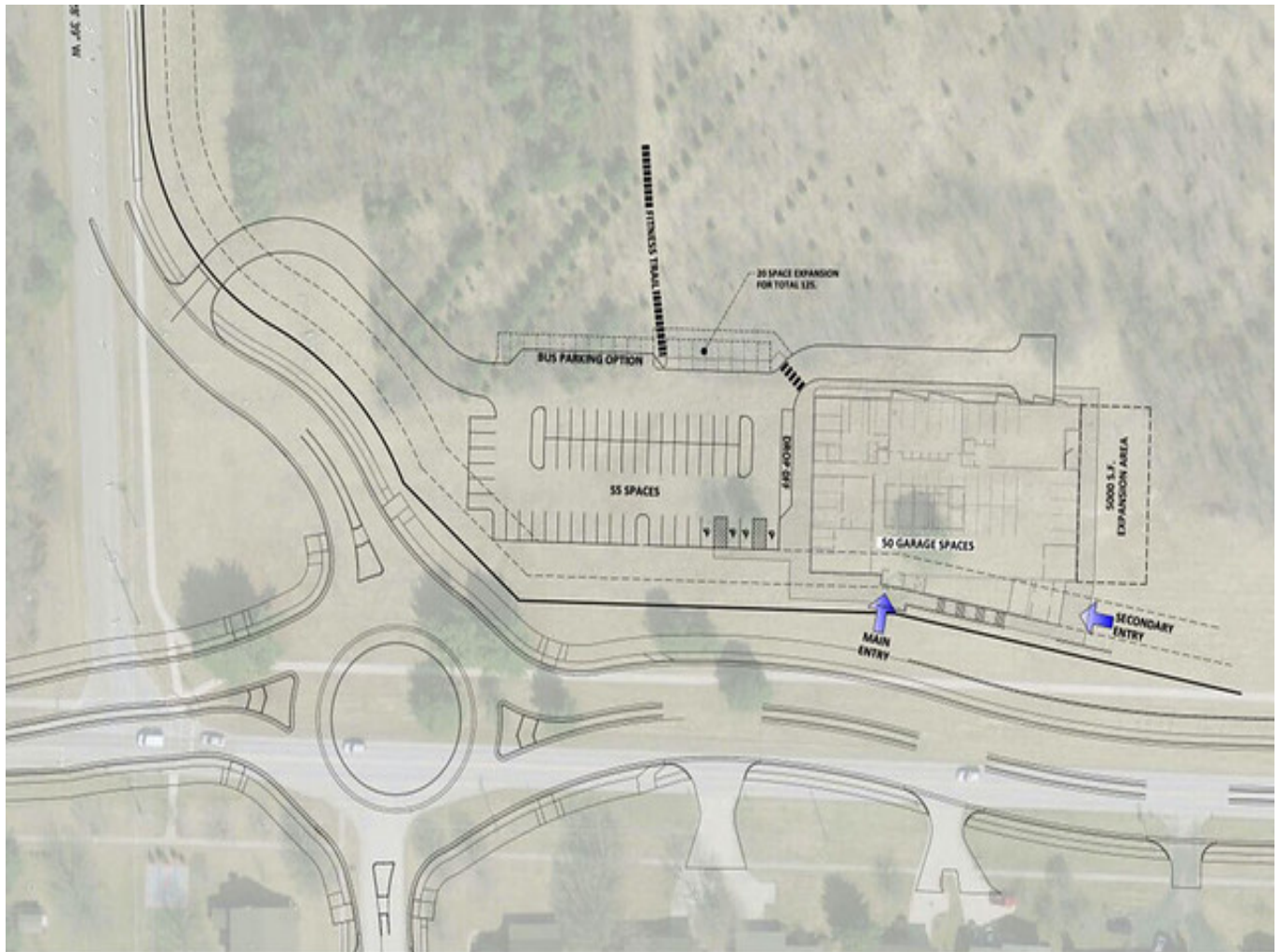


[Future Southwest Branch](#)



Location

The new 21,000-square-foot Southwest Branch will sit on approximately five acres of property on the Southwest corner of the Batchelor Middle School grounds at 890 W. Gordon Pike, west of the South Rogers Street and West Gordon Pike roundabout. In addition to traditional services and spaces, the new branch will feature a teaching kitchen, an all-ages collaborative space, and an amphitheater. Curious about the progress? Now you can view a time-lapse camera of the construction site below!

Future Timeline

- Fall 2021–Early 2023: Branch construction and preparation (approximately 15 months)
- May 2023: Tentative branch opening

History

- In April 2018, the Library Board of Trustees approved hiring Matheu Architects, PC for a branch planning study. Our recent [strategic direction planning](#) process validated the community's need and desire for an additional branch.
- In the summer of 2018, conversations between the Library, Matheu Architects, PC, and a number of community leaders and stakeholders informed a general Southwest location of this potential third facility. The Southwest portion of the county is the largest growing area in terms of residential growth and population, is an underserved area for library services, and is one of the few available and viable land areas.
- In September 2018, many Southwest-area residents participated in scheduled community conversations to provide input into a new Southwest branch. Additionally, over 800 Monroe County residents provided feedback via a survey, email, or by phone.
- In February 2019, Matheu Architects, PC's [branch planning study](#) was presented to and unanimously approved by the Library Board of Trustees at which point, we began discussions with its real estate broker. Operational costs would be funded without impact on the two current Library branches and construction costs funded without any anticipated increase in tax rates.
- In Summer 2019, Matheu Architects, PC was hired to design the new branch. The company was selected based on proven qualifications and project experience.
- In Fall 2019, a potential site was identified and discussions began to take place. Additionally, budget and potential funding options were identified.
- In December 2019, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County [awarded the Library a grant](#) for equipment, appliances, and supplies to establish a 600-square foot teaching kitchen in the future Southwest Branch.
- In March 2020, the Library Board of Trustees and the Monroe County Community School Corporation Board (MCCSC) approved a purchase for sale agreement for an approximately 5-acre property on the Southwest corner of the Batchelor Middle School site at 900 W. Gordon Pike.
- In Summer 2020, we began the development of a required site and county subdivision plan.
- In September 2020, Hoosier Forestry Consultants, LLC performed a timber area review of the land, detailed [in this report](#). The Library Board of Trustees selected and approved a building footprint and siting option.
- In November 2020, we submitted the required site and county subdivision plan to the County.
- From January–February 2021, we received the approval of our subdivision and property recording and purchased the land from Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC).
- From January–March 2021, we finalized the interior finishes and design development.
- In June 2021, the Monroe County Council approved a bond for branch construction (at current tax rate) and [Friends of the Library pledge \\$650,000 to the new branch](#).
- From March–September 2021, we completed construction documents, sought a bid, and approved a contract (with Strauser Construction). In September, a construction bond was sold.

Time-Lapse Camera of Construction Site

(Hover your mouse over the image to access the controls)

Media Coverage

- [WTIU/WFIU April 8, 2022 video and article on the branch construction progress](#)
- [WTIU/WFIU November 22, 2021 coverage of construction preparation](#)
- [Bloomington Chamber of Commerce September 15, 2021 coverage on new branch construction site](#)
- [WFHB July 22, 2021 coverage on construction bids and design](#)
- [The Herald-Times June 28, 2021 New Library Branch to Feature V-shaped Roof, Lost of Windows, Teaching Kitchen](#)
- [WTIU/WFIU June 11, 2021 Monroe County Could Add New Branch By End of 2022](#)
- [The Herald-Times June 10, 2021 County Council approves \\$6M bond for new library branch \(watch on CATS\)](#)
- [The Herald-Times November 6, 2020 coverage on the upcoming land purchase Library Board vote](#)
- [The Herald-Times October 30, 2020 letter to the editor from Bloomington Environmental and Tree Commissions](#)
- [WTIU/WFIU October 1, 2020 coverage on the branch design Board of Trustees vote](#)
- [B-Square Beacon September 30, 2020 article on the branch design Board of Trustees vote](#)
- [The Herald-Times September 30, 2020 article on the branch design Board of Trustees vote](#)
- [WTIU/WFIU September 28, 2020 coverage on the branch design options](#)
- [The Herald-Times September 28, 2020 article on the branch design options](#)
- [The Herald-Times July 27, 2020 guest column from Library Board of Trustees President, John Walsh responding to concerns about tree removal](#)
- [Bloom Magazine April 4, 2020 coverage of Library bicentennial, including new branch and teaching kitchen information](#)
- [WTIU/WFIU March 5, 2020 coverage of Library Board approval of a purchase agreement to buy a portion of the Batchelor Middle School property](#)
- [The Indiana Daily Student March 5, 2020 article on Board approval of a purchase agreement to sell a portion of the Batchelor Middle School property to the Library](#)
- [The Herald-Times March 2, 2020 article on Board approval of a purchase agreement to sell a portion of the Batchelor Middle School property to the Library](#)
- [The Herald-Times February 26, 2020 article on Board approval of a purchase agreement to sell a portion of Batchelor Middle School property to the Library](#)
- [The Herald-Times December 14, 2019 article on the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County's community impact grant awards](#)
- [B97 March 3, 2019 interview with Marilyn Wood on the Library, including the new branch](#)
- [WTIU/WFIU February 25, 2019 coverage of three potential locations for a new branch](#)
- [The Herald-Times December 26, 2018 article on feasibility study results and community feedback on the branch](#)
- [The Herald-Times September 25, 2018 article on scheduled branch planning community talks](#)
- [The Indiana Daily Student September 23, 2018 article on the Library seeking public input on a new branch](#)
- [WTIU/WFIU September 11, 2018 coverage of the Library seeking public input on a new branch](#)

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(function() { var x = document.createElement("script"); x.type = "text/javascript"; x.async = true; x.src = (document.location.protocol === "https:" ? "https://" : "http://") + "libraryh3lp.com/js/libraryh3lp.js?14734"; var y = document.getElementsByTagName("script")[0]; y.parentNode.insertBefore(x, y); })();
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