

Triangle YMCA to build \$22M facility in booming Chatham County

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Image: courtesy of Triangle YMCA

The Triangle YMCA is building a new facility at Chatham Park. COURTESY OF TRIANGLE YMCA

By **Ben Tobin** - Greater Triangle Growth Reporter, Triangle Business Journal
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The YMCA of the Triangle plans to build a \$22 million facility that could be open by the end of next year in a huge development in Chatham County.

The facility, which is expected to break ground at the 7,100-acre **Chatham Park community** just outside Pittsboro in the fall, will be 34,000 square feet across 16 acres. It will include a state-of-the-art wellness center, an outdoor pool, indoor and outdoor gymnasiums, and multi-purpose space.

Forest Perry, regional vice president of YMCA of the Triangle, told the *Triangle Business Journal* that the current YMCA in Pittsboro is roughly 6,000 square feet large.

"This Y gives us a larger capacity to serve the entire county as a whole," Perry said. "With us having a thriving YMCA in the Pittsboro Chatham Park community, that will allow us to serve programs throughout the community that we might not have had the capacity to do in the storefront operation that we currently have."

Preston Development Company, the Cary-based developer behind Chatham Park, will build the new YMCA, according to Perry. He said that the development group has previously built three YMCA facilities in the area.

The new YMCA will be able to host up to 10,000 people indoors, Perry said, and construction is set to begin in the coming months. The facility should be ready to open in late 2024 or early 2025, according to Perry.

The new project joins a number of new developments coming to red-hot Chatham County, which has seen its population balloon by more than 50 percent since 2020 to nearly 80,000. And that number could skyrocket if EV maker VinFast follows through on **plans to open a 7,500-job assembly plant in southeast Chatham**.

Chatham Park is the main impetus for the county's growth. At 22,000 homes planned at full build out, it is one of the largest master-planned communities on the East Coast. On top of that, Mosaic, the commercial district billed as the "gateway" to Chatham Park off Highway 501, is growing the area's commercial real estate tax base as it **attracts new tenants**.

Ben Tobin covers real estate and economic development in the Greater Triangle, focusing on the counties outside Wake and Durham. Have a tip? Reach him at btobin@bizjournals.com or (919) 327-1012.

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