



AN EXPANDED VISION

Scarsdale Public Library's transformative renovation is an award-winning example of excellence in public library design and service. The building was carefully planned over a decade and funded through a public-private partnership marked by an outpouring of generosity from Scarsdale residents. Completed during the pandemic, the beautiful, light-filled Library opened to accolades and has now fully come to life!

Since its inception, the design of the building itself, with its walls of glass, was part of a grander vision for a Scarsdale Library *campus*. The recent and dramatic increase in demand for outdoor gathering space led to a new design phase that reimagines and activates the library's surrounding landscape.

Scarsdale Library and the Friends of the Scarsdale Library will now undertake a campus transformation, expanding the availability of outdoor space for open-air programming, for reading and study, and to enhance safe and healthy gathering for Scarsdale children and adults alike.

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

While Scarsdale has returned to its library, the pandemic encouraged staff and the public to move beyond the building's walls and engage with the surrounding landscape in surprising and gratifying ways. It has brought people outdoors to tables and chairs on the entrance patios, and to make-shift spaces for programs on the patio and lawn. The pandemic highlighted the value of the surrounding landscape as a major asset for the Library and for the Village of Scarsdale.

With support from the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, the "**Library in the Park**" plan was commissioned. It imagines a repurposing of the Library's two surrounding acres to dramatically expand community use and enable access to valuable and still-underutilized communal public space. Poetically, it honors the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted who was the founder of American landscape architecture, designed Central Park, and who drew the original plans for Fox Meadow around 1900.

EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES

The Library in the Park Campaign will make the Library's property a true "campus," changing how the outdoors is used and appreciated.

- **A distinctive pavilion** will allow the widest range of public programs, from early spring to late fall, such as author talks, book discussion groups, toddler story time, crafts programs and senior events.
- **Expansive patio spaces** with low **stone sitting walls** will be activated around the Library with more tables and chairs to allow for reading and meeting.
- **A large, gently sloping lawn** will become the perfect grounds for programs staged on a new **performance patio**, all of which can be tented for major events, and bordered by a **stone wall** along Olmsted Road to enhance campus safety and add definition to the Library's northern boundary.
- **A revitalized Bronx River tributary**, restored wetlands habitat and **revitalized woodlands** will contribute to the health of our local environment.
- **A brookside "story walk"** for young children and their parents and caregivers will introduce the joys of reading meandering from "Once upon a time..." to "The End" along a winding path.
- **An enhanced arrival plaza**, and improved traffic flow, will make the entrance more pedestrian friendly without any loss of parking.
- **Eco-planting**, using environmentally sensitive native plant material will be lower in maintenance and ensure a healthy and lasting natural landscape.
- **State-of-the-art audio-visual** capability and stronger WiFi connectivity will ensure that the campus grounds are useful to patrons, program leaders and performers.

IN PARTNERSHIP FOR A BETTER SCARSDALE

Municipal operating dollars keep the Library's doors open but private support, contributed through the Friends of the Scarsdale Library, enriches the Library's programs, collections, services, facilities, and systems. **The Library in the Park** campaign builds on that history of partnership.

The proposed project is expected to cost \$2 million; Friends of the Scarsdale Library seeks to complement the capital investment by raising a \$1 million endowment for annual maintenance to ensure the landscape's long-term sustainability.

This next investment will:

- enhance and extend use of the Library,
- bring new opportunities for programming,
- expand the community's access to beautiful and healthy green space,
- provide a new destination for picnics and play,
- connect the Library seamlessly to adjacent Harwood Park and Scarsdale High School...

and perhaps connect all of us to our Library in new and even unexpected ways.

Naming gifts from \$10,000 to \$1 million are available and will be recognized on the project's donor wall. Contributors at the \$5,000 level will be recognized on stone pavers like those in place today at the Library's entrance. Gifts of any size are needed and welcomed to make possible our vision for our Library in the Park.