Your Library. Reimagined.

Highland Park Public Library

For more than 130 years the Library has opened doors to information and imagination.

For engagement, enrichment, and education, Highland Park turns to the Library.

84%
of adult residents visited the Library at least annually

53%
of adult residents visited the Library once a month or more

95%
of adult residents rated the Library Excellent (63%) or Good (32%)

Source: City of Highland Park National Citizen Survey, 2016

In a typical year, the Library welcomes 800 visitors a day, and checks out 580,000 items.

(10 year average)

Engagement

" The Library brings everyone together "

Enrichment

" *Tonight's event was truly a gift* "

Education

"*The Highland Park Public Library has been my school*"

The Library is a well-used community resource.

However, space is limited in key areas of the Library, limiting community impact.

To continue to meet the community's evolving engagement, enrichment, and education needs, we listened to what Highland Parkers said about their Library.

2018 & 2021
The Library's strategic planning process included community feedback about the Library facility and services.

2017 & 2018
Williams Architects performed a formal needs assessment of the Library which included public survey feedback.

2016
The City of Highland Park completed the most recent National Citizen Survey

Here's what we learned...

To continue to provide relevant services, the Library needed:

Flexible spaces for engagement and enrichment

Spaces for technology and digital literacy

Service areas that accommodate Highland Park's population

Improved usability and access

Updated infrastructure

2020 Renovation

The Library completed an interior renovation project that addressed some of the needs identified.

Youth Services storytime & program room

Larger Film & Music area

Middle School Room

Five group meeting rooms

Future Goals to address unmet needs

Flexible Spaces

Flexible space with seating for 200+ without service disruptions

Multiuse spaces for meetings, classes, and training.

Spaces for Technology

Enhanced creative studio or makerspace

Larger Digital Media Lab

Enhanced Service

Expanded Youth Services Department

Historical archive space

Updated Friends' book sale area

Improved Access

Parking concerns addressed

Larger, code-compliant elevator

Improved configuration of Adult Services collections

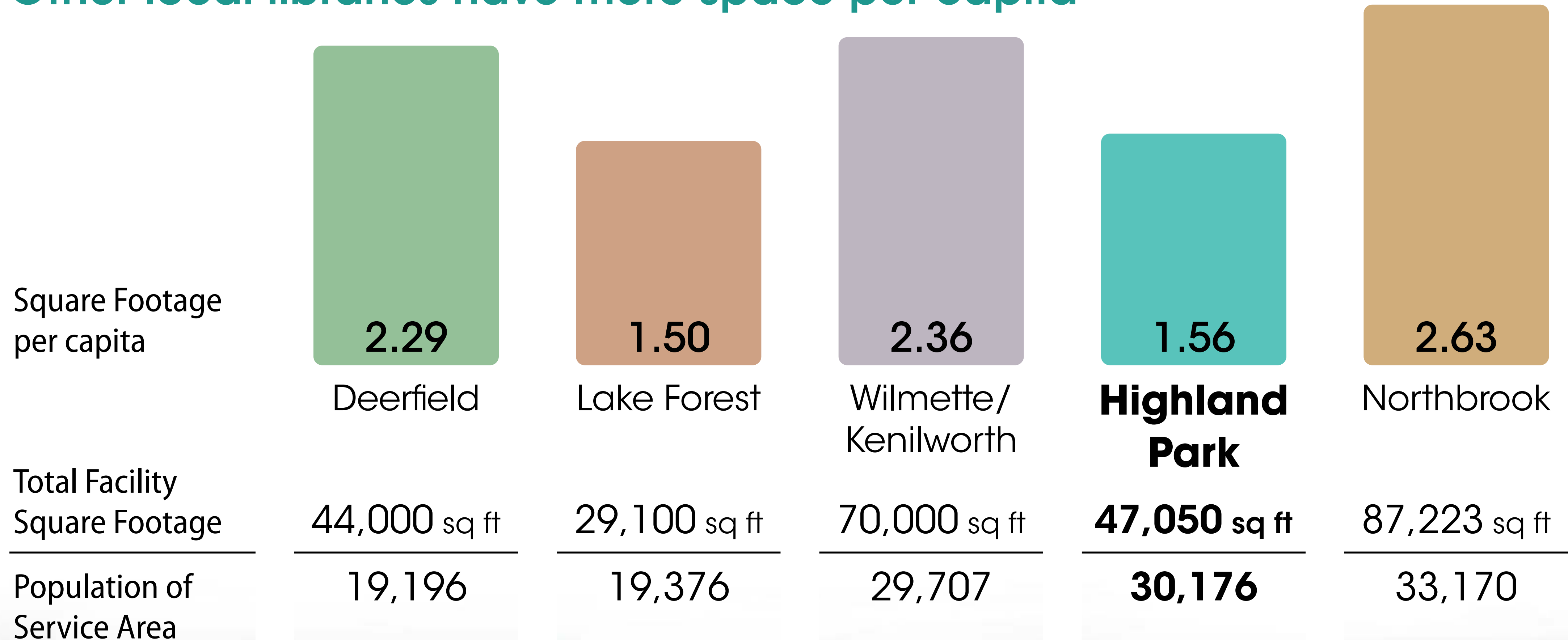Enhanced drive-up book return with pick-up option

Larger family restroom(s)

Infrastructure Updates

Fire sprinkler system throughout building

Updated mechanical equipment

How we compare:

Other local libraries have more space per capita

	Deerfield	Lake Forest	Wilmette/ Kenilworth	**Highland Park**	Northbrook
Square Footage per capita	2.29	1.50	2.36	1.56	2.63
Total Facility Square Footage	44,000 sq ft	29,100 sq ft	70,000 sq ft	**47,050 sq ft**	87,223 sq ft
Population of Service Area	19,196	19,376	29,707	**30,176**	33,170

How we compare:

The Library is a good steward of taxpayers' dollars

	Deerfield	Lake Forest	Wilmette/ Kenilworth	Highland Park	Northbrook
Budget per capita	$275.69	$226.12	$202.87	$177.85	$231.06
FY22 Total Budget	$5,292,170	$4,381,371	$6,026,703	**$5,366,800**	$7,664,188
Population of Service Area	19,196	19,376	29,707	**30,176**	33,170
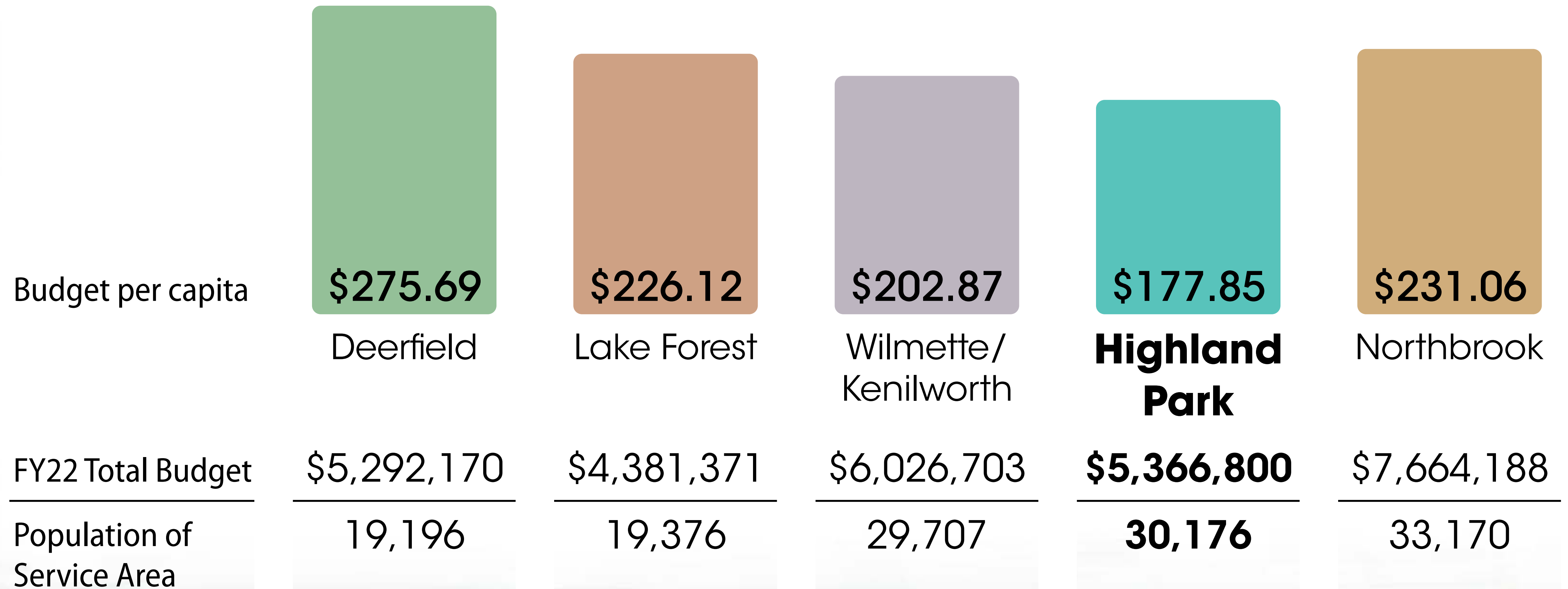
What's Next?

The City included a possible expansion in the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan for construction in 2025.

The Library will issue a request for proposal to select an architect to provide designs to address the needs identified.

Community input will be collected throughout the process.

Reimagine Your Library.

Community

Provide spaces for all to connect, collaborate, and learn together.

Technology

Expand access to, and support for, cutting-edge technology.

Access

Welcome all with updated and accessible spaces.