



Redwood City Public Library

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

The Redwood City Public Library's mission is to be "the learning center of our community and the place people turn to for the discovery of ideas, the joy of reading and the power of information." We provide the community with an engaging, welcoming and safe place for all ages and uses. We help kids and families succeed, support public safety, increase economic vitality and sustain a great quality of life for all. We utilize business and retail models for efficient, effective and contemporary service.

The Library was founded in 1865 with funds raised by private subscription for a reading room located on Main Street. In 1889 a Library association was formed to establish a public Library supported by municipal and private funds. A 1900 city ordinance established a free library, and a new library building was built in 1906 on the corner of Broadway and Jefferson with City funds and a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. A larger library building was constructed in 1938 on the corner of Jefferson and Middlefield Roads to accommodate the Library collection, which had outgrown the 1906 building.

In 1988, the historic landmark, Fire Station No. 1, provided the facade and the framework for the new Main Library building. Today, the 47,000 square foot facility holds a collection of over 250,000 books, CDs, DVDs and other items. In addition to the collection, the library houses the Project READ Literacy Program, the Karl A. Vollmayer Local History Room, and a Community Meeting Room seating over one hundred people. The Family Place, completed in the fall of 2006, is a popular resource for families, teachers, daycare and preschool providers. In addition to the children's collection of books and media, the Family Place holds a variety of programs and storytimes throughout the week. In 2009, the downtown library will be constructing a "Teen Zone," a physical space where teens will feel welcome, safe, and where they can learn and socialize.

The Redwood City Public Library system has three branch libraries. The Schaberg Branch Library was built on the campus of Roosevelt Elementary School in 1957. The Fair Oaks Branch Library opened in 1974 as a part of the City's Fair Oaks Community Center. It serves the Spanish speaking community in the unincorporated Fair Oaks neighborhood. In 1995 the Fair Oaks Library moved to a larger facility shared with the San Mateo County Human Services Agency. This facility now operates in partnership with the Joint Powers Authority of San Mateo County Public Library. The Redwood Shores Branch Library opened in September 2008, funded in part through a \$10.1 million grant awarded by the State Library of California.

The Redwood City Public Library is a member of the Peninsula Library System (PLS.) PLS is a consortium of 34 public and community college libraries working together to provide cost-effective service to their users through the sharing of collections.



Redwood City Public Library 2008

MILESTONES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Snapshot of 2008

- Lent over one million items
- 64,000 library card holders used their card
- 116,000 folks attended library programs or received tutoring
- 29,000 items added to the collection
- 573,000 visits to one of our libraries; 325,000 visits to the website
- Over 300,000 computer uses
- 2,289 programs—1,786 library sponsored; 503 community sponsored
- New branch library in Redwood Shores open

Building Community – Community Supporters

- Library Foundation – \$850,000 raised for Redwood Shores collection
- Friends of the Library – \$ 50,000+ raised for library programming and materials
- Volunteers – Over 1,200 volunteers gave over 130,000 hours including 250 teens

Youth and Family Programming

- Daily Storytimes to promote early childhood literacy
- Kindercard Campaign – For the 5th consecutive year, library cards issued to all kids as they start Kindergarten
- Library cards for newborns and parents at Sequoia Hospital
- Bookstock IV – 3 hours of peace and music, to celebrate 2,000 participants in summer reading

Youth and Learning

- Over 300 at-risk youth involved in tutoring programs in Project READ
- Reading scores increased by an average of 3.0 levels after one year of instruction
- Project READ teen tutors completed over 1,500 hours of community tutoring service hours
- Project READ tutors held 57,000 sessions with their adult learners
- 60 Traveling Storytime volunteers read to over 700 children weekly
- 24/7 online homework help service combined with homework centers at all four libraries—10,000 tutored sessions
- Family literacy collaboration with Redwood City School District—helping schools bring learning into the home and community

On the Horizon

- New Teen Center at the Downtown Library, including new study rooms
- Expanded literacy and Spanish language spaces
- Environmental Interpretive Center opening at Shores Library
- Continued collaboration with Parks & Recreation Department