



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

[Who are Charles and Myrtle Walker?](#)

The Charles and Myrtle Walker family moved to Novi in the 1970's. In 2004, they donated \$1 million to start a Library Building Fund. They also challenged the community by offering to match up to \$1 million in additional funding. Following their generous donation, the Novi Library was named for Charles and Myrtle Walker.

[Why was the former building demolished?](#)

The former building was built in 1976. The Library Board and community representatives studied the need for additional and updated space. After much analysis, it was proven to be more cost effective to build a new facility than to renovate and expand the old facility. Due to concerns about safety, infrastructure and limited accessibility, it was not advantageous for anyone to re-use the building.

[What is the size of the new Novi Library compared to the former?](#)

Our former building was 24,000 square feet and the new Library is approximately 60,000 square feet with an outdoor patio of an additional 6,100 square feet.

[How much did the current building cost to build?](#)

The residents of Novi approved a 16 million dollar bond in 2007. We opened on June 1, 2010, right on schedule and under budget. The architects were BEI Associates and Diamond & Schmitt. Our contractors were Dailey Company, Fanning Howey, and Library Design Associates, Inc.

[How is the Library funded?](#)

Primary funding is through a dedicated millage, and we receive a limited amount of monies from the State of Michigan and through fines and fees. The Walker donation will continue to offset the additional costs of having a larger building. The construction did not increase taxes.

[What is the population of the Novi community?](#)

52,424, according to SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

[How many patrons does the Novi Library serve per month?](#)

In our former building, we served more than 800 patrons per day. Those figures do not count for our phone-in or online services. In our new building from June-September 2010, we served an average of 1,406 patrons daily.

[What is the size of our current collection?](#)

There are approximately 165,000 items in the collection. Over 145,000 items were transferred from our former building and nearly 20,000 new books and audiovisual materials have been added to the new facility.

[Who operates the Read-a-Latte Café?](#)

The Library leases space to Gary and Lola Bernstein, who were chosen through a bid process by the Library Board.

Can you explain the unique artwork that is part of the Novi Library?

1. At the main doors, sits a beautiful cast bronze sculpture of three children reading on a bench. It was designed by the Randolph Rose Collection of Yonkers, New York and donated by the Friends of the Novi Library.
2. Formed out of the international symbol for “library”, *The Librarian* stands tall at the main entrance drive as cars enter from 10 Mile Road. This sculpture was designed by Jim Havens.
3. Throughout our two story building, we are proud to display 1,600 individually, hand-crafted Life Tiles that were created and donated by local artist, Connie Lunski.
4. A hand painted mural, “Reading through Time,” was created by local artist, Stacy Schwartz, and can be found in our Youth Services area on the 1st floor.
5. On the 2nd floor, at the top of the stairs, there is a lovely sculpture of 15 hand-blown glass apples created by well known artist and former Novi resident, Richard Ritter.

What are some of the new features in the Library?

(*) services require a library card

- Two story building
- Fireplace Reading Area
- Youth Story Time Room
- Youth Activities Room
- Artwork by local artists
- Friends’ Book Nook
- Read-a-Latte Café
- Novi Special Race Car
- Patio
- Drive-Up Window*
- Drive-Up Return Slots
- After Hours Holds*
- NPL Teen Stop
- Computer Lab*

What is the history behind the Novi Special race car?

In 1941, Novi industrialist Lew Welch funded an innovative racing car with an unconventional engine. The engine took on the name of the “Novi Special.” In 1983, the City of Novi’s Economic Development Corporation purchased the car and is the proud owner of the Novi Special, which now resides within the Novi Public Library. The Novi Special set numerous records during its 20 year lifespan, including time for the fastest field and the fastest qualification. In 1988, the Novi Special made a “guest appearance” at the Indy 500 on a float in the pre-race parade, gaining national recognition.

What is the procedure for showing private collections in the public showcase?

Administration will review requests for use of public exhibit and display space. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to set up and remove displays. Reservations are taken on a first come, first-served basis and the showcase is scheduled for a one month timeframe. Exhibiting or displaying does not imply endorsement or recommendation by the Library.

When will the rest of the pavers and bricks be installed?

The first installment of bricks was completed in May, with the next installment expected in September, 2010. Additional pavers will be placed on a quarterly basis, depending on demand.