

January 18, 2021

## Community Art Project Will Enhance the New Glarus Library

By Beth Blahut

[New Glarus, WI, January 18, 2021] Over the years, efforts to build a new library in the Village of New Glarus have come a long way and while the pandemic has put many things on hold, these efforts continue. As we come closer to achieving the dream of a new building, the library has developed a project to encourage people of all ages to make art for the new library.

In December, the library received a \$5,353 grant from the Anonymous II Fund of the New Glarus Community Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin. The grant, titled, 'Mapping Our Community: Perspectives and Stories from a World Transformed,' is a community-wide art project inspiring people to reflect on and share personal experiences of the year 2020. Participants of all skill levels will be encouraged to record memories and tell stories on their maps illustrating how their priorities have shifted during the past year. The project will provide materials and inspiration for area residents to draw, paint or collage maps of their world during the pandemic using various media on paper. One family could work together to make a map or friends could collaborate, revealing how they stayed connected in 2020.

In mid-February, art materials and other resources for the project will be available for pick-up at the New Glarus Public Library's 4th Avenue window. The deadline to submit completed maps will be April 9-10.

An inspirational video, calendar of related events and online gallery of residents' maps will be shared on the 'You Are Here' website, which will be launched in February.

The 'Mapping Our Community' works of art will be displayed in a public exhibition during the New Glarus 175th Anniversary Celebration, July 29 to August 1, 2021.

A number of these unique maps will be framed for long-term display at the new library. The map project is the first in an exciting series of projects with the theme, "bringing the community into the library through the arts."

NEW GLARUS PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Photo: Library Board Trustee, Beth Blahut, who is managing the project, draws preliminary sketches for her map.*

February 12, 2021

## Do Something Fun in February and March

By Beth Blahut

If you're looking for a fun activity to do in February and March, get involved in the 'Mapping Our Community' project and create a map of New Glarus with colorful pencils and paint.

The New Glarus Public Library invites you to map your 2020 experiences: where you went, how you stayed connected, and what has shifted in your life during the pandemic. You do not need to be an artist to participate.

The maps will be exhibited during New Glarus's 175th celebration this summer. And your map could be selected to hang permanently on the walls of the new library building.

Pick up free art supplies at the New Glarus Public Library from February 12 through April 1, while supplies last (limited to the first 100 participants).

For more information about 'Mapping Our Community: Perspectives and stories from a world transformed', check out the new 'You Are Here' website at [youareherengpl.org](http://youareherengpl.org). In addition to providing inspiration and instructions for the community mapping project, the website will inform the public about future arts programming being developed by the New Glarus Public Library. The library is committed to "bringing the community into the library through the arts".

The map project is made possible with a grant from the Anonymous II Fund of the New Glarus Community Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin.



*Photo: A map of New Glarus in progress (courtesy Beth Blahut)*

February 18, 2021

# Press Release Create a Map of New Glarus

## Create a Map of New Glarus

By Beth Blahut

The year 2020 has challenged us all, individually and collectively. Share your stories of the past year on a map that shows where you went, how you stayed connected, and what has changed in your life. The New Glarus Public Library is providing art supplies for community members to draw and paint maps of New Glarus. The project is for all ages and all skill levels.

The 'Mapping Our Community' project will promote well-being throughout the area by offering a forum for discussion. In addition to helping people find a path forward, a number of maps will be selected to hang permanently on the walls of the new library building.

Go to [youarehereNGPL.org](http://youarehereNGPL.org) for registration details, inspiration and instructions. Pick up your art supplies at the New Glarus Public Library's 4th Ave window through April 1st, while supplies last (limited to the first 100 participants).

The map project is made possible with a grant from the Anonymous II Fund of the New Glarus Community Fund of the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin.

### Image



*Image: Preliminary sketches of New Glarus, courtesy of Beth Blahut*

May 14, 2021

## Library Building Project Public Information Session

By Beth Blahut

The New Glarus Library Board, Village Board and Shepherd of the Hills congregation are considering a purchase agreement for the parcel next to Candy Cane Park as a potential site of the new library building. Architects at Dimension-IV have drawn up a concept plan that includes expanding public green space, making the sledding hill public property and building a new community library.

All are welcome to stop by an "Open House" on Saturday, May 22nd, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at Candy Cane Park.

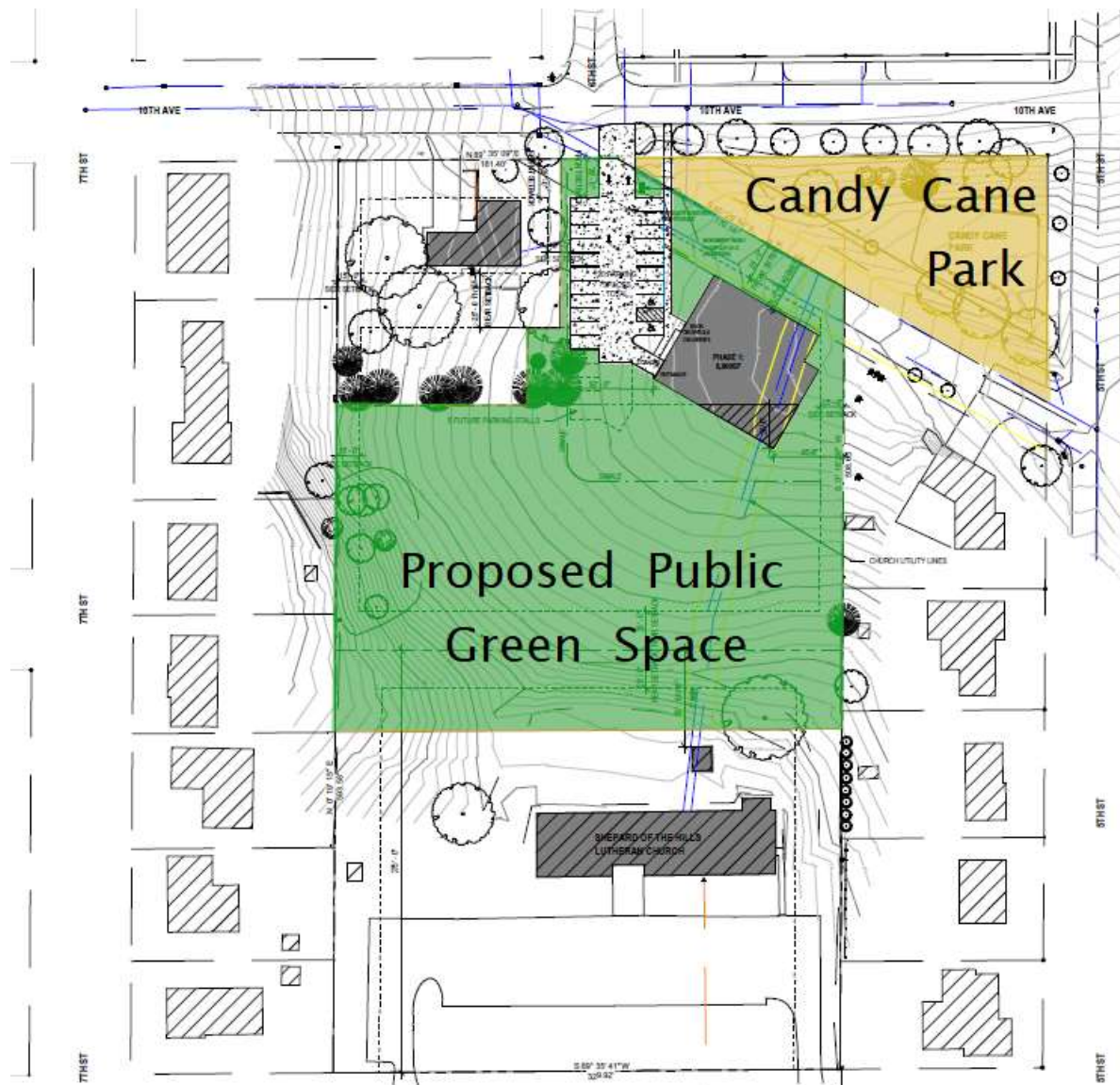
This is an opportunity to learn more, ask questions and contribute to informal discussions regarding the preliminary plans. Library Board members and library staff will be available to share information about the plans and gather feedback, and there will also be feedback forms you may submit anonymously if desired. Feedback will be reviewed by library and Village trustees and staff.

Rain date: Sunday May 23, 2:00-5:00

July 2021

On Wednesday, July 21, 2021 the Library Board voted to cease consideration of the property at 10th Avenue, owned by Shepherd of the Hills, as they no longer felt it was the best location for a new library facility.

Below is an archive of the information posted about this site during its consideration period.



The Library Board, Village Board and Shepherd of the Hills congregation are considering a purchase agreement for the parcel next to Candy Cane Park. The land would be purchased with library building project funds, and legally owned by the Village

with the Library Board as custodian. It is zoned residential, allowing both public libraries and recreational grounds.

### What would be included in this project?

- A new library sized to current funds, estimated at 6,900 SF.
- Green space made public, including the sledding hill.
- Public parking and restrooms available during library hours.
- Building expansion is a possibility for the future, but is not currently affordable and designs have not been selected. If funds become available, designs and costs for expansion would be explored as a separate project.

### What are the next steps in the process?

Several important steps must take place before this plan could become a reality:

1. Gathering public feedback. On Saturday May 22, 2021, a public information session was held at Candy Cane Park. The Library and Village Boards will review the feedback received at the event and via email and social media, and welcome additional public comments and questions. Feedback forms are available at the library, or you may email the boards directly (see contact information below).
2. Finalizing sale terms and agreement approval by all parties (congregation, Village and Library Boards).
3. Completion of building design and approval by the Library and Village Boards.
4. Approval of the Certified Survey Map and site plan, including Village engineering, utilities and stormwater considerations.
5. Formal bidding process.

### How do I find out more?

Attend meetings:

- Library Board meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Agendas and approved minutes are available at [newglaruspubliclibrary.org/agendas-minutes](http://newglaruspubliclibrary.org/agendas-minutes).
- Village Board meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.  
See [newglarusvillage.com/government/agendas-minutes](http://newglarusvillage.com/government/agendas-minutes).

Watch for updates in the Post Messenger Recorder, or [sign up for our email newsletter](#).

Updates are also posted under [Recent News](#), and project history is available on the [History and Archives](#) page.

For a list of questions recently answered by the trustees, please see 10th Avenue FAQs below.

Library trustees welcome your comments and questions. Feel free to email [libraryboard@ngpl.org](mailto:libraryboard@ngpl.org), or ask the library (608-527-2003) for a list of individual trustee emails or phone numbers. Village trustee information is listed at [newglarusvillage.com/government/village-board](http://newglarusvillage.com/government/village-board).

## 10th Avenue Location FAQs

*Originally posted 6/5/2021. Last updated 6/18/2021.*

Could the building be moved closer to 10th Avenue, to preserve more of the sledding path?

The architects initially proposed four site layouts, and the Library Board selected the one they felt struck the best balance of preserving the hill and green space while allowing the required amount of off-street parking. Based on the feedback received at the public information session on May 22, 2021, the Board and architects are exploring whether adjustments can be made to the parking plan or utilities.

Can the size of the parking lot be reduced and/or more parking be added to the street?

Per Village ordinance, a 6,900 SF building would need to include a minimum of 18 off-street parking spaces without a variance. We are working with the Village to review alternative options.

Is it possible to move the playground equipment further west and place the building on the corner of 10th Avenue and 5th Street?

Our architects have confirmed that there is not sufficient space for a 6,900 SF building on the Candy Cane lot. It currently has about 3,000 SF of buildable space with required setbacks from the street and utilities. If the Valley Lane right-of-way were vacated, the Candy Cane lot would increase to about 5,500 SF of buildable space.

Will any new streetlights or parking lot floodlights be added with this project?

At this point the design is not far enough along to say. The Board will make every effort to ensure that any necessary outdoor lighting is neighborhood-friendly.



Will public restrooms be available for park users and sledders?

Yes, during library hours the restrooms would be open and available to the public.

What will be done about the substantial stormwater issue in this area?

The library project engineer is working with the Village engineer to design a system that would improve the existing drainage issue.

Will sidewalks be added to nearby streets because of this project?

This project would require a sidewalk pathway from the 10th Avenue entrance to the building, included in our project costs. At this time, no additional sidewalk installation is planned.

What if construction or increased traffic damages streets?

Village streets are evaluated annually and repair projects are prioritized based on this evaluation.

What other sites are being/have been considered - what about downtown locations, or something next to the schools?

The Library Board is currently focused on getting a final decision on the purchase of the 10th Avenue property, and is not actively pursuing any other locations at this time.

Over 20 possible locations have been evaluated based on an established set of criteria. There are also costs associated with the site studies and preliminary architectural work that are required to determine an estimate of building size, placement and overall budget. For information about the project's history, please see the [History and Archives page](#). Feel free to [contact the Library Board](#) with any additional questions.

September 16, 2021

Update from the New Glarus Library Board By Beth Blahut The Library Board continues to work toward the goal of a new library facility for the New Glarus community. In early 2020, the Library Board made a decision to pause fundraising efforts for the library building project due to the financial challenges that businesses and individuals in our community were facing because of the COVID pandemic. In consideration of this financial situation, the Board shifted to a new approach; building what we can afford with the current funds that we have. This idea led the Board to consider new sites because the site prep necessary at the Durst Road property would be considerable and would greatly reduce the funds available for the actual building itself. The Library Board continues to evaluate the Shepherd of the Hills site, the Zwingli site near the Swiss Church, and the Durst Road property to determine which site would work best to give the community the best facility possible for the funds available. In August, the New Glarus Library Board said goodbye to outgoing Library Director, Holly Lague. The Board members concur that Lague's legacy is formidable in spite of the short two and a half years that she served the community as Director. Erica Loeffelholz is acting as interim Library Director while the Board conducts a search for a new library director.