



envision OUR FUTURE

MASTICS
MORICHES
SHIRLEY

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY INFORMATION

The Heart of Our Community

The Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library (MMSCL) is so much more than books. It is a community center where people of all ages meet, study, share ideas, connect to computer-based information resources and improve their lives through learning. While our community and our library services have grown and changed over the years, the library building has reached the limits of its service capacity. Serving a community of 26,000 in 1974, we now need to meet the library needs of more than 56,000 residents.

Your library cannot continue to be the heart of learning, discovery, empowerment and pride that a community of this size deserves without addressing the serious limitations presented by our current location, our rapidly aging, antiquated building, the lack of safe, adequate parking and so much more.

MASTICS-MORICHES-SHIRLEY
COMMUNITY LIBRARY



New Library is Opportunity to Showcase Community Pride

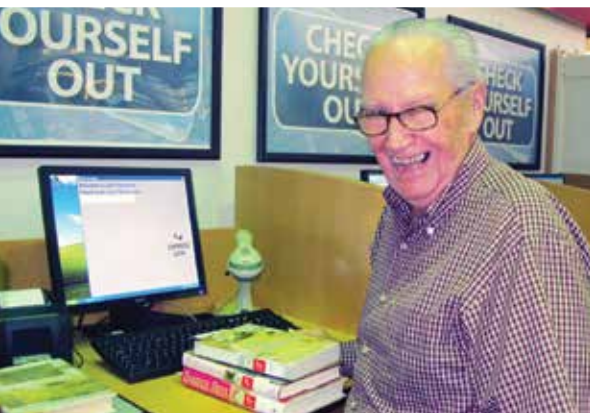


The proposed library site is the former Shirley Links golf course

The Town of Brookhaven has offered MMSCL the use of five acres of FREE land within 100 acres of surrounding town-maintained parkland at the former Links golf course for a proposed new library.

We have an unprecedented opportunity RIGHT NOW to build a new library, which will truly reflect our pride in this place we call home and will meet the growing needs of our community. This is a unique circumstance that may never happen again.

The library's board of trustees needs your support to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime offer, which will enhance our entire community now and for generations to come.



Can You Imagine?

Imagine inviting your out-of-town friends to visit for the weekend. They come eagerly, looking forward to a beautiful day at Smith Point Beach. In addition to spending hours at the beach, you take your friends to see the new Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library.

Turning off William Floyd Parkway, you enter into acres of parkland, restored to its original beauty as natural Pine Barrens: trees and plants of all varieties, wildflowers, a nine-acre lake, and walking and bike paths. Parking your car in one of many available spots, you follow a clear path to the entrance of your library.

Expansive windows allow natural light to fill the building. There is a dedicated space for seniors to read quietly. Outside areas are peaceful and inviting – filled with people reading, relaxing with coffee, surfing the net with the library's Wi-Fi.

Your friends' teenagers hurry off to the space designed for them, where their peers are involved in group projects for school, designing their own gadgets to be printed on the 3D printer, or just hanging out with friends, chatting, laughing and listening to their favorite music.

You and your younger ones go to the space for children, which includes an area to make their own Legos creations; computer software; colorful blocks and craft materials of infinite variety; an outdoor learning area with places to climb, play with water and build with rocks and sticks – a return to playing in nature. There are even family bathrooms with pint-sized toilets and sinks for the little ones in the same area as the ones for their moms, dads or other special adults.

On your way out, your friends ask: "What is over on the other side of the building?" You explain that there are community rooms, including one with a full stage for theatrical, musical and dance performances – which can be used even when the rest of the library is closed.

As you return to your car, you are very proud to tell your friends:

"Our library is the heart of the community – located in the heart of nature – preserved for all to enjoy and benefit from. We deserve the best of nature, culture, education and entertainment, and now we have it!"

What the Proposed New Community Library Will Offer You

The proposed new, larger library will offer our community the following **key benefits:**

- A beautiful, sunlight-filled building set in quiet parkland, overlooking the water
- Approximately 250 parking spaces with clear, unobstructed access to the entrances
- Secure and safe setting, away from high-traffic retail areas
- State-of-the-art technology for all ages, including more computers and Wi-Fi throughout the building and outdoor spaces
- Comfortable seating throughout to relax with a book, newspaper, magazine or personal device
- Quiet rooms for individual and/or group study



- A full stage for performances and large community events, which also can be accessed after the library's regular hours of operation
- More spaces for residents to gather, including meeting rooms that will be available even when the library is closed
- Multiple ADA-compliant restrooms throughout the building
- Energy efficient and cost-saving utility systems
- Access to nature for education, recreation, relaxation and health benefits
- Outdoor Nature Explorium for children, and so much more



White flags mark the footprint of the proposed library building in this aerial view of the Shirley Links site

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why do we need a new library?

Our current 45,000-square-foot building serves over 56,000 residents through the work of more than 200 dedicated staff members. Library parking is scarce and difficult to navigate safely; community groups wait months for library meeting rooms to become available; students have no quiet study spaces; teenagers do not have enough room to gather for safe afterschool activities; computer areas are crowded and limited; and library programs are full to capacity due to lack of space.

Why do we need a new library *NOW*?

A remarkable set of circumstances have coincided to make *NOW* the optimal time to act so that the current and future library needs of this community are met.

1. When the library board was researching the most cost-effective way to repair and update the current building to ensure that it continues to meet your needs, a material containing some asbestos was discovered above the ceiling tiles. Laboratory testing undertaken by the library determined that the material was "non-friable" and therefore not a potential risk for becoming an air contaminant. Nonetheless, the asbestos needs to be removed from the building at some point. To accomplish this, the acoustic ceiling, light fixtures and all of the miles of wiring above the ceiling would need to be removed.

In addition, library services would need to be suspended on the main floor during this process. This abatement



Envision Workshop participants engaged in discussion

project – which is required by New York State – as well as other needed repairs and updates, would come at a significant cost to the community in addition to causing prolonged library service interruptions.

2. At the same time, the Town of Brookhaven offered MMSCL five acres of land at absolutely no cost to the taxpayers.

Simply put, our community *NOW* has the opportunity to build a *NEW*, larger library on *FREE* land.

What size will the new library be, and where will it be located?

Based on community input, the library board is proposing to construct an approximately 60,000-square-foot building on land donated by Brookhaven Town that overlooks the lake on the former Links site in Shirley – less than a mile south of our present location.



What kind of community input did the board get?

The board of trustees actively sought feedback from community members through a series of three public visioning workshops conducted by a professional facilitator who assisted the group in developing a project purpose.

The Envision Workshop participants carefully considered the following options for MMSCL:

- 1.) Renovate and expand the existing building
- 2.) Demolish the existing building and rebuild on the current site
- 3.) Construct a new building on a new site
- 4.) Obtain the property in front of the existing library for a new or expanded facility

Upon the workshops' conclusion, the group defined its goal for the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library:

- *To imagine and develop a Community Library that will serve as a center for community collaboration, professional development and personal growth*
- *In a cost-effective way that encourages involvement of the diverse members of the community and enhances the natural environment*
- *So that residents are enriched and engaged as essential members of a community, improving their quality of life indefinitely.*

The complete Envision Workshop reports and videos are available at: future.communitylibrary.org/workshop-reports.

Print copies of the reports and DVDs also are available for review in the library and/or to check out.



I like the current location of the library. Why can't we stay here?

- The current site can no longer provide adequate space to meet the community's needs. In addition to the library building space, we currently serve residents five nights a week in 18,000 square feet of classrooms at William Floyd High School and at locations throughout the Tri-Hamlet area, including the Mastic Recreation Center, local parks and historic sites.
- The antiquated infrastructure of the current building cannot sustain the current demand for new technology, computer labs and content creation, and most definitely not into the future.
- The community's major concern regarding the library is the inadequate, convoluted and unsafe parking conditions at our present location. We still would be unable to offer ample and safe parking at the current site even if the building were renovated.

The participants of the first Envision Workshop defined the goals of the project



- There will be major costs associated with making the mandated safety renovations to the current library building as well as significant library service interruptions – without gaining the significant value-added benefits that a new library will offer the community.
- The Town of Brookhaven donated five acres of FREE land in an idyllic setting to the library – saving the community site acquisition costs.
- A new energy efficient building will offer extensive and long-term cost savings in annual utility and maintenance fees. The current building uses about 95,000 BTU per square foot per year or a total of 4,275,000 per year; and the new larger building would be designed to use less than 25,000 BTU per square foot per year or a total of 1,500,000 BTU per year. So even though the new building will be one-third larger than the existing one, it will only consume about 35 percent of the energy currently used!

How will a new library be paid for?

The land – one of the largest expenses – for the proposed new library will be donated by the Town of Brookhaven. Additional funds will come from the following:

- Selling the existing library building
- Pursuing numerous fundraising initiatives
- Applying for various government aids and grants
- Establishing a library foundation to secure donations
- Holding a bond referendum vote

What will the proposed library cost me?

The community members who participated in the Envision Workshops series clearly stated that they believed the average household would be willing to pay no more than \$15-20 per month in additional taxes for the proposed new library.

Story continues on back cover...



Site tours allow the public to see the proposed library grounds



Proposed building footprint staked out with white flags



Proposed building floorplan

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What will I get for this \$15-20 more a month?

You will gain a library that is large and safe enough to meet the needs of our community's 56,000 residents; expansive meeting room space to meet all of our extensive programming; adequate and safe parking; ample, clean and ADA-compliant restrooms; the opportunity to sit quietly and enjoy a book, newspaper, magazine or personal device; additional computers and state-of-the-art technology to access online information for education, recreation and personal growth, and much more. In addition, your new library will be set in a location that will truly reflect the history, community values, connection to nature, aspirations and pride of this community.



Project updates and a library timeline are displayed on the library's main floor

How can I get involved?

The MMSCL Board, directors and staff are enthusiastic about the tremendous potential this opportunity to reimagine the Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library represents for our community. But we need your help and input.

Please visit our website, future.communitylibrary.org or stop by the library's Adult Reference Desk to join us as we embark on this exciting journey to create the **NEW** Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library – *the heart of our community.*

