



# Garden City Public Library Millage Request

## Enrich Our Community

The Garden City Library Board is asking for an additional millage (1.0 mill for 10 years) to build a new library. Our goal is to do so without the interest payments and fees of long-term bonds. Meanwhile, we will continue to seek corporate and foundation donations to help us build sooner.

**Didn't we just pass a library millage?** Yes! Thank you for renewing our **operating millage** in 2018. That millage can run the Library through 2031. This millage will build the new library.

**Why do we need a new library building?** The infrastructure of our **temporary** home is inadequate for the needs of a modern public library. Some of the problems with our current location are: it is not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant; it lacks space for collections, programs, study; poor lighting; insufficient number of electric outlets; leaky roof; asbestos; and failing HVAC systems.

"Research indicates that there is a link between public libraries and increased rates of early literacy. Additionally, programs offered by youth librarians promote engagement and reading success for students in the early grades."

**Derek Fisher**, Superintendent  
Garden City Public Schools  
*(Reference: Lance, 2008)*

**How much will a new library building cost?** Based on recent libraries built in Michigan, a 12,000 sq. ft. library would cost about \$4.2 million dollars.

**Why can't we renovate and expand instead?** The cost to do so would be as much as to build new.

**Why was the old building torn down?** Despite opposition from the Library Board, the City of Garden City sold the old library in 2006. The new library will be built without using money from the City's general fund. This will prevent the City from selling the new library without the consent of the Library Board.

**Will the Library be open more hours?** Not as a result of this new millage. Any increase in our hours would have to be paid for with our operating millage.

### What new services will you offer in the new library building?

- Group study and tutoring rooms
- Programs planned for times convenient to our patrons
- Better lighting for our reader seating
- Power outlets and charging stations
- Teen area
- "Maker" style creative space
- Adaptive to changing technology
- Expanded early literacy resources (programs, equipment, software, books...)
- Meeting space for community groups

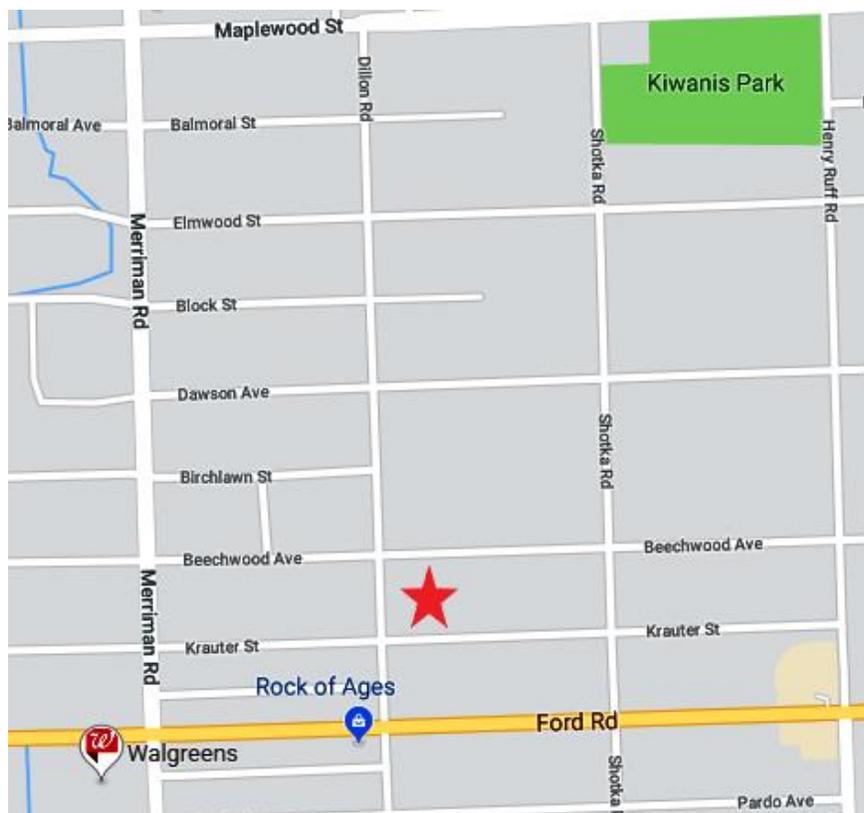
**What happens to the money if a new building is not constructed?** The money is going into an audited reserved fund within the Library Fund. If for some unforeseen reason the building is not constructed, the money will remain within the Library Fund. The Library Board at that time will decide how best to use that money for library purposes.

**How much will this millage cost me?** This additional millage will cost about the same amount as the current library operating millage. Multiply the taxable value of your property by 0.001 (1.0 mill) to calculate your yearly cost. Or check your tax bill.

**Why are we waiting 10 years to build?** Before we can build, we need to secure the funding to complete the project. A bond issue would require 1.0 mill for 20 years rather than 10 years, and it would cost significantly more.

**Have any other communities funded their library construction this way?** Yes. Commerce Township and Inkster both reserved funds from library millages for many years until the new buildings could be constructed. Neither community issued bonds, thereby saving their residents money.

**Where will the new library be located?** The Library Board owns vacant property in the heart of our community just north of Ford and east of Merriman, on Dillon between Krauter and Beechwood, where the new Library will be located.



**Additional Questions?** Ask the helpful staff of the Garden City Public Library.