

# PROGRAMMING STUDY ADAMS STREET BRANCH DRAFT EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

NADAAA  
FOR CITY OF BOSTON  
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AND PUBLIC  
FACILITIES DEPARTMENT





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**THE LATEST IN LIBRARIES** is the new Adams street, Dorchester branch of the Boston Public Library now opened. Even smoking is permitted.

*The library opening announcement in 1951: "THE LATEST IN LIBRARIES is the new Adams Street, Dorchester Branch of Boston Public Library now opened. Even smoking is permitted."*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adams Branch Library opened in its current location in 1951, and has remained a vibrant part of its diverse Dorchester neighborhood ever since. By far the largest section of Boston, Dorchester has six branch libraries, with Adams Street and Lower Mills holding the southern edge. The neighborhood is largely residential, well-served by buses, and within a 15 minute walk of the Ashmont subway station.

## SITE

The building is located on a trapezoidal site in Adams Street between Delmont Street (south) and Oakton Avenue (north). The site is well integrated into its residential neighborhood in close proximity of Thomas J Kenny School. The gross area of the building is 7,800 sf situated on a 23,833 sf site. There is street parking available nearby but there is no dedicated parking lot.

## ADAMS BRANCH BY THE NUMBERS

Two of the most recently built branch libraries, East Boston and Mattapan, serve as benchmarks to reveal:

- Adams Street Branch is half the size of East Boston and almost one-third the size of Mattapan, yet it has a significantly larger collection than either.
- Adams Street has about half the number of computers as either branch.
- The number of programs offered by Adams Street is greater than the two larger branches in East Boston and Mattapan.

The existing building footprint is about 7500 gross square feet, configured in a rectangle with the main circulation desk centrally located. A use analysis reveals that there is proportionally little area available for program (less than 50%); the collections and furnishings occupy the majority of floor space. The Multipurpose Hall has some flexible use for patrons, for example with tutoring and children's programs.

## EXTERIOR CHARACTER AND CONDITION

The Adams Street Branch is a single story concrete block building with steel structure supporting a

gently sloping roof. While there have been only minimal upgrades in its nearly 60 years of the building's existence, the building is generally well-maintained. The envelope is reasonably solid, painted white with yellow accent. Some of glass blocks are cracked and broken. The windows are single-pane glass and the walls are likely not insulated. While the mass of the concrete block walls gives some insulating value, the building envelope is not well-sealed and likely has a fair amount of air infiltration.

## ROOF

The fully adhered membrane roof slopes from front to back. Loose rubber mats define the zone for maintenance access, and the roof can only be reached by means of an extension ladder leaning against the building. Three fan-coil units sit within chain-link fence enclosures. The units are functional providing cooling in the warmer weather; the enclosures are in fair to poor condition.

## LANDSCAPE

The landscape is the great asset of the Adams Street Branch. Mature trees provide a leafy canopy and the rear and side yards offer protected greenspace. In 2004, through a fund-raising effort by the Friends of the Library, a portion of the yard was transformed into a reading garden.

## INTERIOR

The entrance is on-axis with the main circulation desk, providing good visibility for librarians. However, the desk itself is somewhat crowded and does not accommodate full accessibility for either transactions or working staff. The building is small enough so that a newcomer can see most of the library upon entry, although way-finding could be improved.

Like the exterior, the interior is well-maintained and the library holds a surprising diversity of program area for such a small space. The furniture is original to the building and remains in good condition. The largest single space in the building is the Multipurpose Hall, located adjacent to the Children's Area. Located behind a masonry wall, the room has no direct visibility from the circulation desk which can be a challenge during operating hours. Staff areas are decentralized in general, making it difficult for librarians to multi-task and observe activities while doing other work.

## COMPUTER AND IT

There are approximately 25 computers available for use; about half dozen desktops and several laptops. Compared to recently upgraded branches, this is a fairly small computer program. There is no IT closet per se as the racks and cables are centralized in one of the staff areas.

## THE COLLECTION

The library has approximately 33,000 volumes, distinguishing the branch as having the highest number of books in relation to the size of the building.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The accessible entrance is located at a side door, adjacent to the Multipurpose Hall. It is generally considered best practice to have the front door be the accessible entry. The layout of the building in general does not meet accessibility standards and while it does have one fully compliant public bathroom, the single staff bathroom does not have accessible clearances.

## MEP/FP REVIEW

Garcia Galuska DeSousa Consulting Engineers performed a systems review on site. As most of the systems have been added post-construction, the exposed conduit and visible equipment made it relatively easy to access the building infrastructure.

## HVAC

The building is heated by a gas-fired boiler which sup-

plies hot water to baseboard radiation and cabinet unit heaters. Boiler and pump were installed around 2000 and are in good condition. Cooling is accomplished by gas/electric rooftop units that appear to be over 20 years old and have outlived their useful service life. These units provide the only source of direct ventilation to the library, and as they are only operating in the warmer months, the building has no ventilation for most of the year. Control of major HVAC systems is via a DDC system that is approximately a year old.

## PLUMBING

The majority of the plumbing systems are original to the building construction. While the fixtures are in fair condition, they do not appear to meet current accessibility codes. Cast iron is used for sanitary and storm drainage, with water feeding the system from exterior gutters and downspouts. Existing drainage systems should be video inspected to confirm their integrity and slope.

## FIRE PROTECTION

The building does not have an automatic sprinkler system. In accordance with Massachusetts Law, any existing building over 7500 square feet that is undergoing a major renovation must be sprinklered.

## ELECTRICAL

The electrical systems are generally of original vintage and have outlived their useful service life. Security and technology services have been added over the years, although they are also not in good condition or up to current standards.

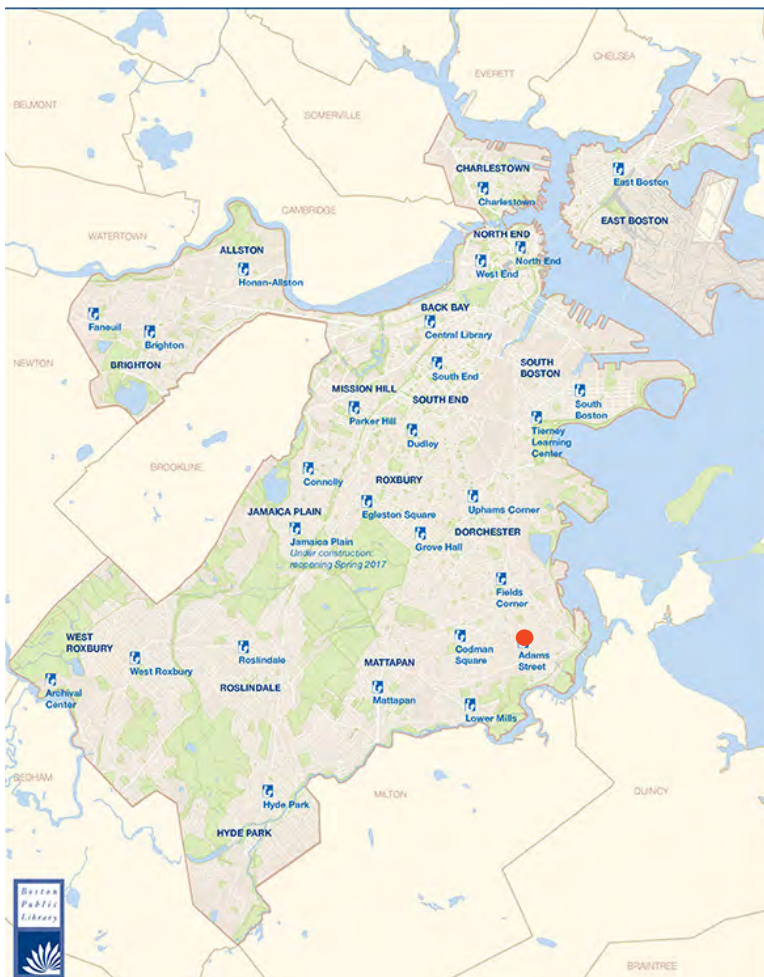


# HISTORY

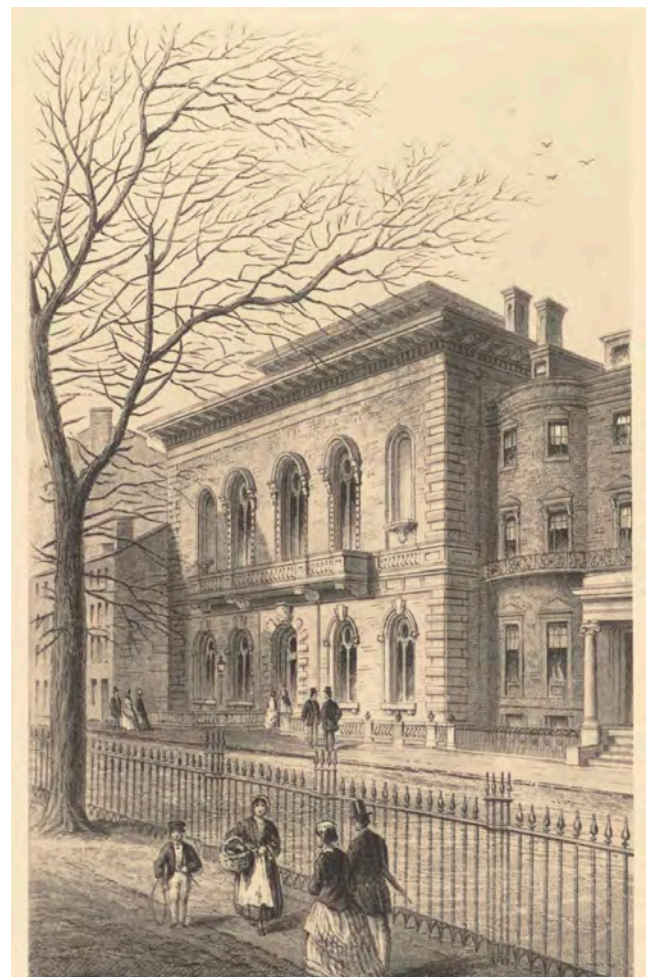
In the latter half of the 19th century, the library worked vigorously to develop and expand its branch system. Viewed as a means to extend the library's presence throughout the city, the branch system evolved from an idea in 1867 to a reality in 1870, when the first branch library in the United States was opened in East Boston. Between 1872 and 1900, 21 more branches began serving communities throughout Boston's diverse neighborhoods.

Service to the Adams Street neighborhood was first provided in 1875 through a delivery station on Walnut

Street. A reading room was opened at 362 Neponset Avenue in 1947. The present branch library building was opened in 1951, and represented the first new neighborhood facility built in 20 years. In 2004, through the fund raising efforts of the Friends of the Adams Street Library, a portion of the library's yard was transformed into a Reading Garden, featuring decorative brickwork, colorful landscaping and wrought iron benches, a peaceful oasis in the midst of a busy urban neighborhood.



The library currently has 24 branches serving diverse populations in the city's neighborhoods.

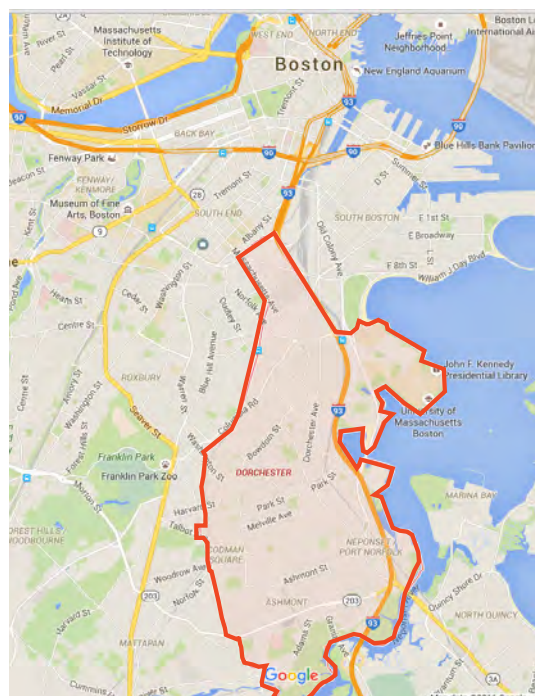


Public Library, Boylston Street, 1858-1895 (demolished 1899).

# DORCHESTER / NEPONSET NEIGHBORHOOD

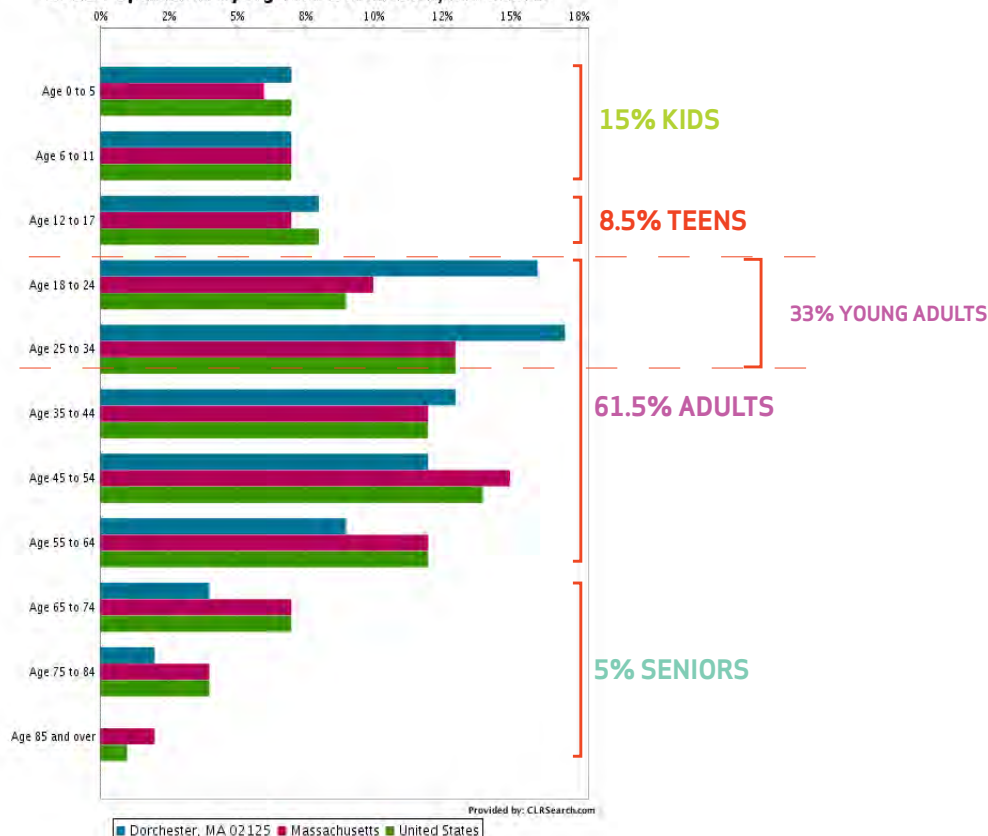
Dorchester, Boston's largest neighborhood, is also one of its most diverse. Long-time residents mingle with newer immigrants from Ireland, Vietnam, and Cape Verde. The nation's first Vietnamese Community Center is located in Fields Corner, the heart of the Vietnamese community in Boston. Dorchester Avenue anchors the neighborhood business district with a unique mix of ethnic restaurants, beauty salons, electronics stores, and pharmacies.

Neighborhood pride is strong in Dorchester, as former residents have been known to wear T-shirts proclaiming "OFD" - "Originally From Dorchester." Bordered by the Neponset River and Boston Harbor, Dorchester residents enjoy the riverfront amenities of Pope John Paul II Park as well as harbor beaches and boating opportunities.



NEIGHBORHOOD	POPULATION (2010)
DORCHESTER	114,235
ROXBURY	48,454
BRIGHTON	45,801
EAST BOSTON	40,508
JAMAICA PLAIN	37,468
FENWAY	33,796
SOUTH BOSTON	33,311
HYDE PARK	30,637
WEST ROXBURY	30,446
ALLSTON	29,196
ROSLINDALE	28,680
SOUTH END	24,577
MATTAPAN	22,690
BACK BAY	18,088
CHARLESTOWN	16,439
MISSION HILL	16,305
NORTH END	10,131
DOWNTOWN	9,872
BEACON HILL	9,023
WEST END	5,423
CHINATOWN	4,444
LONGWOOD	3,785
SOUTH BOSTON WATER FRONT	1,889
BAY VILLAGE	1,312
LEATHER DISTRICT	608
HARBOR ISLANDS	535

2012 Population by Age for Dorchester, MA 02125



## POPULATION SHARE BY NEIGHBORHOOD 2010:

Dorchester by far is the largest neighborhood, followed by Roxbury and Brighton



# LOCATION OVERVIEW

**WALK SCORE:** a reflection of how easy it is to get around without a car, defined on a scale between 0 and 100.

**Adams Street Branch** has a Walk Score of 83 out of 100. This location is Very Walkable so most errands can be accomplished on foot.

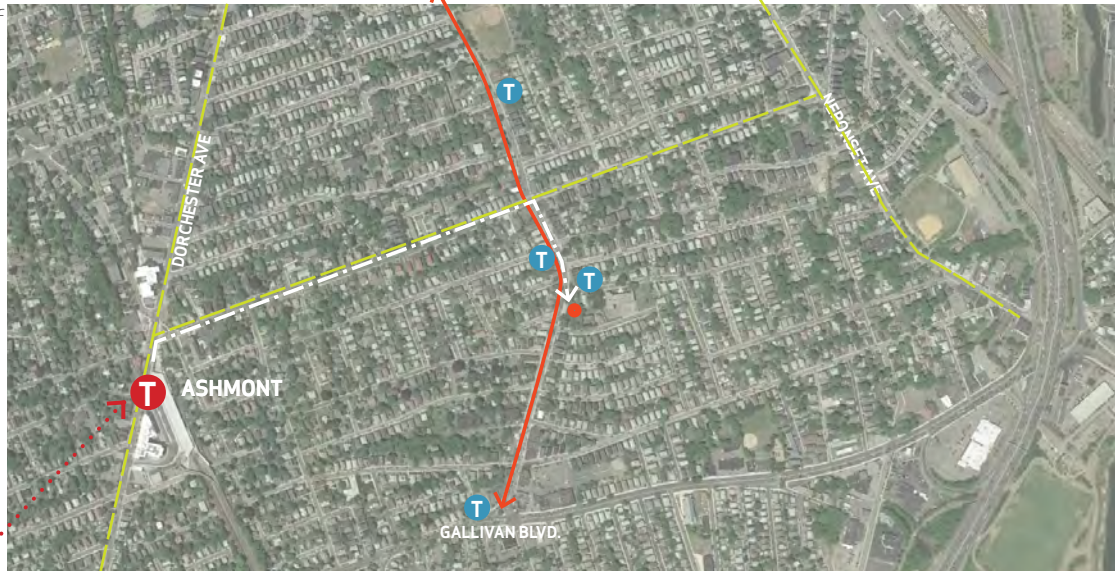
This location is on the border of Ashmont and Neponset neighborhoods. Nearby parks include Toohig Park, Garvey Playground and Neponset River Reservation.

13 min. walk to Ashmont station

DORCHESTER AVE. BIKE TRAIL

BUS #201,202

NEPONSET AVE. BIKE TRAIL



**Very Walkable**  
Most errands can be accomplished on foot.



**Excellent Transit**  
Transit is convenient for most trips.



**Bikeable**  
Mostly flat, minimal bike lanes.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DORCHESTER

THOMAS J KENNY SCHOOL

ADAMS STREET BRANCH





# SITE OVERVIEW

The building is located on a trapezoidal site on Adams Street between Delmont Street (south) and Oakton Avenue (north). One the east boundary are two three-family houses. The site is well-integrated into its residential neighborhood in close proximity of Thomas J Kenny School.

The gross area of the building is 7,800 sf situated on 23,833 sf of site. There is street parking available on adjacent and surrounding street but there is no dedicated parking lot.



# ADAMS BRANCH LIBRARY BY NUMBERS

There have been several significant branch renovations in the past 15 years:

Jamaica Plain will reopen 2017  
 East Boston Reopened 2013  
 Brighton Reopened 2010  
 Mattapan Reopened 2009  
 Grove Hall Reopened 2009  
 Honan Allston Reopened 2001

Both East Boston and Mattapan were replacement (new) library buildings and therefore provide interesting benchmarks for a future Adams Street Branch. The graphic below compares the three libraries; a few things of note:

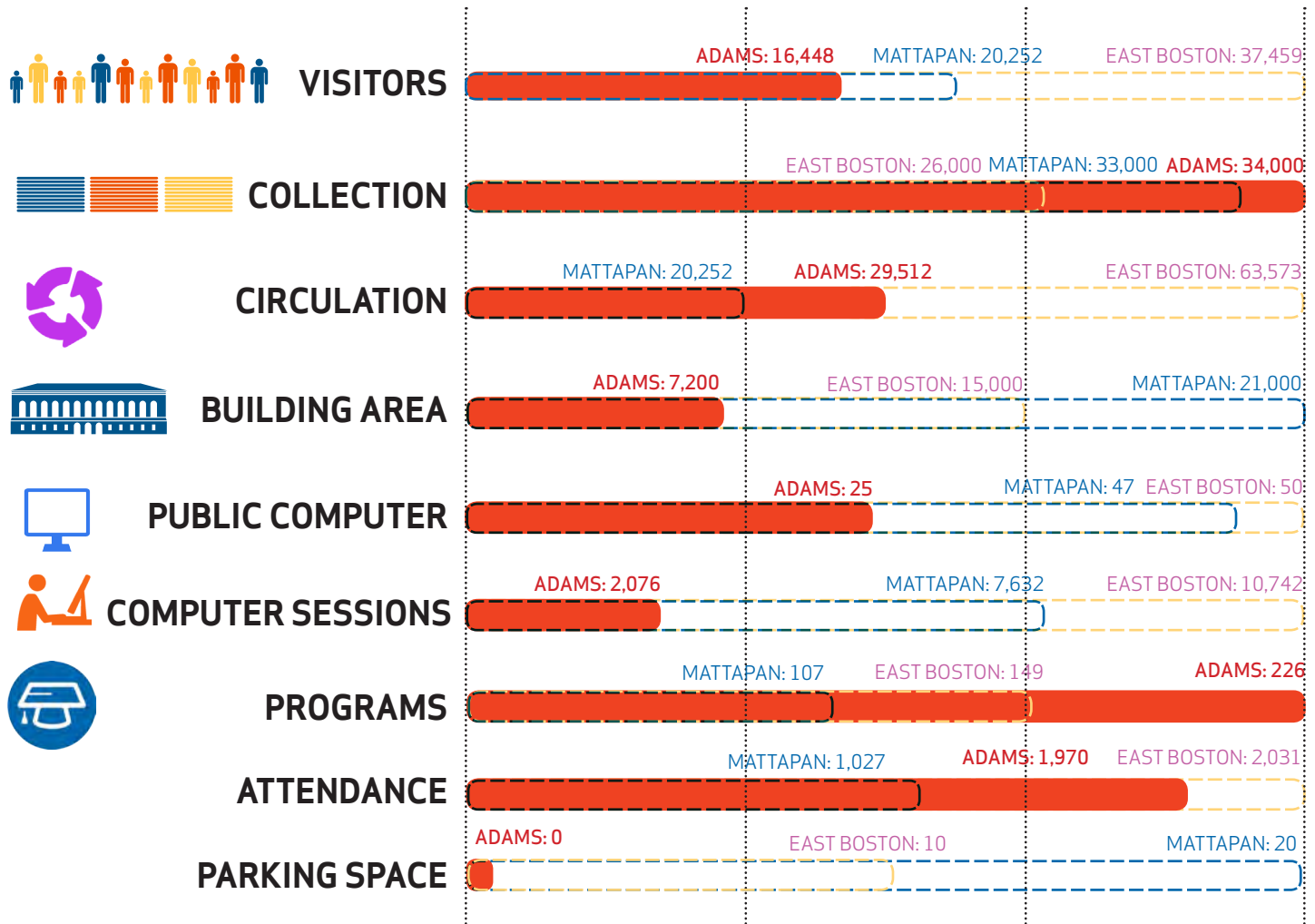
-Both Mattapan and East Boston branches signifi-

cantly reduced their collections to allow for a greater variety of program space

-Adams Street Branch has a wider spectrum of program offerings, while having less space than either branch

-Adams Street Branch appears under-served with computers

-Adams Street Branch has essentially no parking while the other branches offer some spaces to staff and visitors

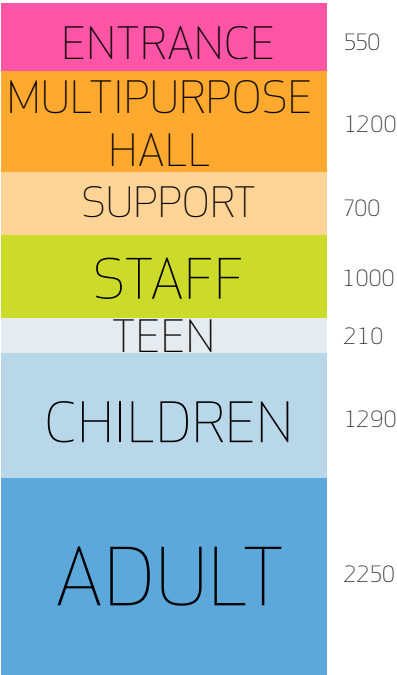
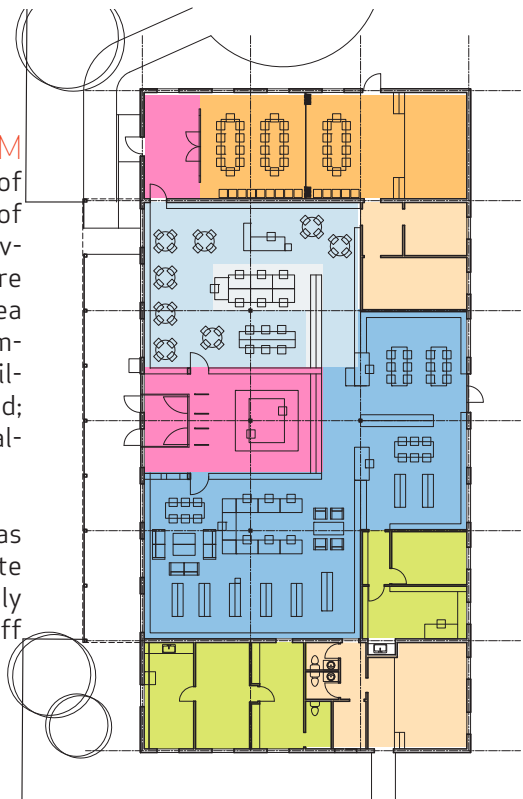




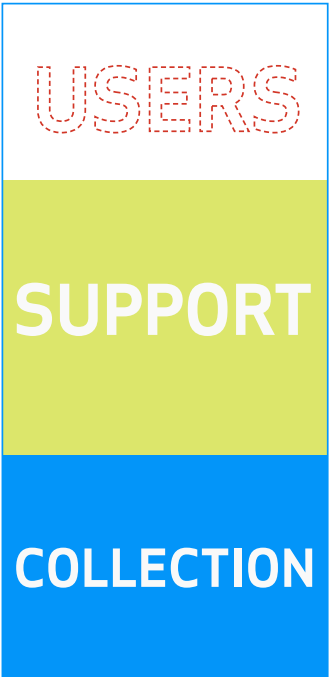
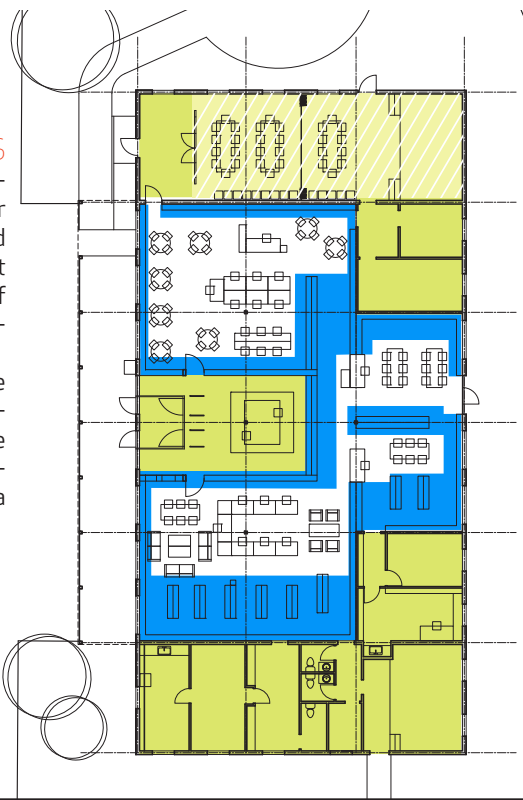
# ADAMS BRANCH LIBRARY BY NUMBERS

A BLOCK DIAGRAM shows the allocation of service areas. Because of the bulky collection shelving and furnishings, there is proportionally little area for specialized programming. The teen and children's areas are mixed; staff areas are decentralized.

The Multipurpose Hall has the advantage of separate entrances but is not easily visible from various staff positions.



A USE AREA ANALYSIS reveals there is proportionally little area available for visitors. The collection and required library support space leaves less than half the library usable for patrons. It should be noted that the Multipurpose Hall does accommodate visitor use (tutoring, children's activities) when not occupied by a scheduled program.



# EXTERIOR CHARACTER AND CONDITION



The Adams Street Branch is a single story concrete block building, with steel structure supporting a sloped roof. The front facade is immediately adjacent to Adams Street, extending a steel-framed pergola over the main entrance.



TOP- Adams Street Branch (1960)  
BOTTOM- Current condition of the main facade

## FRONT FACADE:

Nearly 60 years after its construction, the building has changed little. It remains a walk-in neighborhood library with a storefront character that attracts pedestrian traffic. On-street parking is generally available in front. A canopy is supported by steel columns along most of the front entrance, giving the building a “front porch” for planters and the book-return drop.



# EXTERIOR CHARACTER AND CONDITION

While there have been upgrades over the years, most notably with the exterior Reading Garden, the Adams Street Branch is overdue for renovation, addition, or replacement. The windows are single pane glass, and therefore not optimal protection in either hot or cold weather. The glass block is cracked and broken in some places. The exterior walls remain sturdy, but they like-

ly are not insulated. The adhered membrane roof appears to be in need of replacement. The roof slopes front to back so that the west wall of the library is noticeably taller than the east. There are several pieces of equipment located on the roof, with access from the library by means of exterior ladder.



ENTRANCE PORCH AND BOOK DROP OFF



## ENTRANCE PORCH :

While charming, the elevated entrance at the front creates some challenges with accessibility. As the grades drops from north to south, the front door is a full step up from the sidewalk. The accessible entrance is through the door to the Multipurpose Hall.



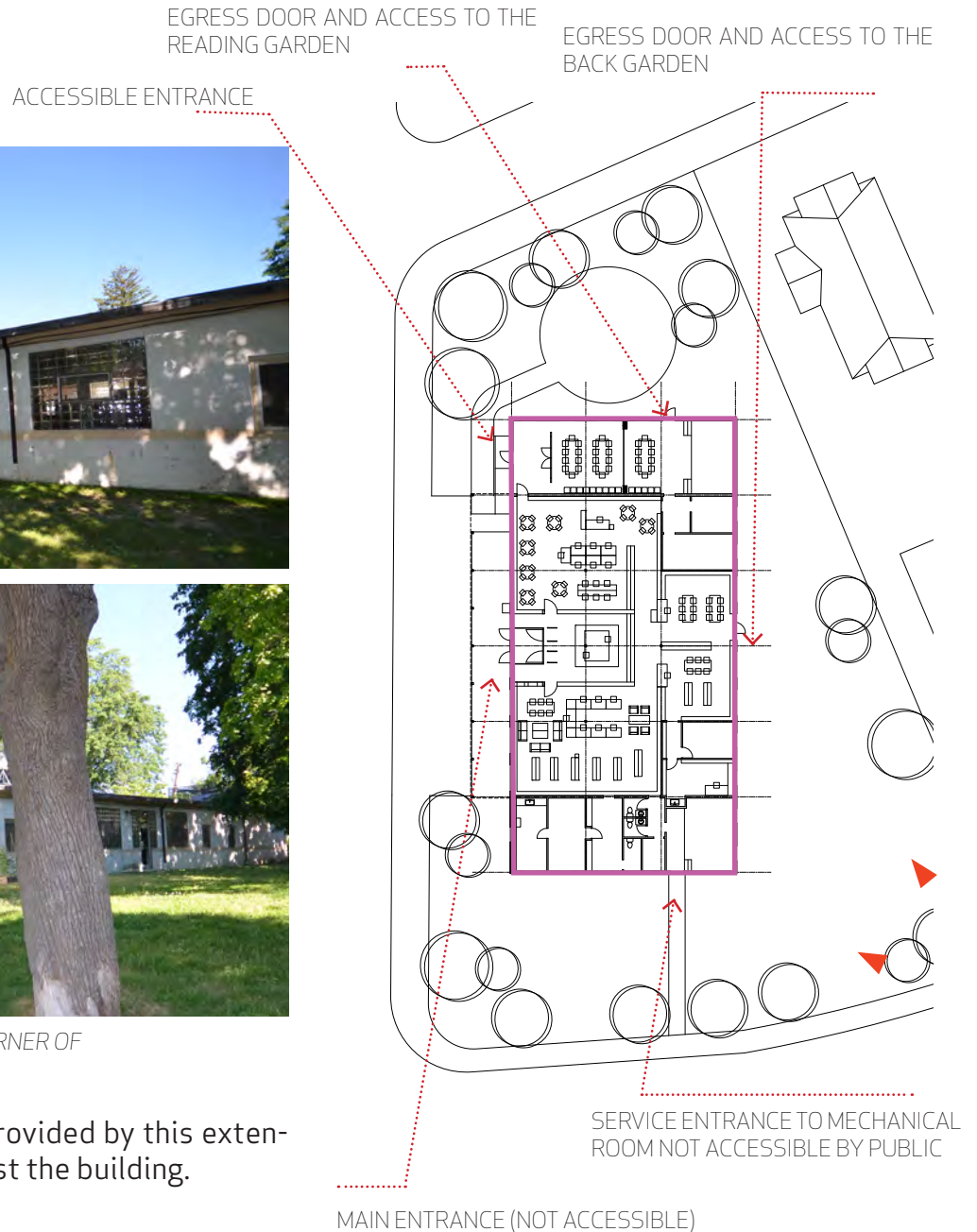
# BACK FACADE:

The back (east) facade of the Library is in similar condition as the front. The concrete masonry unit wall is painted white with yellow trim. Gutters and downspouts are visible as they pick up storm water from the low side of the roof. Some of the glass blocks are cracked and broken, but the building is well-maintained. A single door opens from the reading area onto the lawn.



VIEWS OF REAR FACADE FROM SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LAWN.

The only access to the roof is provided by this extension ladder shown leaning against the building.



# ROOF

## GENERAL CONDITION:

The fully adhered membrane roof slopes from front to back (west to east). It has certainly been replaced since the building was built, but it appears to have been some time since a full replacement. Loose rub-

ber mats define the maintenance pathways (shown in orange.)



ROOF SERVICE PATH

## MECHANICAL FENCES:

Three fan-coil units are mounted on the roof within chain-link fence enclosures. The units provide cooling and ventilation during the warmer months. They do not function in the winter when the boiler takes over for

heating.

The fences are in poor conditions, often missing or detached from the steel fence frame.





# LANDSCAPE

The landscape is a great asset for the Adams Street Branch. With the western edge located against the sidewalk, there is green space on the remaining three sides. Mature trees provide a leafy canopy, and there is ample sun for the library's garden projects. In 2004, through the fund raising efforts of the Friends of the

Adams Street Library, a portion of the library's yard was transformed into a Reading Garden, with a decorative brickwork path, landscaping and benches. The garden is adjacent to the library's multipurpose hall. In the warm weather, the library sponsors outdoor programs in this peaceful oasis.





# LANDSCAPE

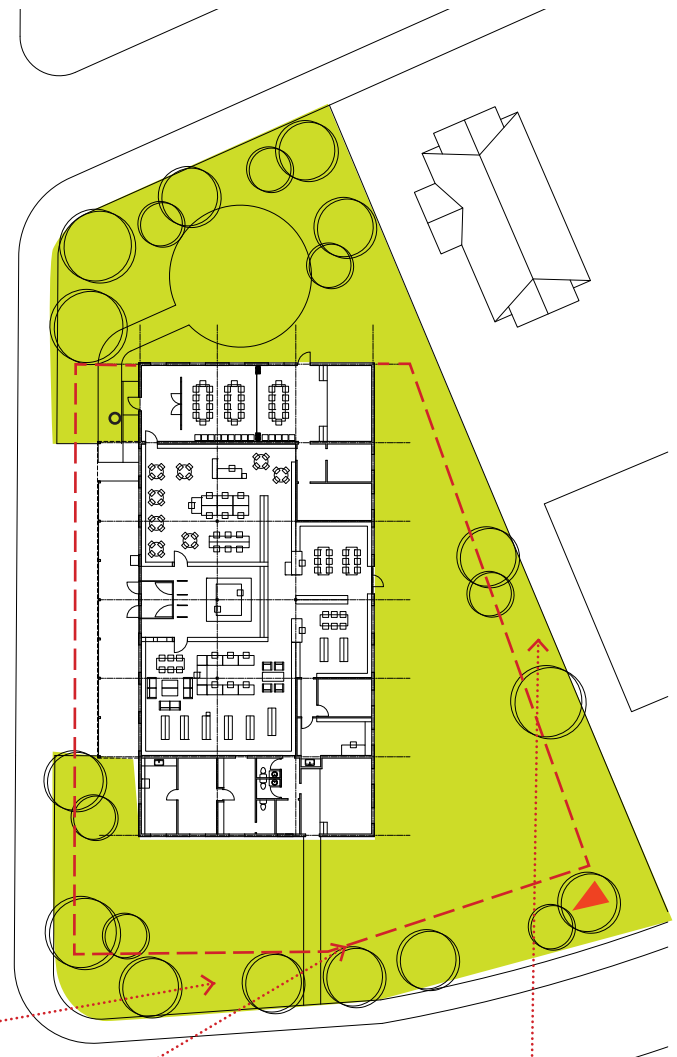
The grade is elevated at the southwest corner, affording the small building prominence on its site.

There is no irrigations system on the site.



SLOPED LAWN AND TREE LINE | NEXT  
TO DELMONT STREET

POSSIBLE ZONE OF EXPANSION



TREE LINE ON THE EAST BORDER OF  
THE LOT

# INTERIOR: ENTRANCE

The entrance is well-marked and on axis with the main circulation desk, providing good visibility for librarians.

It is however, crowded and narrow, not able to accommodate required wheelchair clearances. The close

proximity of the detection system further adds to the sense of crowding.

For a newcomer to the Adams Street Branch, it is unclear how to navigate the various areas. Wayfinding could be improved.

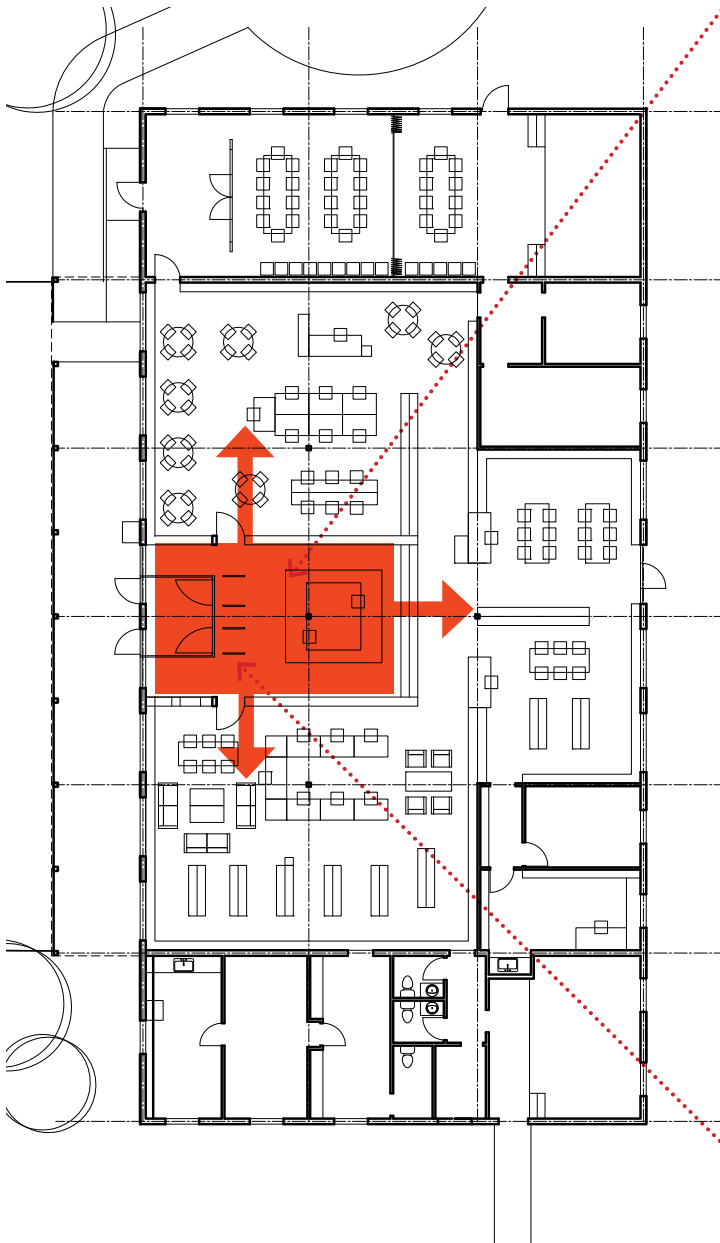
SERVICE AND RECEPTION DESK



EM DETECTION



ENTRANCE TO CHILDREN AND TEENS AREA





# INTERIOR: ADULT SECTION

There is a surprising diversity of program spaces within the modest area of the library. To the right of the main desk are the periodicals, computer stations, and browsing stacks. There are seven (CONFIRM) desktop computers that are both well-used and in constant demand. Adjacent to these are group work tables and

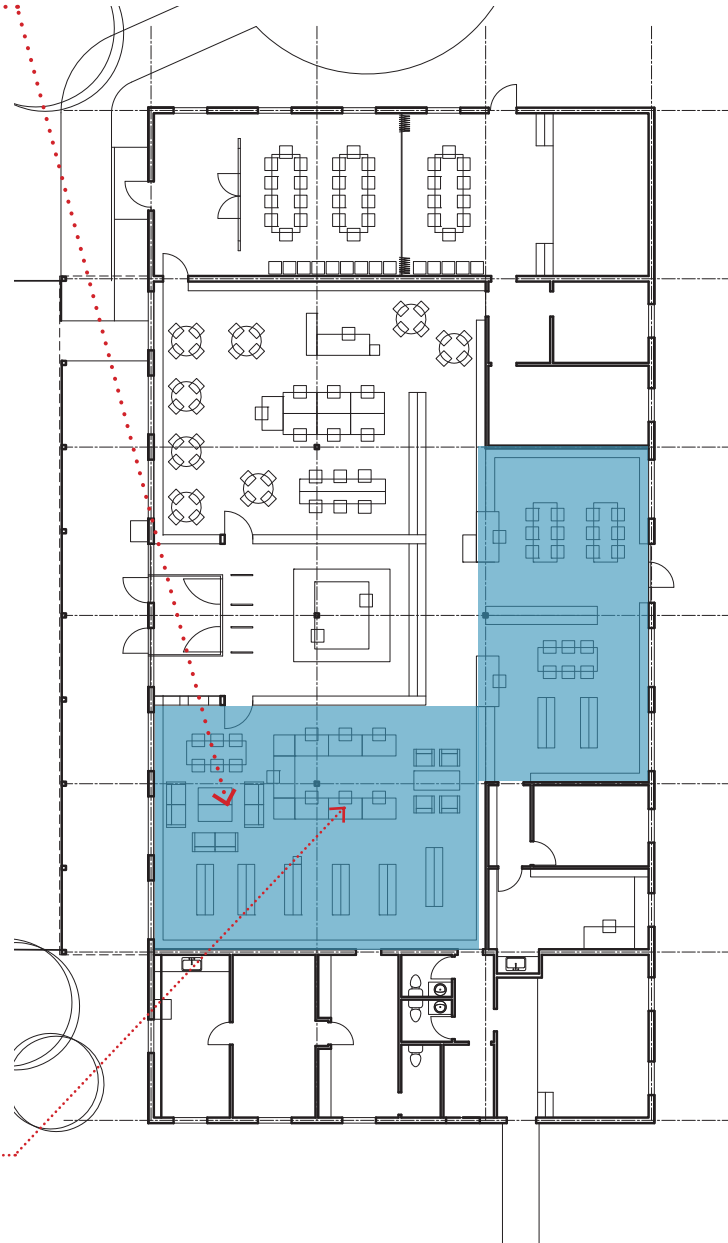
soft seating.

The shelving in the library stands 7 feet high, making clear views difficult across the program areas.

SEATING AREA OF ADULT SECTION



COMPUTER SECTION OF ADULT AREA





# INTERIOR: CHILDREN AND TEEN SECTION

To the left of the main desk are areas for both children and teens, with furniture of various scales to accommodate children of different ages. The books in this area are located at the perimeter of the space, and in low shelving. Surveillance by staff is easier in this area.



THIS is more focused on YOUNGER CHILDREN. THERE IS NO SEPARATE AREA EXCLUSIVELY FOR TEENS.



FEWER NUMBER OF DESKTOP FOR TEENS IN COMPARISON TO RECENTLY RENOVATED OR BUILT BRANCHES.

# INTERIOR: MULTIPURPOSE HALL

The Multipurpose Hall is located adjacent to the Children's Area which is helpful as there are often programs for children hosted in this large room. One can also access this room directly from the outside, making after-hours use possible, and there is access to the reading garden through a single side door. The Multipurpose Hall is divisible by an accordion acoustic partition. At one end there is an elevated platform stage. While the room is generous, it seems both too large

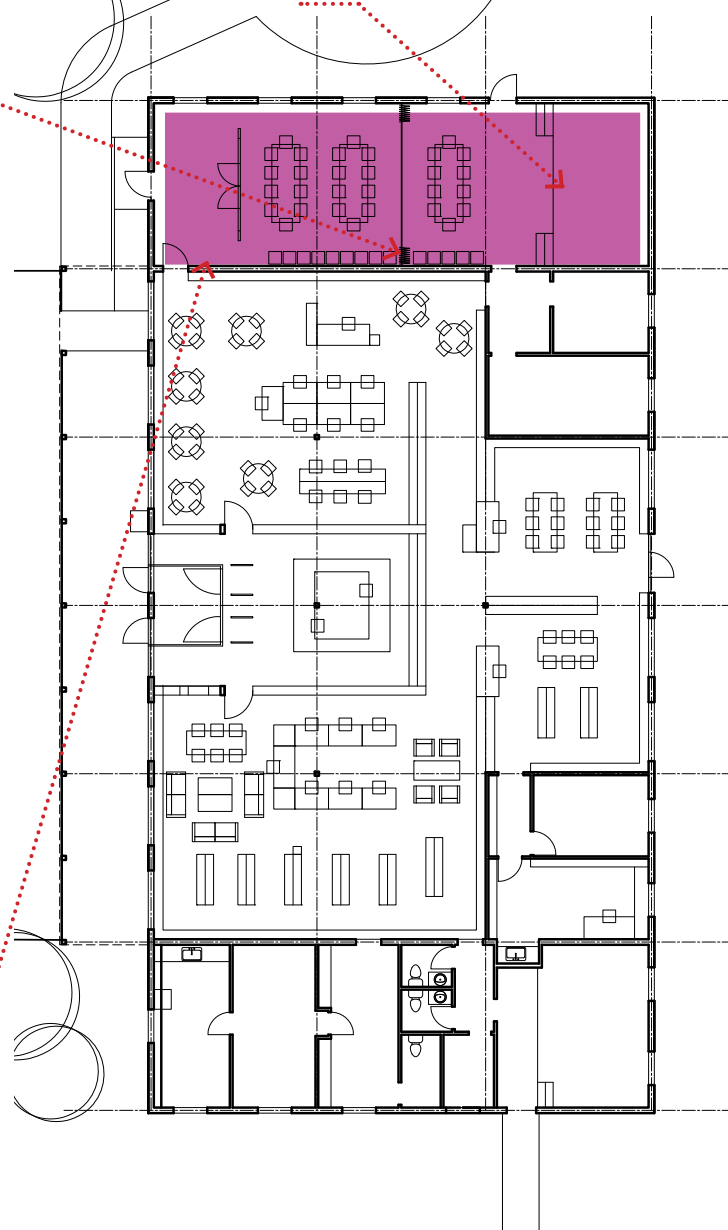
and too small. The library hosts an active tutoring program, and patrons use this space for quiet work. There is no direct visibility into the space from the librarian's desks, so projects and meetings that require a librarian will demand his or her physical presence in the room. Windows to the Reading Garden are small, making it difficult to appreciate the space from the interior.

EXISTING FOLDING DIVIDER WALL



ANTEROOM INTENDED FOR ACOUSTIC SEPARATION OCCUPIES 20% OF THE ROOM. IT IS DIFFICULT TO USE THIS SPACE

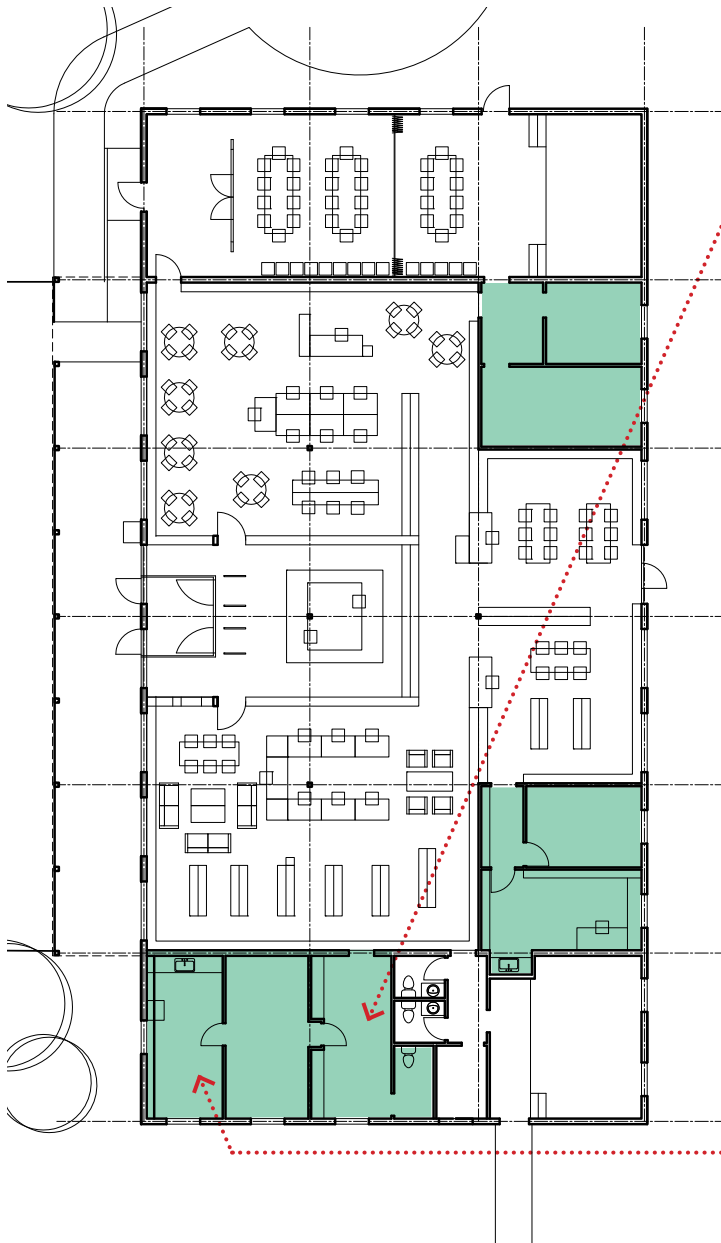
ELEVATED PLATFORM



# INTERIOR: STAFF ROOMS

There are separate staff facilities adjacent to the adult program areas and while they are well-used, they are not efficient. The work-room is far from the circulation desk. The Librarian's office is small.

One of the public bathrooms has been made accessible, however fixtures are in need of repair and the staff areas are not compliant with accessibility requirements.



THE LAYOUT OF THE LOCKER ROOM AND MIDDLE LOUNGE IS AWKWARD, SO THE SPACE IS NOT OPTIMALLY USED.

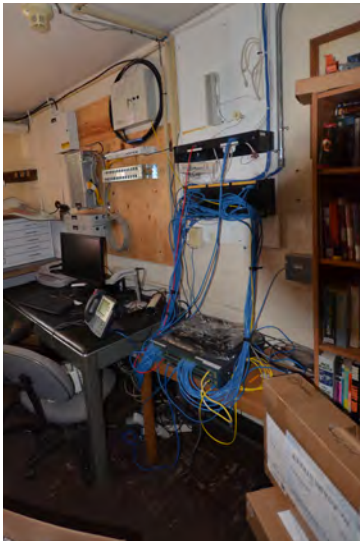


KITCHEN AND DINING  
FEW WINDOWS TO OUTDOORS MAKE  
THIS SPACE FEELS CONFINING.

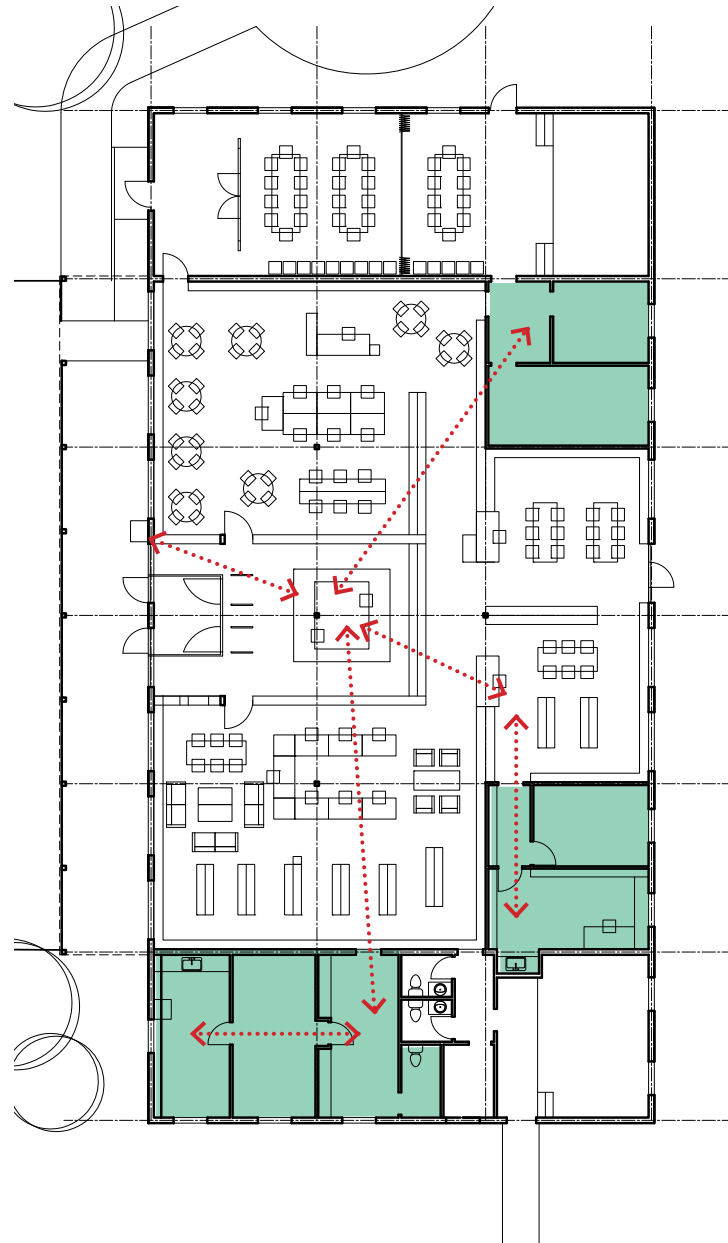


# INTERIOR: STAFF ROOMS

DISPERSED LOCATIONS OF STAFF ROOMS, SERVICE POINTS AND SUPPORT SPACES CREATE CIRCUITOUS FOR DAILY STAFF USE INSIDE THE BUILDING.

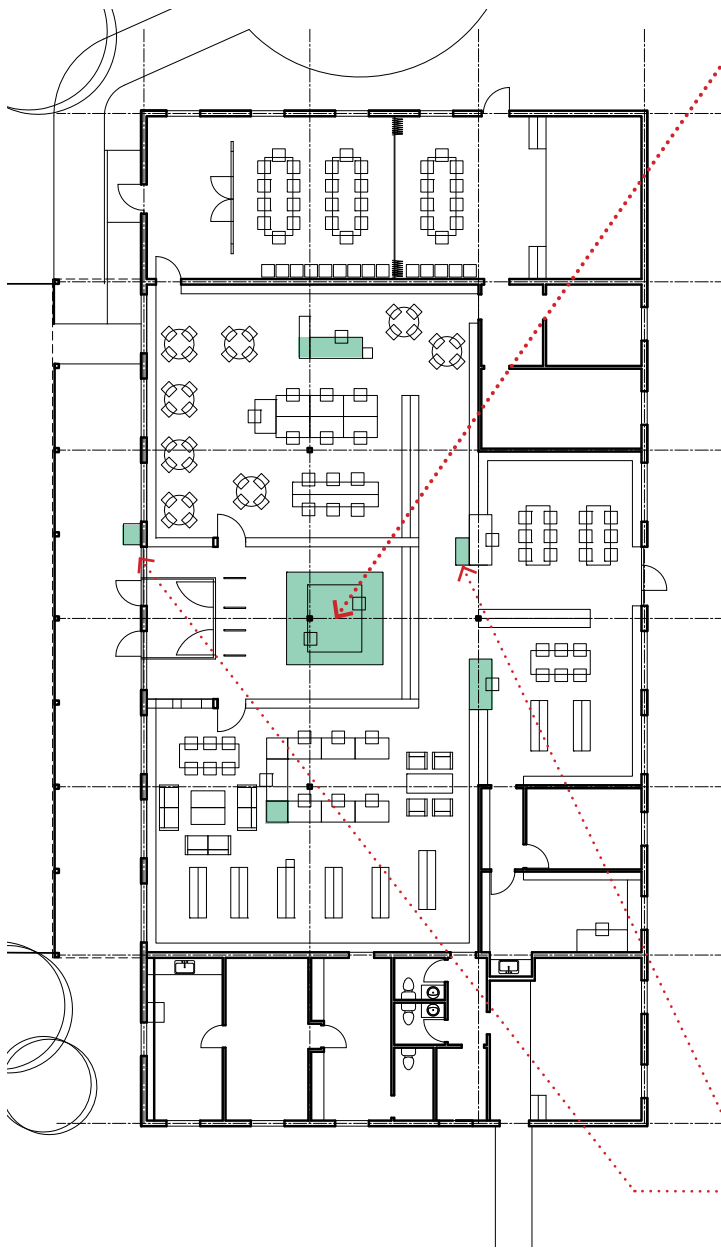


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: OVERCROWDING IN WORKROOM, NARROW HALL OUTSIDE OF LIBRARIAN'S OFFICE; IT CABLE TERMINATION NEAR STAFF WORK AREA



# POINTS OF SERVICE

The Adams Street Branch currently has seven ?? full time employees. There are three locations for service, as well as an automated check-out station. The intimacy of the setting makes it easy to find these points of service however, high shelving interrupts sightlines.



CIRCULATION DESK AT THE ENTRANCE



BOOK DROP



# COMPUTER AND IT

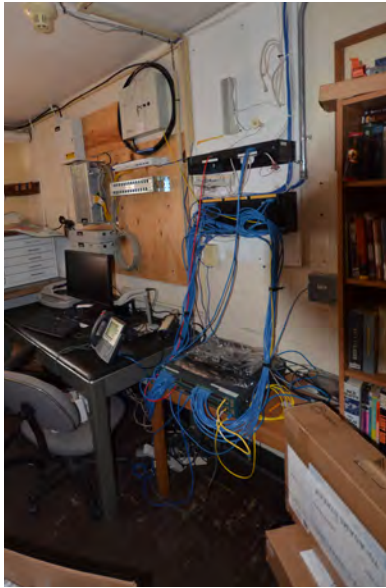
There are 25 computers available for use; about a half dozen desktops and several laptops that are available for borrowing. The wiring for the IT system is somewhat chaotically terminated in the staff work area.

The newer branches have generous areas dedicated to computer use, particularly in the teen areas, but also for adults. The current adult area has dedicated work desks within the collections area.

LAPTOP STORAGE BOX



IT RACKS



COMPUTER DESKS IN ADULT SECTION



# COLLECTION

The library has approximately 33,000 volumes, placing it at the top of the list for collection density among the branches.

HONAN ALLSTON:  
2.50 VOLUMES/SF

BRIGHTON:  
2.05 VOLUMES/SF

JAMAICA PLAN:  
2.24 VOLUMES/SF

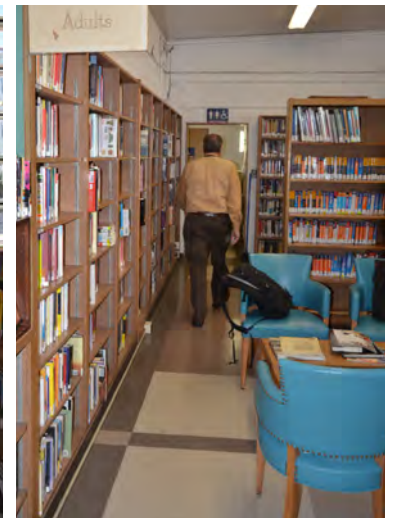
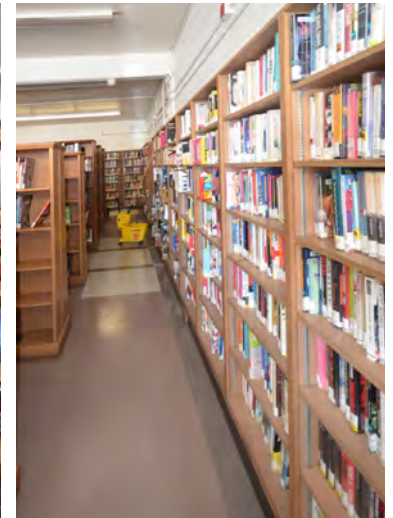
MATTAPAN:  
1.57 VOLUMES/SF

EAST BOSTON:  
1.79 VOLUMES/SF

ADAMS:  
4.58 VOLUMES/SF



TALL SHELVES AND PARTITION WALLS BLOCK THE VIEW BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE LIBRARY.



STACKS OF BOOKS BLOCK PART OF THE LIGHTS COMING FROM THE WINDOWS



# ACCESSIBILITY

The accessible entrance for the branch is located with a ramp at the door to the Multipurpose Hall. Upon entry, one confronts a vestibule that provides minimal acoustic separation from the room's program area, and offers a second door into the main library space.

In an ideal scenario, the accessible entrance would be the front door.

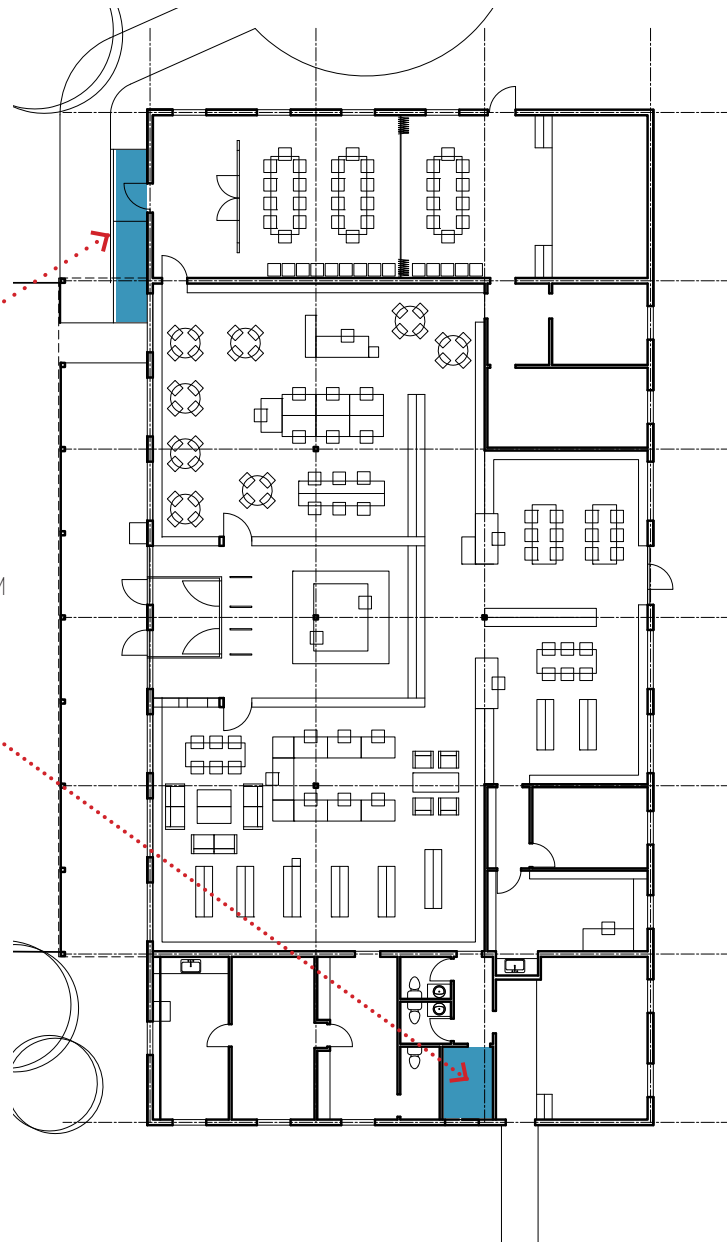
One of the library's 3 public bathrooms complies with current accessibility standards. The 1 staff bathroom does not comply with ADA standards.



MAIN ACCESSIBLE  
ENTRANCE IS TO THE  
BACK ROOM OF MUL-  
TIPURPOSE HALL



ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM



# THE BPL COMPASS: STRATEGIC PLAN

## COMPASS POINTS

*The 2009 BLP Strategic Plan, or “Compass,” outlined a set of aspirational principles for the BPL system.*

- User-centered institution
- Community gathering
- Special collections
- Center of knowledge
- Children and teens
- Access and innovation
- Sustainable organization
- Fun

*All contemplated improvements to the library branches should be considered through the filter of the Compass. Below is a review of the Compass Principals of the BPL Strategic Plan relative to the Adams Street Branch and its future potential.*

### I) USER CENTERED INSTITUTION

*The BPL is a user-centered institution with services that anticipate and respond to neighborhood interests and the changing demographics of the City and Commonwealth.*

The Adams Street Branch Library is already a hub of

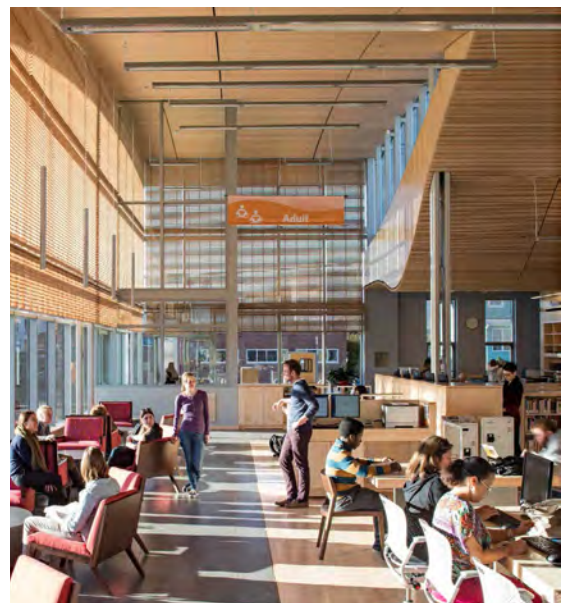
information and activity for this corner of Dorchester. The Friends of Adams Street Branch Library is an active group with a dynamic presence in the neighborhood and on-line (<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Adams-Street-Branch-Library-277748947901/>) to keep users informed of library programs, community programs occurring within the library, and general neighborhood activities. The branch is obviously well-used and cared for, but there remain challenges for both physical access and general navigability.

### Potential Improvements

- Front door in not accessible
- Signage and wayfinding is limited; points of service and program area are not immediately obvious
- Collections shelving and furnishings hamper easy movement.
- Multipurpose Hall is a great resource for programs but it is inflexible and has no visual connection to the circulation desk

### II) COMMUNITY GATHERING

*The BPL exists to serve and sustain communities that foster discovery, reading, thinking, conversing, teach-*





# THE BPL COMPASS: STRATEGIC PLAN

ing, and learning, in accessible, sustainable, and welcoming facilities throughout the City, as well as with an engaging online presence.

The library aims to provide quality spaces that can flexibly accommodate its various programs and support positive interactions between patrons in the library. Its street front entrance is inviting and easy to find. The generous Multipurpose Hall can be used for large meetings, support children's activities, film and performance. The adjacent Reading Garden is an attractive quiet space.

## Potential Improvements

- There could be more 'breathing space' within the library for smaller group interaction
- The Multipurpose Hall could be replaced with several flexible smaller/ middle-sized rooms

## III) SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*The BPL is committed to the ongoing development and preservation of its distinctive special collections, which provide citizens from all walks of life with access to their common cultural heritage.*

While the Adams Street Branch does not have an archive per se, it has robust mystery, history and sum-

mer reading collections. It is a true browsing library, with comfortable chairs located within the bookshelves. Many of the original furnishings are still in use; some have been reupholstered, and most are serviceable.

## Potential Improvements

- Collections that are unique to the neighborhood could be added and/or expanded
- Include historic photos and other memorabilia from Dorchester
- If the building is replaced, some of the 50s-era elements (clock, furnishings, art) could be well-incorporated into the new building.

## IV) CENTER OF KNOWLEDGE

*The BPL is a center of knowledge that serves researchers, lifelong learners, and the intellectually curious through its incomparable collections, digital resources, and access to other scholarly networks.*

The library has desktop computers and laptops for borrowing. It is also host to a number of book groups.

## Potential Improvements

- Curate the collections to assure that the availability



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of materials is aligned with community needs

- Improve presentation of books and other circulating materials so they are easy to access and browse.
- Distribute the technology more evenly within the spaces
- Arrange the desktop computers in a way more conducive to instruction
- Provide small group meeting areas with basic technology plug-in
- Enhanced support for patrons to learn from other members of the community and to share information
- Assist patrons in accessing new technologies

## V) CHILDREN & TEENS

*The BPL fosters the love of reading and skills in critical and creative thinking among children and teens – from early literacy through mature readership – by offering a slate of services that provide academic support and intellectual growth.*

While the library does not have a dedicated teen room, it has a well-used children's area with minimal accommodations for teens. There is an expansive children's book collection. The children's desk is accessible and well-located within the space. The adjacency to the Multipurpose Hall allows the Children's Library to host a variety of programs.

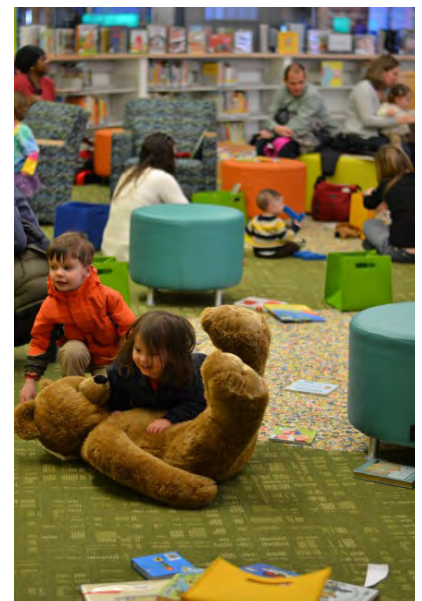
## Potential Improvements

- Include distinct space/s within the library for families, children, and teens that can facilitate learning and activities in a manner to complement spaces used by older patrons.
- Mobile furniture would allow re-configuration of space to accommodate varied programming
- Relieve the overcrowding of collections, seating, computers and service desk that complicates access to services and diminishes children's experience at the library
- Accommodate information technology in a configuration that is scaled to the users and the children's space
- Provided small meeting spaces for tutoring programs

## VI) ACCESS & INNOVATION

*The BPL provides access to and training in innovative technology, electronic resources, and digital information through its own holdings and its strategic position within the wider world of knowledge.*

The library has both laptops for check-out and desktops that are in high demand. The Adams Street Branch staff has obviously improvised successfully, making





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the most of their small space with film offerings and computer support.

## Potential Improvements

- Improve facility to support training and peer-to-peer learning
- Create opportunities for collaborative use of technology
- Incorporate state-of-the-art IT/AV technology for enhanced program offerings and access to distance learning
- Consider incorporation of special programs: maker space of digital technologies

## VII) SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION

*The BPL depends on sustainability of resources through a judicious stewardship of finances; active employee participation and professional development in an environment of dignity and respect; and partnerships that enrich services, expand outreach, and leverage public investment through private support.*

This branch has an obvious commitment to environmental sustainability at the neighborhood scale with garden programs, education on recycling/waste re-

duction. There is an abundance of daylight, and a gracious tree-canopied lawn on three sides.

If sustainability implies the maximization of available resources, the Adams Street Branch should be applauded for the many ways they use their small space.

## Potential Improvements

- Staff service area and workroom could be better integrated as the workroom is removed from the library main space.
- Librarian's office could be expanded to allow meetings
- Children's librarian could expand for more work area
- Storage should be well-integrated so as not to clutter the program space
- HVAC systems to be upgraded with efficient equipment and improved air-quality
- Fluorescent lighting to be change to LED, more energy efficient and better light quality
- Daylight harvesting can be more effective with improved glazing and use of window treatments
- Daylight sensors will automatically dim lights when adequate daylight is available
- Add task lighting at meeting tables for better patron control
- Improved insulating value of windows, walls and roof
- Water efficient plumbing fixtures can be installed throughout





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## VIII) FUN

*The BPL leads the way for people of all ages with recreational reading and media, invigorating programs, user-created content, and opportunities for discovery in settings that are stimulating and engaging.*

There is obvious enthusiasm by library users for interaction with the library staff and the various program offerings. Families use the branch regularly, taking advantage of varied programming and a knowledgeable staff. The patronage of this branch will only improve with the upgrades

- Improved spaces for families, children, teens, and older visitors
- An updated Multipurpose Hall with better access
- Improved access to collections
- Updated and flexible program offerings to support an increasingly active constituency



