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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the New Westport Weston Family Y at Mahackeno

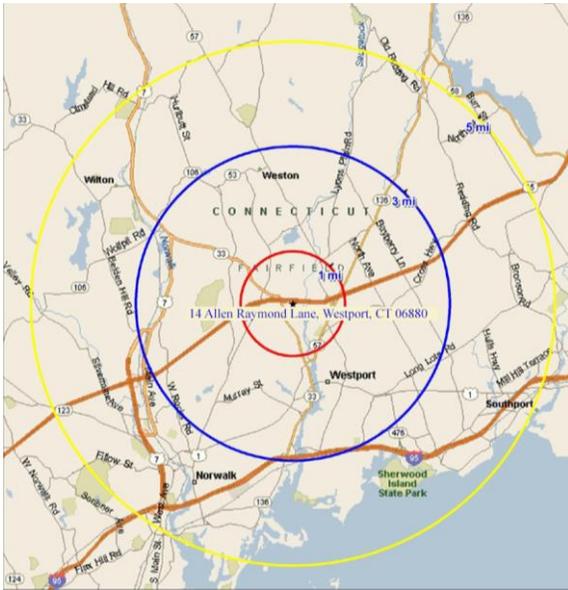


Q 1: What is the current status of the Westport Weston Family Y's new facility?

A: We're opening for full public use on Monday, Oct. 6, 2014! After years of planning and 18 months of construction, the Y received its Certificate of Occupancy for its 54,000 sq. ft. Bedford Family Center on Sept. 24, after the Town of Westport's Selectmen, operating in their capacity as the Water Pollution Control Authority, unanimously approved the Operating Agreement as required by the Town ordinance for private on-site wastewater disposal systems. This was the remaining permit required to allow us to open.

Q 2: Where exactly is the new Y located?

A: The new Westport Weston Family Y is at 14 Allen Raymond Lane (formerly Sunny Lane). It's situated on our 32-acre Mahackeno campus, longtime home of our summer day camp. The property is about 1.5 miles north of downtown Westport, bordered by the Saugatuck River on the east and the Merritt Parkway on the north. It's accessible via a short connector road leading from State Route 33 (Wilton Road) and the Merritt Parkway (15) northbound on/off ramps at Exit 41. Please see the maps on the following page for further reference.



The first map shows the location of our new Y at Mahackeno within a 1-, 3- and 5-mile radius. The red line in the second map on the right indicates the area within which our new Y can be reached within a 12-minute drive in normal traffic conditions.

Q 3: What does the new Y feature?

A: Our new facility, to be known as the Bedford Family Center, will begin as a 54,000 sq. ft. building that will include a 10-lane, 25-yard lap pool and adjacent warm-water family/teaching/therapeutic pool; Health & Wellness Center with expansive views of the Saugatuck River; multi-purpose Gymnasium; three group-fitness studios; a Cycle Studio; an innovative Kids' Club child watch area; meeting room; five locker rooms, including one for those with dependent care; and other amenities of a modern, family-oriented Y facility.

Q 4: Can I see what's going on at Mahackeno prior to the official opening?

A: Yes! Open House preview tours of the building are being offered prior to our opening, 12-8 pm on weekdays and 9 am – 12 noon on Saturday.

Q 5: What type of Membership plans will the new Y offer?

A: The Y offers 6 levels of membership to ensure you as an individual or family find the right fit for your household.

- ◆ **Youth:** Individuals ages 0-13
- ◆ **Student:** Individuals ages 14-17 and age 18 still in high school
- ◆ **Adult:** Individuals ages 18-64
- ◆ **Family:** Includes adults, youth, and all dependent adults in the household. May also include a live-in Au Pair. Fees based on No. of Adults.
- ◆ **Senior:** Individuals ages 65+
- ◆ **Senior Couple:** Two senior adult individuals, ages 65+ in the same household.

Q 6: Will it cost more to be a member of the new Y?

A: Our current rates will remain in effect until October 2015. For the current monthly and annual fees, please visit www.westportny.org, or contact a Membership Engagement Specialist at the Y Welcome Center or by calling 203-226-8981.

Q 7: What if I cannot afford a membership to the Y?

A: As a charitable, nonprofit organization, the Westport Weston Family Y does not turn anyone away due to an ability to pay. Last year, the financial assistance we provided to local individuals and community groups totaled \$429,900 and included:

- \$112,000 for families who need scholarship help to attend Camp, Child Care, take swim lessons or be part of our sports & recreation programs and activities;
- \$161,000 in subsidized or free memberships to neighbors in need.

To apply for financial assistance for a Family Y, please contact a Membership Engagement Specialist or visit the Welcome Center for a Financial Assistance Application. You can also download the application from the Membership section of our website.

Q 8: What's the current total of Y members, and will there be a limit at the new Y?

A: We currently have 5,500 members and are approved to have up to 8,000 members at our new facility.

Q 9: Do I have to live or work in Westport or Weston to belong to the Westport Weston Family Y?

A: No. Although our Y does not market to prospective members outside our service area, we welcome any member who finds our Y and its programs of value and convenience according to their individual needs. Our Y also has limited reciprocal arrangements with other local Ys, and members of our Family Y may visit other YMCAs out-of-state that participate in the "AWAY" (Always Welcome At the Y) program. Each Y sets its own policy, but most honor out-of-state Y membership free of charge.

Q 10: For current members, what will be the biggest change from the old Y?

A: Everything! Seriously, we are confident that Y members, both longtime and new, will be very pleased with our new facility, starting with the ample and convenient parking. The entire building is easily accessible to all, from mothers with strollers to seniors with mobility issues. The five locker rooms –including a family locker room for those with small children or dependent care – are thoroughly modern. All adults will have access to steam and sauna in their respective locker rooms. The facilities, from the Gymnasium to the group-fitness studios to the Wellness Center, are state-of-the-art in every way. Also, just past our spacious new Welcome Center is a Member Cafe serving healthy snacks and beverages.

In the Aquatic Center, the lap pool not only will have four more lanes than our current pool, but each lane will be wider. It will also feature an **Aquatic Climbing Wall** in the deep end – the first one in the state of Connecticut (*see right*). The warm-water shallow pool has a zero-depth entry, making it safe and accessible for all; it also features a Splash Zone for children as well as a bench with whirlpool jets.

One of the biggest enhancements to our new Y is opposite our Member Cafe: The **Nussbaum**



Kids' Club is a bright, spacious room that will be the home of our free babysitting service for Y members, as well as a fun and engaging haven for children up to the age 12.

The Kids' Club features **Fort Mack**, an innovative playscape (see right). Y staff will supervise the area and contact parents if needed. The Kids' Club is free to Family Members, and \$5 per visit for Youth Members or Children of Adult Members. There is a 2-hour time limit per day; please see www.westportny.org for scheduled times of operation.



Q 11: What's missing from the new Y versus the old one?

A: For starters, a Gymnastics Center – though please know that in June 2014 we opened a new temporary home for our Gymnastics Program at 145 Main St. in Norwalk. The new Y does not include squash and racquet ball courts. And though we continue to offer an After-School Program for K-5th Graders, in August we closed our Child Care Center (see question 14).

Our complimentary towel has also been discontinued: One of the conditions imposed upon the new Y by the Special Permit granted by the Town of Westport is an on-site wastewater treatment plant instead of a connection to the town sewer system. The wastewater treatment plant cannot service the volume of water needed to launder the towels in the facility.

Our new facility will also not include the previous Health Center membership options. That said, with its five locker rooms (which feature saunas and steam rooms in both the Men's and Women's locker rooms), as well as kit lockers adjacent to the Wellness Center, our new Y will offer all members many of the amenities formerly available to members of our Men's and Women's Health Centers at the old Y.

Q 12: Is the Y's meeting room available for use by individuals or outside groups?

A: Yes. Located on the main level, with views of the Camp Mahackeno facility, this meeting room may be reserved by outside groups. Certain restrictions apply; for details, please contact Susie Haydon, Executive Assistant, at 203-226-8981 or shaydon@westportny.org.

Q 13: What is happening to Camp Mahackeno?

A: As part of a complete review of our Camp facility and its operations, the Y is finalizing plans to make renovations to the property, some of which are already under way and which will continue into 2015. For example, we've expanded our playing fields, added two new open-air pavilions (one with a fireplace) and created paved pathways from our new Y to the camp facility. We look forward to welcoming our summer campers back to their longtime location at Mahackeno next summer.

Q 14: Does the Family Y still intend to build the larger facility originally envisioned?

A: Yes. This first stage of our new Y has been built on a portion of the footprint that has been approved by the Town of Westport. Upon completion of all construction stages, the Family Y at Mahackeno will comprise 102,000 sq. ft. and is expected to include a Gymnastics Center, Child Care wing and additional Health & Wellness areas. We'll be reviewing the usage of our new space after 12 months to help us determine what the priorities are for the expanded space.

Q 15: What's going to happen to the programs that are not part of the first stage of the construction plan?

A: In June 2014, our Y's Gymnastics Program relocated to 145 Main Street in Norwalk. The Y's Gymnastics Center now occupies a specially designed, 6,500 sq. ft. space within the 47,000 sq. ft. multi-tenant building, conveniently located near US-1 and the Route 7 connector.



The Y's new Gymnastic Center will serve as the temporary new home of the Y's award-winning Gymnastics Program, which offers classes and activities for all ages and abilities, from toddlers through high school, including competitive teams for gymnasts Level 3-8 in addition to the internationally ranked Showtime Exhibition Team. For more information about the Y's new Gymnastic Center, please contact Gymnastics Director Sally Silverstein; 203-857-1139, or ssilverstein@westporty.org.

Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of a suitable alternate site for our Early Learning Programs, our Y suspended operations of its full-day care in August 2014, until space can be provided in future phases. However, we are providing an After School program for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade who are enrolled in Westport and Weston schools, as well as School Vacation programs.

Q 16: What about the work at Exit 41 of the Merritt Parkway?

A: The Y-financed traffic-mitigation project at Exit 41 has been completed. The project included:

* **Widen the Merritt Parkway Connector** – The existing two-lane Merritt Parkway Connector between the Route 33 intersection and the Merritt Parkway northbound exit/entrance ramps has been reconstructed and expanded to four lanes to provide additional travel lanes to improve traffic flow in both directions.

* **Improve Northbound Exit/Entrance Ramps** – The Merritt Parkway northbound exit ramp has been reconfigured and expanded to two lanes and "smart" signalization has been installed to improve traffic flow management and safety. The northbound entrance ramp has also been enhanced with the new signalization. Both traffic signals on Route 33 at the Exit 41 interchange have been incorporated into this smart signalization.

Q 17: Is the Y's new facility at 14 Allen Raymond Lane on the Town's after-school bus route?

A: No. However, the Y is included in the ongoing conversations regarding after-school bus service in our community, and we are working with Town officials to have after-school bus service. The Y does provide bus service for students in its After-School program, to transport them from the program at Saugatuck Elementary School to the Y, as well as on field trips.

Q 18: How much has the first stage of the new Family Y cost, and how much have you raised so far?

A: The cost projection for the first stage is \$38.5 million, and we're happy to report that the project came in slightly under budget. As of September 2014, Y campaign leaders have raised more than \$13.7 million in contributions from Y supporters, and local philanthropists, businesses and foundations. The rest of the funds needed for the first

stage plans have come from the sale of the downtown facility, additional donations and Y reserves, and a prudent amount of borrowing. Y leaders are confident that the remaining \$1.3 million needed to fully fund the project will be secured.

Q 19: What can I do to help the Family Y complete the task of “Building What Matters”?

A: There are many ways that you can help, from sharing your personal Y story, to joining our Y as a member, to making your own contribution in support of the capital campaign or our Annual Campaign, which allows us to offer camp scholarships and free or subsidized memberships to local families and individuals in need. For more information about how to make a tax-deductible donation or multi-year pledge, contact Paul Bernetsky, Chief Development Officer, at 203-226-8981 or pbernetsky@westporty.org.

The Family Y also has launched a fundraising effort called “Picture Yourself at the New Family Y.” To find out more about this creative project, visit www.pictureyournewY.org.