Delaware Libraries
Statewide Master Plan for Library Services and Construction

Library: South Coastal Library

Address:
43 Kent Ave.
Bethany Beach, DE  19930

Contact Information:
(302) 539-5231
(302) 537-9106  FAX

Library Exterior:

Estimated Size:  8,097 SF

Hours:
Monday  10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday  10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday  10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Thursday  10:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Friday  1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Saturday  9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sunday  CLOSED

Estimated Hours Open 2003:
2,465 hours
South Coastal
Adult Reading Area

South Coastal
Public Computer s

South Coastal
Children’s Area
Financial Breakdown - Income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>$499,480</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$166,346</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$3,384</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</table>

History:

The South Coastal Public Library started in an extremely small building – only 600 square feet of floor space. In that minute space were contained some 6,000 volumes. The library was so tiny that patrons even waited in line outside the building while other members were selecting materials. There was no meeting room, no storage space, and few possibilities for community programs.

The Friends of the South Coastal Library was formed in 1987 to help create a new facility that would make available more materials to the community, plus offer programs for both children and adults. Many individuals and groups were instrumental in shaping the Friends of the South Coastal Library, including local landowners’ associations, civic organizations, Chambers of Commerce and local dog clubs, golf clubs and aerobics clubs. Even the annual Bethany Beach Jazz Funeral, held to bid goodbye to summer, collected donations in 1991 to help the library project. The resulting new library is truly a community effort.

The South Coastal Public Library benefits the local community in many ways. On a basic level, new educational, informational, and recreational materials are available to patrons. But with the increase in space, the library has also become a cultural center in the community, offering literary programs, children’s programs, film series, book discussions, and poetry readings. The meeting room is used by members and organizations with diverse interests, from painting and quilting, to singing and acting.
General Description:

The South Coastal Library is located in an attractive brick structure built for library use in
the early 1990s. The facility’s location is not highly visible although it is located only a
few blocks from the center of the community. The Library has a meeting room
accessible from the entry lobby that is heavily used. Crowding has started to become an
issue for the Library. The children’s area is small; however its relative size reflects the
area’s demographics. The area designed for adult leisure reading is noisy due to its
location adjacent to the door and the entrance to the children’s area. Additional parking
has been added during the last year.

Five Year Circulation History
1999 – 90,560
2000 – 102,131
2001 – 107,796
2002 – Data was not available
2003 – 129,567

Five Year Circulation Trend:
Data is incomplete; there was no report in 2002. However, circulation in 2003
was an increase of forty-three percent (43.1%) over circulation in 1999.

2003 Library Visits: 110,338

2003 Holdings (number of items in library collection)
Total Holdings 44,141
Audio Holdings 1,221
Video Holdings 2,089
Periodical Titles 193

Holdings per Capita:
3.0 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 129,567
Juvenile Circulation 33,229
Adult Circulation 96,338

2003 Turnover Rates: (number of times average item circulates/year)
Turnover 2.94
Sussex County mean is 2.26; Delaware mean is 2.43
Total Operating Expenditures: $ 386,747

Estimated Service Population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th>Residents &amp; Non-Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004/05</td>
<td>14,789</td>
<td>20,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>17,375</td>
<td>24,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>19,005</td>
<td>26,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>20,484</td>
<td>28,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>21,729</td>
<td>30,529</td>
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</table>

Operating Cost per Person in Service Area: $ 26.15 per person

Cost per Circulation: $ 2.98

Cost per Hour Open: $ 156.90 per hour

Circulation per Capita in Service Area: 8.8 circulations per capita

Circulation per SF: 16.00 circulations per SF

Circulation per Hour Open: 52.56 circulations per hour

SF per Person in Service Area: 0.55 SF per person (This is considerably less if non-resident population is factored in)

Library Visits per Capita: 7.5 visits per person

Registrations as a Percentage of Service Area Population: 70.26%

Total Units of Service*: 256,965

Total Units of Service per capita: 17.38

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