

= Nokomis Library =

Nokomis Library , formerly Nokomis Community Library , is a branch library serving the Nokomis East area of Minneapolis , Minnesota . One of 41 libraries in the Hennepin County Library System , Nokomis was designed by Buetow and Associates , Inc and opened in 1968 as a replacement for the nearby Longfellow Community Library . After being deemed crowded and outdated in 1999 , the library underwent a renovation beginning in 2009 that saw it gain a number of environmentally friendly features and an expansion of 4 @, @ 300 square feet (399 m2) . The building reopened in 2011 and includes a restored Wind and Water Chime , a stabile that was part of the original library and that was refurbished and reinstalled by July 2013 . The library contains over 35 computers , a public meeting room , and a Spanish @-@ language collection of materials .

= = History = =

Nokomis was the newest branch added to the Minneapolis Public Library system in 1967 ; the previous one was the Linden Hills Community Library , which was completed in 1931 . It was built to replace the former Longfellow Community Library that had served the Nokomis East area for many years . In 1967 , the City of Minneapolis had Buetow and Associates , Inc design the new library building , which was modeled after a tepee from the poem The Song of Hiawatha by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow . Additionally , the library was named for Nokomis in said poem , making the branch the only library in the system to be named after a fictional character . The library featured a reading loft , basement meeting room , and 13 @, @ 426 square feet (1 @, @ 247 m2) . Construction on it began in 1967 and concluded the next year . The project utilized limestone produced by Mankato Kasota Stone , a local stone company quarrying in the Minnesota River Valley that had been responsible for providing stone for Minneapolis 's Stone Arch Bridge . The library opened in September 1968 and immediately doubled the circulation of the old Longfellow branch .

A decreased budget led to Nokomis losing its Saturday operating hours in 2004 . The Nokomis East Neighborhood Association , Thrivent Financial for Lutherans , and members of the community subsequently put funds towards keeping the library open on Saturdays until in mid @-@ 2005 when money was reallocated in the budget for continued Saturday operation . Further budget woes continued to plague the Minneapolis Public Libraries as of early 2007 , by which point the system had had to temporarily close three different branches in part due to a loss of local government aid . A merger with the Hennepin County Libraries was approved by both systems ' boards along with the Minneapolis City Council and Nokomis reopened at 10 am on January 2 , 2008 , as a Hennepin County Library . It remained the only building in the newly expanded 41 @-@ library system to be named for a fictional character .

= = Renovation = =

In 1999 , the Minneapolis Library Board issued a report entitled Outlook Twenty Ten identifying the changing needs of each of the system 's libraries . Deeming Nokomis crowded and outdated , the report proposed three options . Option A proposed combining Nokomis with the nearby Roosevelt Community Library in a 25 @, @ 000 @-@ square @-@ foot (2 @, @ 323 m2) space and closing both Nokomis and Roosevelt . This would have allowed the library to operate out of a state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art building at an undecided location . Option B recommended moving Nokomis to a different site without moving Roosevelt . The new library there would have been 18 @, @ 000 square feet (1 @, @ 672 m2) . Option C included capital improvements to Nokomis , such as replacing carpeting , signs , and the roof . A 2003 update to the report identified a project start date of 2007 , with full closure in 2008 and a reopening in 2009 .

In 2007 , the Minneapolis City Council appropriated a portion of its \$ 1 @. @ 35 billion 2008 budget for improvements to Nokomis and Northeast Community Library . \$ 5 @. @ 2 million of the \$ 7 million project came from the city ; Hennepin County put forward \$ 1 @. @ 8 million for environmental additions to the library and other features . The new building was designed by KKE

Architects with significant input from a citizen advisory committee . Ebert , Inc. was hired as the general contractor . The old building 's last day of operation was September 12 , 2009 , at which time it was reported in the Longfellow / Nokomis Messenger that the renovated library was expected to reopen sometime in the fall of the next year . During the construction , patrons were encouraged to make use of nearby libraries including East Lake , Roosevelt , Washburn , and Southdale .

The renovation included expanding the size of the library about 4 @, @ 300 square feet (399 m2) to a total size of 17 @, @ 340 square feet (1 @, @ 611 m2) . A new lighting system that automatically adjusts based on the levels of light within the building was installed , along with a geothermal heating apparatus . Other environmentally friendly interior features included carpeting constructed from recycled fibers and low @-@ flow faucets . A stormwater management system and native planting were utilized on the building 's exterior . The library once again incorporated materials from Mankato Kasota Stone , making the difference between the old and new exterior surfaces virtually indistinguishable . The teen section was significantly expanded and a new ground @-@ floor meeting room was built . The children 's section was also subject to improvements , gaining new nature @-@ inspired design elements including bird light fixtures . Collections were updated and expanded as well , including the purchasing of new books , DVDs , and CDs . The library finally reopened on April 30 , 2011 , after being closed for 19 months of renovation .

= = Wind and Water Chime = =

Pre @-@ renovation Nokomis featured a hanging sculpture called Wind and Water Chime which hung above a fountain . Classified as a stabile , a piece of artwork similar to a mobile only not intended to move , Wind and Water Chime consisted of 4 @, @ 000 individual components , including small brass and phosphorus bronze rectangles strung on 600 yards (549 m) of filament lines . The piece was designed and built by Donald Celender , a conceptual artist who taught at Macalester College in Saint Paul , Minnesota . The installation was intended to evoke the nearby Minnehaha Falls , which , like Nokomis , was referenced in Longfellow 's The Song of Hiawatha .

After Nokomis 's closure for renovation , Wind and Water Chime was taken out of the library and stored . Hennepin County projects costing more than \$ 1 million are subject to the One Percent for Art program , wherein 1 % of a project 's budget is dedicated to the " selection , purchase and installation " of artwork within the space of the project . At the recommendation of the Nokomis Library Public Art Selection Committee , Nokomis 's \$ 52 @, @ 000 art budget was spent hiring Kristin Cheronis to polish , clean , protect , and restring the entire installation with the aim of returning it to its initial appearance . It was reinstalled in Nokomis by Joel Pieper Fine Arts , now hanging near the building 's entrance on the library 's west side in an adult reading area . A ceremony celebrating the stabile 's return was held on July 13 , 2013 .

= = Services = =

As of 2015 , Nokomis Library is open six days per week , from Monday though Saturday . The library hosts 37 computer workstations , 24 more than before the renovation , and has its own Wi @-@ Fi network . The building is home to a publicly reservable meeting room that was designed for a capacity between five and 36 persons . Nokomis holds a Spanish @-@ language collection , including materials intended for adults and children . A teen gaming group meets weekly in Nokomis 's meeting room . The library has a 17 @, @ 700 square feet (1 @, @ 644 m2) parking lot accessible from 51st Street . In 2008 , Nokomis 's patrons , 53 % of whom were adults and 47 % of whom were children , checked out a total of 240 @, @ 334 items from the library .

The Friends of Nokomis Library is an organization through which community members may support the library .