

## **LIBRARY FACILITIES**

### **Introduction**

The Central Rappahannock Regional Library (CRRL) is a regional public library system serving the City of Fredericksburg and the Counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Westmoreland. It is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees appointed by the participating jurisdictions. The regional library was established in 1969 by the Commonwealth of Virginia as a model system to demonstrate the value of regional resource sharing between cooperating jurisdictions.

The CRRL system consists of a Library Administration Center and nine (9) branches as well as an Access Services location, and a joint-use facility at Germanna Community College's Barbara J. Fried Center in Stafford County, all connected by daily courier service. The library offers an extensive regional collection of physical and electronic materials as well as wide-ranging databases. The Fredericksburg branch in downtown Fredericksburg houses special collections including Virginiana and a Law Library. Access Services, adjacent to the Library Administration Center on Lafayette Boulevard, offers a Talking Book Library, free reading materials, and devices for the visually impaired provided through a federally supported program. Library on the Go, CRRL's outreach program, provides library services to communities and facilities with limited access to library branches. Library on the Go includes satellite centers in rural locations in Spotsylvania County with internet access and wireless printing, mobile Grow a Reader outreach to area preschools, Head Start programs, and Lobby Stop service to local assisted living and senior apartments. All administrative functions of CRRL are centralized at the Library Administration Center including collection services, accounting, human resources, graphics, and network services.

### **Existing Facilities**

Three (3) CRRL branches are located in Spotsylvania County. The Salem Church branch, on Salem Church Road, was first opened in 1994; the facility was expanded and renovated in 2009. The C. Melvin Snow branch in the Spotsylvania County courthouse area opened in 1998, and the County's most recent library facility, the Spotsylvania Towne Centre branch, opened in August 2018. The County also has a satellite location in the Livingston district that operates on a limited schedule, with a second slated to open in the Berkeley district in FY19.

Below is a table listing the existing permanent library facilities directly serving Spotsylvania County and their capacities in terms of overall floor space together with the current total of materials at each branch, as well as the system holdings available to Spotsylvania residents.

**Table 1**  
**Spotsylvania County Library Resources**

Branch	Gross Sq. Ft. of Floor Space	Total Books / Materials
Salem Church Branch	25,000	96,564
Snow Branch (Spotsylvania Courthouse)	5,000	27,938
Spotsylvania Towne Centre Branch	2,100	2,239
<b>Spotsylvania Physical Collection Subtotal</b>	<b>32,100</b>	<b>126,741</b>
Fredericksburg Branch* (Central)	12,300	26,751
<b>Regional Physical Collection Subtotal</b>	<b>44,400</b>	<b>153,492</b>
Digital Collection**		45,364
<b>Regional Collection (Physical and Electronic)</b>	<b>44,400</b>	<b>198,856</b>

\*The Fredericksburg Branch facility, used jointly by residents in the City of Fredericksburg, Stafford, and Spotsylvania Counties is 36,900 sq. ft. For purposes of space analysis, 12,300 sq. ft. is attributed to the total square footage of each jurisdiction.

\*\*The Digital Collection, used jointly by residents in the City of Fredericksburg, Stafford, and Spotsylvania Counties consists of 136,093 materials. For purposes of collection analysis, 45,364 materials are attributed to Total Books and Materials.

### **Standards**

Spotsylvania County residents benefit from participation in a regional library system and as such, have the opportunity to access the collections and databases, resources, staff expertise, and technologies of a much larger library. CRRL has been recognized nationally as a Star Library by the Library Journal Index of Public Library Service for ten (10) years based on physical materials circulation, electronic materials circulation, branch visits, program attendance, and public computer use.

Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries are the recommended standards for public libraries approved and adopted by the Library of Virginia Board and CRRL's Board of Trustees. The publication uses a well-understood business model based on the notion of bond ratings - A, AA, AAA - and the standards are recommended for localities across the Commonwealth for the provision of quality library services. CRRL strives and plans for AA rating in the core adopted standards listed below.

### **Level of Service Standards**

#### The Library of Virginia Board Summary of Standards:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1. Collection	2 - 5 items per capita
2. Facilities	0.6 - 1.0 square foot per capita
3. Location of facilities radius)	<i>Rural:</i> 15 - 30 minute drive (15 - 20 mile  <i>Urban:</i> 10 - 20 minute drive (2 - 8 mile radius)
4. Technology/Computer workstation population	.33 - 1.0 workstation per 1000

#### Supplemental Spotsylvania Standards:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1. MakerLab/MakerSpace	1 per permanent library location

#### Location Criteria

The goal of the library system is to provide County citizens convenient access to high-quality library services. The following are location objectives:

- The selection of sites for library facilities should take into consideration geographic obstacles to transportation. All buildings should be on or near heavily traveled roads, or in or near shopping areas and be clearly visible to traffic.
- Provide new facilities to adequately and equitably serve all areas of the County. Schedule library land acquisition and/or construction to respond to both current unmet demand and new growth when it occurs.
- Provide locations for libraries that are within a 10 – 15 minute drive within the Primary Development boundary and within a 15 – 30 minute drive outside of the Primary Development Boundary.
- Sites should be located along main travel corridors with consideration of minimizing users' drive time. The site should be chosen to support the mission of providing library material and services to the greatest number of people.
- An alternative to construction of new facilities is to establish new libraries in leased commercial spaces such as shopping centers. In Spotsylvania and other locations, public libraries serve as anchor stores and can draw one to two thousand customers a day. Branches could be located within the mixed-use development areas proposed on the County's Future Land Use Map.
- In the event new construction or leased commercial space is not an immediate viable option for new library facilities, such as in rural communities, the County should explore additional satellite library locations to provide internet access, wireless printing, and limited library services to those areas on short-term basis.

#### Recommendations and Future Needs

Although use of electronic materials has increased, there remains a strong need for fixed library facilities. CRRL customers continue to demand physical materials, quality age-level programming, public computers, and group meeting spaces therefore the standards adopted by

the Library of Virginia Board and CRRL Board of Trustees remain applicable. Residential expansion in the Massaponax area has created a need for a fourth County branch as residents in that area must travel to the Spotsylvania Courthouse, downtown Fredericksburg, or Route 3 for library services. Those three (3) locations are all 8-10 miles from Massaponax with a drive of 15 - 20 minutes.

Presently, residents of the Livingston District and, soon, the Berkeley District can access library services including computers with wireless internet, wireless printing, and homework help from satellite locations in those communities one evening a week. However, small library branches similar to the Snow branch should be considered in future planning so those residents will have access to the full range of library services.