



## Connect Community Center Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. How is this project funded?

a. In August of 2024, voters approved a 20-year, 25-million-dollar bond to fund the community center as well as some park improvement projects. The majority of the bond will be put towards the new community center.

### Q. What will happen to the current Connect?

a. The leased space at 14 Mile and Farmington Road will remain in operation until we open the new community center in 2027. After the center is opened, all staff and programs will move to the new community center.

### Q. What is the timeline?

a. Construction is slated to begin in April of 2026 and be complete in the fall of 2027.

### Q. Why is the Recreation Activities Center being demolished?

a. The original concept proposed renovating the existing Recreation Activities Center however several factors, including site limitations and the existing building design, led to the decision to demolish the current one-level 8400 sq. ft. structure to make way for the new multigenerational Connect Community Center. Half of the existing building footprint will be restored to green space for the outdoor plaza, outdoor classroom and natural play area. Retaining the remaining 4,400 sq. ft. would have been cost-prohibitive. Renovation costs would have exceeded the combined expense of demolition and that needed to redesign the structure to support a second level, updated plumbing, window and door layout, fire suppression and elevations between both buildings on the site. Following the demolition, staff will be relocated to other facilities.

**Q. How long do you expect the relocation period to last?**

a. Staff is preparing for a relocation period of approximately 20 months. Construction of the new Community Center is expected to take about 16 months. These additional months of time allow for necessary preparation, demolition and site work before the new facility is built.

**Q. How will these relocations directly affect daily operations and activities at Connect Senior Center?**

- a. WB Parks is taking care to ensure continuity and minimal disruption for our services. The phone line will remain the same (248) 451-1900 and mail service will still be received using the same address. The relocation of walk in services to Connect will begin December 15, 2025 at 8am. Connect hours are: 8am-4:30pm.
- All programming that has previously taken place at the Recreation Activities Center has been relocated to one of our other facilities.
  - Customers can review program information in the program description or once registered, can view on their receipt.
  - Meals on Wheels volunteers will pick up supplies at WB Police Department starting December 15, 2025.
  - Nature programming will continue at our other parks and facilities through outreach/appointment-based services OR pre-registration for a program. See our Activity Guide for details.
  - Civic Center Trail users will need to utilize the trailheads behind the Library or by Town Hall. The trailhead by the Recreation Activities Center will be closed in January 2026.

**Q. Which specific programs, departments, or services are being moved and where will they be operating during this transition period?**

- Transit staff have been relocated to one of our other facilities, however, this will not disrupt any current customer services. Punch cards can be bought at Connect Senior Center or over the phone via (248) 451-1900. Rides can still be coordinated on the same Transit line at (248) 706-2411.
- Recreation staff have been relocated to Connect.
- Admin staff will relocate to Green Media Center in January 2026, pending lease approval.

- Nature programming will continue at our other parks and facilities through outreach/appointment-based services OR pre-registration for a program. See our Activity Guide for details. Nature staff will be relocated with Admin staff during the transition period.

**Q. What will happen to the Pewabic pottery tiles at the Recreation Activities Center?**

- a. We are including the removal of the Pewabic pieces, both the exterior sign and interior blue heron and ribbon plaques as a separate category in our contractor bid packages. The ability to safely salvage these items will depend on how they were originally adhered to the building. The design of the new Community Center includes plans to re-purpose these tiles.

**Q. What benchmarks or milestones should the community watch for?**

- Relocation of walk in services to our current Connect Senior Center located at 33230 W 14 Mile Rd (December 2025)
- Groundbreaking (Spring 2026)
- Anticipated move into new facility (Fall 2027)

**Q. How will transportation be addressed for seniors during this transition?**

- a. Transit services have already been relocated and this relocation will not affect customers. Punch cards can be bought at Connect Senior Center or over the phone via (248) 451-1900. Rides can still be coordinated on the same Transit line at (248) 706-2411.

**Q. Will the new Connect have enough parking?**

- a. Yes. We contracted with Fishbeck Engineering to complete a campus traffic study to determine how much parking we will need for the new center. They determined our planned parking lots will be sufficient.

**Q. Will the new Connect have expanded hours?**

- a. Yes. We plan to be open on the weekends and during the evenings on weekdays. Exact schedule to come.