

# **BOWN CROSSING BRANCH LIBRARY! HEALTH IMPACT ASSESMENT**



*A document prepared for the City of  
Boise by Vitruvian Planning, LLC.*



# Library!

## Acknowledgments

The City of Boise thanks the following people and organizations who participated in the Health Impact Assessment workshops and provided input to this document.

- City of Boise staff and elected officials, specifically Elaine Clegg, TJ Thomson, Rob Bousfield, Kevin Booe, Denise McNeley, Shawn Wilson, and Toby Norton
- Corey Surber, St. Alphonsus
- Theresa McCloud, St Luke's
- Brian McDevitt, Southeast Neighborhood Association
- Rebecca Lemons, Central District Health Department
- Brooke Lowery, Ada County Highway District
- Erin Kubena, Riverside Elementary School
- Sarah Martz, Harris Ranch
- Angie Gribble, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

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**Health Impact  
Assessment for  
Bown Crossing  
Branch Library**

## Executive Summary

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

The first health impact assessment or HIA, conducted on behalf of the City of Boise was focused on the Bown Crossing Branch Library. The new community library has been in the development pipeline for several years and a project that has been eagerly anticipated. With the success of the other branch libraries within the Boise system, the Bown Crossing library was seen as a good candidate for the first HIA given the timing, emergence of the topic, available funding and the genuine desire to determine how the presence and offerings of the library may impact the health of community members. This Rapid HIA, is the result of the effort and provides an overview of impacts from operational offerings, impacts from the site and location itself, and provides recommendations to bolster the library to make positive impacts for visiting patrons.

### The HIA Process

There are six steps within the HIA process:

- Screening
- Scoping
- Assessment
- Recommendations and Mitigation
- Reporting
- Evaluation and Monitoring

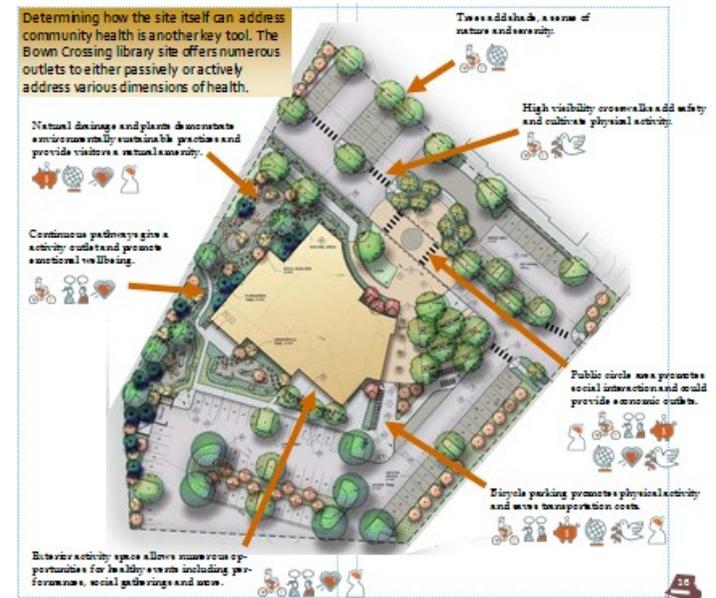
The steps and how they were applied are provided with greater detail within the report. This HIA consisted of several events to address each of the formal HIA steps including:

- Preliminary stakeholder meetings to gauge the approach and the initial lay-out, design and intent of the library;
- Training workshop to identify HIA goals of the HIA; and
- A broader on-site discussion used to collect additional insight from area representatives and to determine potential health claims.

### Site findings

Overall the site and the library layout lends itself well to poten-

tially improving the health of nearby residents and patrons. The central location of Bown Crossing between numerous residential areas of East Boise, Harris Ranch, Columbia Village and others gives thousands of residents an opportunity to utilize numerous offerings provided by the library. Other assets in close proximity include the connections with Parkcenter Boulevard and Boise Avenue, Riverside, Liberty and White Pine Elementary Schools, East Junior High School and Timberline High School, the Boise River and Greenbelt, to name a few. The library itself offers several healthy elements that include outdoor space that help fulfill environmental



**Numerous health elements are present. Graphic is shown with greater resolution on page 16.**

health, activity spaces that promote social and emotional health, bike racks and pathways that help improve physical health, promote additional visitors to nearby Bown Crossing to bolster economic health, and give sanctuary through quiet natural settings that fulfill spiritual health.

## Executive Summary

**F**orecasting use of the library is difficult to determine with specificity. However, using research and survey data collected in the US and in Europe, a range of use can be determined. If seniors and youth populations within the local service area are combined, assumptions made on the percentage of users likely to patron the library and the frequency which they visit applied, basic visitor rates can be determined. The likely number of visitors from both groups will approach 50,000 per year. With popular programs and offerings, this figure could rise significantly and even approach 90,000 in the future.

Combined Annual Trips	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
6	2514	5779	6224	3348	5288	10990	9575	43719
9	3770	8669	9337	5022	7933	16485	14362	65578
12	5254	12036	12989	6890	11003	23141	20267	91580

Youth (<18) population is higher than seniors in the Bown Crossing service area though seniors do make up a significant proportion as well. The Bown Crossing library will likely see at least 27,000 annual visits from those under the age of 18. Due to the proximity of two local schools and popularity of Bown Crossing itself, the numbers will likely be higher. Taking full advantage of this audience in various ways will be key to realize the full impact of the libraries influence.

Under 18 Annual Visits	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
6	1476	3099	3514	1260	2769	7547	7266	26930
9	2214	4648	5271	1890	4154	11320	10899	40394
12	3179	6674	7568	2713	5964	16254	15649	58002

Seniors (61+) in the service area are also expected to visit the library on a fairly regular basis. With higher concentrations of seniors in Census tracts 8.02, 8.03 and 101, outreach in those areas could be beneficial in terms of program recruitment, volunteer opportunities and general library happenings.

61+ Annual Visits	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
6	1037	2681	2711	2088	2519	3444	2309	16789
9	1556	4021	4066	3133	3779	5166	3463	25184
12	2075	5362	5421	4177	5039	6887	4618	33578

**Library Staff Recommendations** - The Bown Crossing library will be an asset for Boise residents and beyond. With additional actions, the library could be even more impactful to the lives of patrons and employees.

**Use the Whole Site**—Inside and outside, the library has a numerous assets that offer elements essential to total health; activities should take full advantage of both.

**Challenge and Engage Seniors**—Use the local demographics to advertise, outreach and fully engage the population segment.

**Observe and Survey**—Continually seek the feedback of patrons and possibly nearby residents to adjust and improve programs and offerings, and broaden appeal.

**Work with Healthcare Providers**—Regularly work with local health care providers to host outreach events, clinics, or similar health interventions.

**General City Support**- City decision makers, leadership and executive team members can further support the library into the future by taking actions or supporting library efforts.

**Program Offerings**- Suggested program offerings may involve other community entities. Funding, MOU type agreements, or other administrative support may be necessary.

**Embrace the Surroundings**- Promoting off site activities originating from the library may need an examination of liability, cooperation and cross promotion with entities like Bown Crossing businesses, Parks & Recreation, or the Boise School District.

**Monitor Patronage**—The City can support the Bown Crossing library by approving more frequent patron surveys or surveying general citizens to determine usage rates, areas of interests, or ways to improve the overall experience.

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Introduction

The concept of “library” has been a staple of mankind for thousands of years. Since the early forms of written word, mankind has collected literary and historical works to study, share and maintain. The modern day US library system has grown and evolved from the first official library in New York, to the tens of thousands strewn across the nation today. Libraries have included private and university collections, truly public collections and now electronic versions that do not include any physical items.

The ability for members of a given community to access knowledge of all sorts is a powerful one. Knowledge, especially the written word, were once held for only the elite of cultures, but continues to permeate all elements of society, through societal elements such as libraries. For decades libraries were mostly comprised of stacks of books, current newspapers and magazines and the home of occasional meetings or election polling place. But today’s modern library is far more than the traditional quiet reading place so many Americans grew up with. Libraries now offer significant exposure to various forms of technology, cultural, civic and social clubs, lecture and presentation exchanges,



*Americas first public library in New York City*

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

recreational and activity hubs, and even occasional medical services.

With so many offerings at modern libraries, virtually everyone can find something of interest or value to

enrich their lives in some fashion. Looking beyond the programs offered at libraries, such community assets may also contribute to the overall health of residents in other, perhaps less obvious ways. Where a library is located, how it interfaces with the adjacent community, its layout, and the ways the facility can lend itself to additional activity generation are perhaps less apparent.

It is precisely due to these myriad of influences and outcomes from the modern public library concept that the City of Boise sought to determine how public health of area residents may be impacted with the construction and operation of the newest branch library located at Bown Crossing in Southeast Boise. The process to determine such outcomes is called a Health Impact Assessment or HIA. This HIA presents the findings of such an undertaking and is intended to inform the public, library operators and the City of Boise on ways in which the library could impact human health beyond the fundamental act of accessing information or literary works. This HIA goes deeper into the influences the library will have and illustrates the likely impacts; both qualitative and quantitative.



*Modern library, Seattle, WA.*

## HIA Process

Upon completion of the Bown Crossing Branch Library design and development process, it was determined by the leadership of the City of Boise, that conducting a Health Impact Assessment would be beneficial in helping to understand how the library can impact or influence community health. Though it was naturally assumed that the library would improve health in some ways, it was not exactly clear on how and in what ways health could be impacted.

The City of Boise is currently taking proactive steps to be the most livable city in the nation. This effort includes goals that pertain to various elements of community health. The Lasting, Innovative, Vibrant (LIV) program and its principles dovetail with the intent of Health Impact Assessment and thus support for undertaking such an exercise was seen as a natural fit. This HIA is a result of the decisions to support the assessment and will be used to know how exactly the findings can improve the overall project and customer experience within the spirit of the LIV ideals. HIA is a method of determining potential impacts on community health measures of a proposed plan, policy or project. The HIA process utilized for the Bown Library is what's known as a "Rapid HIA". A Rapid HIA generally consists of a stakeholder workshop, assessment, and development of mitigation and evaluation strategies. An outline of this method is shown in Exhibit 1-1. The HIA is a standalone document for decision makers to use how they see fit as the library is constructed and operations get underway.

### Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

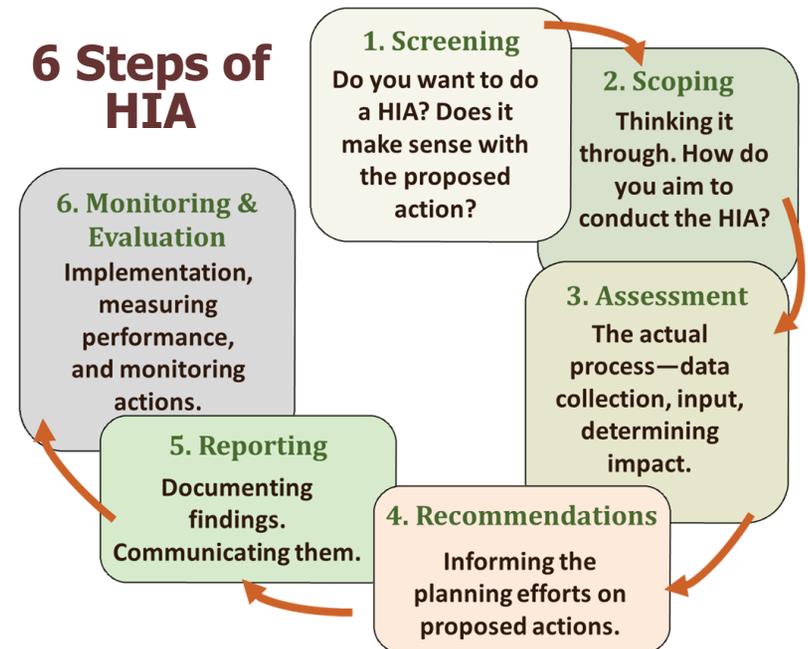


Lasting. Innovative. Vibrant.

#### Boise LIV Principles

- Create Lasting Environments
- Cultivate Innovative Enterprises
- Build Vibrant Communities

## 6 Steps of HIA



The HIA effort began in July 2015 with conditions assessments and data analysis prior to a half-day stakeholder workshop in September 2015 and an assessment / evaluation period leading up to the results shown in this report. The six steps to HIA include:

1. **Screening:** Used to determine if a plan, project, or policy would benefit from an HIA.
2. **Scoping:** Determining how to conduct the HIA, the data needed and the desired end products.
3. **Assessment:** The principal activity of the HIA, this establishes methods and data sources to determine likely impacts to a community.
4. **Recommendations:** Findings from the Assessment led to recommendations to either mitigate or strengthen the plan's outputs.
5. **Reporting:** The reporting was accomplished through this written report and presentations.
6. **Monitoring:** Lastly, monitoring is an ongoing process involving many stakeholders that ensures the plan is implemented and health impacts are assessed as the library operates into the future.

## HIA Process

The health impact assessment process includes six steps as defined on the previous page. To gain a better understanding of how each were applied to the project, the steps are further described.

**Screening.** The screening process was conducted after conversations between the City staff and HIA team were held. After an understanding as to what the intent of the HIA was, why it was sought and the potential value the resulting document could provide, the City felt that undergoing such as assessment would be valuable and insightful.

**Scoping.** The geographic scope was determined to be an area inclusive of Census tracts within 3 miles of the Bown Library site as such a distance has been determined to be bikeable through national research. This distance also acknowledges the likely use of the Main and Hillcrest libraries by residents to the west of the Bown Crossing. Beyond the geography, it was determined through a training workshop with City staff that the focus populations would include seniors and children.

**Assessment.** The Assessment phase was extensive. It included a stakeholder workshop to gather professional insight as to the type and breadth of impacts of the planned library. It also considered the demographics of the population the library would impact. A literature review was conducted to determine the accuracy and merit of health-related claims offered through the process. A quantitative analysis using demographic data was performed to help identify and measure likely impacts in light of what the evidence-based research identified through the literature review suggested.



### ALA 8 Key Action Areas:

- **Advocacy for Libraries and the Profession**
- **Diversity**
- **Education and Lifelong Learning**
- **Equitable Access to Information and Library**
- **Services**
- **Intellectual Freedom**
- **Literacy**
- **Organizational Excellence**
- **Transforming Libraries**

**Recommendations.** The recommendations offered as part of the HIA were determined through numerous methods. Several of the recommendations are derived by directly engaging stakeholders through an interactive workshop. Stakeholders were invited to participate in several information and opinion gathering exercises focused on the library and nearby area and the many associated elements serving the site. Other recommendations were determined through further evaluating comments or academic research as well as using health and demographic observations to project timing and geographic and demographic consideration.

**Reporting.** The reporting of findings is offered through the HIA and future outreach efforts stemming from the final site design and associated HIA. City staff, health professionals, and others will hopefully use the findings

of this HIA to pursue library programming, on and off site enhancements, and be able to work with health professionals and other partners to perhaps pursue funding opportunities to further improve health conditions through the vehicle of the Bown Crossing library.

**Monitoring.** The City, Boise school district, local agencies, non-profits, and other organizations associated with this HIA will be tasked with

keeping the HIA process alive into the future by performing certain, periodic support tasks. These tasks include measuring the progress of the library and working with local health agencies to determine actual impacts of the site on the health of local residents, specifically seniors and children. In some cases, new and unique monitoring tasks were identified through the HIA process. In others, monitoring steps were simply added on to existing efforts already on-going within area agencies.

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Seven Dimensions of Health

As noted in the Introduction, addressing health should be a holistic endeavor focused on the whole person and the whole community. Health is made up of many interconnected components that must all be achieved individually in order to obtain overall health.

These components can be easily organized into what is known as *The Seven Dimensions of Health and Wellness*. Each of the seven dimensions are interrelated and each has the ability to strongly influence the others.

The Bown Crossing library is a facility that may bring enrichment to the lives of many local residents. It is key that the library be looked at beyond intellectual health. It is important that the community thinks of what programs events and facilities it can house that address the additional ele-



## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

ments. The HIA attempted to address the impacts of the library through the lens of the seven dimensions, recognizing that some dimensions are and will continue to be more applicable than others.

**Physical Health:** The ability to maintain a healthy quality of life that allows us to get through our daily activities without undue fatigue or physical stress. The ability to recognize that our behaviors have a significant impact on our wellness and adopting healthful habits while avoiding destructive habits will lead to optimal Physical Wellness.

**Social Health:** The ability to relate to and connect with other people in our world. Our ability to establish and maintain positive relationships with family, friends and co-workers contributes to our Social Wellness.

**Economic Health:** The ability to get personal fulfillment from our jobs or our chosen career fields while still maintaining balance in our lives. Our desire to contribute in our careers to make a positive impact on the organizations we work in and to society as a whole.

**Environmental Health:** The ability to recognize our own responsibility for the quality of the air, the water and the land that surrounds us. The ability to make a positive impact on the quality of our environment, be it our homes, our communities or our planet.

**Intellectual Health:** The ability to open our minds to new ideas and experiences that can be applied to personal decisions, group interaction and community betterment. The desire to learn new concepts, improve skills and seek challenges in pursuit of lifelong learning)

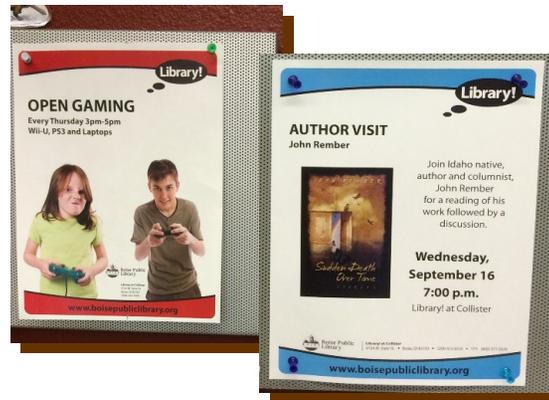
**Emotional Health:** The ability to understand ourselves and cope with the challenges life can bring. The ability to acknowledge and share feelings of anger, fear, sadness or stress; hope, love, joy and happiness in a productive manner.

**Spiritual Health:** The ability to establish peace and harmony in our lives. The ability to develop congruency between values and actions and to realize a common purpose that binds creation together.

## Seven Dimensions of Health

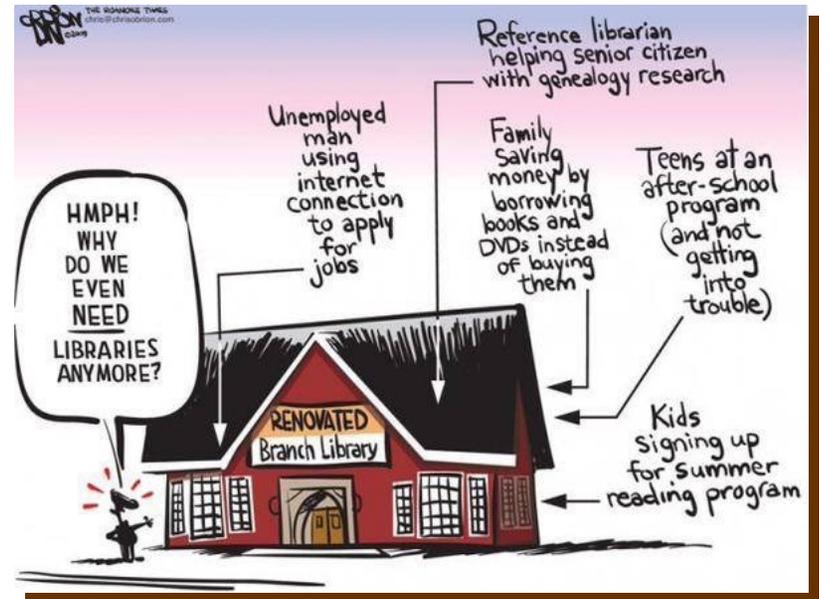
**Physical Health**— Libraries may not be thought of as drivers of physical health. However, modern libraries do contribute to physical health if users take advantage of programs, proximity and special events. With proper siting and infrastructure, walking or bicycling to and from a branch library should be achievable. Support elements such as bicycle parking, limited interaction with traffic, lighting and other enhancements can be the difference between heavy rates of active transportation rates and minimal. Additionally, libraries now host “Fit and Fall Proof” courses for seniors to avoid falling or significant impacts from falls, children are offered interactive gaming nights and after school programs that encourage physical activity.

*Youth gaming and author lectures promote both physical and social health*



**Social Health**— The traditional library elicits images of people sitting in complete independent silence, reading to themselves. While this sort of traditional activity still occurs and is encouraged, modern libraries have embraced interaction by individuals and groups. Social health is achieved within the libraries through informal and formal meetings and discussions, lectures, club gatherings, neighborhood group meetings and numerous other interactions that not only nourish the need for social health but depend on it for the success of the meetings and gatherings.

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library



**Economic Health**— Economic health can be achieved through the boosting of local activity like commercial/retail sales, increases in real estate values and reduction of time and resources thus a savings to households by traveling a shorter distance to a library than prior. The immediate area and outlets at Bown Crossing will likely see increased economic activity as a result of the library and the patrons accessing the library.



*Examination of health care options are available in Boise libraries*

Beyond this realm, personal economic health is promoted through access to technology like computers and tablets, the learning and programmatic offerings that teach personal financial such as retirement planning, college tuition savings plans, medical or health care related decision making, and investing. Classes on these subjects are offered periodically and can help those in need of such knowledge gain the tools necessary for a more independent financial freedom.

## Seven Dimensions of Health

3

### Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

**E**nvironmental Health— The health of the environment is an important value in Boise. With so many large regional parks, designated green space requirements for development, the continual expansion of large open spaces in the foothills, and numerous initiatives to reduce driving and increase density, Boise is committed to improving the environmental health of residents.

The new library site helps foster this appreciation for the environment in various ways.

Plans on the site call for stormwater retention through pervious materials which means less runoff into the Boise River. Large gardens of native plant species will be used requiring less water. Numerous lectures and discussions will be had on topics such as solar paneling for residential use and community or personal gardens. And youth programs geared towards teaching kids about sustainability concepts and ecology will be held.

Less obvious ways the library contributes to environmental health include the siting on a bus stop, centralized location to the surrounding neighborhood meaning reduced driving miles, access to the Boise greenbelt for bicyclists and pedestrians, and the proximity to retail/commercial outlets which could reduce additional driving trips.

**I**ntellectual Health— Perhaps the most obvious element of health within a library environment, intellectual health will most certainly be achieved for all who patron the Bown library. Beyond reading and retaining knowledge made available in periodicals, a myriad of classes, lectures, seminars, discussions, group activities, organized meetings and other events will all contribute greatly to the intellectual health of library patrons young and old.



*Xeriscape gardens such as those at the Ustick library will be used at the Bown site*

**E**motional Health— The emotional well being of people is critical for the full enjoyment of life. Emotional health, sometimes called mental health, helps determine a persons outlook, their interactions with others and even productivity.

Libraries are often highly valued by society in general for what they offer and represent. The Bown library will offer children and seniors an outlets to learn, interact, and flourish all in an environment that brings in natural lighting, immerses patrons in green spaces and even allows people to be outside while still technically being in the library. In additional to self-help courses, countless offerings will be made available on coping skills, mental exercises and behavioral strategies.



*Kids learning, interacting and flourishing at Ustick library (image blurred for privacy)*

**S**piritual Health— Spiritual health is had through numerous outlets including private reflection, philosophy, learning of religious beliefs and doctrine, and even sitting in a semi natural environment and reconnecting with nature.

The library site will offer various offerings toward fulfillment of spiritual health, many described already. Classes, support groups, and lectures on such spiritual topics will foster true spiritual health. Occasional church gatherings and text studies will also occur as groups seek dedicated quiet spaces to conduct such activities. The site location itself also allows patrons to have such spiritual experiences along the Boise River and through the numerous parks nearby.

## Areas & Priorities

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

The Bown Crossing Branch library is located in Southeast Boise just six miles from downtown. Bown Crossing is a unique development that is two stories and mixed use by offering retail outlets and restaurants on the ground floor and either residential or office on the second floor. The development has been a welcomed addition in Boise and specifically in the Southeast portion of the city.

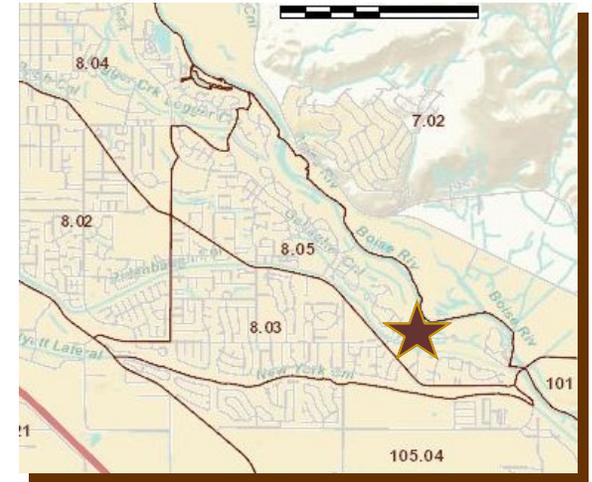
The library site will be just west of the primary Bown Crossing intersection and adjacent to Riverside Elementary School. The site is also the last development prior to the East Parkcenter Bridge and acts as a gateway to Harris Ranch, a large planned community east of the site.

In keeping within the three mile distance of the site, there are seven total census tracts that are included for consideration. However it is important to note that several of the tracts (105.04, 101, and 7.02) are separated from the library by geographic barriers such as the Boise River and the New York Canal. Though there are streets and/or bridges that connect with the library site, in these cases the connections are limited.

The demographic profiles of the census tracts near the site have some similarities but also significant differences. The two population cohorts that are the focus of this HIA are youth and seniors which were determined by stakeholders at the kickoff workshop due to the draw the other libraries have with both groups. There are a few areas with a traditional blend of age groups. However, as may be expected, the further from the central core area of Boise, generally the cheaper the land prices and the larger the homes. This is indicative of larger families with high numbers of children present in the home. With housing prices being more expensive to the west of Bown Crossing, and housing sizes smaller, cost is generally higher and thus a propensity for more retirees likely.

For overall population, the total number of residents living within the approximate library area is

**Bown Library in relation to Census Tracts in Central and Southeast Boise.**



roughly 34,000 or about 16% of the city population. Generally, the combined population of youth and seniors exceeds 13,300 or about 40% of the total residents within the seven census tracts.

To further understand the local population, where both focus groups are most heavily consolidated and to determine who such information can be helpful, percentages of total population are included and compared with the raw totals. The highest concentration of youth reside in Tracts 101 and 105.04, while seniors are concentrated in 101, 8.02, 8.04, and 8.05.

**Total Population & % of Population, by age group for area Census Tracts (2010)**

Age	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
Under 18	757	1135	901	646	710	1935	1863	7947
18-35	377	1396	1107	2439	377	567	1416	7679
36-60	1448	1884	1651	1639	1425	2465	2553	13065
61+	532	982	695	1071	646	883	592	5401
<b>Total</b>	<b>3114</b>	<b>5397</b>	<b>4354</b>	<b>5795</b>	<b>3158</b>	<b>5850</b>	<b>6424</b>	<b>34092</b>

% of Population	Census Tracts						
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04
Under 18	24.3%	21.0%	20.7%	11.1%	22.5%	33.1%	29.0%
18-35	12.1%	25.9%	25.4%	42.1%	11.9%	9.7%	22.0%
36-60	46.5%	34.9%	37.9%	28.3%	45.1%	42.1%	39.7%
61+	17.1%	18.2%	16.0%	18.5%	20.5%	15.1%	9.2%

## Areas & Priorities

**S**ocial determinants of health are the “conditions to which people are born, grow, work, live, and age” (World Health Organization). Beyond the presence of people, the social and economic status of residents within the influence are of the library are an indicator of their health needs. This helps orient library access and programs around those needs.

Given the focal point of this HIA is on youth and older adults, additional Census data was collected on housing units and household income. The tables at right indicate, by Census tract, the number of housing/owner occupied units in the library assessment area. Areas with fewer owner-occupied units generally indicate lower income residents and we can see this in the household income data.

Tract 8.04 has the lower percentage of owner occupied units (33.4%) and the highest number of households with income levels below \$25,000 a year and \$40,000 a year. It is also the tract that is farther away from the library and close to the main library. Attracting these residents to special programs and ensuring transportation access is provided can be a priority for the library and its partners. The proximity to St. Alphonsus’ facility may also present opportunities.

### Workshop

A half-day workshop to better define impacts and engage stakeholders was conducted at the St. Alphonsus Bown Crossing Urgent Care facility in September 2015. Issues such as social determinants of health were discussed as part of the workshop to gain an understanding of the impacted population beyond what the Census data tell us.

The workshop helped orient existing and potential stakeholders to the library site and view the surrounding areas to determine potential improvements needed beyond the library site to help increase positive health impacts. The workshop also allowed participants to have input into the health claims and logic framework exercise detailed in the Assessment section of this report.

Twelve (12) area professionals attended the workshop from these agencies and organizations:

- City of Boise, Library and Public Works, Parks & Recreation
- St. Alphonsus;

Housing Description	Census Tracts						
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04
Housing Units	1057	2467	1900	3304	1269	2012	2304
Owner Occupied	90.3%	69.2%	74.7%	33.4%	89.2%	89.5%	85.0%
w/<18 y/o	30.7%	32.9%	30.6%	15.6%	38.0%	49.0%	59.6%
w/>60 y/o	39.8%	28.0%	33.3%	24.8%	37.9%	28.1%	18.4%

Household Income	Census Tracts						
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04
<\$10K	18	133	101	137	32	40	58
\$10-\$25K	44	305	167	840	87	273	121
\$25-\$40K	69	417	268	797	72	250	111
\$40-\$60K	106	348	464	553	201	234	227
\$60-\$75K	131	225	301	265	66	118	322
\$75-\$100K	109	393	201	291	128	291	516
>\$100K	580	646	398	421	728	911	949

- St. Luke’s;
- Ada County Highway District;
- Riverside Elementary School;
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare;
- Central District Health Department; and
- Southeast Neighborhood Association.



*Workshop participants discuss ParkCenter Blvd crossings and connections to the Greenbelt.*

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Areas & Priorities

The Treasure Valley of Idaho has a healthy population, in general. When the geographic emphasis is Boise and the Bown Crossing area, health conditions are even better. Health is determined by numerous factors including genetics, behaviors, environment, and access, to name a few. The Community Health Assessment (CHA), conducted by St. Luke's hospital group tells a very thorough story as to the prevailing issues, identified areas of needs, and health priorities for the near and long terms.

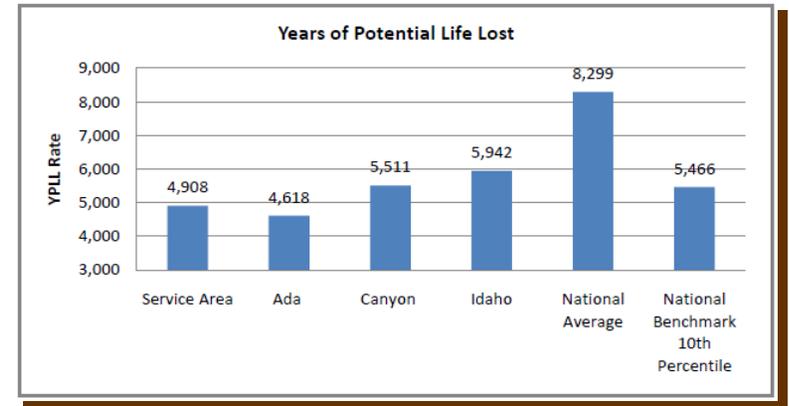
The CHA contains a series of lists that include identified needs to improve community health that are compiled by using a comprehensive evaluation and ranking process. Needs that are listed as priority are summarized below.

**Chronic Disease.** Though chronic disease and weight management are needs that manage existing conditions, the other priorities are mostly about gaining access to the tools needed to prevent unhealthy conditions from arising. In each case however, libraries can be a pivotal partner when implementing strategies to address the needs through the offering of information, temporary outreach events, or other support efforts.

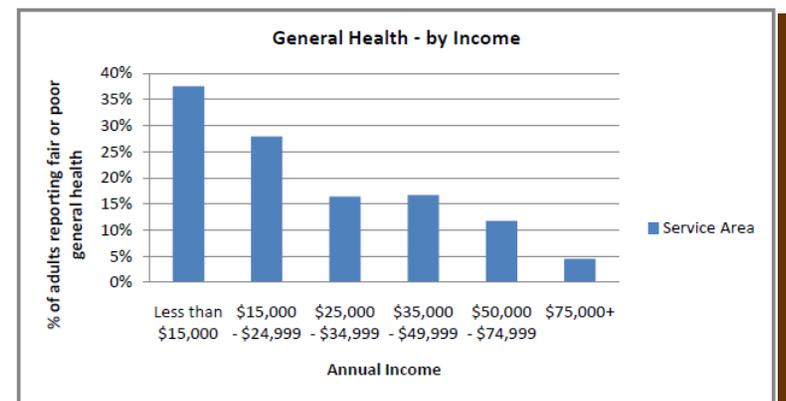
Identified Community Need	Related Health Outcome or Factor	Populations Affected Most *	Total Score
Affordable Health Insurance	Uninsured adults	Income < \$50,000, Hispanic, No college	18.7
Affordable care	Children in poverty	Income < \$50,000, Age < 19	18.6
Availability of behavioral health services	Mental health service providers	Income < \$50,000	18.8
Chronic disease management	Diabetes	Income < \$35,000, No high school diploma	19.8

Identified Community Need	Related Health Outcome or Factor	Populations Affected Most *	Total Score
Weight management	Obese/Overweight Adults	Income < \$35,000, Hispanic, No high school diploma	20
	Obese/Overweight Teens	Income < \$35,000, Hispanic	19
Wellness/prevention	Diabetes	Income < \$35,000, No high school diploma	19.9
	Mental illness		19.9

**Potential Life Lost.** Another method to give a sense of the health of a community is to determine the years of potential life lost. This approach uses premature deaths before the age of 75 to help illustrate the deaths caused by factors beyond aging. The general area is well above the national average and even the national benchmark in this category and indicates that preventable deaths are not occurring at the rate as in other locations.



**Income.** As demonstrated on page 10, the household income levels within the Bown Crossing library census tracts demonstrate a fairly healthy population. However, as income is reduced, health disparities increase. This inverse relationship and the income levels of the neighborhoods area the Bown site, can help with programming and marketing efforts for future activities.



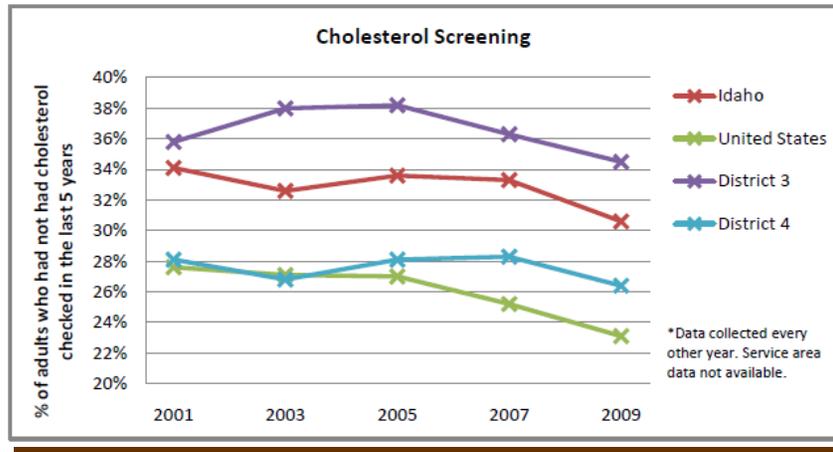
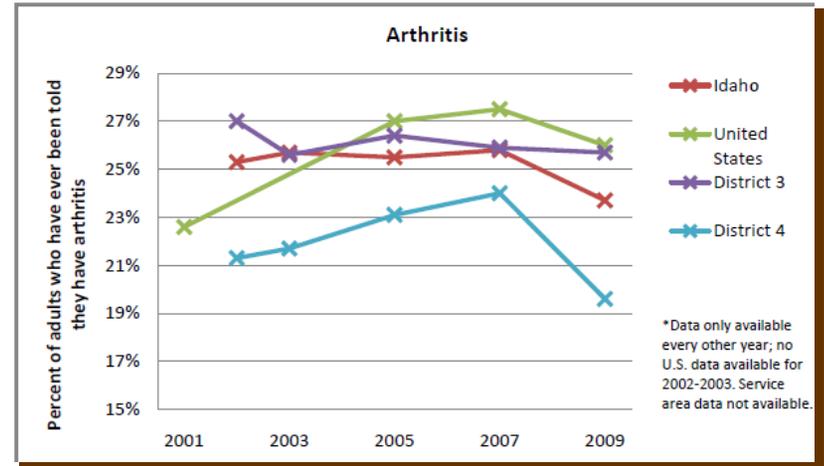
## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Areas & Priorities

### Other Area Health Findings

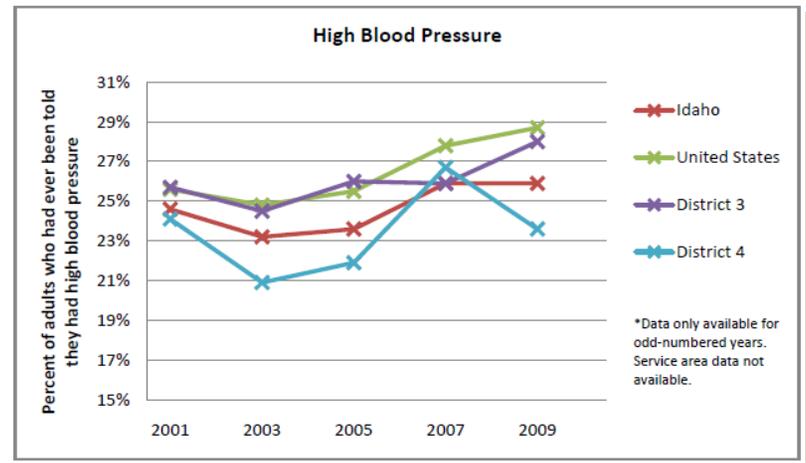
Note: The next two pages include charts from the St. Luke's Community Health Needs Assessment. Boise and thus Bown Crossing, is located in Health District 4.

**Arthritis** is an affliction that can be debilitating. In the Boise area, arthritis rates are generally below national rates, but very near state average. Arthritis is eased by prevention and regular movement and exercise. In some cases, the effects can be managed and limited, medication minimized, quality of life maintained and medication costs mitigated.



**Cholesterol screening** is a significant yet simple screening procedure that can help to detect cholesterol in its early stages and determine if a person is at increased risk for further blood clot, aneurism, and heart issues. Screening rates are slightly better than state averages but below national averages. To improve screening rates, doctor access and insurance or community clinics are vital.

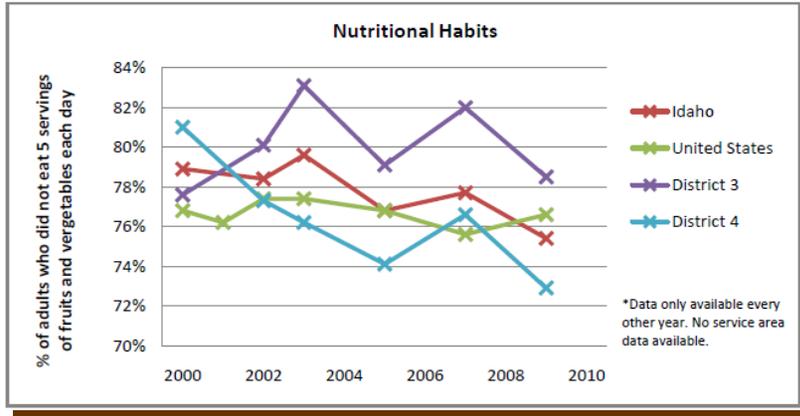
**High blood pressure** can strike at any age but generally occurs as people age. Aneurisms, strokes, artery damage, and kidney damage are all possible outcomes. Access to high fiber foods, regular physical activity, stress reduction and not smoking are ways to prevent high blood pressure. Places to enjoy a stress free activity or low impact activity are important to preventing high blood pressure.



Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

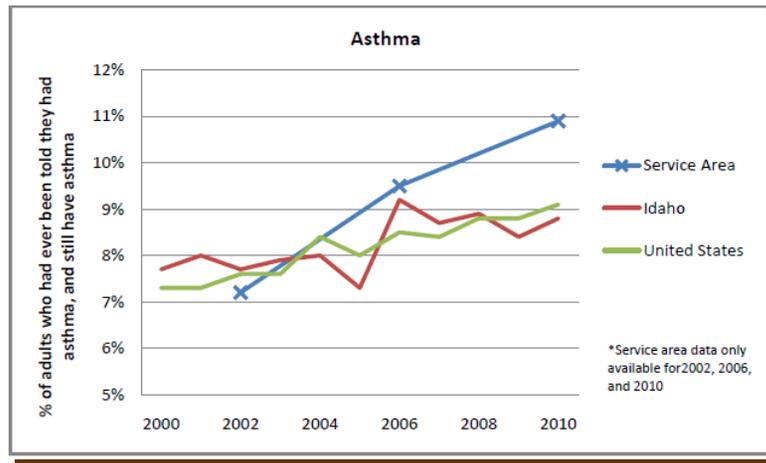
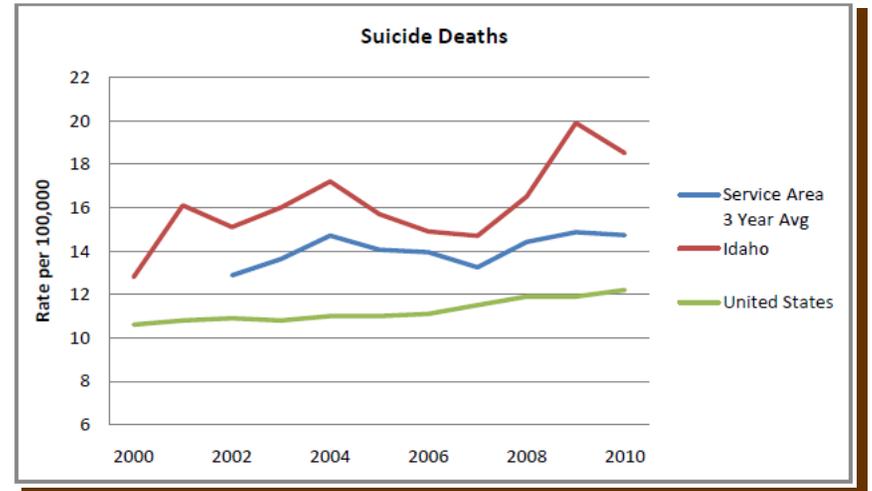
## Areas & Priorities

### Other Area Health Findings



**Adult nutritional habits** is one indicators that can give a glimpse into youth conditions. Eating fruits and vegetables to access vitamins, minerals and fiber is essential. Roughly 3 out of 4 Boise area residents do not eat the recommended 5 servings per day. If area youth follow, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and other afflictions are possible.

**Suicide** is a statewide issue and Boise is not immune. Though the general region is better than state figures, it is still above national averages. Living a life full of the seven dimensions described can help limit such deaths. Libraries can offer numerous ways to fulfill each dimension and better the lives of patrons and potentially preventing such occurrences.



**Asthma** rates in the Treasure Valley and Boise area are much higher than the state and national averages. Due to the geography of the region and the stagnate air that can occur in certain months of the year, the youth within the population are particularly vulnerable. Asthma can limit the quality of life of those suffering from it, can be a financial burden and limits the activities possible. Having an indoor place to still be active, yet escape from poor air quality days is vital for those with and without asthma.

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Assessment

**E**arly on, the many City departments, staff members, community partners and citizens, worked together to try and determine what ways the Bown Crossing Library would aim to improve various conditions. In addition to the bedrock mission of giving residents an accessible place to learn, gather, and grow, several additional operational and physical goals were defined. The goals crafted ranged from how the site would interact with the balance of the immediate Bown Crossing area and neighborhood to the use of environmentally sustainable materials and methods that continued to demonstrate the City's commitment to developing in a responsible fashion. In concert with the goals created were a series of artistic renderings. (Provided by FFA Architecture & Interiors) The renderings were meant to give the community and decision makers a sense of what the site will look like and perhaps more importantly, how visitors may interact when utilizing the various spaces throughout the campus.

The assessment process for the Bown Crossing library HIA begins with a high level analysis of how each of the 10 goals established fits within each of the seven dimensions of health and wellness categories described in the previous section. While some of the connections may be obvious and more directly linked, others may be more subtle or will take time to materialize. The purpose of the exercise is to demonstrate how these goals go beyond face value and really lend themselves to fulfilling additional objectives through other health measures.

Images created on behalf of the library depict several healthy activities and patrons of all ages.



### Bown Crossing Library Project Goals

							
Provide a sense of place/community for the neighborhood and east Boise.		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Reinforce Bown Crossing as a destination point in the City with integrated pedestrian access and circulation.	✓					✓	
Motivate community participation in the library with a commitment to public service with state of the art design and operation.		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Provide a universally inspiring facility for all ages.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
The design should be simple, logical and intuitive in operations, promoting easy access to useful collections, information and programs.			✓				
Create a building that is an experience that accommodates communication, collaboration, and self-service.		✓	✓	✓			✓
Provide spaces for active use and quiet contemplation and reflection.	✓		✓	✓			✓
Provide integrated, adaptable, and flexible building and technology systems suitable for future growth / expansion.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Reflect the history, natural habitat, style and environment of the Bown Crossing neighborhood.		✓	✓		✓		✓
Build a sustainable building incorporating efficient design, sustainable materials, natural light, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems utilizing local and regional materials.					✓	✓	

## Assessment

# Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

Determining how the site itself can address community health is another key tool. The Bown Crossing library site offers numerous outlets to either passively or actively address various dimensions of health.

Natural drainage and plants demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices and provide visitors a natural amenity.



Continuous pathways give a activity outlet and promote emotional wellbeing.



Exterior activity space allows numerous opportunities for healthy events including performances, social gatherings and more.



Trees add shade, a sense of nature and serenity.



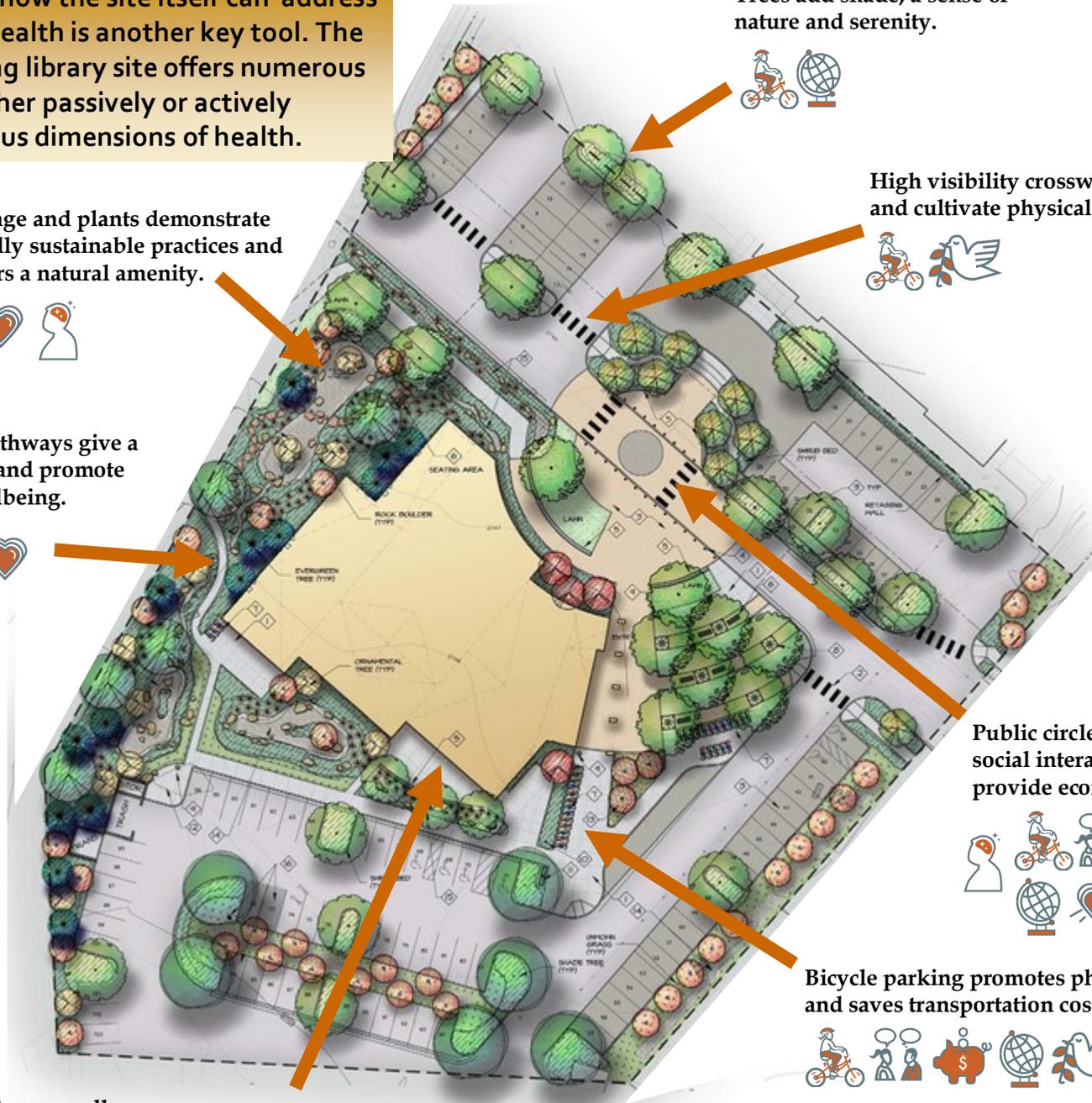
High visibility crosswalks add safety and cultivate physical activity.



Public circle area promotes social interaction and could provide economic outlets.



Bicycle parking promotes physical activity and saves transportation costs.



# Assessment

The heart of a library is what occurs within its walls. The Bown Crossing library will allow seniors and kids the opportunity to engage in learning and programs with features like dedicated study areas, multipurpose rooms, a hearth room, and significant technology terminals. An overview of the interiors spaces and how they relate to the seven dimensions are presented.

Multiple computer terminals and iPad outlets allow for endless information exposure and continual technology skills.



The lobby area will promote cultural assets like the Bown family home and local history.



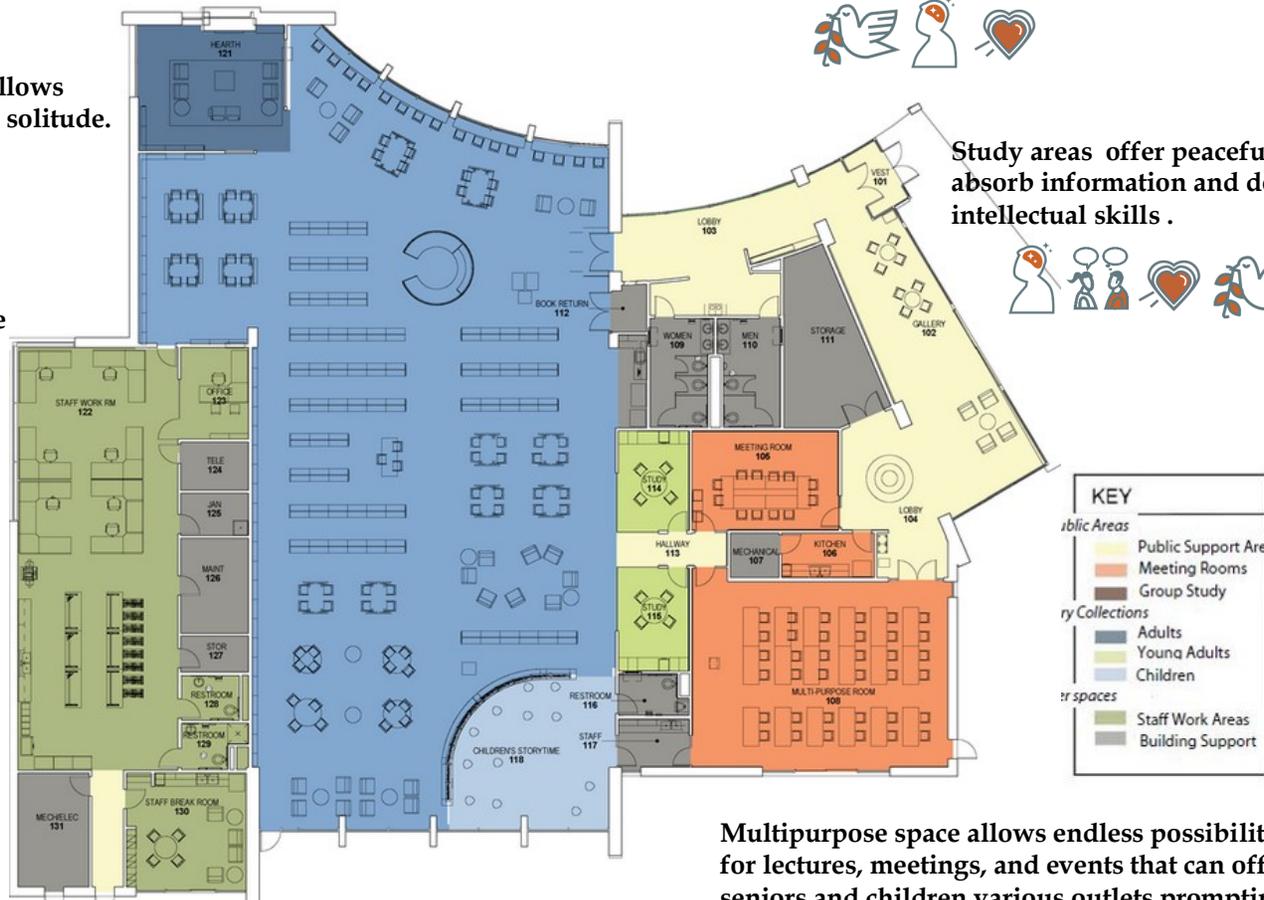
Fireplace setting area allows reflection and peaceful solitude.



Study areas offer peaceful places to absorb information and develop intellectual skills.



Employee area include dedicated shower, restrooms and eating areas. Promoting total workplace wellness.



Children story time area fosters imagination, social interaction and promotes intellectual curiosity.



Multipurpose space allows endless possibilities for lectures, meetings, and events that can offer seniors and children various outlets prompting health.



## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Assessment

To see firsthand what is occurring at existing Boise area branch libraries, in person observation and branch manager interviews were conducted. The intent of the field analysis was to watch the libraries in action during normal times of day and to see how patrons were using the facilities, how they are interacting with other guests, what offering seemed to be popular, and to determine the relationship these observations had with general health—especially with youth and seniors.

Observations were made at the Collister library on a Tuesday from 1-4PM, and the Ustick library on a Sunday from 10-noon. During both visits, a tour and interview was conducted with branch managers.



*The use of technology is very present at the libraries and a bedrock of organizational efforts*

Many positive activities and offerings were witnessed:

- \* Bike lock rental—the Ustick library offers the use of a bike lock for temporary use. The bike racks were heavily used, many of which with youth bicycles.

- \* Computer access—computer terminals at both libraries were at or near capacity

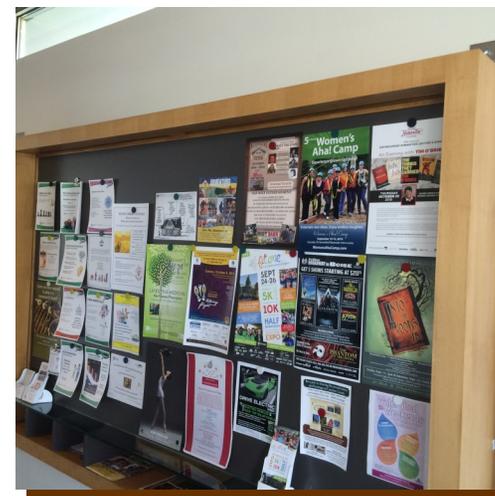
throughout the visits. Users ages included both ends of the spectrum.

- \* Children playing/active—designated play, recreations areas were being used by younger children. Other groups of children were seen sitting at tables reading and quietly interacting.
- \* Seniors learning technology, iPad training—A program is being used to give tutorial help to seniors for use of

iPad/tablets, as well as basic computer based skills like setting up email addresses and navigating popular social media outlets.

- \* General learning opportunities—The library offers numerous outlets for learning a wide variety of subjects. If such programs are taken advantage of, tremendous intellectual and cultural learning can take place.

*Opportunity wall with numerous events and happening for patrons to be involved with.*



*History and culture come together at the Ustick library. The lobby and sitting area is filled with photos and artistic images celebrating the local culture for all to learn about and enjoy.*

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Assessment

### Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

Observations were also made that would indicate negative impacts on human health. These observations may be limited in magnitude with such a small sample size but may also be more systemic or perceptible among the other branches and users:

- **Long hours of sitting:** As may be expected, many users were seen sitting for long periods of time. Indications for discussers are that this is normal and has even gotten worse due to changes in policy (computer terminal use).
- **Junk food consumption:** Most foods being consumed by users are not healthy options. Candy bars, potato chips and similar calorie dense foods are a norm.
- **Day care mentality:** Through interviews it was discovered that many parents feel it okay to drop their children off and leave them unattended despite a 10 year old age limit for such occurrences. Furthermore, staff felt they were not able to even ask a child's age or if their parents were present which seemed to exacerbate the issue.
- **Security concerns:** Security issues were present at



*Long bouts of sitting is common at libraries.*

least at the Collister library. The Ustick library has a paid security presence that does not occur at the Collister branch. This approach has brought about concerns from staff and users and has at times been a problem. Several incidents have occurred where the presence of security could have prevented an issue, perhaps avoided an issue or diminished a perception of lack of safety that some may have.

## 21st Century Customers

Digital Fugitive:	Digital Immigrant:	Digital Native:
Not a digital immigrant, 'patrons' to whom public libraries have virtually always catered.	Did not grow up with digital technology, but has learned to use it, and integrate it into their life as necessary.	Grew up learning digital technology, and has become dependant on it as an integral part of their life.
35 million + Great Generation, Silent Generation (66 and over)	45 million + GenX (47 and under), 60 million + Baby Boomers (65 and under)	75 million + Millennials (GenY) (29 and under) 25mill + Gen Z, I, Net (10 and under)

*Balancing users needs, technology ability and health considerations is a challenge to modern libraries. Phot: 21stcenturylibrary.com*

- **Limited programs for older adults:** Though numerous events, clubs and lectures are appropriate for seniors as well as all adults, there are very few programs offered that are specific to seniors. Mentorships, business experiences, life stories, and skill sharing are areas that could be harnessed and shared for the benefit of other age groups, for example.
- **Limited social interaction:** Though a library is certainly a place of quiet focus and reflection for the purposes of learning and retention, it can also be a place for social interaction when appropriate. Most library users were there by themselves and had little discussion with fellow visitors.
- **Interaction/promotion with nearby businesses:** Interaction with nearby business, restaurants was common in previous years. However this has fallen away as an offering at both libraries. Exposing users to what is available outside library doors could strengthen the sense of place and community.

## Assessment

**W**hen examining the potential number of people impacted by the library, it is a challenge to predict. However, using research conduct on such matters and the available census information, a series of probable ranges can be computed.

Three of the census tracts are within a short distance of the Main library. (Tracts 8.04, 8.02 and 7.02) For these tracts, the population was split to represent the desire some will have to go to the Main while others use the Bown site. Tracts 8.04 and 7.02 were assigned a 50% usage rate and tract 7.02 a 70% rate. These percentages were then applied to the total number of residents below 18 years of age and over 61 to determine the number of residents within the population pool likely to use the Bown site. The other tracts in the Bown library area, 8.05, 8.03, 101, and 105.04, are within a close distance and likely to see 100% usage rates at the Bown Crossing library. With these assumptions, the raw number of residents within the Bown Crossing library pool are included below:

Nearly 7,000 residents 18 and younger live in the area and would be prospective Bown library users, while over 4,300 residents over 61 also fall in the pool of likely users. All told, over 11,000 residents are included within the seven census tracts and within the likely pool of Bown Crossing library users. However, this does not mean all of them will use the library.

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

*The first table includes the total pool of people who comprise the possible visitors to the Bown Crossing library based on research and census information. After geography and proximity to the Main library are considered, 6,900 children under the age of 18 comprise the total pool of possible library visitors. On an annual basis. Just over 4,300 seniors aged 61 or older comprise the total potential visitor pool.*

Age	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
Under 18	379	795	901	323	710	1935	1863	6905
61+	266	687	695	536	646	883	592	4305
<b>Total</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>1482</b>	<b>1596</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>2818</b>	<b>2455</b>	<b>11210</b>

*With the total eligible pool defined, the likely numbers of library users was then determined, again using research figures and survey results. A range of 60%-70% of the total population will likely visit the Bown Crossing library. Using these percentages, the number of residents under 18 likely to patron the library may range from 4,100 to 4,800.*

Under 18	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
60% Use	227	477	541	194	426	1161	1118	4143
65% Use	246	516	586	210	462	1258	1211	4488
70% Use	265	556	631	226	497	1355	1304	4834

*Finally, between 2,600 and 3,000 seniors over 61 living within the Bown Crossing library user shed will likely patron the library annually.*

61+	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
60% Use	160	412	417	321	388	530	355	2583
65% Use	173	447	452	348	420	574	385	2798
70% Use	186	481	487	375	452	618	414	3013

## Assessment

**A**dditional data suggest that residents in given populations use libraries at a rate of 60-85%. Using three different population percentages, (60% 65% and 70%) the team then determined the likely number of residents who would in fact, actually patron the library on a somewhat regular basis.

Lastly, the range of number of visits per year also varies tremendously. Factors that determine usage can include education attainment, household income, race, and proximity. Research indicated that six visits per year for consistent library users is average. However, for the purpose of this assessment, six, nine and 12 visits per year were used and combined with a 65% total population usage rate, to provide the possible range for library visits. The results of those computations are as shown in these tables.

*After computing the likely pool of users and the likely number of users from that pool, the next task was to determine the frequency of annual visits. Based on national research, library users accessed libraries 6-12 times per year. While this does present a wide range of visits, it does give some indication of potential use though actual figures at the Bown site should be monitored. Of those likely users under 18, the number of total visits could range from 27,000 to 58,000 per year.*

Under 18 Annual Visits	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
6	1476	3099	3514	1260	2769	7547	7266	26930
9	2214	4648	5271	1890	4154	11320	10899	40394
12	3179	6674	7568	2713	5964	16254	15649	58002

*Using the same approach for the over 61 population, visits to the library could vary between 17,000 to 34,000 per year.*

61+ Annual Visits	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
6	1037	2681	2711	2088	2519	3444	2309	16789
9	1556	4021	4066	3133	3779	5166	3463	25184
12	2075	5362	5421	4177	5039	6887	4618	33578

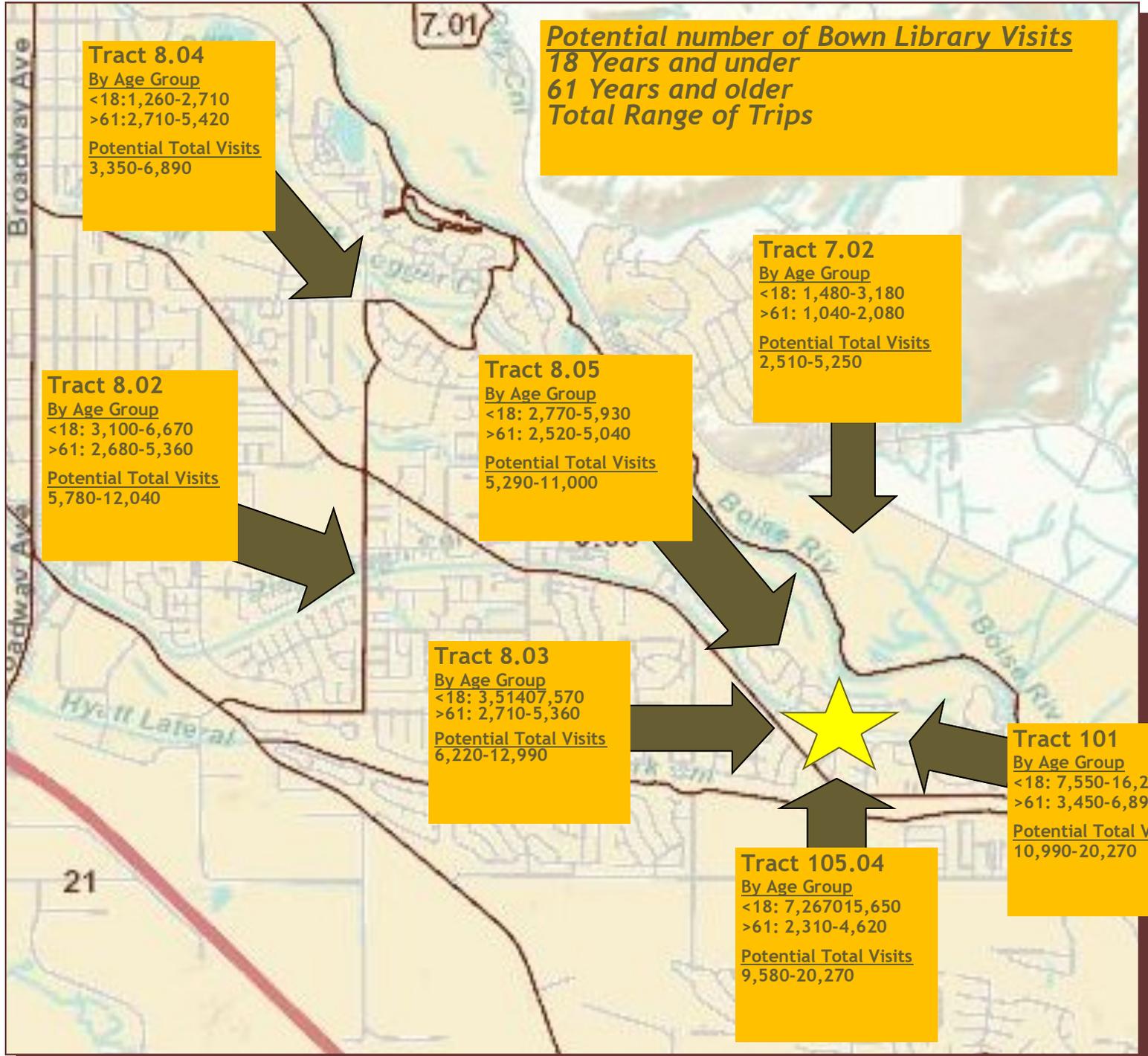
*Finally, by combining both population cohorts, the total number of potential visits made by those under 18 and over 61 years of age, could be between 44,000 and 92,000. Another way of using this data suggest that between 144 and 300 visits per day could be made at the library considering typical library operations.*

Combined Annual Trips	Census Tracts							Total
	7.02	8.02	8.03	8.04	8.05	101	105.04	
6	2514	5779	6224	3348	5288	10990	9575	43719
9	3770	8669	9337	5022	7933	16485	14362	65578
12	5254	12036	12989	6890	11003	23141	20267	91580

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

**Assessment**

# Potential Bown Library Visits



**Health Impact  
Assessment for  
Bown Crossing  
Branch Library**

## Assessment

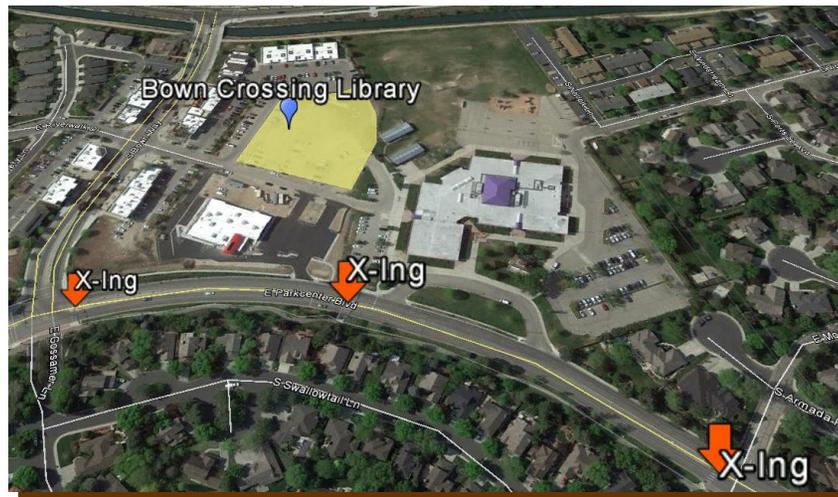
### Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

As part of the HIA process, a workshop was held and included numerous representative parties from area stakeholders groups. Invited guest included representatives of: various departments from the City of Boise, South East Neighborhood Association, St. Luke's and Saint Alphonsus hospital groups, Harris Ranch, Riverside Elementary School, Central District Health, Ada County Highway District, and Bown Crossing association.

The group participated in the workshop to offer thoughts and opinions on how the library may impact health for area residents. This effort was conducted using three main tools:

- Site walk and conditions audit;
- Health impact claims matrix; and
- Logic framework exercise.

**Site discussion and walk.** The first step was to walk the future site and adjacent streets. The group first walked along Parkcenter Boulevard; the main street on which the library building will front. Parkcenter Boulevard is the principal route that connects Southeast and Downtown Boise. The corridor serves over 25,000 vehicle trips per day, has a long section of the Boise Greenbelt constructed as a sidepath, connects to the Boise River at three locations, serves the growing master planned community of Harris Ranch, and has several commercial/retail nodes along with significant pedestrian crossings. In the immediate section at the library site, three crosswalks in particular stood out as being of concern: at Bown Way (fully signalized), the Riverside Elementary crossing (pedestrian actuated signal) and Monterey Street (high visibility crossing). Although the crossings are all marked and/or signalized, the group thought future observations would be necessary to determine if additional measures are warranted and needed including adding more time to the crossing phase, adding a pedestrian refuge island at the school crossing or adding a pedestrian signal at the Monterey Street crosswalk.



Parkcenter Blvd X-ings @ Bown Way, Riverside Elem., and Monterey St.



Next, the group walked to the intersection of Bown Way and Riverwalk Street. The group witnessed the recently restriped bike lanes after a recent chip seal project and determined that it was incomplete and needed to be returned to its previous iteration specifically parallel with the on-street parking.

Lastly, the group discussed the potential for a pedestrian bridge linking the library and school site with an established neighborhood to the south. The bridge would limit the distance to traverse for pedestrians and provide greater likelihood for walking and bicycling to and from the site itself.

## Assessment

**B**ased on input from workshops and analysis of research, it was determined that integrating other goals and outcomes with the greenbelt would be the best method to optimize opportunities for long-range health impacts resulting from construction of the Bown Branch Library and implementation of various programs and partnerships to support it.

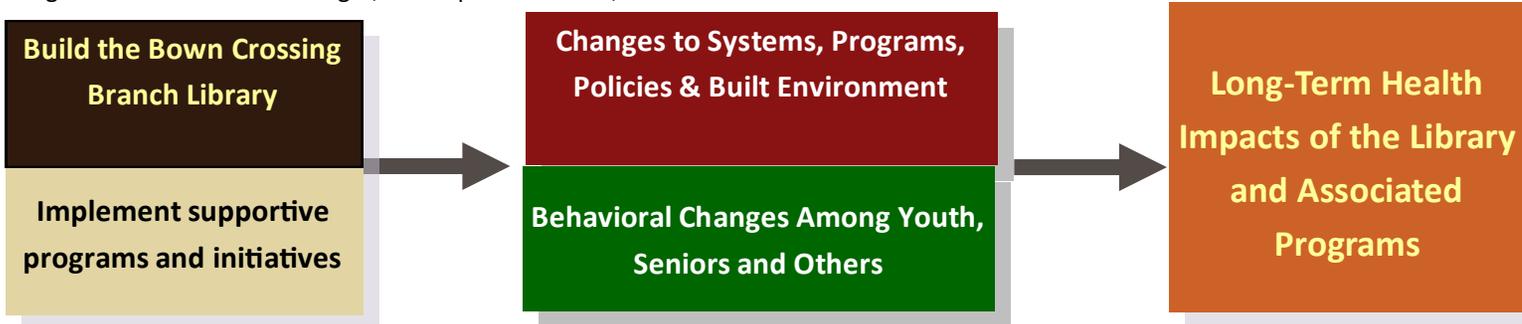
To further evaluate the likely impacts, the HIA process led to a Logic Framework, also known as causal models or pathway diagrams. The Logic Framework is a method to map the many pathways by which health effects may occur resulting from a proposed action (construction of the library and adjunct programs and transportation connections, in this case). Pathway diagrams may be thought of as plausible scenarios for what may happen to population health if particular decisions are made.

### Building It and They Will Be Healthier?

The building of the library is a major investment in the future of Southeast Boise and the residents of the area. In health terms, this is considered the first “intervention” of the branch library directly into the lives of these individuals. This is a “primary action” since other opportunities to improve health with the library only occur after it is a presence in the neighborhood. Participants in the workshop identified several program opportunities the library could offer by itself and through partnerships with the school, healthcare providers and others. These are “secondary actions” that support the physical library.

The building of the library and implementation of programs does not influence health in and of themselves. There must be systematic changes to programs, policies and the built environment if overall population health is to be influenced. These system changes then result in behavioral changes. Those behavioral changes, over a period of time, then influ-

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library



If we build it and promote it...

↳ **People are healthier**

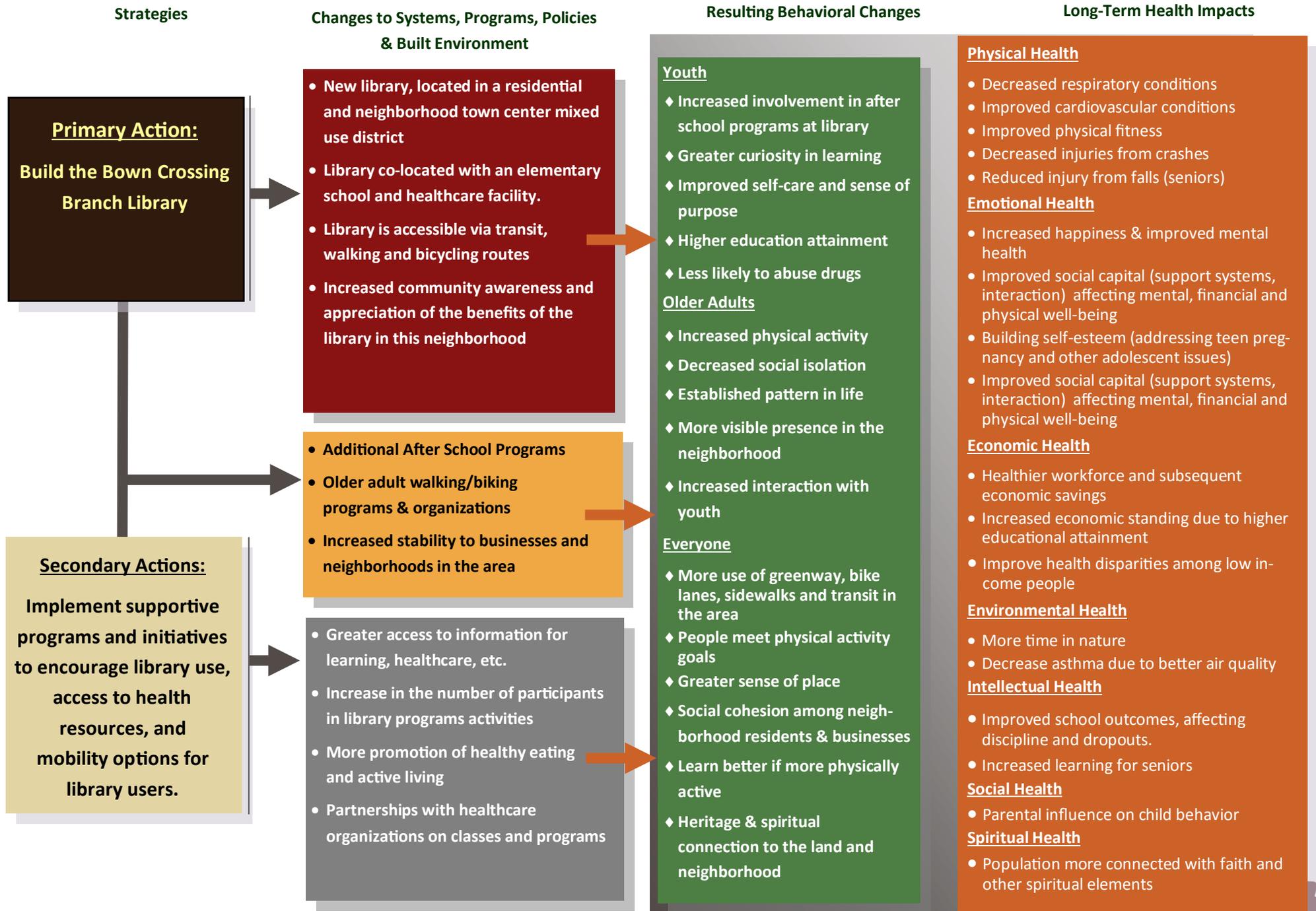
A **Logic Framework** (next page), or pathway diagrams is used in the public health practice to describe how environmental and social conditions as well as risk and resilience factors influence health outcomes. This approach describes effects directly related to the proposal (building a greenway) and traces them to health determinants (such as air quality) and to health outcomes (such as asthma).

These are used to support the design of public health research as well as considering potential interventions.

ence an individual’s health and a community’s health.

The diagram below illustrates the flow of these impacts that ultimately produce long-term health outcomes. The detailed diagram on the following page showcases how proposed actions related to the greenway can impact long-range health conditions in the community. It will also help local decision makers, advocates, non-profits, planners and other more directly illustrate how the proposed actions related to but not directly inclusive of the greenway will impact public health.

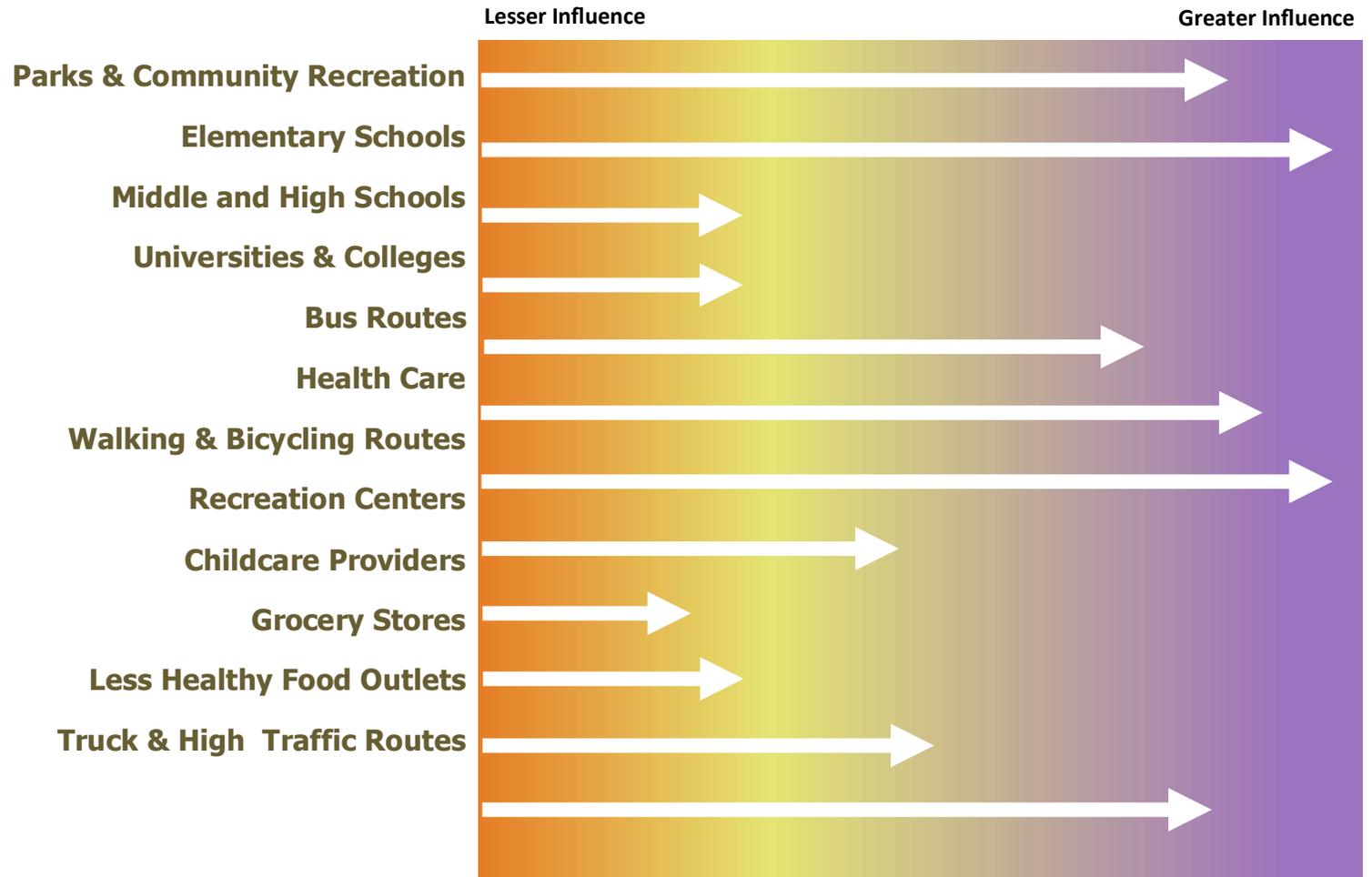
# A Logic Framework: What are the long-term impacts of building the Bown Branch Library?



## Assessment

### Proximity Factors

The consultant team identified a series of built environment influences on the health of the population as it relates to likely library users. The proximity of these features will impact the influence they have on library users. Some influences, such as proximity to parks are very positive, while proximity to things such as truck routes may have negative influences. The degree of influence noted below is based on both distance and number of features near the Bown Branch Library.



### Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

## Recommendations & Mitigation

The City of Boise and the City's many partners can further improve the Bown Library site and experience for users by taking actions collectively and independently. The following pages provide a series of recommendations or mitigation steps to bolster the health of future library patrons and are arranged using the Seven Dimensions of Health & Wellness model.

In some cases the recommendations can be carried out solely by the City library system and staff, while others may require cooperation and participation by City partners. The intent of identifying programmatic improvements, policy and site plan adjustments is purely for the benefit of patron, however those benefits may bleed over into the goals and objectives of area partners. This is why working toward a library that reaches its full potential based on documented needs of users is so essential.



**Saint Alphonus**

**Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library**

What Makes Us Healthy



What We Spend On Being Healthy



## Common Goals of Area Partners

- Improve community health
- Enhance quality of life
- Promote public safety
- Maximize public investment
- Deliver on public/private expectations
- Achieve highest degree of public service
- Reach highest level of customer satisfaction

## Recommendations & Mitigation

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library



### Physical

- Consider standing or adjustable desk stations to promote standing while reading, engaging computers or writing. Desk configurations can be changed to ensure that visitors experiences occasionally include standing.
- Promote an outdoor sidewalk chalk space for kids to express their artistic side and promote play.
- Ensure Bown Way bicycle lanes are complete and revised to original configuration.
- Consider adding a wellness station ie. blood pressure screening booth.
- Start a walking book club to discuss assigned books while walking the nearby Greenbelt.
- Work with nearby Axiom to bring in a personal trainer or group exercise instructor to conduct .modest exercise classes, arthritis prevention movements and general body assessments.

- Reach out to local yoga, Tai Chi or similar mind/body instructors and offer occasional classes both inside and outside the library building.
- Allow the library to be a gathering place and launch point for a sunrise viewing club that walks to the Greenbelt and sits in quiet contemplation and focus while the sun rises to the east .
- Determine if periodic Zen gardens can be created around the campus and within or near the natural draining areas.



### Spiritual



### Environmental

- Organize local hiking excursions from the library site to nearby Foothills trails.
- Reach out to BSU or UI programs and determine if environmental science Graduate assistants or PhD students can give hands on lectures or seminar on the Boise river watershed or fauna.
- If possible, host "a night of stars" class that allows users to access the library roof with telescopes for an organized star gazing session.
- Organize a river cleanup twice per month that leaves the library for the Boise greenbelt and promote environmental stewardship.

- Engage seniors by tapping into their life experiences and allowing them to share with area youth. This can take the form of story time, presentation, or question and answer type format.
- Reach out to tutoring services at Bown and Apple and determine if a weekly free tutor lesson can be provided at the library to those in need. This can help students and showcase local services.
- Work with local hospital professionals to determine a class for senior citizens that engages cognitive brain function and staves off common forms of dementia, Alzheimer's.
- Consider playing intellectually stimulating music into designated rooms on certain days to attract patrons who wish to experience such an environment and promote intellectual health.



### Intellectual

## Recommendations & Mitigation



### Emotional

- Adorn the library with positive messaging campaigns and positive thinking encouraging positive thought and a healthy frame of mind.
- Reinforce the sense of belonging to the library through messaging campaigns or staff training as the “sense of belonging” is a key tenant of emotional well being.
- Encourage a “stress free zone” that is either inside or outside of the library, very quiet, free from computers and technology, uses comfortable and relaxing furniture and allows decompression.
- Once per month, work to bring to the library therapy animals useful to improve poor mental health through stimulation, play and illicit positive emotions.

- Reach out to the Shakespeare Festival to possibly offer two/three person shows for free to library patrons. Additionally, seek out the troop actors who may be willing to give formal acting lessons
- Work with health professionals to determine an outlet for messaging suicide prevention. This may be done through visits with professionals, information kiosks, or other engaging approaches.
- Consider working with City Hall to broadcast each City Council meeting into a room at the library. Up until library closing, perhaps allow public testimony from the remote location.
- Seek a reoccurring “Silver Screen” event showing classic films aimed at gaining the interest of seniors in the community. This could be used to spread the word of other events geared for this cohort.



### Social



### Economic

- Have an evening with Bown eateries once per month. Invite the restaurants of Bown Crossing to provide samples or smaller meals that can be enjoyed at the library to expose visitors to local businesses.
- Seek to host occasional local job fairs for businesses in the Boise area and if possible in east Boise.
- Reach out to the local Bown bikeshop (Eastside Cycle) to determine if local library patrons can receive discounted services or common parts. Determine if the shop can host bicycle tune up and fix it classes at the library.
- Seek the professional services of area financial planners who can put on occasional investment seminars and presentations allowing them to share knowledge but showcase local services.

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

- Allow Saint Alphonsus and St. Luke’s to conduct on site medical screenings specifically for those under 18 and over 55.
- Bring medical professionals to the library to have “Talk with a Doc” events for kids that exposes them to the science behind medicine as a way to introduce them to medicine.
- Promote pop up markets with local food growers or healthier food trucks to increase food access.

### Other Ideas

## Monitoring & Evaluation

**M**onitoring simply means that those affiliated with the Bown Crossing Library and the health of citizens who patron the site conduct occasional tasks that continually seek to improve conditions. This section is included in the HIA and is a required step. Monitoring steps will continually assess conditions both inside and outside of the library site, be assigned a lead agency who will be responsible for data collection, survey administration, meetings, or observations and provide a general timeline component that should be kept. If such steps are carried out, each year the library partners should have ample information as to the performance of the library as it compares with the findings of the HIA. The findings can then be useful when determining additional actions that either modify existing or future programs, eliminate those not working or enhance the library experience in some way that further improves health conditions for those who regularly use library facilities.

### Monitoring Steps

### Lead Agency

#### Monthly:

- Evaluate attendance of new potential programming/classes.
- Observe walking, bicycling and transit rates by library patrons.
- Monitor vending machines and orders for healthy option consumption.

City of Boise  
City of Boise  
City of Boise

#### Every 2 Months:

- Conduct parking lot usage to determine if space can be repurposed.
- Collect bike rack use for one week of operations.

City of Boise  
City of Boise

#### Every 6 Months:

- Survey patrons as described on following page.
- Chronicle results of health screenings, follow up with participants semi annually to compare results.
- Engage local businesses to determine how library patrons have impacted their operations.
- Ask Riverside Elementary School students what they would like offered.
- Conduct bicyclist and pedestrian counts at the three crosswalks discussed and the Bown Way/Riverwalk Street intersection.

City of Boise  
Hospitals  
City of Boise  
School District  
City, ACHD

#### Annually:

- ♦ Bring the library partners identified in this HIA together to share information collected and disseminated over the previous year.
- ♦ Monitor and distribute findings from any health concerns realized for the year and work with library partners to adjust offerings or operations that are related.

All

Hospitals

**Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library**

## Monitoring & Evaluation

**W**ithin the HIA practice, there are numerous methods to evaluate the final product, the process that was used or the final outcomes. For the Bown Crossing library HIA, (which is of the Rapid variety and thus limited in the process used and final product when compared to a Comprehensive HIA) an outcome evaluation would be the most suitable. In order for this to be done however, time will be necessary to let projects and suggested strategies unfold and results to be measured.

An outcome evaluation is one that should objectively review how the results of the final effort are met by the residents of a community and what impacts those results are having. The evaluation process can be conducted in parallel with the monitoring step. When the various groups reconvene to discuss how improvements are going to occur, they should also determine what impacts are being made and how they relate back to the findings and claims made in the HIA. As the library programming and offerings unfold, support elements placed or suggested programs and policies enacted, the resulting changes and how they compare to the document, is the subject of the evaluation.

Once it is determined how the HIA findings compare with the results of suggested improvements, projects and policies, the Bown Crossing library team and leadership within the library system can best determine the utility and value of the HIA process. This final step may become obvious when people begin using the library and high rates of walkers, bicyclists, seniors and youth participation are evident. However, a technical approach is still useful to prove the merits of the HIA effort and to determine if such a similar undertaking is necessary for other projects, policies, or plans in the future.

## Health Impact Assessment for Bown Crossing Branch Library

### HIA Plan Evaluation

- 1. Adopt HIA document findings including the plan recommendations.**
- 2. Assign lead responsible for recommendations, additional tasks.**
- 3. Implement HIA recommendations, suggestions and monitoring responsibilities.**
- 4. Periodically survey users to determine: where they live, how they got to the library, basic demographic information, and what offerings from the library utilized.**
- 5. Compare future library patron survey data with HIA forecasts.**
- 6. Modify project recommendations.**
- 7. Continue to monitor activities, patrons, program performance, and survey as necessary.**



## References

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**Health Impact  
Assessment for  
Bown Crossing  
Branch Library**