



Akron-Summit County Public Library

Space Usage Feasibility Study

Public Comment Draft

www.akronlibrary.org

The Akron-Summit County Public Library provides resources for learning and leisure, information services, meeting spaces, and programs for all ages that support, improve, and enrich individual, family, and community life.

Protecting Our Investment, Planning Our Future

The Akron-Summit County Public Library has been a cornerstone of the community for more than 150 years, providing needed resources, innovative programming, and a welcoming space for all.

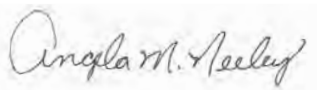
In our ongoing commitment to serve you better, the Library Board of Trustees authorized a comprehensive space usage feasibility study. This study aims to evaluate how we can best position the Library to meet the evolving needs of the community and to estimate the costs associated with necessary capital improvements. Our goal is to ensure that the Library system provides vibrant, accessible, and modern facilities for generations to come.

We are deeply grateful for the support you have shown the Library over the years. Voter approval of a bond issue in 1987 was instrumental in enabling us to construct multiple new buildings, significantly enhancing our capacity and services. Today, we once again look to you, our valued community, as we embark on this important journey to protect your investment and plan our future.

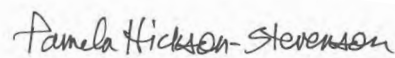
After months of site visits, staff and customer surveys, and community conversations, we are excited to share our consultants' findings and recommendations in this draft Space Usage Feasibility Study. The findings of the feasibility study will guide us in making informed decisions about needed repairs, improvements, and renovations. We are committed to transparency throughout this process and will keep you updated on our progress.

We invite you to review this public draft. Your feedback will be invaluable as we move forward. Please send us your thoughts by February 14th.

Thank you for your continued support of and dedication to the Akron-Summit County Public Library. Together, we can ensure that our Library remains a dynamic and essential part of our community's future.



Angela Neeley
President of the Board of Trustees



Pamela Hickson-Stevenson
Executive Director



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1 Background and Goals

SPACE USAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY PURPOSE

Akron-Summit County Public Library trustees and staff recognize Library facilities should reflect community-based needs and expectations. The ages of Library facilities and changes in how people use them mean that each facility must be reenergized to enhance functional and operational efficiencies as well as provide an inviting atmosphere. This Space Usage Feasibility Study recognizes these conditions and recommends changes to meet current and future programmatic needs so that, as the Library continues to move into the 21st century, all facilities may serve Akron and Summit County residents effectively and efficiently.

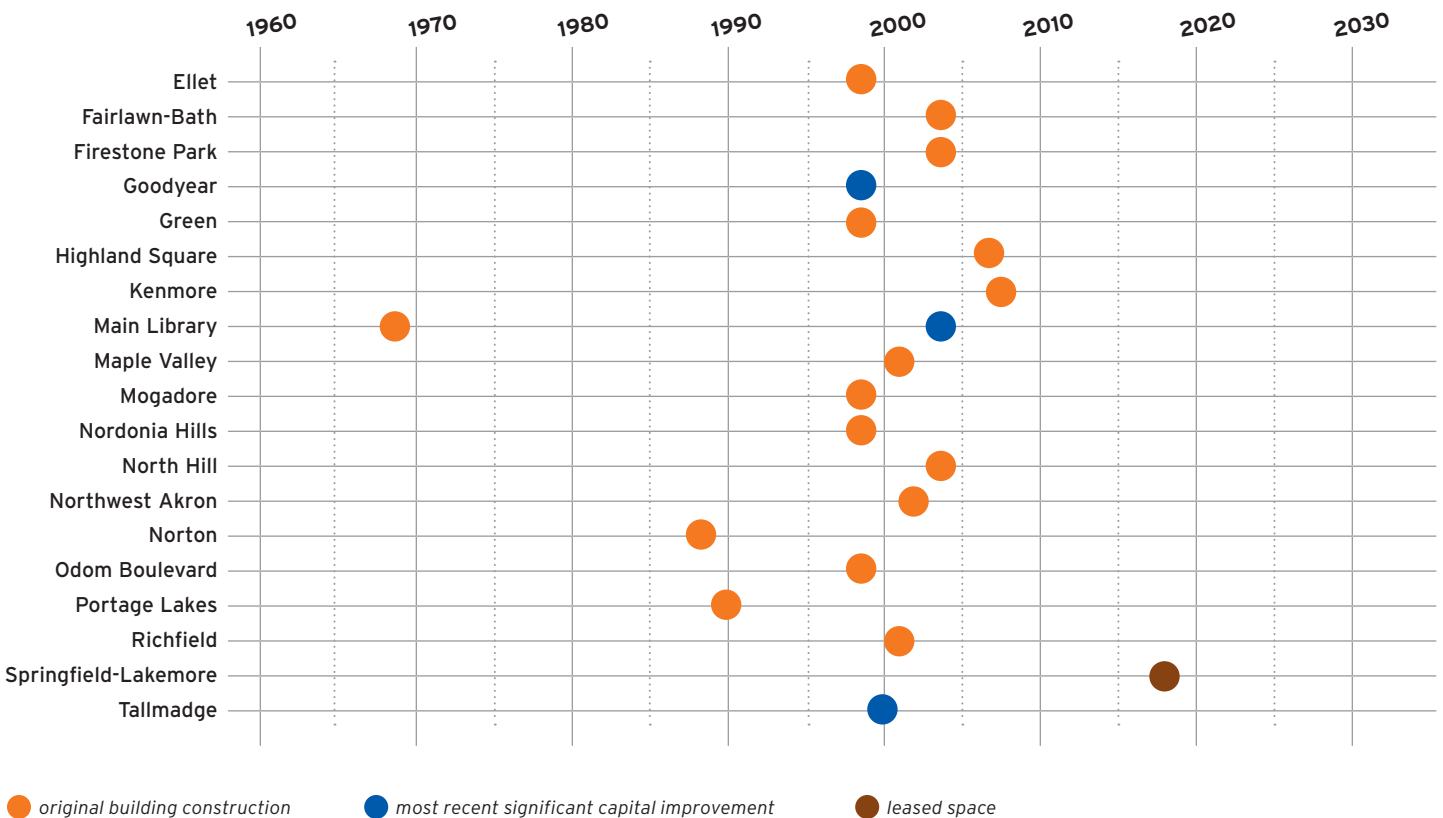
While individual facility observations can be found in the balance of this report, there are two overarching influences that affect all facilities county-wide:

Evolving Demands

Residents' needs and aspirations have evolved with cultural, economic, and technological change over the last three decades. ASCPL strategic priorities and services need to keep pace, requiring facility infrastructure updates to support new demands.

Facility Age

Branches have not benefited from any significant capital improvements since they were built from 1998 to 2008. By 2030 all branches will be 22 to 31 years old, with two facilities over 40 years old.



1 Background and Goals

PROCESS OVERVIEW

A Space Usage Feasibility Study provides a framework for decisions about how, when, and where investments in the physical spaces that support library service delivery will be made over time. To achieve this, feasibility study recommendations are informed by a complexity of sources, including, but not limited to:

- the needs, wants, and aspirations of residents served by the system
- current and projected demographic trends
- current location, size, and condition of facilities
- the ability of facilities to support strategic library service goals
- near and long-term funding capacity

When drawn from these organizational and resident-specific influences, each feasibility study will be just as unique as the communities the Library serves.

Feasibility Study recommendations are designed to establish parameters for how to move forward. They will outline general recommendations for facilities collectively and individually but will stop short of detailed facility solutions. Specific design responses for each facility are appropriately generated in collaboration with the community served at such time the opportunity, funding, and approvals allow.

The Space Usage Feasibility Study process for Akron-Summit County Public Library was designed consistent with the fundamentals outlined above and with a specific commitment to staff and community engagement at its

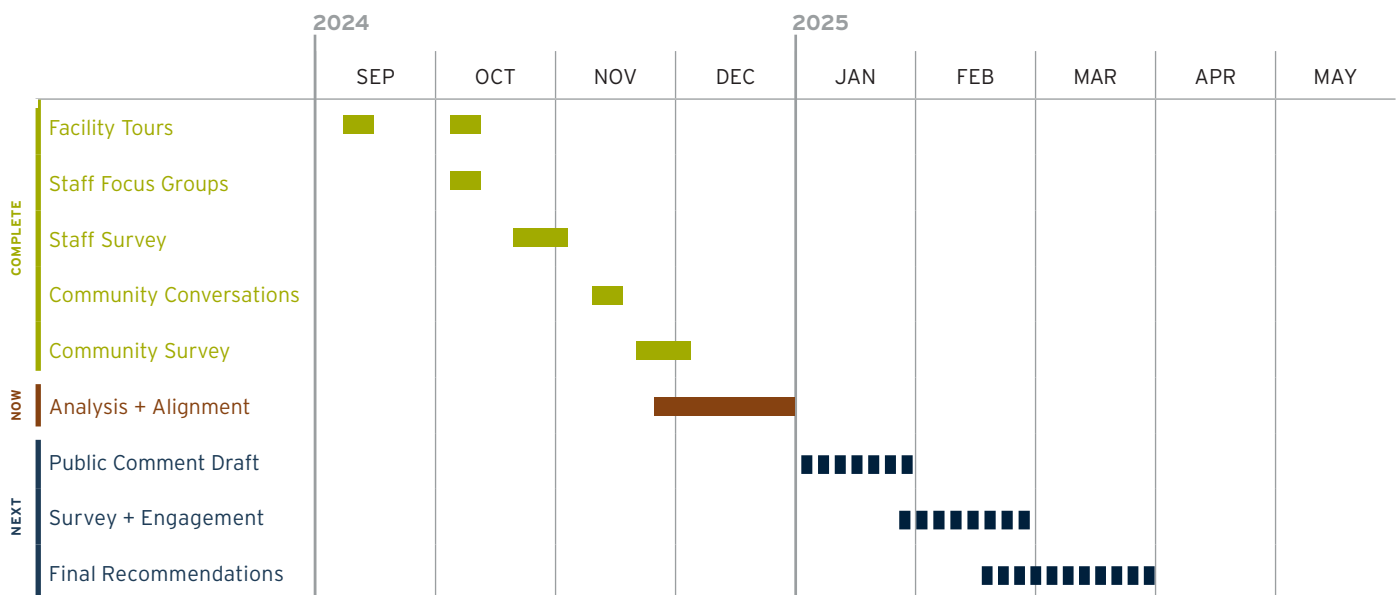
core. While details have been customized along the way, the work was structured in three broad categories to accomplish ASCPL’s goals for this study:

1. Discovery, Assessment, and Engagement
2. Analysis and Alignment
3. Feasibility Study Documentation and Presentation

A timeline of events is outlined below.

Discovery, Assessment, and Engagement started with staff-led tours of each facility. With that context, the team surveyed staff for input and insights and facilitated a total of four visioning workshops to gain shared perspectives on the future of library service in Akron-Summit County. Two additional staff visioning workshops were held that focused on Main Library. Through November and December of 2024, the team reached out to Akron and Summit County residents for detailed input in the form of four in-person community conversations and an online survey. The online survey received over 1,750 responses.

Analysis and Alignment built on the foundation of staff and community input, aligning the facility responses to current conditions, demographic trends, and evolving library service demands with the priorities of Akron and Summit County residents. The resulting recommendations are included in this document for residents to provide feedback. That input will inform the final recommendations, currently scheduled to be presented to the Library Board of Trustees in early May 2025.



Current Locations

Current Locations

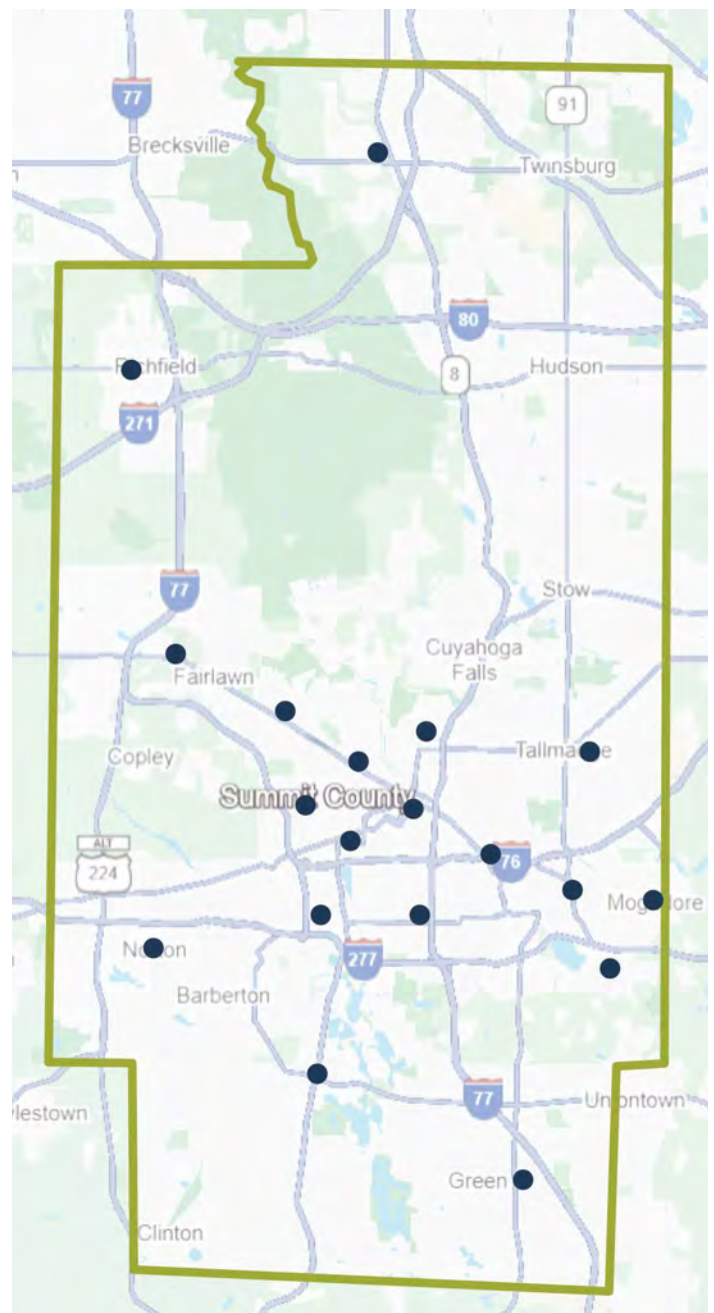
The Library, established in 1874, is comprised of Main Library in downtown Akron, 18 branch locations in the City of Akron and Summit County, two bookmobiles and a van providing cart-based services to residential building lobbies.

The first Akron Public Library officially opened to the public in a building at the corner of Mill and South Howard streets on March 1, 1874. After moving twice, Main Library opened in 1969 on South Main Street and South High Street and was last renovated and expanded in 2004. In 1974, the Library became the Akron-Summit County Public Library, officially incorporating suburban branch libraries into its system.

As of 2025, the facilities owned by the Library range from 17 to 37 years old. The original facilities at two ASCPL locations, Norton and Portage Lakes, were built in 1988 and 1990, respectively. In 1999, six libraries were built new or renovated significantly: Ellet, Goodyear, Green, Mogadore, Nordonia Hills, and Odom Boulevard. Between 2000 and 2008, the remaining nine branches completed the Library's building projects: Tallmadge, Maple Valley, Richfield, Northwest Akron, Fairlawn-Bath, Firestone Park, North Hill, Highland Square and Kenmore. In 2018, the Springfield-Lakemore location opened in a leased storefront space.

The following pages include an overview of current conditions and key findings at each library building.

As a note, the Akron-Summit County Public Library is a county library system with branch locations across the City of Akron and throughout Summit County. However, it does not have branches in Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Hudson, Peninsula, Stow-Munroe Falls, or Twinsburg, as these areas are served by their own independent libraries.



2 Current Conditions

Ellet

GENERAL INFORMATION

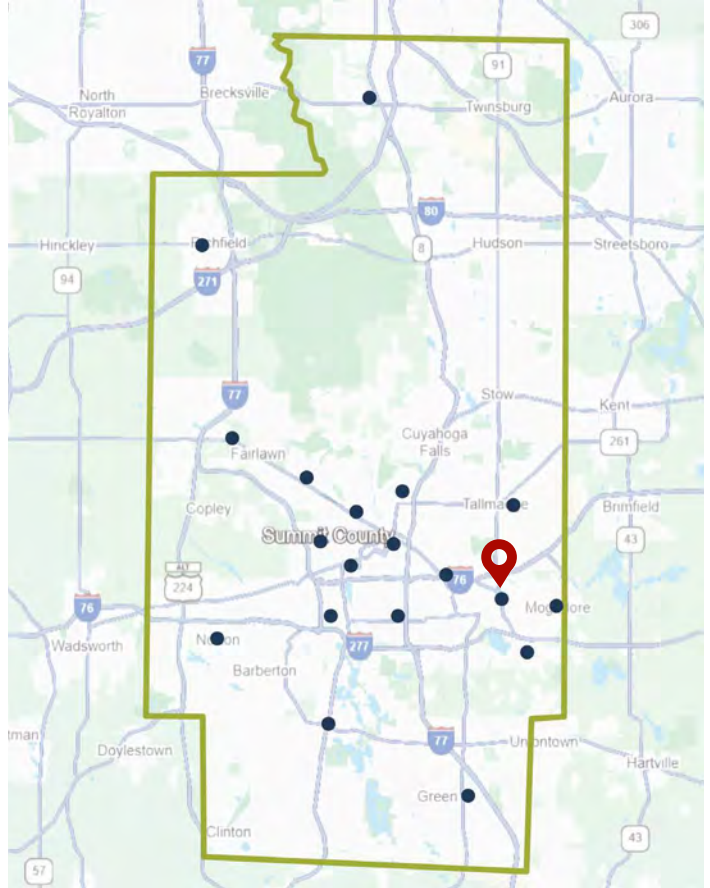
Address 2470 E. Market Street Akron, Ohio 44312	Most Recent Capital Improvement 1999	Building Size 11,650 SF	On Site Parking 54
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	11,678
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	9.40
Meeting Room Capacity	81
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking size is adequate with nice green space
- The Reading Garden is well used
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace is small but functional
- Poor acoustical separation between areas
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Nice Children’s Area but insufficient space for interactive play



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Fairlawn-Bath

GENERAL INFORMATION

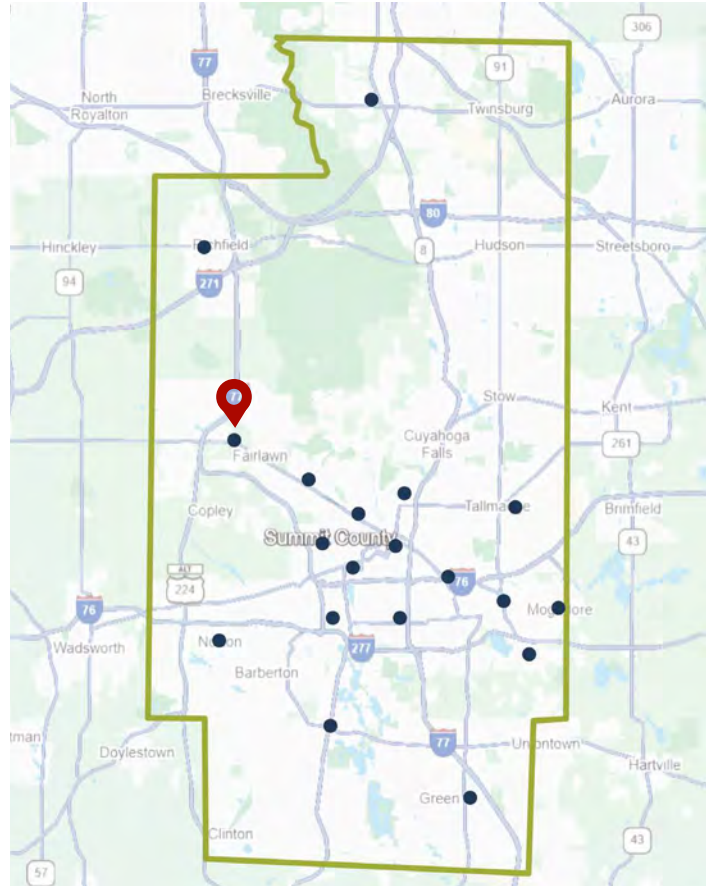
Address 3101 Smith Road Akron, Ohio 44333	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2004	Building Size 12,087 SF	On Site Parking 55
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (2 mile radius)	16,944
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	11
Meeting Room Capacity	75
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate
- Reading Garden is nice but underutilized
- Sunlight appears to be fading the collection
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used but poorly configured
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff space is small and poorly configured
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- No acoustic separation between Staff and Public areas
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Nice Children’s Area with space for interactive play
- Teen area is not well identified and location would benefit from designated Tween space



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Firestone Park

GENERAL INFORMATION

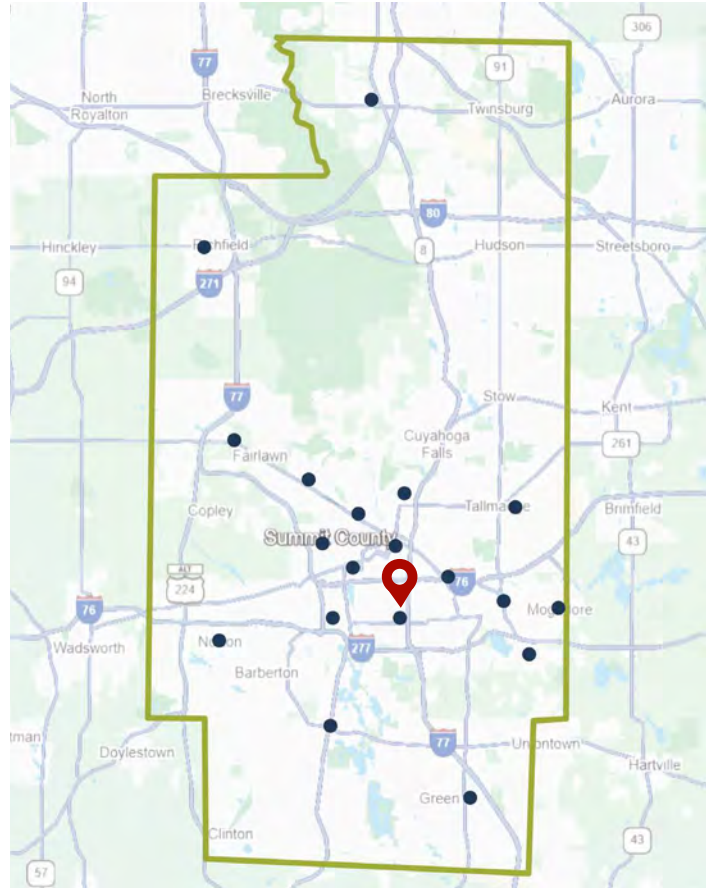
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
1486 Aster Avenue Akron, Ohio 44301	2004	12,006 SF	79

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

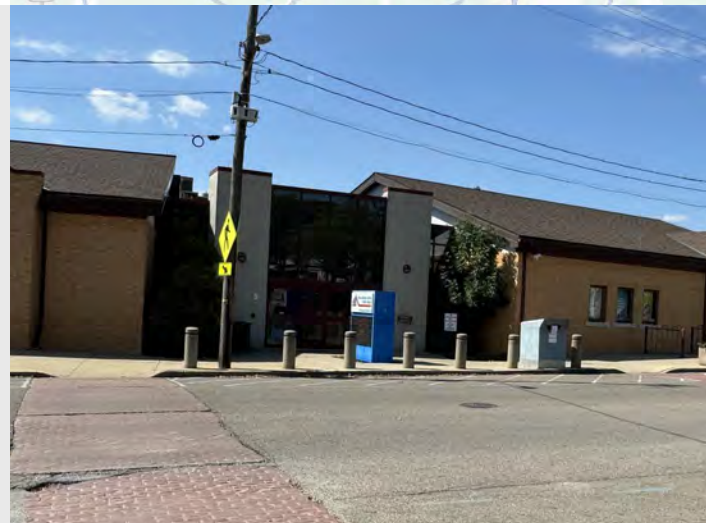
Population (1 mile radius)	16,791
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	7.80
Meeting Room Capacity	155
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is ample
- Lacking outdoor space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in good condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Public computers are heavily used
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Building experiences heavy after-school rush
- Children and Teen areas are well used



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 3 4 5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Goodyear

GENERAL INFORMATION

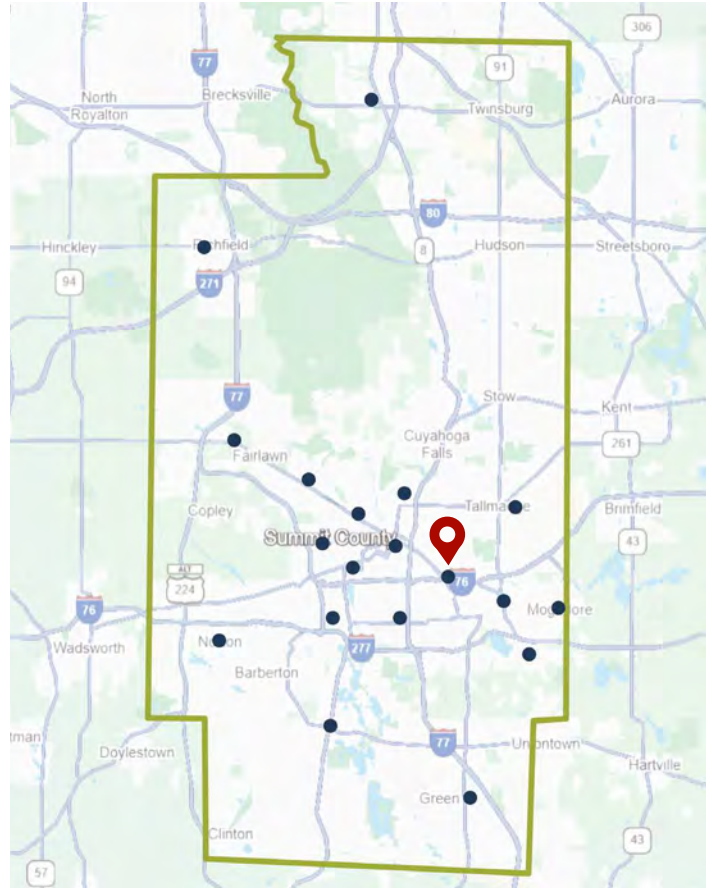
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
60 Goodyear Boulevard Akron, Ohio 44305	1999	13,104 SF	27

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	11,048
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	7.40
Meeting Room Capacity	120
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is limited
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace is functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Fireplace area is nice but not visible
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Teen area could be reorganized to include more collaboration opportunities



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Green

GENERAL INFORMATION

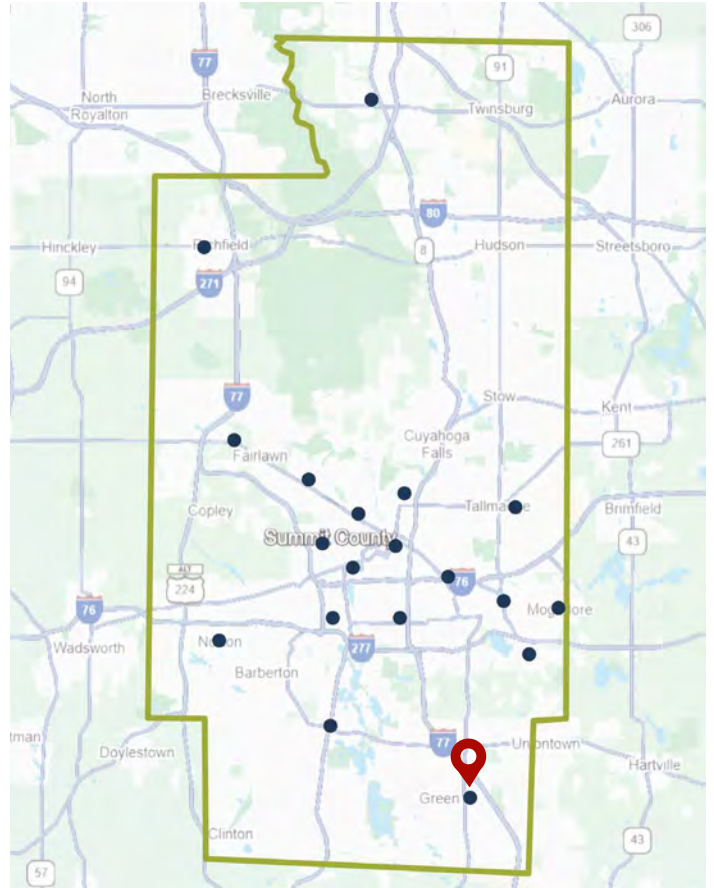
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
4046 Massillon Road Uniontown, Ohio 44685	1999	12,317 SF	47

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (3 mile radius)	25,214
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	9.40
Meeting Room Capacity	96
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate
- Reading Garden is well used but patio underutilized
- Entry corridor is long for those with mobility issues
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor and noted often
- Major systems are in poor condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace is well configured
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Lacking designated Teen area



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Highland Square

GENERAL INFORMATION

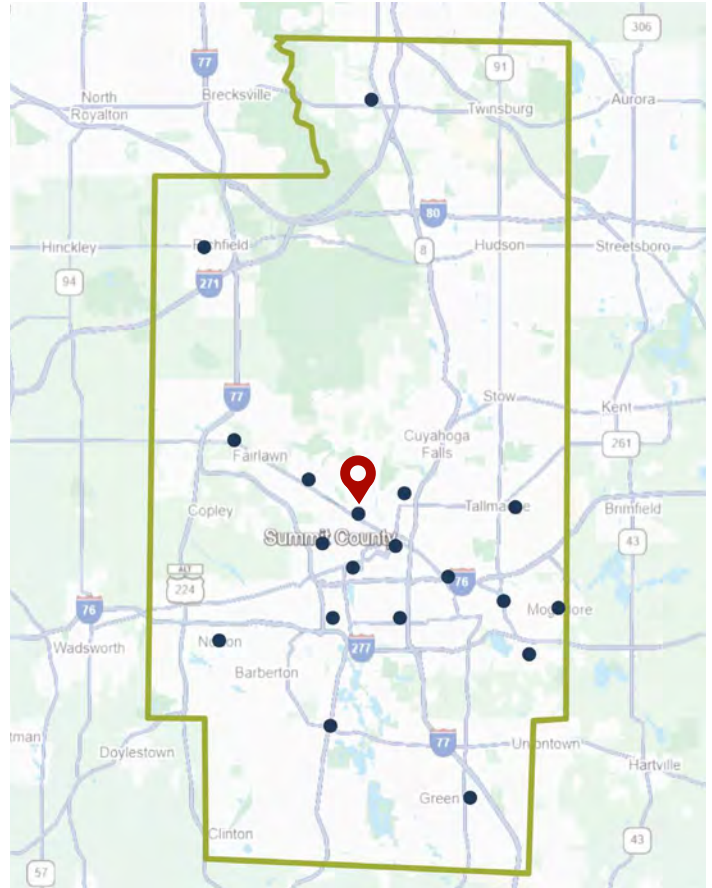
Address 807 W. Market Street Akron, Ohio 44303	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2007	Building Size 11,235 SF	On Site Parking 9 + 40 public
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	15,695
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	8.60
Meeting Room Capacity	80
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Limited parking but adequate adjacent public spaces
- Lacking outdoor program space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Poor acoustical separation between areas
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace is small
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Shelving configuration creates poor sightlines
- Public computers are heavily used
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children’s area is well used but lacking identification



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 (2) 3 4 5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1 2 (3) 4 5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	(1) 2 3 4 5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes (No)



2 Current Conditions

Kenmore

GENERAL INFORMATION

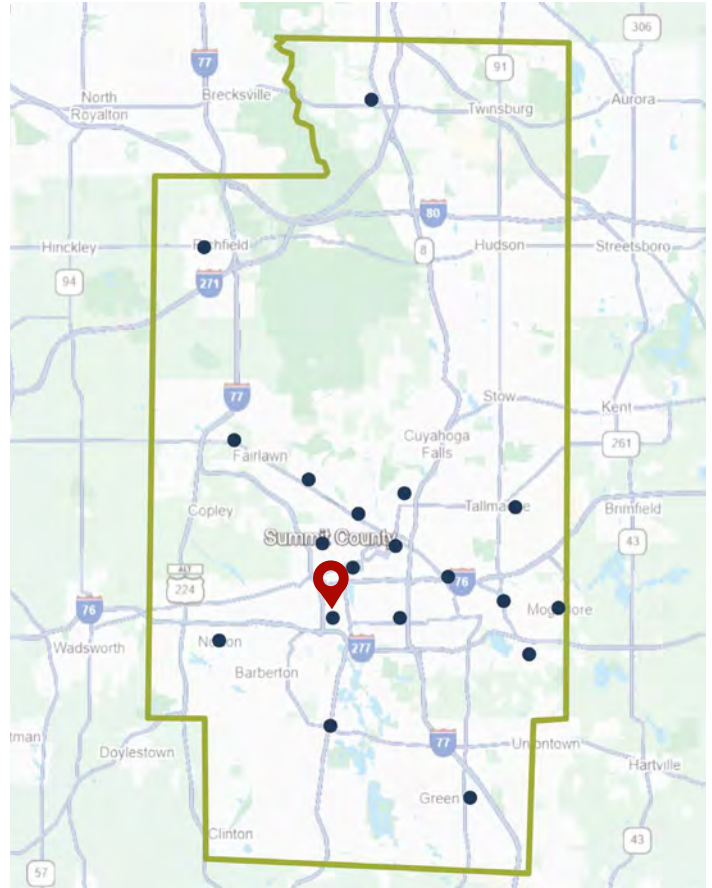
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
969 Kenmore Boulevard Akron, Ohio 44314	2008	11,590 SF	21

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	11,252
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	7.60
Meeting Room Capacity	100
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is limited
- Lacking outdoor program space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace is a good size and functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children and Teen areas are well used



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 **2** 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 **3** 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 **2** 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes **No**



2 Current Conditions

Main Library

GENERAL INFORMATION

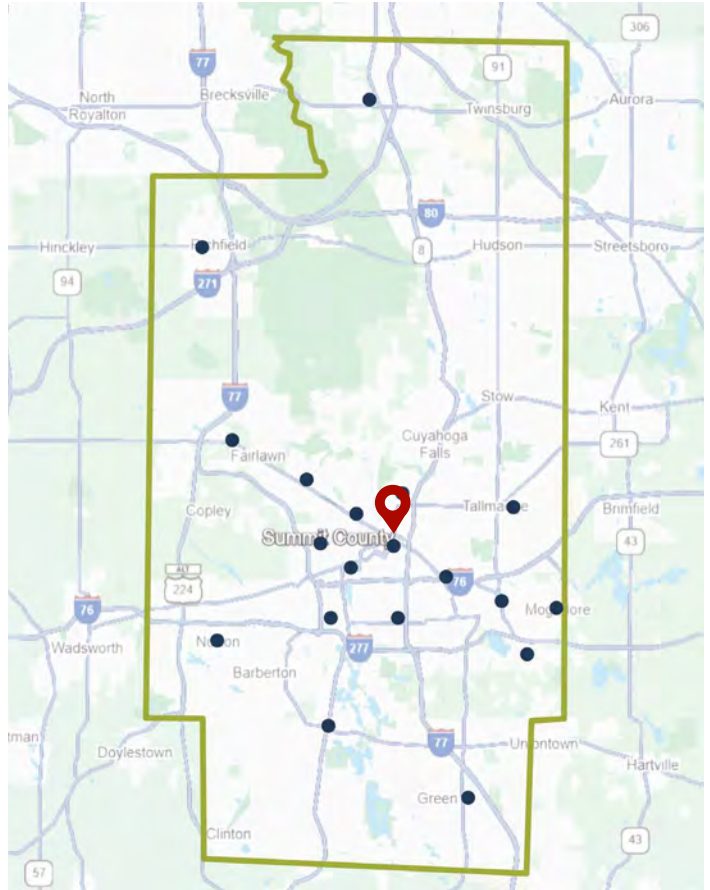
Address 60 South High Street Akron, Ohio 44326	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2004	Building Size 275,000 SF	On Site Parking n/a (City parking)
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Days Open	7 / week
Hours Open	59 / week
FTE Public Service Staff	85.05
FTE Non-Public Service Staff	60.80
Meeting Room Capacity (3 rooms combined)	200
Auditorium Seating	425
Study Rooms	2

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Public parking is adequate but hard for those with mobility issues and the ramp from the parking garage is cumbersome
- Outdoor space is underutilized
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in poor condition
- Large Meeting Rooms are well used
- Limited quiet areas or study rooms
- Staff Areas are a good size, not configured efficiently
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Public computers are heavily used
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Adult Non-Fiction collection is arranged on multiple floors in a manner that is not readily apparent to library customers
- Children area is well used
- Teen area lacks identification



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes	No			



2 Current Conditions

Maple Valley

GENERAL INFORMATION

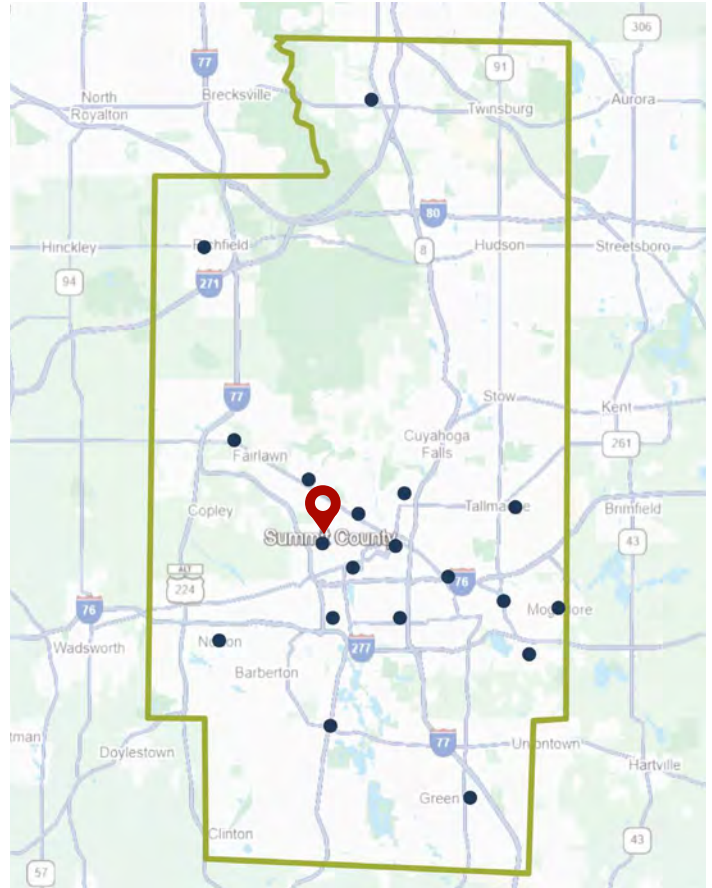
Address 1187 Copley Road Akron, Ohio 44320	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2001	Building Size 11,805 SF	On Site Parking 61
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	13,734
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	9
Meeting Room Capacity	100
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is ample
- Uphill path to entry difficult for those with mobility issues
- Lacking outdoor program space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in good condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children’s area is a good size but could benefit from more tackable wall surfaces
- No designated Teen area



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes	No			



2 Current Conditions

Mogadore

GENERAL INFORMATION

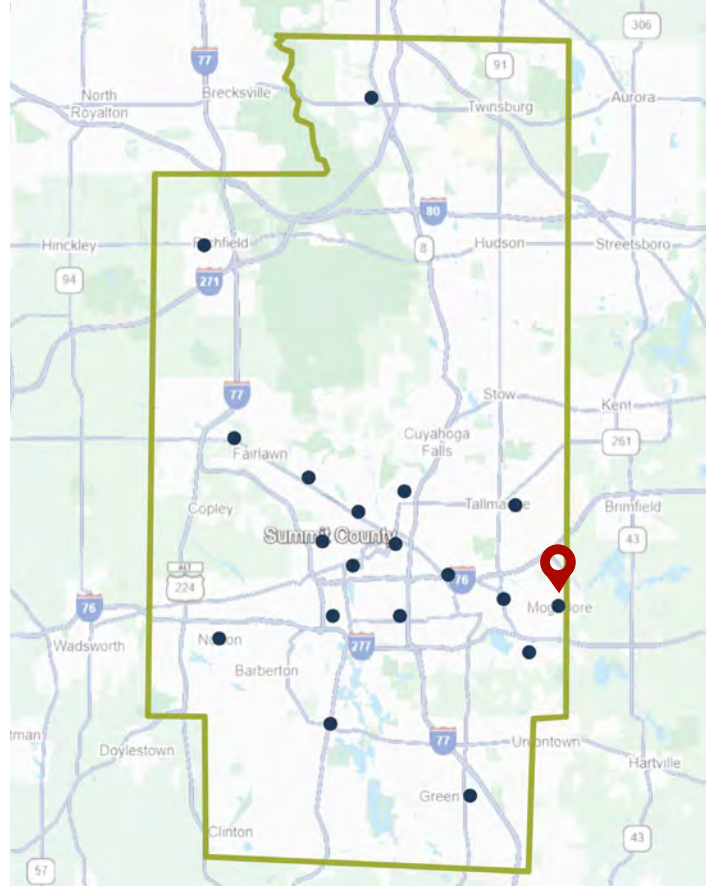
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
144 South Cleveland Avenue Mogadore, Ohio 44260	1999	11,960 SF	34

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	4,604
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	8
Meeting Room Capacity	120
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate
- Small Reading Garden used for outdoor program space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children area is well used
- Teen area lacks identification



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes	No			



2 Current Conditions

Nordonia Hills

GENERAL INFORMATION

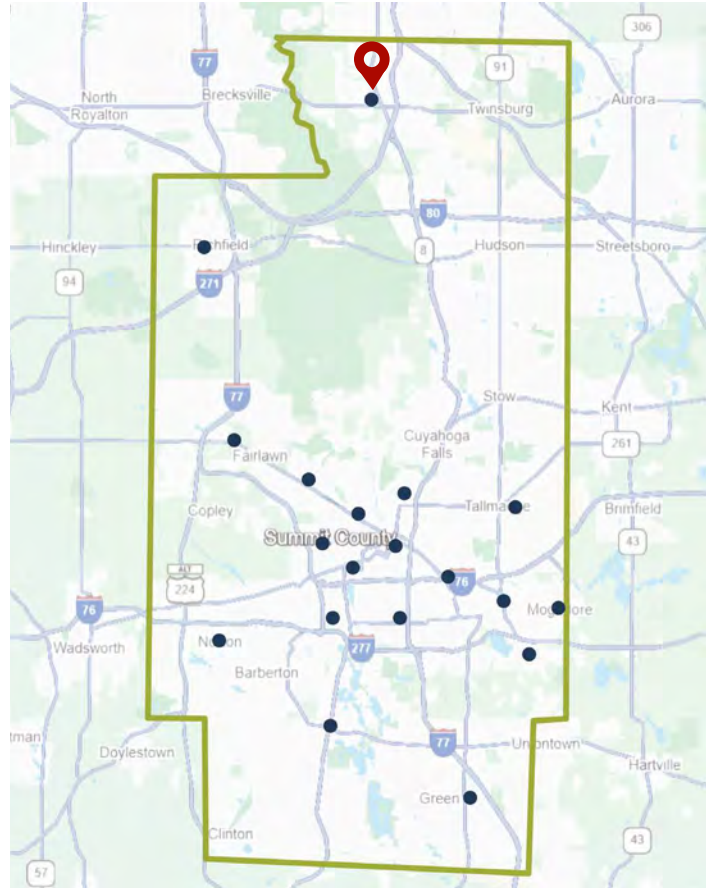
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
9458 Olde Eight Road Northfield, Ohio 44067	1999	11,981 SF	58

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (3 mile radius)	29,283
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	9.40
Meeting Room Capacity	102
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate
- Nice reading garden but statue is in disrepair
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in good condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children and Teen areas are well used



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes No



2 Current Conditions

North Hill

GENERAL INFORMATION

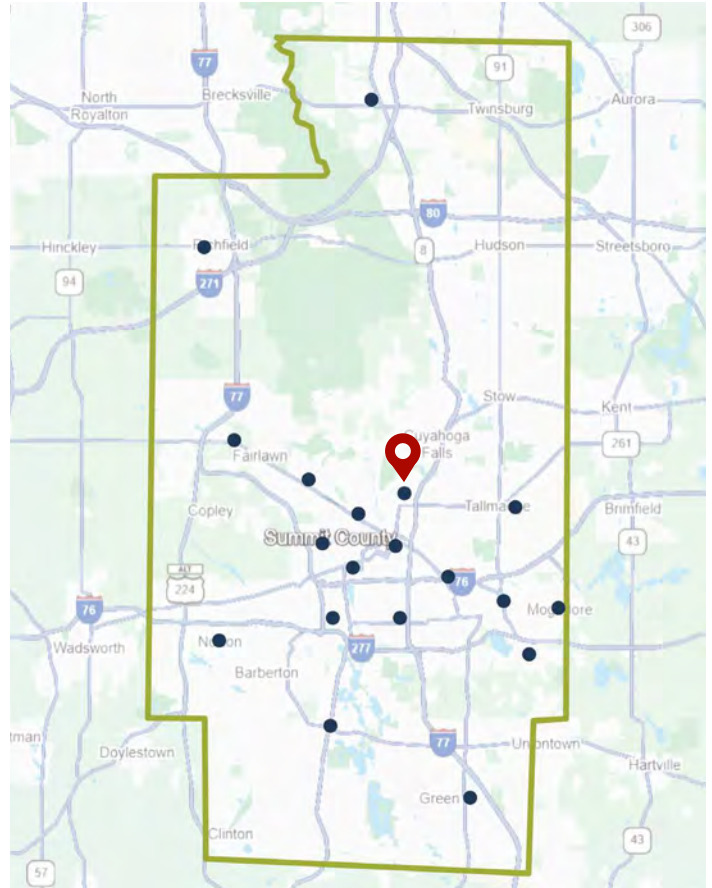
Address 183 E. Cuyahoga Falls Ave Akron, Ohio 44310	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2004	Building Size 11,892 SF	On Site Parking 42
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	18,414
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	8.40
Meeting Room Capacity	50
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate
- Lacking enclosed outdoor space
- Exterior lighting is very poor
- Interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children and Teen areas are well used



Building Exterior Condition

1 **2** 3 4 5

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

Systems Condition

1 2 **3** 4 5

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

1 **2** 3 4 5

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes **No**



2 Current Conditions

Northwest Akron

GENERAL INFORMATION

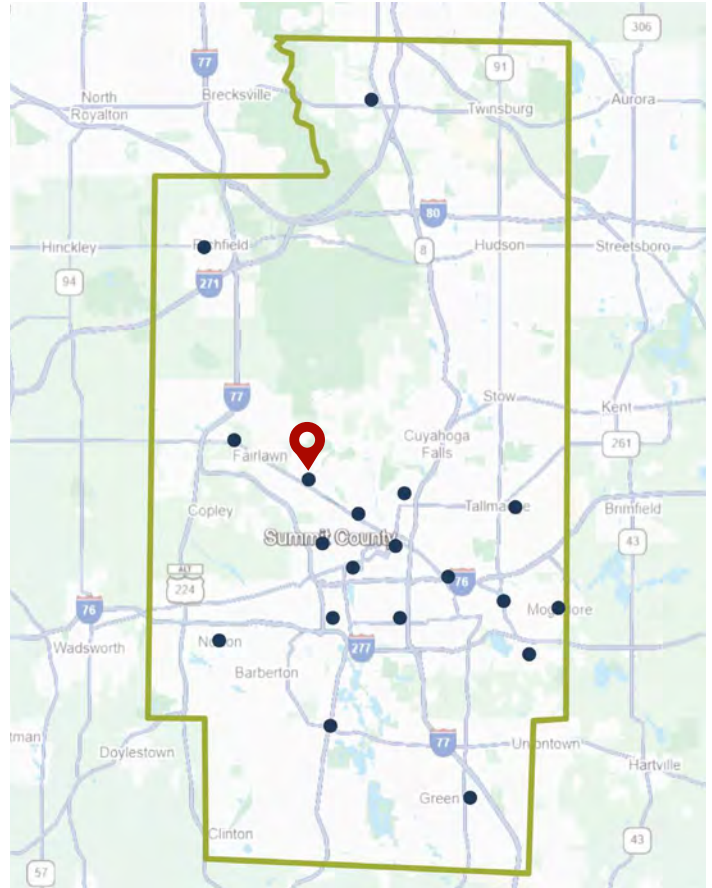
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
1720 Shatto Avenue Akron, Ohio 44313	2002	11,961 SF	105

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (2 mile radius)	33,250
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	9.80
Meeting Room Capacity	100
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is ample
- Outdoor space is underutilized
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in poor condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children's area is well used
- Teen area is not well identified
- Branch experiences influx of youth at the end of the school day



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 **2** 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 **2** 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 **2** 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes **No**



2 Current Conditions

Norton

GENERAL INFORMATION

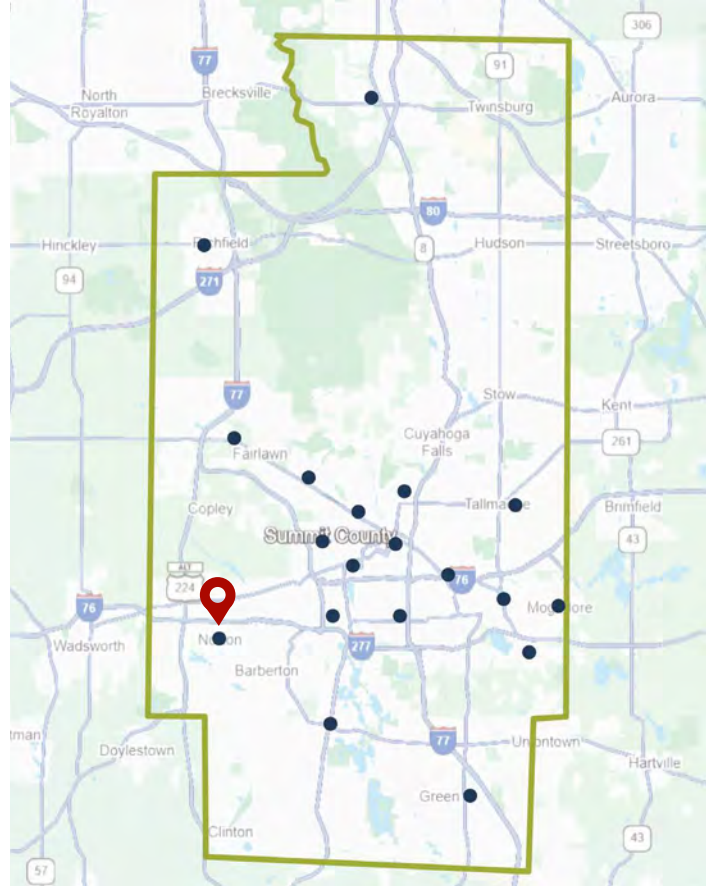
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
3930 South Cleveland- Massillon Road Norton, Ohio 44203	1988	10,963 SF	61

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (2 mile radius)	15,490
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	8.60
Meeting Room Capacity	100
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate with nice outdoor space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in good condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No Conference Room is provided
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children area is well used but sunken area poses a safety concern
- Teen area is well used



Building Exterior Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Systems Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Furniture & Fixtures Condition <i>Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands	Yes	No			



2 Current Conditions

Odom Boulevard

GENERAL INFORMATION

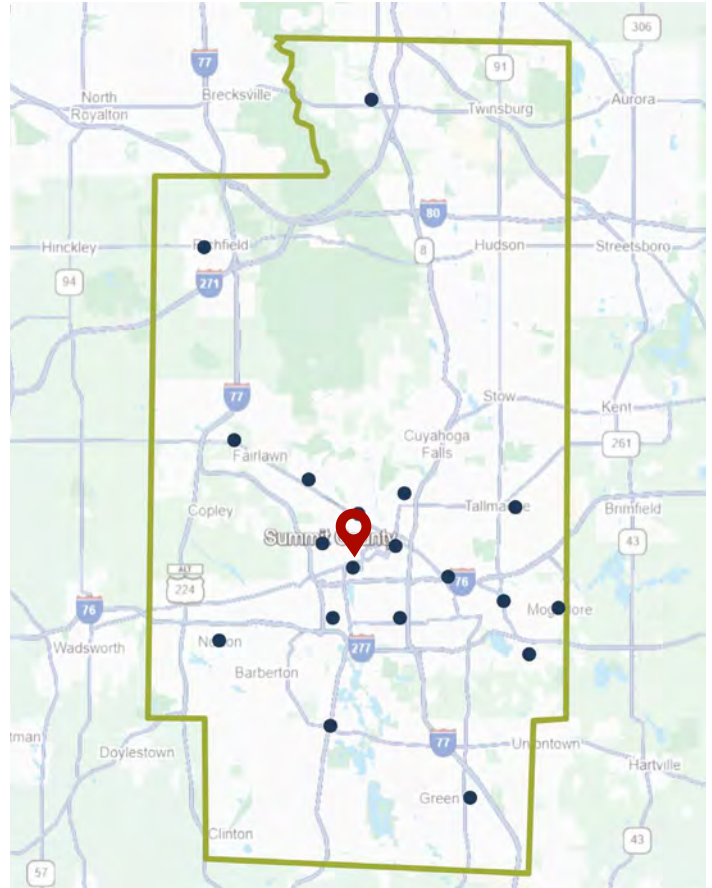
Address 600 Vernon Odom Blvd. Akron, Ohio 44307	Most Recent Capital Improvement 1999	Building Size 11,987 SF	On Site Parking 59
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	11,887
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	7.80
Meeting Room Capacity	145
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate with nice outdoor space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small and poorly configured
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Public computers are heavily used
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children area is well used
- Teen area lacks identity



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 **2** 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 **3** 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 **2** 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes **No**



2 Current Conditions

Portage Lakes

GENERAL INFORMATION

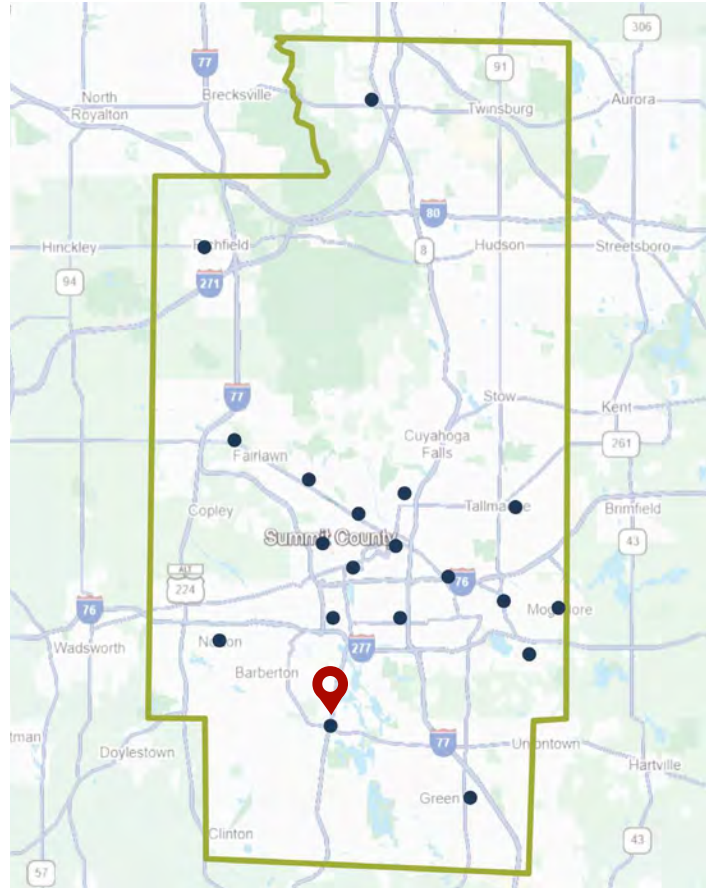
Address	Most Recent Capital Improvement	Building Size	On Site Parking
4261 Manchester Road Akron, Ohio 44319	1990	11,218 SF	57

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (2 mile radius)	13,147
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	6.80
Meeting Room Capacity	200
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate but poorly configured
- Outdoor space is in poor condition & underutilized
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in good condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small and poorly configured
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Public computers are heavily used
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children and Teen areas are well used



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Richfield

GENERAL INFORMATION

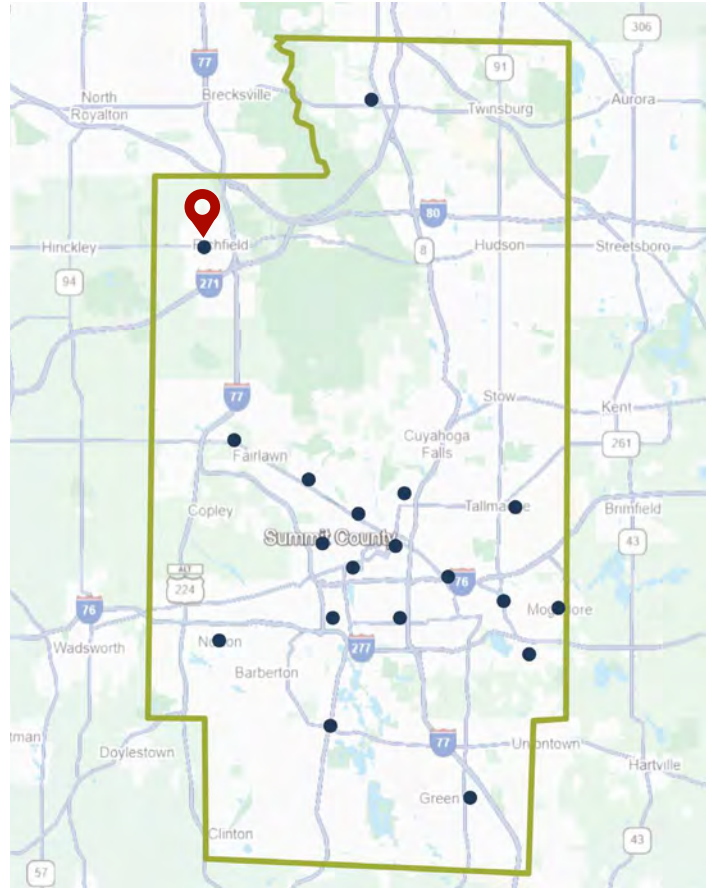
Address 3761 South Grant Street Richfield, Ohio 44286	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2001	Building Size 11,934 SF	On Site Parking 57
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (3 mile radius)	7,142
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	7.80
Meeting Room Capacity	130
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate
- Outdoor space is a nice size and includes Charlotte's Web character statues that are well liked
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in poor condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace is functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Fireplace area is nice but not visible
- Public computers are heavily used
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children's area is well used
- Teen area could be reorganized to include more collaboration opportunities



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Springfield-Lakemore

GENERAL INFORMATION

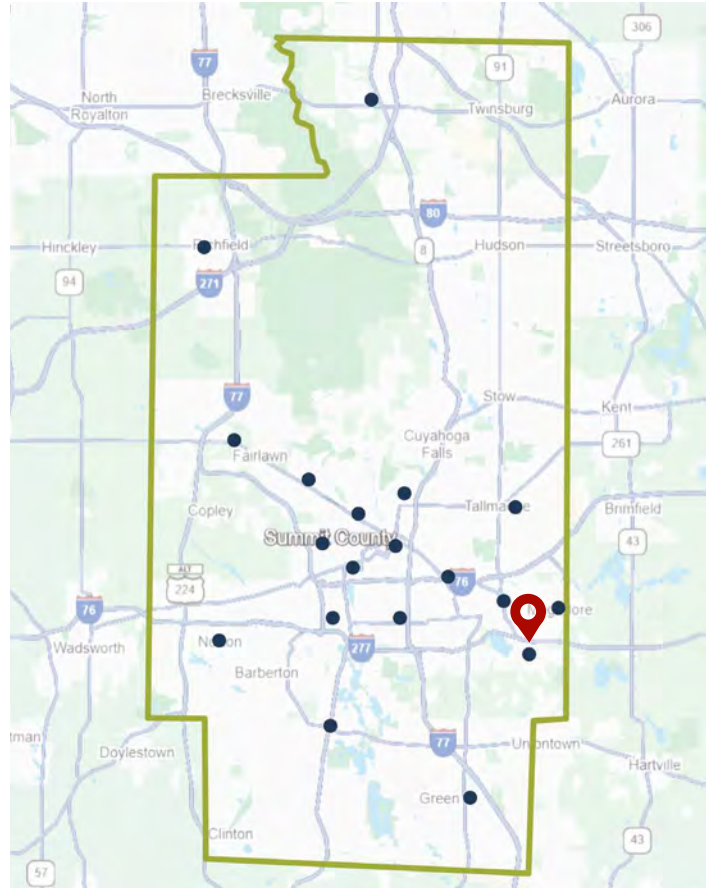
Address 1500 Canton Rd, Suite 360 Akron, Ohio 44312	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2018 (Year Leased)	Building Size 4,410 SF	On Site Parking Shared Public
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (1 mile radius)	5,036
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	45 / week
FTE Staff	6.20
Meeting Room Capacity	40
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Adequate shared parking
- No outdoor space
- Interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in adequate condition
- Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace very small but functional
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children and Teen areas are well used



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes No



2 Current Conditions

Tallmadge

GENERAL INFORMATION

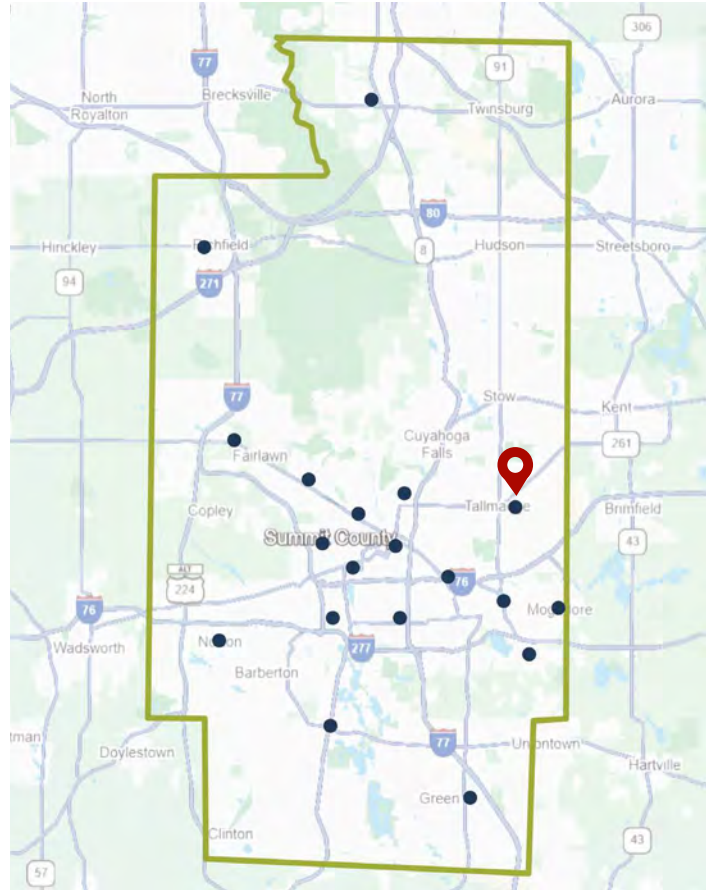
Address 90 Community Road Tallmadge, Ohio 44278	Most Recent Capital Improvement 2000	Building Size 12,600 SF	On Site Parking 65
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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Population (2 mile radius)	22,188
Days Open	6 / week
Hours Open	53 / week
FTE Staff	8.80
Meeting Room Capacity	108
Study Rooms	0

CURRENT CONDITIONS & KEY FINDINGS

- Parking is adequate
- Lacking outdoor program space
- Exterior and interior lighting is poor
- Major systems are in poor condition
- Large Meeting Room is well used
- No dedicated quiet space or study rooms
- Staff workspace small but functional
- Tall shelving impedes sightlines
- Finishes are worn and lack color
- Quantity of public computers is adequate
- Insufficient amount of electrical outlets for public use
- Children and Teen areas are well used
- Teen area lacks identification



Building Exterior Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Systems Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Furniture & Fixtures Condition

Scale: 1 = Poor to 5 = Good

1 2 3 4 5

Collaboration Spaces sized for current service demands

Yes No



3 Imagine Your Renovated Branch

ASCPL CORE VALUES

Excellence

Operating with the highest level of integrity and accountability and demonstrating excellence in all we do

Service

Providing innovative service that is kind, welcoming and equitable for our customers and co-workers

Learning

Engaging those we serve in life-long learning and individual enrichment to foster community well-being

Diversity and Inclusion

Creating a library environment that respects and values human diversity, offers access to resources that present multiple views and provides inclusive opportunities for all

Staff and community engagement provided a variety of opportunities for detailed feedback from Akron and Summit County residents.

WHAT WE HEARD:

- Create inviting, inclusive spaces that engage residents across all demographics and abilities
- Maintain a welcoming environment for all residents while keeping safety as a top priority
- Design spaces to showcase books and other library materials, ensuring ease of access and browsing opportunities
- Incorporate flexible design solutions allowing ASCPL to better adapt to evolving service demands over time
- Design to accommodate a variety of programming needs
- Incorporate clear signage and wayfinding to support user-friendly, easy-to-navigate, and accessible buildings and grounds
- Include more small meeting rooms to foster community conversations, learning, and collaboration
- Create vibrant, imaginative youth spaces to inspire a passion for reading, learning, and discovery
- Allow for creation opportunities by utilizing furniture-based movable solutions
- Enhance access to technology and audiovisual resources, with ample charging opportunities and robust WiFi available throughout the facility

3 Imagine Your Renovated Branch

Children

As existing library buildings are renovated, ASCPL should incorporate the following concepts into the design of its spaces for children.

- Locate close to other active areas and away from quiet areas.
- The overall space should be zoned by developmental age group and the décor should be appropriate for the age of the primary audience.
- Shelving should help define the zones and the height and design of the shelving should vary based on the type of books and materials being shelved. Ideally, most of the shelving should be on casters.
- Signage should be informative, attractive, and easy to change.

- Lounge seating should be durable, cleanable and comfortable for children and parents/caregivers.
- Interactive activity areas encouraging children to learn through imagination and play.
- Tables and chairs of various heights should be available and easily moved for flexibility.
- Acoustic elements should be incorporated for noise mitigation.
- Flooring should be durable and easily cleanable.
- Lines of sight should enable library staff to see most, if not the entire area.



**Images above are not of current ASCPL locations, but of other public library spaces used to spark inspiration during staff and public visioning workshops.*

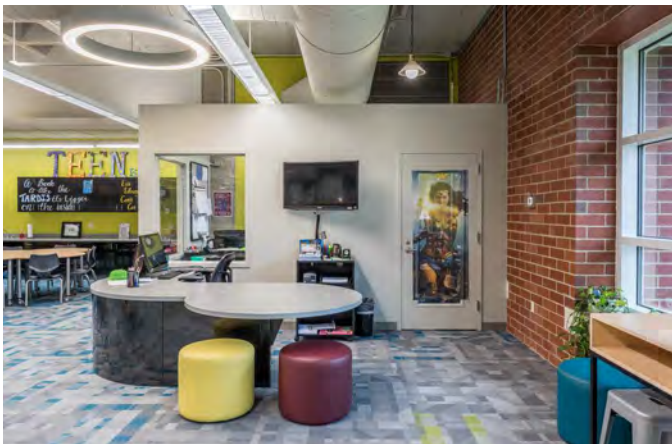
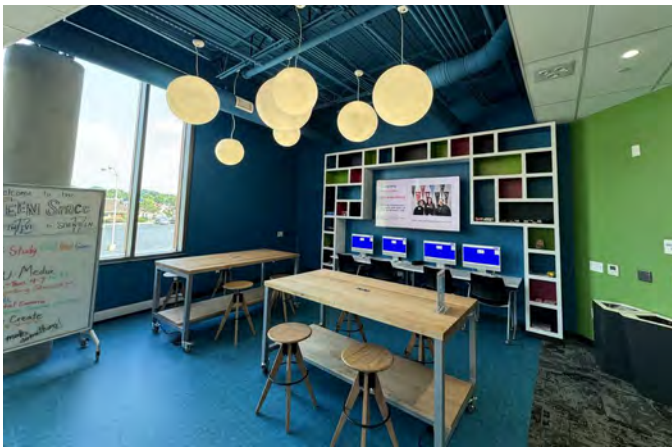
3 Imagine Your Renovated Branch

Teens

As existing library buildings are renovated, ASCPL should incorporate the following concepts into the design of its spaces for teens:

- Locate close to other active areas and away from quiet areas.
- The overall space should be designated for teens and the décor should be appropriate for teen customers.
- Shelving should help define the zones and the height and design of the shelving should vary based on the type of books and materials being shelved. Ideally, most of the shelving should be on casters.
- Signage should be informative, attractive, and easy to change.

- Lounge seating should be durable, cleanable and comfortable.
- Tables and chairs of various heights should be available and easily moved for flexibility.
- Acoustic elements should be incorporated for noise mitigation.
- Flooring should be durable and easily cleanable.
- Lines of sight should enable library staff to see most, if not the entire area.



**Images above are not of current ASCPL locations, but of other public library spaces used to spark inspiration during staff and public visioning workshops.*

3 Imagine Your Renovated Branch

Adult

As existing library buildings are renovated, ASCPL should incorporate the following concepts into the design of its spaces for adults:

- Adult collections and seating should be located away from active/noisy spaces.
- Signage should be informative, attractive, and easy to change.
- In addition to tables and chairs, there should be comfortable seating options throughout the area, ideally near windows.
- Shelving should be arranged in a logical order and enable customers to find books and other materials easily.

- Acoustic elements should be incorporated for noise mitigation.
- Lines of sight should enable library staff to see most, if not the entire area.
- Staff service points should be easily identifiable.
- Display of materials should be incorporated to invite customers to browse.
- Customers should have easy access to electrical outlets to charge their phones, computers, etc.



**Images above are not of current ASCPL locations, but of other public library spaces used to spark inspiration during staff and public visioning workshops.*

3 Imagine Your Renovated Branch

Meeting + Creation Spaces

As existing library buildings are renovated, ASCPL should incorporate the following concepts into the design of its meeting and collaboration spaces:

- Small meeting rooms should include technology to support a variety of programs, meetings and activities including video conferences.
- Meeting spaces should include whiteboards for collaboration.
- Customers should have easy access to electrical outlets for enhanced connectivity.
- Privacy should be balanced with security with glass incorporated for visibility.
- Furniture solutions should be utilized for collaboration opportunities.
- Incorporate a mobile cart for culinary literacy programs.

- Incorporate mobile makerspace solutions to provide innovative opportunities for creation.
- Space should be allocated to facilitate culinary and makerspace programs.
- Include tackable wall surfaces.
- Design spaces with maximum flexibility to accommodate current and future technologies.
- Provide robust WiFi available throughout the facility.

Whenever possible, renovated branches should include one or more small meeting rooms with the ability to accommodate 4-12 people using the spaces for a variety of purposes.



**Images above are not of current ASCPL locations, but of other public library spaces used to spark inspiration during staff and public visioning workshops.*

4 Imagine Your Main Library

Imagine a Main Library where you can:

By looking to examples of similar Main Libraries, there are numerous potential improvements that could expand services and opportunities for ASCPL residents in this prime location. Main Library continues to offer a wide range of services to its community, and below is a sample of opportunities that could benefit residents and secure the Library as a destination in downtown Akron.

Current Opportunities that could be Enhanced

- Convert old videos, cassettes and vinyl records, 8mm film, photographs, slides, and more to newer formats.
- Attend a technology class on a wide-variety of topics from hardware to software and more.
- Reserve a room for a meeting of your club or organization.
- Borrow items such as binoculars, cake pans, WiFi hot spots, musical instruments, a microscope, and so much more from our ever growing Library of Things.
- Record a song, a presentation, or a podcast in a state-of-the art recording studio.
- Attend a performance in a large auditorium.
- Get a new Passport or have a document notarized.
- Use the Small Business & Nonprofit Resource Center to access resources in a co-working space.
- Use a study room or small conference room to work alone or with a few colleagues.
- Learn a new craft or become more proficient in one you already enjoy.
- Use, or learn to use, the tools in the TechZone to design, engineer, or fabricate various creations.

Potential New Opportunities

- See the work of local artists or view a traveling exhibit from distinguished institutions such as the National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, or the Folger Shakespeare Library.
- Attend a cooking class to learn some basic techniques, such as food prep skills for teens leaving the foster care system or cooking for one after the death of a partner.
- Participate in a video conference call for all sorts of reasons such as a job interview, a lecture, a tele-medicine call or any other reason where you need a robust Internet connection and some privacy so you don't disturb others.



ASCPL Main Library - Auditorium



*Image above is not a current ASCPL location, but of a public library space used to spark inspiration during staff and public visioning workshops.

Facilities Summary

The narratives included here represent the recommendations for each location. They are shaped by the quantitative and qualitative information gathered by the process outlined in this document including the staff & community's feedback from the engagement sessions.

In each facility where space allows, considerations should be given to incorporate a designated makerspace and after-hours material pickup lockers.



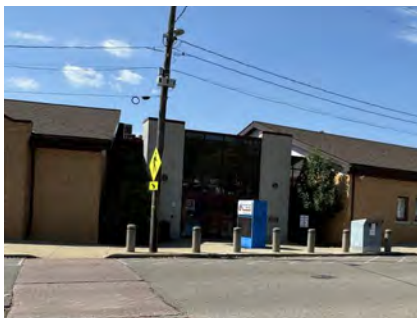
Ellet

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Shelving layout should be reconfigured to improve sightlines. Add displays for material and space for interactive play. One small study room should be provided.



Fairlawn-Bath

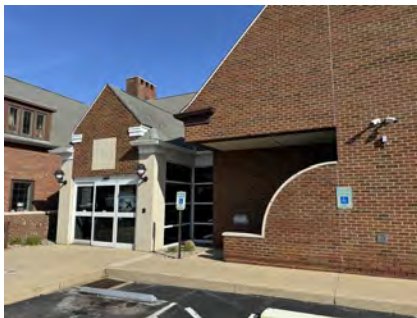
Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. The noise transfer between public and staff areas should be addressed as well as mitigating incoming sunlight. Space could be reallocated to provide a designated Tween area. The Large Meeting Room layout should be revised to eliminate the curved walls. One small study room should be provided.



Firestone Park

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering the shelving heights to improve sightlines and reconfigure the service desk for a better entry experience. One small study room should be provided.

5 Recommendations



Goodyear

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering the shelving heights to improve sightlines and visibility to fireplace. One small study room should be provided.



Green

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering the shelving heights to improve sightlines and reallocate space for a designated Teen area. A door could be added to access the exterior patio. One small study room should be provided.



Highland Square

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider reconfiguring and lowering the shelving heights for improved sightlines and efficiency. Three small study rooms should be provided.



Kenmore

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering the shelving heights for improved sightlines. Space could be identified for a gallery wall. Two small study rooms should be provided.



Maple Valley

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. The path from the parking lot to the front door should be addressed for a better entry experience. Space could be reallocated to enclose a designated Teen area. Two small study rooms should be provided.

5 Recommendations



Mogadore

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering the shelving heights in the Adult collection for improved sightlines. One small study room should be provided.



Nordonia Hills

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider reconfiguring the underutilized area near the exterior book return. Two small study rooms should be provided.



North Hill

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage in multiple languages. Incorporate acoustic elements in the Adult and Children's areas to mitigate noise. Reorganize the Teen area with a variety of table and seating types. Add mobile merchandising book displays near the entry. One small study room should be provided.



Northwest Akron

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering the shelving heights in the Adult collection for improved sightlines. Use signage and color to designate dedicated Teen area. One small study room should be provided.



Norton

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering shelving heights and reconfigure underutilized spaces. Incorporate acoustic elements to mitigate noise. Fill in and repurpose sunken portion in Childrens area. Two small study rooms and one conference room should be provided.

5 Recommendations



Odom Boulevard

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering shelving heights for improved sightlines. Consolidate public computers for better efficiency of space. Reallocate underutilized spaces near the entry. Three small study rooms should be provided.



Portage Lakes

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Improve parking configuration and repair exterior building material. Patio and garden space should be updated for outdoor programming. Utilize space beneath windows for shelving or material display. One small study room should be provided.



Richfield

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. The acoustic issues in the high volume space should be addressed. Relocate Teen area for better use of space. Consider lowering shelving heights in the Adult area for increased visibility to fireplace. Two small study rooms should be provided.



Springfield-Lakemore

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Reduce amount of public computers. One small study room should be provided.

Alternate Option: Expansion into an alternate location in the area to provide additional space.



Tallmadge

Recommended improvements include: update all finishes and furniture to introduce more color and a variety of seating / collaboration opportunities, upgrade lighting, provide more power, and incorporate new wayfinding signage. Consider lowering shelving heights for improved sightlines. Add mobile merchandising book displays near the entry. Reduce amount of public computers and reallocate space for collaboration. Reconfigure Teen area to accommodate its collection. One small study room should be provided.

5 Recommendations



Main Library

Recommended improvements for a refreshed and re-energized Main Library include: update all finishes and furniture, upgrade interior lighting, provide more power for increased connectivity, and incorporate new wayfinding signage that is more user-friendly. Consider lowering shelving heights on all floors to improve sightlines and visibility.

Additional recommendations are as follows:

- Create a more welcoming and inviting entry experience from High Street
- Consolidate the Adult Non-Fiction collection to the first floor for ease of library customer use
- Expand and relocate the TechZone on the first floor to provide enhanced tools to design and create
- Improve the recording studios and add a podcast room for creation opportunities
- Relocate and expand the Small Business & Nonprofit Resource Center to be adjacent to the TechZone on the first floor
- Reduce the amount of space currently allocated to periodicals
- Renovate the Auditorium and provide updated technology
- Explore culinary literacy opportunities for teaching and events
- Provide multiple small study spaces in a variety of sizes at a variety of locations
- Provide an enclosed and designated Teen area on the second floor
- Reallocate space to expand and enhance Special Collections on the third floor
- Include a reconfigurable programming and event space on the third floor
- Consider relocating the Friends of Main Library Shop to increase its presence
- Evaluate space allocated to support functions and reorganize to improve efficiency and workflow
- Renovate Staff areas as needed to improve operational efficiency

6 Fiscal Implications

Estimates of cost for the recommendations account for knowable and predictable costs and are presented as a range, consistent with a Feasibility Study level of detail. The estimates include construction costs (often referred to as 'hard' costs), 'soft' costs, and escalation.

Hard cost estimates for existing facilities are informed by: observable conditions, conversations with ASCPL branch and facilities staff, detailed 2023 facility assessment report prepared by ASCPL, and the professional judgment of the planning team's professional estimator. Hard cost estimates for proposed renovations are estimated based on a regional average of as-constructed costs for library buildings, on a square foot basis. Note that current market conditions and supply chain disruptions make the level of certainty less predictable, and the estimates represent the team's professional judgement as of the date of this report.

Soft cost estimates include a wide array of related services and purchases outside of a construction project but necessary for any library facility to be built and to operate. These include but are not limited to: architect and engineering fees, permits, insurance, construction manager fees as well as books, furniture, fixtures, equipment, technology, and contingencies. These are budgeted based on square foot estimates and as a percentage of construction cost.

Escalation is the estimated increase in costs over time. The recommendations in this plan would necessarily be done in phases to avoid any comprehensive shutdown of facilities and service delivery to Akron and Summit County residents. Estimates included here have assumed a three-phase implementation process that would extend over an estimated six- to eight-year period. For purposes of this report, escalation has been calculated at 3.0% annually.

With these considerations, the cost for the recommendations range from \$145 million to \$170 million.



7 Next Steps

This report is not the end of the conversation. It is, instead, a jumping-off point for a continued dialogue with ASCPL's customers and the community at-large.

We recognize the deep passion Akron and Summit County residents have for their library system. We invite you to help shape the next chapter in ASCPL's journey. Over the coming weeks, there will be numerous opportunities for you to stay informed and provide feedback on the future of ASCPL's buildings. Here are a few ways you can continue to be involved:

- Sign up for updates
- Take our online survey

More information is available at www.akronlibrary.org.





June Garcia
Library Consultant