

Madison Public Library criteria for new branch development (August 2010)

Overview:

Future branch libraries will be sited to provide a positive contribution to the immediate and surrounding neighborhoods, be compatible with existing land uses, and become a destination for the larger regional areas. The location will be appealing and convenient to a majority of the people in the targeted service area, and with the environment surrounding the future library. The new site location will be consistent with neighborhood and City plans for the area. Co-location and joint use opportunities with other public, non-profit, and/or private enterprises or developments will be considered, as will donations of land for a new branch library, providing the site meets the criteria herein stated.

At the time of actual construction a new MPL branch library should have a minimum of 10,000 people in the immediate service area and an estimated service area population of at least 20,000 people within ten years of opening. Any new branch site will generally be located no closer than two miles from another MPL branch or area public library unless the site and the area to be served has unusual local traffic patterns, density, or other unique circumstances.

Site Criteria:

The site should be in an area that is, or will be, frequently visited by people residing in the service area, and be close to, or on, primary streets and existing or proposed transit routes. The site should also be a destination for people who regularly travel to, or through, the service area. The site should be highly visible. The site should have the capacity to meet all Americans with Disabilities Act (U.S. Government 1990) requirements, and will be thoroughly vetted for unwelcome hidden obstacles and subsurface conditions. Where possible one public entrance is preferred.

Capacity of Site:

The site should be large enough to accommodate a library facility deemed necessary for the projected population area, at a minimum of 15,000 square feet. A site that allows for single story, street level configuration is preferred because it is cheaper to build and operate. The site must meet code required parking at grade or in a parking structure. The site must have necessary allowances for setback, zoning requirements, delivery entrance and vehicles, and suitable landscaping. The site for a new library building or for a first floor space in an existing facility should provide for a single street level entrance, an open flexible floor plan with a minimum of load bearing walls and/or closely placed columns. The site must also have access to buried fiber optic cables and other appropriate infrastructure that MPL may connect with at a reasonable price.