



## CITY FACILITIES STUDY

# en VISION the FUTURE

## TUALATIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Background

Library service began in Tualatin in 1974 with a donated book collection in Tualatin's Van Raden Community Center. After opening in a former house in Tualatin's Community Park in 1977, the Library moved to its current location in 1985, an 8,500 square foot space. In 2004, voters passed a bond measure to provide funds to expand the Library. The vision statement adopted for the expansion project was: *The enhancement of the Tualatin Library will create an inviting community center where learning, discovery, and interaction will flourish, expressing a welcoming civic identity embracing Tualatin's values and future.*



The \$9.4 million, 22,500 square foot Library opened in 2008. The Library features dedicated Children and Teen areas, a "living room" social area with a fireplace, two small-group meeting rooms, and a Community Room for Library programs and large gatherings, with sustainable design and energy conservation features throughout the building.

### Current Program

- Tualatin Library has nearly 20,000 library card holders, with a collection of more than 110,000 items.
- Through WCCLS (Washington County Cooperative Library Services), Tualatin Library patrons have access to about 1.7 million library items and 70,000+ digital books.
- Last year the Library had more than 314,000 visits, or about 900 visits per day.
- More than 704,000 items were checked out.
- The Library presented nearly 750 programs, with total attendance of more than 18,000.
- The Library recorded more than 75,000 wireless Internet sessions and 49,000 uses of computer stations or laptops.
- The Library has 22 full-time equivalent staff and more than 100 volunteers who assist at the Library each month.
- The Library is supported by a Library Advisory Committee, Friends of Tualatin Library, and the Tualatin Library Foundation.



## Library Trends

Libraries nationwide are seeing decreased usage of their physical collections, but increased participation in programs and use of digital collections. Libraries are moving away from being storehouses of books and are becoming places that host experiences and enable connections and collaboration. In this sense, Tualatin Library is ahead of the curve.

Tualatin's Library has been described as "the heart of the community" and as "Tualatin's living room." The Library's design and vision enables it to be a "third place" for Tualatin residents – a welcoming gathering area separate from home or the workplace, a place which fosters community building. Tualatin Library's rich assortment of services and cultural and enrichment programs demonstrate the local commitment to that idea.

Studies of current library trends indicate that there will be a continuing need for libraries to provide early childhood literacy and learning services, a continuing need to bridge the digital divide and provide digital literacy services, and a growing need for services that create digitally inclusive communities.

## Future Needs

Through the City Facilities Study project, consultants Yost Grube Hall have recommended the Library needs 35,453 square feet to adequately serve the community through 2025. This is consistent with state library guidelines and local level of service standards. This increase would enable additional program and public-use meeting spaces, a technology training area, and improved efficiency for handling returned items and preparing for programs.

Such an expansion could allow the Library to better support the community's needs for increased access to a variety of technology, workforce development, self-discovery and civic engagement opportunities, and creative, interactive learning spaces for children.

