

Livingston Manor – Roscoe Library

Beyond Books – A New Library Building

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the Library need a new building?

The current Livingston Manor library building no longer adequately meets community needs. At approximately **2,000 square feet**, the space limits programming, accessibility, collections, quiet reading, access to technology and opportunities for community gathering and group discussions. The children's area is cramped, there is no space for Manor Ink, and there is no space for young adults. The Library has purchased adjacent property, creating a rare opportunity to expand and build for the future.

Is the Roscoe library closing?

No. The Livingston Manor – Roscoe Library will continue operating **both branches** as part of the merged library. The new building project replaces only the current Livingston Manor facility while strengthening services across the entire merged library organization. Current planned improvements to the Roscoe facility this year include: a new roof, new walkway, new signage, new windows and new welcome desk. Just as the Roscoe Library Branch now serves elementary students from both Roscoe and Livingston Manor with an afterschool program run by the elementary school, and it has an exemplary large print collection benefiting all adults in the Town of Rockland, the new facility will serve all. Both branches will benefit everyone.

How will the new library benefit the community?

The proposed building is expected to be approximately **6,100 square feet**, allowing the Library to serve residents of all ages and needs beyond lending books.

Additional space would support:

- Community meeting and gathering rooms, free for community organizations as well as library programs
 - Children's programming with a dedicated children's room
 - Computer stations available for young adults, including for gaming
 - Quiet reading and study spaces, including for tutoring
 - Expanded collections of multiple genres for adults, young adults and children
 - Expanded technology access
 - Workforce and digital assistance
 - Flexible programming and event space
 - Makerspace, repair, and hands-on learning activities
 - Local history archives and exhibits
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Will taxes increase to pay for this?

No. The Library is pursuing a combination of **private fundraising, State and Federal grants, and foundation support** to fund the project. Once the building is constructed, a combination of energy efficient features and solar panels is likely to save taxpayers annually. Furthermore, the one-story design ensures that additional staff are not required to operate the new building.

How much will the project cost?

We have formulated an initial working budget for the library of \$5 to \$7 million. The Library has received an initial \$220,000 in seed funding which has helped us to conduct required surveys, pay legal fees, buy the adjacent building, and hire an architectural and consultant team.

Who is designing the building?

The Library is working with **Bade Stageberg Cox**, an architectural firm known for innovative, community-centered public buildings. The design process is focused on creating a welcoming, accessible, sustainable building that reflects the character as well as current and future needs of the Livingston Manor and Roscoe communities.

Will the building be environmentally sustainable?

Yes. The Library is exploring a **highly energy-efficient design** intended to reduce long-term operating costs and environmental impact. Goals include net-zero energy efficiency, durable materials, and flexible spaces that can be adapted over time.

What's the general timeline?

The architects have completed an initial **concept design** and plan to start the schematic design phase in September of this year. The timeline will largely depend on progress securing funds needed. The Library Board will not begin construction until the necessary funds are secured.

Where will the library be located during construction?

We are looking for a suitable rental location to house the library during construction.

Why invest in a library building now?

Libraries are essential community infrastructure. The Livingston Manor branch is the smallest in Sullivan County and was originally designed to transact the lending of books. To remain relevant today, we must go beyond books. Today's libraries provide information in a variety of media, technology access, educational programming, community gathering space, workforce support, youth opportunities, and cultural events. Our community deserves a library that has the capacity to connect residents of all means with information and services. This project is about ensuring our community has a library equipped to serve residents for the next 50+ years.

Questions or Ideas?

We welcome community input. Please contact the **Livingston Manor – Roscoe Library** at: lmr-library@rcls.org to learn more or share feedback.