a limited population group and do its best with the dollars received. I love going to the library because I love the feel of books and could browse for hours. My children, on the other hand, see no purpose in a library.

MODERNIZATION ON BOOKS WITHOUT SACRIFICING THE OLD MATERIAL

That most publishers are planning on transitioning to electronic publishing and are on track to achieve 70 percent electronic publishing within the next 3 years. Therefore, there is no need for a bigger building.

cull the books rarely checked out to save space. focus on materials to be borrowed not on luxurious meeting spaces and coffee shops.

Don't lose BOOKS in trying to include so many other options.

Consider what has changed in the last 20 years. I submit the main reason the "library of the future" is discussed is that they realize they are the dinosaurs of the modern information era.

One suggestion would be to hold classes on how to use an abacus. As a 1980's graduate, I never did understand how they worked, and would be interested in learning now. Let me know where to sign up!

Stick with the basics: books and other audio-visual materials, as have been traditionally accessible at libraries.

Please remember that not everyone can afford an e-reader device. Print books are still viable and even though I do own a Kindle, I still enjoy handing and reading actual print materials.

A quiet, safe environment should be afforded to patrons of the Library. In order to provide this it might be necessary to hire special library personnel whose job it is to make sure that such an environment will always be made available.

It is not easy to truly predict the future. When the present library was built, who would have thought that technology would be where it is -- yet we need to try to think of what might be. Accessibility of information and literature will always be important and those without personal resources will always be with us.

Books

Be a library & not a community center, nor a school. Do not need to duplicate function and waste tax payers money.

A library's primary mission is to provide access to reading material and literature to the public free of charge. Meeting space, coffee shops, and areas to read in house are not as important - we must meet the primary goal and provide that access to knowledge. Meeting space, office space, and coffee shop is met in other areas of the city. Don't spread your resources too thin.

In this digital age the library should become a community hub for life long learning. Many local non-profit organizations have informational presentations at their meetings. They should be invited to have their meetings at the library so that the general public can learn new things by attending the meeting presentations.

A library as people once knew it is a thing of the past. This has to be geared entirely to keeping up with technology and the rapidly changing world of the digital age.

Remember the printed (on paper) word!

keep printed books available

Technology is the most important. Actual physical copies of books and magazines is something of the past.

Emerging technology will change how the library is used, but not the fact that the library will be used. We should plan for more digitally-dependent collections and proper access to them for the public.

The library of the future is a social nexus where people can come together to share ideas and collaborate. It is no longer a space that is quiet, but offers smaller spaces for those seeking a focused study space.

I don't think it necessarily needs to be bigger or expensive. ebooks should take less space. I don't know if we need to provide online access/computers to people playing games etc-that is what I have seen at our current library. That seems like a waste of money to me.

Try to decide what the "new" libraries should be.

Preservation of literature

They should consider how they are going to keep people coming through the doors in the age of digital everything.

E Books

A well balanced approach by not sacrificing the printed books for newer technologies. A library that explores and embraces new technology for information as well as keeping archived printed books and new books circulated.

The single most important factor the community should consider when planning the Grand Forks Public Library of the future is building a NEW facility that keeps the availability of BOOKS to all as a core mission.

Books and materials availability

Children

A safe and friendly place for kids to learn and study.

I think they need to continue children's programming, more story time. More parking. Get more activities planned.

Attracting children, youth, and young adults with materials and programs that will encourage them to be life-long users and supporters of their Public Library.

I personally think that the ones that most benefit from the library are children. I think more reading programs and activities for the children are very important. I remember as a child (born and raised in Grand Forks) during the summer we would go to the library once a week to pick out books and enjoy some of the activities they had going on. Teach our children young that reading is important.

That reading is very important for young Children and our community needs to promote it more.

Programming and space designed to appeal to children and teens. The library should be a free gathering place for all ages.

Children!! Nice place to go sit and read

A place for children to learn and play. Computers in a separate room or space within the children's room. They are loud and distracting now. And NO TV's in the Library. The Library should promote books.

Children

Childrens resources

A safe and friendly place for kids to learn and study.

Getting children interested in reading.

Children services

Having a place for kids to go, read, learn and play.

A meeting place for children and other groups. Reading programs for children! :)

How it will affect our children

I think they need to continue children's programming, more story time. More parking. Get more activities planned.

Children

The library should be a center for learning. As a parent of young children, I look for places that are safe and entertaining for my children. The library is a good opportunity for the community to serve the youngest citizens. This space should include a larger play area as well as hands-on learning, ie, science, math, language skills. I know there is a huge demand for this type of facility.

Cost/Funding

Long-term funding sources rather than desires because most people will want the best, but the money might not be there. So, more survey questions on how willing people are to pay would also be informational to the planning process.

Long term value to the community.

Not taxing the citizens more for the library. We have a good library now.

Expense, I'm sure. With technology the way it is, this new facility must meet many functions for the community. Too bad we couldn't tie this library to hockey some how :) It would get done then... Maybe put up a new library by the hockey rinks with a warming house attached. Parents can drink coffee, visit, read as their kids play hockey.

source of money

saving money

How can maintenance of a new library be funded so we don't have to pay for this again in a few years--why isn't anybody talking about that?

COST

Cost effectiveness.

stay focused on a limited but popular collection of materials for public research and check-out to keep costs under control

Cost

Technology and cost.

Affordability

Costs for renovation, upkeep, and salaries.

Use - cost - access

Not having to pay any more taxes should be enough. Let the rich people finance it if that's what they want

Efficient and effective use of funds while maintaining access and growth for the library. We use the library frequently and appreciate the drive for improvement and growth. However, we feel this should be done in a fiscally responsible manner that doesn't heavily increase tax burdens. That being said, we feel the library is one of the most important buildings in Grand Forks and we would support its expansion through a mix of public and private funding.

keep it simple and efficient in form and function.

The new library needs to be cost efficient. Grand Forks is a very conservative city, and its citizens are not willing to spend tax dollars on frills or other amenities that lose money. The library should be an inviting and resourceful community gathering place. However, it should not be of the same caliber as a library in Chicago, Minneapolis, or other large cities with greater funds.

I did not answer question 18 The future GFPL should expend public dollars on operations in an efficient manner and should strive to "do more with less" without sacrificing its core mission because I am not convinced the GFPL can meet their mission and "do more with less". I do think funds should be expended efficiently and prudently, but I strongly believe our community should support a new public library the same way any new athletic facility or parks project would be supported. A healthy community has many dimensions and the library is a hub of activity that supports the freedom to read, and the freedom to choose and share ideas. Computer labs thrive as resources for job seekers, entrepreneurs, basic computer skills, etc. Libraries are a place to gather to enrich the mind and for social and cultural engagement. Libraries serve the mind in the same way Choice Fitness serves the body. There are 7 dimensions of wellness : spiritual, intellectual, occupational, environmental, physical, social and emotional. The library of the future should engage the community in intellectual and social wellness.

Accommodating as many audiences as possible with the funding available.

Please find ways to fund the programs and Library...do not get into the "Do more with less" mentality...fund it appropriately. If a coffee shop wants to be in the library, they should totally fund their space.

I'm concerned that the dominant discussion points have been cost and location. Keeping costs reasonable is important but this is a key community facility that ought to look nice and be usable, not some dusty warehouse for books. People don't talk about schools this way and libraries ought to be no different.

Cost to taxpayers.

Use the money the library already has efficiently

Long term value to the community.

Cost including salary of the management

Cost and the fact that everything can be found or read on the Internet. Libraries are a dying breed and tax payer dollars should not be blown on something that will not be used in 15 years. Improve the libraries in schools instead.

Cost

Cost effectiveness and not be more than it is, be a library, have books and material to check out as a main objective.

Cost effectiveness

No tax increase!

Not taxing the citizens more for the library. We have a good library now.

Flexibility

Positioning the library in a place where it can be changed and updated as needed or as needs arise. To be in a position to employ continually changing technology and user needs.

That the new facility has all the appropriate safety requirements as well as meeting the needs of a growing community.

Multi use facility.

Big enough for the community to grow into- lots of public meeting space.

Location

More and new space that is located in an easily accessible location via bike, car or public transit (this is more important than the "North vs. South issue"). The city bus route should stop at the future library. LOCATION centered to the city

Put the building south by Wellness Center

We need a new library in a more accessible location. The current library is substandard at best.

Do not move it into the suburban sprawl areas south of 32nd St. Keep it at or near it's current high density location.

Location - for all

Accessible central location (not on the south end)

Access! It needs to be centralized to the city and not on the outskirts.

The future GFPL needs to be located in or near our city center, i.e., downtown Grand Forks. There, it will contribute to maintaining and even improving the vitality of our downtown - not adding to the suburban-like sprawl happening on the southern edges of town.

location, location, location

While this may not be the most important factor, it is important to me that the library stay in a centrally located place in the city and not be moved to the extreme south end of Grand Forks.

Location. I think it should be in a space that it could be best utilized and is easily accessed. Especially for those who may not have their own transportation.

Location: it must be within walking distance for people of low incomes because they have the greatest need need due to limited resources.

I believe location/accessibility will be the most important factor. While new construction seems to be moving ever southward, I fear placing this public building there would greatly limit access to the portion of the community that really NEEDS the services the public library offers.

be centrally located

The location MUST be accessible and centrally located within the city, especially closer to impoverished neighborhoods that have a difficult time finding transportation and have a greater need for library services.

A place that is convenient for everyone. Including a location that the bus route can drop people off by the door instead of having to walk a few blocks. Especially in the winter time.

Central location providing access to services for all citizens

accessibility to whole of Grand Forks. Perhaps consider moving back downtown to one of the Large Buildings that are empty .. centrally located to Bus Transit Station and it would encourage citizens to utilize the downtown area (again).

More and new space that is located in an easily accessible location via bike, car or public transit (this is more important than the "North vs. South issue"). The city bus route should stop at the future library.

Locations. The current library is on the other side of town so I rarely use it.

The library needs to be a visible part of civic life in GF. Currently it is "out of sight" and therefore "out of mind". It would be nice if it were located adjacent to or within sight of other important city facilities, though I am dubious about sharing the library's internal space with other non-profits.

I believe physical access to bike routes and transit locations is an absolute necessity.

Put the building south by Wellness Center

Keep the location in a central area and not in the south end of Grand Forks!

Central, accessible location

LOCATION centered to the city

located in center of town so it can be used by all.

location and accessibility

Location and accessibility with adequate space inside and out

Location, Location, Location

Accessible to all...visible...center of town!

The location as that is why I voted no in the past election. There wasn't a definite location in mind, so who knows where it was going to be put. Also, not a definite design was shown.

Location and accessibility are important as the seniors, families and children with the least economic power and those disenfranchised should have easy access to the library, i.e., books, technology, etc. This would make the most sense and the most meaningful difference in our community.

Have a clear plan. Put the library in the center of our community, not on the extreme south end of town. As for donations and see if a benefactor will do a matching program. Access by bicycle is a must. The tax increase should not be ambiguous at.

Making sure there is adequate parking.

Easy access (driving, walking, biking, parking) for all (special needs also)

Location that is accessible to all

Location

Highly visible and accessible location.

Nothing was mentioned about parking, but I hardly call that the single most important factor for the library. I would say, one of the more important is location and ease of access for patrons.

Make the location easily accessible to north end and south end citizens as it is now.

that it be centrally located for all residents of grand forks

Accessibility by bike, road, and walking routes. aka, it shouldn't be on the outskirts of town.

Location is the single most important factor that should be taken into consideration when planning a new library. The library should be visible and accessible to all Grand Forks area citizens.

Location, light, accessibility, and approachability

The future GFPL building must be safe and accessible for all our citizens. Awareness and public dollars should be spent on education and literacy.

Location - close to those who may be unable to access it by car.

Accessible central location (not on the south end)

Location. If you put it too far south or away from good public access points those needing it most will not be able to access it easily. Centrally located would better serve the population that must rely on walking or public transportation to get there.

Location

Accessibility for all. Locate the library in a central location in the city. Don't put it way out south!

Location

I Think we need add one more public library in grand forks so then good for peoples.

Location. Current location is excellent. Many people live close to the library and on the North end and in EGF that regularly use the library.

A downtown location.

Do not put it outside of town or in a bad location. The current location is fine.

Access! It needs to be centralized to the city and not on the outskirts.

A space that is downtown.

Do NOT put the main library on the south end. the library must be easily accessible to those with the fewest resources; it should be as close to downtown and the north side as possible. Grand Forks is rapidly becoming a city where all the amenities are for the new developments on the south end of town.

A safe location. I frequently see people loitering outside of the building and it makes me uncomfortable to park and walk in alone, especially after dark.

Location where we can find it.

Ease of access and how nice it looks in the community.

The library needs to be in location that is convenient for families with small children, especially those of lower/moderate incomes.

The discussion about north vs. south is not helpful. I live in the north end, but I have no problem going to the south end if that's the best option for a new library. This town is 5 miles long.

Location. This project needs to be very visible, usable, & have room for future expansion to be successful.

Location. I hope if a new location is planned, it isn't located on the south side where all the new homes/businesses are going.

Those homeowners have the cash to drive to the library with no problem. The current location is more convenient for those of us living month to month on very little cash.

I think the library needs to be centrally located in order to be accessible to all residents, not just ones located on the south end. I find the current location to be a central location and would not vote for a new library if it was going to be constructed at the far end of the south end of town.

Keep it where it is at now and expand it.

A location convenient to lower-income neighborhoods.

To build a new facility that can easily be reach by public transportation, and contain enough space for "regular books" and computers.

If a new library is built....do not build it so far that our citizens who do not drive or cannot afford to drive to the site.

Safety. Well lit well trafficked area.

The library needs to be on a bus route so access is available to everyone.

Make sure the library is accessible to both the north-end and south-end of town. It should be centrally located in consideration to lower income and elderly people who need to use the library to access what they can't afford in their own homes.

Please keep the library in a central location.

Location, Location, Location

Parking. I've had to miss story time because I couldn't find a place to park

That it is on the City Bus Route and accessible to all citizens. It should include educational programs for individuals with disabilities too.

Location/ accessibility to all citizens--not defined by household geographic location but defined by citizen density (so the south end with its minimal population density should not be the new location).

This library needs to be accessible.. on a bus route near where lower income users live and designed to meet the 'basic' needs of all . Leave it where it is but re-build..can you access adjoining lots? Don't try to make it the cadillac of libraries..stick to the basics....Good luck.

The location for a new facility.

Location - Accessible

Make sure the location is centrally located within the City, not way on one end of city.

Location. The library should be centrally located not on the far edge of town. The current location is acceptable. The proposed location on the very end of S. Washington is unacceptable. It would be very difficult to walk or bike that far.

Centrally located.

New Building

New building with a lot more space inside and parking

New building with a lot more space inside and parking

Every time I've been at GFPL it has always been busy so the building is being used by many people. I feel that a new building with more space, better lighting, quiet places to sit and read with comfortable chairs, tables and a little coffee place would be wonderful. Right now I don't feel that the GFPL is a very inviting place. The location is a very important part of the planning of the new building. A lot of students on the north end of town don't make it to the library even during the summer because of where it is located....a central location would be great for all. There is nothing better than to sit down with a good book ...READ, READ, READ.

Grand Forks needs a good, progressive library that has something to offer people of all ages in Grand Forks and the surrounding areas. I strongly believe that we need a new library!

State of the art and lovely NEW facility on the leading edge of innovative library use and offerings that brings notoriety to GF. Really love the idea of placing the library in the Choice Wellness Center vicinity so it becomes part of the complex providing a complete health experience...mind as well as body. Continuous Bus access for no fee with convenient schedules for kids, seniors and adults would be fabulous from all parts of GF to and from the facilities. Don't cut corners. Let's do it right!

A new building in the Northend or downtown would be the best for a future library. Education is the main industry of Grand Fks.

Building a new building that is expandable and as up to date as possible.

Building a new building, to allow for a more easily adaptable space to be created and to thrive many years to come.

We need a new library in a more accessible location. The current library is substandard at best.

Look to the future and build it in a way that it will be able to adapt to change. Do not remodel the current building.

Build a new facility that will be a point of pride for the community and have enough room to serve the community of the future. Don't skimp now and end up paying more later, like what happened with the airport. It just opened and is already too small!

Remodel

I believe the current location can be remodeled to meet the needs

Looking at this building, it looks like it is a solid and sound structure. Tearing it down would be a shame! Over the last 4 years or so there has been talk of the electrical and heating systems, and accessibility. Yet nothing has been done these last 4 years to address these issues. A building like this is like a home. It should be on a continuing maintenance plan. It just has to start with one thing at a time. Not necessarily everything at once.

No need for new building. Remodel current one!

remodel and use existing space more efficiently use the upper floor

Just because the current library is in need of an update... not necessarily a complete remodel, I feel they should keep in mind not to blow this out of proportion. I feel strongly about having resources and materials available for people of all ages, we don't need a Starbucks in a public library or a food court, a library is a place of books not a buffet. Make it a resource for the public to go and enjoy reading and researching.

Don't build a new library. It is a waste of money that could be used for new books and other materials or to remodel the existing building. The current GFPL is in a nice neighborhood and is a very nice building. I think that Grand Forks should simply update the current building.

I believe the current location can be remodeled to meet the needs

remodeling the original building for less, spending 20 million dollars is ridiculous. Sounds like the Federal government buying 500 dollar toilet seats. Reduce the spending on remodeling

The library needs to be re-modeled, re-built to better house all of its available books, magazines, etc.

Adequate improved space, updated facilities, remodel existing space and add onto current building, provide learning opportunities for children, and adults, provide updated resources (computers, cd's, dvd's etc).

Using the existing location.

Services, Programming, and Other Offerings

The importance of maintaining a library that is balanced. It should have technology available for those who do not have the financial resources necessary to provide these services for themselves. Books on a variety of topics should be maintained to allow for continued availability to information. It would also be helpful to have guest lectures on a regular basis, again on a variety of topics with an eye to a broad audience.

Continue to provide access to materials for all GF city and county residents

Provide adequate access to a collection of materials of all types for checkout.

All I really want for the library are books that are easy to locate and access, computers that are available and with printing, comfortable seating area that includes all ages, and a place where children are free to find interesting books and play.

superb collection of reading material in print and e books

Be a library & not a community center, nor a school. Do not need to duplicate function and waste tax payers money.

To provide access to information, reading material, and meeting space for the entire community.

To me it is a wide variety of reading materials presented in an easy to find way.

To have a good mix of traditional library resources (tangible books, etc) with the electronic resources (ebooks, internet, etc.)

superb collection of reading material in print and e books

Keeping the library current and up to date on materials, technology and ease of use

open more hours

That they have books, And Not Older Kids/adults Sitting On The Computers.

To me it is a wide variety of reading materials presented in an easy to find way.

To provide the community access to all available types of books, audio books, CDs, DVDs, and internet.

Large volume of materials in a modern, welcoming space.

Provide adequate access to a collection of materials of all types for checkout.

Expanding resources available as well as more programs for children.

Access to the public for books, materials, and electronic media.

Having the books/movies/products that are wanted by the community members.

source for books, ebooks, movies, computers, learning

New materials

Expanded hours.

cameras

The access to books in both electronic and print forms. I like the idea of space for organizations to meet and also for classes and lectures for citizens.

I feel that the new facility should be efficient in all mechanical aspects (heating, cooling, etc.) and should have enough space for storage of all types of media.

printed books, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Well made and functional building with planning on future expansion also. Needs to have some green areas with benches for people to read and enjoy the outdoors.

1.Future growth of library materials (new building built big enough) 2. Centralized location

Put an emphasis on youth- children-teen-parent FRIENDLY environment is super important

Greater selection of books (which are not so readily available for free unlike, say, cds -- music is everywhere for free on the internet)

Space for children's/ tween/ teen activities, and support for family involvement in the library

Access to printed materials for checkout and research.

Visibility and programs or access for the public that will make the GFPL more appealing for more than just the book aspect.

I think a coffee shop/small cafe would be a great benefit to the GFPL. It will be able to bring in some revenue to help with costs of things. I believe that the GFPL could partner with learning centers within our community and make one location for it all.

To provide access to information, reading material, and meeting space for the entire community.

Not to duplicate services that are already available in town. We have lots of coffee shops to meet our friends in. People don't need to sit and read in a comfy spot-they can go home for that. Find your mission and stick with it and do it well. You can't be everything to everybody.

The library needs to function and have amenities but does not need to be opulent. Community rooms for non-profit groups to gather is a need Grand Forks cannot meet at the current time.

Comprehensive services accessible to all

Wifi with more time available, better reading spaces, and a cafe to serve visitors.

Collection of materials for checkout and access to technology for those who don't have access at home.

The intellectual hub of the community, providing thoughtful print and electronic resources for the pursuit of knowledge, skill development, and personal enjoyment.

Wide array collection of updated material.

I like the idea of the library being the "hub of community and civic information access".

All I really want for the library are books that are easy to locate and access, computers that are available and with printing, comfortable seating area that includes all ages, and a place where children are free to find interesting books and play.

The importance of maintaining a library that is balanced. It should have technology available for those who do not have the financial resources necessary to provide these services for themselves. Books on a variety of topics should be maintained to allow for continued availability to information. It would also be helpful to have guest lectures on a regular basis, again on a variety of topics with an eye to a broad audience.

The core value of the library is to connect people with information. This includes OLD books otherwise out of print. When the Fargo library was built, they eliminated thousands of old titles. While easy access to Dan Brown is nice, the value of a library are those old volumes that are otherwise unavailable.

Continue to provide access to materials for all GF city and county residents

Space/Design

Much more space, many more books, programs for kids! Grand Forks is booming and the library needs to keep up with the expansion!

Comfortable facility - spacious and well-lit.

Provide safe and adequate space and material for all people of grand forks county.

Space for community development.

Welcoming and useful space

Space, easy access, materials.

The GFPL needs to be an open and welcoming place for everyone in the community. People need to enjoy going there. Access for everyone in all areas of the library is needed. Groups of community members should have meeting spaces available; display areas should be encouraged; and meeting friends at the library for a cup of coffee and book discussions sounds like a fine idea. Right now, I go in, get what I want and leave. If the place were attractive and welcoming, I would stick around.

Libraries are true community centers; focusing on flexible community space (as opposed to storage space) is key to sustainability. There is, of course, a need for tangible circulating material storage space, but libraries elsewhere are offering so much more than that.

Space within a building can be used in many different ways.

More space! Space for books, parking, children's activities.... nice space, well lit space, safe space, more space!

A public library is not a depository for books. It is a nucleus of information. Formats will continue to change, as they have from print to cassette to CD, DVD and EBooks. The purpose of a public library is to provide flexible space for displaying the information and sharing it with local citizens.

a space that is functional, inviting and comfortable for people of all ages, light, bright and conducive to reading and learning. An education is the most important step to changing our nation's future and reading is fundamental in attaining a better future - we should have a library that both symbolizes and supports this!

I think the library should be a comfortable accessible place in the community, especially as a resource for families with young children. More space for reading/studying should exist. I like the idea of more programs for children and teens, to involve them with reading and also to provide them with a safe spot to read and relax.

Please consider the value of an uplifting and artistically appealing space available to the public,

Appropriate and functional facilities that not only meet code but exceed standards; adopting technology that improves the mobility and self service aspects of accessing books

Enough space to accessibly store all of the books.

More space for books, for meetings, for studying, for exhibits.

To bring it up to date, appearance wise, and offer something new to spur public interest.

A modern, welcoming building with up-to-date resources available for checkout.

There are few places in town for groups to meet. It would be nice to have public access to meeting rooms with little to no cost involved.

The current library looks very dated and old. The carpet, shelving, furniture look terrible.

Room for expansion

Spaces and resources for community engagement

Much more space, many more books, programs for kids! Grand forks is booming and the library needs to keep up with the expansion!

That there be enough space for all of the books, technology and services. It is important that we cater some events to our children as they are the future.

The library needs to be a place where people want to be. It needs to have the print and electronic resources, but a warm, inviting place.

adequate space

We need a more modern and up-to-date building!

It should be interactive and inviting, learning is not limited to print books. Love the idea of the coffee shop and a place for meetings.

Space for community development.

A safe building of adequate size is most important. Having more available parking would also be a benefit. Having areas for meetings, classes and gatherings is a must. I pay a membership fee for using the library's resources. I think the \$15 I pay per year is a bargain. If that ever went up, my usage of the library would not change. Just FYI.

Libraries are true community centers; focusing on flexible community space (as opposed to storage space) is key to sustainability. There is, of course, a need for tangible circulating material storage space, but libraries elsewhere are offering so much more than that.

Modern look inside and out. Or classic look. Think Library of Congress.

The library should be an inviting place where the whole community has a place to be. See the civic library in Bloomington, IN for a reference point.

We need a functional beautiful library in this town. If the old one can be improved that might work for function but a library should reflect its town. There should be natural light places to read it should be a welcoming place. Our current library is so dark and dated I can't see how it could be remodeled in such a way. A library should be able to serve as a community hub and a town without would be lacking a vital aspect of community.

That it not lose the good old library feel and look. And that it be accessible .

Comfortable facility - spacious and well-lit.

A beautiful, welcoming space which emphasizes love of learning and knowledge through BOOKS.

Space for resources

The GFPL should be a modern, fully equipped facility in an open, airy space.

They should consider what the main space will be used for, yet they should do it aesthetically attracting people who don't go to the library because of curiosity. Once they have seen that library don't have to be boring they may be inclined to go more often to sketch, pick up a magazine or get a cup of coffee.

The library should be warm and inviting with much natural sunlight.

Would love to see some tables where people could sit at and study or read books - and the old furniture has to go - it's filthy. No more cables taped to the carpet and no more leaking ceilings.

That we create a warm, safe, and welcoming space for members of the community. It tells people that learning and reading are important values of our city.

Adequate and accessible space

Space beyond current needs - after buildings are built they are always too small.

Adequate space to fit every possible need. Lets do it right the first time.

Make the library large enough this time--and allow more land to surround it --in event additional space is constructed in the future

Allow adequate space for growth so we don't have the same problem in 20 years. Keep it spacious and light, yet not trendy or over done, or people will have issues about how the money was spent.

Designing the facility from the user's perspective, rather than the librarian's: for example, does the distinction between circulation and reference services matter to our patrons? Or would it make more sense to design around a centralized information point?

Firstly it is a resource center but it needs to be a welcoming facility and have space for community meetings.

We need to make this a priority in our community.

Natural Light, Wide aisles, No Bookcase over six feet tall.

Staff

Take input from staff that are employed by the gfpI very seriously - they would know what things they need or dont need. They would know how best to "make it all work"

We should make sure it is built!!! Do not build if you cannot have enough qualified staff to assist its customers and do not use the concept (Lets do it but do it with less)

Listen to current employees and users.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

Sustainability. I think it would be a fantastic investment to improve the buildings infrastructure and to make it into a functioning green space, whether it is built anew or kept in the old building. Using the current space is in best interest to me because it is in a good location and because I have a hard time seeing the building used as it is by any other company.

The environmental impact of the facility should be strongly considered.

Safety and efficient running building

To be energy efficient

Technology

Get up to speed with technology - and make it a place where people WANT to go.

More space and more computers

I feel that the computer/technology access should be expanded and upgraded. There should be a special location/room that could be reserved for testing that is not part of the main computer banks.

Technology advancements

availability and use of technology

Technological advancements and updates for current and future innovations and education

It should be technology ready and future proofed.

Stay current.

Positioning the library in a place where it can be changed and updated as needed or as needs arise. To be in a position to employ continually changing technology and user needs.

Updated technology services and usage. More modern appearance to coincide with the changing times (could be done to existing building?)

State-of-the-art computer hardware, software, and internet connectivity.

Technology and ability to adjust to it's growth

Good technology, training, and books!

Future/growth needs that accommodate handicapping conditions along with evolving technology

Access to new and upcoming technology--the library should be able to grow with the current trends.

Technology

Additional computers

Technology growth and expansion. Don't skimp on the infrastructure of cabling and technology space.

Not invest too much in technology that will disappear--I recently was in the library and saw scads and scads of books on tape and VCR tapes being sold/given away.

Access to knowledge through current technology.

Vision, Values, and Community Needs

Plan for the future. Don't be short-sighted and cut corners now on features and technology that may be necessary years from now.

Do we want to just be "ok/good enough" or do we want to excel and offer options and opportunities to everyone; rental space w/deli or coffee shop -NOT A STARBUCKS or other chain.build for now and the future, i.e., don't chintz on the project

That we build it for the future with 21st century ideas...it shouldn't be a new version of the old library concept. I think it would be important to see what other communities around the country are doing in regard to library facilities.

build for the future

We should make sure it is built!!! Do not build if you cannot have enough qualified staff to assist its customers and do not use the concept (Lets do it but do it with less)

To ensure it is able to keep open

We need a functional beautiful library in this town. If the old one can be improve that might work for function but a library should reflect its town. There should be natural light places to read it should be a welcoming place. Our current library is so dark and dated I can't see how it could be remodeled in such a way. A library should be able to serve as a community hub and a town without would be lacking a vital aspect of community.

Our current library building is outdated and in major need of repair. It should be one of the most important places in town, a sign of a good healthy city is a beautiful, well supplied library.

To make sure they are happy with what they plan for. No regrets.

Start a fundraising campaign, set a deadline, DO SOMETHING. The library has had so many problems for so long that that any action whatsoever would be welcome. And don't let perfect be the enemy of good.

build for now and the future, i.e., don't chintz on the project

It is a necessary part of the community and should be treated that way. No other public building has gone 40 years without major remodeling or a new building. Keep our library current with the twenty-first century!

Research thoroughly and make sure this library plans for technology as far into the future as possible. Green technology such as geothermal heating to reduce utility costs in the future

It should be flexible for future growth and changes, appeal to a broad range of residents and visitors, offer classes and community meeting space and encourage foot, bus, and bike traffic.

To meet the needs of the community in accessing literature and reference materials either hard copy or electronic copy

A library similar to the new health center in it's excellence so we are paying as much attention to people's minds as physical heath. We can not have a democracy without an educated public who has access to information of all kinds.

Long-term sustainability through technological advances, community involvement and profitability.

consider importance when education community

That they need to spend the money and make the investment worthwhile and not be cheap about it in terms of the facility, because it will be serving the interests of all GF citizens. However, when it comes to programming -- don't think that the GFPL can be all things to all people. If you are going to offer programming for "new citizens" then you should be prepared to start serving the interests of other adult populations as well, and not just the "targeted" adult populations in this survey (immigrants, seniors). What about the interests of people in their mid-thirties, fourties, families, homeowners, etc...its a slippery slope. Be careful not to just target the interests of new citizens and seniors for adult programming, make sure that you consider the interests of all populations and provide a balance of programs and services.

The public library helps reduce disparities in access to technology and library materials (books, DVDs, etc.)

A library similar to the new health center in its excellence so we are paying as much attention to people's minds as physical health. We can not have a democracy without an educated public who has access to information of all kinds.

Lifelong learning for all citizens in the city and county of Grand Forks.

We have to think of the future when we plan for today. We also need to remember that "we" includes everybody, no matter how old or how young, how nimble or how chair-bound, how conservative or liberal. I'm all for the change!

A center of information, learning and literacy for all ages and income levels.

Determine its own niche as the "people's library" through a vigorously vetted process and not attempt to duplicate existing facilities nor overstretch its core mission by knuckling-under to costly and trendy "suggestions" from out-of-state consultants and highly specialized architects with substantially vested interests when it comes to making a county library a "destination showpiece" for an inflated perception of true quality of life at the expense of economic reason.

The library should be a space that our city can be proud of - it is a reflection of our city values and priorities. We have built beautiful greenway spaces, lovely parks, impressive wellness facilities - now it's the library's turn to be updated.

Be visionary in the location and scope. The library should serve the needs of the current community, but also the needs of the community of the future.

Libraries are an integral piece of a community. It's extremely important to support our library in its expanded efforts to create a more accessible and current (up-to-date on technology and books) place for people of all ages to come together and learn.

The major impact it will have to not have a functional library as it will be inevitable that without renovation or new building it will cease to exist.

Identify patrons and programs and facility needed to serve them

Libraries are vitally important to a community. Low income people, students, people from other countries, people with disabilities, and children need to be able to access the world of information. Can the library team with the community to provide free internet to everyone?

The community uses the library so much. It is important to have a facility that is able to handle the needs of the community members.

How many people use the library!

ability to continue to grow with the community

People will always need a safe, quiet, accessible place to read, study, and to just hang out. The library is an important place in any town's history and Grand Forks should strive to make theirs the best that it can be.

The library is a worthwhile public investment

The library is a worthwhile public investment, and continue to provide access to all types of materials for check out

To make sure they are happy with what they plan for. No regrets.

The fact that you have to pay for ILL is ridiculous and needs to go. I've never in 6 states encountered this. The library should be part of a large network of library systems that agree to loan materials back and forth at no cost. This expands the available material (books, audio, visual, electronic, etc.) vastly without the need for a huge facility to store it all in one

location. The most important thing for any library is to have the largest, free database of borrowable material possible. That is the whole point of a library. All else is secondary.

No expense or detail should be spared. Please be forward thinking and anticipate the growth, usage, and pride that will come from providing our community with a gorgeous, beautiful, over-the-top space.

Planning for the future.

It should be the latest and greatest. Don't rush into any one idea.

That our community absolutely needs an awesome library! What are we, some po-dunk town that wants a run-down facility?!

A library that the community is proud of.

Don't try to be all things to everyone.

Have a solid plan for the new library. The what, where, why, when, and how are basic important starting points that weren't expressed clearly to the public the last time around.

The library is the core of a community; to neglect it is to neglect the community.

As a community, we continue to show our humanity for our fellow citizens by providing a learning environment giving anyone access to information that can improve his/her life, be it how to fix the plumbing in a home or be it reading the classics and the newest fiction/non-fiction best seller.

The public library should be a place that represent the priorities of our city which should be a family, knowledge, prosperity and better future.

The library is a place for everyone to go. The building is a disgrace to a city that supposedly prides itself on growth. If cities like Dickinson can remodel, and add on to make a beautiful, welcoming, future oriented library, Grand Forks can too. It is time to remodel or rebuild, whatever is fiscally responsible. It sounds like studies have shown it would be more economical to rebuild. Our city can't seem to get this figured out, why is that?

GENEROSITY

Make sure you have a plan that is agreed upon. Cross all your t's and dot all your i's. Be very very specific on what you plan to do. Present a confident united front to the public. Don't waiver at all, because the naysayer's will get YOU!

Our current library building is outdated and in major need of repair. It should be one of the most important places in town, a sign of a good healthy city is a beautiful, well supplied library.

Diversity of interests

The need for a library is urgent. A modern, up to date library is a statement about how we see our community. The current situation should be changed as soon as possible. I am a frequent library user and do not mind using more of my tax dollars and my own private money to invest in this very important aspect of community life.

A forward looking library which is not a collection of books but a place where one goes to grow.

we are NOT Fargo!!!!!!!!!!!!

Building senior housing in library compound or stores..thinking big when we build this.

Providing access to resources (books, programs, classes, etc) for all citizens is the most important factor . A library is a societal equalizer.

The library needs to be a place where people WANT to come - not a place that looks dated and worn out. It should be a centerpiece of activity for the community. It needs to operate efficiently given that it is funded through public dollars, but finding creative ways to add support through private (e.g. donations) and commercial (e.g. coffee shop) means is a smart direction for a library of the future.

Be visionary. Build so natural light is throughout facility. Plan the new library space as a community hub, great for meetings, and quiet study spaces. Windows! Creative and useful facility to encourage use. A library is a community commitment.

To ensure it is able to keep open

Private-public partnerships are wonderful, but the community must not embrace a penny-wise, pound-foolish strategy in the context of its library.

Do we want to just be "ok/good enough" or do we want to excel and offer options and opportunities to everyone; rental space w/deli or coffee shop -NOT A STARBUCKS or other chain.

Branch libraries located in neighborhood schools. These branch libraries could have electronic access to the catalog to order books or media to be delivered the next day. They could also serve as neighborhood centers to provide educational services to students, new citizens, etc. They might even include small coffee shops.

A place we all use and are proud to be a part of it.

The Library speaks of the community. It should be a core destination within the City. Make us proud!

Build for the future.

Access by all - this may be leaving the existing building mainly as it is and creating neighborhood satellite branches in other parts of town, especially those areas with concentrations of lower income people that may not have vehicles of their own. The branches could provide internet/computer access and have a smaller holding of published works, but would be able to coordinate with other branches/main library to provide access to all materials to all patrons.

Plan for the future. Don't be short-sighted and cut corners now on features and technology that may be necessary years from now.

Create a Landmark. Make it great, like buildings of the past. Court Houses, Schools, Etc. The biggest mistake would be to spend lots of money on an uninteresting structure.

Think creatively. Public/Private partnership where builders can build condos or apartments in the location with the library.

That we build it for the future with 21st century ideas...it shouldn't be a new version of the old library concept. I think it would be important to see what other communities around the country are doing in regard to library facilities.

The needs of everyone in the community. I enjoy going there to check books out. I enjoy the knitting group and wish it was more than once a month.

That every community needs a multipurpose center that fills the needs of its members for those resources, events, and sources of cultural enlightenment that give members a sense of community belonging. It's like having a place to go that slows things down and allows you to regroup.

100 years into the future, rather than stagnating in the past

The library should partner with many of the local civic and governmental organizations to help accomplish the various missions listed above RATHER THAN trying to be a one stop shop for everything that is already done elsewhere. The focus should be on what other organizations don't do that the library can be the perfect provider for.

There are plenty of buildings for low income individuals to learn to learn computers and other items we do not have to have another place. The LaGrave center ect... It is the public school's function to teach students and they have the "best facilities that money can buy". If we need additional facilities for children in the summer use our public tax payer schools. They are all ready in the neighborhoods!!

A long-term vision of a vibrant and inclusive public space that makes it a center of community life.

A Library that truly serves the future.

Glossary of Responses Question 2

Do you have any additional feedback or input about the GFPL of the future?

Accessibility

Please make the shelves accessable and not so much stuff at the very bottom (hard to bend down) or too high (we are not all that tall). Make sure the area is well lighted (so we can see the titles, etc) and a comfortable temperature. Take care of staff - they make it all come together. Thanks.

We don't need a "showcase" for the city, but it should be accessible to everyone.

Natural light, accessible for all and an asset for Grand Forks.

The shelves in the book stacks should be lower to allow access by all consumers and aisles further apart

The ADA and building safety requirements were blown out of proportion and could be handled much more reasonably than presented. Put in a new heating and electrical system and some simple cosmetic up grades and our present library is fine. And yes I use the library.

Books, Emerging Technologies, and the Future of Libraries

Book stacks seem empty when I am there--do all those books really get checked out--could many of them be eliminated to save space?

Please invest in more audiobooks and downloadable media.

Think out side the box. Making the library more than just your everyday library is important. It must be traditional, but meet the needs of the future. Good luck!

Remember the "public" divisions. Although technology is the thing for the young crowd, paper books are still important to those older generations. Children also need the "quiet" of a book and not everything high tech. Consider a satellite site like "Fargo".

Don't get rid of the books you don't have another copy of.

printed books are important. discarding older books should only be done when they are hopelessly damaged. perhaps a future storage area where books could be archived and retrieved when requested by a patron, possibly even with a charge. it is disheartening when a book which a person has read and enjoyed is discarded simply because of age.

I think that it is important to keep text books, as well as incorporating e-books.

I think a storage location is need for all of the paper copy books that are not available in a electronic copy. You may need to wait a day to get the paper copy, but I dont think that will be a big problem. If you go with more of a e book library that facility can opperate with a lot less room.

I know the digital age is here to stay, but please keep books (physical books, not e-books) a top priority

The future library should be progressive and geared to print books, and the electronic age, but don't get carried away with trying to imagine everything coming. Whoever says our library doesn't get used should watch the comings and goings during the day and evening. I use the library a lot and the parking lot is usually full. And don't forget to count the people who use the drop box instead of going in, they should count as daily patrons too.

I hear many comments from others that libraries will become extinct. These comments are made by people who have never been in a library that: - is a beautiful place you want to be in - is a safe building - has more than just a few resources and surprises you every time you go looking - has programming for all ages

I haven't lived in Grand Forks a long time but I have always enjoyed and used libraries. However, every time I go into the GFPL and get a book off those tottering shelves in those very narrow isles I give thanks they haven't fallen down on me and I get out as soon as I can. It is certainly not a place I want to linger. I've been part of a community in Illinois that invested millions in a new 2 story library facility and it was absolutely beautiful - full of light with ceiling to floor windows, spacious 10 foot wide staircase with 2nd floor open to lower floor, wide isles, special reading nooks with comfortable cloth chairs next to windows, a huge multimedia section to browse in, special meeting rooms for programming of all ages - children/teens/seniors, a huge children's area with activity area, computers everywhere, a café, beautiful grounds with walkways and benches under trees. It became the most beautiful building we had in the community and we even had a major university! The great thing was that everyone came to it!! It was a place you just wanted to be - not just to read but to enjoy sitting in it's park-like environment. It was a cultural center. I read regularly that North Dakota is considered one of the wealthiest states with it's surplus budgets. Yet in education of youth it comes in just about last. This is more than sad. With the state floating in oil reserves and \$\$, it could be helping to finance the public libraries within the state. This would be an investment in the future! I voted for the library initiative a few years ago and was so sorry to see it defeated. I would vote for it again in a heartbeat even if the local tax increase was twice what was being asked for. I would also like to see it located next to a park or better yet...within a park. University Park isn't exactly downtown but it's close enough to the university that it is easily accessed by a bus system. If everyone in Grand Forks could just step into a library like the one in Illinois, they might be motivated to action. Clearly, it has impacted me. Please don't give up in your efforts to improve the GFPL as a valuable resource to this community!

Expand ebook offerings for the Kindle

Would really enjoy seeing more electronic books available for checkout.

I hope there are more books i.e. fiction. I notice when looking on the website for titles, many are "lost." Kind of a bummer not able to read a favorite authors entire collection.

Keep the books! I love to pick out and read an actual, hold-in-your-hands, book. I also enjoy the children's area. I love the idea of a coffee shop.

We do not need to buy any more e-readers. An old computer and cheap wifi is all you need.

It seems apparent when you see what has happened to book stores etc that the library of the future will become very e-Driven. We may never have an opportunity again to be ahead of the curve rather than playing catch up. Technology is moving at a fast pace and reinventing itself daily.

Children

More children's programs offered at later times of the day

Focus on kids needs.

I hope the library will continue to provide top-quality children's programs! A library should accommodate all ages, remembering that many of us catch our love of reading and libraries at a young age.

I would like to see the children's area, programs, and collections expanded.

Consider the needs of families heavily. A strong children's area is a keystone of a good library.

My children and I utilize the library quite often and we think it's an invaluable resource for a community, but it's very much lacking. Coming from another community with a spectacular facility is frustrating because it conveys the message that Grand Forks doesn't value educational resources available to everyone.

There should be a private area for nursing mothers to feed children and diaper changing stations

It might be worth considering a children's museum built in conjunction with a new library, to augment the children's dept.

The idea of having extra amenities will ensure a more self sustaining library. Grand Forks is a family oriented community, and we should do what we can to make that affordable. Such as an accommodating children's library.

Please continue your children's programming--and move the ship in the children's section to the new library. Our children love that ship, and it would provide a nice piece of nostalgia for future library users. A coffee shop would be nice, too. Hadn't thought of that until this survey.

Cost/Funding

They should be very wise with public money. Frivolous extras should come from private money.

When talking about investment the costs should remain low! I am not opposed to improvements but the cost must be kept down.

Our library is an important part of the community and should be given a budget and funds that are realistic for its operations. I would support a bond to build a new library.

Be realistic about what the "typical" user of the GFPL wants and can afford when it comes to local taxes plus recognize that direct city transit access ought to be a prime consideration. Finally, realize that "devil's advocates" are the steering committee's best means to keep from "running off the rails" as happened the last time with too much "blue sky thinking" in what really was, is, and will continue to be a "cloudy" fiscal environment.

I would like to see the city stretch their dollars as much as possible, it's difficult to okay something that would potentially take away from other notable causes--even when I agree that a library is extremely important to the health of a community--but really, couldn't students benefit from more city dollars being used to help bus at-risk kids to school or create more early-education learning opportunities for all children regardless of their economic status?

Also BEWARE of private "benefactors" potential to demand adherence to their sociopolitical dogmatism. "Privatization" has the same effect, and, usually benefits those with higher incomes and discards those without wealth.

I was a big supporter of the first library project but the only reservation I had was the expense of the entire thing. It was just too much. I again am a huge supporter of a new library and know our community needs it, but if there is a way to trim the cost I think it would be more well received.

It is not necessary for the library to do more with less. We should be investing in a library that does "more with more."

Given that ND is one of the richest states in the nation, what is the possibility of writing a grant proposal to the legislature for additional funding?

I do not believe the Public Library should "have to do more with less" in any situation. Books and reading (LEARNING) are an asset to any community regardless of the cost

If you are going to move forward with this again, make sure you don't come in with a ridiculous number like the last time. People like libraries, but not for 20 million dollars

Watch the costs. The lesson of the last election was that there was not an appetite for a 20+ million dollar facility. I believe the public likes the idea of "recycling" the existing library and saving \$10 million dollars, or so.

There is no need to suck money from the public to build a facility for which private business already exist and for which there is limited demand. I have yet to see any utilization factors with unique visits. I think it is a facility that is utilized primarily by a small portion of the community who, as long as something is provided free, will not take responsibility for their own education or the education of their children. I think most of this users are nothing but public leaches.

Money should be used wisely, but cost savings isn't more important than providing services to your residents. We should be willing to pay so that everyone can have excellent service.

While I want a new library, I think the library should do things like fundraisers, and such instead of taxing the people to get the library. We don't need things like a coffee shop in the library, We DO need things like ADA compliance, and a great variety of books, and media. I know it is an extraordinary amount of money that needs to be raised, but look into private donations, bakesales and other fundraisers to help defray the cost. If people see the library is trying to do this on their own, I believe they will be more willing to try and help. I would much rather donate my money, then have it taken from me in a tax.

Cost of remodeling the old versus building a new facility.

Why should the Public Library have to "do more with less?" This is one of the really important civic things that my tax dollars should be funding. I am really tired of boards and councils who act as if it's their PRIMARY responsibility is to not spend money. Fiscal responsibility is important, but these entities have the power to levy taxes in order to produce and maintain something positive for this community: Law enforcement, fire protection, streets, sanitation, schools, etc., and LIBRARIES. While private donations are always welcome, I do not think it's right to expect and seek this kind of funding as a regular factor. That's like expecting that the classroom teacher will spend his/her own money to make up for the school district's inadequate funding.

Design

Questions 2 and 3, above, are very hard to answer without knowing what the plan is or could be. I don't do design work so I'd like a design expert or architect to give solutions under each model -- rehab or build.

We need to build one that is handicap accessible and have lots of bright open space, good parking, reliable and knowledgeable staff and have additional room for expansion if needed in the future.

The new library facility need not house storage. One could conceive of a large storage facility for excess materials, etc.

Learn From Other Communities

Has a study been done on libraries in communities of similar size? For instance the Grand Rapids, MN public library is smaller than we need but would still be good to look at. It's a wonderful welcoming place that fulfills many of the ideas above.

I used to live in Columbus, Ohio - which was named the best library system nationally multiple times. This is where I really saw for the first time, what a library COULD be. I then moved to a much smaller town than Grand Forks, but still, this little tiny town had a brand new, stellar library, that the community loved, supported and in turn - the library GAVE so much back to its patrons. When I got to Grand Forks, I was dismayed and frankly so turned off to the city as a whole - because of the quality of the library. The dark, poorly light and poorly laid out facility tells many things about a community and its emphasis on learning and knowledge - without saying a word.

The children's department (which I frequented 3 TIMES a week in other cities) has such an uninviting vibe - I rarely even come to the library in GF anymore. This has been a major change that has impacted our family, and again, our feelings about the city as a whole - but I truly cannot stand the facility. It is dark, it is laid out poorly, the books are disorganized and the programming is weak. The small town library we used to be a part of had a much stronger Summer/Winter reading program and offered so much that delighted my kids in coming to the library. Here, in a much bigger town, it is scraping the bottom of the barrel for resources it seems. We immediately paid for a membership to the East Grand Forks library and usually patronize their collection/programs.

What the GF library needs to do is have a new, beautiful building in a better location and a much more thoughtful layout - with an emphasis on books and programming, not internet usage and DVD collections. The ridiculous protocol for checking out DVD's (having a FT staff member working all day to pull DVD's for you, after you sift through an archaic system of plastic sleeves and poorly photocopied covers) is not only a waste of staff resources - it also is telling - that the library in GF has more of an emphasis on DVD's as the most valuable/guarded resource in the library, than they do for books. I have never seen such a ridiculous check-out of DVD's in any other system I have utilized.

Grand Forks' current library gives an immediate and very depressing impression to a new comer to the city. I really expected something more. GF library could be better - but it will take a new and beautiful building in a better location, which emphasizes reading books and makes accessibility to books and resources simple. What you have now is very plainly not working and a complete overhaul is long-overdue.

I visited the Little Rock Main Library a few years ago. In addition to books, they had meeting rooms, a technology center, a used book store that also featured local art and crafts, and a cafe-- it was a bustling community-centric place and it struck me as the sort of thing that would be nice in Grand Forks. I think a new building is definitely in order--an inspirational space, in a higher profile and more accessible location, that encourages imagination and wonder.

Don't reinvent the wheel...look at other cities with successful library programs and emulate what they have done. To gain public support, do not attempt to make all the changes at once using tax dollars, make the improvements in phases.

Location

If you build a giant new library on the south end of Grand Forks, you will need to have a satellite library on the north end.

Opposed to building new out by the GF Wellness Center - not central to 'all' of GF and is not convenient for the majority of GF citizens. Although, not totally opposed to building a New Green Building of the future - but MUST be Central GF - not south end as another amenity for the rich folks - like the 'wellness' center..

Have more than one smaller facility. This could alternatively be offered by opening up the multiple existing libraries in the public schools outside of regular school hours. With ebooks and the internet even the smallest libraries can have the intellectual resources of the world's largest libraries.

I'd like to see a new library in a new location that is easily accessed by public transportation,

As the town grows this may be an opportune time build a new facility on the southern end of town as we grow that direction and look at having a satellite facility in the central/northern area of town.

Have a clear location and plan in mind before presenting to the public. Research a variety of libraries to come up with a strong ideas base.

It is critically important for the GFPL to have: a city bus stop IMMEDIATELY NEXT TO the library's universally accessible entrance; with an equally safe and accessible pathway between stop and entrance; with an equally accessible year-round bus shelter. Physical limitations, low income, & lack of private transportation should no longer deny or discourage Grand Forks residents use of their library.

Needs to be where kids and adults who may need to walk or take the bus can access it, which would not likely be on the far south end. People there probably have access to their own transportation and could travel to it no matter where it was located. Please don't cater to the 'haves' in order to secure community approval.

More parking (than what is currently available) is needed. All of the extra "bells and whistles" are not necessary.

It would be great if the library was more visible, physically, I have never "just drove" by it.

Our opinion is that the land to the north should not have been sold, that now the library needs to be renovated or built in a centered location and built with foresight to the future.

Definitely needs to expand. More parking space.

I personally think a better location is needed. Currently, the library is hard to find and hidden to newcomers.

A major focus would be to make it in an accessible part of the city. A centralized location for a new building would be the biggest obstacle and benefit. The current location is far out of my way to visit, so I don't unless I absolutely have to. A perfect location would be around Columbia Mall.

Now that the public has fallen in love with Choice Wellness, they will likely be more receptive to placing a new library there. They are used to going to and from the area ow. Try again!!!

I believe it is important for the library to be centrally located, preferably downtown and especially NOT on the southend of town. It needs to be accessible by public transportation or walking. I think we should consider a multilevel facility to reduce the amount of land that is required.

We love the library. It's current location is great for us, but branch libraries like Fargo has would make the library more accessible for all. The Fargo main building is wonderful and could be a nice model.

The current location is good, but maybe have a small satellite branch in the downtown area.

I like our current library-but we do need more parking and an updated efficient building. Maybe buying out the buildings currently around it would help. It seems like a great location actually...otherwise I can see them building it way on the south end (like by Choice) where the northenders are not going to visit.

It would be great if the library was built by the Choice Fitness Center and the new hockey rinks. This would be a place for the parents to gather while their children finish hockey practice. The library definitely needs a coffee shop that has an entrance/door for people to gather and visit and if possible a drive-thru. Take a look at how full the Starbuck's is in the strip mall in front of Target, it is always full and thriving. The coffee shop could serve as a funding source for the library as well ie. rental space or run by the library staff.

Question #15 was trying to address too many aspects of the location of the building. Yes, it needs to be on a public transit route so that those without cars are able to access it easily. That might mean it is not easy to walk or bike there from all areas of the city. Parking is a necessity, however.

I've recently moved to town from Fargo, live near the downtown, and have no idea where your library is. What's up with that? Where is your post office too? Shouldn't these be downtown?

The current location is not very visible from main streets.

If you build a giant new library on the south end of Grand Forks, you will need to have a satellite library on the north end.

New Building

Time for a new library. New location. Updated with programming for kids that will make reluctant readers lovers of reading. Same with adults.

I am all for a new building, I think it would be more adequate for the needs that exist.

Just that we need a new building and soon.

The current library will not be able to sustain Grand Forks for many more years. It is a worthwhile place to come to checkout books, use computers and to visit with others. Grand Forks needs to plan for the future with a new and improved library that will better serve all its citizens.

If we can have at least THREE hockey rinks plus the rinks at UND it seems like we could at least have a nice library. Its pass time to rebuild somewhere else. Parking is terrible

Please consider building a brand new GFPL

I think it would be foolish to try and remodel the current library. I think there needs to be a stated vision of what a library in 15-20 years would like and to project what different needs could be met. I know it's difficult to know what technology will be like in the future, but the library we think of now may not be anything like we need a library to be in the future. I would like to thank the board and people associated with this issue.

When i go there there seems to be less people in book stacks and even on the computers--no need for an expensive new building!

I like the idea of having multiple locations, but at the very least, I feel we are best off creating a new building.

Why not try to achieve both the goal of a new facility (possibly on the north side of town) and remodel the old one. This would really expand services.

The current location is excellent, but the building cannot simply be 'just' remodeled. Instead, Grand Forks must embrace and work toward a vibrant new building (possibly incorporating the old) with a greatly enhanced presence along Washington Blvd., in conjunction with the Part District, and in combination with lots of green space.

I think the library is doing a great job with what they have, but they are sorely in need of new facilities.

BUILD A NEW LIBRARY!!! You have our family support.

Please build a new library!

Remodel

Make do with what there is or minor repairs

The GFPL currently has a wonderful staff who need to be compensated at a competitive wage. The GFPL needs to utilize what is currently has. I do not know if it is feasible to use the current space for the desired outcome but I would prefer to use the current location since it is centrally located and already a structure; I am an advocate of "recycling". It is a very nice place and has room for the current activities. I am not sure what "updating" needs to be done. Summary: monies need to be spent on updating technologies and providing competitive wages for staff members. (I live within walking distance of the library. My husband and I each work at local business; and we have a child in the GFPS)

Yes, remodel the existing building. Quit trying to make the library a "community center" and all that nonsense. The library cannot be everything for everyone. Provide x number of computers and leave it at that. Who cares if at times, there is need for more? This x number is what the library provides. Period. Offer x number of reading programs and leave it at that. Parents can certainly read to their children at home. My taxes are high enough. I don't want a new library. The library board has deliberately allowed the current building to decline to push for a new library.

Spend the money on the current building to get it up to modern standards.

I think the Library should try to remodel the building they have simply from the standpoint that it is in a centralized location right now. Also I would hate to see the library move and create another vacant store/property in that area. The Grand Cities Mall is already not the most appealing place and a vacant space would only add to that.

The building is literally falling apart. Fix it.

Renovating the existing building is the ethical choice. When one considers the economic costs of demolition, debris removal, landfill, and the loss of the resources that went into the building in the first place, these factors outweigh the importance of immediate needs-based new construction.

Provide more parking and leave the elevator as is. Do some simple remodelling of the bathrooms.

Not sure we need a new building - maybe an existing facility remodel.

Services, Programming, and Other Offerings

Be careful about not duplicating services such as for the New Americans. Provide rooms for meetings that are free of charge.

I like the coffee shop idea, having little study booths around in a warm cozy atmosphere, storage of books can be located in a separate building for overflow. The computers and internet is nice for allot of people who need the internet but can't afford it at home. The videos and audio books is a great idea. The heating and cooling I believe could be repaired or replaced cheaper than past estimates as well as the lighting.

With the databases that the library already rents paper copies of periodicals do not need a lengthy shelf time.

Allow coffee kiosk surrounding gfp instead of in it

It would be wonderful to have space dedicated to STEM activities either on a scheduled or drop-in basis, similar to what is being done now, but perhaps on an expanded level. We use the library on a weekly basis for homeschooling materials and activities. We appreciate the available hours of the library, materials offered, and the ability for homeschool parents to use the teacher privilege card system. We also appreciate access to several out-of-print children's and juvenile literature. Thank you for providing these opportunities and for preserving them.

We can start with a really good webpage that allows for browsing holdings, reserving materials and rooms, listing community calendar info, speakers on video, new additions and comments, contests and collaborations, making art for the space

I feel that the library should focus on literature and reference materials, etc, but does not need to provide coffee shops or quiet places to read. It can be functional.

The library partnership with the Dakota Science Center is a model for the state. The library should have the resources to hire a full time staff person with a teaching background to continue the quality educational programs at the library. The program should be expanded to the adults with the library hosting organizations that have educational programming. Also hosting the 'cafe' model where patrons enjoy a cup of coffee while learning about the research of a university faculty member or what someone's job entails.

Focus appears to be too broad--let's keep it simple with a limited number of popular books and electronic materials without all the meeting space and social amenities! No need for a larger building--lets be REALISTIC!

Meeting areas available for non-profit groups is a good idea but unless the facility was downtown in a large building, office space would not be appropriate to rent to them. however, the GF County Social Programs are centrally located in downtown, as well as the financial district - perhaps, those are good connectors to the library as a resource for 'all' of the community.

WHY ARE YOU CLEARING OUT AND GETTING RID OF ALL YOUR BOOKS YOU HAVE MANY SHELVES THAT ARE EMPTY THE ANSWERS YOU GIVE THE PUBLIC ABOUT REPLACING THEM ARE VERY INADEQUATE AND FOOLISH FOR US TO BELIEVE IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A FIRE SALE /GARAGE SALE WHATS THE REAL ANSWER!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ?????????? CAN SOMEONE TELL US THE PUBLIC THE TRUTH FORGET ALL THE POLITICS. COME ON.

I like the idea of expanding learning opportunities for children and to allow free access to computers. Free computer classes are probably already offered but should be maintained. I also like the idea of introducing new Americans to the offerings of the library and having this be a space for everyone in the community.

The 20 foot boundary for smoking outside the main door should be enforced at all times.

I don't want to spend a bunch of tax money on a building to make sure cheap people can check their email.. the building should be efficient and able to attract enough new people to support any renovations.

I love the library. The addition of a nearby coffee shop or something similar sounds like something that would draw in more people. The staff I have dealt with at the library has been wonderful. The only change to the current library I would make is extended hours. In this area with extreme temps, a drive up window would be nice for those of us with children or pets.

The coffee and pop machines are a nice newer addition. I would love to see a full coffee bar and more ebook offerings for my Kindle.

A library is not a movie/video rental, for books-on-tape or e-books, or free computer access for internet/games/e-mail but would be acceptable for scholarly research. The library is not for social group meetings but book clubs are reasonable. The library should never have vending machines, let alone promoting junk food for profit! I see reference & computer room staff spending time on the internet & personal e-mail - this is completely UNACCEPTABLE! Why are old card catalog holders (furniture) accessed for sale or reappropriation with first dibs by library staff instead of the public since the public paid for them? Funny how all the nice old vintage furniture just disappeared. Why does Question 18 ask about the Core Mission without disclosing what it is - WHAT are you trying to hide/skew in the question to get the answer/result you want??? Keep the library where it is, reduce the open space on the main floor, complete the open area of 2nd floor if you need more floor space. You are wasting real estate! The library should be quiet at all times and all places except maybe childrens story time. Crying and screaming/shouting children need to be escorted out of the building immediately. You have lost the vision, duty, responsibility and mission of a library.

you are trying to duplicate roles of others in community at the expense of the taxpayer--the library is best a brief stop place for most people or it will attract too many homeless people who will take over

The idea of a cafe or coffee shop is very appealing, but not a critical need. Having a fully functional, safe & accessible building and location is critical.

I don't know what we'd do without the library! It has put thousands of books in my childrens' hands through the years and helped nourish their thirst for learning more, more, more! It is our go to place to find a book on just about anything that my kids want to know more about, or read books just for fun to spark their imagination. It is a place we also go just to be there - to slow down in life, come together, browse interesting reads, pull up a chair, read, relax and just enjoy the art of learning together. In an ideal library scenario, I would love to see a small coffee shop or bakery be included in library space, the library is such a wholesome wonderful place to spend time, and adding a place to grab a drink or snack would be fun - but only if funds would be there, as I don't see it as a crucial component to a library. We have also enjoyed story time as well as other events. We have also checked out numerous DVDs, although to be honest, if there was one thing I had to give up due to funding cuts, it would be the DVDs. I would choose books over DVDs if the money was running low. I'm also hoping the library of the future can have more 'play space' for young children and young families to come together.

Unless research shows that it would be helpful revenue-wise to have a coffee shop or other business within the library, I personally think that would be contraindicated in this type of space. I can't imagine someone wanting to go the library JUST for a coffee shop (they'd rather drive through someplace I'd guess) and having food/drinks and computers/books seems like a silly idea.

*soundproof room with recording equipment for local musicians; *video recording equipment and space for kids and elders telling their stories *book publishing equipment for local self-published authors

A coffee shop is not necessary. Funds should be spent efficiently, while realizing that libraries are not utilized as much as in the past.

PLEASE INCLUDE A COFFEE SHOP! And it must be understood by library staff that it is OK to have a beverage while using the library! Starbucks may be interested in a partnership!!

Bookstacks and computers seem empty when I have been there in the evenings--do we really need all the books and computers?

Coffee shops and an easier to use internet database with resources to research groups are the biggest improvements the library could possibly have in my opinion.

The idea of having a coffee shop in the library is great and I believe will attract more users to the space! Also continuing to expand the digital offerings -- I have found them very helpful and convenient. The idea of having more natural light in the

building is also a good one. A "warmer" design would vastly improve user experience there. As it is now, the library feels very sterile/cold inside with the abundant and harsh florescent lighting. The best thing about the library by far is the people who work there -- they are so helpful and knowledgeable! An asset to the GF library!

The library should be located where it is easily accessible by public transportation so that middle school and high school children could easily access it after school. We need more after-school programming in this town, especially for middle school children. We also need more STEM programming for children of all ages in Grand Forks. The library would be an ideal location for offering these kinds of programs.

I'm not sure that most people in Grand Forks could locate the current library, or tell you about it's educational programs or materials. A library that is well managed and has good educational programing can truely enrich the community and it's overall wellbeing. In order for this to be a true statement the library must meet needs within the community for a wide variety of citizens.

The library should not duplicate services provided by other non profits and government organizations in town. Items listed above are already provided some where in town. Either by a nonprofit organization, UND or GF Schools. Need to concentrate on providing Library materials.

You doubled up on the question of having spaces for civics and non-profit to access rooms to utilize and turned around asking if you should charge for those spaces. I think this could have been one question under extras and partnerships. If you are going to have meeting rooms available for the community to utilize, yes you should charge for them. You will then have to decided whether or not you will let them bring in food and drink. You will have to have someone to clean this room and if there is carpet, you will have to clean it if something gets spilled. Extra costs that the GFPL should have to pay for out of their own pocket because it was free.

I think the library should team up with the United Way to get kids a library card and introduce them to the library. The United Way had a campaign to solicit donations to send brand new books to kids that don't have them-these kids need to just go to a library and we'd save \$ sending out these hundreds of books. United Way should give funds to the library.

You have added some very good programs. Please keep up the good work.

Stop the mission creep. The current library is able to handle it's true mission. What we don't need is to give away movies, we don't need to give out free music, we don't need a place for people to "Facebook" and we don't need to duplicate our school system.

Job Service has entrepreneurial help, so why duplicate. TrainND offers computer classes for beginners and intermediates at a modest cost. Reading books should be encouraged and, at the same time, we cannot ignore that we are in the "Information Age" and Gen Y wants their information quick. Information obtained on the computer and other electrical devices saves time and has spread to all generations. A coffee shop will be a nice attraction. The atmosphere needs to be comfortable and pleasant. The people working there need to be educated in technology as well as other forms of information gathering and customer service is of utmost importance!

If there were study rooms available big enough for 3-4 person group projects from university's or high schools it would be a great addition. Also a patio area for easy outdoor reading/studying with tables would be amazing.

Some of the items above I thought Job Service does for the community. I may be wrong.

Currently a great staff and it should be maintained; keep the cat (or a descendent feline); strongly encourage the non-use of cell phones; educational programs for the broad public--history, book talks, movies that originate as books, etc.

Networking with educational institutions and community groups is a nice idea which would increase usage and awareness of the GFPL if that is desired

I am confused with our thoughts concerning the questions that appear to be asking if we need more meeting space in the library, it seems to me as though we have good availability already for these functions at many different locations within the City. Would like more information on what is driving these thoughts. Would enjoy hearing more.

Space

Having proper heating and cooling in the GFPL would be wonderful. In the winter my heat went out so I went to the library to study but it ended up being just as cold in the library as my heatless place.

A building with multi-use functions is needed. I think a new building with a lot of natural light, wifi, coffee shop/cafe, meeting rooms would be great. I feel like there are not enough meeting rooms in this town for smaller groups 25-50 people for seminars. It has to be a warm and inviting place with lounges for reading etc. I like a lot of the ideas within the questions above.

The Library should not waste construction dollars on large open spaces that serve no other purpose than to look pretty. There are plenty of meeting spaces available for groups in town already. Just build exactly what is necessary! I believe this is why the vote failed the last time.

Space for programming for adult learning classes, ESL, and tutoring would be great. I think expanding the internet/computer stations would be beneficial and providing more than one computer lab. I also very much value the use of natural light, and comfortable reading areas (i.e. comfy chairs and study tables with reading lamps and electronic hookups for charging built in)

I would like to see a building that has a wonderful section with great reading programs for children. I would like to see a building that has a space for literacy programs for adults that would be private. I would like to see the audio book/cd/dvd section expanded and displayed in more attractive manner. I would like to see the meeting rooms available for special community gatherings/events sponsored by local groups such as a quilting demonstration by local quilters with a selection of the library books displayed for check out.

I think it would be cheaper to heat if the ceilings weren't so high.

The quality of library materials and programs far outstrips its current facilities.

Perhaps more and better online information and data accessibility would lessen the need for a larger research area.

We all know that space is an issue inside the library. Couldn't the second floor be expanded from just the balcony into an entire floor for more shelves, computers, tables, etc.?

Put in a fireplace. Seriously. Winter is long and cold here, and reading by the fire would be such a nice thing.

Would like to see a multi use space that offers opportunities for all residents to engage in hands on books, multi media, iPad stands, computers like a traditional library but would also like to see space used for integration of science, music, visual and tactile arts and learning. Collaboration between library and schools, UND, Dakota Science center, human nutrition center, etc. to bring learning to life for all ages.

Natural light, accessible for all and an asset for Grand Forks.

My children like going to the library and we try to do it weekly. We have always found the staff helpful and professional. But it is not a space where we want to stay and hang out. We go get books and then we want to leave. It is not a warm, professional, or inviting space. It has good intentions but it is so old and dated. We desperately need a new library, whether it is a new building or a remodeling. I hope we are able to accomplish this.

Make it shine!

I'd like a facility that is community oriented and large enough to meet a lot of community needs for a variety of ages.

Staff

In terms of hiring employees. There should be a balance of the types of jobs that are offered...you should still have some jobs available for those who are not experts (to provide opportunities for the uneducated and youth) coupled with those who are professional librarians. We need to continue providing opportunities for people who are not educated and help those who are professional to provide mentorship opportunities to those who are younger and looking for a part-time job.

Concerning question #17, the national average for a head librarian is half what the present head librarian is paid, so yes, I think the she should have her salary reduced considerably. Sad to say, librarians come a dime a dozen today, so there is no need to extravagantly compensate those we employ.

Grand Forks Library staff should be fairly compensated for their hard work. They are friendly, helpful, considerate to all. Their wages should reflect the important work they do for everyone in our community.

Much of the functionality is outdated, as most research can be done online. An exception to this is the impact that staff can have directing new readers to appropriate material. In this respect, the GF library has failed in many areas. Apparently they think it's ok to jump from elementary books to high-school books. Where is the age appropriate literature? The director is "an administrator" and as such has failed in this area. Too bad the director isn't accountable for the shortcomings of the current staff.

GFPL provides a great staff and resources - we need to continue supporting that

Current staff are great and facility and programs should be better supported by community! !

Maybe in the future those who work at the library could be people who love their jobs, who don't complain about having to check out a video to a patron. More enthusiasm and friendliness behind the counters would go a long way to keeping patrons coming in.

All staff should be paid according to regional standards.

Current staff is lazy and poor customer service. Before a new library is considered, we need new leadership.

The library really needs to have staff who are friendly to all users. It's also important to remember that our schools are equipped with lots of great technology and therefore, I don't think that a learning lab for kids is too much of a priority here as it may be in other communities.

I do make regular use of the library and have found the staff to be helpful. I think as we go forward supporting the staff through continuing education and appropriate pay will be beneficial to all.

The library employees just received increases and are paid well (look it up and compare it to others).

Survey Issues

These were horribly written questions: The future GFPL facility should be accessible within the city, visible, and located on convenient transit routes, near walkable streets, with adequate parking and bicycle facilities. No, it should not - where in the City would it not be? The future GFPL building must be safe and accessible for all our citizens. No, it must be unsafe and not accessible for whomever. The future GFPL should expend public dollars on operations in an efficient manner and should strive to "do more with less" without sacrificing its core mission. NO do less with more and spend inefficiently.

Questions #11 & 12 do not allow the respondent to denote whether they think access is the issue vs. just offering more programs (when I'm not even sure what is currently being offered and therefore, am unable to render an opinion about whether I think more or less is sufficient)

Technology

I think that the computer access and usage is also a very big part of the public library. That definitely needs to be expanded.

The GFPL needs to be able to readily adapt to new technology as the needs arise. It should be state-of-the-art. Staff members will need to be open to working with many community groups and have training in the new technologies.

I have a library card. Except to apply for my card I have not stepped foot in the library as I do Library to go on my kindle. This is the future. You should be a leader in the technology side. You need to look outside your walls-those most in need probably can't come to you such as home bound seniors, disabled persons and people very low income. How do you bring your services to them?

Vision, Values, and Community Needs

Grand Forks has deluxe fitness and sports venues; shopping and dining are thriving; construction is booming. This community obviously can spend on public facilities, which makes the terribly worn and outdated condition of our library even more outrageous. It is an embarrassment and our so-called community leaders should be ashamed.

While I agree we need to expand our current library or build a new one I don't feel we need a Taj Mahal. The library has specific uses and doesn't need to be the go to place for everything in the city

As a life-long lover of libraries, I deeply and sincerely hope the Grand Forks community will see the value of its library and prioritize its funding and updates. Having recently moved to the area from out-of-state, I was saddened that a library in a University community in a fiscally stable state seems to have been such a low priority for government funding. I was also surprised that the area businesses do not do more to support the Reading Programs at the GFPL. The librarians are wonderful, and the library is such a valuable resource, that I hope more will be done to ensure that it stays on pace with other libraries in similar communities nationwide.

Use the lessons learned from the last effort to build a new library -- this is a fiscally conservative environment. The opinions I expressed above (for a library to serve a great variety of purposes) are not shared by most voters and the marketing campaign for a new library must have broad appeal.

If the taxpayers are expected to pay for this white elephant then there needs to be a plan for paying for maintenance so future generations aren't faced with this again in 10 years (nothing lasts 30 yrs anymore). Why are houses and other buildings able to last 100 yrs or more but the library only lasts 30?

The GFPL was one of the reasons our family chose to relocate in this community. We have lived in small towns where the taxes are much much lower, but the services and amenities are non-existent. A community of this size and stature (we are the home of the University of North Dakota!) deserves a well-planned, carefully stocked, professionally staffed library that is accessible to ALL tax-paying residents.

I understand that it is a tough balancing act. I am a consistent user of the library but my personal uses (check out books, request microfilm from ND Historical Society for genealogy and accessing digital magazines and remote access/electronic video and book downloads) may not be the standard. Unfortunately you are tasked with a nearly impossible role, to fulfill all the wish list in a 'do more with less' budgetary environment. Perhaps there is a good compromise in leaving the roles

filled by public education (elementary, high school and universities), and not try to compete with for profit businesses (coffee shops, book stores, etc). I hope the public library can find a comfortable niche.

The library is an icon of the community, and can and should be a hub of the brightest, best, technological tools, as well as a place where history is accessible and the smell of knowledge through books is still present. People should feel welcome and comfortable hanging out there. The current facility is dingy, drab and out of date.

As a "public" facility, the GFPL should ABSOLUTELY NOT charge rent for civic or non-profit groups to rent a room for meeting space. There should definitely be space for this purpose - but funds should not be collected by the library. If my tax dollars are paying for the library - then my tax dollars should not also be paying for room rental. Private businesses don't even charge for that! This is a service you provide to the citizens of the community. No charging room rental.

Let's really plan for a 30-40 year future, not just try to fix the existing building which is inadequate in many many ways as we look at the current needs for access to information. Using technology and making it available to all is very important.

I like the current facility and the materials available there. I wouldn't have thought it needed anything done to it except after the last levy didn't pass I found out there had been several electrical fires due to old wiring and that the facility didn't meet ADA compliance. I would suggest doing a better job of advertising such issues the next time around. Also, really promote the value of the library to the community, particularly using numbers. ND is frugal so you have to really sell the need for and value of a new or updated facility.

As a youth I needed a quiet study area. Home was too loud. The schools could have opened up the multiple school libraries in the evening for studying. Traveling to the public library on the other side of town was not practical for me.

GF has done well these last few years developing sporting & wellness facilities, now is the time to concentrate on the intellectually & educational facilities.

I have lived in numerous mid-sized cities like GF. When I moved here, I was surprised and disappointed to see that the GFPL is the most unattractive library I have ever seen. It has deterred my interest in using the library because it does not draw me in like libraries in other cities (e.g., Iowa City). I am not sure whether this building can be renovated to the point where it is serviceable and attractive, but whatever (new or renovated) the building should be attractive and inviting. I think this is basic for a publicly funded building.

Some questions introduce bias into the results. It seems to me that a question asking if the library should have "...proper electrical, telecommunications, and heating/cooling services." is written to prove that a new library is needed (I assume that the services are inadequate). Who would argue against them?

My husband and I use the library a lot. It is a vital part of our community and should be a nicer and updated facility.

I recently got a library card and have begun using the library. I must say I was shocked to see how outdated the current space is. The staff has been very helpful - the building, however, is dismal!

Relating to question #21 (community information center), we have city hall and other places that already offer that information. Keep the library's purpose and mission clean and clear.

I love our library!

It could be/should be/is an essential part of our community.

A new or remodeled library is long overdue. Our current library is outdated and our community can and should be doing more.

The Grand Forks Public Library is essential to our community.

As big as Grand Forks is becoming and because we have a major university here, there is no excuse not to have a library... even if it's not the size of the Ralph.

I think the library is important to everyone; an upgrade would be nice.

Our library should be the best of the best! We are a thriving community with quality schools and a university. Instead we have a dungeon of a library with (some) crabby library workers policing the homeless more than servicing patrons. I feel unsafe at times with my children in our current library and long for the beautiful spaces that we experience when we visit other communities/towns/states.

The library right now is fine so take a year spitball some ideas. 5-10 years down the road there most definitely should be a brand new building in a GREAT location.

Investing in a community space like this is very important to me and I feel it is a worthwhile expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

Something needs to be done

Glad to see the task force back at it!

We love the Library! It is a wonderful place!

The three pillars of any community are churches, schools, and libraries. Our library's mission is to be a pillar. This includes how it looks, how it can be used, and how it serves its people. Our library has been in bad shape since we moved here 13 years ago. It's a shame. Expectations should be high because the library provides basic needs for all humans and it unites our community within itself and with others outside as well. God bless you!

all should have to think in important for library

The Grand Forks Public Library already does so much more with less. Fantastic programs, great collection, strong computer access, great central location. It's the facility that is wretchedly out of date and falling apart. I would hope that in expending funds to remodel or build a library that the things they already do well would not suffer as a result.

While the means of obtaining and accessing library materials has changed drastically over time, the essential community need for a library has not changed. The Grand Forks Public Library mission is "to connect the community, enrich the mind and inspire the imagination". This mission can be enhanced with a new facility. The current facility is at a point where it is too crowded to navigate without bumping into book carts, displays, people, etc. It is an electrical and heating and cooling nightmare. It is a lawsuit waiting to happen for the disabled. And it smells bad. I think it is very sad that a community would vote for a venue like the Alerus, the leaders in the community would manage the task of building the new Choice Fitness, that the city and the parks department would provide beautiful parks and park facilities, and show support for our schools, but have a library that is an embarrassment to the city. Where is your pride Grand Forks?

I live in Grand Forks but drive to EGF to use their library. I avoid the GF library completely.

Libraries are the soul of a community. We all need to nurture them.

As a master's educated, well-paid member of this community, I continue to use the library and its resources even though I can afford to provide most of the materials myself. Why do I choose to do this? Because it allows me to browse through possible selections and try them out before deciding to purchase a book/cd/movie. The space allows me a community gathering place where I can meet friends or colleagues outside of my work environment to collaborate on projects. It gives me pleasure knowing the person next to me may be the richest in town or the poorest. We are all equal in the library. Simply put, it is the right thing to do to have a public library. I am disheartened by the attitudes in the community that show no compassion or care for our fellow citizens. When I look back at the ancestry of immigrants through this valley who took

the time to help their neighbors and built communities, I cannot fathom why we have so many who think this is not for the greater good. Would I like to pay less property taxes - well, yes, I would. But I also like to drive on nice streets, know the firefighters or police will show up at my door if I need them, have clean drinking water, a sewer system, and a Library. Yes, a library is as important to a community as those other services. One campaign idea you could use is to show pictures of people who use the library - it could be called "THIS is the face of the library." kids, old people, new Americans, students, prominent members ... you get the idea We need to change the perception of what people define as "library" being four walls with books inside. We need to go back to the theory and concept of "reading rooms" which were started to give the common man access to books (I know I'm preaching to the choir) ... Maybe we should call them Information Rooms - whereby the medium of how it is passed changes but we still provide access. Thanks for putting up with my rambling ... And I will be voting YES!!!!

Hope that our citizens will think of those priorities when they wote next time about such an important issue.

If you run a campaign be more direct. Your last one seemed to be a bit snobbish, or arrogant and paled in comparison to the more direct message of "NO!" of the opposition. Knowing the "Hobbit" lawn posters were promoting a "yes" vote for the library and not a production for SPA was a bit oblique and arrogant on your part. Having the signs say "YES!" would have been more effective. If you are involving tax payer money, you will need to limit the frills, so private funding is essential. The coffee shop seems to compete against local small businesses. That's a criticism of Choice Fitness Center too.

Really consider what this survey conveys. Say it like you mean it. Lets do it right. GO FORWARD

I hope this project moves forward in a positive way that involves all community perspectives--nonprofit, businesses, government, & residents. A new and improved library with modern services, trained and better-paid staff will be an invaluable resource to the greater Grand Forks community for years to come.

We love the library and want it to grow and keep providing the community with an important resource. Although I love the location of the current library, the space is low on parking, space for programing, expansion of the collection and accessibility of the building and restroom facilities for many people.

Keep doing stuff like this and coming up with good ideas to get this done, and don't let Gershman and others stop you from building the library we need, not just something that will "suffice." This is a 50 year decision, not something to do on the cheap in the short run and pay for it later in lack of usage or ability to continue to serve the public in the future.

There is FAR too much time, money, effort, and enthusiasm devoted to the children's section and children's content. When the existing library was built, WE THE PEOPLE were promised that the structure could be expanded to suit future needs. Were we lied-to then, or are we being lied-to now? Who decided it was a good idea to sell-off the real estate needed to expand parking?

Why does a "cafe" have to be space rented to an independent vendor? Why not handle it internally? I did not answer Question 4. Define "adequate". Define "Materials of all types". Is Question 18 for real? What is the alternative? Deliberately/intentionally waste public money? That's the provenance of the City Council, the School Board, and the Park Board. They will not appreciate competition, although clearly the Library Board has tried. There is ABSOLUTELY NO NEED for the Library to be host to non-profits and civic organizations. We were told that the enormously over-priced and wasteful Grand Forks Civic Center was supposed to fill that need.

I ask that you be careful about partnering with any organization who has an anti-family or anti-life agenda.

There MUST be better advertising of a vote than there was last time when the YES signs meant NOTHING to most voters.

It's a Library, not a community center.

Give it up and quit ramming it down our throats!!!

The staff of the Grand Forks Public Library has done the best it can with the resources it has. The city and the citizens of Grand Forks need to put forth the effort to ensure the survival of the library in the future because the current building needs far too many repairs to continue as is. If this city can afford the Alerus, it can certainly afford a new library.

No.

Lets get it done already....

Need to have a whole community involvement.

It is time, actually late but we can & should do this now!!!

The library would not have been in this controversial "pickle" if the previous director had made the incremental improvements for 30 years that are necessary to maintain and keep up with a rapidly changing scene of access to information and technology. Carry on!

The library should build for the the current and future needs of the community, not simply put a band-aid on existing problems.

I don't know for sure if the new Blue Line Hockey Rinks are going to be receiving city funds - if so, I find it sad that a hockey facility would be more of a priority than a learning facility. Great - so everyone can be skating around town and be illiterate. Our priorities are messed up.

This city could find funding for a "wellness center" that competes directly with local businesses but can't properly fund a library for all citizens? DISGRACEFUL.

I love the library, and I think it should be a top priority of the community- it says something about who we are as a community if we DON'T make it a very important priority.

The library is very important to me and is essential for a thriving community. Build it right!

This public library evens out the playing ground for those that can not just go buy whatever book they want, or use a computer, etc. It really is a 'bare necessity of life'.. just a step past the basic needs of life.. food, water, shelter.. our minds need to be nurtured, too. It's not just about a place for patrons, though.. to keep and attain quality workers... the library staff needs to be recognized as valued employees and paid a decent wage.

This is one of the most important public investments we can make for improving the quality of life in Grand Forks.

Working with low-income clients, I can say with assurance that the library is a lifeline to many of them and to their children. A public library should be a hub of any vibrant community and should be something all citizens can enter proudly.

This is very important to our community. We NEED to get this project completed.