

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

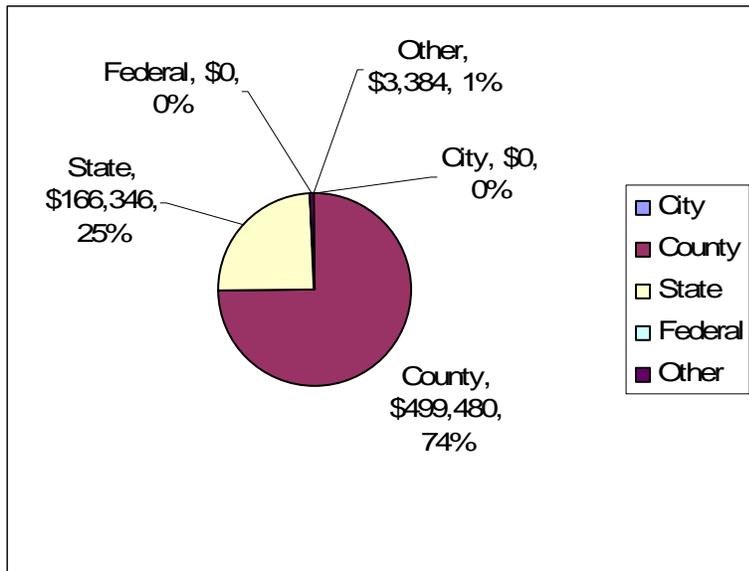


South Coastal
Public Computers



South Coastal
Children's Area

Financial Breakdown - Income:



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:

	Residents	Residents & Non-Residents
2004/05 (Estimate)	14,789	20,776
2009/10 (Projection)	17,375	24,408
2015 (Projection)	19,005	26,698
2020 (Projection)	20,484	28,776
2025 (Projection)	21,729	30,529

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.