



Library Expansion & Renovation

and

A Vibrant Village Green

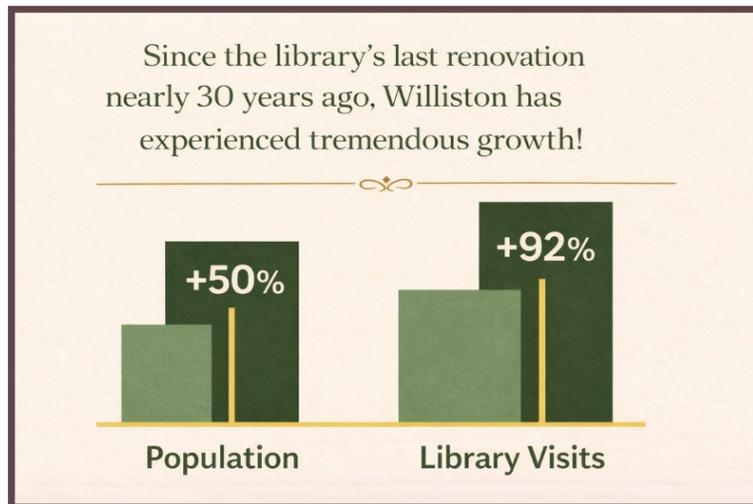
Town of Williston

Dorothy Alling Memorial Library

The Need:

A library stretched beyond its limits

For more than a century, the library has adapted to serve a growing town, but today the building has reached its limit.



Williston's population and library visits have nearly doubled since the last renovation.

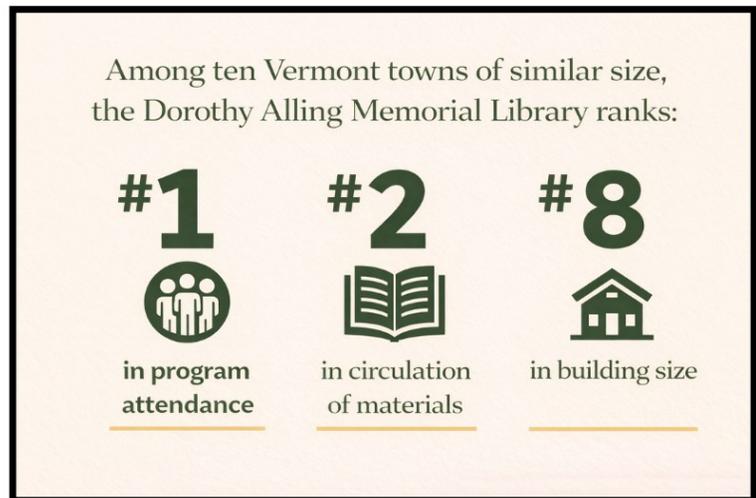
Collections, programs, children's spaces, and meeting rooms are

OVER CAPACITY
limiting what the library can offer.

A decorative graphic with a light pink background and a gold border. It features a decorative flourish at the top, followed by the text 'Collections, programs, children's spaces, and meeting rooms are'. Below this is an icon of four books on a shelf. Underneath the icon, the words 'OVER CAPACITY' are written in large, bold, dark green letters. Below that, the text 'limiting what the library can offer.' is written in a smaller font. A decorative flourish is at the bottom.

Williston is growing and so are the expectations and needs of our community.

Program attendance and circulation rank among the highest in Vermont, but the library's building size ranks much lower.



An expanded, modern library is essential to support learning, connection and community life in Williston for decades to come.



Our Vision

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a space that truly meets the needs of today while preparing for the Williston of tomorrow.



Our vision is simple:

A bright, welcoming, connected hub where people of all ages can learn, gather, create, and grow.

The opportunity to shape Williston's future

Nearly 1,000 residents affirmed the same vision:
A larger, welcoming library and a vibrant village center that
brings people together.

A library designed for today and tomorrow

“My son absolutely loves the library story time. The program is fun, educational, creative, and perfectly suited for a preschool audience.”

-library patron



- More room for books, technology, and hands-on learning
- A bright, expanded children's area with a pre-K "Wiggle Room"
- A dedicated teen space that fosters belonging and independence
- A new "Create Space" for makers, creators, and innovators

A Library Designed for Community

Spaces to gather, connect & belong



- A larger, flexible community room for events and programs
- Additional meeting rooms for groups, study, tutoring and collaboration
- More quiet spaces for reading, working, and reflection
- A revitalized Town Green that invites everyday use and year-round community events

“Thank you for doing such a great job at the library, especially during these times! The library is such a lifesaver! So many great programs, and the staff is so friendly and helpful! ”

-library patron



Dorothy Alling Memorial Library proposed renovation



“I appreciate the friendly help of anyone who answers the phone or waits on me at the library. It is truly a community atmosphere that encourages use of the library and makes it easy. I appreciate feeling welcomed from the first time I visited.”-*library patron*





FAQs



Why expand the library now?

Because demand has far outpaced space. Williston's population has grown **50%** since the last expansion, and library visits have increased **92%**.

The library is one of Williston's most-used services, but it is physically constrained.



Waiting will only make the project more expensive and delay much-needed improvements.

When Middlebury looked at expanding the Ilsley Library (in 2017, the cost estimate was **\$9.6 million**. When the project was finally approved in 2023, the cost had grown to **\$17 million** for a similar sized project to the one proposed in Williston. The needs exist today, and the community has been clear: the **time is now**.



Why not build a new library somewhere else?

A 2023 town-wide survey confirmed overwhelmingly that **residents** want the library to **remain in the Village** near the school, fields, and existing civic spaces.

- ✓ Renovation and expansion is the **most cost-effective, community-supported** choice.



How will this affect taxes?

Currently, the town anticipates a **\$14.5 million dollar total cost** for the project, which will result in **approximately \$10 per month** more in taxes for a median sized (**\$300,000**) home. The town will release finalized tax impact information before the vote, but the project is designed with fiscal responsibility in mind, **including a goal of \$1.5M in private fundraising** to reduce taxpayer burden.



FAQs



When will the vote take place?

The Bond Vote is anticipated for **Town Meeting Tuesday, March 3, 2026**. Early voting will start in early to mid-February.



What about the trees on the Town Green?

Project planners care deeply about the environmental impact of this project. This includes energy-efficiency upgrades like heat pumps, improved insulation and potential solar power on the proposed addition,

- ✓ **Most trees visible from Williston Road will remain.**
- ✓ Some trees **behind the library** will need to be **removed** to accommodate the expansion and relocated parking.
- ✓ Many of the trees slated for removal are **non-native, invasive**, or at the **end of their lifespan**.



The project **will add more trees than it removes** – increasing the total from **39 to 42 trees** on the Town Green.



A number of the trees that will be removed are either **non-native species, invasives**, or at the end of their lifespan according to the evaluation of a landscape architect on the Black River Design team.

- ✓ The project **will add three trees overall** to the **Town Green** (42 trees, versus 39 currently).
- ✓ On a yearly basis, the library saves approximately **900 trees** worth of **paper** by circulating books to residents. **Borrowing books** rather than buying is one of the biggest, most tree-friendly activities they can do! However, without expansion, the library has run out of space to add print materials as donations continue to grow its collection and **save thousands more trees** from being felled for paper. 🌿

Library Board of Trustees

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Karla Karstens

Barbara Mieder

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Brian Goodwin

Steve Perkins

Shari Westman



New entrance & parking lot

DAML Schematic Design Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee	
Karla Karstens	Committee Chair, Library Trustee
Steve Perkins	Library Trustee
Barbara Mieder	Library Trustee
Aron Merrill	Williston Historical Society
Lauren Miles	Community member
Gerry Ortego	Friends of the Library
Staff Support	
Jane Kearns	Library Director (Retired)
Bonnie Lord	Assistant Director/Youth Services Librarian
Professional Staff:	
John Hemmelgarn and Heather Mooney; Black River Design Architects	



Library view from the green

“I think of DAML as the heart of our community. Expanding the existing space with complementary uses makes sense and is also timely.”

-respondent to 2023 needs assessment



Project Contacts

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<https://willistonlibraryproject.org>

