



# Expansion FAQs

FROM THE BHARATIYA TEMPLE OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

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## Do we need an expansion?

Yes. In a series of recent surveys, Bharatiya Temple members have signaled their desire for an expanded facility to adequately serve the needs of Hindus in Metropolitan Detroit. After years of research and discussion, the Board of Trustees has reached consensus on a plan that will meet these needs and help unify the local Hindu community.

## What are the highlights?

The expansion project involves more than doubling the size of the Bharatiya Temple complex to about 60,000 square feet. The 35,600-square-foot addition—which will be built just north of the current structure on the site of the parking lot—will feature a grand rotunda leading to a large, new worship hall that can accommodate 600 devotees. Directly below it will be a 7,500-square-foot dining area, adjoining a modern kitchen. Also included in the addition are two classrooms, a conference room and new office space.

## What will happen to our existing structure?

The current Bharatiya Temple structure will stay open every day of the construction and will remain an integral part of the expanded facility. As the addition nears completion, the current worship hall and will be renovated and converted to a community center and meditation center.

## How much will it cost?

The Board of Trustees has authorized a budget of \$9 million over four years for the new structure and the renovation of the existing building. That figure includes design and engineering fees as well as inflation. The project will be designed to conform to this budget.

## Can we afford it?

Yes, with your help. The \$9 million budget is based on a conservative analysis

of the temple's cash holdings, fund-raising prospects and borrowing capacity. The temple is considering new revenue-generating initiatives to provide enough cash flow to service a mortgage loan of up to \$2 million. Roughly \$5 million will have to be raised from the community.

## Who is making the decisions?

The Board of Trustees, the Long-Range Planning Committee—and you. The expansion plan endorsed by the Board incorporates suggestions offered by the general membership over the past several years. The Long-Range Planning Committee is in charge of executing the plan and serves as the Board's liaison to the engineering and construction teams. The Board has also assembled its own corps of more than two dozen volunteers to handle specific tasks related to the expansion, including financial analysis, fund-raising and communications.

## What will it look like?

At the instruction of the Board of Trustees, the architects have developed a design that reflects the diversity of the Bharatiya Temple's membership, drawing from both South Indian and North Indian styles, while keeping in mind the practical needs of a North American temple. And the overall layout will conform to the prescriptions of the Vaastu Shastras, the ancient code of temple architecture.

## What real benefits will we see?

The big benefit is space: more space to worship, learn, find solace, park and come together as a community. With more space, the Bharatiya Temple can offer more services to its members and the community at large.

On a broader level, the expansion project will elevate the Bharatiya Temple to an institution that truly represents the stature, spirit, vitality, and diversity of Metropolitan Detroit's Hindu community.

## Will there be enough parking?

Yes. The new structure will be built on the site of the existing parking lot, but the expansion plans call for the construction of a new parking lot farther north, with more than 300 spaces, a 50% increase. The main car entrance will shift to South Boulevard.

## What about maintenance?

The size and ornate architecture of the new temple structure will undoubtedly make maintenance more difficult and costly, especially in Michigan's climate. In order to minimize the added costs, however, the Long-Range Planning Committee will work with the engineers and architects to choose wear-resistant construction materials such as polymer cement concrete.

## How long will it take?

Approximately four years. The first year will be devoted to detailed design and engineering work, with groundbreaking planned for September 2006. The target date of completion is late 2009.

## How can I help?

There are so many ways. The most important is to keep your membership up to date. That way, you'll remain on the mailing list to receive all the information you need about this project, including notices of fund-raising initiatives and regular construction updates. Our members can also serve as ambassadors for this project, spreading the word throughout the community and helping to generate broad-based financial and moral support.

A project of this scope requires a dedicated army of volunteers. Newer members who have yet to serve on a temple committee will now find many new ways to contribute their time and talents.

The birth of a new temple is also a great opportunity for children to get in touch with their faith and their culture. Take the time to discuss this project with your children and encourage them to help.