

# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

## FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM & FEASIBILITY STUDY



**Tecton**  
ARCHITECTS

*New Elmwood Community Center, Senior Center & Library*

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has shared feedback as part of this process. Please know that your voice is valued.

### *Is this the final design?*

No, this is one possibility of what form the building may eventually take. It was developed to test the building's layout on the site, explore programmatic adjacencies, and provide the basis for rough order of magnitude cost estimates.

### *What happens to the existing ECC and Faxon?*

This is still unknown, but both parcels are desirable sites and their sale could offset costs associated with the New ECC project. Any future developments on these parcels would be subject to the Planning and Zoning process, with opportunities for public comment.

### *What are Flex Spaces?*

Examples across Connecticut and globally prove that stand-alone buildings of this type are outdated and inefficient. The concept of bringing together a Community Center, Senior Center and Library under one roof has programmatic, cultural, operational and sustainability benefits. Flex Spaces are shared spaces that help realize these many benefits by designing multi-purpose spaces for continuous use as determined by schedule.

### *Will the new ECC connect to Beachland Park?*

The two properties will likely remain distinct entities that will complement each other. A driveway and walking paths will facilitate connectivity between the two sites as well as incorporate access to the Trout Brook Trail.

### *Are you saving any portion of the existing school?*

Likely not, for several reasons: (1) Due to significant accessibility, environmental, and code-related challenges, the current recommendation is to build new. (2) Concern with reusing an existing school does not work at the current ECC. (3) A significant addition to the former school would be required to meet the proposed programmatic requirements, bringing the cost to remediate and renovate close to the cost of building new.

### *Will there be a stage?*

Yes! A stage with backstage and side-stage areas is currently envisioned as part of the large multi-purpose room with adjoining kitchen. The performance space would be of similar size to the stage in the current community center auditorium.

*Continued on next page...*



Email Your Questions:  
[NewECC@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:NewECC@westhartfordct.gov)



Check the Website for Updates and Additional Information:  
<https://www.westhartfordlibrary.org/the-library/feasibility-study/>

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### How big is the Gymnasium?

Currently, the program calls for a high-school sized court with bleacher seating. The total square footage of the gym is larger than the current ECC and former school. Storage space, locker rooms and toilet facilities are adjacent. The gym is a flexible multi-use space and will be sub-dividable. It will be striped to accommodate a variety of sporting activities for all ages and abilities. There is a track above, and possibly a climbing wall in the future.

### How big is the (Library, Senior Center...)?

For each program area, the intent is to provide space comparable to existing areas but optimized in terms of meeting/activity rooms, natural daylight, technology, and ease of access to shared spaces elsewhere in the New ECC.

### Is there a kitchen?

Yes, there are two kitchens planned! A commercial kitchen will serve the senior lunch program, coffee bar, and preschool-age program if needed, but can also be rented out for private events along with its adjoining multi-purpose room. Emergency Management will have use of this kitchen when facility is operating as an emergency shelter. A warming kitchen is also available as a rentable space along with its adjoining multi-purpose room.

### What happens to the dog park?

The Town continues to explore appropriate sites for a dog park, but it is too soon to know if the Mayflower site can accommodate a community center, adequate parking and a dog park.

### What happens to the Creamery and St. Agnes buildings?

The Town has a long-term vision to renovate the historic Beachland House, a former creamery building, for use as a cultural, gallery and event space. The Town does not own nor have any involvement in the former St. Agnes Home.

### What happens next?

If approved by Town Council, a separate RFP\* process will be initiated to select design and construction partners. (\*Request for Proposals)

### Where can I find out more?

Please visit the project website listed below to see past presentations, photos, and ultimately the final feasibility study report.

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