

New Features of the Melrose Branch Library

Almost 15,000 square feet of space, plus an enclosed patio and side community patio

The addition of more than \$120,000 in new books and materials; the collection has expanded to over 35,000 items.

A big, bright Children's Area, as well a dedicated Community Room for use outside of library hours.

Four small meeting rooms

A dedicated Teen Area

Parking Area has doubled

Technology includes all new computers, touch screen catalogs, and wireless internet service throughout. The facility is connected to the new fiber ring recently completed by the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority.

A Quiet Reading Room, a separate area with magazines and newspapers.

A STEAM lab, which will strengthen children's science, technology, engineering, art and math skills with programs such as:

- Little Lab Coats (a science programs our youngest citizens)
- Virtual Reality exploration (which will take our children and teens around the world)
- Robotics club (focused on teaching children coding and strategies)

A portable Music Lab

A Business Center, to provide support, space and materials to small business owners and entrepreneurs. The connecting Goodwill Resource Center will also provide services to those seeking jobs and career skills and training.

Public Art – art pieces by Napoleon Henderson-Jones and the Dorothy Gillespie foundation.

Future Projects at the Library Branch:

A Lighted Pedestrian Walkway to offer a safe way for people to access the library branch building from Salem Turnpike and Lansdowne Park and other residential housing areas to the west. Construction is already underway.

The Kiwanis Club of Southwest Virginia, in honor of their 100th anniversary, is donating the funds to build a playground next to the library branch; a gift to the citizens of Roanoke valued at more than \$400,000.