

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****October 4, 2022**

Page 1 of 2

**SUBJECT: OPEN ACCESS AT THE FORT WORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide information on a new service at the Fort Worth Public Library (FWPL) called Open Access.

One of the challenges that the library faces is being open when the public needs library services. The library serves all 940,000 residents and already has around 95,000 visitors monthly. It is nearly impossible to always be open when needed without adding a substantial number of additional staff. For this reason, the library began offering unstaffed library hours with a soft launch on September 3 at the Northwest Branch Library in District 2.

The Northwest Library is now open 7 days a week. Open Access hours will be:

Sunday: 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Monday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.; 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.; 8 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.; 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

The remaining open hours will be staffed.

Most regular library services will be available, including:

- Self-service checkout (borrow, return, and renew items)
- Holds pick-up
- Desktop computer access
- Wi-fi access
- Printer/copier/scanning services
- Document scanning services
- Restrooms
- Space use for reading, studying, and gathering

Any Fort Worth Public Library cardholder 18 years of age or older in good standing can sign up online or at any FWPL location. Participants will be required to agree to follow the library rules of behavior at all times. Although it is not expected to happen, if serious problems arise, patrons are asked to call 9-1-1. There are also unmonitored interior and exterior cameras.

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Page 2 of 2

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The Information Technology Solutions (ITS) department generously paid for the technology upgrades needed to implement Open Access and all new libraries are being built with the infrastructure in order to add the service. Not all locations will have this service and the pilot at the Northwest location will help determine which locations to consider for the future.

More information can be found at

<https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/library/services/open-access>

If you have any questions on this report, please contact Manya Shorr, Director, Fort Worth Public Library, at 817-392-7706 or [manya.shorr@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:manya.shorr@fortworthtexas.gov).

**David Cooke**  
**City Manager**