Since it opened in 1922, the South St. Paul Library has served thousands of people by providing a space to learn, enjoy its many collections, and participate in special programs and events throughout the year. The Library is one of four City-owned libraries of the 115 libraries in the metro area. The Library and City are at a crossroads in determining its future as it is in need of many repairs, improvements, and increased capacity. As we look toward writing the next chapter of our community, we want to ensure the Library serves the needs of all South St. Paul’s residents.

The following survey has approximately 18 questions and will take less than five minutes to complete. The information provided will be invaluable as South St. Paul considers the future of the City’s library. Thank you in advance for your participation.

If you prefer completing an online version of this survey, visit: bit.ly/SSPLibrarySurvey

1. Please write your address to verify you are a South St. Paul resident. 

________________________________________________________________________________

2. How often do you use the South St. Paul Library?

_____ Daily 
_____ Every few months

_____ Once or twice a week 
_____ Once a year

_____ Once or twice a month 
_____ I never visit the South St. Paul Library

3. What programming or services offered by the South St. Paul Library do you use?

_____ Adult programs

_____ Teen programs

_____ Children’s programs

_____ Children’s Play & Learn Station (revolving themes throughout the year)

_____ Technology classes/tutoring

_____ Public computers with free Internet access/software or free Wi-Fi

_____ Meeting room reservation

_____ Fax Service

_____ E-books/audiobooks (Cloud Library, RBdigital, etc.) and streaming service (Hoopla Digital)

_____ Online resources and databases (Homework Help Now!, JobNow!, Ancestry Library Edition, NoveList Plus, etc.)

_____ Check out onsite library materials (books, DVDs, magazines, Spanish-Language collection, DIY kits, etc.)

_____ Other (please describe): ______________________________________________________________

_____ None of the Above
4. Have you reviewed the Future of the South St. Paul Library Fact Sheet and/or the SSP Final Library Report?
   _____ Yes
   _____ No
   _____ Unsure

5. Do you think the South St. Paul Library’s current location and/or building have any deficiencies or issues?
   _____ Yes
   _____ No
   _____ Unsure

6. What do you think are the South St. Paul Library’s deficiencies or issues? *(please describe)*
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

7. What do you LIKE about South St. Paul Library?
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________

8. Have you used any of the other Dakota County Libraries?
   _____ Yes
   _____ No
   _____ Unsure
9. Which of the following Dakota County Libraries have you visited? (Check all that apply)

_____ Burnhaven (Burnsville)
_____ Pleasant Hill (Hastings)
_____ Farmington
_____ Robert Trail (Rosemount)
_____ Galaxie (Apple Valley)
_____ Wentworth (West St. Paul)
_____ Heritage (Lakeville)
_____ Wescott (Eagan)
_____ Inver Glen (Inver Grove Heights)
_____ None of the Above

10. What did you LIKE about the Dakota County Library or Libraries you visited?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

11. What did you DISLIKE about the Dakota County Library or Libraries you visited?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

12. The City of South St. Paul and the Library Board believe the current library facility needs substantial upgrades to meet the needs of the users and community now and in the future. Do you agree/disagree with this assessment?

_____ Agree
_____ Disagree
_____ Unsure

13. The City Council is considering joining the Dakota County Library System which would provide operational cost savings to the City of an estimated $319,000 annually (2019 Library Levy was $767,739). Any renovation or rebuild costs, estimated at $6-$8 million, would also be absorbed by the County. Based on that information, should the City pursue these savings by having Dakota County provide library services to South St. Paul residents, or should the City continue to operate and maintain the current library?

_____ Yes, I support joining the Dakota County Library System
_____ No, I support the City continuing to operate and maintain the Library
_____ Unsure
14. If you support having the City of South St. Paul continue to operate and maintain the library, then:

_____ The City should substantially upgrade the facility
_____ The City should build a new library facility at a new site
_____ The library should be kept essentially as it is
_____ Unsure
_____ I do not support the City of South St. Paul continuing to operate and maintain the library

15. If the City of South St. Paul decides the South St. Paul Library will not join the Dakota County Library System, would you be in favor of a community referendum (vote) in support of bonding $6-$8 million in order for the City to renovate the existing library/build a new library?

_____ Yes
_____ Maybe
_____ No

16. What is your age?

_____ Under 18
_____ 18 - 24
_____ 25 - 34
_____ 35 - 44
_____ 45 - 54
_____ 55 - 64
_____ 65 - 74
_____ 75+
_____ Prefer not to say
17. How long have you lived in South St. Paul?

_____ Less than 1 year
_____ 1 - 5 years
_____ 6 - 10 years
_____ 11 - 15 years
_____ 16 - 20 years
_____ 21 - 25 years
_____ 26 - 30 years
_____ 31+ years
_____ Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you completed the paper version of the survey, please return by January 24, 2020 by mailing to:

City of South St. Paul  
Attn: Library Survey  
125 3rd Avenue North  
South St. Paul, MN 55075

You can also drop off the completed paper version at City Hall (125 3rd Avenue North) or the South St. Paul Library (106 3rd Avenue North).

Your input is valued - Thank you!