

YYFAP Program statement

A new facility for YYFAP should provide effective spaces which allow YYFAP to fulfill its mission:

*to provide a safe and supportive environment for children,
to be an advocate for youth and families and
to provide and encourage activities that integrate youth into the community.*

The following existing program elements are the tools used to fulfill the mission:

- After school programming for up to 35 (currently 25) school age children and youth, 5 days a week for 2.5 hours per day. Recreational, educational, and skill-building activities with lots of involvement of adult role models of a wide age range.

On a typical afternoon, we envision 30 children ranging in age from 6 to 16 coming straight from school to YYFAP. They arrive hungry and full of news about their day. They are welcomed by several adults, staff and volunteer, who greet them warmly, listen to their news, and help them work through any issues that have come up during the school day. After a healthy snack, the children scatter to various activities. Some have homework, and go with an adult to the quiet homework area where they can work without distraction, and with help if they need it. Some go out to the garden to collect vegetables for a cooking project. Others go to the craft area, where they continue work on their birdhouses. Still others need time for unstructured imaginative play. The teens adjourn to the teen room, designed by them, to plan teen activities for the next month.

- Summer programming for up to 40 (currently 20-30) school age children and youth, 5 days a week for up to 9 hours per day. Activities include focused educational activities, recreation, outdoor exploration, skill-building and more, again with involvement of adult role models of a wide age range, and community partnerships.
- Teen specific activities for up to 30 (currently 20) older teens once a week for 3 hours. These activities will be initiated and planned by the teens themselves.
- Leadership training activities for up to 20 (currently 10) middle and high school age youth once a week for 2 hours.
- Cooperative Preschool for 15 preschoolers (currently 8) and their parents 3 times / week for 3 hours. Parents and teacher work together to lead engaging activities in math, pre-writing, music, peaceful communications, nutrition, and science. Parents learn the principles of child development.
- Parent support services for 50 (currently 25) families include parent education classes, parent support groups, referral services, family nights, case management.
- Educational support including special classes and events such as OMSI presentations and classes for homeschoolers.

The following programs to be added in the future:

- Daycare for 20 children of mixed ages on a flexible schedule throughout the week.
- Additional services to adult community members, taking advantage of space during school hours, and also expanding on the use of adult volunteers for youth programming.

The physical expansion of the Commons would also expand these facilities as a focal point of the community as a whole... where older adults, along with children, youth and families come together for services and activities that benefit from their mutual synergies.

YYFAP will be assessing opportunities for expanded services and programming that can enhance and maximize these community synergies as the physical expansion project unfolds. Some of these opportunities may be best implemented by YYFAP and some may align with a community partner, but the project will be designed with an eye toward expanded use.