

Chapter 4F

PUBLIC FACILITIES PLAN LIBRARY FACILITIES



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, IdeaSpace in downtown Fredericksburg, 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 (historical and family research) 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 or has language processing issues provided through a federally supported program. IdeaSpace, located on Princess Anne Street, is a stand-alone makerspace offering state-of-the-art technologies such as a soundbooth for audio/video recording, 3D printers, and drawing tablets. 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 two (2) 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 two (2) satellite locations, one (1) each in the Livingston and Berkeley districts that operate on a limited schedule.

Table 1 below lists 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	95,523
Snow Branch (Spotsylvania Courthouse)	5,000	31,473
Spotsylvania Towne Centre Branch	2,100	6,049
Spotsylvania Physical Collection Subtotal	32,100	133,045
Fredericksburg Branch* (Central)	12,300	30,994
Regional Physical Collection Subtotal	44,400	164,039
Digital Collection**		38,394
Regional Collection (Physical and Electronic)	44,400 (.3 sq ft/capita)	202,433

*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 115,183 materials. For purposes of collection analysis, one-third of that collection or 38,394 materials are attributed to Total Books and Materials.

Standards

Spotsylvania County residents benefit from participation in a regional library system and as such, can 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 \(PFLE\)](#) are the recommended standards for public libraries approved and adopted by the Library of Virginia Board. PFLE, updated in 2019, has established the following service ratings: essential, enhanced and exemplary, accompanied by a corresponding star rating for ease of use and advocacy.

E = “Essential” services meeting the basic needs and expectations of a public library, including circulation, internet access, and basic reference assistance, as mandated in the Code of Virginia. ★

EE = “Enhanced” services, providing a robust array of services beyond basic needs and expectations, such as community programming for all ages, a responsive digital environment, and specific research assistance. ★★

EEE = “Exemplary” services with advanced features in service provision on all fronts. ★★★



PFLE 2019 service ratings are simultaneously cumulative, progressive and aspirational. For example, to attain an E ★ rating, a library will meet ALL criteria but may surpass some E ★ requirements. Wherever possible, the measures are progressive and aspirational, as a library system purposefully and strategically sets its sights on the next rating, as community need and funding dictates. CRRL strives and plans for a minimum EE rating in the core adopted standards listed below; CRRL currently meets the rating for Collections. The EE ★★ rating requirements are included below.

Level of Service Standards

Collections

High-quality collections are carefully built over time. A successful collection supports the services the library provides and helps the library meet its defined goals. Collection development also takes into account other library and information resources in the community, the region, and the state. Weeding outdated, unused, and inaccurate materials is part of the collection development process.

A successful collection embodies the principle of free access to ideas on all sides of an issue, including potentially controversial topics. The size and format mix of a successful collection is unique to each community, considering factors such as broadband access, population and square mileage served, facility square footage, annual budget, circulation, etc. Those responsible for collections should develop a strategy to determine their own community needs.

CRRL's Collections Level: EE ★★

★★ 1: The library complies with all standards of Level E.

★★ 2: The library provides digital resources to supplement those made available by the Library of Virginia, as meets the needs of its communities.

★★ 3: The library has a preservation policy, if it holds special collections, including local history.

★★ 4: At least every three years, the library evaluates its collection to determine strengths and weaknesses, allocating resources to address the identified weaknesses.

Facilities - Size and Location

A public library building should offer the community a compelling invitation to enter. The building design should be adaptable to changing use patterns. The building should accommodate public use, support staff efficiency, and encourage economy. It must comply with the latest regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and all local and state requirements for public buildings. Please note that the square footages indicated are TOTAL square footages for the population and may be spread among branches. For example, a four-branch library system might determine their square footage based on voting district populations or other municipality divisions to determine appropriate square footage for an individual branch. As a general guideline, libraries should strive to meet the below recommendation but library size should be determined by a space/needs analysis for that community.



CRRL currently offers Spotsylvania County residents .3 square feet per capita of physical facility space; the minimum threshold to meet EE★★ is .7 square feet per capita.

Service Level	Population Served (Spotsylvania County)	Total Gross Square Feet per Capita
EE★★	100,001 - 500,000	.7 SF

CRRL's Facilities Level: E ★

Goal Facilities Level: EE★★

★★ 1: The library complies with all standards of Level E.

★★ 2: The building promotes energy efficiency, usage of natural daylight, waste reduction, and improvement of air quality.

★★ 3: When possible, newly constructed and renovated library facilities are the "green" or sustainable facilities, constructed with ecologically sound materials.

★★ 4: Library facilities are located:

- in urban areas, no more than 15 minutes' driving time from residents as an average of multiple travel time studies from a) the edges of the service area to the nearest available library and b) between available libraries.
- in rural areas, no more than 20 minutes' driving time from residents.
- where possible, on a public transportation route.

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 and 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.

