



# EDGEWATER COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT



**NOVEMBER 2017**



Jefferson County  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

In 2016, the opportunity for a new and expanded library for Edgewater became a reality when the City offered Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) 10,000 square feet in the new civic center. JCPL has been gathering information about Edgewater for several months in order to create a new space that reflects both what residents would like to see and the uniqueness of Edgewater. The first step was finding out who lives there and uses the Edgewater library.

Edgewater is often described as a small town surrounded by a big city. The number of people living in Edgewater has remained steady with 5,146 in 1995 and according to U.S. Census 2010 data, the number of residents living in the city of Edgewater in 2010 is 5,170 (<http://censusviewer.com/city/CO/Edgewater>). Edgewater residents represent a more diverse population than the state as a whole. The City has seen a 19 percent increase in its Hispanic population from 2000 to 2010. The largest age group is adults 25 to 34, and they have been increasing. Part of the reason for this change is that many of the residents are new to the area, with 49 percent moving in between 2010-2014. While Edgewater housing costs are relatively affordable, 23 percent of owners and 50 percent of renters are paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/edgewatercitycolorado/PST045216#viewtop>). We expect to see these trends continue, with housing and population remaining stable and demographics continuing to shift as new residents look to Edgewater as a community they want to live in.

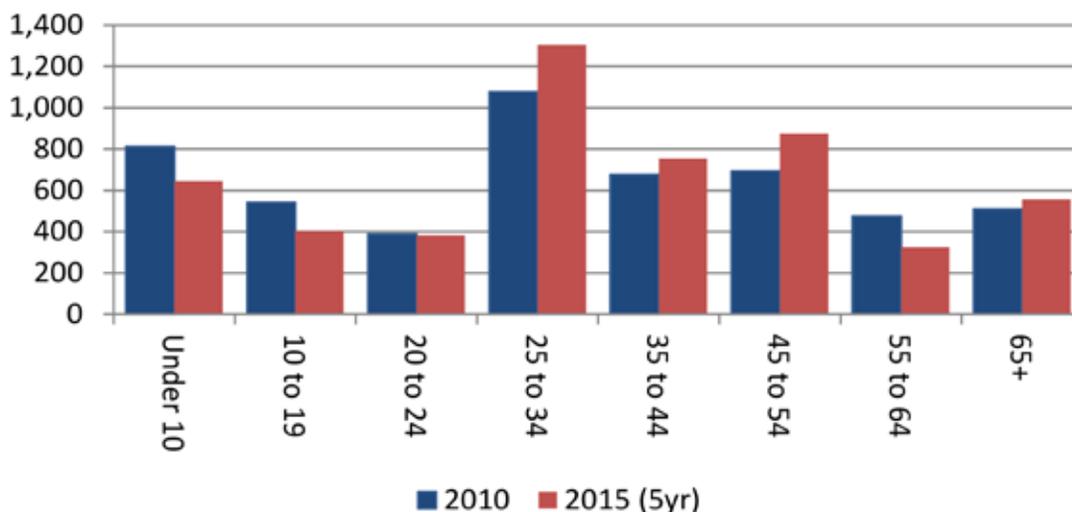
## RACE & ETHNICITY

	2000	2010	2010 %	Colorado 2010 %
Total	5,445	5,170		
White	3,175	2,622	50.7%	70.0%
Black or African American	68	70	1.4%	3.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	46	24	0.5%	0.6%
Asian	70	60	1.2%	2.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other	10	5	0.1%	0.1%
Some Other Race	13	4	0.1%	0.2%
Two or More	124	75	1.5%	2.0%
Hispanic	1,939	2,310	44.7%	20.7%

Source: U.S. Census 2010

## POPULATION BY AGE

Source: US Census



JCPL hosted community meetings in October and November, and provided an online survey in October for those who could not attend a meeting or simply wanted to offer more input. Thirty-five residents attended the first set of meetings in September, 60 attended the second set of meetings in November, and 67 responded to the online survey. The first set of meetings sought input on how people use and think about the library. The second set of meetings gave people a chance to offer input on a proposed floorplan, talk about what they would like to see in their new library and share how they would like the library to feel. While some attended one meeting, some filled out an online survey and some did all three, common themes were identified and a few surprises emerged.

Edgewater has a rich history that contributes to the community's pride and hometown feel. We heard that residents would like to have that history and uniqueness reflected in the library. Not surprisingly most people use the current library to browse books and pick up requested items. It was by far the most frequent comment in the online survey (over 49 responses listed checking out items as what they did at the library). The small space of the current Edgewater contributes to this high number since there is not a lot of space to do much more than that. Many expressed they are looking forward to being able to do more. A few expressed concern and regret about the library no longer being in downtown. They did not want to lose their connection to staff and community that the small current library represents.

In the first set of community meetings and in the online survey people were asked about;

- how they use the library
- what they value about the library
- how the library should feel
- their favorite places in the library and Edgewater

**“ I think the library should look at the past in what has been successful, I.E. Traditional books/media loaning and also towards the future with the advent of online material... A balance between the two would be wonderful. ”**  
(online survey comment)



Photos from Community Meetings held on September 28 & 30.



We heard that the library needs to be inviting and welcoming to everyone. It is important that it is multicultural with signs in both English and Spanish. The space needs to be flexible and allow both children and teens the ability to be themselves, while also providing quiet spaces for reflection and study. Space is needed to meet and collaborate. We need to have technology not only for today, but also for what might be the next new thing. A comment in the online survey expresses this idea better than we could;

***The library was an oasis where I could immerse myself in history. It placed everything at my fingertips and opened the world to me. In a world that often judges us based on our economic situation or other factors, the library is a place of comfort welcoming to all.***

Input from the first set of community meetings and survey was used to create the first floorplan for the library. The second set of community meetings asked for feedback and comments on this design. There were seven themed tables available to invite input on different areas of the library. Input and comments will be used from this meeting to make changes to the floorplan. It will also be used to help in designing the library's look and feel to reflect the Edgewater community. Major inputs are captured in the following pages.



Photo from the community meetings held on November 2 & 4.

### **LIBRARY ENTRY**

This space should start before the door inviting everyone into the library. The space should be open, with natural light and a space for displays. It should be easy to find items to check out. Many liked the curved shelving between the entry and the children's area. "Love the after-hours pick up spot" (post it comment).

### **CHILDREN'S AREA**

Need a designated space for story time and creative play. "Books are obviously super important, but so is imaginative play!" (Quote from the online survey) This space should allow families to use the library together so there is a place for both small children to learn and play, and for older children to read, use a computer or do homework. We need to remember that adults also need a comfortable place to sit as well. "A self-check in the children's area is a must" (post it comment).

### **TEEN AREA**

The teen area should be distinctive from the rest of the library and have its own look and feel. It needs to have flexible furniture and allow teens to be teens. Teens need space to work together and need writable surfaces (dry erase). There was some concern expressed about having teens so close to the computer area.

### **ADULT AREAS**

Create nooks with books so there are places to sit. Have comfy chairs. Many liked that the computers faced different directions. The collection should be on lower shelves and arranged so that it is easy to find things. Tables should be moveable and flexible so people can work individually or in groups. Make sure there is enough seating. Vary the height of tables and chairs so that it fits everyone.



Photo from the community meetings held on November 2 & 4.

### **STUDY ROOMS**

Many liked the three study rooms. We heard one suggestion asking if one of the rooms could be soundproofed so that it could be used for sound recording.

### **QUIET READING AREA**

Many liked the idea of a fireplace and having the hearth double as a stage. They also asked for seats near the windows. Having a designated quiet space was popular since there was concern about noise in an open library space with few walls. The moveable wall was a “cool idea”.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Many liked the idea of checking out laptops and using them anywhere in the building. We were reminded that we will need to have convenient outlets so both laptops and other devices can be plugged in. They suggested we ensure the Wi-Fi coverage is good, and asked if Wi-Fi will be available throughout the community center. We heard requests to have more than just computers, but also things such as 3D printers, and offering tech classes. They want the ability to charge phones and other devices.

### **OTHER**

People wanted to be sure there was good lighting, and energy savings was important. The library should be an experience, and both modern while respecting the past. Everything should be flexible, think about moveable shelves.

We heard that the library should be modern, accessible, welcoming, and inclusive. Our hope is that when we build and open the new library that it will be a space that fulfills the sentiment expressed in the following online survey comments:

***“It should feel like I never want to leave. I want to feel like I’m the only person there.”***

***“Libraries are everything! They are education and adventure all in one place.”***