

Library Service in Kingston East

The City of Kingston is building a new community centre in the city's east end. The Kingston Frontenac Public Library has been approached by the City to determine interest and evaluate the feasibility of adding a new library branch to this project. This branch would replace the current Pittsburgh Branch located at 80 Gore Road.

Pittsburgh Branch

The Pittsburgh branch is housed in a historic limestone farmhouse and an addition constructed in 1999-2000. The building and its grounds, including the barn and the stone wall, are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The branch shares the grounds with an off-leash dog park and community garden operated and maintained by the City of Kingston.

The 2004 Kingston Frontenac Public Library Branch Services Review noted that east Kingston is relatively poorly served, with 0.29 square feet of library space per capita, compared to 0.59 square feet in other urban areas. To achieve the standard of 0.50 square feet per capita, in 2004 the area required immediately an additional 3,000 square feet. The report recommended that, by 2026, east Kingston would require 10,000 square feet of library space to meet the 0.50 square feet per capita standard.

In addition to the additional space required, the current Pittsburgh Branch presents a number of operational challenges:

- Current space does not meet community needs:
 - * The program room is too small; programs are limited to 15-20 children and have waitlists. Stories in the Park programs routinely draw 100-200 people in the summer months.
 - * Limited room for collections. Kingston East has the highest proportion of Francophones in the city, at 13%, and the Pittsburgh Branch has a large French collection.
 - * Inadequate study, meeting and collaboration space.
 - * Much of the space in the historical farmhouse is unusable or not suitable for 21st-century library services.
- Parking is limited.
- The branch is expensive to operate and maintain.
- Site constraints make an addition onto the current building difficult.

Anticipated benefits of co-location with community centre and other City services:

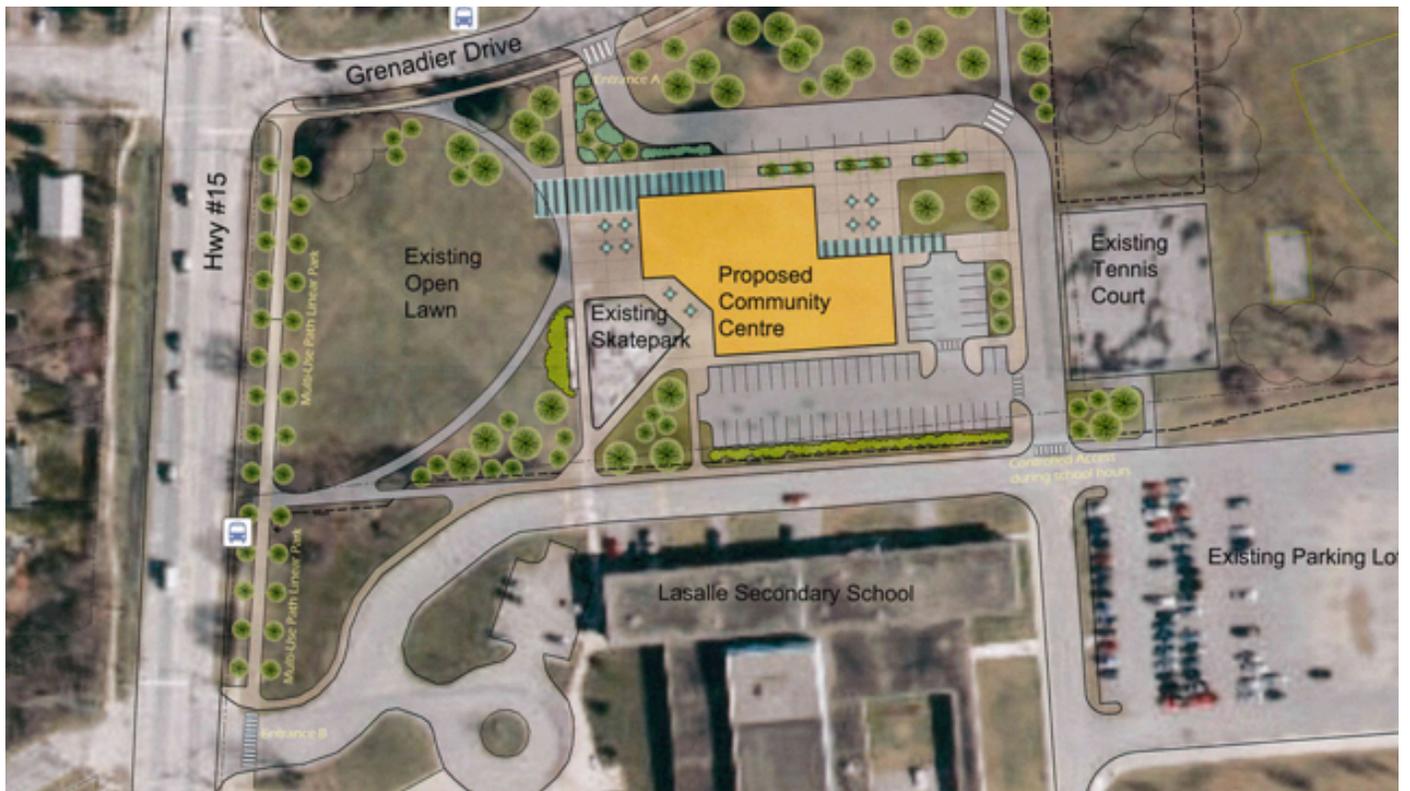
- Operating efficiencies produced by shared building systems.
- Shared program rooms, washrooms, parking.
- The community centre site is more visible than the current library site and has a high walkability score, which would increase the library's presence in the community.
- Fits with the Community Hub model developed by the Province.

Feedback Requested

The Library is seeking community input on the possibility of including a library branch in the new community centre. Feedback is being sought at an open house at the Pittsburgh Branch on November 15, 2017, between 2 and 4 p.m. and between 5:30 and 7 p.m. An online survey is available on the library's website, and paper surveys are available at all KFPL Branches. The deadline to provide comments on the proposal is November 30.

Kingston East Community Centre (KECC) Background

In April 2014, City Council directed City staff to consult with the community on potential sites for a community centre in the Greenwood Park area of Kingston East. In September 2014, City staff presented the site options at a public meeting at the Gore Road Fire Hall. Public feedback was collected on location and approved by council in March of 2015 for the Highway 15 and Grenadier Drive location (shown below).



Further public feedback was received in the Fall of 2016 regarding programs, services and facility amenities, feedback which will help shape the design concept for the new facility.

During the 2017 budget process, Council authorized City staff to hire a designer and begin the design of the east-end community centre, which is to be completed in 2017. Design concepts will be presented to the public in early 2018 for comment. More information about the KECC project can be found on the City's website.