



## NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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615 Church Street | Nashville, TN | 37219

Sept. 1, 2025

### **DONELSON LIBRARY SHORTLISTED FOR INTERNATIONAL GREEN LIBRARY AWARD**

*NPL's newest branch is receiving recognition for its sustainable design*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – [Nashville Public Library](#)'s newest branch location in [Donelson](#) is among just three libraries in the world [shortlisted](#) for a prestigious sustainability award.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions ([IFLA](#)) awarded Donelson Branch Library third place for the 2025 Green Library Award in the category of "Best Green Library/Grand-scale Project."

Donelson's entry, "Retro Roots, Green Future: A Midcentury Marvel in Sustainability," was honored among two other prestigious libraries: Shenzhen Yantian Library in Shenzhen, China; and James Baldwin Library in Paris, France.

The honorees were recognized at the [IFLA World Library and Information Conference \(WLIC\)](#) in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Aug. 19.

"We are honored to be shortlisted for the IFLA Green Library Award," said Terri Luke, Library Director. "Our talented team created an intentional and beautiful eco-friendly design for the new Donelson Branch Library that conserves energy, reduces costs and sets a new standard of efficiency for libraries everywhere. We are proud that this award-winning branch has revitalized the former Donelson Shopping Plaza, and serves as the centerpoint of a thriving community gathering space where all are welcome."

## Construction and Design

Donelson Branch Library opened its doors in June 2024. The design and construction, led by [HASTINGS](#) Architecture and [Messer Construction Co.](#), seamlessly integrate sustainability features, including solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling, breeze block walls, stormwater management, recycled building materials and low-flow plumbing. The building is surrounded by an expanse of green space punctuated by colorful flowers, grasses and other native plantings. The project was overseen by Metro Nashville's Department of General Services, who continues to operate the building.

## Sustainability Outreach and Education

General Services' [Socket](#) sustainability outreach program is visible throughout the facility, through educational signage and sustainability tips that invite Library patrons to participate in earth-friendly programming, including eco-crafting, outdoor exploration, repair fairs, composting, bee farming and cooking. A motor vehicle registration kiosk is conveniently located on site, and the parking garage is equipped with electric vehicle charging stations.

## Conservation and Cost Savings

The rooftop solar panels produce approximately 45,000 kWh annually, and are expected to provide energy cost savings of about 19 percent. Water-saving faucets and toilets help the building reduce water use by more than 25 percent. The geothermal and LED lighting with sensor controls reduce energy cost by approximately 30 percent.

## More Accolades

Since opening a year ago, Donelson Branch Library has earned several awards and honors for sustainability and design:

- [2025 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award for Building Green](#)
- Featured in [American Libraries](#) September 2025 Design Issue
- [Green Good Design Award](#), Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture and Design
- [Best of Year Awards](#), *Interior Design* magazine
- [People's Choice Award](#), American Institute of Architects (AIA) Middle Tennessee
- [Green Building and Design](#), *The Architect's Newspaper*

- Certified LEED Gold, [U.S. Green Building Council](#)

[Learn more about Donelson Branch Library.](#)

### **About Nashville Public Library**

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from — plus exceptional programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy, STEAM, ESL and other key skills — NPL is Nashville's gateway to some of the best resources Nashville has to offer. Every year, across 21 locations, thousands of visitors discover how NPL lives up to our philosophy: books are only half the story.

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