

NEWS RELEASE

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Fern Creek moves another step closer towards a new library

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (December 15, 2022) – With shovels in hand, Mayor Greg Fischer joined Library Director Lee Burchfield, Councilman Robin Engel, the Library Foundation, and members of the community to officially break ground today on a new 18,000-square-foot Fern Creek Library.

Located on Fern Creek Road next to Fern Creek High School, the new library will be similar in size and scope to the recently built St. Matthews Library. Once complete, this building will return library services to one of Jefferson County’s fastest growing areas.

“Our libraries are a vital part of Louisville’s educational ecosystem, providing opportunities for residents to reach their full human potential every day,” said Mayor Fischer. “I am especially thrilled that we are able to write a new chapter in the long and storied history of the Fern Creek Library by restoring vital library services to this community,” said Mayor Fischer.

Fern Creek has a history of library service dating back to 1937. Starting as a community-run library, with books donated from the Louisville Free Public Library and staffed by members of the Fern Creek Women's Club, Fern Creek officially joined the Louisville Free Public Library system in 1963. Fern Creek’s most recent library, located in the Cedar Springs Shopping Center, closed in June 2019 as part of several Louisville Metro Government budget reductions, resulting from a sharp increase in the city’s state pension bill and lack of new revenue.

“Since taking office in 2003 my goal has been to help construct a larger new freestanding library to serve the growing areas along Bardstown Road. While the closure of the Fern Creek Library was a tough pill to swallow, our work towards the construction of a larger and more modern library never faded. I am proud to say that because of the work of my Council Colleagues and the support of Mayor Fischer we now have the funding to construct a gem of a library that will serve generations of people living in and around southeastern Jefferson County,” said District 22 Councilman Robin Engel.

The new state-of-the-art library will feature the latest technologies and an expanded collection, including a large selection of bestsellers, DVDs, large type, and books for children and teens. The design will include an abundance of natural light, comfortable, quiet spaces for reading and studying, meeting rooms, and dedicated areas for children and teens.

“While we are just getting started, today is a day to celebrate the return of the Fern Creek Library,” said Library Director Burchfield. “This location, just off Bardstown Road, adjacent to

both Fern Creek High School and Elementary, and close to residential neighborhoods, will provide convenient access to a vibrant community, eager for the return of their library.”

Metro government allocated \$8.7 million in capital and American Rescue Plan funds for the construction of the Fern Creek Library. Additional funds will be raised through private donations to the Library Foundation.

“The Library Foundation looks forward to working with our Fern Creek neighbors to fill this newest branch with the resources needed for an enthusiastic community of library patrons,” said Library Foundation Executive Director Chandra Gordon.

“Southeastern Jefferson County is booming. That growth requires more investment not only in roads, but also in education and government services. Today’s groundbreaking will lead to better government services for an area that is comprised of some of our youngest citizens. I can’t wait to open this branch and I want to thank everyone from the Library Foundation, the Friends of the Library, and my Metro Government colleagues for supporting this project,” said Stuart Benson, District 20.

A Request for Proposals has been issued to determine the design and construction team. For updates on the Fern Creek Library construction project, visit LFPL.org, or follow the Louisville Free Public Library on social media.

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