

# **BETSIE VALLEY DISTRICT LIBRARY EXPANSION SURVEY**

**2025-2026**

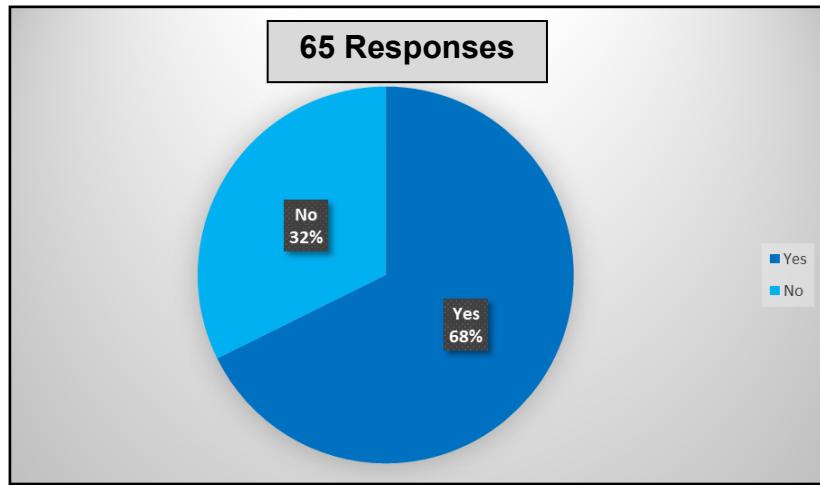


# Betsie Valley District Library Expansion Survey Results

We just want to thank everyone who took the time to complete the Library's survey about the BVDL's services, programs, and resources. We greatly appreciate hearing your ideas, opinions, and suggestions for the Library. We had 66 persons complete our survey: 50 completed the paper copy survey, 16 completed the survey online.

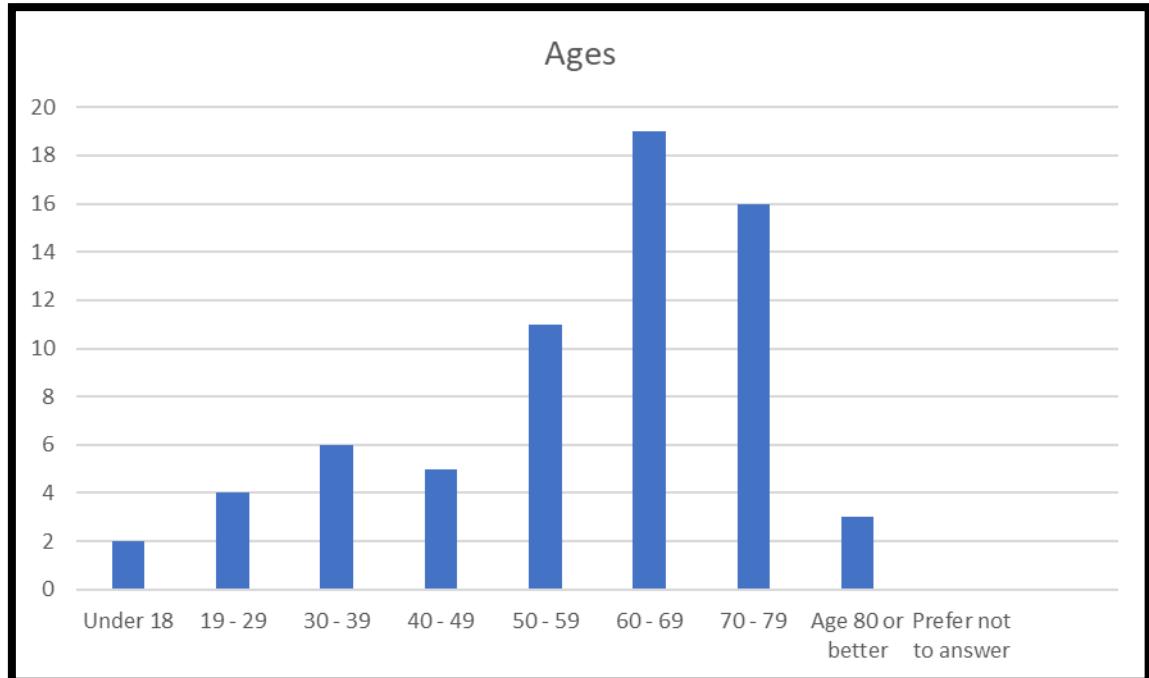
## Question 1: Do you have a library card with the Betsie Valley District Library?

Yes: 44    No: 21

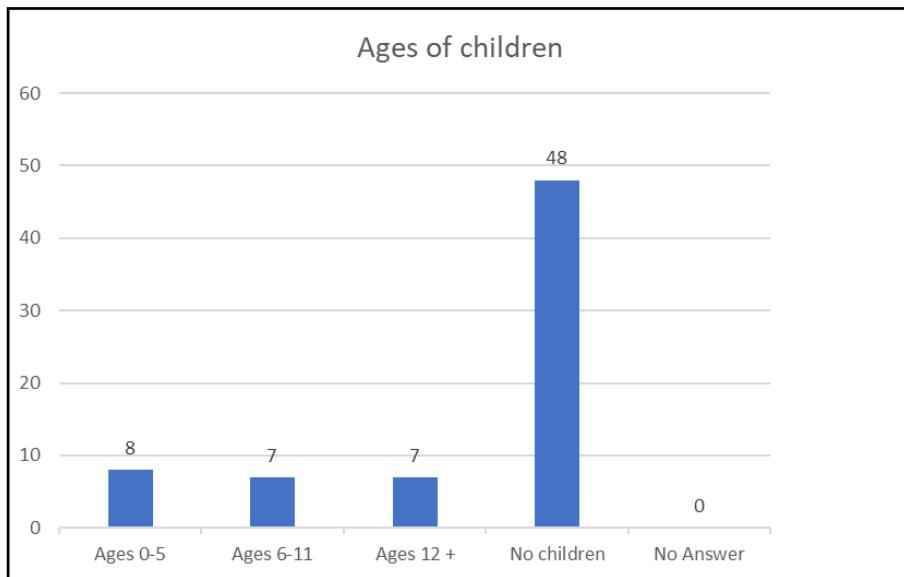


## Question 2: Please check one to indicate your age:

Responses	
Under 18:	2
19-29:	4
30-39:	6
40-49:	5
50-59:	11
60-69:	19
70-79:	16
80 or:	3
No answer:	0



**Question 3: Please let us know the ages of children living in your home. Select all that apply:**

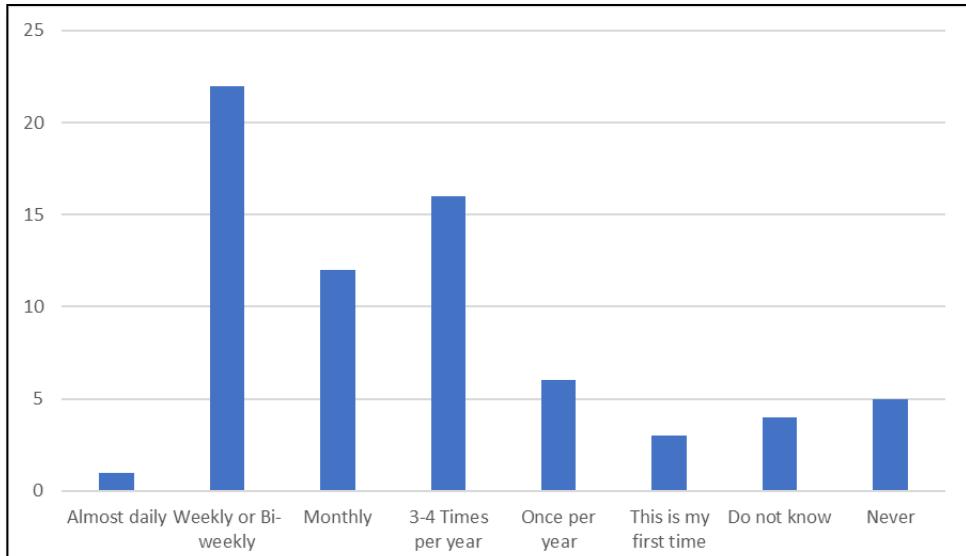


**Responses**

Ages 0-5: 8  
Ages 6-11: 7  
Ages 12 +: 7  
No children: 48  
No answer: 0

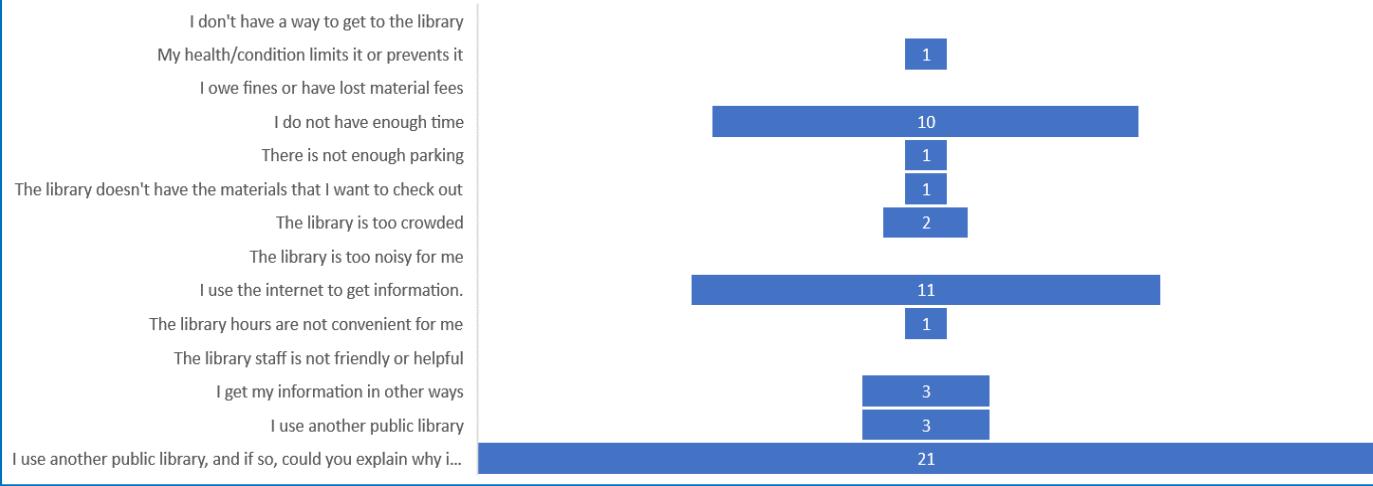
**Question 4: How often do you use the Betsie Valley District Library, either in person or to use online resources?**

Almost Daily:	1
Weekly or bi-weekly:	22
Monthly:	12
3—4 Times per year:	16
Once per year:	6
This is my first time:	3
Do not know:	4
Never:	5



## Question 5: If you are not a library user, please tell us why? Check all that apply.

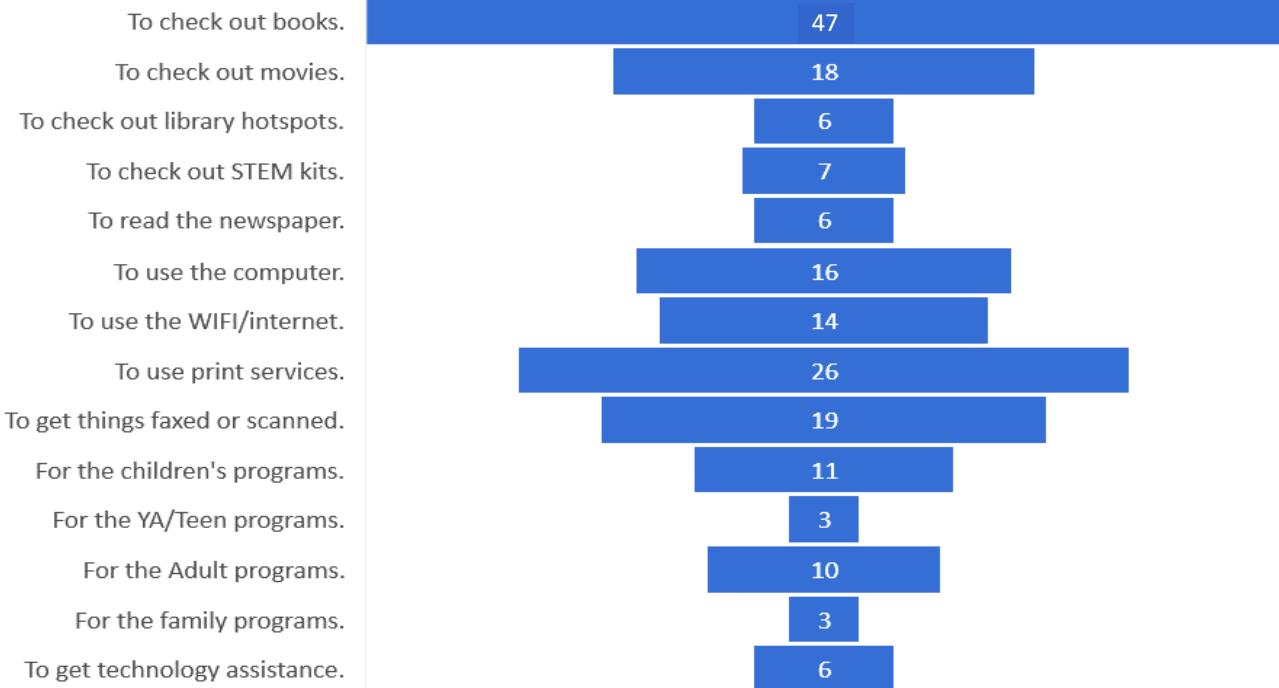
I am not a Library user, please tell us why. Check all that apply.



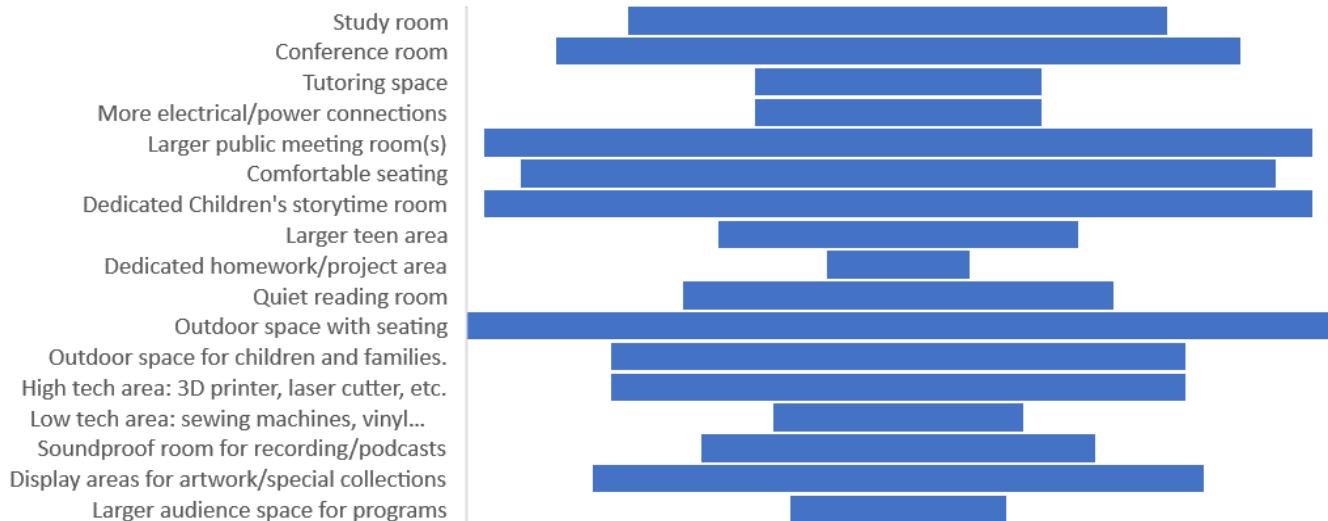
I don't have a way to get to the library.	0
My health/condition limits it or prevents it.	1
I owe fines or have lost material fees.	0
I do not have the time.	10
There is not enough parking.	1
The library doesn't have the materials that I want to check out.	1
The library is too crowded.	2
The library is too noisy for me.	0
I use the internet to get information.	11
The library hours are not convenient for me.	1
The library staff is not friendly or helpful.	0
I get my information in other ways.	3
I use another public library, an if so, could you explain why in the comment section below?	21

### Comments:

1. I use the BVL as a program partner, providing access to adult education for area residents.
2. I use the library for copies of things, help with information I need from the internet.
3. None of the above, I typically reside in Grand Rapids and vacation on the Betsie River.
4. Key point in new construction—a paved parking area
5. NA
6. But I am a library user.
7. I am a library user.
8. NA
9. I use the library.
10. NA
11. This is the only library I use.
12. NA
13. If online it would be me convenient. School library is also another resource.
14. I use more than one library but more recently : mostly BVDL (-;
15. NA
16. I do not use another library.
17. Another branch closer to my home.
18. We live in Beulah so Darcy is closer.
19. I don't
20. I work at TADL
21. Closer to work and home.

**Question 6: Why do you visit the Betsie Valley District Library? Check all that apply.****Question 6: Why do you visit the Betsie Valley District Library? Check all that apply.**

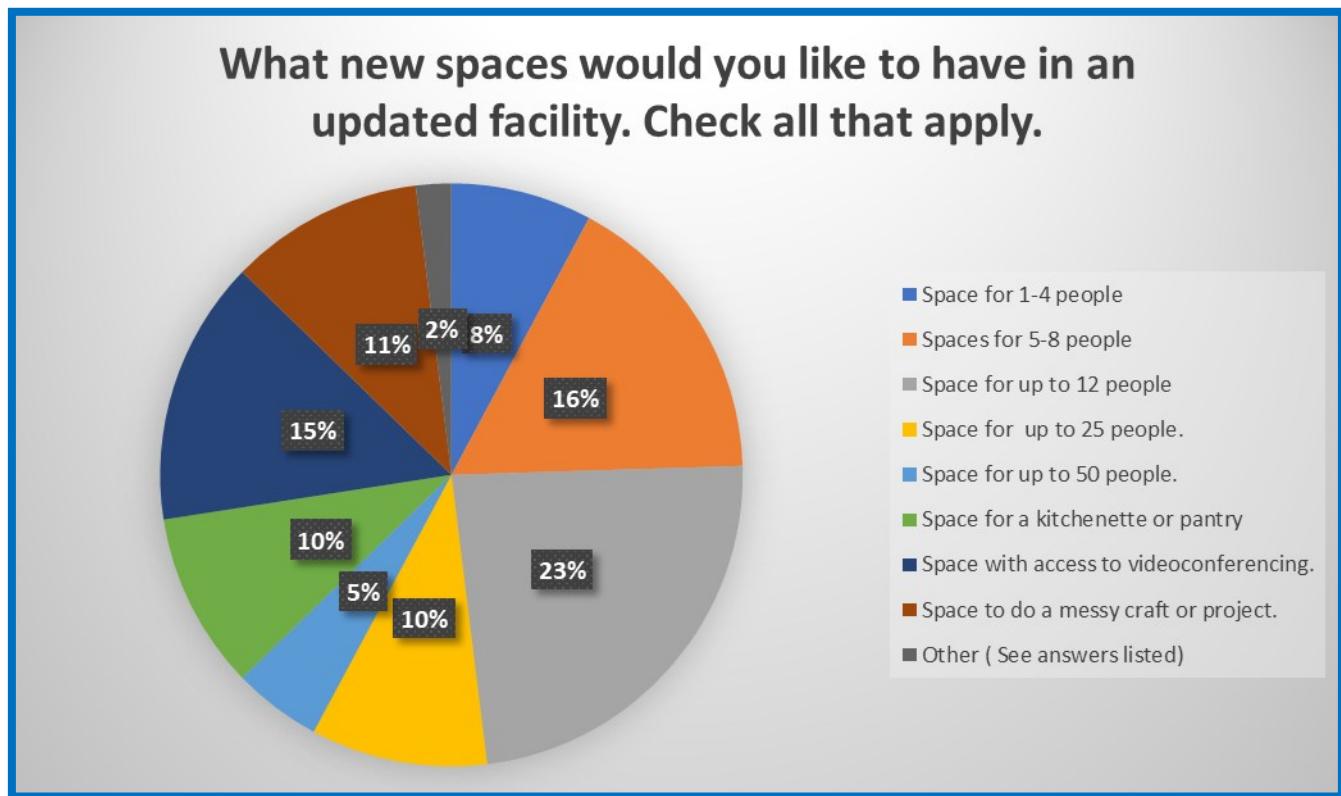
To check out books.	47
To check out movies.	18
To check out library hotspots.	6
To check out STEM kits.	7
To read the newspaper.	6
To use the computer.	16
To use the WIFI/Internet.	14
To use print services.	26
To get things faxed or scanned.	19
For the children's programs.	11
For the YA/Teen programs.	3
For the Adult programs.	10
For the Family programs.	3
To get Technology assistance.	6

**Question 7: What new spaces would you like to have in an updated facility.****Check all that apply.****Question 7: What new spaces would you like to have in an updated facility.**  
**Check all that apply.**

<b>Study room.</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Conference room.</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Tutoring space.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>More electrical/power connections.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Larger public meeting room(s).</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Comfortable seating.</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Dedicated Children's Storytime room.</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Larger Teen area.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Dedicated homework/project area.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Larger Teen area.</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Dedicated homework/project area.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Quiet reading room.</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Outdoor space with seating.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Outdoor space for children and families.</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>High tech area: 3D printer, laser cutter, etc.</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Low tech area: sewing machines, vinyl cutter, etc.</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Soundproof room for recording/podcasts.</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Display areas for artwork/special collections.</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Larger audience space for programs.</b>	<b>6</b>

**Question 8: What would you like in a meeting or study space?**

Check all that apply.



**Responses**

<b>Space for 1-4 people.</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Space for 5-8 people.</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Space for up to 12 people.</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Space for up to 25 people.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Space for up to 50 people.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Space for a kitchenette or pantry.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Space with access to videoconferencing.</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Space to do a messy craft or project.</b>	<b>11</b>

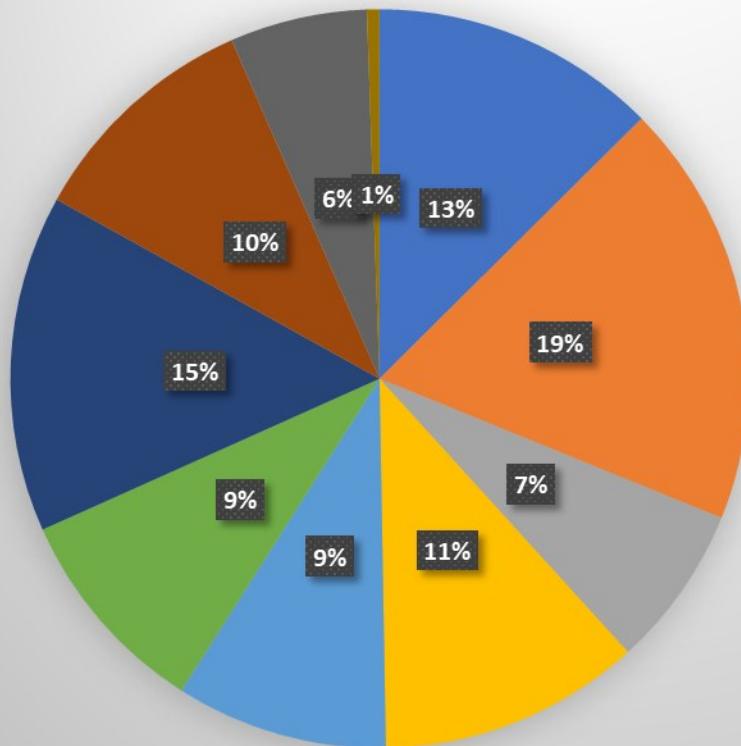
**Other:**

1. More books.
2. Laminate floor (easier clean), rollaway tables with fold-down sides (see me - I'm thinking like at Hobby Lobby in fabric but with sides that fold down, a rubber insert for regular use when not cutting fabric, paper, etc. and on wheels -
3. Hearing -accessibility in all or most spaces. I would be happy to elaborate.

**Question 9: What would you like to see in an outdoor space?**

Check all that apply.

**What would you like to see in an outdoor space.  
Check all that apply.**



■ Space for outdoor classes.

■ Space to sit and relax.

■ Space for a story-walk.

■ Small amphitheater area for events

■ Space for informal gatherings.

■ Play space for children.

■ Discovery garden.

■ Sensory garden.

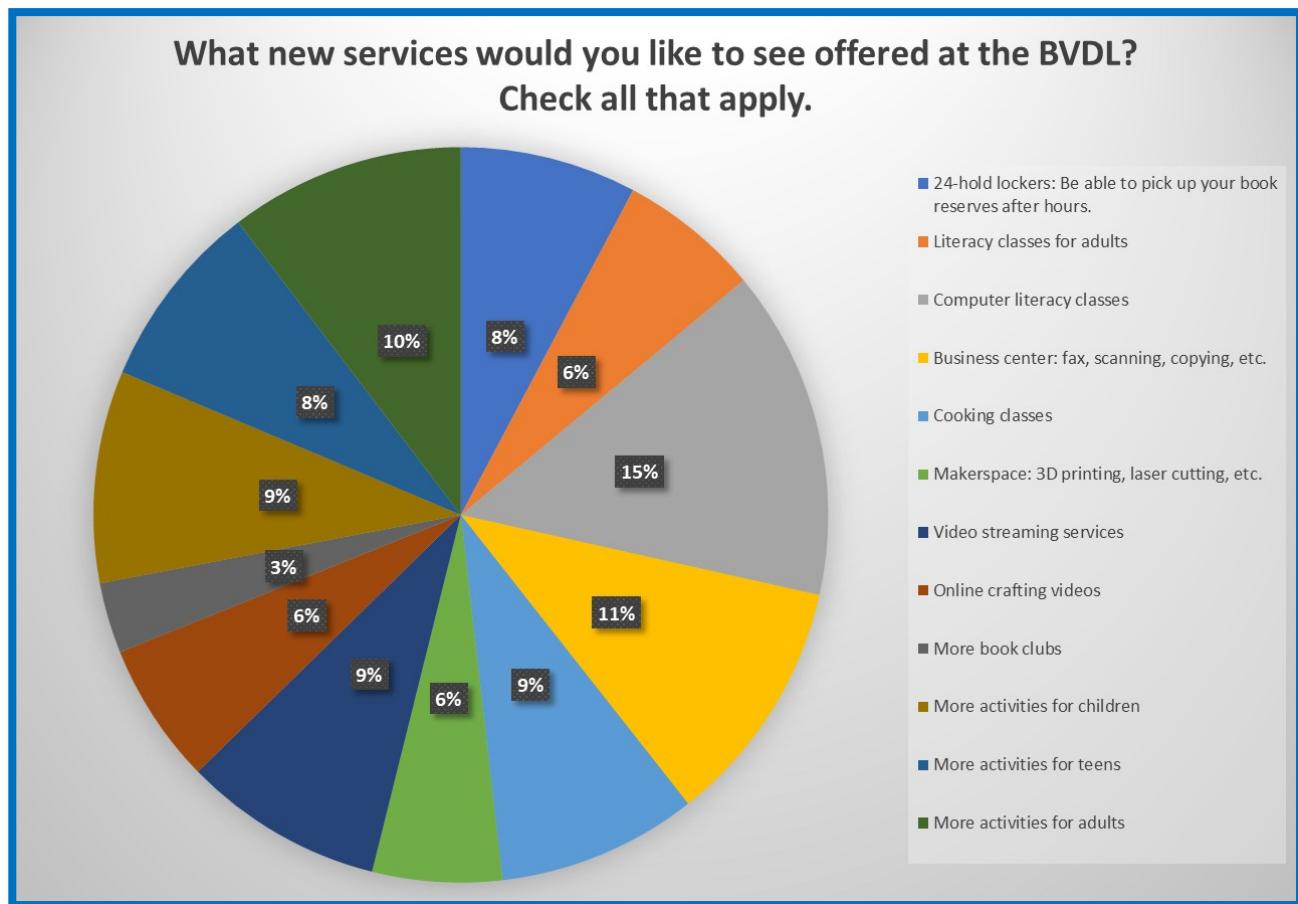
■ Drive-up book return and/or service window.

■ Other (see listed responses)

**Responses**

Space for outdoor classes.	23
Space to sit and relax.	34
Space for a story-walk.	13
Small amphitheater area for events.	21
Space for informal gatherings.	17
Play space for children.	17
Discovery garden.	27
Sensory garden.	19
Drive-up book return and/or service window.	11
Other:	1
1. No outside .. just bigger library	

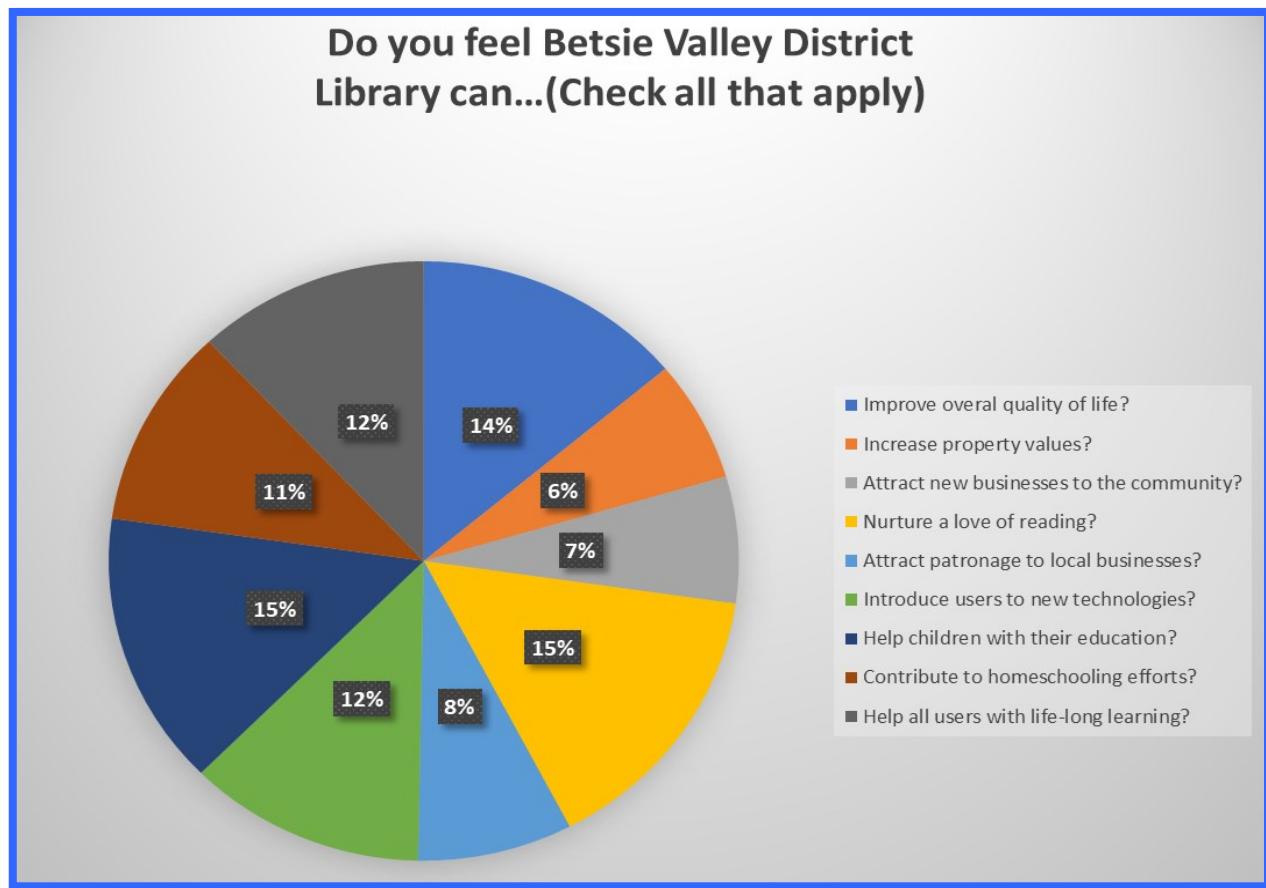
**Question 10: What new services would you like to see offered at the Betsie Valley District Library? Check all that apply.**



**Responses**

24-hour hold lockers: Be able to pick up your book reserves after hours.	15
Literacy classes for adults.	12
Computer literacy classes.	28
Business center: fax, scanning, copying, etc.	21
Cooking classes.	17
Makerspace: 3D printing, laser cutting, etc.	11
Delivery of library materials to homebound residents.	17
Video streaming services.	12
Online crafting videos.	6
More book clubs.	8
More activities for children.	18
More activities for teens.	16
More activities for adults.	20

**Question 11: Do you feel Betsie Valley District Library can...(Check all that apply)**



**Responses**

Improve overall quality of life?	49
Increase property values?	23
Attract new businesses to the community?	24
Nurture a love of reading?	53
Attract patronage to local businesses?	28
Introduce users to new technologies?	43
Help children with their education?	52
Contribute to homeschooling efforts?	38
Help all users with life-long learning?	42

**Question 12: What would you like to share with us in planning for the expansion of the Betsie Valley District Library?**

**Responses**

You are the best librarians ever! Thank you for continued excellent services - Think left side of library. May be under utilized. Hope you have cameras there for security and safety. It seems current space maybe getting too crowded. Like idea of additional services if they do not take away your core services which you do excellently and be sure you have adequate staff for any additional services to not cause burn-out of current wonderful staff. P.S. Thank you for nice, useful canvas tote bags.

As a present partner, I hope your expansion will allow you to present new opportunities to your community through new partnerships.

a sound proof area with space for anyone wanting privacy to practice piano or other musical instrument

Importance of reading; how being able to read involves increasing many aspects of life.

We just need a little more space.

I would love for it to have more space. I feel very enclosed when I go in there.

I think some form of sound room would be AMAZING! As someone who thrives off music this would be an amazing thing! I would love to start recording my own preschool songs!

Quiet outdoor relaxing place to read

I can't wait to check it out!

**Question 12: What would you like to share with us in planning for the expansion of the Betsie Valley District Library? (Continued)**

**Responses**

offer class, speakers

it would be exciting

Homesteading and natural plants in our area foraging nice people at the library

Ideas of: Compact yet expandable furniture, etc one large room or breakdown to multiple technology savvy - large video screen/wifi/internet whatever can use for presentations or zoom calls or training videos - DVD/USB capabilities perhaps pick brains of young techy kids for new ways of technology future

larger book space

#6 meet with community connections person #7 more health books what I need is almost zilch #8 computers in conference rooms more newer arrivals (books) larger areas to sit down at tables Have cart - do a free cart of books. Manistee library has one

Any expansion for more books and learning spaces for area residents would be wonderful. Literary classes for all. Strong libraries bring strong communities. All points in question #11 would come to fruition.

additional space is needed

You are doing a fine job. I am sure you will make the right decisions on your expansion. Thank you for your "Big Hearts".

Libraries are key to any community. A key to learning adult responsibilities. Can create a sense of pride in oneself and community.

No

Please make sure there is space for wheelchair bound guests.

**Question 12: What would you like to share with us in planning for the expansion of the Betsie Valley District Library? (Continued)**

**Responses**

More space for more books selections

Any new efforts will bring people to the area. Is laundry service to far fetched? So many families need laundry help in our area.

I am amazed but happy about any library expansion given all the funding cuts. I would Like to help The library be more accessible for people with disabilities – communication (deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, English as a Second Language), mobility , and more.. The drive-up idea for returning books might be expanded to drive-up to pick-up. I liked the idea about delivering materials to homebound people, or even very very hectic working parents etc.

Indoor sensory room

NA

I think it's a great idea! Best of luck with the process.

Less boxy build - more open floor plan

I can't think of anything

This is such a valuable resource to the community. Excited for its future!

Thank you for serving our community. We own land here and our family loves using the library services.

Nothing

N/A

Good luck! I hope this happens!