Hennepin County Library — Southdale

Library spaces and services
Library spaces and services

The Southdale Library community identified these priorities for the new library in 2017–2018 through public meetings and over 1,400 online survey responses.

- A variety of spaces to support people of all ages
- Strong collections
- Children’s play and learning area
- Comfortable seating
- Ample use of natural light and outdoor views
- Places that support conversation and collaboration
- Places that are quiet and support focus
- A variety of meeting spaces for smaller and larger groups
- Furnishings with access to electricity
- Library computers and Wi-Fi access
- Outdoor space
Hennepin County Library — Southdale

Location
Benefits of a mall location

Accessible by public transit, as a bus route connector in the area.

Co-locating with other amenities:
– Creates a more dynamic and convenient experience for patrons
– May attract people who do not currently use the library

Current Southdale Library remains open until new library opens, instead of closing for 18–24 months.

Cost is less than rebuilding at current site, saving taxpayer dollars for other uses.

Co-locating with Southdale Service Center — patrons who need to print or look up documentation can do so at the library.

Similar local examples

Eden Prairie Library was once a grocery store.
St. Anthony Library is in a strip mall setting.
**Location**

1. Current library
2. Hennepin County Service Center
3. Proposed library

- Off-street county bikeway
- On-street county bikeway
- Future on-street county bikeway
- Conceptual pedestrian/bike trail
How can I get to the new library?

Walk • Bike • Transit • Drive

We are committed to a location that offers multiple ways to access the library.
Example of a library in a mall

King County Library System
Seattle, Washington
Southcenter Library Connection

– Opened 2004; 5,000 square feet

– Multigenerational space that responds to high- and low-tech information needs

– Emphasizes public computers, Wi-Fi, charging stations and comfortable seating

– Collections include world languages and periodicals, in addition to books for all ages
Example of a library in a mall

London Public Library, Ontario, Canada
Central Library (Citi Plaza Mall)

– Opened 2002; remodeled 2017

– Features a children’s library, reading lounge, creative makerspace and rich collections for leisure reading, research and information needs

– Meeting and study rooms, computer training lab and performance hall

– Facility also houses library administration and other supporting departments
Example of a library in a mall

McAllen Public Library
McAllen, Texas
Main Library

- Opened 2011; 124,000 square feet

- Reclaimed retail space in a former big-box store
- Collections, computer lab, meeting rooms with videoconference technology, and outlets in all furniture
- Nature incorporated throughout the design in indoor and outdoor spaces
A new library. For you.

Hennepin County staff are proposing that Southdale Library relocates to Southdale Center.

– **57,700 square feet** — similar size of public space to current Southdale Library.

– **At former Herberger’s location** — demolish former Herberger’s building and construct a new building for the future library.

– **Building owner constructs exterior of building.** Hennepin County designs and constructs interior of the future library.

– **Opens to the public in 2022.**

Elements important to patrons and library staff will be reflected in the lease agreement:

– Access to upper-level amenity/green space
– Bike and pedestrian access to the adjoining community
– Reserved parking stalls
– Curbside book drop
– Access to the mall interior
Hennepin County Library — Southdale

Next steps
Southdale Library preliminary concept
Project timeline

April 2019
Hennepin County Administration recommended to the board that the Southdale Library moves to Southdale Center

May/June 2019
Open houses to inform community of location recommendation

June 2019
Hennepin County Board votes to officially begin negotiating lease terms with building owner at Southdale Center

Fall 2019
Additional community engagement conversations about services and resources at the new Southdale Library

2019/2020
Pursue additional bicycle and pedestrian possibilities

2020
New library construction begins

2022
New library opens, as current library closes