



Background

A new library for the River Heights area was identified as a priority in the Grant Park Recreation Campus Plan and the Library Redevelopment Plan.

The new library will better meet the needs of the community with a fully accessible public space, more parking, proximity to public transportation, tutorial and programming rooms, improved study and leisure areas, and an outdoor reading and programming area.

Engagement

The community was asked to provide feedback on the proposed design for the Bill and Helen Norrie Library through a survey available online and in-person. An information session was held and information was posted on the City’s website to provide the proposed designs, background information, and floor plans.

In addition, a meeting was held with Rooster Town families to go over the proposed design and gather their feedback.

Promotion

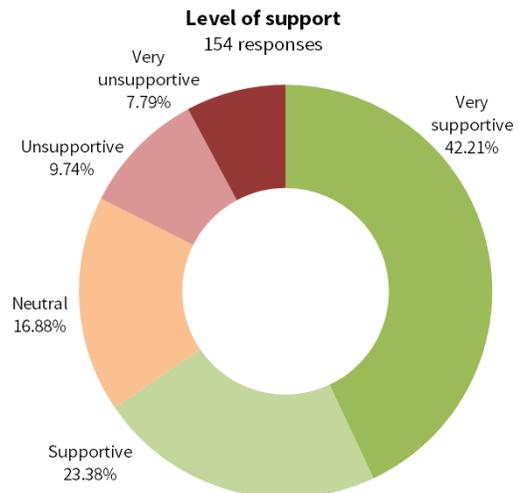
Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- Grant Avenue signage – placed on April 17, 2019;
- Pan Am Pool electronic sign – advertisement promoted from April 17 to May 1, 2019 ;
- News release – distributed on April 17, 2019;
- Canstar Advertisement – Sou’wester ad on April 24, 2019;
- Facebook posts with 16,797 followers – 8 posts;
- Twitter posts with 78,700 followers – 8 posts;

- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 5,300 recipients, and;
- Invitation to project stakeholders – sent on April 19, 2019

What We Heard

- When asked how often participants visit the River Heights Library, the most popular response was ‘rarely or never’ (56 of 154; 6 said daily; 40 said weekly; 52 said monthly)
- Most respondents (117 of 152) think they will visit the Bill and Helen Norrie Library either monthly or weekly.
- Most respondents (101 of 155) were supportive or very supportive of the proposed design for the Bill and Helen Norrie Library.
- Most of those who were supportive appreciated the design, parking, and location.
- Most of those who were not supportive did not appreciate the closing of the River Heights Library, the selected site, and some design elements.



Date	Activity	Details
Launched on April 17	Website	Includes background, timeline, engagement information, FAQs, documents, and designs.
Held on May 1, 2019	Information session	Attended by over 70 community members.
Available from April 17 to May 17	Survey	158 total: 119 completed online; 39 completed in-person.
Available from May 2 to May 17	Information at River Heights Library	Information boards available in the library for current library users to learn more about the new design.

To learn more about the Bill and Helen Norrie Library, please visit winnipeg.ca/norrielibrary



The following table is a summary of the comments we heard from a number of participants. For a full list of comments and responses, please see Appendix D.

What We Heard	How It Was Considered*
Support for universal washrooms. Universal washrooms are not appropriate.	The City's current policy addresses accessible washrooms. In an effort to be accessible for all, the Library is moving forward with gender neutral washrooms. Each stall will be a separate room with a shared communal sink area.
Large open concept may be too noisy. Support for large open area.	Winnipeg Public Library has several open concept libraries and they work well for current library needs. There will be some baffle installations that will absorb sound and reduce noise levels.
The library should be joined to the Pan Am Pool.	Joining the Bill and Helen Norrie library building to other facilities was considered as part of the Grant Park Recreation Campus Plan. The Plan recommends not physically attaching the library to other buildings as each of the existing and proposed buildings on the campus offers challenges that will significantly impact costs or schedule for only modest benefit.
Concern over traffic congestion caused by library location near a busy intersection and the location of the parking lot. Support for the parking lot as the current River Heights Library does not have a parking lot.	Entry and exit from the Library parking lot will be from Poseidon Avenue; there will not be a thruway from the Pan Am parking lot. The Grant Park campus will continue to be a very busy site with a high need for available parking. Adding an additional 40 parking spots will help meet the growing demand for parking.
The new location is not close for those currently using the River Heights Library. Support for location because it is close to other facilities and a hub for cyclists, pedestrians, transit users and drivers.	This location was chosen through the Grant Park Recreation Campus Plan because it has a strong street presence and offers ready access to nearby high density housing, Transit, cycle and pedestrian traffic using Grant, and the Pan Am Forest greenspace.

Next Steps

Feedback will be considered in developing the final design, which will be presented to the community through the project webpage and an email to the project subscription list.

Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2019, with an anticipated completion date in late 2020.

Those who subscribed for project email updates will receive updates as the project progresses.

To learn more about the Bill and Helen Norrie Library, please visit winnipeg.ca/norrielibrary

Appendices

Appendices are available on the [Documents tab](#) of the project website.

Appendix A – promotional materials

Appendix B – information boards

Appendix C – survey results

Appendix D – feedback table