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Orange County Library System Opens Horizon West Branch

ORLANDO, Fla. (October 10, 2026) Orange County Library System's (OCLS) newest location, Horizon West Branch, is now open. The 20,000-square-foot branch is located at 4657 Hamlin Groves Trail in Winter Garden and is adjacent to the Horizon West Regional Park. Designed by architecture firm Borrelli + Partners and built by H.J. High Construction, Horizon West Branch was planned with the needs of the community in mind. Together, the park and library create an educational and recreational destination for all ages.

Themed to bring the outside in, the branch features earthy textures, organic materials and a color palette inspired by the surrounding environment. A wood honeycomb wall feature designates the spacious children's area. A 57-foot-long mural, designed by local MAD Creative Fabrication, has oversized images of local native plants and animals, including the rare blue calamintha bee, a species unique to the region. Bookshelves in the children's area have panels, six with hands-on activities, that story the life cycle journey of the calamintha bee to promote creativity, play and learning.

Features within the library include two free study rooms and three meeting rooms available for public reservation; a free Media Lab with green screen, lighting and recording and editing software for audio, video and photo projects; and two training rooms for technology classes, fiber arts and STEM programs.

The opening day collection includes more than 45,000 books across Adult, Juvenile, Easy, Young Adult and New & Popular genres. There are 22 computers for public use, a print, scan and fax station and two self-check machines for customer convenience. The parking lot has 5 EV chargers, a first for OCLS.

Horizon West has amenities for accessibility including a dedicated lactation room and a family restroom with a universal changing table: an adult-sized, height-adjustable changing station

designed to accommodate individuals of any age, height or weight who need assistance in the restroom.

The building was designed and built with environmental sustainability and energy efficiency top of mind; it is in the verification and review process by the U.S. Green Building Council for LEED certification.

Horizon West Branch includes outdoor spaces for library and customer use. A performance play area on the back of the building has a shade structure for outdoor performances and programming and artificial turf for versatile, casual seating and play. A spacious paver area with outdoor seating and a shady live oak tree provides flexible space for reading.

It also features a large, planned garden area with accessible, paved walkways on the south side of the library. The walkway lets visitors of all ages enjoy a permanent StoryWalk with a new book featured each month, engage with interactive outdoor musical instruments and observe three garden beds with more than 40 native and Florida-friendly trees, shrubs and flowers carefully chosen to benefit the wildlife and wild spaces of the adjacent Horizon West Regional Park.

Orange County Library System (OCLS) is a public library system serving the 1.5 million residents of Orange County, Fla. With 16 locations and a vast network of online and outreach resources, OCLS enriches lives through experiences and opportunities to learn, grow and connect. With free programs from technology classes for all ages to early literacy education and free online resources including language learning and homework help, an OCLS library card offers unlimited value. In 2026, two new locations and a mobile library will bring library value directly to more residents across the county. For more information, visit ocls.org, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) or download our app available now in your app store.

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