

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 21, 2017

Waterloo Public Library to expand to the east side of the city

The Waterloo Public Library (WPL) is excited to announce that a new library branch on the east side of Waterloo is one step closer to becoming a reality.

In a unanimous decision last night, Waterloo City Council voted to approve to move towards the construction of a fourth library location by proceeding to detailed design, as part of the RIM Park Manulife Financial Sportsplex and Healthy Living Centre.

After completing an extensive feasibility study and a series of public engagement exercises, WPL and City of Waterloo staff presented a report to City Council recommending the approval of the East Side Library Feasibility Study and proceeding to detailed design in anticipation of construction funding for a new East Side Branch Library to be considered as part of the City's 2019 budget process.

"We are truly thrilled to be able to move forward with this new branch, and we thank the City of Waterloo for their collaboration and support", said Laurie Clarke, Waterloo Public Library's CEO.

Also approved was a new Funding and Operating Agreement between WPL and the City of Waterloo, which will be in place for 10 years. This agreement provides a sustainable funding model for the three existing branches. Funding for the fourth branch has been identified and will be added by the City of Waterloo as an additional amount in 2020, when the East Side Branch Library is proposed to open.

Waterloo Public Library currently has three locations, including the Main Library in Uptown Waterloo, the John M. Harper Branch in Laurelwood and the McCormick Branch in the Sunnydale neighbourhood.

"This is an important moment in Waterloo, for all of us at the WPL and for the citizens we serve," said Karen Scian, Chair of the WPL Board of Trustees. "We have successfully secured sustainable funding for our current branches and have paved a clear and responsible path forward, to a sustainably-funded four-branch library system, including a new branch on the east side of the city."

For more information, please visit wpl.ca.

For any questions or comments, please contact:
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Waterloo Public Library

Main Library
35 Albert Street
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5E2
T 519.886.1310 ext. 110

John M. Harper Branch
500 Fischer-Hallman Road North
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 0B1
T 519.886.1310 ext. 310

McCormick Branch
500 Parkside Drive
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5J4
T 519.886.1310 ext. 213