



**Milliken Mills Branch
Feasibility Study for Potential Expansion & Renovation
December 2009**

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on your needs and priorities for an expanded and improved Milliken Mills Library. At the Open House on December 3rd and through the customer survey, you've told us loud and clear what your priorities are. Here are the results:

When we asked you to identify your level of agreement with the statement, "An expanded and renovated Milliken Library is needed," 90.8% of survey respondents told us that they rated expansion as Very Important or Important.

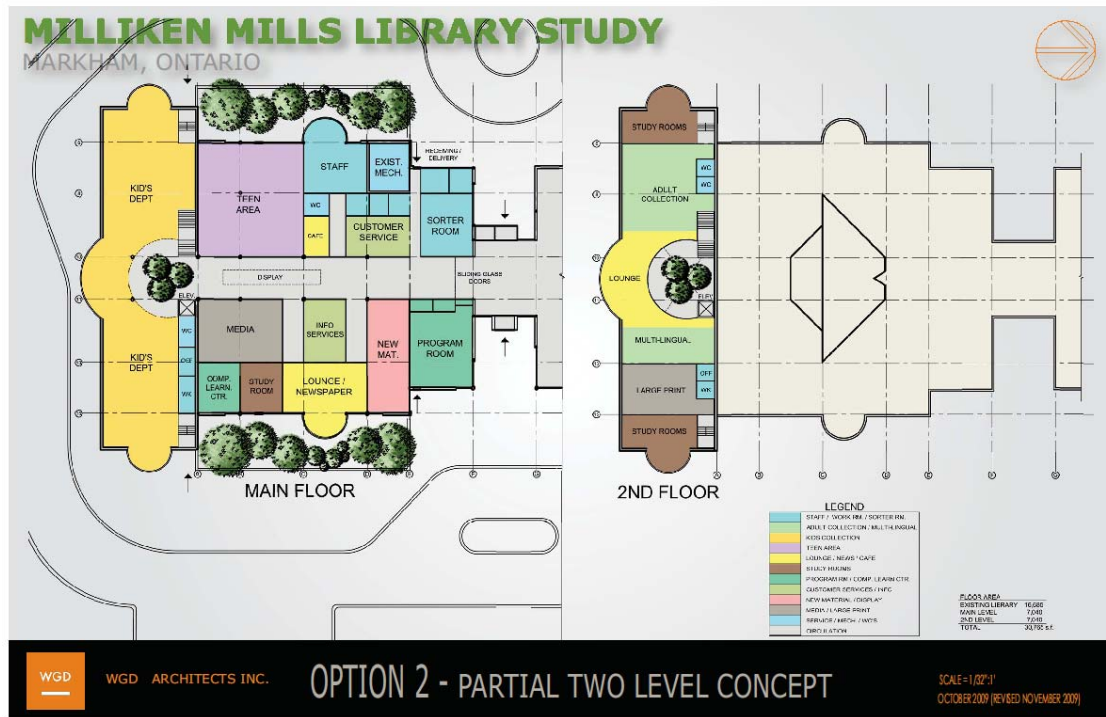
When we asked you to rate the importance to you of a range of possible features and enhancements, the results were:

	Very Important (%)	Important (%)	Somewhat important (%)	Not important (%)
Quiet study room	62.0	30.1	13.5	3.7
More study rooms	60.1	30.7	15.3	2.5
Quiet reading area	54.0	37.4	15.3	2.5
More public computers	50.9	29.4	21.5	4.9
More comfortable living-room seating	36.8	33.7	23.9	12.9
More self check out	31.3	39.3	22.1	14.1
Self check in	30.7	36.2	24.5	16.0
Download stations	28.2	23.9	26.4	28.8
More café seating	27.6	27.0	30.1	22.7
Larger teen space	25.8	39.3	30.7	12.9
More meeting rooms	21.5	23.9	38.0	22.7
Larger children's space	20.2	37.4	33.7	18.4
Space for seniors	19.0	38.0	33.7	14.7
More computer classes	17.2	22.1	34.4	31.9

Clearly, your top priorities are around quiet study rooms, more study rooms, and quiet reading areas, and we will ensure that the expanded library meets those needs.

Library Board Recommends Preferred Option for Expansion:

At its meeting on December 14th, the Library Board identified a partial two-level expansion option as the preferred option for concept plan development. This option achieves the best balance of functionality, improved street visibility, construction cost, construction phasing, minimizing disruption to operations, and minimizing closure periods. The Board and staff support this option as a design that successfully integrates the old with the new space, and provides approximately 30,000 sq. ft. of library space configured to effectively implement our service models, and respond to the priorities of the community.



Some Background to the Feasibility Study:

- The Library Board has recognized the need for service improvement in South Markham, and identified the expansion of the Milliken Mills Library branch as a priority.
- Through the 2009 budget, Council authorized the hiring of an external consultant to conduct a Feasibility Study regarding potential expansion & renovation of the Milliken Mills Library.
- The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to develop concept plans for expansion and renovation, and lay the groundwork for design development and construction in future budget years, and/or for infrastructure grant application opportunities.
- Over the last few months, staff and the Board have worked with consultant Brian Gregersen of WGD Architects Inc. to investigate the options for expansion within the site parameters, look at engineering issues, code issues, cost and operational

implications, and develop a preferred conceptual approach for expansion and renovation, including a project estimated budget.

Proposed Building Program:

The future expanded and renovated Milliken Mills branch will be designed to fulfill our vision of being “the place where Markham’s communities come together to imagine, learn and grow”. It will be a library space that implements and aligns with Markham Public Library’s strategies for excellence in customer service, meeting community needs, and efficient and cost-effective operations. Key Features include:

- Extensive range of options for study space – including group work/study rooms and quiet study rooms
- Computer learning opportunities in all areas
- Self-service options for customer convenience and organizational efficiency
- Automated material handling to keep pace with growth and reduce material-handling by staff
- Teen areas for casual drop-in use
- Children’s areas designed for learning through play
- Open program/event spaces “without walls” for inclusivity in public participation
- Third place” design – welcoming, comfortable social spaces – positioning the library branch as a “community living room” for everyone
- Welcoming proactive customer service and streamlined service points
- Collections made more accessible through merchandizing

Next Steps:

- Based on the Library Board’s direction for the preferred option, the consultant will develop a concept/schematic design for the proposed expansion and renovation, and complete the final Feasibility Study report.
- The Feasibility Study report will be presented to Markham Council in early 2010 for its consideration and further direction.