



KALKASKA COUNTY
LIBRARY

► *Expect something unexpected*

Capital Project Funds & The New Kalkaska County Library

A Multipurpose Rural Community Facility Project

The New Library will Offer Patrons:

- Increased square footage from approx. 4,900 sqft to 20,400 sqft
- Multipurpose rooms outfitted with technology to accommodate private business meetings, community groups, and more
- Intentional downtown Kalkaska location to complement larger economic development goals
- Advanced technology infrastructure
- Enclosed computer lab supportive of digital literacy classes
- Flexible and mobile shelving
- Amenities and furnishings that create a safe and welcoming environment
- More room (and headspace) to better meet the changing needs of our community!

ACCESS FOR ALL IN KALKASKA

The current Kalkaska County Library (KCL), constructed in 1939, is more than a public library. It's also a community center that fosters early literacy development, workforce readiness skills, and digital competence for the 18,000 residents in this rural corner of Michigan.

Though full of historic charm, KCL has long since exceeded its design capacity. Built during a period in which libraries served mainly as repositories for books, or maybe a quiet reading area, the facility's current footprint doesn't support the 21st century programming and technological offerings consistent with the needs of its largely economically marginalized patrons.

Current federal funding investments are improving broadband access within rural communities. However, without a modern and more expansive facility, KCL will be significantly constrained in offering the expanded programming, workforce development, and technology classes that these infrastructure investments are intended to support.

The Kalkaska community has been researching, fundraising, and planning for an improved county library for years; the global pandemic only underscored the urgency of the community's need. During the pandemic, library staff saw firsthand the technology, employment, communication, and health struggles of Kalkaska County residents.

Without a modernized structure, KCL is limited in its ability to engage isolated residents with the technological literacy programs needed to mitigate the digital divide and empower residents to reach their career, health, and education goals.

The funding objectives outlined by the Treasury Department support the scope of this project. The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund has become available to us just when the residents of Kalkaska County need it most. Page 6 of the Treasury Department's guidance document highlights funding intent and explicitly includes:

"Projects to construct or improve libraries that provide public access to the internet for purposes including work, education, and health monitoring such as offering digital skills programs and support for community members engaging in virtual learning."

TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$9,718,200

The KCL Board of Trustees and staff are proud to present this shovel-ready project for funding consideration. The time is now to invest in this small rural library that has the chance to do so much for so many within our community!

The Campaign for Our Community Library



LIBRARIES ARE GROWING!*

FROM 2008-2018, KALKASKA LIBRARY USAGE INCREASED:

16%

Children's
Circulation

20%

Adult
Circulation

136%

Number of
Programs

520%

Inter-Library
Loans

175%

Program
Attendance

*State of Michigan, State Aid Annual Report. Accessed May 29, 2019.

FAQs

Why not just renovate the existing library?

The current KCL facility is obsolete and can no longer meet the community's needs. It presents technical and physical limitations that prevent students, families, and residents from accessing programming consistent with other regional libraries. Furthermore, the building has electrical constraints, and recently experienced extensive flooding damage. It's time to start new with a building intentionally designed for the 21st century.

What are the needs in Kalkaska County?

Kalkaska County is home to a largely rural population, and demographics in the region reflect some of the obstacles inherent in rural settings. The per capita income is roughly twenty percent below Michigan's and \$10,000 below the United States average. Only 11.9% of the residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, and 13% lack a high school diploma. Furthermore, roughly 14% of the population lives with a disability. The economic, education, and health needs within Kalkaska County only further highlight the need for a new library that is more accessible and better equipped to support residents.

How shovel-ready is this project?

Very. The Board of Trustees, and the Friends of the Kalkaska Library nonprofit group have worked for years to lay the groundwork for this proposal. Michigan-based architects and engineers have designed comprehensive plans that will provide KCL with the technology and facility infrastructure it needs to serve the community. Property has been secured adjacent to the current setting that will allow the library to continue its role as an anchor of the downtown economic corridor. This centralized location, within walking distance of an elementary, middle, and high school, will allow the library to remain an easily accessible resource for area families, students, and educators.

What is the timeline for this project?

Assuming readily available labor, construction of the library can begin as soon as funding is procured. The building itself should require 8 months of construction from beginning to end, with additional months needed to outfit the interior and furnishings.

How can I learn more?

Call or e-mail **John Roberts**, Library Director, today! He is ready to give tours that underscore the current needs and opportunities, as well as answer any and all questions about this project.

KALKASKA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Diana Needham

Randy Lucyk, Michael Moran, Cash Cook, Ken Peress

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

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CAMPAIGN CHAIR

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“ I CAN FEEL THE ENERGY IN KALKASKA, FOLKS WANTING THE LIBRARY TO BE EVERYTHING THEY ENVISION--AN UPLIFTING CENTER OF COMMUNITY PRIDE WHERE WE CAN LEARN, CREATE, SHARE, AND GROW TOGETHER.”

— TROY STOBERT,
CAMPAIGN CHAIR



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