

# SEBASTOPOL REGIONAL LIBRARY



## Service Area Map + Demographics

2000 Service Area Population: 33,568  
 2025 Service Area Population: 34,823

Population by Age:

- 0-4 years 5%
- 5-19 years 16%
- 20-44 years 29%
- 45-64 years 22%
- 65+ 28%

Population by Ethnicity:

- White 89%
- Black + African-American 1%
- American Indian 1%
- Asian 2%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0%
- Other 5%
- Two or More Races 3%

Hispanic or Latino\* 7%

Recommendations  
 Strategy: Improvement  
 Building Area: 18,000-19,900 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

The Sebastopol Regional Library, constructed in 1976, enjoys a convenient downtown location. The Library shares the Civic Center site with the Sebastopol City Hall and is adjacent to the Sebastopol Senior Citizens' Center.

The Sebastopol Regional Library currently serves the western portion of the county, from the Russian River down to Rohnert Park, including Bodega Bay. Its service area population tend to be educated and slightly older than many other County areas, with 28% aged 65 or above. At 7%, the Hispanic/Latino population is lower than many other areas of the county. However, approximately one-fourth of survey respondents at the Sebastopol Regional Library reported an interest in Spanish language materials — the highest rate of any library in the county.

In a survey, about one-third of Sebastopol patrons reported that they use other libraries, especially Santa Rosa Central Library. Almost 30% said that they usually walk to the Sebastopol Regional Library.

## Library Needs

Seating, collection materials, and technology at the Sebastopol Regional Library are all provided at levels below recommended guidelines. The number of holds has “gone through the roof.” There is no group study room; groups use the program room when it is available. The lack of sound separation between functional areas of the library makes noise a problem at times. Parking is inadequate, awkwardly located, and often used by people attending to other business in the downtown area.

Sebastopol Regional Library patrons described their library in this way...

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Liked most:</b>         | <b>Improvements needed:</b> |
| + Location and convenience | - More books, videos        |
| + Friendly staff           | - Longer hours              |
| + Collection               | - More computers            |

Service	Current	Future
Population served	33,568	34,823
Building size	10,000 sf	18,000-19,900 sf
Collection	48,535 vols.	82,700 – 91,400vols.
Computers	11	35 – 40
Seats	74 seats	130 – 145 seats
Group study area	0 seats	20 – 25 seats
Storytelling space	0 seats	30 – 35 seats
Meeting room	55 seats	120 - 130 seats

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## Recommendations

The current site for the Sebastopol Regional Library is limited in size and already suffers from a lack of parking. With the increase in building size and subsequent parking demand, an expanded site will be needed. The City of Sebastopol is currently considering additional space for the adjacent City Hall as well. It is unlikely that both a new city hall and a new library could share the current site without a significant investment in underbuilding parking. Should the city hall move to another site, the present site should be considered for a new library. The area northeast of the town square, if redeveloped, would provide a location with continued good connections to the downtown and may produce a site of adequate size for the library.

## Implementation

The Sebastopol Regional Library is one of the most heavily impacted libraries in the system and is in priority Group 1 in terms of need. Planning should begin now to allow the City address most pressing needs and get into position to take advantage of potential funding opportunities.

The library's current location of the library is good because of its central location and its access to Highways 12 and 116. A site feasibility study should be undertaken to identify the best site for the new library.

Prior to construction, a library service needs assessment and a detailed building program should be completed by experienced professionals. This information then would be used for a feasibility study to consider options for the current site as well as potential alternates. These should be undertaken as part of a focused predesign study setting out project requirements, budget, and schedule in detail.



*Sebastopol Regional Library*

What residents said:

*"My whole family uses the library weekly. If I had to purchase all of the books we read, I'd be poor and my house would be overflowing."*  
survey respondent

*"It's the most central place for neighbors to be in the community."*  
survey respondent

*"The library is an important resource. Keep up the good work and defend your budget."*  
survey respondent

*"This is the most valuable place in Sebastopol."*  
survey respondent