

Hoffman Estates Branch Library RFQ Informational Meeting 7/1/26

Notes and Questions

Project Goals

1. Our Strategic Plan (2024-2027) outlines three goals: Building Connections, Being Agile, and Future Ready. The initiative for Facilities is to evolve library spaces to meet community needs and cultivate a welcoming atmosphere.
2. Neighborhood libraries, such as this one, continue to play an important role in the community but we know there are opportunities to provide more welcoming, flexible, and collaborative spaces. We know we can have a space that balances staff efficiency with providing access to collections, technology, and programs. We want to invest in the plan that achieves those goals.
3. What's Possible? Is the solution to stay here at this location and completely rethink how we're using the pie shape lot? Does it mean relocating to an area that is larger, more visible, accessible by public transit?
4. Most importantly, what does our community want? The library is committed to hearing from a broad range of users and we're excited to work with a consultant on the community feedback process.
5. We'd like to incorporate the Hanover Park Branch in this feasibility study, but future renovation or construction would start with the Hoffman Branch.

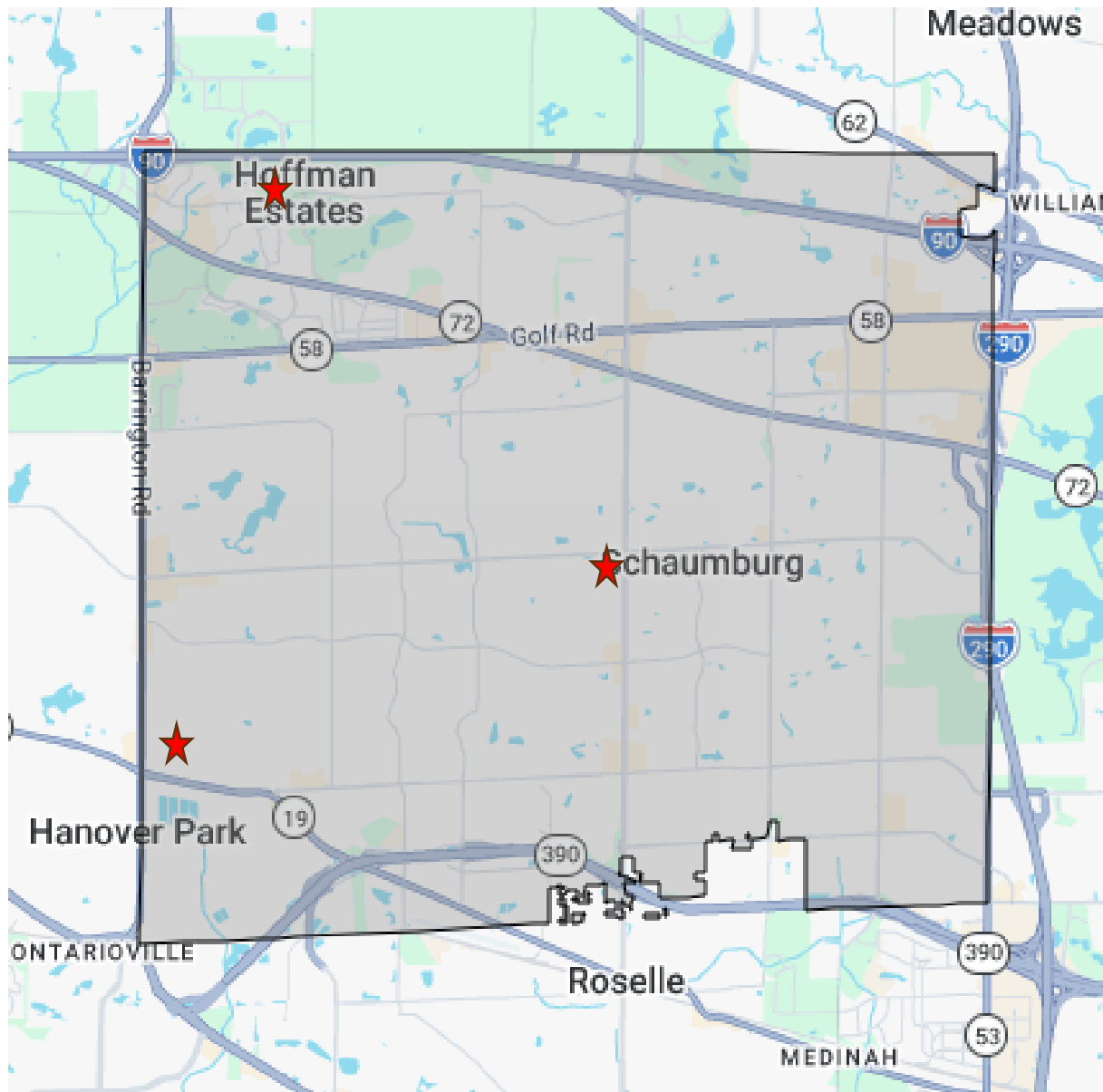
Facility Overview

- Address: 1550 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
- 9,700 SF
- Built in 2002. STDL has operated a Branch location at this address or at the Hoffman Estates Municipal Building since 1976.
- 1.12 Acres
- Zoned R-4
- Virtual Tour: <https://bit.ly/hebranch>



District Boundaries

If the Hoffman Estates Branch was to be relocated, it would need to remain within the gray highlighted area.



CENTRAL LIBRARY

130 S. Roselle Road • Schaumburg, IL 60193
(847) 985-4000 PHONE • (847) 923-3131 FAX

HANOVER PARK BRANCH

1266 Irving Park Road • Hanover Park, IL 60133
(630) 372-7800 PHONE • (847) 923-3488 FAX

HOFFMAN ESTATES BRANCH

1550 Hassell Road • Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
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Questions & Answers

These questions were asked during the site visit, via zoom during the informational meeting, or via email/phone.

Q: Which groups of people use the Branch?

A: There is a broad mix of users that utilize the Branch location and services. The neighborhood is transitioning and a lot of folks are now empty nesters. We have seniors that come in the mornings, families with little children that come after school and the evenings after work. We have adults that come in to use the computers throughout the day. It depends on the day of the week and what's going on outside in the world. We see everyone from birth to senior citizens. We have programming here throughout the week and throughout the day that caters towards those groups. We see adults and younger kiddos before naptime and before picking up older kids from school. We have bikers and walkers and people that drive or call the library.

Q: Are there any constraints within the building?

A:

- The shape of the lot is a "pie" or "wedge".
- Without many interior walls and the height of the ceilings, conversations carry from the front to the back of the building.
- Departmental areas overlap, i.e. Children's play area is right on top of the Adult computer bank. We appreciate the sight lines, but it makes it difficult for both groups to do what they need to do in the spaces.
- We only have one study room (for use up to 6 people). It is highly used but the walls don't go to the ceiling, so it doesn't muffle voices. We would like to have more than one study room.
- We have only one program room which is used by librarians, performers, and patrons.
- There is very little flexibility in the building.
- The Circulation Desk is open so the staff work areas are visible.
- There is no usable outdoor space for a patio or programs.
- Parking is limited. When the lot is full, street parking can be difficult.

Q: What are the initial thoughts about the budget for this project?

A: The library currently has \$8M - \$9M in Special Reserves that is not earmarked for any other use.

Q: Are Teens/Tweens using the library?

A: We get younger teenage kids typically in the summer afternoons. A lot of our usage fell off during the Covid-19 pandemic. With schools doing virtual learning, the kids didn't need to use the library the same as pre-pandemic. We have kids that come to the library to play video games, hang out, cool off, and attend programming, but they don't use the computers and the space as they had before. The library Branch is also close to the Hoffman Estates High School.

Q: Has the library acquired a consultant to coordinate the community feedback process?

A: We do not have a consultant selected for community feedback and would like for the firm that is awarded this project to assist with this process.

Q: Would the \$8M - \$9M budget be used for both the Hoffman Estates and the Hanover Park Branch?

A: This would depend on the timeline and other factors. We would like to see what the costs would be for the Hoffman Estates Branch before moving forward with the Hanover Park portion of the project.

Q: Are collection processing functions being performed at the HE Branch?

A: No. We have a centralized collection development and processing model.

Q: Does STDL have data on what people are doing in the library?

A: It depends on what kind of data is needed. We can pull information from the door counter, statistics on the computer, meeting room, study room usage, as well as circulation and program attendance. Anecdotally, patrons use the building to play games and with toys, use the computers, work quietly, read in the fireplace room, attend programs, and check out materials. From July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, the Hoffman Estates Branch had approximately 44,000 visitors.

Q: Is the collection in the HE Branch the right size?

A: The collection could stay the same, or reduce as material formats age out or collection focus changes.

Q: What is the wait time for picking up holds for materials brought over from the Central and Hanover Park Branch?

A: Approximately 24 hours.

Q: Is the water heater new?

A: Yes, it was replaced with a tankless system in 2025.

Q: Is the size of the building appropriate?

A: We would be happy to increase the size to 16,000 – 20,000 square feet if possible.

Q: Are the butterflies (large metal butterfly sculptures situated in the front planter bed) part of an art installation?

A: Yes, we included the Branches for the butterfly exhibit being displayed at the Central Library. We would like to be able to do that for future exhibits.

Exterior Notes

- Flag pole
- Monument sign
- Pet waste container
- Percussion Play instruments
- Bike rack with air pump and tools
- Lockers for holds pick-ups
- Water feature at the south emergency door
- Trash enclosure
- Fire Dept. Water Pump Station in the parking lot – must remain



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