

Site Visit Report

Members of the consulting team visited each library facility in Delaware at least twice. Many libraries were visited as many as six times and by multiple members of the consulting team. One of the visits to each library was primarily for the purposes of assessing the facilities. Following are some general impressions drawn from those visits as well as information about distances to other libraries and estimated space deficiencies. These space deficiencies are based on current needs and also reflect the collections and furnishings that are in place. Estimates for long-term space needs at five year intervals are provided in the space needs spreadsheets that are included with the individual library profiles in Volume III.

The consultants found crowded conditions in most Delaware libraries. Most often the crowding is in part the result of having too little space for the population served. However, in some cases, the crowding is largely due to the fact that the library's collection contains many old, outdated items that should be weeded from the collections. Frequently, supplemental shelving or other units for housing collections have been added to the detriment of space for people. In other instances, libraries contain too much table seating.

It is of interest to note that only two libraries in the State of Delaware do not have at least one other public library within ten miles. Those two libraries are the Smyrna Public Library and the South Coastal Library. Ten libraries in the State have four or more other libraries within a 10 mile drive.

KENT COUNTY

Dover Public Library

- Now at least 10,000 GSF too small
- Parking inadequate, shared with others on site
- Provides 0.25 SF per capita
- Three levels make staffing and supervision very difficult
- Inadequate sized meeting room
- Located 3.4 miles from Kent County Library.
- Approximately half of the users do not live in the City of Dover although the library is funded primarily by the City

Harrington Public Library

- One of smallest buildings in the state, just 2,000 GSF
- Location is rather poor in terms of visibility
- Now at least 3,400 SF too small
- Provides only 0.34 SF per capita
- No parking for customers, must park on the street
- Former funeral home, space consists of a series of relatively small rooms
- Lighting is poor
- New site does not appear to be adequate for needed expansion
- Located 9.2 miles from the Milford Library and 10.1 miles from the Greenwood Library

Kent County Library

- One of the most undersized libraries in the state
- Provides only 0.09 SF per capita
- Now at least 5,000 SF too small
- No parking
- Grossly inadequate, site is quite good, however
- Located 3.4 miles from the Dover Public Library
- Plans are in place to double the square footage by expanding into space in the same building that is now occupied by the Parks Department

Smyrna Public Library

- Now at least 4,400 SF too small
- Provides only 0.24 SF per capita
- More than adequate parking, although shared with Opera House
- Building interiors attractive and well maintained, but different floor levels and “choppy” space
- Basement space adds to staffing problems
- Located 11.1 miles from the Dover Library

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Appoquinimink Community Library

- Joint use library, also serves high school
- Now at least 250 SF too small
- Provides 0.47 SF per capita
- Library parking inadequate
- Indications are that the High School needs additional space
- Located 2.5 miles from the Corbit-Calloway Library

Bear Library

- Now at least 1,700 SF too small (even if entire building was being used for public service)
- Provides only 0.25 SF per capita
- Comparatively new building
- Now houses Technical Services (TS) for New Castle County Library System
- Plans to convert TS space and one community room to public space
- Located 6.1 miles from the New Castle Public Library and 8.6 miles from the Delaware City Library

Brandywine Hundred Library

- Barely large enough at the present time even though it was just opened
- Parking quite adequate
- Provides .66 SF per capita
- One of newest libraries in the state
- Two levels with second level open to space below creates noise problems
- Has a large Library Coffee Shop/Cafe
- Located 3.3 miles from the North Wilmington Branch Library, 4.3 miles from the Wilmington Institute Main Library, and 4.5 miles from the Claymont Library

Claymont Library

- One of the most undersized libraries in the State
- Provides only 0.163 SF per capita
- Now at least 6,400 SF too small
- Parking for current building size, 3,600 SF, is adequate
- Located 4.5 miles from the Brandywine Hundred Library and 4.9 miles from the North Wilmington Branch Library

Corbit-Calloway Public Library

- Serves small population; less than 5,500 people
- Provides 0.95 SF per capita (6,100 SF facility)
- Collection size far too large for building
- Now at least 1,000 SF too small
- Parking for only four
- Located 2.5 miles from the Appoquinimink Community Library

Delaware City Library

- Serves small population; less than 3,200 people
- Largest library in the state in terms of SF per capita (4.06)
- Facility contains far more seating than is needed
- Parking is inadequate for building size but perhaps close to adequate for service population (space is available for expansion)
- Located 8.6 miles from the Bear Library and 9.6 miles from the New Castle Public Library

Elsmere Library

- Now at least 1,500 SF too small
- Provides only 0.43 SF per capita
- Parking is inadequate for current building size; 7,000 SF
- Located 2.3 miles from the Wilmington Woodlawn Branch, 2.9 from the Wilmington La Biblioteca Branch, 4.1 miles from the Wilmington Institute Main Library, and 4.9 miles from the Kirkwood Highway Library

Hockessin Library

- Now at least 2,600 SF too small and deficit is growing
- Provides 0.41 SF per capita
- Parking is quite adequate
- Facility is built on an unusual site and placement of building makes expansion difficult
- A comparatively new building
- Expansion project is planned
- Located 7.3 miles from the Elsmere Library and 8.7 from the Kirkwood Highway Library

Kirkwood Highway Library

- Now at least 6,800 SF too small
- One of the most undersized libraries in the State
- Provides only 0.22 SF per capita
- Extremely crowded building
- Expansion project is planned
- Parking for current building size; 13,400 SF is adequate; however considerable parking deficit if current space deficit is considered
- Located 3.8 miles from the Newark Library and 4.9 miles from the Elsmere Library

New Castle Public Library

- Now at least 1,900 SF too small
- Provides only 0.23 SF per capita
- Inadequate parking for current building size
- Lacks visibility
- Extremely crowded building
- Expansion on site possible but will worsen parking on-site
- Located 6.1 miles from the Bear Library and 7.7 miles from the Wilmington Institute Main Library

Newark Library

- Now at least 2,100 SF too small even though it was just expanded
- Provides 0.35 SF per capita
- Parking is inadequate and traffic patterns are difficult
- Located 3.8 miles from the Kirkwood Highway Library and 8.6 miles from the Elsmere Library

NEW CASTLE COUNTY - WILMINGTON INSTITUTE LIBRARIES

Wilmington Institute (Main Library)

- Largest building in the state with 45,592 SF of space
- Now nearly 16,000 SF too small
- Provides .62 SF per capita
- Located 1.3 miles from the Wilmington La Biblioteca Branch, 1.5 miles from the North Wilmington Branch Library, 2.0 miles from the Wilmington Woodlawn Branch, and 4.1 miles from the Elsmere Library

Wilmington La Biblioteca del Pueblo Branch Library

- Library may need to leave the building in which it is currently housed
- Provides .57 SF per capita
- Located 0.9 miles from the Wilmington Woodlawn Branch, 1.3 from the Wilmington Institute Main Library, and 2.5 miles from the North Wilmington Branch Library
- Present facility is unacceptable due to restricted access and second floor location
- No dedicated parking

Wilmington Institute (North Wilmington Branch Library)

- One of the least crowded libraries in the State in terms of the materials and furnishings it contains
- Provides 0.62 SF per capita
- Lighting is poor
- Located 1.5 miles from the Wilmington Institute Main Library and 2.5 miles from the Wilmington La Biblioteca Branch
- Parking is adequate

Wilmington Woodlawn Branch Library

- Library is going to move to new facility
- Current building provides .43 SF per capita
- Current building is a handicapped access nightmare
- Space is fragmented – located on three floors
- Located 0.9 miles from the Wilmington La Biblioteca Branch, 2.0 miles from the Wilmington Institute Main Library and 2.3 miles from the Elsmere Library
- Will become a full-fledged member of New Castle County Public Library System when new facility is opened

SUSSEX COUNTY

Bridgeville Public Library

- Now at least 3,700 SF too small
- Provides only 0.12 SF per capita
- Housed in former church building, minimal staff workspace
- Site may be large enough to house a new building if existing facility is removed
- Located 5.0 miles from the Greenwood Library and 8.3 miles from the Seaford Library

Delmar Public Library

- Approximately half of the users reside in Maryland (Municipality is in both states)
- Provides 0.59 SF per capita
- Now at least 1,500 SF too small
- Parking for current building size is inadequate and inconvenient as well (entrance is not near parking lot)
- Located 8.6 miles from Laurel Public Library (and approximately 7.6 miles from the Salisbury, MD Public Library)

Frankford Public Library

- One of the smallest buildings in the state, just 1,896 SF
- Facility is extremely crowded
- Space is located on two separate levels (not handicapped accessible)
- Now at least 3,175 SF too small
- Provides 0.59 SF per capita
- Parking is adequate
- Formerly a savings and loan office
- Located 4.8 miles from the Selbyville Library and 6.2 miles from the Millsboro Library

Georgetown Public Library

- One of the smallest library buildings in the state, just 2,000 SF
- Now at least 4,200 SF too small
- Provides only 0.19 SF per capita
- Adequate parking for current building size
- Extremely crowded building
- Handicapped accessibility is inconvenient
- New site appears to be adequate for replacement building but not for an anchor library
- Located 8.4 miles from the Milton Library and 9.8 from the Millsboro Library

Greenwood Public Library

- Although at least 3,500 SF too small
- Provides 0.44 SF per capita
- Services are crowded in the front portion of the building
- Adequate parking
- New site needed for new building
- Located 5.0 miles from the Bridgeville Library and 10.1 miles from the Harrington Library

Laurel Public Library

- In process of renovating and expanding building (now in temporary space)
- Renovated building with addition will provide 1.19 SF per capita
- Building slightly undersized given the amount of furniture
- No dedicated parking whatsoever
- Building with addition covers almost the entire lot
- Located 8.6 miles from the Delmar Public Library and 9.7 miles from the Seaford District Library

Lewes Public Library

- Two level building with recent expansion completed
- Now at least 1,600 SF too small
- Provides 1.09 SF per capita (for year-round population of 12,300)
- Provides 0.74 for “in-season” population of 18,046
- Parking inadequate by 28 spaces
- Located 6.3 miles from the Rehoboth Beach Library; however, traveling 6.3 miles in season can take exceptionally long period of time

Milford Public Library

- Now at least 6,900 SF too small
- Provides 0.40 SF per capita
- Parking barely adequate for now
- Two-level building, although all public services (except meeting room) on the main level
- Difficult site on which to add more space and parking
- Located 9.2 miles from the Harrington Library and 12.2 miles from the Greenwood Library

Millsboro Public Library

- Now at least 2,200 SF too small
- Provides only 0.24 SF per capita
- Parking is adequate
- Future expansion, if to rear of existing building, will create an extremely rectilinear building which would be difficult to effectively staff
- Located 6.2 miles from the Frankford Library and 9.8 miles from the Georgetown Library

Milton Public Library

- Has 15,665 SF since opening of two-level expansion
- Now provides 1.21 SF per capita
- Parking will be added (however, number of spaces not presently known – probably inadequate)
- Good location with good visibility
- Located 8.4 miles from the Georgetown Public Library

Rehoboth Public Library

- One of newest, and one of largest (in terms of SF per capita) buildings in the state
- Provides 0.84 SF per capita based on in-season population
- However, already at least 1,100 SF too small
- Parking inadequate
- Two levels, with meeting space on second level
- Building sits right on the street/sidewalk, needs a bolder sign announcing the library
- Located 6.3 miles from the Lewes Library; however, traveling 6.3 miles in season can take exceptionally long period of time

Seaford District Library

- Now provides 0.35 SF per capita
- Now at least 5,500 SF too small
- No parking at existing building
- Current facility is extremely crowded
- New 20,000 – 23,000 SF building now being designed
- Will have between 0.74 – 0.85 SF per capita, and adequate parking
- Located 8.3 miles from the Bridgeville Public Library and 9.7 miles from the Laurel Public Library

Selbyville Public Library

- Recent expansion provides adequate space
- Expanded facility provides 0.65 SF per capita
- Expansion project also provided a parking lot which, along with on-street parking, is nearly adequate
- Addition also improved handicapped accessibility
- Library on main level, older part of facility has two additional levels (former residence)
- Located 4.8 miles from the Frankford Library and 10.6 miles from the Millsboro Library

South Coastal Public Library

- Now at least 6,100 SF too small
- Now provides 0.39 SF per capita based on in-season population
- Since addition of a new parking area, dedicated parking is quite adequate
- Proposed expansion will address space shortfall, but will reduce available parking
- Located 10.6 miles from the Frankford Library and 12.6 miles from the Selbyville Library

Site Visit Report - Estimated Mileages Between Libraries

Library	Harrington	Hockessin	Kent County	Kirkwood Highway	Laurel	Lewes	Milford	Millsboro	Milton	New Castle	Newark	Rehoboth Beach	Seaford District
Appoquinimink	43.4	29.4	30.0	23.6	70.2	65.3	45.6	70.0	56.7	20.1	19.7	68.4	64.2
Bear	56.5	14.9	43.1	9.1	83.3	78.4	58.7	83.1	69.7	6.1	9.8	81.4	77.3
Brandywine Hundred	71.0	13.4	57.6	11.0	97.9	92.9	73.2	97.6	84.3	12.4	14.6	96.0	91.8
Bridgeville	14.1	82.9	26.8	77.1	14.4	28.8	16.2	22.6	21.9	73.6	76.4	31.9	8.3
Claymont	75.3	21.2	61.9	19.5	102.1	97.2	77.4	101.9	88.5	14.9	20.3	100.2	96.1
Corbit-Calloway	42.7	27.3	29.2	21.5	69.5	64.5	44.8	69.2	55.9	18.2	20.8	67.6	63.4
Delaware City	53.5	22.2	40.1	16.4	80.3	75.4	55.6	80.1	66.7	9.6	15.6	78.4	74.3
Delmar	35.3	104.2	48.1	98.4	8.6	36.9	37.7	19.5	30.1	94.9	97.6	40.0	16.9
Dover	16.8	53.9	3.4	48.1	43.6	40.9	21.2	45.6	32.2	44.6	47.3	43.9	37.6
Elsmere	66.7	7.3	53.3	4.9	93.5	88.6	68.8	93.3	79.9	7.7	8.6	91.6	87.0
Frankford	42.0	102.4	49.2	96.6	27.9	30.5	31.3	6.2	23.7	93.0	95.8	23.8	32.0
Georgetown	27.5	87.8	34.6	82.0	14.1	15.3	16.8	9.8	8.4	78.5	82.2	18.3	17.0
Greenwood	10.1	78.9	22.8	73.1	19.0	33.4	12.2	27.3	16.2	69.5	73.2	36.3	13.0
Harrington	X	70.2	14.1	64.4	27.6	31.3	9.2	35.9	23.3	60.9	64.5	34.7	22.1
Hockessin	70.2	X	56.3	8.7	96.5	91.6	71.9	97.4	83.5	13.0	12.6	94.9	91.0
Kent County	14.1	56.3	X	51.0	40.3	38.2	17.9	44.2	30.3	47.4	51.1	41.7	34.9
Kirkwood Highway	64.4	8.7	51.0	X	90.8	86.2	65.3	91.6	77.7	9.9	3.8	89.1	85.2
Laurel	27.6	96.5	40.3	90.8	X	29.1	30.1	18.0	22.4	87.7	91.3	32.2	9.7
Lewes	31.3	91.6	38.2	86.2	29.1	X	22.1	20.0	13.1	82.7	86.4	6.3	32.1
Milford	9.2	71.9	17.9	65.3	30.1	22.1	X	26.4	13.6	63.0	66.7	25.1	24.3
Millsboro	35.9	97.4	44.2	91.6	18.0	20.0	26.4	X	13.8	87.4	91.1	18.4	26.0
Milton	23.3	83.5	30.3	77.7	22.4	13.1	13.6	13.8	X	74.1	77.7	16.0	25.3
New Castle	60.9	13.0	47.4	9.9	87.7	82.7	63.0	87.4	74.1	X	11.9	85.6	81.6
Newark	64.5	12.6	51.1	3.8	91.3	86.4	66.7	91.1	77.7	11.9	X	88.4	84.4
Rehoboth Beach	34.7	94.9	41.7	89.1	32.2	6.3	25.1	18.4	16.0	85.6	88.4	X	35.2
Seaford District	22.1	91.0	34.9	85.2	9.7	32.1	24.3	26.0	25.3	81.6	84.4	35.2	X
Selbyville	46.4	106.8	53.6	101.0	22.2	34.9	35.7	10.6	28.0	97.4	100.2	25.1	36.0
Smyrna	30.1	40.1	16.6	34.3	56.9	51.9	32.2	56.7	43.3	30.8	33.5	55.0	50.8
South Coastal	46.9	107.1	53.9	101.3	30.2	18.4	37.3	15.0	28.1	97.8	100.5	12.9	40.4
Wilmington Institute - Main	65.4	11.0	51.9	8.6	92.2	87.2	67.5	92.0	78.6	7.6	13.0	90.3	86.2
Wilmington Institute - La Biblioteca	67.1	9.8	53.6	7.4	93.9	88.9	69.2	93.7	80.3	8.5	12.1	92.0	87.9
Wilmington Institute - North Wilmington	66.6	12.2	53.2	9.8	93.4	88.5	68.7	93.2	79.8	8.8	14.3	91.5	87.4
Wilmington Institute - Woodlawn	67.7	9.2	54.3	6.8	94.5	89.6	69.6	94.3	81.0	9.1	10.5	92.7	88.5
Delaware Division of Libraries	17.1	53.5	3.6	47.7	43.9	40.1	20.4	44.8	31.5	44.1	46.9	43.2	37.9

Site Visit Report - Estimated Mileages Between Libraries

Library	Selbyville	Smyrna	South Coastal	Wilmington Institute - Main	Wilmington Institute - La Biblioteca	Wilmington Institute - North Wilmington	Wilmington Institute - Woodlawn	Delaware Division of Libraries
Appoquinimink	80.0	13.4	80.4	24.5	26.2	25.9	27.9	26.4
Bear	93.1	26.5	93.5	12.6	11.7	14.1	13.4	40.4
Brandywine Hundred	107.6	41.0	108.0	4.3	4.3	3.3	6.0	54.5
Bridgeville	32.6	43.1	37.1	78.0	79.7	79.3	80.4	29.8
Claymont	111.8	45.3	112.2	8.7	7.6	4.9	8.5	58.7
Corbit-Calloway	79.2	12.6	79.6	22.8	24.5	24.0	25.1	25.7
Delaware City	90.0	23.5	90.3	15.7	19.2	16.9	19.8	36.7
Delmar	21.6	64.1	44.2	99.4	101.1	100.6	101.7	51.1
Dover	55.6	11.1	55.9	47.2	48.9	48.4	49.5	0.9
Elsmere	102.8	36.2	103.2	4.1	2.9	5.3	2.3	49.5
Frankford	4.8	62.7	10.6	98.0	99.7	99.2	100.4	50.9
Georgetown	19.8	47.7	24.2	83.0	84.7	84.2	85.4	35.9
Greenwood	37.3	38.7	41.8	744.0	75.7	75.2	76.4	25.7
Harrington	46.4	30.1	46.9	65.4	67.1	66.6	67.7	17.1
Hockessin	106.8	40.1	107.1	11.0	9.8	12.2	9.2	53.5
Kent County	53.6	16.6	53.9	51.9	53.6	53.2	54.3	3.6
Kirkwood Highway	101.0	34.3	101.3	8.6	7.4	9.8	6.8	47.7
Laurel	22.2	56.9	30.2	92.2	93.9	93.4	94.5	43.9
Lewes	34.9	51.9	18.4	87.2	88.9	88.5	89.6	40.1
Milford	35.7	32.2	37.3	67.5	69.2	68.7	69.6	20.4
Millsboro	10.6	56.7	15.0	92.0	93.7	93.2	94.3	44.8
Milton	28.0	43.3	28.1	78.6	80.3	79.8	81.0	31.5
New Castle	97.4	30.8	97.8	7.6	8.5	8.8	9.1	44.1
Newark	100.2	33.5	100.5	13.0	12.1	14.3	10.5	46.9
Rehoboth Beach	25.1	55.0	12.9	90.3	92.0	91.5	92.7	43.2
Seaford District	36.0	50.8	40.4	86.2	87.9	87.4	88.5	37.9
Selbyville	X	66.6	12.6	101.9	103.6	103.1	104.3	54.8
Smyrna	66.6	X	67.3	35.3	37.1	36.6	37.7	11.3
South Coastal	12.6	67.3	X	102.3	104.0	103.5	104.7	55.2
Wilmington Institute - Main	101.9	35.3	102.3	X	1.3	1.5	2.0	48.6
Wilmington Institute - La Biblioteca	103.6	37.1	104.0	1.3	X	2.5	0.9	50.3
Wilmington Institute - North Wilmington	103.1	36.6	103.5	1.5	2.5	X	3.5	49.9
Wilmington Institute - Woodlawn	104.3	37.7	104.7	2.0	0.9	3.5	X	51.9
Delaware Division of Libraries	54.8	11.3	55.2	48.6	50.3	49.9	51.9	X