



MADISON AREA YMCA FAQs

Family Center Expansion Phased Opening

Updated November 18, 2021

What new spaces are now open?

The Y has begun introducing programs in the new space as well as in its existing spaces. One of the first new spaces NOW OPEN, the **Glasser Center**, features the transformation of the former basketball gym to a specialized strength, performance and functional training center. Our new **Walker D. Kirby Aquatics Center** is now opened to our members. The Aquatics Center features our new 8-lane pool, with 7-foot-wide lanes, and our renovated 4-lane pool. We are so excited to share that the Y's **new full-sized sports center**, offering full and half-court basketball and volleyball, and four pickleball courts, will be available for member use beginning **Monday, November 29!** We anticipate that new programs and services will be introduced throughout the remainder of 2021 and into 2022 to fully utilize the new expansion and repurposed spaces.

When will the new second entrance be accessible?

Our East Entrance into the new East Lobby, will be open to members, for scheduled periods throughout the week, coming soon. We continue to get the space ready, as our Y staff prepare to welcome you at our new Welcome Desk. Check back for more details soon!

AQUATICS AND POOL QUESTIONS

Welcome to our open **Walker D. Kirby Aquatics Center!** We are excited to offer our members additional lanes and expanded space for lap swimming in our new 8-lane pool, featuring 7-foot-wide lanes! The Y's renovated four-lane pool is now open to members as well. We are ensuring the safety of our pools by recruiting and fully training certified, experienced instructors and lifeguards to supplement our existing team.

Our 8-lane pool features lap swim seven days a week. Our 4-lane pool features Leisure Swim (weekdays), Aqua Zumba (Mondays) Aqua Fit (Wednesday), Family Swim (Friday, Saturday, and Sundays), and parent/child, youth and adult programming. Leisure swim is designated for adult personal exercise or free swim. Lap swim is not allowed during Leisure Swim. Family Swim is a great way for children and families to spend a valuable time together in our pool and is an exclusive opportunity for active Family Memberships at the Madison Area YMCA. Children must be accompanied by an adult that is present and participating.

My kids need swim lessons – when can they start?

Aquatics safety and swimming instruction are among our highest priorities, and we continue to recruit and fully train certified, experienced instructors and additional lifeguards to supplement our existing team of aquatics coaches, lifeguards and managers. Now with two pools, we need a larger number of highly qualified aquatics staff so we can meet the growing demand for swimming lessons for people of all ages. This late fall session, we offer Parent/child, youth and adult classes. Limited spaces may still be available.



When can I come in for lap swimming?

Our new 8-lane pool is now open for lap swim to our Madison Area YMCA members seven days a week with increased hours! The Pool Schedule can be found on our schedules page [here](#) with Lap Swim times. Although registration is not required for Lap Swim, we require swimmers to sign in and out at the pool deck to allow our team to best evaluate our members' pool usage and adjust our schedule and staffing needs as we continue to expand our offerings.

I'm interested in Masters swimming. How do I join? When do we meet?

Looking to get back into the water to improve your health, prepare for a competition, or enhance your endurance and technique? Join our Masters Adult Swimming Program, for adults ages 18+ today! Masters Swimming runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15-8:15 p.m. Expanded morning times coming soon. Learn more [here](#). Participants can join by registering online, or in person at the Welcome Center before getting to the pool deck.

What other swim programs will you have?

The Madison Area YMCA's new Walker D. Kirby Aquatics Center, featuring our new 8-lane pool and upgraded 4-lane pool, has fully opened with youth and adult programming. Aquatic safety and swimming instruction are among our highest priorities, and we are working to recruit and fully train certified, experienced instructors and additional lifeguards to expand our existing team of aquatics coaches, lifeguards and managers. Now with two pools, we need a larger number of highly qualified aquatics staff so we can meet the growing demand for swimming lessons for people of all ages. In addition to youth and adult swim programs, we plan to provide parent/child swim lessons, our Masters Adult Swimming Program, private swim lessons, lifeguard classes, Aqua exercise, water aerobics, and more new and exciting programs!

How do I access the 4-lane pool and the 8-lane pool?

Our newly renovated 4-lane pool can be accessed from the lower lobby through corridor next to the Family Locker Room Suite and Boys' and Girls' locker rooms. Our new 8-lane pool can be accessed through the corridor adjacent to the 4-lane pool in the locker room area. The locker room suite is designed to connect into the Aquatics Center seamlessly. The entrance to the 8-lane pool can be found through the corridor at the back of the Women's and Men's locker rooms, along the far end of the hallway.

SAFE POOLS HAVE RULES

As we begin to introduce more aquatics programs to our members, the safety of all is our top priority. Wish to check out our new Aquatics Center? Please do so safely from the member-accessible windows overlooking the pools. Only swimmers and staff may enter the 8-lane pool. Street shoes are not permitted on the pool deck. No one is permitted on the pool deck unless there is a lifeguard on duty.

For the safety of all, lifeguards must keep their eyes on the pool at all times. Please remember, if you need to approach a lifeguard, do not expect him/her to make eye contact with you.



FITNESS/WELLNESS QUESTIONS

What are the updates to the Fitness Center?

The main Fitness Center, fully open to members, is now reconfigured to include cardio equipment and a strength circuit exclusively, with added areas for stretching. The upper level **MP4 room** has returned to use as a studio group exercise and programming space.

What is happening in the smaller gymnasium?

Welcome to the **Glasser Center**! One of the first new spaces NOW OPEN, the Glasser Center, features the transformation of the former basketball gym to a specialized strength, performance, functional training and free weight area. The expanded fitness space includes new flooring, a turf field area, strength and free-weight training equipment. At the beginning of September, this new space was further enhanced with the following equipment:

- [Hammer Strength Plate Loaded Glute Drive](#)
- [Hammer Strength HD Athletic Perimeter Rack](#)
- [Life Fitness 8 Station Multi-Jungle](#)
- [Life Fitness Synrgy 180 Functional Training Unit](#)
- [Hammer Strength Plate Loaded Belt Squat/Dip](#)
- [Hammer Strength Impact Suppression Platform](#), and more!

NEW GYMNASIUM OPENING SOON!

We are so excited to share that the Y's new full-sized sports center, offering full and half-court basketball and volleyball, and four pickleball courts, will be available for member use beginning Monday, November 29! With an unexpected delay, we have all been eagerly awaiting the opening! The floor is freshly installed and lined for basketball, volleyball and pickleball. We will resume programming in the new space this late fall session, where participants will be the first to try out the new floor!

Pickleball lines are painted on the new gymnasium floor, with programming returning on November 29. Our new gymnasium will also include volleyball courts. We hope to begin by offering youth programming to complement our local school programs and plan to offer an Adult League in the near future. Our Lady Gators are practicing at our partnering locations and will return to the Y on November 29. Additional youth sports programming, and adult basketball pickup games will take place in the new gymnasium on November 29, too!

The gymnasium was donated by Helen and Michael Caulfield in recognition of Art Powell for his decades of outstanding service to the Madison Area YMCA.

When does the new Gators and Lady Gators season begin in the new gym?

Practices are underway at our partnering locations, and will be moving onsite to our new gymnasium on November 29.



When can I play pickup basketball?

Adult pickup basketball begins at 6 a.m. on Monday, November 29 in the new gymnasium. The schedule and registration will be available online [here](#).

When can I sign up for Pickleball?

Pickleball lines are painted on the new gymnasium floor, with programming returning on November 29. The schedule and registration will be available online [here](#).

I heard you have volleyball courts. How and when can I join a team?

Yes, our new gymnasium will include volleyball courts. We hope to begin by offering youth programming to complement our local school programs and plan to offer an Adult League in the near future.

KIDS CENTRAL

Is Kids Central open? Can we play in that space?

We are excited to share Open Play in Kids Central at the Family Center is back! As a benefit to members with **Family Memberships**, families can enjoy our indoor play space. Open Play is available Monday – Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon. Registration is available on our website and mobile app 48 hours prior to each 1-hour block. Parents must stay with their children at all times.

UPDATED MASK POLICY

The Y is a key partner in keeping our community physically and mentally healthy by providing much needed access to exercise and programs for all ages. We believe it is our responsibility to protect our members, participants, and employees so a visit to our facilities is as safe and enjoyable and possible. **Our Mask Policy is as follows:**

The Madison Area YMCA continues to follow the CDC and the state of New Jersey guidelines, strongly recommending that both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear face masks indoors at the Y. When face coverings are not worn, efforts should be made to maintain at least 6 feet from others. Individuals ages 2+ that are not fully vaccinated* **MUST** wear a mask when entering and throughout the facility.

All **Y staff are required** to wear masks while indoors regardless of vaccination status. YMCA staff working outdoors, whose work brings them into close proximity with others (less than six feet for a duration of time), should exercise precautionary measures, such as wearing a face covering, out of respect for others.

What about masks in the pool area?

Face masks should not be worn when engaged in activities that may cause the cloth face covering to become wet, like when swimming. When **leaving the Aquatics Center it is required** for individuals ages 2+ that are not fully vaccinated to once again, wear a mask. Lifeguards are not required to wear masks when guarding from the guard stand, but masks are required when walking on the pool deck. Masks should not be worn while in the pool.

*Fully vaccinated is defined as: Two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.



NATIONWIDE MEMBERSHIP

I am a member at another Y. Can I visit the Madison Area YMCA?

We are happy to share the Madison Area YMCA now welcomes Nationwide members. With nationwide membership, your Y membership allows you to visit any participating YMCA in the United States and Puerto Rico, at no additional cost. So, when you're traveling, all Ys accepting Nationwide Memberships, are open to Y members and provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone - no matter where you are. Nationwide Membership is

an essential part of our cause to strengthen communities. Visit our website to learn more: www.madisonareaymca.org/NationwideMembership.

MORE INFORMATION

The expansion addresses a years-long demand for expanded sports, fitness, wellness and aquatics spaces at the Y's Family Center. Construction on the long-planned expansion of the Madison Area YMCA Family Center will be completed this summer, opening the way for the introduction of new programs and services over the course of the coming weeks and months. The \$18M expansion began construction in September 2019, and the final furnishings and equipment are being installed this summer and early fall.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

Our more than 1,000 donors have made this important capital expansion possible! Thank you for being part of our Y community as we build for the future. We know we still have more fundraising to do to continue to cover the cost of the project. Please consider making a gift to ensure we can better serve the needs of our community today and in the future. Did you know that donations to our Family Center Expansion can be made via Venmo, PayPal, Apple Pay, Google Pay and more through Givebutter.com? The process is easy, paperless and can be completed in less time than it takes to decide what's for dinner. Visit www.madisonareaymca.org/donatenow to learn more.

STAY UP TO DATE

Please continue to visit www.madisonareaymca.org/GetExcited for the most up-to-date information on our phased opening.