

Reimagine 2.0

STARK LIBRARY

South Central Stark County

What is Reimagine?

Reimagine is our plan to live out our mission and vision in Stark County, creating inviting spaces that inspire and empower all people to pursue creativity and lifelong learning. It is a multi-year plan to renovate our buildings, upgrade technology, and create more flexible spaces for a wide range of use.

Good Stewardship

The Library leadership and Board of Trustees have a responsibility to be good stewards of the money entrusted to the Library. That's why you'll see Stewardship listed as one of our values.

It is our responsibility to ensure that we use taxpayer dollars to reach as many people as possible with Library services, ensuring equity in our community – another of our values. Not only have we been “Reimagining” our facilities, but also how we deliver services, programming, and materials to our entire community.

As we did with each of our Reimagined locations, when we began evaluating the south-central portion of the county we looked at many pieces of data, including current Library usage, demographics, and gaps in service in our entire service area. We also conducted interviews with local community leaders, sought input from the community through surveys and listening sessions, and met with Library staff, with a goal of answering these questions:

- How can Stark Library be more visible and serve more patrons in the south-central part of the county?
- What kinds of materials, programs, and services do current patrons of the Sandy Valley Branch need most from the Library?
- If the branch is relocated to a more densely populated area in southern Stark County, how can Stark Library retain a presence at or near the current branch location, to continue to serve the needs of existing patrons?

OUR MISSION

We strengthen the community by advancing literacy, connecting people, and encouraging exploration.

OUR VALUES

Respect
Inclusion
Stewardship
Progress



What we Learned

Accessing Library services is very important to the residents of the Sandy Valley area, including East Sparta, Magnolia, and Waynesburg. The services that we heard most often are borrowing books and materials, accessing WiFi, and using document services like printing and copying.

From the Sandy Valley and Canton Local School District leaders, we learned that maintaining school visits and enabling greater access to Library materials is a priority. We also learned that residents in the Canton South community would be more likely to use the Library if it was in closer proximity.

The Outcome

After considering all input, the Stark Library leadership along with the Board of Trustees have made the decision to relocate the Sandy Valley Branch to the Southgate Shopping Center in Canton South. However, this does not mean that we are abandoning our patrons in the Sandy Valley area. We are committed to continue providing important and critical Library services to Sandy Valley and have developed a plan to do so.

PROVIDING LIBRARY SERVICES IN SANDY VALLEY

We will continue providing outreach support and service to the Sandy Valley School District.

We will increase our bookmobile stops throughout the area, with convenient hours and locations for more residents. Printing services will be available at some of these locations.

We are working closely with Stark Parks and will provide regular programming in the Fry Family Park Visitor Center.

We are developing a new concept that we are calling "Library Express," a library-to-go station within five miles of the current location that will have Library lockers, where patrons can pick up holds from a secure locker at their convenience, 24/7 WiFi services from the parking lot, and a book drop for Library materials.

Timeline

We are currently working with HBM Architects to develop a floor plan for the relocated branch. We will be incorporating features that staff and patrons have requested and will work closely with staff throughout this project.

We anticipate that the branch will open mid-year in 2024.

Questions? Call 330.452.0665