

BIRCH BAY VOGT COMMUNITY LIBRARY

FACT SHEET



This new 7,600-square-foot library will be Birch Bay's year-round community gathering place. A library to serve the 8,000-plus year-round residents has been discussed for more than a decade. More than 80% of respondents to a community survey support the library, and residents guided the building design.

The estimated total cost of the new library is \$6.5 million. Supporters have secured donations and a \$2 million state appropriation to reduce the total amount still needed to approximately \$4.5 million. All private donations will help reduce the amount property owners will eventually pay if voters approve the formation of a Birch Bay Library Capital Facilities Area (LCFA)* on November 2, 2021. If the 20-year measure passes, property owners within the LCFA boundary will pay taxes of approximately 11 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For example, the owner of a property assessed at \$350,000 would pay approximately \$38 annually – the equivalent of \$3.20 a month – in property taxes to fund construction.**

*LCFA, the method state law provides for funding a public library capital improvement project through property taxes.

**Seniors and others may qualify for exemptions.

WHY BUILD A LIBRARY IN BIRCH BAY:

Birch Bay is one of the fastest growing corners of the county. Year-round population is projected to increase 50% to nearly 13,000 people in the next 20 years. Currently, more than 1,800 children live in Birch Bay. Yet there are no public gathering spaces or schools and no access to resources such as computers, books, movies, or research tools.

AT THE NEW LIBRARY YOU COULD ...

- Enjoy free access to **computers** and the internet
- Use public **meeting spaces**
- **Borrow or browse** books, audiobooks, movies, music, or beach toys to build sand castles
- Scan **research** databases
- Attend **storytimes**, events or job training programs
- **Relax** on the outside reading porch or inside near the fireplace and expansive windows with a view of the water



[WCLS.ORG/GIVE](https://wcls.org/give)

Be part of this historic project.
Named gift opportunities are available.

ABOUT THE PROPERTY

The new library will be named the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library to honor the Vogt family, who had lived on the future library site since 1871.

Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) purchased the property at 7968 Birch Bay Drive in 2018. Public input sessions began the same year.

The new building will reflect features of the Vogt's home, including beach cobble masonry. New construction is necessary to meet required safety and environmental standards and to adequately serve the community.

The site is on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples. WCLS is working closely with Lummi Nation to protect cultural artifacts beneath the site and to honor Lummi Nation's enduring care and protection of our shared lands and waterways.

WHAT IS WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM'S ROLE?

WCLS will operate the new library once built by providing staff, library materials, technology and infrastructure.

When it opens, the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library will be one of 11 WCLS branches serving residents who live outside the city limits of Bellingham. The county library system is independent of Bellingham Public Library.

The Whatcom County Library Foundation is collecting donations for the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Learn about named gift opportunities and donate online at wcls.org/give or by check.

Join the Friends of the Birch Bay Library. The Friends of the Birch Bay Library is a nonprofit organization of local residents advocating for and supporting the building of a branch library of the Whatcom County Library System.

friendsofbirchbaylibrary.org



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