

Downtown Accessibility Navigator

YWCA West Central Michigan (last updated June 2025)

25 Sheldon Blvd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Parking.

The main parking for the YWCA West Central Michigan is located in gated surface lots along Weston Street. These lots contain approximately 20 to 35 parking spaces, including two designated accessible spaces situated near the building entrance. The surface lot features a flush curb ramp that connects directly to the sidewalk and leads toward the entrance, providing smooth access for individuals using mobility devices. Additional metered street parking is available on both Weston Street and

Sheldon Boulevard. Street lighting in the surrounding area is provided by city-installed lamps, which offer sufficient visibility during evening hours.

Entrances.

The most commonly used entrance to the building is off Weston Street, directly accessible from the parking lot. After parking, visitors approach a screening system that requires speaking into an intercom so that staff can remotely grant access. The entry door at this point is a single door that can be operated manually or via a push-button powered mechanism. This door leads into a spacious vestibule, followed by another single swing door that functions similarly and is also flush with the tile flooring inside.

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There are two additional entrances on the Sheldon Boulevard side of the building. The primary Sheldon entrance consists of double manual doors and also requires screening through an intercom system before entry. This entrance leads into a vestibule containing more double swinging doors. While this entry includes steps, an adjacent ramp with handrails offers a fully accessible option. This accessible ramp entrance uses a single manual door that is flush with the ramp surface and sidewalk.

Inside / Getting Around.



The YWCA occupies the first two floors of the building, which has a total of four levels. Elevators are available to travel between floors and include appropriate turning space and clearly mounted buttons for accessibility. Stairs are also available for those who prefer or require them. The facility offers mobility aids such as wheelchairs, which are available upon request for visitors who need them.

Interior spaces feature a mix of couch-style seating and standard chairs near entrances, in the Grace Dyer Hunting Lounge, and throughout various communal

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areas. Walkways between rooms are wide and easy to navigate, with tactile signage, braille, and raised characters identifying the purpose of each room. These include counseling offices, meeting rooms, lounges, kitchens, and other functional spaces. Furniture throughout the facility consists of standard-height chairs and tables, contributing to a consistent and user-friendly environment.

Sensory.

The interior environment benefits from a combination of bright natural light from windows and evenly distributed overhead ceiling lights that emit a white-hued glow. The overall lighting level is bright but comfortable. During a visit, the space was generally quiet, supporting a calm and focused atmosphere. It is reasonable to assume that the noise level remains low most of the time, given the nature of the services provided within the building.

Restrooms.

Restrooms are distributed throughout both the first and second floors. Facilities include men's and women's multi-user restrooms, as well as single-user gender-neutral restrooms. All restrooms are equipped with grab bars, and the layout provides adequate turning space for mobility devices. Manual sinks with sufficient underneath clearance are installed, along with changing tables in designated stalls. Doors to restrooms are manual but wide enough to accommodate various users.