



To Our Members



The Westport Weston Family Y is engaged in a significant initiative which will result in a brand-new community facility at our Mahackeno Outdoor Center.

For the past decade, we have explored various opportunities and considered numerous options. We have investigated more than 30 possible sites, worked with professional consultants and gathered input from people like you. All of this has been undertaken with the end goal of developing a unique complex to meet the needs and expectations of the communities we serve, now and in future generations.

Following months of preliminary planning – from programming requirements and siting configurations to building design and project estimates – the Board of Directors voted in December 2005 to approve all building and site specifications for the new Family Y facility at Mahackeno. This vote was the culmination of efforts by the Directors, Trustees and Staff who have worked tirelessly to design a building which will meet updated and improved safety and code requirements and deliver expanded services to children, tweens, teens, adults and seniors through Childcare, Camp and School Age,

Aquatics, Fitness, Sports and Recreation programming plus other membership-oriented activities.

The Family Y is now proceeding with full design development of a facility which will provide ample space for programs and services – from gymnastics and dance to meeting rooms and babysitting – plus expanded activities such as hiking and canoeing and accessibility to the beautiful open space at Mahackeno.

To share this magnificent vision with you and keep you informed about our plans and progress, we bring to you this newsletter – *From the Ground Up* – and invite you to accompany us on the journey as we “Imagine the Possibilities” of the new Westport Weston Family Y.

Troy Ellen Dixon
Senior Director
Development and Communications

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news

FROM THE GROUND UP

The Family Y at Mahackeno

The senior staff of the Family Y is committed to delivering programming, activities and services to meet the needs of a diverse community, today and in the future. Toward that end, they have been closely involved with development of the Mahackeno building project...and what they have imagined is marvelous.

In addition to a lap pool, there is a warm-water pool with a lazy river and a slide for family fun as well as a zero-entry section to accommodate members with physical disabilities or who seek physical therapy. There are two high school basketball courts with spectator seating for parents and courts that also



A warm-water pool provides family fun, swim lessons, and physical rehab programs.



A full-scale regulation size gymnasium with seating can be divided into two gyms.

can be used for volleyball, badminton and fencing. The expanded gymnastics facility has been designed to accommodate gymnasts who are taller than sixty-one inches. The above-ground Childcare Center has a contiguous playground. The Fitness Center will feature more room for aerobics, Pilates and spinning.

Additionally, we will be able to upgrade our camp facilities and provide year-round access to an outdoor campus – with walking and hiking trails, outdoor ball fields and Lees Pond for fishing and boating activities that is now enjoyed primarily by campers in the summer.

The site plan for the Family Y building leverages the naturally sloping terrain to maximum effect.



Co-locating the new Family Y with Camp Mahackeno creates a vastly improved, consolidated facility to serve Westport, Weston and surrounding communities. And this placement establishes the necessary elements of accessibility to allow for broader public use of this open space.

Architecture and Design

Preservation of the character of the land is important and has been incorporated into the planning process, resulting in a building which is sited and designed within the context of its surrounding environment.

The building is a classic New England design that draws from the heritage and traditions of American camp architecture. It combines aspects of Adirondack “great camps” with the more conservative and straightforward architecture of New England summer camps like Mahackeno.

The material palette is in keeping with its rustic, wooded site, using native field



stone and rough-sawn timber to reflect the architecture of the adjacent Merritt Parkway and heritage of the setting.

Site Plan

On the 32-acre Mahackeno campus which the Family Y has owned for more than 50 years, the building, parking area and surrounding grounds of the new facility will cover approximately six acres.

Discreetly nestled into a hill at the northeast corner of the property adjacent to the Merritt Parkway and facing south to picturesque Mahackeno Outdoor Center and Lees Pond, the site plan for the Family Y building leverages the naturally sloping terrain to maximum effect, does not intrude upon the existing camp and allows for preservation of woods, trails and open space.

With a planned two-story building, only one story will be visible from the Merritt Parkway or Sunny Lane and the building will not be visible from Rice's Lane.

Permitting Process

As with any project of this scope, this initiative is subject to reviews and approvals by various regulatory boards and commissions at the state and local level.

To date, we have applied to Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and are submitting plans to Westport Flood and Erosion Control Board and Westport Conservation Commission in April.

Going forward, we anticipate the following schedule of submissions and hearings:

- **Connecticut Department of Transportation:** June
- **State Traffic Commission:** June
- **Architectural Review Board:** June
- **Planning and Zoning:** June/July

And if all goes as planned, we hope to begin construction in the first quarter of 2007.

The building's classic New England design draws from the traditions of American camp architecture.





*Imagine the Possibilities
Support the vision
Stay informed
Ask questions
Contribute ideas
Donate time or money*

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

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For more information visit: www.westport.org/imagine

To receive this newsletter via email, send your email
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In upcoming issues

we will introduce you to the volunteers, staff and professionals working to make Mahackeno happen, provide a behind-the-scenes look at the project planning process, take you on a tour of the facility and much more.

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Looking Back and Moving Ahead

From The Ground Up

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