

CONNECT COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE

DESIGNED WITH SENIORS IN MIND

By Kelly Hyer, CPRP, Executive Director for WB Parks

The vision for the new Connect Community Center began back in 2018, when we started researching how to create a facility that meets the needs of all ages, especially for senior citizens. Since then, our staff and the Senior Advisory Committee have visited over 16 community centers across the region to learn from their successes. That research, combined with valuable input from our residents & expert consultants has guided the design process every step of the way.

Now working closing with the architects and engineers, we're excited to share how modern-day conveniences and new technologies are being incorporated into the Connect Community Center.

Accessibility First: Handicap parking will be directly adjacent to the sidewalk for safer, easier access. Two elevators, ADA compliant entrance doors and accessible restroom doors ensure that every part of the building is barrier-free.

Ease of Movement: Wide hallways will provide better circulation for users, especially with mobility devices and groups moving between spaces. Convenient seating will be available throughout the facility and outdoors for socialization and waiting zones.

Comfort and Safety: Connect will feature acoustic panels for sound control, along with modern lighting and updated heating and air conditioning system for a more comfortable environment.

Technology Upgrades: Larger and multiple displays will be installed in multipurpose rooms and Bluetooth connections will allow hearing aids to link directly to audio systems.

Friendly Flooring: Flooring has been carefully chosen to make mobility easier and to support activities like fitness and sports programs.

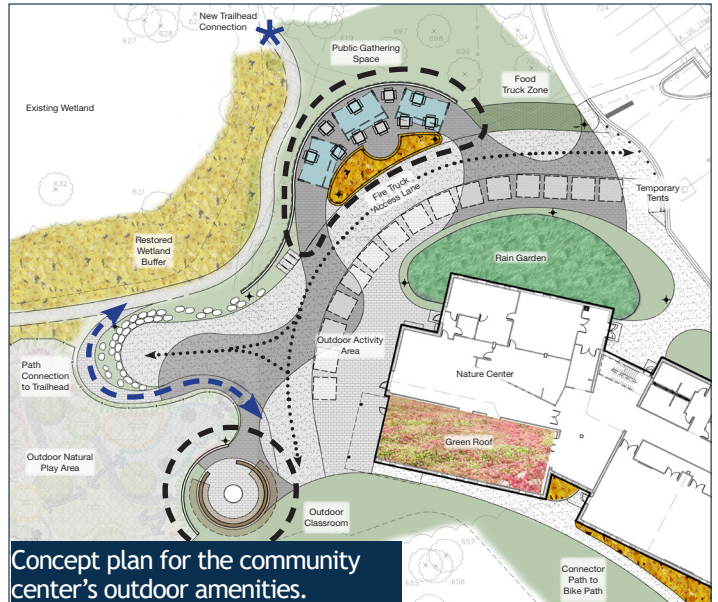
Adult Changing Rooms: An adult changing room in the restroom will provide dignity and care for those who need it.

Natural Light and Scenic Views: The design takes full advantage of windows placed throughout the building to bring in the natural light and connect users with surrounding nature. These views not only create a bright, welcoming atmosphere but also promote wellness. Research shows that sunlight and greenery can reduce stress, boost moods and increase energy levels. For seniors, this means a space that feels uplifting, peaceful and inviting year-round.

Although the Connect Community Center is designed to be multigenerational, the features created with seniors



Director Hyer shares site plan with staff and community partners.



Concept plan for the community center's outdoor amenities.



Rendering of a new multi-purpose room. Final design subject to change

in mind will be valuable for everyone. From comfort and accessibility to technology and wellness, the new center will be a place where all community members can feel welcome and engaged.

The Connect Community Center project is more than a building, it is an investment in the quality of life for our seniors today and for generations to come. We look forward to sharing updated design images on our website over the next couple of months. Please visit wbparcs.org/bond for details.