

## 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 ~~Library 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 ~~Headquarters facility, six (6)~~ Library Administration Center and nine (9) branches, and a bookmobile, 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 ~~and. The library offers~~ an extensive regional ~~catalog~~ collection of physical and database system. The Headquarters electronic materials as well as wide-ranging databases. The Fredericksburg branch in downtown Fredericksburg houses special collections ~~for the system~~ including Virginia, Law, Virginiana and the regional Library of Congress Collection 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. ~~The administration is also located in the Headquarters, as well as centralized acquisitions, provided through a federally supported program. Library on the Go, CRRL's outreach, cataloging, account program, provides library services, graphics, network services, and the circulation department. Two (2) of the~~ to communities and facilities with limited access to library branches are located within. 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. The C. Melvin Snow Branch was opened in 1998 and the Salem Church Branch was opened in 1994.

### 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 ~~of~~ 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
<u>Salem Church Branch</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>96,564</u>
<u>A. Snow Branch (Spotsylvania Courthouse Library)</u>	<u>4,500</u> <u>5,000</u>	<u>42,611</u> <u>27,938</u>
<u>B. Salem Church Spotsylvania Towne Centre Branch</u>	<u>2,100</u> <u>25,000</u>	<u>99,968</u> <u>2,239</u>
<b><u>Spotsylvania Physical Collection Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>32,100</u></b>	<b><u>126,741</u></b>
<u>C. Fredericksburg Branch* (Central Library)</u>	12,300 <sup>†</sup>	<u>231,544</u> <u>26,751</u>
<b><u>Regional Physical Collection Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>44,400</u></b>	<b><u>153,492</u></b>
<u>Digital Collection**</u>	-	<u>45,364</u>
<b><u>Regional Collection (Physical and Electronic)</u></b>	<b><u>44,400</u></b>	<b><u>198,856</u></b>

~~Total Library Facilities in Proximity (includes Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania)\*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**

~~The recommended minimum standards for Virginia Public Libraries are approved and adopted by the Virginia State Library and are adopted by the Central Rappahannock Regional Library Board. These standards are the recommended standards for localities in the Commonwealth for the provision of library services in each locality. Spotsylvania County citizens/residents benefit from participation in the Central Rappahannock Regional Library-a regional library system and as such, have the opportunity to access the collections and databases, resources, staff expertise, technology, and databases/technologies of a much larger library. The system was CRRL has been~~

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recognized ~~in American Libraries Magazine~~ nationally as one of the top 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 ~~in the nation~~ approved and adopted by the Library of Virginia Board and CRRL's Board of ~~its size in the cost efficient delivery~~ Trustees. The publication uses a well-understood business model based on the notion of ~~a broad range of user services.~~ 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:

Service	Criteria
1. <del>A. Collection</del>	<del>2 to 4 books/materials</del> 5 items per capita—
2. <del>B. Buildings</del> Facilities	0.6 <del>to</del> 1.0 square foot per capita—
<del>C. Computer Workstations</del>	<del>0.33 to 1 public workstation per 1,000 population</del>
3. <del>D. Location (of facilities</del>	<del>Rural)</del> —: 15 - 30 minute drive (15 - 20 mile radius)—
	<del>E. Location (Urban/Suburban)</del> —: 10 - 20 minute drive (2 - 8 mile radius)
4. Technology/Computer workstation	.33 - 1.0 workstation per 1000 population

#### Supplemental Spotsylvania Standards:

Service	Criteria
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 ~~to~~ 15-minute drive within the Primary Development boundary and within a 15 ~~to~~ 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 ~~Fredericksburg~~ Spotsylvania and other locations, public libraries serve as anchor stores and can draw one to two thousand ~~patrons~~ customers a day. Branches could be located within the ~~proposed~~ 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**

~~For the purposes of the Public Facilities Plan, the collection calculation has become less important with the availability of materials electronically. The volume of books and materials available through the Library of Congress has caused the ratio of books and materials per capita to so greatly exceed the identified standard that Spotsylvania County no longer utilizes this measure for planning purposes. This renders library floor space as the level of service indicator. The floor space needs to be divided into the general library floor space need, together with a specific need for public meeting space. While the overall floor space is important, as the County looks to the future, the availability of public meeting space is the key level of service indicator. The public meeting space need is partially met through the provision of meeting rooms at library facilities, but also through the provision of community centers as identified within the Parks and Recreation portion of this chapter. These combined spaces are considered in the Parks and Recreation portion and evaluated against a level of service standard there.~~

### **Level of Service Standards**

- ~~• The Level of Service Standard for Library facilities is 0.3 square foot per capita.~~
- ~~• The Level of Service Standard for public meeting space can be found in the Parks and Recreation portion of this chapter.~~

### **Future Needs**

~~It is not anticipated that there will be significant increases in the need for physical space for library services. The space increases that do occur should be aimed at increasing the availability of meeting space for various community groups. Libraries also play an important role in aiding the provision of internet access to the citizens of the County. To this end, the use of wireless~~

~~hotspots at library and other County facilities should be explored to increase the availability of internet access.~~

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.