

## AUDIO Summa To Build University Park YMCA

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Summa Health System and the Akron Area YMCA are partnering to build the University Park YMCA on the Summa Akron City Hospital campus.

The 60,000 square-foot facility is expected to open in 2011 and will bring the YMCA's renowned youth and community programming to the 50-block University Park neighborhood in Akron. Additionally, the University Park YMCA will be a state-of-the-art health and wellness facility featuring racquetball and basketball courts, indoor pools, a cardiovascular and strength training center, indoor running track and other amenities. Summa spokesperson Anne Merchant says groundbreaking is expected to occur later this year.



[LISTEN to Merchant talk about the University Park YMCA](#) As part of the partnership, Summa Health System's Rehabilitation Services will provide physical therapy, along with occupational and speech therapies on the second floor of the building and in the building's fitness facilities. Summa's patients and employees will enjoy easy access to the University Park YMCA through a covered bridge that will connect the facility to the new parking garage and Summa Akron City Hospital.

"By partnering with Summa and other community leaders, we will provide rewarding programs for families and youth," said Doug Kohl, President and CEO of the Akron Area YMCA. "This collaboration will also contribute significantly to a stronger community by offering the latest in holistic health and wellness programs at a new facility to be designed and built on the Summa Akron City Hospital campus to facilitate these goals. We will reach out and help lift up the surrounding community with a rich tapestry of programs designed to strengthen spirit, mind and body for all. The success of this community transformational endeavor will also depend on generous philanthropic support from our community. We have 50 percent of our fundraising completed for this \$11 million project. The major gifts phase of our capital campaign is in full swing."

"Summa Health System's partnership with the Akron Area YMCA is a natural extension of our mission to provide the highest quality, compassionate care to our patients and to contribute to a healthier community," said Tom Strauss, President and CEO of Summa Health System. "The University Park

YMCA will play an important role in Summa's ongoing commitment to the wellness of the community, and at the same time, the health and well being of our employees."

Given its location on the Summa Akron City Hospital campus, the University Park YMCA will be a convenient option for Summa employees looking to incorporate wellness into their lifestyles. The facility will also enable Summa to expand its successful Wellness Works employee program, which encourages employees to make healthy choices by providing opportunities for fitness, weight loss, smoking cessation and community service. The building will have a healthcare provider communications room, which will allow employees to communicate easily with the hospital when necessary.

This is not the first time Summa Health System and the Akron Area YMCA have collaborated to provide health and wellness resources to the community. In 2000, the Green Family YMCA opened at the Summa Health Center at Green. Additionally, Summa and the YMCA have also partnered to offer services at the Lake Anna YMCA Community Center.

The University Park YMCA will be located at the corner of East Market and Adolph streets, 477 East Market Street.

