



AUGUST 2021 BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

From Library Director Laurie Orton:

Library Building Project Cost Estimates

One question on people's minds is how much the library building project will cost. What follows is an explanation for what the existing feasibility cost projections on our website really mean—and what they do not.

A “maximal feasibility study” was independently conducted in 2019. The purpose of such a study, along with the cost estimates calculated, is to understand the upper limit of what is feasible on the property—it is not an actual budget, nor a real design. We may not, for example, need as much building space as is feasible, but instead opt for more outdoor space and parking. Those kinds of choices will affect the overall cost for the project and have not been made yet.

The two costs presented in the study for the maximum-sized building that is feasible on the property came to approximately \$17.5 million *if* the building was demolished and we started fresh, and \$20 million *if* the existing building was kept and renovated.

The current library plan is to demolish the existing building, thereby signifying a savings of approximately \$2.5 million off the bat. Furthermore, the library constructed on the site will be smaller than the maximal footprint used for the study, both to keep costs down, and because we want to ensure adequate parking, and create usable outdoor space for activities and programs. These and other cost-reduction measures will all be considered as we move into the planning and design phase in order to align the final project with a manageable cost for the community.

We will pursue funding from different sources for the building project, including state and federal grants, public and private fundraising, and a community-voted bond.

In the months to come, we will post more information about our plans over the next several years to build the new library. We'll seek the community's involvement so that everyone can better understand what is needed and what the future home for the library will look like.

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Please consider donating to the library building project using the Donate button on the Library Building Project webpage at <https://www.sjlib.org/library-building-project/>. It's all about your new library!

Discover life's possibilities.

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