

How Large Will the Building Be?

The Library Board has not determined a building size. However, based on cost estimates provided by David Milling, library architect, the Board expects to be able to construct a building between 20,000 and 25,000 sq. feet.

While the Library Board appreciates the effort of those who worked on the Needs Assessment, it felt that in the current unsettled economic climate it would be best to present a more modest proposal to the public.

In comparison, Delta District Library, which has similar population and usage numbers, is currently building a 30,000 sq. foot library. The average building size in Michigan for communities of our size is 24,743 sq. feet. (*Michigan Library Statistical Report, 2006*)

Will the building include a cultural center?

No. However, the Library Board has reserved land and will design the building so a cultural center could be added when and if funding becomes available. Any cultural center is expected to be privately funded.

Sample Ballot Language

Shall taxes against all taxable real and tangible personal property within the DeWitt Public Library District be increased in an amount not to exceed 1.45 mills (\$1.45 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for a period of 20 years beginning in the year 2008 and ending in the year 2027, of which the Library shall only be authorized to levy .95 mills (\$.95 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value) in the years 2008 and 2009, for the purpose of providing funds for all lawful Library purposes, including but not limited to the construction, furnishing, equipping and operation of a new library building? The estimated revenue the Library will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the Library in the 2008 calendar year is approximately \$_____.



DeWitt Public Library Ballot Proposal Fact Sheet

Proposal

- Place a single proposal on the August Primary ballot which includes funds to both build and operate a new library.
- Increase millage by .95 mil for 20 years. Total millage will be 1.45 mil.
- Bond for up to \$8.5 million for 20 years for building construction, site preparation, furnishings, and collection enhancement. Bond payments will be made from operating millage.

Decision-making Criteria

- Meet the projected library needs of the DeWitt area for at least 20 years.
- Base building size on population projections in the City of DeWitt, DeWitt Township, and a portion of Watertown Township using recognized national library standards
- Single ballot proposal which includes funding for the building and increased operational costs
- Building located near the center of the library district
- Design for low maintenance and operating costs
- Design so the building can be expanded in the future as needed
- Use sustainable construction incorporating as much green technology as economically feasible
- Keep total millage under 1.5 mil

What Will the New Building Offer?

- Space for a growing collection of books, magazines, DVD's , music CD's and audio books. Currently the library has 55,749 items. The new building will allow the collection to grow to the state average of 118,726 items for libraries of our size.
- Improved accessibility for those who are physically challenged including adequate parking adjacent to the building.
- Variety of comfortable spaces for adults to work and read
- More space for children's programs and collection
- Dedicated space for teens
- Rooms for group study and literacy education
- More programs for children, teens, and adults in a dedicated space
- More public access computers
- Meeting space for large group programs
- Adequate restrooms
- Small Café with beverages in a bookstore like setting

Project Time Line

- 2005 The Library Board begins planning for a new building
- 2006 The Library Board hires the Breton Group to conduct a Needs Assessment
- 2006 Site Committee formed
- 2007 Architect Selected
- 2007 Public Input Meetings Conducted
- 2008 Library Accepts Donation of Land
- 2008 Library Places Millage Proposal on the August Primary ballot
- 2010 If millage is approved by voters, new library opens on DeWitt Road

How Many People Use the DeWitt Public Library?

Number of Public Access Computer Logins (does not include wireless hotspots)

2006 14,758 users

2007 16,355 users

Program Attendance

	Adult	Children
2006	1,099	7,020
2007	1,414	7,663

Library Card Holders

2007 17,581

Number of Items in our Collection

2007 55,749

Circulation 1999-2007

