

FORESTVILLE LIBRARY



Service Area Map + Demographics

2000 Service Area Population: 4,263
 2025 Service Area Population: 5,519

Population by Age:

0-4 years	5%
5-19 years	16%
20-44 years	30%
45-64 years	22%
65+	27%

Population by Ethnicity:

White	91%
Black + African-American	0%
American Indian	0%
Asian	1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0%
Other	4%
Two or More Races	3%
Hispanic or Latino*	9%

Recommendations
 Strategy: Improvement
 Building Area: 4,600-5,000 sf

*The Hispanic or Latino designation reflects a cultural heritage and not an ethnic group. Therefore, this designation is reported separately from ethnicity.

Library Profile

Located between Guerneville and Sebastopol, The Forestville Library was recently built as part of El Molino High School. It is one of two ‘Station Libraries’ that offers limited services and hours. This station library is primarily used as a pick-up and drop-off location for materials coming from other libraries.

Nearly 60% of patrons surveyed at Forestville reported that they visit other branches in Sonoma County. The patron mapping showed that more people living in the Forestville area use the Sebastopol Regional Library than the Forestville Library.

Forestville’s service area is somewhat less diverse than other areas of the County, with 91% of the population being white.

Library Needs

At 660 square feet, the Forestville Library is well below recommended size standards. Technology for patron use is limited to a single OPAC machine; staff report that the most frequently asked question is, ‘Do you have Internet access?’ The library is popular as a group study space and hangout for students after school hours. The limited number of seats is sometimes inadequate to meet demand. The room is easily filled with a single normal-volume conversation.

The current campus location and the absence of an adequate collection, meeting space, and children’s storytelling area severely restricts the library’s ability to serve the general community and the student population.

Forestville Library patrons described their library in this way...

Liked most:	Improvements needed:
+ Friendly staff	- Longer hours
+ Location and convenience	- More books
	- More computers

Service	Current	Future
Population served	4,263	5,519
Building size	660 sf	4,600 – 5,000 sf
Collection	4,102 vols.	13,100 – 14,500 vols.
Computers	1	7 – 10
Seats	14 seats	25 – 30 seats
Group study area	0 seats	4 seats
Storytelling space	0 seats	14 - 16 seats
Meeting room	0 seats	50 – 55 seats

Recommendations

The primary recommendation for the Forestville Library is to elevate the facility from a branch with limited services to a community library offering a broader range of services with an appropriate amount of collections, seating, and technology. The recommendations will provide the full range of services including a proper collection, internet access, group study space, a meeting room, and children’s storytelling space that can meet the needs of the entire community.

An expansion or new facility on the El Molino High School campus may or may not be acceptable to the school district. If a new site is required, frontage along the Guerneville/Gravenstein Highway would provide a visible location better integrated into the daily activities of the entire community.

Implementation

The current Forestville Library is undersized for its present service population, and is only about an eighth of the size needed for its projected 2025 population. It is in priority Group 2. The proposed improvements for the Group 1 libraries, especially the expansion of the Sebastopol Regional Library and the addition of a new library for Bodega Bay, will also benefit the residents of Forestville’s service area.

Prior to proceeding with development, a needs assessment specific to the Forestville service area and a detailed building program should be prepared by experienced professionals. These should be undertaken as part of a focused predesign study setting out project requirements, budget and schedule in detail. From this information, a site feasibility study should be developed that addresses opportunities at the current site and alternate sites, including whether the current site has adequate capacity to accommodate the needed amount of expansion.

The present library was developed in partnership with the El Molino High School. The Library should continue the approach of development partnerships to funding and site acquisition.



Forestville Library

What residents said:

“The library provides a place to connect with the rest of the world.”
survey respondent

“If it wasn’t here, we wouldn’t have a place to do homework and check out books.”
survey respondent

“The library is the number one priority for living in this location.”
survey respondent