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Morris Public Library Expansion and Renovation Survey

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MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
EXPANSION AND
RENOVATION SURVEY
Prepared for the Morris Public Library Board

Authors: Kelly Asche, Ai Sano, Taylor Vetsch
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BACKGROUND

The University of Minnesota, Morris, Center for Small Towns worked with the Morris Public Library (MPL) to develop and distribute a survey to learn about what library resources the public believes is important and their support for the expansion and renovation of the MPL.

The survey was distributed in two formats - paper and online. Paper copies of the survey were distributed by mail to households in the MPL’s legal service area (i.e., the City of Morris and its nine surrounding townships) in September, 2016. The online survey was distributed on reminder postcards to the same recipients as those who had received the paper copies of the survey. In total, 554 responses were collected. This is a response rate of 25%.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PERCEPTIONS OF THE LIBRARY

Respondents were satisfied with most aspects of the Morris Public Library (MPL). In particular, respondents overwhelmingly believe the MPL:

- contributes to making the community a better place to live;
- has library staff who are knowledgeable and helpful; and,
- is a great place for children to learn and read.

However, respondents also believed that the MPL:

- does not have up-to-date technology or the availability of ample digital resources;
- does not have spaces available for all age groups; and,
- should provide more resource for adults’ lifelong learning.

IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCES

Respondents agreed that all the collections services listed in the survey (see Appendix) were important.

Respondents believe that having the following library spaces to be most important:

- convenient parking,
- quiet area to read, and
- a children’s area to play and read.

Respondents reported the following spaces as least important:

- study rooms for individuals,
- outdoor seating, and
- video gaming space.

INTEREST IN PROGRAMMING

Overall there was a lot of interest in children’s programming. The following types of programs received the most interest:

- summer reading programs,
- story times,
- coloring events, and
- movie events.
Respondents also reported interest in teens programming, but a bit less than children’s programming. The following types of programs received the most interest:
- musical performances,
- movie events, and
- writing workshops.

Respondents reported the least amount of interest for adults programming. The programs that did receive the most interest were:
- author events,
- genealogy, and
- book discussion groups.

SUPPORT FOR REFERENDUM
50% of respondents reported that they would support a library referendum while 38% were not sure yet. Only 13% said they would not.

32% of respondents reported they would support the library through a donation. 47% said they were not sure, while 21% reported they would not provide a donation to the library.

DIFFERENCES BY AGE OF RESPONDENT
When breaking up respondents by age, there were some statistically significant differences in the response given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency of library visits</th>
<th>Agree that Library has space for all ages</th>
<th>Agree that Library has up-to-date technology</th>
<th>Important for library to have children’s area</th>
<th>Important for library to have a family restroom</th>
<th>Important for library to have outdoor seating</th>
<th>Important for library to have wi-fi</th>
<th>How to be informed about library programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Younger Respondents (24-49)</strong></td>
<td>More</td>
<td>Less Likely</td>
<td>Less Likely</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>Email, newsletter, social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Older Respondents (50+)</strong></td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>More Likely</td>
<td>More Likely</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Newspapers, radio/tv, bulletin boards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SURVEY FINDINGS

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Out of 541 respondents, 76% were female and 24% were male (Figure 1). A substantial amount of respondents (44%) were 60 years or older. Categorized by highest level of education, respondents seem to be highest among individuals with Bachelor degrees and Graduate/Professional degrees (29% and 25% respectively). Respondents with highest level of education being high school diploma, associate degree, and some college all float around 15% (Figure 2).

Almost half of the respondents (46%) have full-time employment status. The second largest amounts of respondents include individuals who are retired (Error! Reference source not found.). Nearly half of the respondents (47%) have household annual incomes between $50,000 and $99,999. About 24% of survey respondents have annual household incomes more than $100,000 a year (Figure 4).

As indicated in Figure 5, 84% of respondents have no individuals living in their household between the ages of 13-18 years old. Only 16% of respondents have one or more individuals living with them between the ages of 13-18 years old. Figure 6 shows that 72% of respondents have no members living in their household 12 years old or younger. Twenty-eight percent of respondents have at least one individual living with them between the ages of 13-18 years old.
Out of 546 survey respondents, approximately 64% of them live in Morris (Figure 7), where-as the remaining 36% live elsewhere. Out of 542 survey respondents, 85% have lived in the area for 10 years or more (Figure 8).

FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO THE MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Of survey respondents, a majority responded that they visit the MPL at least monthly. Thirty-nine percent of them said that they visit the MPL either multiple times a month or weekly. Fourteen percent of survey respondents said that they have never been to the MPL (Figure 9).

Survey respondents who said that they have never visited MPL were asked to indicate the reasons why they have never visited the MPL. The three most frequently chosen reasons were the following: “We use the Internet when we need to obtain information” (60%); “going to libraries is not part of our lifestyle” (48%); and “we buy books and read them at home” (Figure 10).

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**Figure 7**: % of respondents that live in Morris (N=546)

**Figure 8**: % of respondents by time frame lived in the area (N=542)

**Figure 9**: % of people by frequency of visits to the Morris Public Library (N=545)

**Figure 10**: % of reasons why people have never visited the library (N=75)
PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE MORRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Respondents who have visited the MPL were asked to indicate how much they agree or disagree with each of the statements about the MPL (1 = “Strongly disagree” & 5 = “Strongly agree”). Six statements described the MPL with positive tone (Figure 11) and the other six described the library with negative tone (Figure 12). As for the statements with positive tone, the MPL patrons did not disagree with any of the statements; and they particularly agreed that the library contributes to making the community a better place, that the MPL staff is knowledgeable and helpful, and that the library is a great place for children to learn to read. As for the statements with negative tone, survey respondents somewhat agreed that the MPL should provide more resources for adults to support their lifelong learning and somewhat disagreed that the library needs to be more well-maintained and cleaner.

COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY RESOURCES

Survey respondents were provided a list of collections, spaces, and services that can be found or provided at any public library and asked to indicate how important each of these are for their community on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = “not at all important” & 5 = “extremely important”).

Regarding collections, survey respondents believe that large print books, magazines, local newspapers, and DVDs are more important and that subscription databases and science kits for children are less important. Overall, however, survey respondents view none of these items “unimportant” as the average score of all the items is above 3 (Figure 13).
Survey respondents believe that convenient parking, quiet area for reading, and children’s area are very important and that lounge seating area for reading, partitioned computer work space for individuals, bike racks, various sized meeting room space, and teen’s area are somewhat important. As for video gaming space, on the other hand, survey respondents believe that it is not important (Figure 14).

Overall survey respondents believe that all the services in the list are important (Figure 15). Survey respondents believe that helpful library staff is extremely important and that inter-library loan within Minnesota libraries, library website, access to a printer and free wireless internet, and online catalog are important. Survey respondents believe that access to children’s computer and desktop or laptop computers and home delivery homebound are less important compared to the previous services.
HOUSEHOLD INTEREST IN PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Survey respondents were asked to select public library programs that individuals in their households (i.e., children, teens, adults) would be interested in attending. As for children’s programs, a large majority of survey respondents who have children in their household said that their children would be interested in attending summer reading programs (79%) and story times (73%). The program that was chosen by the least number of survey respondents was graphic novel and comic book groups (25%) (Figure 16).

![Figure 16: % of respondents who have children in their household by interest in public library children's programs (N = 164)](chart16.png)

Programming for teens received a bit less support overall than programming for children. Regarding teens’ programs, musical performances (59%), movie events (56%), and writing workshops (55%) were the three most frequently chosen programs. The program that was chosen by the least number of survey respondents was anime and manga (10%) (Figure 17).

![Figure 17: % of respondents who have teens in their household by interest in public library teen's programs (N = 82)](chart17.png)

As for adult’s programs, “author events” was the most frequently chosen program by survey respondents (54%) followed by genealogy (49%), book discussion groups (47%), and talks and slides about travels (43%). Conversation circles for English learners (10%) and GED and citizenship (12%), on the other hand, were the least frequently chosen programs by survey respondents (Figure 18).

![Figure 18: % respondents by interest in public library adult's programs (N = 405)](chart18.png)
Survey respondents were asked how they would like to be informed about public library programs. The medium that was most frequently chosen by survey respondents was local newspapers (74%) followed by the MPL website (56%) and at the MPL (54%). Community bulletin boards (32%) and library newsletter (33%) were the least frequently chosen media though the number of survey respondents who chose these media was still relatively large (Figure 19).

LIBRARY REFERENDUM AND SUPPORT
Survey respondents who live in the City of Morris were asked if they would support a tax referendum for the expansion and renovation of MPL. Fifty percent of survey respondents said that they would support a tax referendum; and 13% said that they wouldn’t. 38% of survey respondents said that they were not sure at the moment (Figure 20).

Survey respondents from both the City of Morris and the nine surrounding townships were asked if they would support the expansion and renovation of MPL by donation. Forty-seven percent of survey respondents said that they were not sure at the moment. Thirty-two percent said that they would support it by donation; and 21% said that they wouldn’t (Figure 21).
DIFFERENCES BY AGE OF RESPONDENT

When breaking up respondents by age, there were statistically significant differences in the response given to specific questions. Below is a table allowing a quick reference to the differences (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency of library visits</th>
<th>Agree that library has space for all ages</th>
<th>Agree that Library has up-to-date technology</th>
<th>Important for library to have children’s area</th>
<th>Important for library to have a family restroom</th>
<th>Important for library to have outdoor seating</th>
<th>Important for library to have wi-fi</th>
<th>How to be informed about library programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Younger Respondents (24-49)</td>
<td>More</td>
<td>Less Likely</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>More Important</td>
<td>Email, newsletter, social media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Respondents (50+)</td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>More Likely</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Less Important</td>
<td>Newspaper, radio/tv, bulletin boards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES IN RESPONSES BY AGE GROUP

Respondents age 18-49 years old were much more likely to report visiting the library more frequently than respondents aged 50 or older. 21% of younger respondents reported visiting the MPL at least weekly and 26% at least multiple times a month. Whereas 13% and 21% of older respondents reported visiting weekly or multiple times a month, respectively (Figure 22).

![Figure 22: % Frequency of visit by age group (N=536)](image)

Younger respondents were also much less likely to be satisfied with the MPL spaces for families, and also place much more importance on having spaces for families in libraries in general. Figure 23 shows that younger families were more likely to disagree that the MPC has space available for all ages compared to older households.

![Figure 23: % of respondents that agree or disagree that the MPL has space available for all ages (N=461)](image)
Younger respondents were also more likely to believe that it is important for libraries to provide spaces for children to read and play (Figure 24), a family restroom (Figure 25), and outdoor seating (Figure 26).

There were also statistically significant differences in how younger and older households reported their satisfaction and importance of technology. Younger households were much less likely to agree that MPL has up-to-date technology (Figure 27). In addition, even though access to wi-fi was important to all age groups, younger households were significantly more likely to find it important (Figure 28).

Not surprisingly, there was also significant differences in how households wanted to be informed about MPL programs depending on their age. Younger households were significantly more likely to prefer technological and online methods
(email, website, social media, etc…) for information compared to older households. Whereas older households were significantly more likely to prefer traditional forms of media such as newspaper and radio (Figure 29).

**Figure 29:** % of respondents on how they would like to be informed about MPL programs, by age (n=514)
APPENDIX A – SURVEY
Frequency of Visits to the Morris Public Library

1. How often does someone in your household usually visit the Morris Public Library? (Select one)

☐ Daily  ☐ Weekly  ☐ Multiple times a month  ☐ Monthly  ☐ Less than once per month  ☐ Never

1a. If you answered “Never”, which of the following reasons describes why your household has never visited the Morris Public Library? Please select all that apply.

☐ I / we didn't know there was a public library in Morris.
☐ The library doesn't have the materials or the services that I / we need.
☐ I / we use the Internet to obtain information that I / we need.
☐ The library hours are not convenient.
☐ Going to libraries is not part of my / our lifestyle.
☐ The library is too far from where I / we live.
☐ I / we buy books and read them at home.
☐ The library is more for children.
☐ I / we use other libraries.

Other reasons (please specify): ____________________________________________  __________

(If you answered “Never” to Question 1, skip to Question 3)

Perceptions towards the Morris Public Library

2. How much do you agree or disagree with each statement about the Morris Public Library?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The library is a great place for children to learn to read.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library should provide more resources for adults to support their lifelong learning.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library contributes to making the community a better place to live.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library staff is knowledgeable and helpful.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library needs to be more well-maintained and cleaner.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library has large enough space for people of all age groups (i.e., children, teens, adults).</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library needs to be a more comfortable and enjoyable place to visit.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library should be open longer hours.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library has up-to-date technology.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library should provide more digital resources (e.g., eBooks, audiobooks, DVDs, databases).</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library’s collection of physical books is satisfactory in terms of quality and quantity.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The library needs more computers for the public to use.</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Community Importance of Public Library Resources**

Public libraries are community assets to serve the needs of everyone in the community, from children to elders. In this section we will ask you about your thoughts on what public library resources are important to help your community become a better place for everyone.

3. Below is a selection of specific collections that are provided by public libraries in general. Please indicate how important it is for **your community** to have each of the collections on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = “not at all important” & 5 = “extremely important”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large print books</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingual Spanish and Spanish language books</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines and local newspapers</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVDs, movies, TV shows, and documentaries</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e-Books, electronic books, and magazines</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audiobooks (CDs and downloadable)</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscription databases: Ancestry database and Tumble Books database</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science kits for children</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Below is a selection of specific spaces that are provided by public libraries in general. Please indicate how important it is for **your community** to have each of the spaces on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = “not at all important” & 5 = “extremely important”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convenient parking</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge seating area to read</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partitioned computer work space for individuals</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpartitioned computer work space for collaboration</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study rooms for individuals</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various sized meeting room space to accommodate different sized group discussion and activities</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet area to read</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's area to play and read</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen's area to read</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video gaming space</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A family restroom where one or more individuals of the same or opposite sex can use</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor seating</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike racks</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Below is a selection of specific services that are provided by public libraries in general. Please indicate how important it is for your community to have each of the services on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = “not at all important” & 5 = “extremely important”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Not at all important</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helpful library staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Library website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online catalog</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-library loan for access to books in other Minnesota libraries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Delivery for homebound</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to desktop and laptop computers for use in library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to free wireless internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to a printer / copier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to children's computer with education / recreational software</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Household Interest in Public Library Programs

6. Below is a selection of specific children’s programs that are provided by public libraries in general. Please select all programs that children in your household would be interested in attending.

- Not applicable
- Storytimes
- Family game night
- Graphic novel and comic book groups
- Movie events
- Coloring events
- Summer reading programs

7. Below is a selection of specific teen’s programs that are provided by public libraries in general. Please select all programs that teens in your household would be interested in attending.

- Not applicable
- Anime and manga
- Musical performances
- Graphic novel and science fiction book groups
- Game night
- Movie events
- Writing workshops

8. Below is a selection of specific adults’ programs that are provided by public libraries in general. Please select all programs that adults in your household would be interested in attending.

- Author events
- Book discussion groups
- Board game tournaments
- Genealogy
- Coloring events
- GED and citizenship
- Speech by local personalities
- Writing workshops
- Talks and slides about travels
- Conversation circles for English learners

9. How would your household like to be informed about library programs? Select all that apply.

- Local newspapers
- At the Morris Public Library
- Library newsletter
- Email
- Radio / TV
- The Morris Public Library website
- Community bulletin boards
- Social Media / Facebook

Other (please specify): ___________________________________________________________
Demographics

10. What is your gender?  
☐ Female  ☐ Male  ☐ Other

11. What is your age bracket?  
☐ 18-24  ☐ 24-29  ☐ 30-39  ☐ 40-49  ☐ 50-59  ☐ 60+

12. What is the highest level of education you have received? (Select one)

☐ 9th – 12th grade, no diploma  ☐ High school diploma  ☐ Some college, no degree
☐ Associate degree  ☐ Bachelor's degree  ☐ Graduate / professional degree

13. What is your employment status? Select all that apply.

☐ Work full-time  ☐ Work part-time  ☐ Self-employed
☐ Unemployed or disabled  ☐ Retired  ☐ College student

14. What is your household’s annual income? (Select one)

☐ Less than $25,000  ☐ $25,000 - $49,999  ☐ $50,000 - $99,999  ☐ More than $100,000

15. What is your race / ethnicity? (Select one)

☐ Caucasian  ☐ Asian American  ☐ African American
☐ Hispanic or Latino  ☐ Native American  ☐ Mixed or other race

16. How many people live in your household?  
__________________

21a. How many of them are between 13 and 18 years old?  
__________________

21b. How many of them are 12 years old or younger?  
__________________

17. What languages are spoken in your household? Select all that apply.

☐ English  ☐ Spanish  ☐ Other (please specify)  _____________________

18. How many years have you lived in the Morris area? (Select one)

☐ Less than 1  ☐ 1-3  ☐ 4-9  ☐ 10+

Library Referendum

If expansion and renovation of the library building is pursued, the Library Foundation will work to utilize multiple funding sources. They are interested in knowing if there is potential for part of the project to be funded by community members.

19. Would you be likely to support a tax referendum for the expansion and renovation of the Morris Public Library?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure at this time

20. Would you be likely to support the expansion and renovation of the Morris Public Library by donation?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure at this time
APPENDIX B – WRITTEN COMMENTS

The following is a transcription of the written comments we received for the questions where open comments were allowed.

Question 1a: Which of the following reasons describes why your household never visited the Morris Public Library?
[“other” selected]

- I live on the farm and am too busy
- Used it frequently when our kids were younger and lived at home.
- Too old to read
- University Students=use campus library
- Buy books on Kindle
- We just moved here. We plan to visit soon
- I don't read books.
- Tend to read on my Kindle - but I love our library.
- We used the library 35-49 years ago
- I have lived in City of Morris for 34 years and have never been to the library. I have an extensive personal library and my reading is extensive.
- Just don't think of it.
- No young children
- We are just so busy with everyday life that we don’t take advantage of the wonderful services available. We used it very often while our children were growing up
- Hancock Library
- Loss of vision
- If I have time to read, it's non-fiction. I do get info from TV, radio, newspaper, magazines, some books, not sound media.

Question 3: Please indicate how important it is for your community to have each of the collections on a scale of 1 to 5.
[“other” selected]

- Christian fiction
- Spanish books for Mexican workers; DVDs, movies, etc. - lots available online
- Books that have won awards
- Financial newspapers & magazines
- Charging stations
- The Viking Interlibrary loan program is very nice & important
- Books Clubs
- Literature
- Homeschool Resources
- Movie night (more)
- Large size kids books on various topics
- Old Classics Books (not rewritten) Huckleberry Finn, Nancy Drew Series, Anne of Green Gables, Little House of the Prairie, the Boxcar children
- “How to” videos
- Schools should do science kits for children
- More variety in large print as they are the only books I can read.
- Books that can help adults become more fluent in English as we have more people coming into our community who could use that
Chairs an elderly person can get up from. Current chairs are uncomfortable and impossible to painlessly get up from!!!!!
Coffee

Question 4: Please indicate how important it is for your community to have each of the spaces on a scale of 1 to 5. ["other" selected]

- Door closer to parking for elderly and handicapped
- More space, meetings - just more room in general; & love the present location- add another floor & elevators as well as possibly enlarging the present footprint!!
- Kids playing games on computers shouldn't be allowed. They are taking up time of people who want to use computer.
- Room for more books
- Study tables / not rooms
- Add 2nd floor; a restroom for handicapped (with helper) - like parent & child; has the gazebo already and mosquitoes are a problem.
- Atmosphere/ good lighting. Public meeting room (large community room)
- Art on the walls
- Children's area to read, not to play.
- Accessible entrance
- Play area for kids with quiet activities.
- His or her restrooms only. Family restrooms for parents to take children.
- Bouncy chairs for kids who struggle sitting still while reading.
- Handicap door that work - they are not up to code - city could get into trouble if reported to state.
- Fire place would be great!
- Handicap Usable
- Space to have interactive library related learning environments or installations
- Continued programs for young children - some after school or Saturdays.
- Outdoor seating with WiFi access
- Handicap doors
- Bathroom with better ventilation or window to evacuate odd smells.
- Separate rest rooms
- Badly need more up-to-date computers & headphones that work, in a private area away from the children's programs
- Ability to share resources with other libraries
- Chairs for elderly
- Children's area to read, but not to play
- Coffee

Question 5: Please indicate how important it is for your community to have each of the services on a scale of 1 to 5. [“other” selected]

- Why not save space & have laptops to lend, no desk top stations?
- Longer loan times for books, etc. (distance = problem).
- Meeting room (one)
- Communities need libraries to illustrate a commitment to education, access to information and a sense of community.
- Educational opportunities, speakers, children’s’ activities on a regular basis after work hours as in after 4:30 or 5:00 for all ages including toddlers & preschoolers.
• An excellent book collection which includes both literature & popular fiction as well as nonfiction works, is still the most important service our library should provide
• Fax
• Offer computer classes (basics)
• Coffee

Question 9: How would your household like to be informed about library programs?

• Community Ed flyer, Friday Facts
• Morris Friday Facts
• Library newsletter - electronic
• More social media posts needed.
• City Hall/Chamber of Commerce
• In the mail.
• Library newsletter would be too costly, too much work.