Delaware Libraries
Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: Rehoboth Beach Public Library

Address:
226 Rehoboth Ave.
Rehoboth Beach, DE  19971

Contact Information:
(302) 227-8044
(302) 227-0597  FAX

Library Exterior:

Estimated Size:  11,000 SF

Hours:
Monday       10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday      12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday    10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday     12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Friday       10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Saturday     10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sunday       CLOSED

Estimated Hours Open 2003:
2,246 hours
Financial Breakdown – Income:

History:

In 1912 the State of Delaware recognized the Village Improvement Association’s establishment of the Rehoboth Beach Library. The small collection grew quickly. To house an expanding collection of materials, the library was first moved to an old school house and prior city hall in 1942; then to the City Municipal Center in 1965; and finally, to a former telephone company building in 1985. A capital campaign helped renovate and refurbish the building.

In 1986 Naon Craft donated a lot east of the existing building to the library and, in 1992, the city of Rehoboth gave the building to the library. The Board of Trustees then kicked off a $1.26 million building fund drive in 1995. December 9, 2000 marked the dedication of the new, completely refurbished and renovated Rehoboth Beach Library.

The Rehoboth Beach Library serves 5,000 active families and more than 11,000 regular patrons. From its humble beginning with fewer than 500 books, the Rehoboth Beach Public Library now boasts more than 29,300 books, 1,700 audio and video items, and 80 plus periodicals. The library also provides liberal public access to the adventures and learning offered by cyberspace.

General Description:

The Rehoboth Beach area is served by a recently built brick library located in the heart of the “downtown” area only a short walk from the shore. The Library’s interior design features are exceptional. Unfortunately, the building is landlocked and offer no
dedicated off-street parking. This is a significant drawback “in season.” The Library features a second floor meeting room serviced by an elevator in the entrance lobby, and a reading room with ample natural light. The children’s area, while well equipped, is very small.

Five Year Circulation History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>57,793</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>49,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>44,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>65,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>61,986</td>
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</tbody>
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Five Year Circulation Trend:
Circulation increased seven percent (7.3%) between 1999 and 2003; however, the increases have not been steady. The years 2000, 2001, and 2003 each saw a decrease in overall circulation compared with the previous year.

2003 Library Visits: 90,637

2003 Registered Borrowers: 9,114

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)
- Total Holdings: 36,136
- Audio Holdings: 1,461
- Video Holdings: 1,024
- Periodical Titles: 89
Holdings per Capita:
3.9 items per person in service area
Sussex County mean is 2.8; Delaware mean is 2.8
State target is 3.09

2003 Circulation Breakdown:
Total Circulation 61,986
Juvenile Circulation 15,682
Adult Circulation 46,304

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)
Turnover 1.72
Sussex County mean is 2.26; Delaware mean is 2.43

Total Operating Expenditures: $193,356

Estimated Service Population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Residents &amp; Non-Residents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004/05 (Estimate)</td>
<td>9,220</td>
<td>13,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10 (Projection)</td>
<td>9,503</td>
<td>13,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 (Projection)</td>
<td>10,385</td>
<td>14,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 (Projection)</td>
<td>11,203</td>
<td>15,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025 (Projection)</td>
<td>11,884</td>
<td>16,843</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: $20.97 per person

Cost per Circulation: $3.12

Cost per Hour Open: $86.09 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 6.7 circulations per person

Circulation per SF: 5.64 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 27.60 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 1.19 SF per person State target is 1.0

Library Visits per Capita: 9.8 visits per person

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 98.85

Total Units of Service*: 340,941
Total Units of Service per capita: 36.98

*Total Units of Service includes circulation, library visits, reference transactions, and number of persons attending programs.