



Port Moody Public Library

Facility Master Plan

2025-02-20

Resource Planning Group Inc.




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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Port Moody Public Library (PMPL) carries out its business on the ancestral and shared traditional territory of the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem), qíçəy' (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), q'wá:ní λ'əní (Kwantlen), Stó:lō (Sto:lo), səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh), Sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam) Peoples, and extends appreciation for the opportunity to work on this territory. PMPL acknowledges the impact of colonialism and commits to build on its learnings to strengthen relationships, adapt its services to reflect historical truth, and supports the path to meaningful reconciliation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Port Moody Public Library (PMPL) Facility Master Plan provides a high-level vision for expanding and modernizing Port Moody's library system through 2050, responding to projected population growth from the current 36,770 to 65,000-70,000 residents. The Plan proposes a three-tier library system:

1. Central Library (42,500 ft²)

- Will serve as the main hub supporting branch operations
- Proposed for development by 2030
- Recommended location: Old Firehall site
- Estimated 125 parking spaces required (underground preferred)

2. Community Branch Library (20,000-25,000 ft²)

- Planned for development by 2044
- Proposed location between Moody Centre Station and Kyle Centre
- Will serve up to 35,000 people
- Requires approximately 45 parking spaces

3. Express Branch Libraries (250-500 ft²)

- Small, self-service locations
- Phased implementation as opportunity presents itself
- Will serve populations of up to 5,000 people
- Minimal staffing requirements

The Master Plan emphasizes:

- A space provision standard of 1.0 ft² per capita
- Opportunities for collocation with compatible services (retail, cultural facilities, housing)
- Maximum 2.5 km distance to library services for neighborhoods over 10,000 people
- Integration with transit-oriented development
- Sustainable design principles
- Accessibility and community engagement

This document includes detailed siting criteria, design requirements, and implementation steps for each facility type. The total system is projected to reach 62,500 ft² by 2050, supporting an estimated 900,000 annual visits. The plan maintains flexibility to adapt to changing community needs and development opportunities while prioritizing accessibility, sustainability, and community engagement.

The Master Plan outlines one possible development pathway for PMPL through 2050. While this Master Plan represents a well-researched approach, it is not the only option available. The Library Board may wish to pursue alternative service delivery methods, such as storefront locations, to supplement its services, or consider different locations for future branches from what has been proposed.

1.2 PURPOSE

The Port Moody Public Library Facility Master Plan outlines a long-term strategic vision for the next 20 to 30 years. Recognizing the significant population growth anticipated for Port Moody during this period, the Plan provides a roadmap for guiding library service planning and decision-making.

The Plan addresses key considerations such as space requirements for evolving collections, programs, and technologies; staffing needs to meet the demands of a growing community; optimizing library locations to effectively serve the community; building a diverse and relevant collection to meet evolving user needs; offering engaging programs and services for all ages; and effectively integrating technology into library services.

Aligned with the City of Port Moody's vision of complete neighbourhoods, where residents can live, work, and play, and recognizing the ongoing residential development—the Facility Master Plan is crucial for ensuring PMPL's continued ability to serve the evolving needs of the community.

1.3 PROCESS

The development of the Facility Master Plan involved the following steps:

- September 2023: Initial discussion by the Library Board regarding a Library Facility Master Plan
- June 17, 2024: Work session and tour with Library Leadership and Board Chair to understand parameters of the project
- July 2024: Development of a Project Charter which was submitted to the Board for review and comment
- July 18, 2024: Confirmation that the Board supports consideration of a community branch library as part of discussions of future development projects around the Moody Centre station
- July 18, 2024: Visioning Session with the Board including a review of library trends
- August 20, 2024: Library generated information to support the development of the Master Plan
- September 2024: Development and submission of a draft Master Plan document
- September – October 2024: Public consultation process conducted by the library to inform the Master Plan
- December 13, 2024: Submission of the Final Draft
- December 24, 2024: Submission of the Final Master Plan
- January 16, 2025: Consultation with Library Board
- February 20, 2025: Library Board approval

2.0 MASTER PLAN

2.1 MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Facility Master Plan recommends 1) that a Central Library of 42,500 ft² be constructed on the Old Firehall site, 2) a Community Branch Library of 20,000 to 25,000 ft² be situated between Moody Centre Station and Kyle Centre, and 3) that small Express Branch Libraries be established in neighbourhoods with significant but smaller populations like College Park and Heritage Mountain.

INDICATIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Port Moody needs to replace its current single-branch library with a new Central Branch of approximately 42,500 ft² to meet both current and future population needs. This replacement should be prioritized as the first capital initiative for the following reasons:

- **Inadequate Size:** The current branch is too small to serve as a distribution hub for a branch system. A larger Central Branch should be established before introducing a Community Branch.
- **Rising Space Demand:** Constructing a Community Branch first would not sufficiently address the space pressures created by Port Moody's growing population.

The second phase should focus on developing a Community Branch between 20,000 ft² and 25,000 ft² located west of the Central Branch. This branch would support both existing residents and those in new developments near Moody Centre.

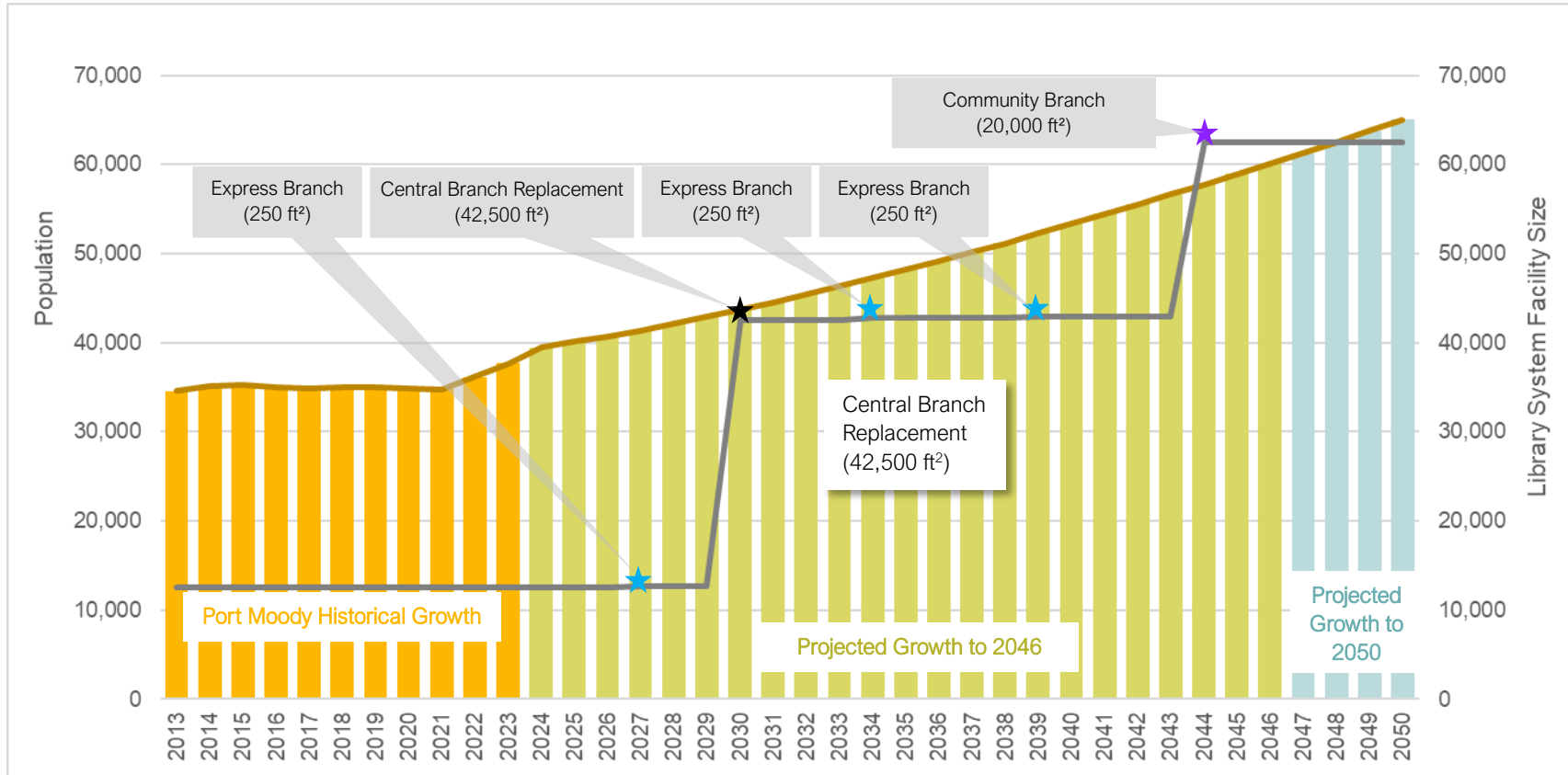
As a third step, Express Library Branches of up to 500 ft² should be introduced in neighbourhoods with smaller but significant populations. These compact branches would enhance accessibility, reduce travel distances, and provide a flexible way to expand library services. Express Branches could be developed before or after the Central or Community Branches, depending on community needs.

While this is the recommended approach, adjustments may be needed as new opportunities or demographic shifts emerge. For instance, unforeseen circumstances could warrant reversing the proposed locations of the Central and Community Branches. Additionally, a unique opportunity may arise that justifies developing the Community Branch before the Central Branch.

These recommendations stem from a comprehensive space planning strategy that balances multiple factors. At the core of this strategy is a provision standard of 1.0 ft² per capita, established through research into best practices in library space planning. Additional details on these factors can be found in **3.0 Appendix**.

Graph 1 illustrates how the recommended space expansion aligns with Port Moody's anticipated population growth.

- **Population Growth:** The vertical bars show historical population growth (orange) and projections to 2046 based on BC Stats data (light green). Further projections to 2050 (light blue) assume a 2% annual growth rate, estimating a population between 65,000 and 70,000—nearly double the 2023 population of 36,770.
- **Library Space Planning:**
 - The **gold line** represents the 1.0 ft² per capita library space standard, using the right-side scale. It follows projected population trends.
 - The **grey stepped line** shows the current and planned library space. Starting at **12,500 ft²**, it increases incrementally through capital projects to maintain alignment with the 1.0 ft² per capita target. The plan concludes with **62,500 ft²**, just under the standard if growth meets expectations.



Graph 1. Phasing of New PMPL Service Points Against Port Moody Population and Year

Source: RPG

STANDALONE OR COLLOCATION

The Master Plan centers on developing a three-tier library system in Port Moody. When implementing this system, a crucial decision is whether to build standalone libraries or integrate them within multi-use facilities. Both approaches are viable, but the choice should be guided by three key factors: available funding, how each option affects service delivery, and the potential for compatible partnership opportunities with other community services. This decision requires careful evaluation to ensure the selected model best serves the community's needs.

Standalone libraries naturally serve as civic landmarks, offering a purpose-built environment with greater flexibility for design, programming, and expansion. This approach fosters civic pride and establishes the library as a distinct community destination.

However, collocating libraries within multi-use spaces can also be beneficial. When integrated into the right kind of vibrant, mixed-use environments, libraries serve as central hubs for community life, enhancing public safety, sustainability, and the success of neighboring organizations. Locating libraries near grocery stores, coffee shops, fitness centers, and other commercial spaces increases visibility, encourages spontaneous use, and strengthens both community engagement and local businesses.

Whether standalone or collocated, a Central Library should be highly accessible and well-connected to city services, community organizations, recreational and cultural venues, and nearby residential developments. This integration would create a vibrant, interconnected urban experience, ensuring the library remains an essential part of daily life in Port Moody.

Potential collocation partners include:

- **Housing:** Cities are safest and most vibrant when people live adjacent to commercial, civic, cultural, and recreational activities, and provide activity and eyes on the street 24 hours a day. Library facilities can be at the centre of residential neighbourhoods.
- **Recreation Facilities and Community Centres:** These are high-use destinations where patrons frequently combine a visit to the library with visits to recreational facilities or to the activities of a multifunctional community centre.

- **Education Facilities:** Educational facilities at all levels complement the library's mission of lifelong learning; library resources augment educational resources offered by other agencies.
- **Not-for-Profit Organizations:** There are significant synergies between social not-for-profit organizations and libraries.
- **Cultural Facilities:** Activities taking place in community cultural facilities complement cultural resources and programs offered by the public library.
- **Healthcare Facilities:** Healthcare facilities provide centres of activity in the community, whether they are staff office facilities or public health services, and like libraries, the needs are driven by increases in population.
- **Civic and Social Services:** Library facilities provide extensive services and resources addressing civic literacy and civic participation; direct access to civic and social services is an invaluable strategic enhancement of those resources.
- **Commercial Services:** Food services, retail, and professional services will potentially benefit from proximity to significant numbers of library visitors.

With any partnership or collocation, however, the following criteria should be considered:

- The development should offer functional cohesion between the library and partners, but should be formally differentiated.
- The development should create a community destination with civic identity.
- The library should have a separate architectural expression.
- The library should be functionally autonomous. For example, entrances and exits, including elevators, for the library should be separate from the entrances and exits for other partners.
- There should be potential for reconfiguration and expansion of the library.

The following are **six inspirational examples** of libraries which demonstrate these criteria:



Figure 1. Samling Library (landmark institution), Nord-Odal NORW, Helen & Hard
Source: [Arch Daily](#)



Figure 2. Pinggu Rental Housing Community Library, Beijing CN, Y.ad Studio
Source: [FRAME](#)



Figure 3. The Promenade (Senior's housing + Brown County Library) [Ashwaubenon Branch]; in construction – July 2025 completion), Ashwaubenon WI
Sources: [WTAQ](#) (top), [The Promenade](#) (bottom)



Figure 4. néc'a?mat ct Strathcona Library / YWCA Cause We Care House, Vancouver BC, Dialog
Source: [Dialog](#)



Figure 5. Albion Library (landmark institution), Toronto ON, Perkins&Will
Source: [Perkins&Will](#)



Figure 6. Independence Library and Apartments, Chicago IL, John Ronan Architects
Source: [John Ronan Architects](#)

LOCATIONAL CRITERIA BY FACILITY TYPE

Central Library

The following siting criteria are typical for central/main libraries:

- Proximity to higher density residential neighborhoods, commercial centres, schools, and seniors housing.
- Adequate lot size to accommodate the building, parking, and other services to be offered, with opportunity for future lateral expansion in the coming decades.
- Availability of utilities such as electrical, high-speed Internet, storm-water and sewer.
- Favourable regulatory context including easements, zoning and dimensional requirements.
- In a high pedestrian traffic area.
- Close to bus routes and public transit crossroads.
- Fully accessible, including access for service vehicles.
- Highly visible from pedestrian and street approaches.
- Opportunity for prominent and visible single entrance.
- Ample natural light, at least on three sides.
- Possibly located as part of civic commons, community recreation or performance centre, gallery, museum, exhibition centre, commercial/retail, city/government services, schools, or college campuses.
- Adjacent to parkland with exterior space to support library programming.

Recommended Site for a Central Library

The Master Plan process involved a thorough evaluation of potential Central Library locations building upon previous site selection work conducted in 2006.¹ Most of the sites evaluated in 2006 are no longer viable because of development. With limited urban space in Port Moody, only a few site options exist for a new Central Library that meet the criteria of being close to population centers, provide ample parking, and ensure accessibility by car and transit.

Potential sites considered (see Figure 7, p. 15):

1. The Old Firehall site
2. The Works Yard site
3. An expansion to the existing Civic Building
4. Pioneer Park

Site elimination process:

- The Civic Building site was ruled out due to insufficient space for meaningful expansion.
- Pioneer Park was removed from consideration to preserve valuable recreational green space.

This left only two viable options: 1) the Old Firehall site, and 2) the Works Yard.

Why the Old Firehall Site Emerges as the Preferred Location:

1. Strategic Positioning
 - Located at a major intersection with exceptional visibility
 - Serves as a potential community landmark and destination
 - Would create a strong visual and symbolic presence by reflecting Port Moody's commitment to literacy and learning
 - Attractive for partners considering community amenity contributions
2. Site Characteristics
 - Adequate size to accommodate the 42,500 ft² library facility

- Potential for underground parking (approximately 125 spaces)
- Supports future expansion possibilities
- Strategically aligned with Transit-Oriented Development principles

3. Works Yard Site Disadvantages

- Close to a rail line (e.g. less appealing visually, potential noise and vibration)
- Less prominent location

4. Historical Context

- Old Firehall site originally identified as the top site in a 2006 comprehensive site selection process involving 35 detailed criteria
- Visibility was a key factor in the 2006 selection

5. Broader Urban Development Potential

- Potential for developing a cohesive vision that integrates the library as a centerpiece civic facility
- Supports the city's broader urban development and community connectivity goals

Additional Considerations:

- The site's location within a Transit-Oriented Development area enhances accessibility
- Strong physical connections to existing city services
- Excellent public transit access
- Opportunity to create a signature civic space

¹ Selection for a new library facility was conducted in 2006 by a committee made up of Library Trustees, City Councillors, and City staff. The committee identified 33 potential sites where a new library could be located whether on City or privately-owned land. 35 criteria were used in scoring each site, and the committee concluded the Old Firehall site was the preferred location. Visibility was a significant factor in selecting this location

because it stands at a major intersection, and as such would serve to highlight the significance of library services for many years to come. The Public Works Yard ranked second, and the Kyle Street area ranked third. The documentation suggests this committee favoured a stand-alone library facility, but there was an acknowledgement that the library would probably need to be collocated within a larger development.

While alternative sites were explored, the Old Firehall lands consistently emerged as the most suitable location for Port Moody's new Central Library, balancing functional requirements with strategic urban planning objectives.

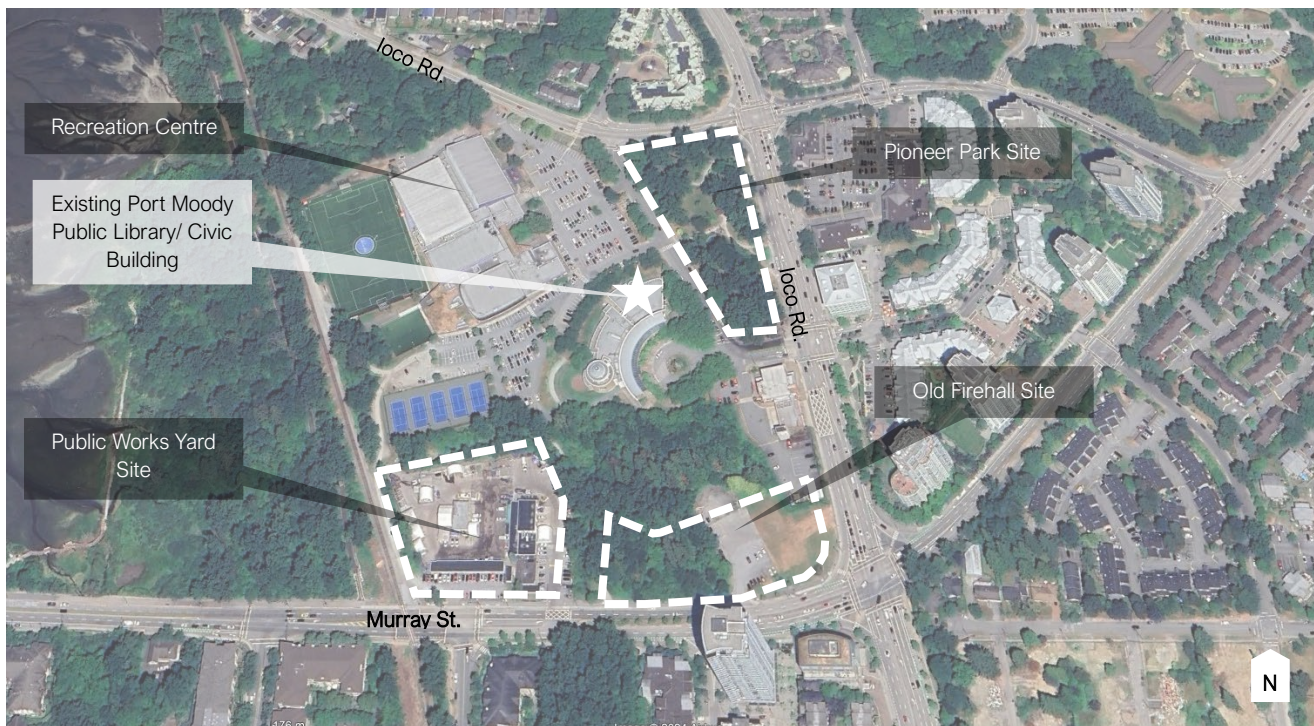


Figure 7. Existing and Possible Future PMPL Sites

Source: Adapted from Google Earth

Community Branch Library

The following siting criteria are typical for community branch libraries:

- Adjacent to established and/or rapidly developing residential areas
- In a higher pedestrian traffic area
- Close to bus routes and public transit crossroads
- Sufficiently large site to accommodate the library and required surface or underground parking
- Favourable regulatory context, including easements, zoning and dimensional requirements
- Availability of utilities such as electrical, high-speed Internet, storm-water and sewer
- Highly visible from vehicular and pedestrian approaches
- Fully accessible with an at-grade orientation, with access for service vehicles
- Opportunity for a prominent and visible entrance
- High levels of natural light, from at least three sides
- Ability to provide access to 24-hours materials drop that connects to the staff work area
- Possibly located as part of a community recreation or performance centre, gallery, museum, exhibition centre, commercial/retail, city/government services, school or college campus
- Adjacent to parkland with exterior space to support library programming

Possible Sites for a Community Branch Library

A new Community Branch Library could be situated at various locations within Moody Centre (see Figure 8, p. 17), depending on development opportunities. However, it should be within easy walking distance of the Moody Centre SkyTrain Station (see Figure 12, p. 19).

While population density in Moody Centre is expected to increase, it remains uncertain whether this growth will be evenly distributed on both sides of St. Johns Street or concentrated to the north or south.

Several potential sites exist within Moody Centre and the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) area, where amenity contributions could help fund a new branch. Another possibility is the Mill & Timber “Flavelle Oceanfront” development, which could bring the library closer to a high-density, waterfront community near Rocky Point Park and Brewers Row. While this location offers unique advantages, it is less central, situated north of St. Johns Street and across the railway tracks from Port Moody’s existing population hub. As such, it must be carefully compared with other TOD sites in terms of population density, accessibility, and parking availability.

Another potential site is the Kyle Centre redevelopment, which is adjacent to the Port Moody Arts Centre. Collocating a Community Branch Library with the Arts Centre could establish a Cultural District, fostering collaboration between the library and the arts community.

Each option should be evaluated based on long-term population trends, accessibility, and the overall benefit to the community.²

² The City of Port Moody is currently developing a land management strategy, a park land strategy, and a plan to finish revising the OCP in 2025. The City appears interested in seeing broader community use of Moody Centre and St. Johns Street.



Figure 8. Existing Area by Moody Centre SkyTrain Station
Source: Adapted from Google Earth

Express Branch Libraries

The following siting criteria are typical for Express Branch Libraries:

- Located in a high pedestrian traffic area
- Located close to bus route and public transit crossroads
- Located near nodes of commercial activity
- Favourable regulatory context, including easements, zoning and dimensional requirements
- Availability of required utilities such as electrical, high-speed Internet, storm-water and sewer
- Prominent and visible location
- Located at-grade
- Easily accessible
- Adequate parking

Possible sites: located as part of a community recreation or performance centre, residential/commercial/retail development, city/government service, school, or college campus.



Figure 10. Self-Service Library Station, Hong Kong SAR, ArchSD
Source: [Arch Daily](#)



Figure 9. City of Prague Municipal Library Self-Service Branch (located in shopping centre), Prague, CZEC
Source: [The Mayor](#)

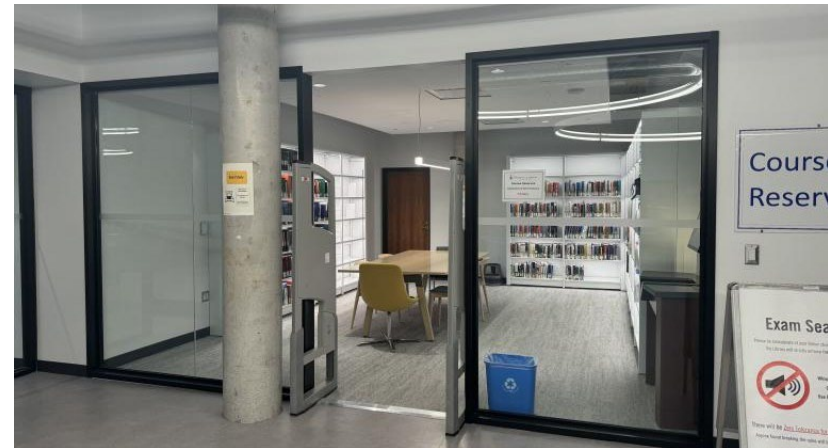


Figure 11. University of Toronto (Scarborough Campus) Course Reserves and Short-Term Loan Library, Scarborough ON, ArchSD
Source: [University of Toronto Library](#)

RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS – OVERVIEW

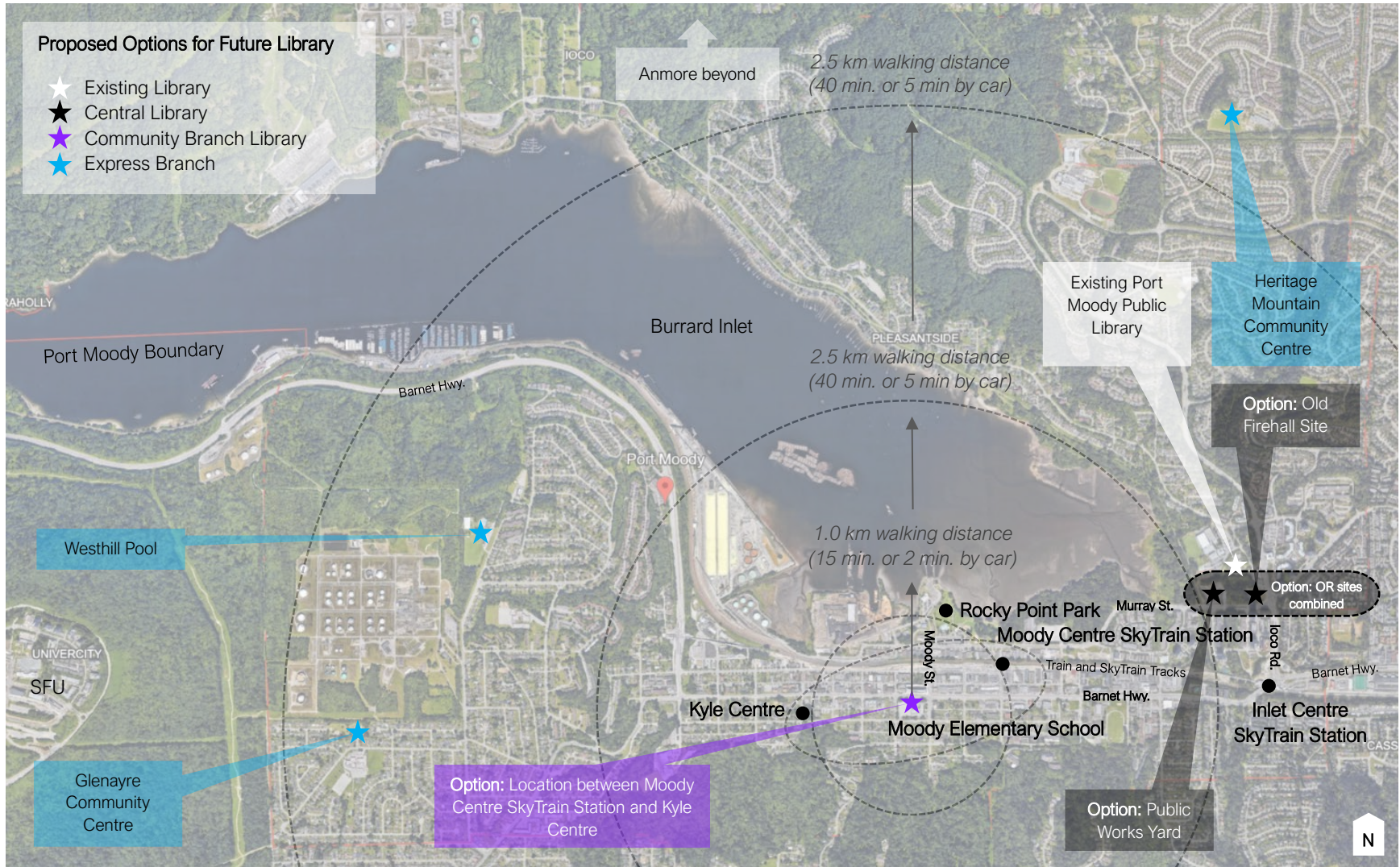


Figure 12. Existing Port Moody Public Library Site and Proposed Options for Future Library Service Points

Source: Adapted from Google Earth

Figure 12 indicates potential locations for the Central Library, the Community Branch Library, as well as Express Branch Libraries.

Options for the Central Library site are located at or near the corner of Ioco Road and Murray Street, on either the Old Firehall site or the Public Works Yard site.

Options for the Community Branch site extend from the Moody Centre SkyTrain station to Kyle Centre, with the midpoint at or near the current site of Moody Elementary School. The actual site will be based on opportunities to work with a partner or developer to identify an appropriate site that meets the criteria listed above.

Express branches serve smaller concentrations of populations that are located away from the town centre with examples of potential locations identified.

GENERAL DESIGN CRITERIA

Urban Design and Architectural Features

- Ensure that libraries have a striking and memorable image, forming local, city, and even regional landmarks
- Visibility should be maximized from surrounding streets. Facades and elevations present opportunities for a symbolic statement about the values of the library and the community
- There should be appropriate siting of library services to create a sense of safety and refuge
- There should be views into the library during the day and night
- Dignified image with pleasing architectural features that may include west coast timber construction
- Signage and wayfinding should be legible from afar, easy to understand, and integrate well with the building design
- Urban design and landscaping should be cohesive, but also well integrated with the design of the building
- Safety and security should be achieved through the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

- Libraries should also feature:
 - Welcoming entrance and display space
 - Visual contact to and from surrounding urban activities
 - Sheltered approach and entrances
 - Adjacent outdoor space
 - Consistent signage
 - Visual contact to and from surrounding natural features
 - Fireplace and lounge features
 - Diverse range of spaces from central/public/group to periphery/private/individual
 - Various human scales in group settings
 - Various human scales in private settings
 - Staff and public spaces of equal quality

Access

Accessibility will be key to library service success, including that of pedestrians, public transit, bicycles, cars, and service vehicles. As such:

- Libraries should relate strongly to the adjacent streetscape, with easy paved pedestrian access from adjacent streets and sidewalks.
- Libraries should link to existing and proposed bike pathways, with – for larger service delivery options – parking that is easily accessible, weather-protected, and safe. As a result, some surface or structured parking should be considered either as part of or near the library, particularly for the central and community library service options.
- Drop-off points should be provided for patrons, including for buses bringing people to the library.
- Ability to create a 24-hour materials drop that connects to the staff work area and sorting equipment.
- Smaller branches will need to have a delivery bay for materials that are moved throughout the system. This delivery bay should connect to the staff work area.

Sustainability

PMPL will prioritize sustainability. Sustainability is a growing trend for public libraries as evident from it being adopted as a core value of librarianship by American Library Association in 2019. Public libraries are uniquely positioned to

promote community awareness about resilience, climate change, and a sustainable future.

Libraries can contribute in the following ways:

- Provide educational resources
- Host exhibits, events and programs
- Advocate to decision makers
- Lead by example:
 - Design libraries that are environmentally friendly and carbon neutral
 - Reduce the community's carbon footprint by embracing digital resources
 - Adopt equitable and diverse hiring practices
 - Provide services that are healthy and economically viable

Libraries should model sustainable practices by balanced decision making with respect to environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic stability.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

The following steps are required to implement the Master Plan:

Planning

1. Receive and approve the Port Moody Public Library Board's Facility Master Plan.
2. Raise community awareness of a potential building project.
3. Receive and approve the functional space programming reports for a New Central Library and Community Branch in order to: a) define the purpose and scope of the new library, b) consider the services they would offer, c) determine the size of the collections, d) determine the size and types of community spaces, e) technology requirements, and f) describe the accessibility features needed.
4. Receive capital cost estimates to inform decision making.
5. Assess available funding options. This may include government grants, fundraising efforts, private donations, loans, or amenity contribution charges.

6. Receive final approvals for site selection and funding allocations for design as needed.

Design and Construction

1. Assemble a design team or hire a project manager/architect.
2. Initiate a capital fundraising campaign.
3. Initiate the design process.
4. Execute engineering, geotechnical, and archaeological studies.
5. Prepare related documents, including a completed conceptual design and update the capital cost estimate.
6. Construction
7. Grand Opening Celebration

SUMMARY

The Port Moody Public Library Facility Master Plan charts a bold and transformative vision for the future, ensuring a modern, accessible, and sustainable library system that meets the needs of a growing population. By 2050, with the city's population expected to nearly double, the Plan proposes a three-tier library system, including a Central Library, a Community Branch, and Express Branch Libraries, totaling 62,500 ft² of library space to support up to 900,000 annual visits.

Rooted in a space provision standard of 1.0 ft² per capita, the Plan prioritizes accessibility, ensuring library services are within 2.5 km of neighbourhoods with over 10,000 residents. Each facility will integrate with transit-oriented developments, embrace sustainable design principles, and provide opportunities for collocation with complementary services. The phased development of these libraries demonstrates a flexible and community-driven approach, balancing immediate needs with long-term growth.

While this Plan represents a well-researched pathway, it remains adaptable to evolving community priorities and alternative service delivery options. Ultimately, the Facility Master Plan is a commitment to enriching lives, fostering connection, and building a vibrant future for all Port Moody residents.

3.0 APPENDIX

3.1 MASTER PLAN DRIVERS

The Facility Master Plan's recommendations are shaped by seven key drivers. The key drivers are:

1. Library System Vision – The overall goals and strategic direction for Port Moody's library services.
2. Planning Horizon – The timeline and future projections considered during the planning process.
3. Library System Attendance – Current and projected usage patterns.
4. Core User Experience – The essential services, features, and experiences that the library aims to deliver.
5. Scope of Library Services – The breadth and range of services the library will provide to meet community needs.
6. Facility Service Options – The types of library facilities required to support service delivery.
7. Access to Library Services – Ensuring residents can conveniently reach and utilize library resources.

LIBRARY SYSTEM VISION

The Vision for the Port Moody Public Library system is provided in the following statements:

Community Hub: *Serve as a vibrant, welcoming centre that fosters connection, collaboration, and civic engagement for all members of the community.*

Explore and Learn: *Inspire curiosity and lifelong learning through diverse programs, resources, and technologies tailored to all ages and interests.*

Accessible and Inclusive: *Create a space where everyone feels valued and supported, removing barriers to ensure equitable access for all individuals.*

Multi-Location Services: *Expand and adapt library services across multiple locations to meet the unique needs of each neighbourhood while maintaining a unified mission.*

PLANNING HORIZON

The Facility Master Plan provides long range planning concepts that extend to 2050, with principles that extend beyond that horizon. The Plan maintains flexibility to respond to future changes.

The estimated population of Port Moody in 2050 is 65,000 to 70,000

LIBRARY SYSTEM ATTENDANCE

In 2023, there were 273,522 visits to PMPL, and 314,369 visits in 2024.

By the year 2050, planning should account for an estimated 900,000 visits per year, which is an average of over 2,500 visits per day.

CORE USER EXPERIENCE

Residents and library patrons should experience the following:

- Convenient pedestrian and vehicular approaches
- Adjacent urban, greenspace and natural features
- Adjacent civic, cultural, educational, and commercial community partner spaces, resources, and activities
- A library image clearly distinct from adjacent community partner spaces
- Innovative, but dignified and restrained, architectural imagery and form
- Visible entry and gathering points, services and resources
- An interior characterized by beauty, human scale and comfort
- Ergonomic furnishings and features throughout
- Both multi-person and private reading, discussion, and study spaces

- Spaces dedicated to seniors, small children, school-age children, and young adults
- Multiple opportunities for user self-direction and self-service
- Professional guidance and expertise
- An inclusive experience reflecting the diversity of the community
- A celebration of community identity and sensitive response to reconciliation
- A recognized experience of inclusive safety, comfort, and empowerment
- Leading edge information and communications technology, systems, and associated resources
- Comprehensive multicultural, fiction and nonfiction, print and digital collections
- Manual and digital maker spaces, resources, and activities for multiple ages
- Spaces to participate in programs, to meet and learn about other members of the community

SCOPE OF LIBRARY SERVICES

The future library will respond to the needs of the community by:

- Ensuring services, programs, staff and technical resources support and enrich the urban, social, educational, recreational, and cultural life of the community.
- Offering dedicated services for newcomers, seniors, adults, young adults, school-age children and very young children.
- Enhancing access to universal information in the form of comprehensive print and digital information, while providing tools to build literacies.

- Providing access to object collections such as tools, toys, games and vocational supplies.
- Emphasizing multiculturalism, multiliteracy, and Indigenous and traditional knowledge, while showcasing Canadian identity, history, and culture.
- Providing a range of spaces, from group program and meeting spaces, to individual study and retreat spaces.
- Developing programs and spaces that support and showcase physical and digital maker activities that use leading edge information systems and communications technology.
- Develop scheduled and drop-in topical, educational and vocational programs and community events.
- Providing personal professional expertise and support.
- Providing library system and resources management and service coordination.
- Participating in local, regional and global information networks

FACILITY SERVICE OPTIONS

A number of factors indicate that in the future PMPL will serve the population of Port Moody with a multiple branch model. These factors include:

- Locating service points closer to where people live, resulting in a higher profile and greater use of library services, and creating a walkable city that is more sustainable and that features fewer vehicle trips.
- Provision of a more nuanced suite of services that respond to the varying needs of residents, such as providing more third spaces for those in smaller and higher density residential developments, and providing those who live further from the library with access to collection resources.



Figure A1. Norwell Public Library, Norwell MA, Oudens Ello Architecture
Source: [Oudens Ello Architecture](#)

Three library service options have been developed as possible vehicles for library service delivery:

Central Library

This is a full-service library that functions as the central service point of the library system, supporting branches and serving the entire Port Moody community.

- Building area of 42,500 ft²
- Operates 70-75 hours per week
- Accommodates a comprehensive collection that supports the library system
- Staff complement of 35 to 40 FTE (full time equivalent)
- Serves as the system distribution hub for materials
- Provides specialty services and dedicated space for children, youth, adults, and newcomers
- Introduces and showcases new technologies and services, such as virtual reality, media production, and maker spaces
- Provides access to a Program Performance space

- Accommodates library leadership and administration
- Provides parking for approximately 125 vehicles

Functional Components: Components may include the following:

1. Entrance, Welcome, Service Point
2. Program Room(s)
3. Collaborative Zone
4. Children’s Library
5. Adult and Teen Collections and Study Spaces
6. Tech Centre and Maker Spaces
7. Staff Workspace and Administration
8. Back of House, including Distribution
9. Exterior Spaces including program spaces and parking

Potential Site Partners: Master planning will identify suitable site partners, which may include:

1. Housing
2. Retail and commercial services
3. Daycare
4. Healthcare
5. Other

Site Options: Master planning considered the following site options for the Central Library:

1. Fire Hall Site
2. Works Yard on Murray Street
3. Both of Above
4. Existing Civic Building Expansion
5. Pioneer Park

Community Branch Library

This is a full-service branch that is intended to support the population of a neighbourhood by providing residents with reasonably convenient access to a library service.

- Building area of 20,000 to 25,000 ft² serving a population of up to 35,000 people
- Operates at least 54 hours per week

- Accommodates a collection of 40,000 to 50,000 items
- Staff complement of 10 to 12 FTE
- Includes zones for specific demographic groupings, including children and families, as well as teens
- Includes access to a Program Room for up to 50 people
- Accommodates seating for up to 275 patrons
- Supports parking for approximately 45 vehicles

Functional Components: Functional components in the Community Branch Library include:

1. Entrance and staffed service point
2. Program Room
3. Children's Area
4. Adult and Teen Collections and Reading spaces
5. Collaborative Area
6. Staff work area and back of house functions
7. Exterior spaces including programming space and parking

Potential Site Partners: Suitable site partners may include:

1. Retail and commercial services
2. Professional services
3. Housing
4. School
5. Daycare
6. Parks and recreation facilities
7. Other

Site Options: Ideally, the Community Branch Library would be located somewhere between Kyle Centre and Moody Centre Station.

Express Branch Library

Providing limited services, this is a service option that provides access to collection resources and Internet for residents who are more remote from a fixed branch location.

- Building area of 250 to 500 ft², serving a population of up to 5,000 people

- Operates up to 24/7 as a self-serve service point
- Accommodates a collection of 500 to 750 items
- Staff complement of 0 – 1 FTE; may be staffed by 1 to 2 people intermittently
- May include access to a Program Room for up to 20 people
- May accommodate seating for up to 5 patrons
- Supports parking for up to 3 patrons

Functional Components: Master planning will confirm the functional components that comprise Express Branch Libraries, which may include the following components:

1. Book Vending Machines
2. Community Space
3. Meeting/Program Room
4. Staff Support Area
5. Exterior Spaces including parking

Potential Site Partners: Suitable site partners for Express Branch Libraries may include:

1. Retail and commercial centres
2. Residential developments
3. Community and recreation facilities

Site Options: Site options for Express Branch Libraries are focused on concentrations of population that are remote from planned library facilities.

ACCESS TO LIBRARY SERVICES

A strong theme that emerged through the library's recent strategic planning process was convenient access to library services. As such, many systems have in place policies that relate to the distance of populations to library services. As an example, the City of Vancouver has identified that residents should be within 2 km of a library service. This is particularly important as libraries continue to evolve from being primarily places to pick up books, to a third place—a place to meet, study, socialize, and attend programs.

It is recommended that a new library service be provided within 2.5 km once a neighbourhood or community exceeds 10,000 people.

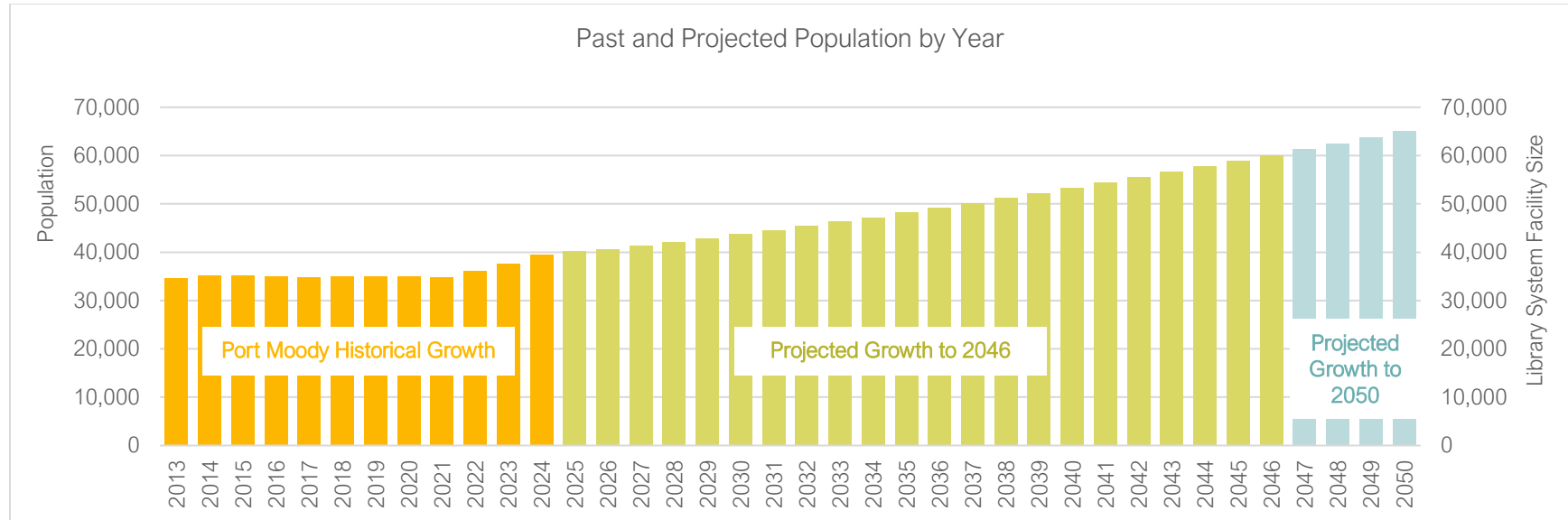
3.2 PROVISIONING ALLOCATION

This section identifies the appropriate size of facilities now and in the future for the PMPL system. The single largest driver of library facility size is the size of the population that the library serves or is projected to serve in the future. The city of Port Moody has seen modest growth in population over the past 20 years; however, population numbers are projected to grow more rapidly in the future.

As noted previously, BC Stats figures have, in the past, tended to project higher rates of growth than those realized.

The result is that by 2050, Port Moody’s population is expected to be between 65,000 and 70,000 people

The following graph illustrates the projected growth of Port Moody over the next 24 years to 2050, based first on BC Stats figures to 2046 and then extrapolating the average growth in the last 10 years of the projection to 2050.



Graph A1. Port Moody Population Projections

Source: BC Stats/RPG

Population-Based Planning Standards

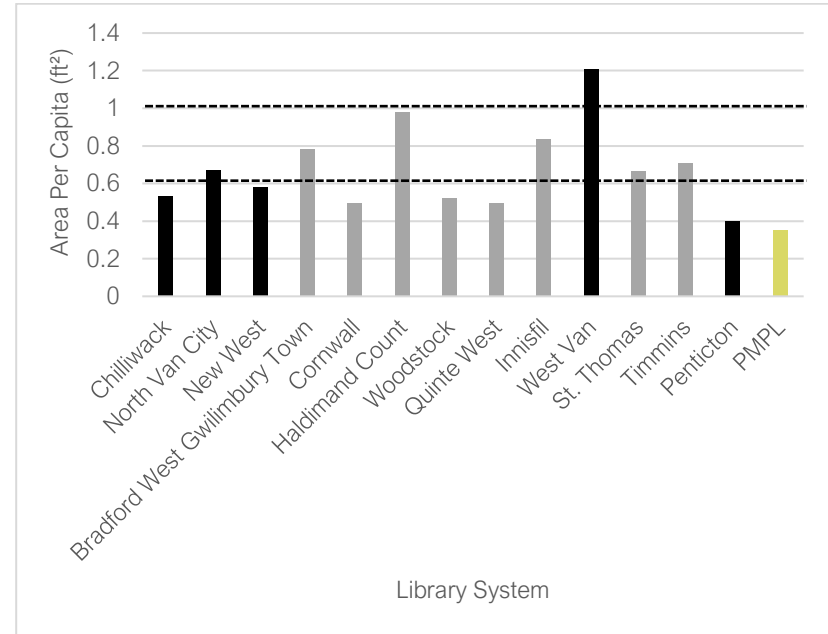
Several jurisdictions have adopted simple population-based standards for libraries which range from 0.6 ft² per capita to 1.0 ft² per capita.³ These standards generally acknowledge that each library system is uniquely placed and so offer a range of standard allocations that fit the circumstances of individual libraries. Often standards range from base services at the low end of the scale, enhanced services around midpoint, to exemplary near the top of the size scale. Overall, these standards represent a basic tool, whose primary use is making comparisons with other similarly situated systems and providing a preliminary space target for a library system.

Benchmarking Peer Libraries

Another way to understand how large PMPL should be is to benchmark the library against peer systems. In this case, peer systems are Canadian municipal libraries serving a population of between 35,000 and 75,000 people. Graph A2 compares PMPL’s area per capita with that of peer systems and illustrates the lower and upper ranges of the area standards.

The comparison indicates how undersized PMPL currently is, falling far short of both the square foot provisioning standard, as well as having the smallest comparative area per capita.

As illustrated in Graph 1 in Section 2.1 Master Plan Recommendations, libraries generally follow a development trajectory in which service populations steadily increase year-over-year while library capital development takes a pronounced stepped approach as the construction of replacement libraries, additions to existing libraries, and the development of new branch libraries, are initiated to make up the shortfall in space. While this review provides a comparison of other systems as they currently stand, just like PMPL, these other systems may be on their own trajectory and may be underserving residents or they may be getting ready for their own capital initiatives, so the average is necessarily below the ideal.



Graph A2. Area per Capita for Peer Library Systems (2022)

Source: PMPL

Note:

- 1. Black bars = Municipalities in BC
Grey bars = Municipalities in ON

Compared to its peers, Port Moody Public Library stands out as a high-functioning library despite limitations on program attendance, collection size, and general use. It boasts high participation in its programs, impressive circulation of its collection, and above-average expenditures on collections. Given these strengths, a target of 1.0 square foot per capita for PMPL facilities is reasonable. This target will also accommodate population growth beyond the 2050 planning horizon.

³ For two examples, refer to the Administrators of Rural and Urban Public Libraries of Ontario’s *Guidelines for Rural/Urban Public Library Systems*, which identifies a range up

to 1.0 ft² per capita, and the Florida Public Library Association Standards Committee’s *Florida Public Library Outcomes & Standards 2015*.

3.3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

INTRODUCTION

Port Moody Public Library currently serves a population of approximately 36,770 through its single branch. The surrounding neighbourhood has changed dramatically over the past 25 years, with library use growing accordingly. Three high density residential/commercial developments – Newport Village, Suter Brook Village and Klahanie – are a short walking distance of the library. The library's location, the range of programs and services offered, and its focus on being responsive to community/customer needs make it a natural hub for the community.

The arrival of the Evergreen Line into Port Moody in 2016 brought a SkyTrain station just three blocks from the library. While a population boom was initially expected following the SkyTrain's introduction, growth has remained relatively flat so far. However, the population is projected to increase in the future, driven in part by new Provincial policies aimed at expanding housing stock across BC.



Figure A2. Port Moody Public Library

Source: [NewToBC – The Library Link for Newcomers](#)

THE CITY OF PORT MOODY'S VISION, MISSION, AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Note that italicized text is that which is taken verbatim from the City's documents.

Council's Vision

Embracing nature and the arts; the most livable city in the world!

Council's Mission

To lead bold initiatives and provide our community with exceptional services and a sound financial future.

Council's Strategic Priorities

Sustainable Core Services

Healthy Community Development

Resilient Natural Environment

Vibrant and Prosperous Community

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

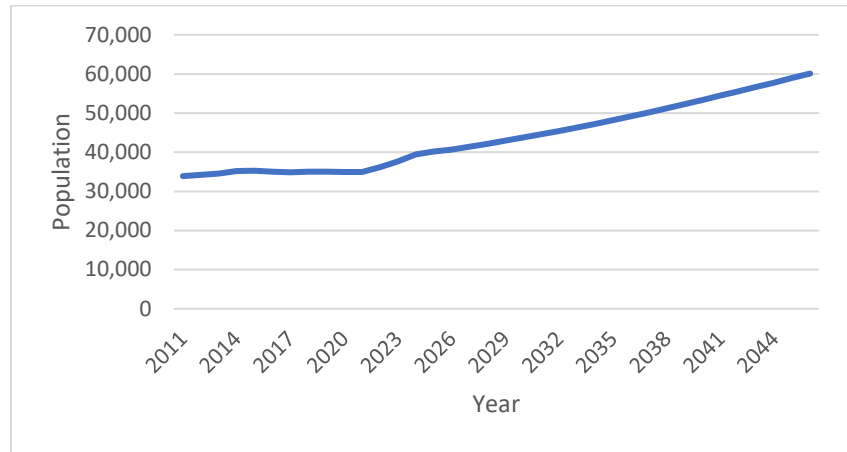
The library's unique contribution must be understood within the context of Port Moody, which itself has a unique position in Metro Vancouver. The following graphs illustrate Port Moody's community characteristics as it relates to population, income, education, and employment.

Overall Population

There has been minimal growth in the population of Port Moody during the 2011 to 2016 census period (1.6% increase or 540 people), and a slight reduction in the last census period of 2017 to 2021 of 16 people.⁴ The median age of the population is 41.6 years.

In the 2021 Census, immigrants represented 33% of the population with 5.4% having lived in Canada for less than 5 years. The top four countries for immigrants remain South Korea, China/Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, and Iran. Chinese, Korean and Persian are the top three non-official languages spoken regularly at home.

The graph below illustrates historical population growth and current population projections provided by BC Stats.



Graph A3. Port Moody Population Projections

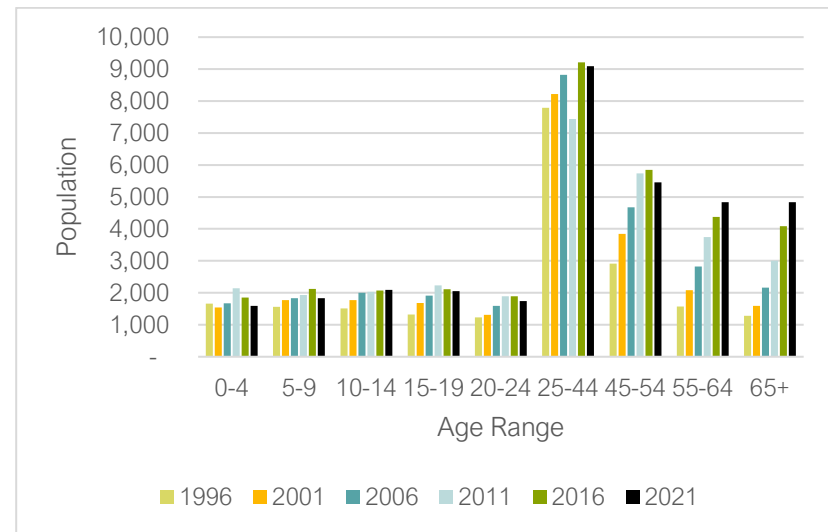
Source: [BC Stats](#)

The upcoming 2026 census may give a more accurate picture of Port Moody’s total population, but caution is warranted to not read too much into the BC Stats numbers other than to acknowledge that, in the past, growth has not met anticipated projections.

⁴ Many believe the 2021 census numbers should be higher.

Aging Population

The population in British Columbia is aging. This trend has considerable implications for PMPL both in terms of the services to be offered and future staffing as seniors are heavy users of the library. They will require collections, programming, and spaces to be configured to their needs and interests. Many retirees will be looking to the library for volunteer opportunities, and some may even want to work at PMPL. The goal for many seniors is healthy aging, and the library could be a vital resource by promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and social connectedness.

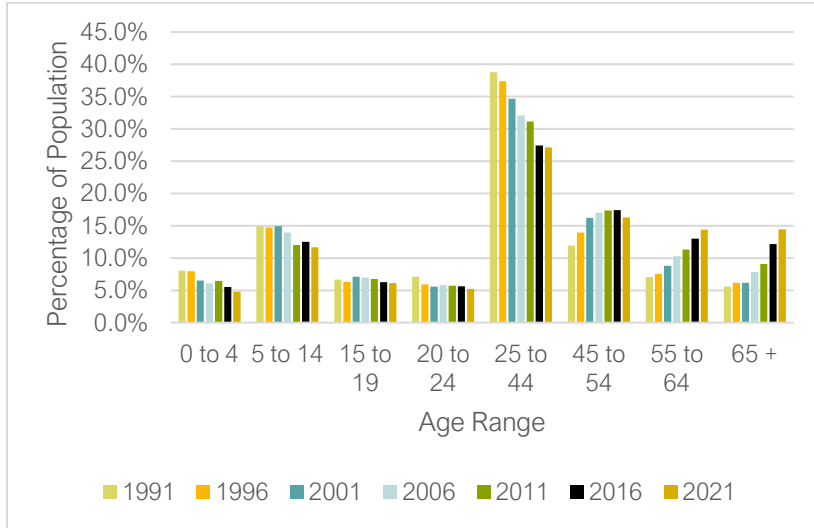


Graph A4. Port Moody Population by Age (1996 – 2021)

Source: Statistics Canada (1996: [1996 Census of Canada: Electronic Area Profiles](#); 2001: [2001 Community Profiles](#); 2011: [Census Profile, 2016 Census – Port Moody, City \[Census subdivision\], British Columbia and Greater Vancouver, Regional district \[Census division\], British Columbia](#); 2021: [Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population – Port Moody, City \(CY\) \[Census subdivision\], British Columbia](#))

As indicated in the following graph, Port Moody has an aging population with proportionately fewer young children and families since the 1990’s. There is an

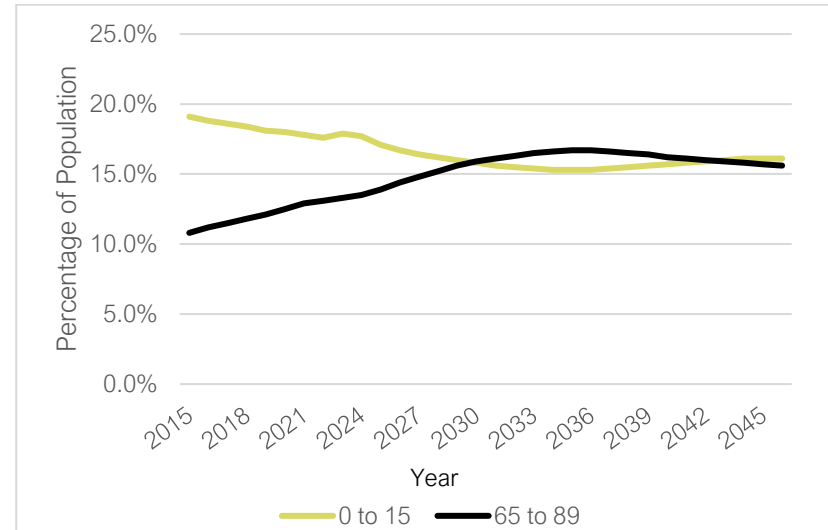
overall declining percentage of younger children, whereas the number of older adults has steadily increased.



Graph A5. Port Moody Population by Age (%)

Source: Source: Statistics Canada (1996: 1996 Census of Canada: Electronic Area Profiles; 2001: 2001 Community Profiles; 2011: Census Profile; 2016: Census Profile, 2016 Census – Port Moody, City [Census subdivision], British Columbia and Greater Vancouver, Regional district [Census division], British Columbia; 2021: Profile table, Census Profile, 2021 Census of Population – Port Moody, City (CY) [Census subdivision], British Columbia)

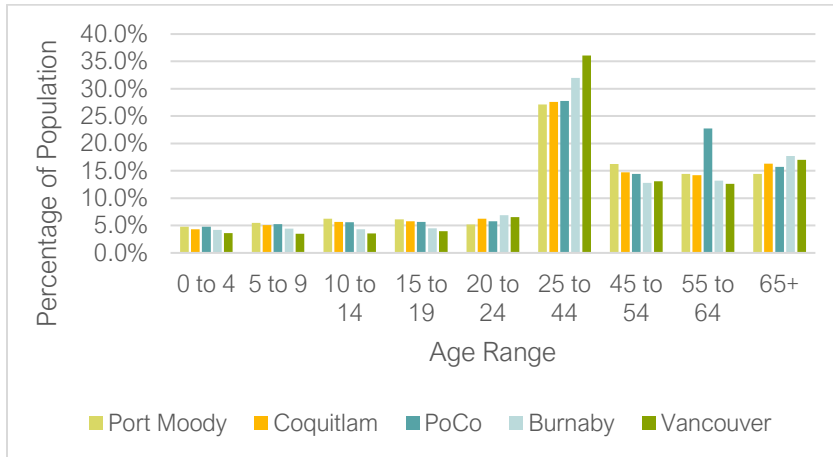
As indicated in Graph A6, long-term population projections have seniors and youth aged 0 to 15 years as roughly equivalent as a percentage of the population in 2030. Seniors will take the lead for about a decade until 2043 when youth will again slowly increase as an overall percentage of the population.



Graph A6. Port Moody Population Projections Comparing Children vs. Seniors

Source: BC Stats

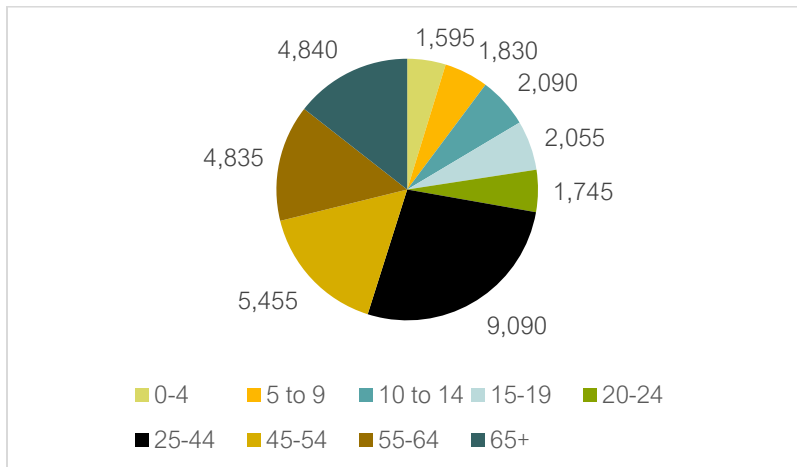
Another way of looking at population distribution by age is to compare Port Moody with other local municipalities. The 2021 Census snapshot demonstrates that young adults aged 20 to 44 comprise a smaller percentage of the overall population compared to Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Burnaby and Vancouver.



Graph A7. Population by Age Across Municipalities (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

Reaffirming the population demographics shown above, there is a smaller population of children and younger adults living in Port Moody compared to a sizeable population of adults and seniors.



Graph A8. Port Moody Population by Age (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

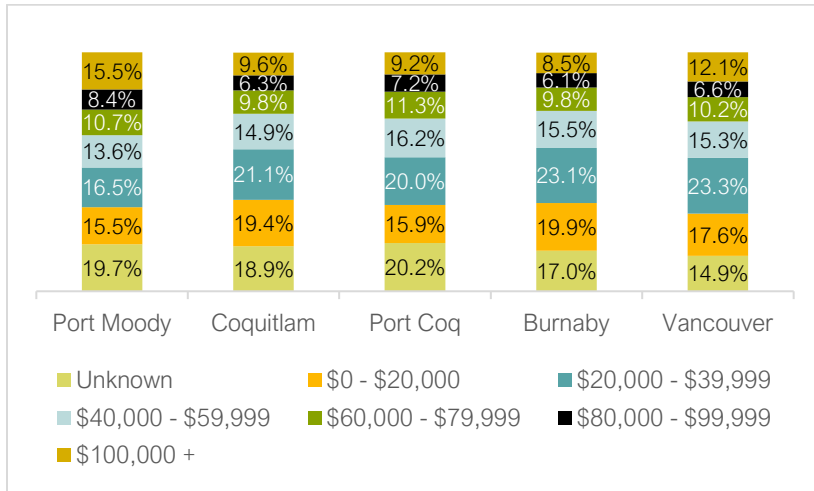
Income

Port Moody is a comparatively wealthy community. The graph below demonstrates that it has a greater percentage of household incomes over \$100,000 than Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Burnaby, and Vancouver.



Graph A9. Household Income Across Municipalities (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

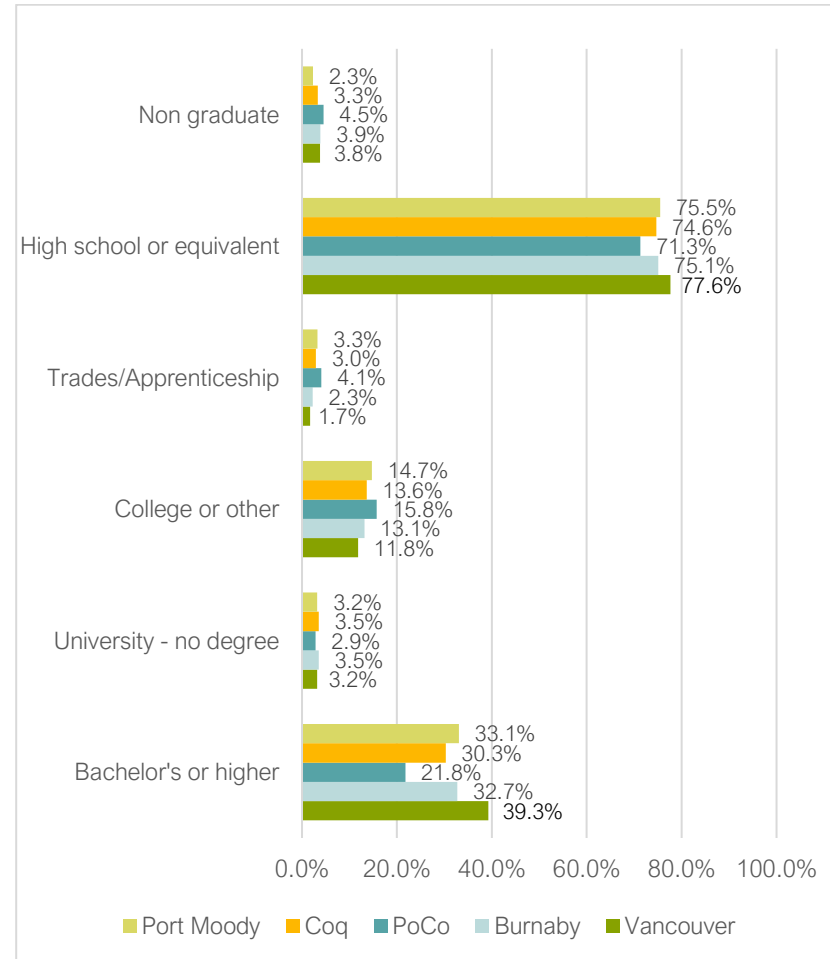


Graph A10. Individual Income Comparison Across Municipalities

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

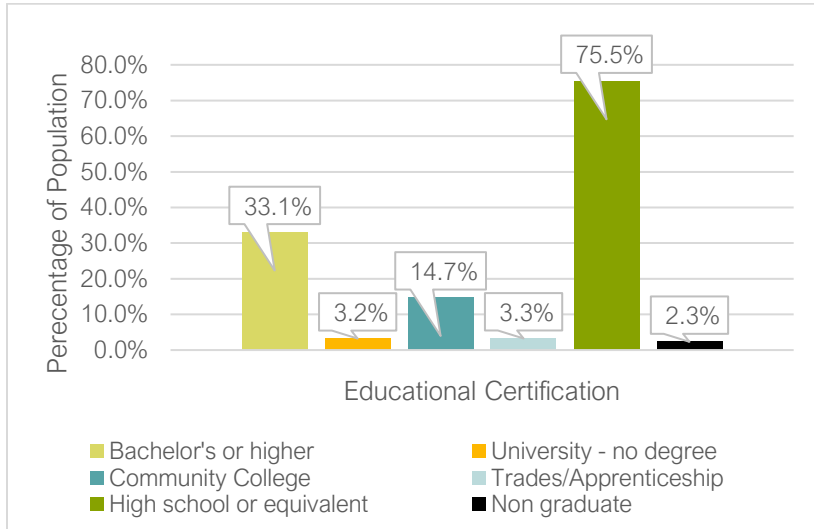
Education

Education is a good predictor of library use with those having a higher education generally making greater use of libraries. In general, Port Moody residents have a high level of education compared to those in comparator cities.



Graph A11. Education Comparison Across Municipalities

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

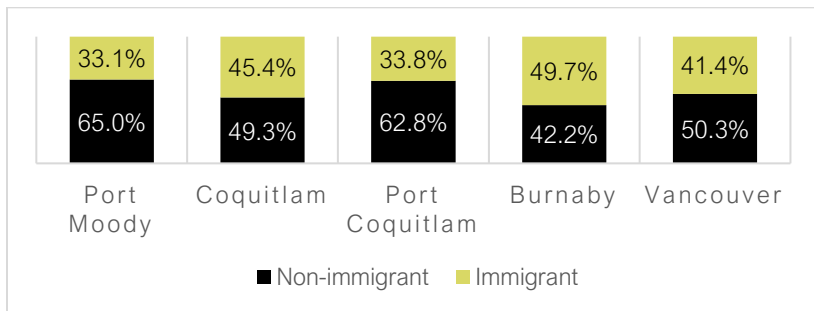


Graph A12. Port Moody Education (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

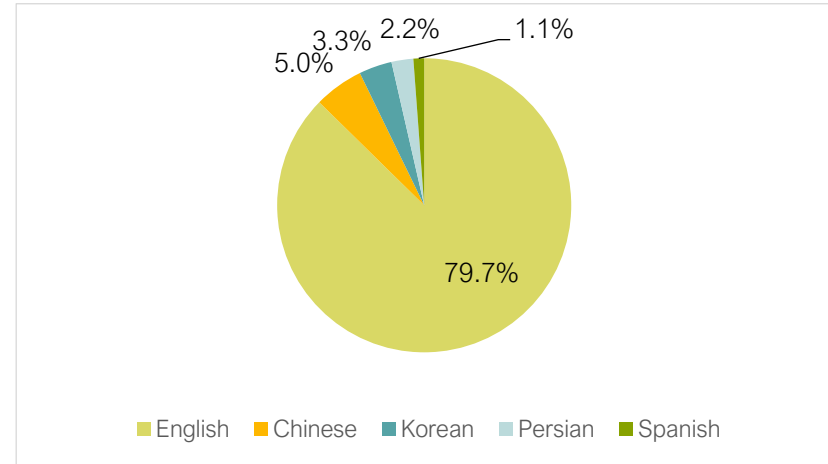
Immigration Status

Like all of its surrounding municipalities, there is a significant number of immigrants living in Port Moody. Although substantial, it is striking that Port Moody has fewer immigrants on a percentage basis than in Coquitlam, Burnaby and Vancouver. When taken with the languages spoken at home below, Port Moody appears to be somewhat less diverse than its neighbours.



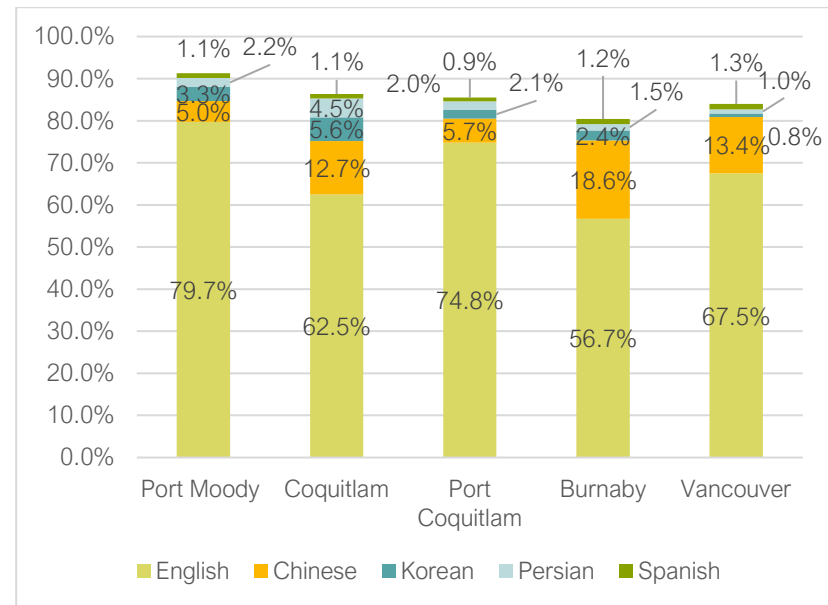
Graph A13. Immigration Status Across Municipalities (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)



Graph A14. Port Moody Languages Spoken at Home (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

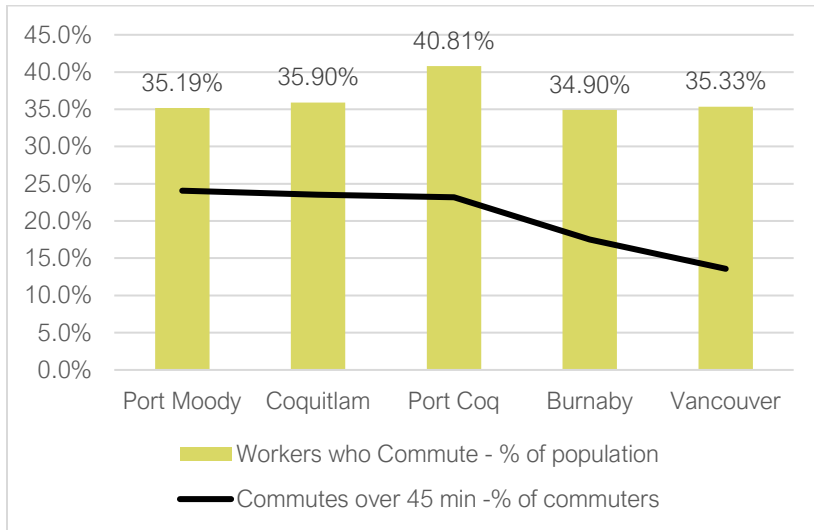


Graph A15. Languages Spoken at Home Across Municipalities (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

Employment

Port Moody has a high level of employment, and there is a large number of professionals. As illustrated in the graph below, the number of workers in Port Moody who commute is comparable to those in surrounding municipalities. As a bedroom community, it is notable that a high proportion of working people in Port Moody commute significant distances to other municipalities for work. “Commuter Culture” creates an opportunity for PMPL with respect to library services.



Graph A16. Commuters Across Municipalities (2021)

Source: [Statistics Canada](#)

3.4 EXISTING LIBRARY SYSTEM PROFILE

Port Moody Public Library was established in 1942 when Leonard Elsdon first proposed a library for Port Moody to the Port Moody Board of Trade. The first library opened in a small room in 1943 on the second floor of the old City Hall. Soon after, it was moved to the downstairs of the recreation hall on Kyle Street.

In 1968, the library was moved to its own facility on St. John Street where it was known as the Port Moody Centennial Library. The library was then moved on September 6, 1995 to 100 Newport Drive in a collocated facility with City Hall.

CURRENT SITE

The Port Moody Public Library is located in the Inlet Centre neighbourhood of Port Moody, one of the city's two hubs, the other being Moody Centre. The library shares a facility with Port Moody's City Hall within the Civic Centre complex, which also includes the Port Moody Recreation Complex, a new Firehall, and the Public Works Yard. The site is framed by loco Road to the north and east, Murray Street to the south, and Burrard Inlet to the west.

Immediately beyond loco Road and Murray Street, development is primarily multi-family residential mostly comprised of townhomes and condominiums built within the last 45 years.

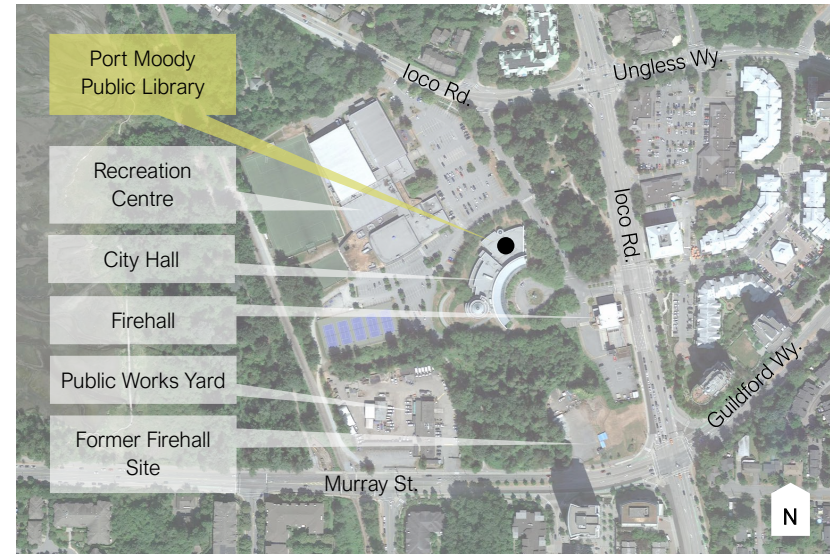


Figure A3. Existing Port Moody Public Library Site
Source: [Google Earth](#)

LIBRARY MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission

To be a welcoming and safe space to access lifelong learning and growth.

Vision

To inspire and open possibilities for all.

Values

Intellectual Freedom

Inclusivity

Service Excellence

STRATEGIC PLAN

Port Moody Public Library recently updated its strategic plan to include five strategic directions, each with goals and performance measures, as well as initiatives that have an impact on current and future facilities.

Strategic Direction 1: Enhance Library Spaces

With the goal to advance library spaces to better serve our growing and diverse community, the library will build support for a new library facility through the development of a Library Facility Master Plan.

Strategic Direction 2: Promote Community Bonds (Patron to Patron)

With the goal to foster connections among citizens to create a more cohesive community, the library will identify and develop programs with community partners and provide more programming supporting multilingual activities and newcomers celebrating local creative activities.

Strategic Direction 3: Embrace Diversity (Staff to Patron)

With the goal to recognize, respect, and celebrate the diversity of people's backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives, the library will expand its collections, information, and services in languages other than English to ensure diverse voices are represented. Additionally, the library will strengthen its commitment

to Truth and Reconciliation by showcasing Indigenous artwork and celebrating the works of Indigenous authors.

Strategic Direction 4: Boost Digital Accessibility

With the goal to accelerate the library's digital readiness and ensure equitable access for all, programs and equipment will be enhanced to improve the patron digital experience. This includes upgrading the library's computing services and introducing emerging technology.

Strategic Direction 5: Empower Library Staff

With the goal to support career development opportunities for library staff and with emphasis on diversity and inclusion, the library will invest in individual staff development, health and wellness, and provide staff with the tools required to respond to a variety of workplace scenarios.

LIBRARY DESCRIPTION AND SERVICE PROFILE

PMPL has a long-standing commitment to providing exceptional customer service, diverse popular collections, and extraordinary programming. The library’s dedication to customer service is evident from the positive feedback about staff received from patrons over the years.

PMPL is currently a single branch system that performs highly compared to others systems, for circulation of its collection, the number of people accessing the library (gate count), reference questions and program attendance.

Current Use Statistics

Circulation

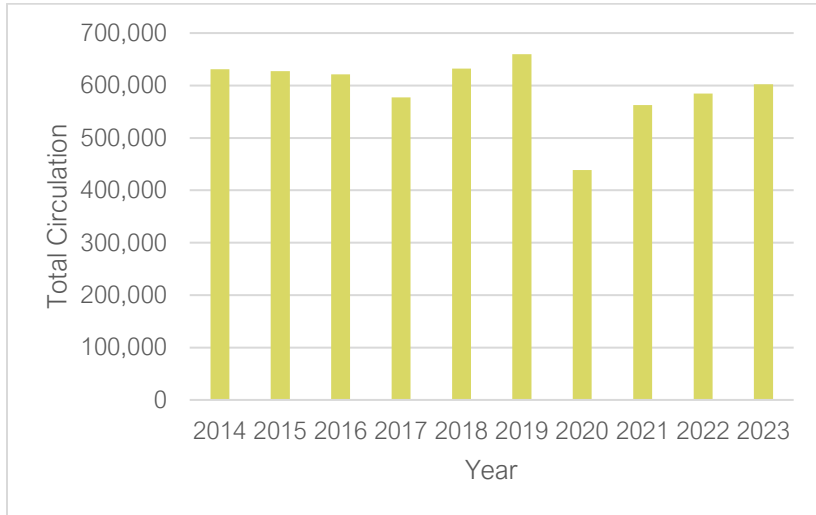
PMPL has a high annual total circulation of its physical collections, compared to other libraries serving a population of 35,000 to 50,000, of which there are three in BC, sixteen in Ontario, and three each in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The table below creates annual averages using data from 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022 (excluding 2020 and 2021 as anomalous due to COVID).

Library	Estimated Service Population	Total Active Cards	Total Physical Circulation	Circulation per Capita	Circulation Per Active Card Holder
Fort St John Public Library Association	37,349	4,233	88,836	2.37	20.99
Penticton Public Library	37,943	15,485	316,291	8.34	20.43
Port Moody Public Library	39,316	15,718	489,667	12.45	31.15
West Vancouver Memorial Library	49,590	19,458	743,680	15.0	38.22
15 Ontario Public Libraries (average)	43,435	11,983	192,533	4.47	16.88
3 Manitoba Public Libraries (average)	40,307	16,889	164,885	4.02	11.29
3 Saskatchewan Public Libraries (average)	40,576	N/A	143,188	3.38	N/A

Table A1. Average Total Circulation (2017 – 2019, 2022) for Libraries Serving Populations of 35,000 to 50,000 People)

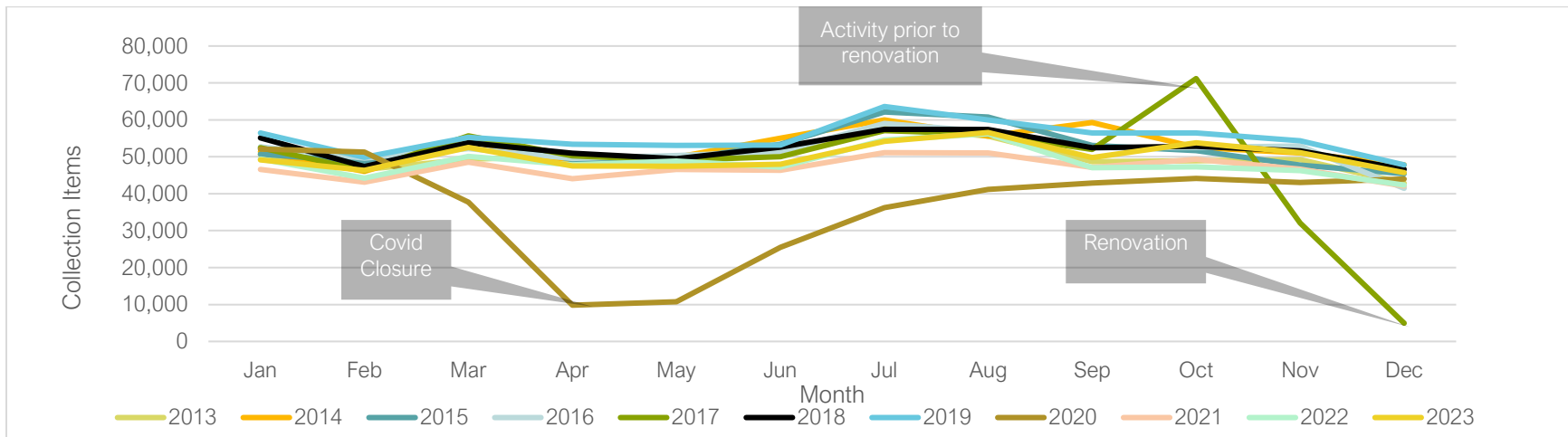
Source: PMPL

The only library serving a population between 35,000 and 50,000 that circulates more than PMPL is West Vancouver Memorial Library (WVML).

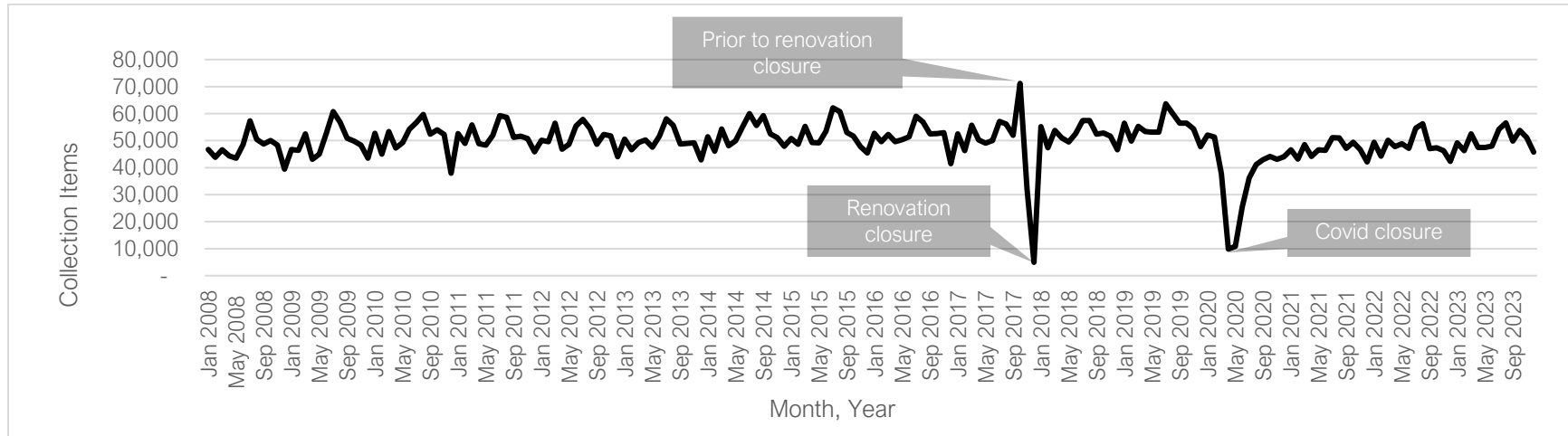


Another indicator of success has been PMPL’s consistent circulation of materials. Graphs A16 and A17 illustrate how month-by-month, year-by-year, circulation is very consistent.

Graph A17. PMPL Total Circulation (2014 – 2023)
Source: PMPL



Graph A18. PMPL Monthly Circulation (2013 – 2023)
Source: PMPL



Graph A19. PMPL Monthly Circulation (2008 – 2023)

Source: PMPL

One area that distinguishes PMPL from most other libraries in the province is the high rate of circulation for children’s physical materials. The popularity of children’s materials dates back to at least 2008 when it comprised 48% of all physical activity and at least 60% of all physical activity since 2018. This high rate of children’s circulation is consistently higher than most other libraries in the province with the exception of Richmond and Surrey Public Libraries. For example, in 2022 the provincial average for all libraries was 35.11% children’s physical circulation whereas PMPL was 64.76%.

Collection	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adult	208,437 (36.80%)	120,542 (36.27%)	151,614 (32.98%)	160,404 (33.13%)	167,015 (34.07%)
YA	15,220 (2.69%)	9,778 (2.94%)	12,335 (2.68%)	10,228 (2.11%)	9,260 (1.89%)
Children	342,733 (60.51%)	201,996 (60.78%)	295,802 (64.34%)	313,549 (64.76%)	313,912 (64.04%)
Total	566,390	332,316	459,751	484,181	490,187

Table A2. Physical Circulation by Item Type (Adult, Young Adult, Children)

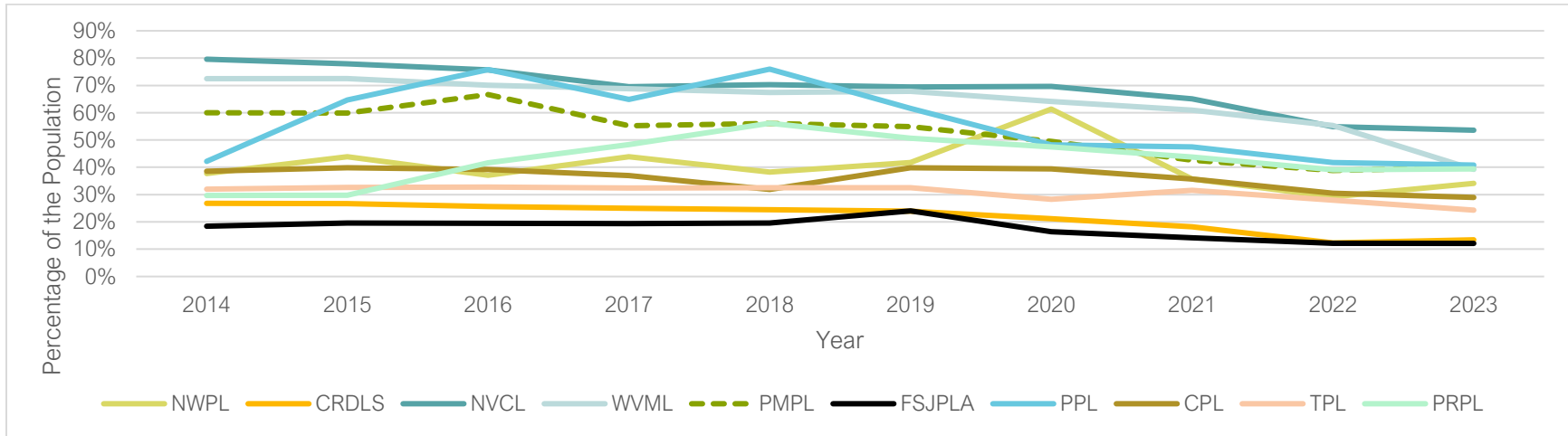
Source: PMPL

Active Card Holders

As indicated in Graph A20, the total number of active cardholders has slowly declined over the years, which is a general trend among all library systems. While numbers of active card holders have declined at PMPL, circulation has remained strong and has even increased. One reason for the apparent decline is that libraries are counting “active” cardholders differently now than in the past. Today, an active cardholder is anyone who has used their library card in the past 3 years.

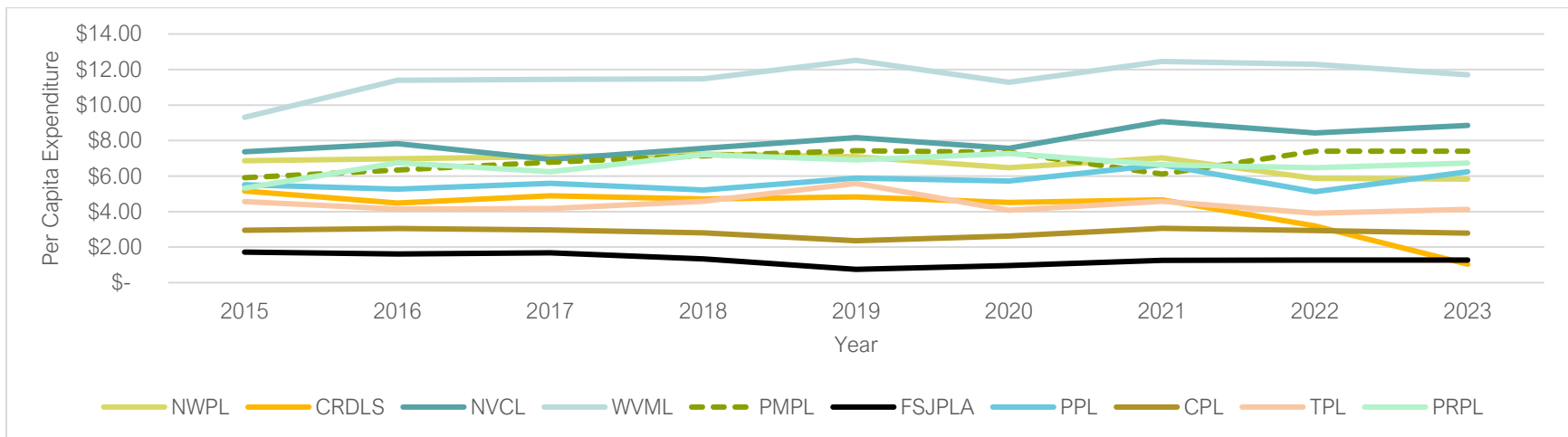
Collection Expenditures

Graph 19 compares PMPL physical collection expenditures with peer libraries on a per capita basis. It indicates that, despite the small size of the Library facility, expenditures per capita are higher than average, with PMPL being third or fourth highest in most years.



Graph A20. Total Active Cardholders as a Percentage of the Population Among Peer Libraries in BC Municipalities with Populations of 19,000 to 72,000 People (2013 - 2022)

Source: PMPL



Graph A21. Per Capita Expenditures for Physical Collection Among Peer Libraries in BC Municipalities with Populations of 19,000 to 72,000 People (2014 - 2022)

Source: PMPL

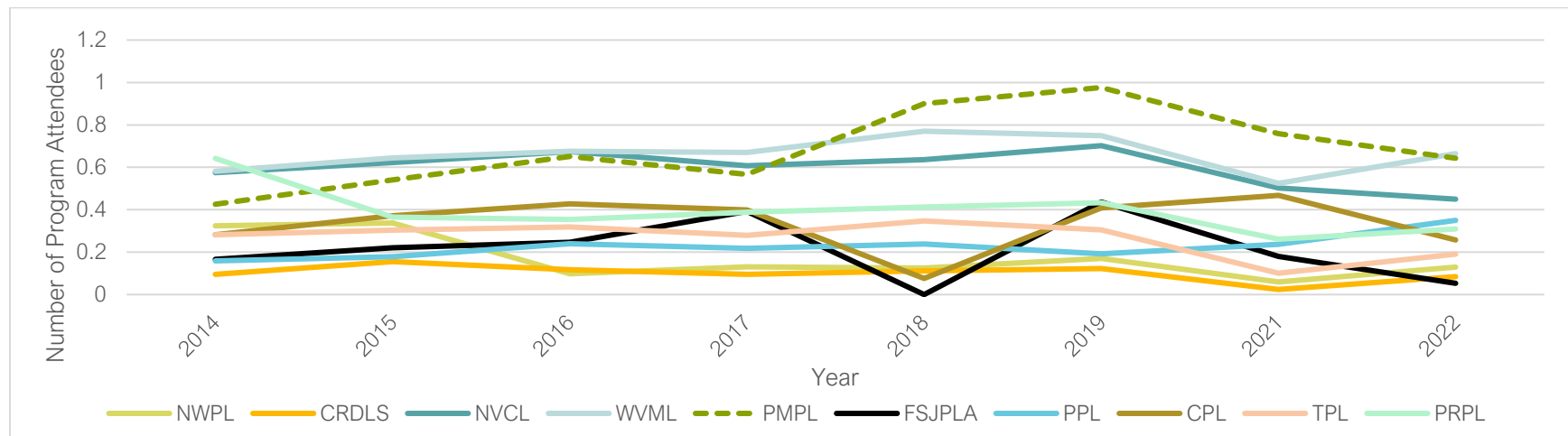
Note:

- 1. NWPL – New Westminster Public Library
- CRDLS – Cariboo Reginal District Library System
- NVCL – North Vancouver City Library
- WVML – West Vancouver Memorial Library
- PMPL – Port Moody Public Library

- FSJPLA – Fort St. John Public Library Association
- PPL – Penticton Public Library
- CPL – Cranbrook Public Library
- TPL – Terrace Public Library
- PRPL – Powell River Public Library

Program Attendance

PMPL’s success in programming is notable in comparison with its peer libraries. Note that because numbers for the year 2020 are considered a one-time distortion due to COVID-19, they have been excluded in the following graph.



Graph A22. Per Capita Number of Program Attendees Among Peer Libraries in BC Municipalities with Populations of 19,000 to 72,000 People (2014 – 2022, Excluding 2020)

Source: BC Public Libraries Branch

Facility Size

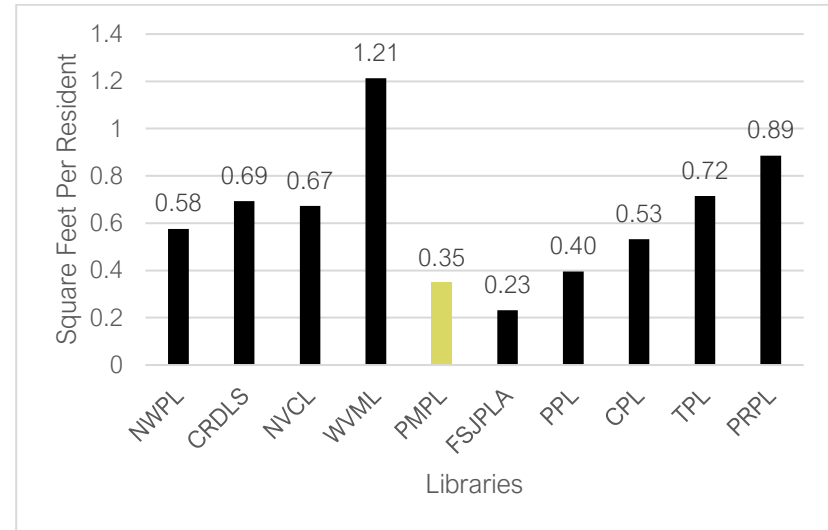
PMPL’s greatest struggle has been with its lack of space. The need for more space had been identified as early as 2004 just nine years after the current branch was first opened. It is evident that PMPL is too small because there are several standard services and spaces it cannot offer within the limited library space, including:

- Maker spaces
- Computer training labs
- Bookable meeting rooms of various sizes
- Early literacy activity center for children
- Separate children’s Internet stations

PMPL must make difficult choices in several areas because of its small size:

- Library collections are currently 30+% below standards ⁵ and is not able to adequately display or showcase the various types of collections
- Library programming
 - Complaints about noisy programs due to the proximity and inability to provide adequate separation of activities
 - Limited numbers of people who can attend programs
- Limited Library seating and study space
- Limiting internal promotions to avoid congestion, such as:
 - Book sale items
 - Signage and displays

The need for more space is evident because PMPL has fewer square feet on a per capita basis than all but one of its peer libraries in BC.



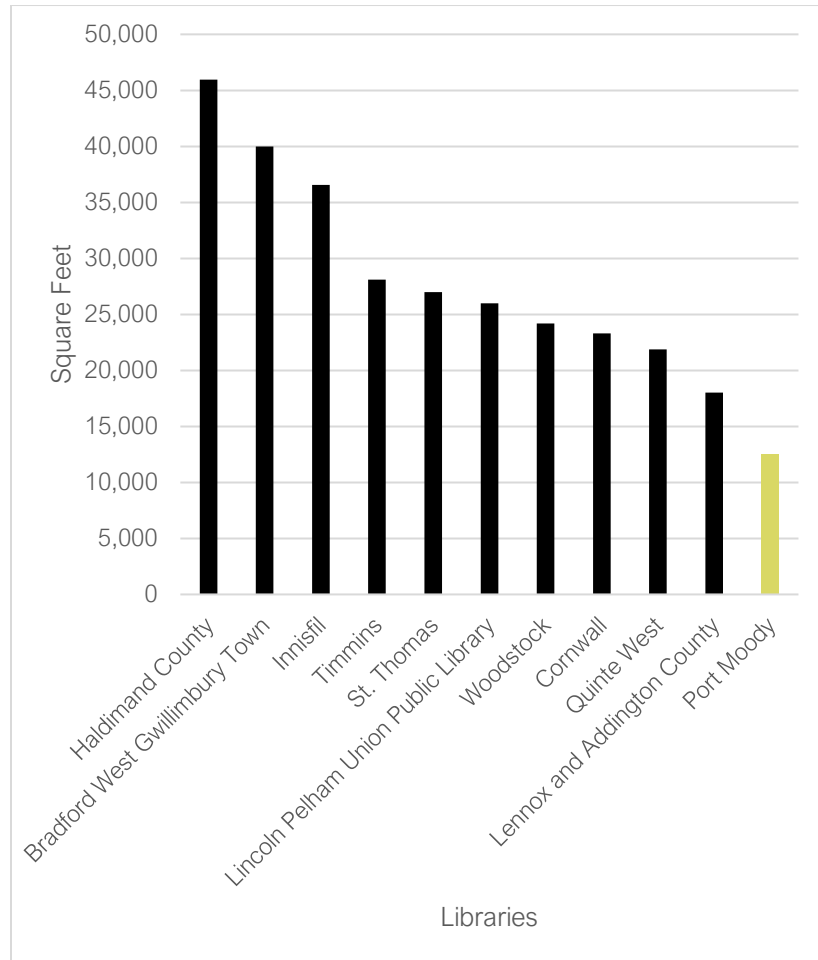
Graph A23. Per Capita Size of Peer Libraries in BC Municipalities with Populations of 19,000 to 72,000 People (2021)

Source: [BC Public Libraries Branch](#)

⁵ The number of items in PMPL’s physical collection, which is currently 2.7 items per capita, has varied in the past number of years from 36% below the average to 5% below the average of its peers. Library standards, such as Wisconsin Public Library Standards suggests a sliding scale of between 3.1 and 4.3 items per capita, for libraries serving populations between 35,000 to 100,000. As well, library standards adjust collection size based on the level of service that the library system aspires to, with targets of

approximately 2 items per capita as a minimum, 3 items per capita as a moderate service level and 4 items per capita as an enhance level. With that in mind, PMPL, with a population served of approximately 40,000 and a collection of approximately 80,000 items is approximately 33% below the “moderate” standard, which would indicate a collection size of 120,000 items for a population of 40,000.

Comparing PMPL with libraries out of province has limitations. However, it is worth noting that PMPL is also undersized compared to libraries in Ontario with populations between 35,000 and 70,000.



Graph A24. Total Square Footage of Peer Libraries in Municipalities with Populations of 35,000 to 50,000 People (2022)

Source: [Ontario Public Library Statistics](#) and PMPL

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Public libraries play a vital role in their community by providing economic, social, educational, and cultural support. Each library is unique and caters to the specific needs and desires of its community by adopting or emphasizing some roles more than others. PMPL roles include:

- **Access to Government Resources:** providing accessible locations from which citizens can fill out forms and receive information and advice. This also means helping residents become engaged citizens.
- **Affordable Leisure Activities:** offering free materials in various formats for people of all ages to meet community needs.
- **Anti-Poverty Strategies:** providing critical support to populations that are economically challenged or unhoused. PMPL bridges the digital divide and provides information and connection to government services.
- **Community Hub:** a space where residents can access various resources and services in one spot. It is the place where everyone can come together to learn, socialize, and engage in civic activities.
- **Cultural Vitality:** assisting society to be healthy and sustainable through shared resources that inform and teach social equity and environmental responsibility. It also helps create a sense of shared identity by preserving local heritage culture while, at the same time, celebrating the diverse cultures of Port Moody residents.
- **Early Literacy Development:** supporting success in life through reading and school readiness by means of pre-school and children’s literacy programs.
- **Economic Development:** support for small businesses and entrepreneurs who drive the local economy, growth, and job creation.
- **Employment Support:** providing services and resources for career planning, job search, education, and upgrading skills.
- **Quality Information:** providing residents correct and complete information regardless of their economic status or location, on issues such as health, parenting, life choices, and more.

- **Return on Investment:** providing a substantial [return on investment](#). Studies show that investment in libraries yields measurable and positive returns. This is experienced in a variety of ways including savings to new residents, as well as improved quality of life that attracts residents and businesses.
- **Serving the Whole Community:** ensuring the whole community receives equitable access to resources. The public library may be the only place where people have access to free computing resources, the Internet, peripherals, and training.
- **Support for Formal Education:** providing professional help and collections to support learners of all ages to develop advanced information competencies, do research, and complete projects.
- **Welcoming New Canadians:** helping newcomers to Canada succeed through settlement support, language acquisition, and employment support, while maintaining cultural connections.

Another way of looking at the value PMPL brings is to focus more on the outcomes that PMPL provides, including:

- Strengthening Port Moody communities
- Providing a safe space that is open to all
- Maintaining history and truth
- Supporting formal and informal education
- Sustaining the environment through the sharing of resources
- Contributing to the economy by supporting businesses and helping people to save on the purchase of various informational resources and software typically found in workplaces

3.5 FUTURE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Planning the future Library needs to consider and respond to the context in which the Library finds itself. The following are a summary of general trends and larger plans that should be considered.

CITY PLANS

Provided below is an overview of the goals and vision of City Council along with particularly relevant City planning documents. The future development of PMPL should align with this vision. Note that italicized text is that which is taken verbatim from the City's documents.

Official Community Plan



The City of Port Moody is in the process of updating its [Official Community Plan](#) (OCP) from 2014, which looks forward to the year 2041; however, this process is currently on hold. The City expects to resume this work in early 2025.

In the interim, the following key trends and issues, as well as the community's vision and goals have been captured from the existing OCP. Please refer to the OCP for the complete narrative.

Key Trends and Issues

- **Environmental trends**

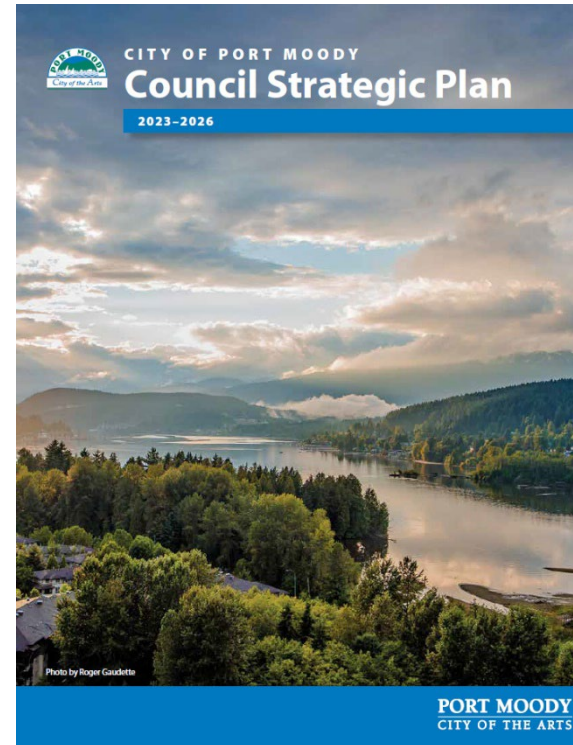
- *Climate change*
 - *The development of compact, complete communities with a mix of commercial and residential uses near transit services helps to make walking, cycling and transit use more attractive than the use of automobiles.*

- *Green building strategies, energy efficient infrastructure and the use of renewable energies all contribute to a reduction in fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.*
- *The protection of natural habitats is also a critical component in reducing vulnerability to climate change.*
- *Addressing climate change also requires adaptation. Increases in climate variability and extreme weather events could have serious impacts on existing infrastructure. The potential negative implications of climate change underline the need to anticipate and adapt local systems to ensure safety and quality of life, as well as reduce long-term costs.*
- *Biodiversity*
 - *The City of Port Moody has been successful in preserving large forested areas and protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Ongoing monitoring, maintenance and replanting are necessary to sustain the health and longevity of these areas and the species which inhabit them. The City has also been active in discouraging pesticide use and encouraging the use of native plantings through the Naturescape Program.*
- **Population trends**
 - *Population changes in Port Moody*
 - *While families with young children still make up a significant proportion of Port Moody households, there continues to be a growing number of seniors and younger single and couple households reflective of broader demographic trends within the region. This trend toward smaller households, coupled with increasing housing costs, has led to increased demand for smaller housing units.*
 - *Aging population*
 - *On a local level, the preference among seniors to age in place will influence the provision of adaptable housing, support services and neighbourhood design that provides for a mix of housing,*

transportation options and uses in proximity. Safety and accessibility will also continue to be of importance as will recreation and community programs to suit the demands of a growing senior population.

- **Economic trends**
 - Energy conservation
 - To reduce the amount of energy consumed in public buildings, the City of Port Moody has adopted an Energy and Green House Gas Management Corporate Action Plan to retrofit existing facilities to achieve better energy efficiency.
- **Social trends**
 - Housing affordability
 - To address the affordability challenge, several municipalities in the region, including Port Moody, have been working on innovative approaches to address this issue including affordable housing reserve funds and support for affordable housing types such as secondary suites, laneway housing and live/work housing types. To adequately address this issue, however, support from both provincial and federal governments is critical.
 - Port Moody’s resident labour force and local employment opportunities
 - Finance and business services as well as educational, health and social services dominate employment among the labour force both locally and regionally. This trend is expected to continue. A large proportion of local residents are also employed in the service sector which is expected to be the source of most new employment in the future.
 - One of the goals of this Official Community Plan is the development of a complete community within Port Moody. Among other objectives, a complete community involves achieving a balance between the number of employment opportunities and the number of employed residents within a municipality. In general terms, the ultimate goal is to achieve a 1:1 ratio of jobs to employed residents.

Strategic Plan (2023-2026)



Vision Statement

Embracing nature and the arts; the most liveable city in the world

Mission Statement

To lead bold initiatives and provide our community with exceptional services and a sound financial future.

Strategic Priority Areas

Four strategic priorities were identified by City Council. Strategic goals and objectives were developed for each strategic priority. The goals and objectives that are particularly pertinent to the Library Master Plan are listed below

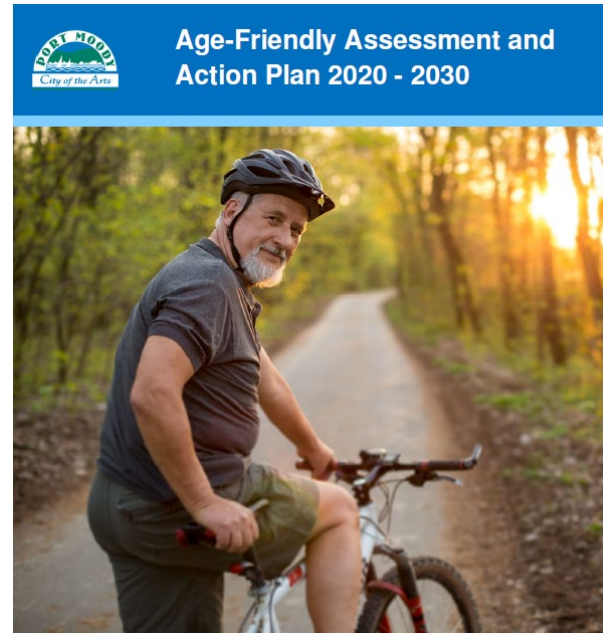
Sustainable Core Services

- *Prioritize core services*
 - *Align service levels and financial planning*
 - *Support emergency preparedness and plan for business continuity*
- *Ensure financial sustainability*
 - *Increase and diversify revenues*
 - *Develop a strategy for future uses of City lands*
 - *Plan for asset lifecycle and renewal costs*

Resilient Natural Environment

- *Protect, integrate, and enhance our natural assets*
 - *Protect and enhance natural waterways and the public foreshore*
 - *Expand the City’s green infrastructure*
- *Advance climate change mitigation and adaptation*
 - *Prioritize implementation of climate action initiatives*
 - *Plan for extreme weather, coastal flooding, and sea level rise*
 - *Focus on growth of priority business areas*
- *Enhance vibrancy through placemaking, arts, culture, heritage, and tourism*
 - *Develop a vision for the “City of the Arts”*
 - *Facilitate events and festivals in our community*
 - *Strengthen the vibrancy of our waterfront and main thoroughfares*
- *Leverage public spaces*
 - *Determine strategic direction for existing and future civic facilities*
 - *Determine direction for underutilized City lands*
 - *Enhance places where people naturally gather*

Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan (2020-2030)



Planning and Development
Policy Planning
City of Port Moody



The assessment provided a number of references to the Library, particularly for current age-friendly features related to the Library include:

- The centralization of the City Hall, Recreation Complex, Inlet Theatre and Library in one location
- The Library’s Philosopher’s Café was noted as an intellectual program available for older adults, but that participants were not aware of this and other programs
- The Library was noted for its welcoming and inclusive environment

- Library information and programs are seen as very good at supporting older adults
- The Library is seen, along with the hospital, home care and cancer care, as offering excellent social services supporting seniors

Almost none of the recommendations from the study mention the library, although the library plays a significant role in the lives of many older adults.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

There are a number of significant projects in Port Moody, such as the Portwood, Westport Village, and Inlet District developments. However, these projects are not ideally suited to the siting of a full-service library branch, but may be considered for an Express Branch location. The City of Port Moody's [development webpage](#) can be referred to for all active applications.

PMPL is receptive to partnering with a developer to enhance the provision of future library services to the Port Moody community.

INFORMATION AND SOCIAL TRENDS

The Library Facility Master Plan must consider the overarching and evolving social trends affecting community expectations, library resources, access, services, and patterns of use. They include:

- Diversification of sources of information, including from social media
- Information technology devices that are increasingly powerful, portable, and more integrated with traditional technologies
- The social and cultural profile of communities is increasingly multicultural, multilingual and diverse
- Exponential growth in information and required literacies: traditional, technological, communication, and applied
- Increased expectation for the practical application of knowledge and transmitting and reconfiguring information
- Increased self-service and self-direction, providing greater user autonomy

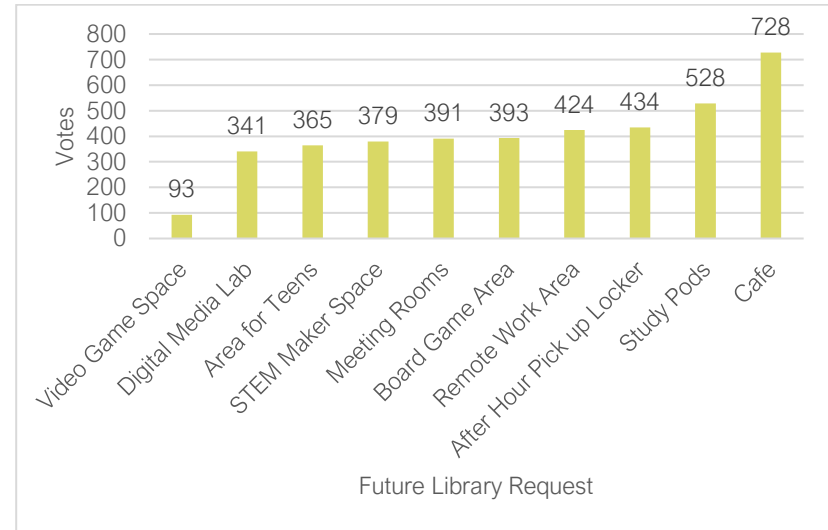
- Expectation that data storage, retrieval, display and communication technologies will continue to emerge
- Social media platforms have served to reinforce the views and beliefs of individuals as they interact with those with shared beliefs, resulting in the fragmentation of society
- Spaces to facilitate community understanding by bringing people together from various socioeconomic backgrounds
- Requirement for advanced technical expertise on the part of library staff

3.6 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



The following is a report provided by PMPL summarizing in verbatim, the results of their Community and Stakeholder Engagement activities.

Port Moody Public Library conducted two surveys in 2024 to guide its strategic and master planning efforts. The first survey, with 948 respondents, asked what type of spaces should be prioritized in a future library facility. Notably, it revealed only one clear priority: “Quiet space for study or silent reading.” The second survey, aimed at informing the Library Master Plan, sought to provide greater insight into patrons’ preferences and needs. With 1,429 respondents, this survey produced the following list of priorities:



Graph A25. Community and Stakeholder Engagement Survey – What Do You Want in a Future Library? (2024)

Source: PMPL

Written suggestions highlighted the following themes:

Quiet and Comfortable Spaces: A strong preference for quiet, soundproof areas for reading, studying, and crafting emerges, with multiple mentions of cozy seating, quiet pods, and isolated zones to minimize noise. Patrons want a tranquil, relaxed atmosphere with spaces free from disturbances.

Specialized Activity and Hobby Areas: Patrons expressed interest in designated spaces for artistic and hobby pursuits, including art studios, music rooms, craft rooms, and exercise facilities. Additionally, interest in a range of activity-specific areas, like a toddler area, social spaces, and rooms for tutoring and group discussions, suggests a desire for both individual and communal engagement options.

Enhanced Family and Kid-Friendly Spaces: Requests for family oriented, child-centered areas, including play spaces, craft corners, and sensory-friendly zones. Suggestions also highlight a desire for special resources for children with disabilities and preschool programming.

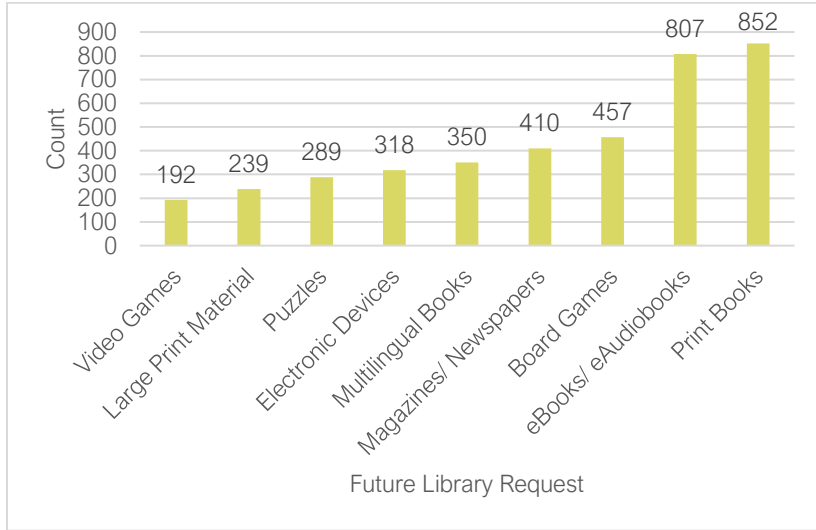
Resource Accessibility and Community Support: Patrons emphasize practical amenities, such as bike parking, secure pods, more study desks, and facilities open late. Feedback also includes suggestions for community gardens, access to local events, and informational sessions, signaling a desire to connect the library with broader community life.

Flexible and Modern Infrastructure: Some patrons favour a single-floor layout for easier access, modular study and seating spaces, and improvements in air quality. Some suggestions also advocate for using digital resources to reduce physical space requirements and maintain a more efficient, cost-effective facility.

While most respondents embrace the need for a new facility, there were nine (9) residents who argued for preserving the library's current setup without additional spending, voicing the sentiment that the library should retain its existing cozy and resource-focused ambiance without expanding its physical footprint.



When asked what additional/new resources should be included in a future library facility, respondents responded as follows:



Graph A26. Community and Stakeholder Engagement Survey – What Do You Wish We Had More Of? (2024)

Source: PMPL

There were many written suggestions under the “Other” category for what additional/new resources should be included in a future library facility:

Diverse Media & Resources: High demand exists for eBooks, audiobooks, print books, and digital magazines. There is interest in expanding the library’s DVD collection, including older and classic films, as well as offering streaming movie services and more international and scholarly content.

STEM & Creative Tools: Patrons seek more access to STEM kits, 3D printers, and scientific research materials. Borrowable items include crafting tools, musical instruments, art supplies, and “Library of Things” offerings like gardening tools, telescopes, and digital design equipment.

Specialized Spaces & Equipment: Requests include virtual reality experiences, video production studios, rentable equipment, and designated spaces for social and educational activities. Some also suggested lockable outdoor dog crates and bike-visible reading areas for convenience and security.

Learning Support & Educational Programs: Interest was shown in workshops, art classes, maker activities, language learning materials, and adult programming (e.g., talks, crafts, and art). Specialized software (e.g., video editing) and support for computer skills were also mentioned as beneficial, particularly for students and new community members.

Community & Accessibility: Many patrons desire more multilingual resources, materials for diverse cultural backgrounds, and equipment for inclusive access. There is interest in borrowing passes for local attractions and providing free access to membership resources like the Oxford English Dictionary.

3.7 LIBRARY TRENDS AND FUTURE SERVICES

LIBRARY TRENDS

The American Library Association’s [Centre for the Future of Libraries](#) compiles a list of trends relevant to libraries and librarianship. Informed by these trends, PMPL distilled this list into four key themes most relevant to them: collections, space, technology, and staff.

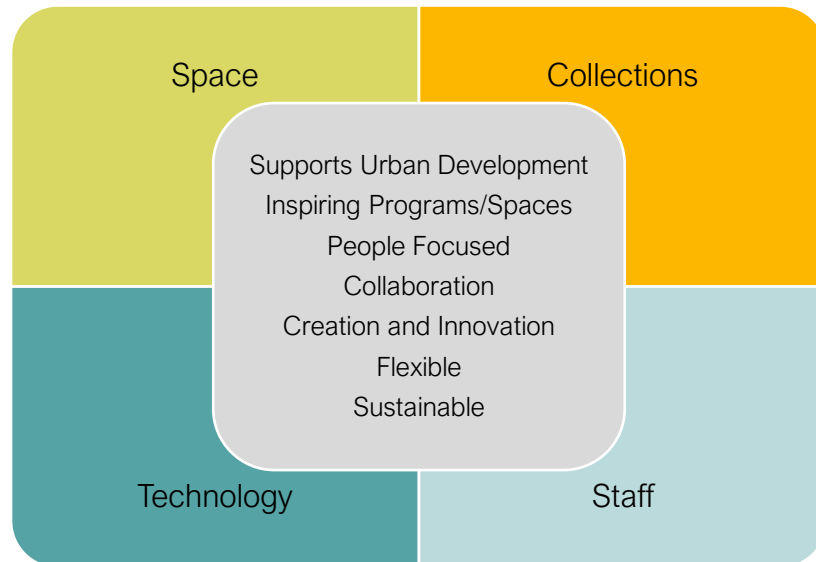


Figure A4. PMPL Key Themes

Source: PMPL

Space

Spaces in libraries are linked closely to the program offerings of libraries. As programs are evolving, so to are the public spaces. The following is a list of spaces that libraries typically have, in addition to space for collections:

- **Traditional Quiet Reading Rooms and Retreat Spaces:** for study, reading and contemplation
- **Spaces for Specific Age Groups:** including very young children, school age children, adolescents, young adults, and seniors
- **Meeting and Program Rooms:** for community meetings and programs of various sizes.
- **Third Space:** public spaces people prefer besides their home, work, or school. These spaces are used for socializing, study, and entertainment.
- **Maker Spaces:** where people can create, often with the assistance of or collaborating with others. Maker spaces provide access to tools, technology, and other resources that people do not have at home.
- **Community Hub:** where multiple affiliated community services are available, and people can connect with each other. Community hubs are designed to be inclusive and welcoming, and they can include services like health care, and social support.
- **Outdoor Program Areas:** where program offerings can be supported, such as reading in nature, screening movies, garden activities.

Public libraries continually innovate to remain responsive to the communities they serve, providing solutions to pressing social issues; as such, programs and services will change. Indeed, public libraries should be designed to provide value to present and future communities. While it is important to create library spaces with flexibility in mind, it is equally important to create spaces that foster a sense of place, of community and belonging and of opportunity, while promoting a perception or feeling of safety and privacy.

Increasingly, public libraries are collocated with other facilities, including civic facilities like recreation centres, schools, or government buildings, in addition to being collocated with commercial or residential developments. Collocation can

create an experience of community synergy. Collocation makes sense when it creates opportunities to reach new audiences and provide more synergistic services to the community. It can also provide innovative approaches to building and maintenance costs.



Figure A5. Taylor Street Apartments and Little Italy Branch Library, Chicago IL, SOM

Source: [SOM](#)

PMPL is currently collocated with City Hall. It is most likely a new library facility will be collocated with some other civic service in the future. Even so, there are **hazards** that need to be mitigated during the planning process:

- Public libraries must be welcoming, comfortable, and inspirational spaces. Libraries that are collocated may lose the positive **“qualitative experience”** for the sake of creating “functional” space.
- Libraries typically use the interior and exterior of their facilities to convey something about their role and significance to the community. This could be as simple as signage, or as grandiose as an architectural feature that conveys the importance of the library as a cultural institution.

- Libraries operate best when they can quickly respond to community needs, but this can be challenging when the library is embedded in another facility.
- Libraries are constantly looking at how they can offer different types of services, and collocated facilities often do not allow the flexibility needed to innovate. A future library facility in Port Moody must be reconfigurable so staff can adapt to emerging and innovative services.

Collections

Library collections are constantly evolving to respond to popular demand and the rise and fall of different technologies. In other words, libraries need to be current in terms of **content** and **format**. While it is impossible to predict the future, it is reasonable to expect that:

1. Electronic databases will proliferate, particularly for non-fiction information. As such, printed non-fiction and reference collections will continue to shrink
 - Printed fiction collections will continue to expand
 - [eBooks](#) and [eAudiobooks](#) will increase in popularity
 - Non-traditional circulating collections, such as musical instruments and tools will increase in number and variety
 - DVDs will disappear from library shelves
 - There will be an increased need to digitize local historical resources like newspapers, photos, and art
 - Generally, most patrons continue to prefer borrowing actual books and other physical items

The growing popularity of electronic materials, coupled with the decline of reference collections and DVDs, has enabled many libraries to repurpose collection spaces into areas designed for people. The key consideration for PMPL is how this shift will impact the amount and type of space needed for future collections in a new facility.

Additionally, libraries have [shifted a substantial portion of their collection budget](#) to support the licensing of digital materials. Not only are digital materials

popular, but the cost is steadily increasing because of the need to maintain access to in-demand expiring titles while providing new content. At times this leads to less focus on the renewal of physical collections.

Technology

Ongoing technological developments enhance the community as resources, systems, and services become more powerful and easier to use. Along with educational institutions, the library is now the primary engine of information access, interpretation, analysis and application in the community; it is a vital community tool for the creation and support of personal and economic community initiatives. The list provided below is influenced by the work of [Marc Beschler](#) and [John Garland](#):

- User engagement
 - [Virtual, mixed and augmented realities](#) that could be used for gamification, exhibits, tours, and training to encourage reading and other experiences
 - Programming like coding clubs to encourage digital literacy
 - Makerspaces that promote educational and creative experiences
 - Robots to promote interest
 - Increasing use and sophistication of digital displays to promote library services
- Artificial intelligence
 - Reference questions answered more efficiently
 - Enhanced security
- Extended library services
 - Apps to bring services wherever patrons are such as eBooks, the library catalogue, interactive guides, virtual tours, online courses, etc.
 - “[Open Library](#)” concept (i.e. library space open outside of regular hours without staff)
- Collection management
 - Electronic resource management to determine what is available
 - Libraries to provide a seamless, accessible experience when searching for information, including:
 - Streaming digital content

- Cloud computing
- Federated searching
- Internet-of-Things (IoT)

Staff

Public libraries are undergoing significant changes that are having a direct impact on staffing, most particularly in the following areas:

Programming

One significant trend is the increased emphasis on programming for all age groups. Not only have public libraries become more program oriented, but they are also requiring staff to have a more diverse range of technological skills—skills that are not traditionally acquired through library school programs. Decisions will need to be made about training existing staff and what sort of skills to hire for in the future.

Technological Expertise

The shift to digital services and delivery models is enhancing access but creating new challenges for training library staff. Rapid advancements in technology are changing patron expectations. Patrons want more personalized services that are immediate with no restrictions on content. This can be seen in the desire to connect with patrons by answering reference questions online and by text. It can also be seen in how technology changes, such as the use of AI to answer questions and VR headsets to provide experiences. Libraries will need to focus on digital literacy and staff training to meet the needs of their patrons.

Many of the questions asked a decade ago are still being asked with respect to staffing:

- How specialized do we want staff to be in different roles like program delivery?
- Do we want all staff to be involved in program delivery?
- How important is it for staff to be representative of and conversant with diverse community backgrounds and able to serve diverse groups?
- What does a customer-service orientation mean for PMPL?

- How do we ensure that staff continue to be knowledgeable about current and emerging resources, programs and services?
- Do we want staff to be behind desks or directly accessible and proactively engaged with library users?
- What issues involving current emerging staff competencies must be addressed?

PUBLIC LIBRARY BEST PRACTICES

This overview is a synthesis of a number of reports generated by library communities that address current best practices among public libraries. These practices respond to the general societal trends outlined in the Information and Social Trends section, above. Some of these best practices are operational, some are resource-based, some are service-focussed, and others are directed at the role of library facilities in aiding the delivery of services. While not comprehensive, this section outlines the major challenges affecting the delivery of future library services.

Urban Planning

1. Locate and develop library facilities as focal points of community activity.
2. Locate and develop library facilities that respond to patterns of urban growth and development.

Inclusiveness

3. Respond to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through services and spaces.
4. Implement customer service policies that optimize equitable access.
5. Support equity, inclusiveness, and diversity through services, programs, and spaces that ensure all feel welcomed and supported.

People Spaces and Program Activities

6. Provide a greater proportion of interactive space for people and less space for collection storage.
7. Plan for more educational and community programs, including EAL programs for newcomers, local history and genealogy programs, social

media and crowdsourcing platforms, and sensory story times for young children.

8. Anticipate the need for extensive programming relevant to the community, specifically in civic and financial literacy, professional development, healthcare, and vocational training, often involving leadership by and collaboration with community partners.
9. Provide technology and spaces for creating and communicating of information.
10. Provide technology and spaces for those who may be working from home or have a hybrid work arrangement.
11. Provide specialized media programs, video recording and editing, computers, recording studios, and programs in graphic design, podcasting and photography to allow users to be content creators.
12. As possible, provide outdoor programmable spaces.
13. Provide functional, flexible multi-purpose meeting spaces useful to the wider community.

Collections

14. Optimize visibility and access to the printed collection through display concepts.
15. Continue to expect more digital collection resources.
16. Plan for more international languages collection resources.
17. Develop community-driven collections identified through requests, demographics, and evaluation of circulation.

Technology

18. Plan for the integration of emerging and innovative technologies, such as:
 - Big data
 - Artificial intelligence
 - The Internet of Things
 - Library bookmark apps
 - User-focused interfaces and applications
 - Virtual and augmented reality

19. Anticipate continued digitization of operational and service processes: collection acquisitions, sorting and distribution of collections, finances, and community access.

Partnerships

20. Develop synergies with public transit, retail, recreational and cultural adjacent partners.



Figure A6. P2 Urban Hybrid | Library, Innsbruck AUST, LAAC
Source: Arch Daily

21. Explore potential synergies with government and community services.

Changing Staff Skills

22. Expect evolving staff competency requirements to address ongoing operational change, complex information technologies and applications, community literacy challenges, working with community educational and cultural programs and partners, as well as multicultural and social challenges.

23. Affirm the critical importance of engaged and accessible staff, tasked with event planning, tutoring, teaching basics of information technology, and community-development responsibilities.

Design

24. There is an expectation of the part of the public of continued investment in landmark public libraries accessible by pedestrians, cyclists, public transit, and private vehicles.
25. Provide a striking, attractive, visible urban image and an inviting and visually interesting interior that promotes multifunctional community use.
26. Expect dramatically increased attendance when the new facility opens.



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