

Cooper Renovations | Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the renovation expected to take?

- Richland Library Cooper's renovation will take approximately one year—beginning in February 2016 and concluding sometime in the spring of 2017.
- The renovation will involve a complete reconfiguration of the entrance and interior as well as the addition of square footage on the front of the building closest to Trenholm Rd.
- The parking lot will also be reconfigured to include a user-friendly, drive-through bookdrop.

Why does this building need renovations? It looks fine to me.

It's been 25 years since any improvements have been made to Cooper's building. The library needs structural improvements such as a new roof but it also needs new spaces for programs and events and new technology to keep up with learners of all ages.

How are we going to survive without the Cooper library for an entire year?

Although the building will be closed, we will still offer limited library services in Forest Acres with the help of our Learn Freely Bus. Starting in February, you can visit us in the Forest Park shopping center (4711 Forest Drive) from 2 – 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Why isn't the library providing a temporary facility on-site?

Unfortunately, Cooper's narrow lot size paired with the volume of renovation work needed prohibits us from placing a temporary library cottage on-site during renovations.

Where is the next closest library I can go to?

Richland Library [Northeast](#) is the closest—located approximately 4 miles from Cooper. Depending on where you live, other great options include our [Wheatley](#), [Southeast](#) and [Main](#) locations.

Where will the current Cooper staff be during renovations?

Don't worry. Cooper staff will be helping out at other library locations in the system and will see you soon. While they'll miss Cooper customers, they can't wait for a new space in which to assist the Forest Acres community in better ways.

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What's happening to the parking lot? Will there be more spaces?

It's true. Cooper has a very cozy parking lot. While it won't be gaining any additional parking spaces, Cooper will have a new, covered drive-through bookdrop that will help ease traffic congestion.

Will Cooper be bigger?

Yes! Square footage will be added to the front of the building to enhance the children's area. The interior of the building—including shelving, meeting rooms and specialty spaces—will be completely reconfigured to better suit the needs of the community.

What is going to happen to all the books?

Richland Library actually floats its collection between all 11 locations. During renovations the books that were most recently housed at Cooper will float throughout our library system so customers can continue to enjoy them. While we'll be reorienting the library shelving at Cooper to feel cozier and easier to navigate, the new building will reopen with the same number and types of items that our customers have come to depend on.

Will holds be available for pick up from the Learn Freely Bus when you're closed?

Unfortunately, no. The Learn Freely Bus is not equipped to handle the volume of holds Cooper customers place. You can pick up holds from any of our 10 [other library locations](#) during renovations.

How will we access bookdrops during the renovation?

We know Cooper's customers are avid readers, which is why we're exploring options for placing a bookdrop in the heart of Forest Acres. Stay tuned for location details.

Will WiFi be available when you're closed?

WiFi access will not be available from the current location while it's closed for renovation. WiFi will be available on the Learn Freely Bus when it's parked in the Forest Park shopping center from 2-6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays.