

Fruitport District Library Survey Results

Conducted by the Fruitport District Library per the Board of
the Fruitport District Library

Survey was live from May 6 – July 1, 2026

Results summarized by Matt Lubbers-Moore, library director



Taxes

Clarification: the library board and the library director are frugal with the funds entrusted to us by the community. The library has no plans to raise the community's taxes. Funding for the library will be done through saving, fundraising, grant writing, and other means other than raising taxes.

Accessibility

Survey links were provided on the Facebook page, website, along the sidewalks, and handed out during the Memorial Day Parade as well as provided at the library and mall locations.

Who?

- The survey was opened 4,294 times
- Respondents:
 - 72.99% live outside the village
 - 27.01% lives within the village



Library Usage Among Respondents

Results:

- .78% use the library daily
- 23.12% reported they use the library on a weekly basis
- 29.61% stated they use the library on a monthly basis
- 46.49% stated they use the library less than once a month

Top Responses from the Seldom/Never Respondents :

- Too small/Outdated
- Not enough books/variety
- Parking
- Kid section too small/limited/no play place
- Lack of Study Rooms
- Use digital resources
- Accessibility

Borrowing and Activity Importance

- Borrow Books:
 - Incredibly Important 78.95%
 - Somewhat Important 18.66%
 - Not Important 2.39%
- Quiet Reading/Work Spaces
 - Incredibly Important 56.26%
 - Somewhat Important 37.35%
 - Not Important 6.38%
- Children's Programming:
 - Incredibly Important 86.90%
 - Somewhat Important 11.43%
 - Not Important 1.67%
- Lifelong Learning
 - Incredibly Important 62.80%
 - Somewhat Important 33.89%
 - Not Important 3.32%
- Activities (yoga/chair yoga/line dancing etc.):
 - Incredibly Important 48.10%
 - Somewhat Important 34.12%
 - Not Important 17.77%

Option 1: Stay in Fruitport

- 1st choice 66.19%
- 2nd choice 10.64%
- 3rd choice 9.69%
- 4th choice 13.48%
- 100% Respondents voted

Option 3: Leasing Property from the Township

- 1st choice 11.51%
- 2nd choice 20.82%
- 3rd choice 40.82%
- 4th choice 26.85%
- 86% of Respondents voted

Option 2: Purchase on Farr Rd

- 1st choice 17.57%
- 2nd choice 47.03%
- 3rd choice 18.11%
- 4th choice 17.30%
- 87% of Respondents voted

Option 4: Purchase Mt. Garfield

- 1st choice 10.68%
- 2nd choice 20.27%
- 3rd choice 29.59%
- 4th choice 39.45%
- 86% of Respondents voted

Location, Location,
Location

Additional Comments from Respondents

There were over 150 comments. These comments are a random sample of the comments we received.

- This library is synonymous with home. It's Fruitport and means so much to so many generations. I love that my children explored here as part of their daycare and elementary schooling. That experience wouldn't be possible if it were in a different location. It belongs where it currently stands. It just needs a little love to make sure it can be accessed by even more people. This is a community treasure. Now, I'm an author and I'm very proud to say my book is on its shelf for young kiddos to enjoy. Love our library staff. Always courteous and helpful
- Needs to happen and keep the library a vital part of growth in community.
- More room to spend doing STEM. Local job post/gatherings
- Quarterline has more land to have activities inside and outside (pickleball, playground, a park) and sewer instead of septic.
- Why move from the best spot in all of Fruitport!?!?
- More parking please
- Why would you even consider moving location? It is a PRIME location just where it is
- Love it in Fruitport
- Important to stay in the heart of the village!!
- Please stay where you are. It just won't be the same or good if you move
- I live in the township but believe library should remain in town or it's no longer Fruitport Library. Definitely not out by the mall.
- When creating a new building keep the administrative offices minimal. The square ftg of a library should be for community/books/activities. We have travelled to many libraries and those office spaces are usually going unused and not efficient. Remember libraries are paid for by hardworking patrons and donations. To waste on offices is not a good value for the \$\$\$
- All other communities make their libraries a pillow of importance. Why hasn't Fruitport?
- It would be great to have some sort of deck with benches overlooking the park.
- Farr Rd is a turning nightmare especially during heavier traffic and weekends. No sidewalks, buses, or trolley
- In the summer my daycare takes advantage of storytime.
- Makes the most sense. Per the designs, parking does not seem to be an issue
- I feel strongly this survey is a questionable as you have already been told what the people want.
- I am not in the district but have been using the library since 1977 when my son was born. I taught in Fruitport from 1973 until 1980, Now my son and family live in Fruitport so I have spent time with my grandson there. It is a treasure and needs to keep growing.

Additional Comments from Respondents

- This library needs to stay in Pomona park. Nobody will access it elsewhere. This is right in the village & convenient. If it moves, not as many people will go.
- We are in Fruitport often and would love to see the growth of this library for the community
- The current location offers so much in terms of bringing people together in the main area of Fruitport. It's an asset that I believe encourages people to visit a library when it's within walking distance of other destinations, deepening community ties and connection. Thank you!
- Can't imagine Pomona Park could offer enough space to accommodate for future growth. Granted, it's a sweet park—just not practical for the future, IMHO.
- I think moving closer to a commercial area would make it easier to visit.
- As long as it does not cost tax payers anything
- Great location near dr's office but no ability to turn left o to Airline there without a light. Impossible most of the time. Other areas too commercial.
- The Fruitport Library should keep its small town feel and roots wherever the site may be. However, I do believe the Fruitport library must remain in the village for authentication and to service the taxpayer's/citizens who pay for and support it.
- Should require township or village address to participate in this survey. It is unscientific. Anyone (ie people in Whitehall or Florida) can participate and influence results.
- Love the children's programs available and want to see these continue. Parking is a huge issue with the current library but walking also isn't terrible. Accessibility is also another issue. Can't wait to see what will be decided for the new Library!
- The location in Fruitport is the most centrally located for the community. Would need to take into account additional parking. This would create more foot traffic.
- So excited for this!
- Our library location in the heart of Fruitport is crucial - I hope it stays but is rebuilt to be bigger and better!
- This is a HUGE need!! So glad that this project is being talked about for our community!
- Excited for this new project! Will be great to have a larger space to utilize!
- I live in the village with young kiddos & I would love to be able to walk with my kids to the library to play & check out books on a weekly basis! We end up frequenting other area libraries because ours is so limited and doesn't have a play area!

Additional Comments from Respondents

- Please stay in Pomona park area! What a gorgeous, iconic site and close to Fruitport schools
- Keep the library in the village.
- The library needs to stay in the village. I believe the majority of the people agree with this and it shows by the way the voted the last time you ask this same question. Do what the people want, not what your library staff want.
- Would not like it by the mall area. It's too busy and wouldn't feel like community.
- Long overdue
- The park is a lovely setting. Parking can be solved with a little creative cooperation
- Current location is best, there is parking around town and I think that moving it will reduce attendance and a community has a part of going to the library as an event of park, library, water, restaurants which will disperse and reduce with movement
- I hate to see the library leave its current location, however with the additional challenges of parking added by the addition of Oddside across the street, I can't foresee a way to serve a community of 15k in that space, and it's so sad. But the need for room to grow, to host programming like the libraries in the surrounding areas, is the most important thing I'm considering. We go to other libraries a lot and would love to stay in our community instead, but we need to see our little library grow to the capabilities of the other larger libraries so we can keep our residents utilizing our own library.
- I would love to see it stay where it is and maybe build out towards the now empty playground area. We have enough parking with the boat and park parking lots. Even if we would be able to house or offer all the services
- This is not just a Village library. It should be easily accessible for all township residents. We ALL pay taxes for it.
- Not ready to carry another millage burden.
- I feel that we definitely need a new library in a new location. If the traffic at Airline and Farr was addressed then Farr Rd would be a great location. That is a big problem but would take some time to change. Thank you committee for all of your efforts and time!

Additional Comments from Respondents

- I enjoy the library being in the heart of the village.
- Close and plentiful parking is critical for families with young children as well as people with mobility challenges. I would also love to see a children's play area like many of the other area libraries have, along with children's activities and crafts.
- Build a larger facility (where the historical pavilion was) in Pomona Park near the water with a community center big enough to rent for receptions and events. This would help recoup monies. Additional parking could be acquired through the wooded area west of Pomona Park. Overflow parking could be at a location like the water tower with trolley service to the park. Don't forget the addition of a splash pad. This would be the envy of the State and resurrect Fruitport community. Search out grants for community improvement. Create a building fund for community donations and involvement. Dare to go big!!!
- Public libraries are a dying relic. Every bit of information that could be collected in the library is available online in an instant. There is no reason to step foot in a library, especially one funded publicly. If there was truly a demand the private sector would have caught on a long time ago and dominated the market.
- It's exciting and I'm sure the expansion will bring growth. Our community is growing and reading and activities are super important! A space for book clubs to meet would be an added bonus. My book club meets once a month and always up for alternate locations, as we have been meeting at the local Odd Sides in both Fruitport and GH.
- Play area, learning area with lots of children's activities. Separate section for teens to chill. Study areas, with sound proof rooms, for students & tutoring. Nice rental areas.
- Staying active with technology, availability to resources and the ability to have group gatherings should be considered as assets.
- Expanding the parking lot at the park think the swamp would add another 15 spaces and that would solve the parking.
- I love the current location and can envision a beautiful space there. I feel more parking can be added near the current parking lot where the grass is near the woods.
- While I don't use the library system very often, I recognize it as a vital part of any community.
- I hope this expansion is what the library needs to grow and be able to have better access for the community!
- It needs to become handicap accessible!!
- Accessibility into the building and to the building are of equal importance. Being off the bike path or in the village is important in that aspect. I would have liked to see a Cloverville location instead of the Mall or Quartline because that is at least an accessible area. Like the old bank space if large enough. Both Park and 3rd and that area of Ht. Ravenna could use new developments that might inspire some cleanup or revitalization

Additional Comments from Respondents

- I have been meaning to visit and bring my children but the size and possible selection has deterred me from going.
- I believe that having a library within the heart of a village or city is a huge asset to every small town.
- I think it's important to keep this closer to the village and visible. I absolutely believe the current land be turned into an assets for the park which is important to our city center.
- I think this is wonderful and I am excited to see what happens. As a homeschool mama I would love for this to be the we frequent. This is our "home" location but we go to either the spring lake library or the one on Seminole because of the children's area. I am a big reader and I'm teaching my girls to be the same but of course they love to play as well and this location just doesn't excite them. I don't like saying all of this negative against this location but it's just very exciting to hear about this expansion and I'm excited to see what happens!
- The NW corner of Harvey and Pontaluna are busier, now that the traffic stops on the bridge. The closed church on the SE corner of Pontaluna and Harvey would be great visibility, a 'Welcome to Fruitport' from 31, and close to the growth. Is that site a possibility?
- Being so close to the park, schools, and the waterfront is such a benefit for kids and community
- Please keep it where it is and retain the architectural efficacy of the building. Minimize the expansion of parking as too much of the village is already dedicated to parking which is environmentally unsound. I would invite anyone stand on Sixth Street across from the high school parking lot on the next 90 degree day and. Then compare it to the temperature one block east on Fifth Ave. the difference is significant. More effort should be made to make Fruitport Village walkable. To that end, the former playground would make a nice community garden.
- I want it to stay! It's really the best spot for it
- This has been many years since the making. Being able to take our kids to the library and the park and to have a safe bike path to ride our bikes there is very important. Now with the coffee shop across the street it adds another perk to visiting. Please keep the library in Pamona park.
- I feel that the current location is perfect because of the amenities such as the park, the growing businesses, the waterfront, and the band shell. It's a great location to host activities of all sorts year round.
- Could they expand into the area that is now just dirt next to it? Yes parking would be the same and I'm sure getting busier with the new coffee/restaurant across the street. I just feel this is the perfect place where it's already located!
- I think it's very important for the library to stay in the village.

Additional Comments from Respondents

- If we had a nicer library, I would use it instead of going to spring lake, grand haven and Norton Shores libraries.
- Stop asking for money! No one wants another millage!!
- I have 2 elementary age kids (6,9). I love the activities, reading time and all the different items that can be checked out.
- I want to see it grow.
- Purchasing land means lower costs in the long run vs depending on a lease with the city. The current location is not a safe corner for kids with also not enough parking
- When my kids were little, we went to the library all the time for programs and to check out books. Afterwards, we would play in the park and that was on the old playground! Now with the new playground, Oddsides, Topsy Tomato and Village Pharmacy, I think it's important to keep the library in its current location. I would like to see a new, more modern and accessible building in its place. I think a new library would attract even more patrons.
- I love having the library in Fruitport. I think some of the other locations might make me not go. I think Building a new building where the library is now is the best option.
- I love the nostalgia of the current location. If we make it bigger and could maybe use the old playground area that is now nothing for parking-that'd be great!
- I think Farr rd would be an excellent choice if the price point is similar to staying at Pomona. The lack of parking for a brand new facility would make me hesitate to go, but Farr still feels like "downtown" enough. It would also still be in close proximity to the schools, which is important to us for travel times.
- Please keep "downtown". The proximity to the bike path makes it very accessible for local children on bikes, scooters etc. downtown is growing with various businesses and having the library local is very important. We will stop using the library if it moves.
- We love & utilize the library often! The location which it's located now is a staple in Fruitport!
- The closer to town center, the better. Keeping it in the mix of the growing downtown area would be ideal.
- Please consider keeping the library small and welcoming. Not big and full of crap (for example the library is visually chaotic and always stuffed with highly cluttered junk that affects my sensory issues) Please also consider this is the Village library, the township already has a library. Less is more! Don't raise our taxes to do any of this. We should have a community garden on site which is a better investment than a bigger library.
- Library is great
- We live in Cloverville, out in Fruiport Township. We visit libraries all over the United States. Libraries that are located in the "heart of their community" are the most inviting, vibrant and involved.

Additional Comments from Respondents

- More space for children's programs is key
- I much prefer the option of purchasing as opposed to leasing. You are not at the whims of whoever is in office that way. Also I do not see being near a commercial location as a deterrent-it's an opportunity for stronger partnerships with those businesses and it's an area most Fruitport residents frequent anyway. I'm hoping the community will see that you need an option where there is room for growth in the future and realize the potential moving out of the village gives the library.
- I would love to have several study rooms with doors, a way to electronically send documents to the printer and a quiet place to sit and read (use white noise in that area).
- Exciting!
- We need wheelchair access please. And better parking
- Vision:
 1. I'd love to see a library with plenty of space to meet all imagined wants & needs.
 2. A place which is cozy & modern without losing charm.
 3. A politically neutral, safe place, of academia, learning & literacy.
- I am a junior from FHS and also a student teacher, and I think it'd be great idea to stay in Pomona Park near the schools, but add some sort of free tutoring program. Kids from schools are more likely to visit with a tutoring program, and keeping it nearby allows easy access with little to no transportation.
- Purchasing property is always better than leasing.
- I see no problem with expansion. I have a problem, with taking the library out of the Fruitport Village. There's no reason that a new library or renovated library cannot be there. This was already voted on and it was voted to stay where it's at. I don't know why the township is not listening to the people!
- Though I personally live on Farr Road, and wouldn't mind having the library right down the street, I absolutely love the current location. It is perfect for taking my son to the library, and the playground, at the same time, walking distance. On top of that, now we have Odd Side serving coffee, and I love having a coffee shop near it all. In my opinion, Pomona Park is the perfect location! Thanks for the work you're all doing in this expansion and being mindful of the residents in the area.
- I work from home, but would love some quiet rooms to work out of the library in.
- The Pomona park location is the most accessible to Fruitport residents
- The current area offers a beautiful landscape in a small community. The investment can be less in the current location yet offer everything that is needed. Create parking, community center, improve accessibility. Improve the local vibe and beauty! Relocating to extremely commercial areas prevents the opportunity for simple peace found where the building is already at. Makes me curious about the benefits that others might see with this? Quarantine and Farr just aren't visible/accessible enough. Option 1 is really the only option imo.

Questions? Thank You!

- The Fruitport District Library is located at 47 Park St Fruitport, MI 49415
- Phone Number is (231) 366-6107
- Director's email is director@fruitportlibrary.org
- We would love to hear input, suggestions, comments, and ideas

Thank you!!