

Interpretive Display

The Library Commons project will have a permanent, but changeable Interpretive Display area in the main Commons corridor to highlight cultural resources, historical events, natural features of the region, local agriculture, and other of areas of interest.



City and Library staff will be able to change out the exhibit as desired and it will be viewable by visitors to the Community Center even when the Library is closed. This space also acts as an informal gathering place between the Commons and the Library.



— Mount Vernon Library Commons —

Monthly Update
May 2022

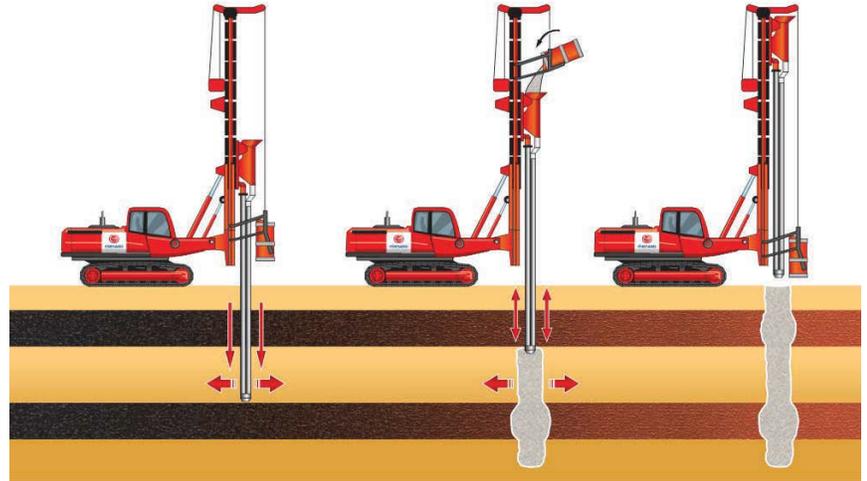


Illustration of stone column installation; Source: Menard Geosystems

Building on a Solid Foundation

The soils underneath the new Library Commons are native alluvial soils consisting of soft to stiff silt, medium dense silty sand, and stiff plastic silt, which is a technical way of saying that the soils are liquefiable and compressible, and not suitable for standard foundations. The design team had two choices - either design a complicated foundation system to mitigate the soils, or incorporate ground improvements into the site development to mitigate the seismic/liquefaction geohazards.

Ground Improvement is a method of stabilizing the site with hundreds of stone columns to a design depth; which is about 40 feet in the case of this project. They are installed using special equipment that simultaneously compresses the site soils side to side to make a cylindrical void and then filling that void with compacted stone.

Once all the stone columns are installed, the site can be built upon with more traditional foundation systems, creating a uniform and reliable base for the stories above. The building is being designed to a Risk Category III, which is the second highest category, and more stringent than most public buildings. This will provide safety for the occupants and protection from severe damage during seismic events.



Top Left: View at the Library Check-out Desk looking towards the Young Adult and Youth Services spaces and the Commons beyond. Top Right: Flex Room meeting space looking out into the Commons. Above: Community Room, which can be opened and expanded into the Flex Room for one large meeting space.

Month in Focus

Color and Material selections are coming into clearer focus as the Design Team narrows down the color palette and finishes for Bidding. Preliminary choices have been reviewed with City and Library representatives.



Members of the Design Team review colors and materials prior to meeting with City Officials and Library director.



project timeline / phases

Current Activities

- Weekly Owner Meetings
- Permitting
- Utility Coordination
- Presentation to City Council
- Final Cost Estimate
- Contingency & Soft Cost Review
- Color and Material Selections
- Casework (cabinet) Review with Owner
- Lighting Review