

# Oak Lodge Library Frequently Asked Questions

Answers provided by Clackamas County and the Oak Lodge Library – January 2018

## How big will the libraries be?

The settlement agreement between the City of Gladstone and Clackamas County specifies that Clackamas County will plan for and construct two new libraries that will provide an estimated total of 25,500 sq. ft. of new library space serving Gladstone and the Oak Lodge service areas. The breakdown is approximately 19,500 sq. ft. for the Oak Lodge library and approximately 6,000 sq. ft. for the Gladstone library. Please note that these are *preliminary* size estimates, and may change based on community priorities and actual construction cost estimates. An in-depth financial analysis will be completed before any construction begins.

## Where will the Oak Lodge Library be located?

At this point, the only decision is that the library will be located within the Oak Lodge library service area; all options within that area are still on the table. Community groups who have been engaged in planning for a new library in recent years have suggested locating a library on the Concord Elementary School property that the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District [NCPRD] is in the process of acquiring. We are gathering public input on location and access needs, and will then move forward to identify locations and properties that might meet those needs. The community will be involved in selecting the library location. Should the Concord site be a possible location, outreach to NCPRD's 120,000 residents would need to be included as that property will be owned by NCPRD and not the Library District.

## When will the Oak Lodge Library be built?

There is no anticipated timeline for construction yet. We're working with the community to make sure we find a library location that meets the needs of local residents, and this planning process could take some time.

## How much will it cost to build the Oak Lodge Library —and what does this mean for taxpayers?

Construction costs depend on the library location and design that the public wants. Certain locations will cost more, and certain library features are more expensive than others. At a conceptual level, a 19,500-square-foot building could be built for an estimated \$5.9 million. A library of this size and cost would not impose additional costs to taxpayers for construction (it could be paid for with money in existing reserves and by issuing a bond paid by ongoing library district funds). However, the actual cost could be very different from this estimate, and cannot be known until we are further along in the planning, location and design of the library.

### **What if Oak Lodge residents decide they want to spend more money on their library?**

Nothing precludes residents from seeking additional funds through alternative measures, if that became the general public consensus.

### **How does the Gladstone Library ballot measure affect the Oak Lodge Library?**

As part of the agreement between Clackamas County and the City of Gladstone, Gladstone must submit a ballot measure to residents in May 2018 on whether to authorize construction of a new library. The results of the ballot measure will not impact the future or funding of the Oak Lodge library. If Gladstone residents vote “yes” on the measure—that will be the first step in planning for a Gladstone Library. If the measure is not approved, the City of Gladstone would have no guarantee of County support in constructing and operating a new library.

### **How will the City of Gladstone contribute to library operations?**

As part of the agreement between Clackamas County and the City of Gladstone, Gladstone will contribute approximately \$200,000 per year (adjusted annually) to fund library operating costs.

### **How will public input shape the Oak Lodge library?**

The public will have the opportunity to be engaged throughout the process, particularly to provide input on the library’s location and services. Ideas generated through the public outreach process will be subject to building site and budget limitation. Because we are just beginning planning for the library, the public engagement details are still being developed. At this point, we anticipate the process outlined on the next page.

### **What are the next steps?**

In early 2018, Clackamas County is collecting input from community and Oak Lodge residents, including preferences for library amenities and access needs. The County will then review properties in the Oak Lodge area that could match these preferences, and present the options through a public process later in 2018. At that time we will ask for feedback on which properties best meet community needs. After narrowing in on the best choices, we’ll conduct evaluation studies to see which locations are actually suitable for a library. Then the public will again be asked to weigh in on locations they prefer. The final decision on the library location will be made by the Board of County of Commissioners.