

Why a Birch Bay Library?

**The Birch Bay, WA 98230 Census Designated Place (CDP)
is in dire need of a local educational institution and community center.**

Specifically, the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library needs to be built on Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) property located at 7968 Birch Bay Drive, Blaine, WA 98230, as a 6,000 square foot full-service library that will one day replace WCLS Bookmobile service to Birch Bay. The initial estimate for the total cost of the project, including the purchase of the land, is \$3.5 million. Once built, the library will be owned, furnished, managed and operated by WCLS including staffing, supplies, technology, and library collections to keep the library operating efficiently.

Public libraries continue to be the place where community members come together to learn, socialize, meet, do business, and educate their children.

Engage school children in the sights and sounds of the world in the comfort and safety of services close to home.

- The Birch Bay CDP, with a population of more than 8,400, provides 60% of the Blaine School District student population, with all K-12 schools located on a single campus on the north periphery of the school district.
- Birch Bay is located on the southern periphery of the Blaine School District requiring students to be bussed long distances across mainline railroad tracks to the northern border of the USA with Canada, in the City of Blaine.
- 1,800 children (2010 census) of the Birch Bay CDP must ride a school bus up to an hour each way to the Blaine school campus, the closest and only available schools for all grade levels. The Jan. 2018 school age enrollment for the Blaine School District was 2,104 students. That means 1,262 are Birch Bay students riding the bus, or driven by their parents to school each day.
- 50% of the students in the Blaine School District are on the federally assisted free or reduced lunch program.
- Whatcom County medium population projection for Birch Bay for the next 20 years (2036) is 14,151.

Enable residents, tourists, and overnight visitors to learn more about the environment around them and wonders of the Salish Sea.

- Birch Bay is a residential, recreational, and resort community located along the beautiful saltwater shoreline of Birch Bay with the 194-acre Birch Bay State Park located within its Urban Growth Area (UGA).
- Birch Bay is the fastest growing area in Whatcom County with a 2.3% annual average growth rate. Birch Bay grew 86% from 1990 to 2000 and grew 69.6% from 2000 to 2010.
- The resort community of Birch Bay triples its population during the summer months.

Enhance the lives of senior citizens with access to technology, information, cultural opportunities, and engagement with other people to learn, socialize, and volunteer.

- Birch Bay senior citizens comprised about 16% (1,460) of the 8,413 Birch Bay residents counted in the 2010 US Census.
- The Birch Bay population of senior citizens (65 and over) grew 80% from 2000 to 2010.

Enchant youth with the world of books.

- The library can offer the crucial early literacy services for babies, toddlers, school-age youth, and young families of the community
- The availability of library services for children is crucial. Early brain development research has shown the unequivocal impact that talking, singing and reading to babies and toddlers has on their acquisition of speech and language. The child's environment contributes significantly to the development of pre-reading skills. A stimulating reading environment also involves the availability of reading materials. Families all over the world need access to the tools available in their local libraries. An early introduction to the library allows for a comfort level, a willingness to ask for assistance, a place in which to seek answers and to learn about the resources and technologies available there or through the library.

Enrich the lives of youth in the community with an interesting and safe place for them to socialize with their friends and neighbors.

- Provide youth learning opportunities outside of their school.
- Today's public libraries are taking on newer roles. They are offering programs in technology, career and college readiness, and in innovation and entrepreneurship – all 21st-century skills, essential for success in today's economy.

Imagine... sitting in a colorful Adirondack chair along the shoreline of Birch Bay, on the lawn in front of this original Craftsman-style home of historical significance, built in 1913 by the pioneer Vogt family. This majestic setting will invite beach walkers, bicyclists, vacationers, and the community to pause, relax, enjoy a good book, a saltwater view, the fresh aroma of the sea, a gorgeous sunset, and each other's company at the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library.

***A warm, welcoming and friendly space is hard to find these days.
The Birch Bay Vogt Community Library provides a remarkable opportunity
to become a community gathering place in our community.***

A testimonial by Doralee Booth and Kathy Berg who have been advocating for an educational institution, school or library, within the Birch Bay Urban Growth Area since the year 2000. Only the numbers have changed, increased, since that time.

For more about the project from WCLS go to: www.wcls.org/birch-bay/