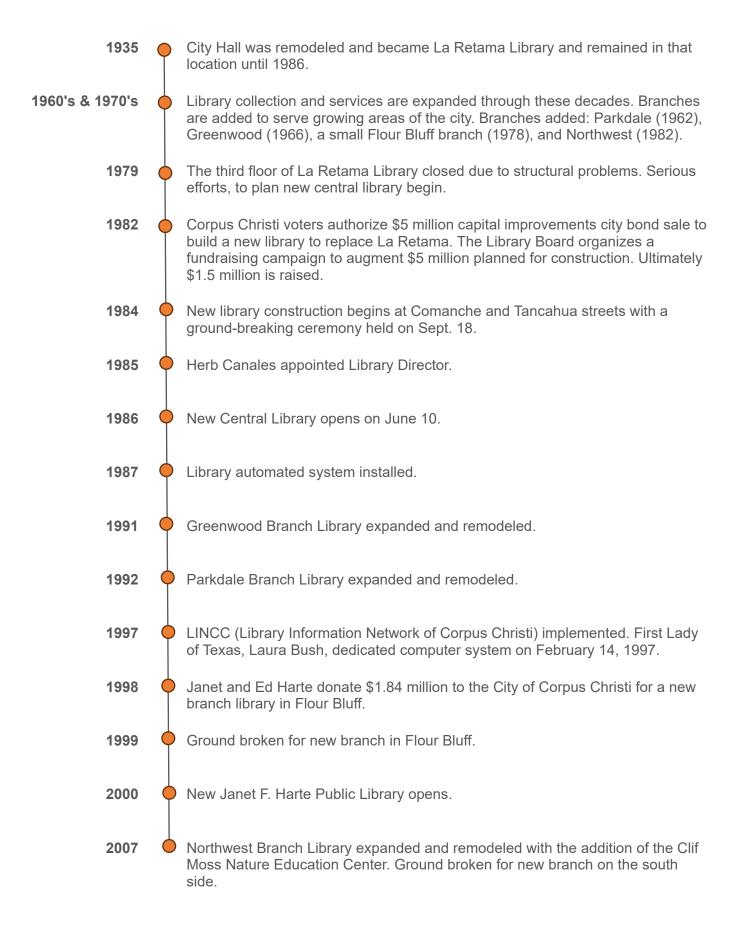
CORPUS CHRISTI PUBLIC LIBRARIES PUBLIC LIBRARIES



History of the Corpus Christi Public Libraries

November 1905	•	Several young, single Corpus Christi women organize La Retama Study Club, named for the flowering tree. The Club's objectives are study and social enjoyment.
1907		La Retama Club defines an urgent need for a public library and begins raising funds. The club's first project, a book shower held at the Ladies Pavilion, brought 200 books for the library.
1909		The library stocked with 500 books, opens in one room of the Hatch & Robertson Building in downtown Corpus Christi. Club members serve as volunteer librarians. Patrons pay \$1.25 for library cards. Revenue goes towards the purchase of books. Fundraising efforts continue. At a peanut hunt, children pay 10 cents for a glass of lemonade and all the peanuts they can find. The event raises \$20.
1914		Marie von Blucher is hired as the first librarian.
1916		Fire breaks out in the building that houses the library. Fearing books would feed the flames, firefighters threw volumes out the windows. La Retama Club members carry some books to safety, hang wet and smoke-damaged books on ropes to dry.
1919		Club members announce a fundraising drive. Goal: \$1,000. September hurricane destroys most of the library's collection. Books are soaked with saltwater, mud, and oil. Club members again dry and treat as many volumes as possible. Library closes.
September 1920		Library re-opens in the Timon home on Mesquite Street. Library moves again this year to rooms in the State Hotel.
1925		Library returns to building across the street from 505 Mesquite.
1926		Although the City of Corpus Christi had provided some funds to the library over the years, budget limitations had never allowed full funding. In 1926, La Retama Club members launch a campaign to turn the library over to the City. In June, City agrees to pay club \$1 for the library and to take over operations.
1927		City takes over library operations, moves library to City Hall at 505 Mesquite.





2013 In January long-time library employee, Laura Zavala Garcia is appointed Director

2019 The McDonald Library is chosen as a member of the National Network of Family Place Libraries.

of Libraries.