

Working Draft

Timeline for a New Flathead County Library

Kalispell Montana

Updated 5/15/26

Long-Term Need and Priority Setting

- The need for a new Main Branch/Kalispell Library has existed for over 25 years.
- The Library Board of Trustees formally identified this project as a priority 2023–**2024**.

Flathead County Library Staff support

- Designated leadership on replacing the Kalispell library will be needed to provide the FCL Board of Trustees, consultants, government agencies, other stakeholders, and the public with accurate, timely information and project oversight. **2026-completion**.

Initial Funding Commitments

- Collaboration with Flathead County government to set aside funds for the project starting in 2023 and continuing annually:
 - **FY 2023–2024:** \$250,000
 - **FY 2024–2025:** \$125,000, with a \$125,000 match from the Library
 - **FY 2025–2026:** \$125,000, with a \$125,000 match from the Library
 - **FY 2026-2027:** \$125,000, with a \$125,000 match from the Library

Site Search and Acquisition Planning

- The FCL Facilities Committee conducts a search for a suitable site in Kalispell capable of supporting a **40,000+ square foot building**, adequate parking, and a **minimum of two acres. 2023-2025**.
- A potential site at the former Kalispell Center Mall was identified in **2025**.
 - Letter of Intent (LOI): **May 2026**
 - Buy/Sell Agreement: **June 2026**
 - Appraisal of the property: **Sept 2026**

Building Program and Planning Preparation

- The Library hired a consultant to work with the Library Director and staff to develop a building program that defines spaces and size requirements for a main library capable of serving a growing population and future developments in patron and community library needs.
 - Timeline: September **2025** – September 2026

Pre-Architectural Design Analysis and Information

- The Library received a grant from **LSW Architects** in 2026 which will underwrite the following planning elements:
 - Site and zoning analysis of the selected property **Summer 2026**
 - Conceptual site plan and floor plan **Summer 2026**
 - Building area analysis **Summer 2026**

Capital Campaign Planning

- Decision on capital campaign structure—whether to hire an external consultant and determine the involvement of the the Flathead Library Foundation—completed by **May 2026**.
- Campaign Readiness Study with BrandRaise (**July 2026-November 2026**)
- Determination of public funds available (**Fall 2026**)
- Determination of funds available in the Flathead Library Foundation (**Spring 2026**)
- Preliminary budget estimates. (**Fall 2026**)
- Prospects for grants (**Summer 2027**)

Capital Campaign Launch and Execution

- Capital Campaign begins in **Winter 2026**.
 - Appointment of campaign chair/co-chair: **Winter 2026**
 - Formation of campaign committee/cabinet: **Winter 2026**
- Capital Campaign continues from **through December 2029**.
- Potential bond measure launch in **2030**.

Property Purchase

- Purchase of the property at the corner of **5th Avenue West and Parkline Trail: December 2026**.

Architectural drawings and Engineering work

- Call for bids/RFQ's from architects **2027**

Construction Phase

- Call for bids/RFQ's from contractors **2027**
- Construction of the new Flathead County Library:
 - **2030-2033**