
Press and Publicity Report

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Library in Pueblo's Belmont neighborhood receiving renovations starting in August

By Barbara Fox

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KRDO) - The Barkman Branch Library in Pueblo's Belmont neighborhood is receiving some new and improved renovations, according to the Pueblo City-County Library District's master facilities plan.

One of the major improvements patrons are going to be seeing is safety upgrades.

Nick Potter, Executive Director of the Pueblo Library Foundation & Strategic Initiatives, said the Barkman Library is one of the libraries that has been having issues with people allegedly doing drugs in the bathroom. Potter said it would happen daily or even weekly.

To combat this issue, the PCCLD is implementing multiple different safety upgrades.

Additional safety measures include:

- Updated indoor CCTV will provide greater coverage of interior spaces.
- New outdoor parking lot security cameras that will provide 24/7 monitoring.
- Environmental sensors in both public restrooms.
- Additional on-site PCCLD security staff.
- More public parking and enhanced outdoor lighting.
- Lower bookshelves that will provide a better line of sight for library staff.

RELATED: Barkman Library in Pueblo to close due to meth contamination

KRDO spoke with one member of the community, Eldon Boston, who visits the Barkman Branch a lot. Boston said he's happy about the safety upgrades.

"It's nice to have that extra security and the cameras are going to help," said Boston



The \$4.2 million project will involve other major improvements including an expanded community meeting room, a bridge connecting the library to an outdoor green space, dedicated spaces for children, teens, and adults, and updated security systems.

The money comes from PCCLD funds and private funds raised, according to The Pueblo City-County Library District.



PCCLD

New and expanded public areas include:

- An outdoor bridge will span across the existing drainage storm drain spillway, leading to the green space of the park.
- Dedicated spaces inside the library for children, teens, and adults.
- A Maker Space for STEM Programming.
- An expanded meeting room. An additional 2,750 square feet of space will allow meetings for up to 70 persons. The current meeting room capacity is eight persons.
- Two new study rooms.

Leading the renovation are HBM Architects and Interior Designers of Cleveland, Ohio. Pueblo-based H. W. Houston Construction is charged with managing construction.

Renovations to the Barkman Branch Library are set to begin Tuesday, Aug. 1. Barkman Library will remain closed during construction. The project is expected to be completed in late spring/ early summer of 2024.

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Barbara Fox

Barbara is a reporter based out of Pueblo for KRDO NewsChannel 13. [Learn more about her here](#)



Pueblo library to close beginning in August to begin renovations

By: Dani Whitaker
Posted at 4:12 PM, Jul 19, 2023
and last updated 2023-07-19 18:12:23-04

PUEBLO — Starting Tuesday, August 1st, The Barkman Branch Library is scheduled to be closed until 2024 for renovations.

According to the Pueblo City-County Library District’s master facilities plan, the Barkman location is the next library in line to receive major renovations. Improvements to be made include:

- the addition of an outdoor, pedestrian bridge that will connect the library to a nearby park the creation of dedicated spaces for children, teens, and adults
- the creation of “A Maker Space” that will be used for STEM programs
- the expansion of the library’s meeting room
- the addition of two new study rooms
- as well as the addition of several security features

- The new and updated security features include:**
- updated indoor CCTV
 - the addition of parking lot security cameras
 - the addition of environmental sensors in the restrooms the addition of extra on-site security staff
 - the addition of extra public parking

- the addition of enhanced outdoor lighting
- the addition of lower bookshelves

The \$4.2 million project is being led by HBM Architects and Interior Designers of Cleveland, OH. One of the same companies that handled the renovations at Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library. Construction is being managed by a local company, H.W. Houston Construction.

While the renovations are underway, the public is encouraged to visit Pueblo City-County Library District’s other locations, such as:

- Tom L. and Anna Marie Giodone Branch Library
- Greenhorn Valley Branch Library
- Lamb Branch Library
- Library at the Y
- Patrick A. Lucero Branch Library
- Pueblo West Branch Library
- Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library

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(PUEBLO, Colo.) — The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) is planning to begin renovations on the Barkman Branch Library on Tuesday, August 1.

PCCLD said the \$4.2 million project will include major improvements to the branch located at 1300 Jerry Murphy Road. The improvements include an expanded community meeting room, a bridge connecting the library to an outdoor green space, dedicated spaces for children, teens, and adults, and updated security systems.

“I am pleased that the library district is able to continue investing in its facilities. The renovation of the Barkman Library is important for serving the neighborhood well,” Sherri Baca, PCCLD Executive Director said.

Barkman Library will remain closed during the renovations; construction is expected to be completed in late spring, or early summer of 2024. The public is encouraged to visit PCCLD’s other locations, including:

- Tom L. and Anna Marie Giodone Branch Library, 24655 U.S. Hwy 50 E.
- Greenhorn Valley Branch Library, 4801 Cibola Drive, Colorado City
- Lamb Branch Library, 2525 S. Pueblo Blvd.
- Library at the Y, 3200 E. Spaulding Ave.
- Patrick A. Lucero Branch Library, 1315 E. 7th St.
- Pueblo West Branch Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd., Pueblo West
- Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

“The addition and renovation will increase the size of the library and offer updated spaces, new technology, an expanded parking lot and a beautiful pedestrian bridge connecting the library to the green space nearby. We are focusing on safety measures for the library as well as dedicated spaces for children, teens and adults,” Baca continued.



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Renovations at Pueblo City-County Library District's Barkman branch will start Aug. 1, the library district announced Wednesday.

The Barkman branch will be closed during renovations, which are estimated to end around late spring or early summer of 2024. The branch is located at 1300 Jerry Murphy Road and serves the Belmont area.

Updates to the facility include the construction of a pedestrian bridge that would connect an access point of the library to Belmont Park, two study rooms, an expanded meeting room and Makerspace area where visitors can engage in crafts or other creative programming. Spaces dedicated for adults, teens and children will also be built.

The library district also plans to bolster security measures at the facility with cameras that will monitor an expanded parking lot, better outdoor lighting and more onsite security staff. It installed environmental sensors in the branch's bathrooms earlier this year after discovering and removing methamphetamine residue in those areas.

HBM Architects and Interior Designers, based in Cleveland, Ohio, will front the renovation effort. Pueblo's H.W. Houston Construction, which led the Rawlings branch makeover alongside Denver-based Anderson Mason Dale, will manage construction, the district wrote in a news release.

"I am pleased that the library district is able to continue investing in its facilities," Sherri Baca, executive director of Pueblo City-County Library District, said in the release. "The renovation of the Barkman Library is important for serving the neighborhood well."

The library district first unveiled its renovation plans for Barkman earlier this year and noted that the branch was next in line for interior updates following the extensive remodel inside Rawlings Library, its main location.

The library district in 2019 commissioned a master facility plan to renovate all seven of its branches, the first being Rawlings. It allocated \$3.3 million from its general fund for the Barkman renovation and, as of July 19, had fundraised \$250,000 to help cover the project's total cost of \$4.2 million. It plans to launch a capital campaign early next year to collect more funding, said Nick Potter, the library district's community relations director.

Once the Barkman revamp is complete, it's expected that Pueblo City-County Library District will shift its focus towards its East Side branch, the Lucero library, which will receive similar changes to help meet its increased demand.

Chieftain reporter Josue Perez can be reached at JHPerez@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter @josuepwrites. Support local news, subscribe to The Pueblo Chieftain at subscribe.chieftain.com.

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Pueblo library to close beginning in August to begin renovations

By: **Dani Whitaker , Andy Koen**

Posted at 4:12 PM, Jul 19, 2023

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PUEBLO — If you’ve borrowed any books or videos recently from the Barkman Library in Pueblo, be sure to return them soon. The Pueblo City County Library District will close the branch library on Tuesday, August 1, to begin a \$4.2 million renovation project.

The Barkman location is the next library in line to receive major renovations under the Pueblo City-County Library District’s master facilities plan. The construction will expand the building entrance, enlarge the community room, and improve accessibility.

“The renovation piece will re-imagine the inside of the library in a way that were able to create some concerted or designated spaces so we have a designated children’s area, a designated maker, space designated quiet, reading areas,” said Nick Potter, Pueblo Library Foundation and Strategic Initiatives Executive Director.

The City of Pueblo will also build a new pedestrian bridge over a drainage ditch on the west side of the building to connect the library to Belmont Park. Potter explained that some of the proposed safety improvements for the project are already in place at Barkman and other libraries in the district. For example, surveillance cameras now monitor foot traffic coming and going from the restrooms, while vapor sensors inside the facilities can alert security if someone is smoking or using drugs.

Air vents in the restrooms at Barkman tested positive for methamphetamine residue in February. The library district temporarily closed the building for cleaning and remediation.

“Since we’ve done that, it’s added a huge deterrent from those bad actors in our facilities, decreased the amount of above anybody coming in here, kind of being a bad actor in our facility,” said Potter. The new design also calls for lower bookshelves so that library staff can more easily spot trouble.

Construction is expected to last until June of 2024. The Lucero Library on East 7th Street will be the next to undergo renovations as part of the facilities master plan.

The \$4.2 million project is being led by HBM Architects and Interior Designers of Cleveland, OH. One of the same companies that handled the renovations at Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library. Construction is being managed by a local company, H.W. Houston Construction.

While the renovations are underway, the public is encouraged to visit Pueblo City-County Library District’s other locations, such as:

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Pizza parties and pool passes power Pueblo literacy program

By: **Andy Koen**

Posted at 10:41 PM, Jul 23, 2023

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PUEBLO, Colorado — More than 5,000 students in Pueblo have visited the local library this summer and completed the Pueblo City-County Library District's Summer Reading Program. In recent years, the library district used federal pandemic stimulus funds to promote summer literacy by awarding students \$100 through the "It Pays to Read" program.

Those federal funds were not available this summer. So, the district partnered with the City of Pueblo to create weekly prizes like a pool party, free tickets to the City Park Rides, and a pizza party at the Pueblo Ice Arena.

"Our community has really just been so interested, and so excited about some of our incentives this year.

They may not be monetary, but they're really fun and you get to experience some great jewels of Pueblo that we have," said Nick Potter, Executive Director of the Pueblo Library Foundation.

The reading program runs through the month of August. Some of the additional prizes include carnival ride bands for the Colorado State Fair and a membership to the Pueblo Zoo. Visit PuebloLibrary.org or stop by your local branch library to learn more.

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