

## **Project Description**

The Marianne Beck Memorial Library is seeking funding for an expansion project that is designed to enhance its service offerings and better accommodate the growing needs of the community. As a vital hub for local residents, the library has long provided a wide range of programs and services to, but increasing demand for resources such as books, programs, and spaces for reading and studying. This project will not only increase available space, but will also provide additional resources that will support both current and future library services. The goal is to develop a flexible and modern facility that can continue to accommodate the evolving needs of the community.

The expansion will be carefully integrated with the current architecture of the library to preserve its aesthetic appeal while introducing modern features to enhance functionality. The design process will focus on ensuring that the new spaces complement the existing layout seamlessly. Thorough planning will be undertaken to ensure compliance with building codes and local regulations, ensuring that the expanded facility is safe, accessible, and in line with current standards. Working closely with architects, engineers, and contractors, the library will ensure that the expansion is not only visually appealing but also structurally sound, maximizing both form and function.

## **Expected Outcomes**

The expansion will provide increased seating and additional quiet areas for reading, catering to individuals as well as groups. New layouts will accommodate both solo study and collaborative reading spaces, enhancing the overall visitor experience. A key component of the expansion is the creation of a larger, dedicated space for children's books and activities. This

area will foster early literacy and inspire a love of reading among young learners. Storytime programs, interactive displays, and educational toys will be incorporated into this section, creating a vibrant, engaging environment for children.

### **Justification for Use of Impact Fees**

The area surrounding the library has experienced steady population growth, and with the addition of new subdivisions, the community's population is expected to grow substantially in the coming years. These subdivisions are bringing in a wide range of residents, including young families, professionals, and seniors, all of whom will require various library services—from children's programs and technology access to quiet study areas and community events. This surge in population will directly increase demand for library resources, programs, and space.

The use of Impact fees is justified as the expansion is designed to accommodate the future needs of the growing population. Rather than just addressing deficiencies in the existing facility, the project is an intentional increase in capacity to meet future demand. The expansion will allow for more programming, a larger collection, and greater community engagement, directly supporting the needs of the new residents.

### **Effect on Staff**

The expansion will have a positive impact on library staff by creating a more modern and efficient work environment. With more space and upgraded facilities, staff will be better positioned to manage and support a larger number of patrons. The additional space will also allow for dedicated areas where staff can work, plan programs, and interact with the public more effectively.

## **Need for Project**

As the community continues to grow, this expansion is an essential investment to meet the increasing demand for library services. The expected population increase for Howey-in-the-Hills with current entitlements will be approximately 6,800 new residents. Over the next five years, this would bring the total population of Howey-in-the-Hills from 1,800 to approximately 8,600 residents once all homes are occupied. This substantial growth highlights the importance of expanding public infrastructure, including the library, to meet future demand.

The growing town population requires expanded access to resources, more modern facilities, and a broader collection to meet patron needs. This investment will provide immediate value to residents by increasing access to resources. In the longer term, the expansion will have a lasting impact on education, workforce development, and community engagement.

## **Benefit to Local Community and County-Wide Library Services**

The expansion of the Marianne Beck Memorial Library represents a significant investment not only in the local community, but in the broader Lake County Library System. By expanding the library's capacity, this project will enhance the library's ability to serve residents through a larger collection, new study spaces, and improved access to technology and resources. These expanded services will foster community pride and greater civic engagement, while also providing job opportunities during both the construction phase and after the project's completion.

In addition to these local benefits, the expansion will contribute to the overall economic growth of the region by increasing property values and attracting new businesses. A well-

developed library can serve as a key community asset that enhances the quality of life and makes the area more desirable to potential residents and businesses. This project will have a long-term, positive impact on the Lake County Library System, enriching its services and ensuring it can continue to serve the needs of an expanding population for years to come.