

**Ohio.com**

## YMCA to build new center on Akron City Hospital campus

By Cheryl Powell

Beacon Journal medical writer POSTED: 11:08 a.m. EDT, Aug 13, 2009

The Akron Area YMCA is partnering with Summa Health System to build a new facility on the Akron City Hospital campus.

The YMCA announced this morning that it plans to construct a 60,000-square-foot, \$11 million fitness center at the corner of East Market and Adolph streets, next to City Hospital.

About half the needed funds have been raised so far for the project, Akron Area YMCA President and Chief Executive Doug Kohl said in a prepared statement. Groundbreaking is expected to happen later this year.

When it opens in 2011, the new building will be known as the University Park YMCA.

The new fitness center in the city's University Park neighborhood will include racquetball and basketball courts, indoor pools, a cardiovascular and strength training center and an indoor running track, according to a news release from Summa and the YMCA.

Through the partnership, Summa's physical, occupational and speech therapy programs will be offered on the building's second floor.

The University Park YMCA will be connected to a new parking garage and City Hospital by a covered bridge.

The Akron Area YMCA already has partnerships in place with Summa in Green and Barberton.

Summa's Barberton Hospital collaborated with the YMCA, the Barberton Community Foundation, Babcock & Wilcox Co., the city of Barberton and Barberton Parks and Recreation to open the \$9 million, 57,000-square-foot Lake Anna YMCA Community Center in 2007.

In Green, Summa and the Akron Area YMCA share a facility to house the YMCA's programming and the health system's medical services.

Cheryl Powell can be reached at 330-996-3902 or [chpowell@thebeaconjournal.com](mailto:chpowell@thebeaconjournal.com).