

Elk Rapids Library Relocation

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Did you buy the Traverse Bay Manufacturing building?

No, we purchased an option to examine the building and conduct inspections. Thereafter, we have six months to decide whether to purchase. This approach allows us to perform due diligence without losing the opportunity to acquire one of the few library suitable spaces available in Elk Rapids.

2. Why do you want to move the library?

The decision to move the library is based on the library board's approval of a community driven strategic plan. The plan aims to address the need for improved access to materials and space for everyone in our community. The current challenges of insufficient parking, maintenance concerns for a non-owned building, inadequate space for books and visitors, limited physical access for the mobility challenged and limited programming space can all be overcome in the new space.

3. What happened to plans to renovate the Island House?

The Capital Campaign for Island House Renovation was paused due to legal issues regarding the ownership of the building. Since then the ownership rights to the Village of Elk Rapids have been established. Despite the resolution the board has examined the cost of renovating and expanding the Island House and have turned toward this new venture because it solves many of the current issues listed above.

4. Who decides what will happen to the island house if the library leaves?

The decision about the future of the Island House rests with the owners of the building, the Village of Elk Rapids. **According to the deed**, the property must be *“suitable and adaptable for public use as a park, library, place of assembly, village hall or for community center purposes generally, presented for use and benefit of the Village and its residents for any or all the uses or purposes mentioned above.”* *“It shall not be used as a hospital, nursing home, convalescent home, home for the aged or for any similar institution or purpose.”*

5. How much will it cost, and who will pay for it?

The cost of the building itself is \$1.2 million. The previous capital campaign has a balance that may be used along with additional fundraising. From there, we will seek grants and additional fundraising partners to complete the project. Depending on what the community desires, the cost should be less than bringing the Island House up to code and implementing the previous plan. Preliminary work will be conducted during this six-month trial period to determine costs. When a cost analysis is completed it will be shared with the public

6. What are the plans for the new library space?

More space for books, research and study, a makerspace, children's area with dedicated literacy center, tween and teen spaces, quiet reading rooms, small, medium and large meeting spaces with technology, more computers/workstations. Other options include a possible space for a community center, test kitchen and an outside learning/community garden. We are excited about the possibilities!

7. Will the community be involved in the planning?

Absolutely! If we proceed with this building project, we will invite public input and gather community focus groups to actively involve the community in the planning of our future library and community space.