



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON | LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX REQUEST

BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) is a regionally and nationally significant skating facility that opened with one sheet of ice in 1970. A second rink was added in 1975, and a third in 1993. Over the years, the facility has hosted skating luminaries including Dorothy Hamill, Wayne Gretzky, the 1980 U.S. men's Olympic hockey team, and the U.S. Figure Skating Championships.



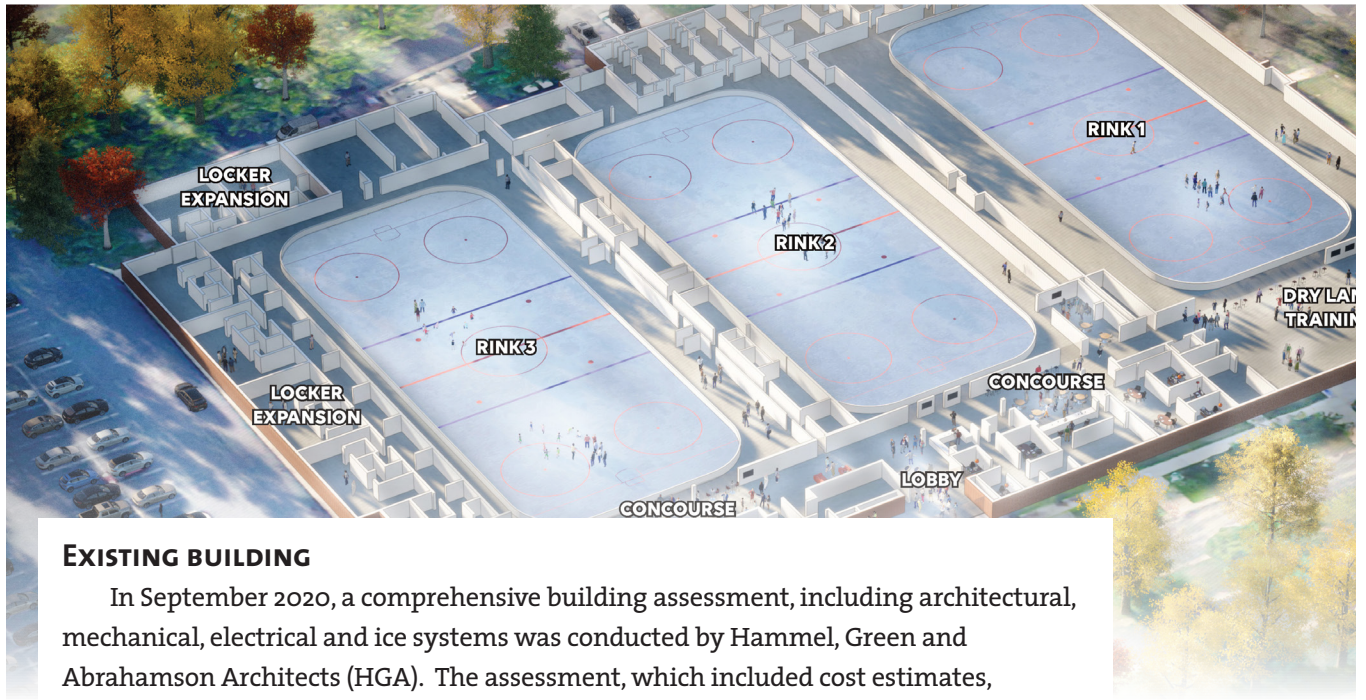
WHO WE SERVE

Annually, BIG rents over 9,000 ice hours and hosts more than 24 tournaments and figure skating events with skaters from Minnesota, all over the United States and Canada. In addition, it is the home arena for Bloomington Jefferson and Kennedy high school hockey teams, the Figure Skating Club of Bloomington, and the Bloomington Amateur Hockey Association, making it one of the busiest facilities in the state.

REGIONAL IMPACT

- 60% - 70% of ice rented during the summer is from groups outside of Bloomington.
- 15% of players in the Youth Hockey Hub tournament come from outside the Twin Cities.
- 89% of teams in the Bloomington Amateur Hockey Association's five annual tournaments come from outside of Bloomington.
- More than 90% of OS Hockey's 1,400 summer camp participants live outside of Bloomington.
- 25% of Skate School registrants live outside of Bloomington.

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON IS SEEKING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL TO HAVE VOTERS CONSIDER 0.50% LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR 20 YEARS TO HELP FUND RENOVATION OF THE BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$32 MILLION PLUS INTEREST AND FINANCING COSTS.



EXISTING BUILDING

In September 2020, a comprehensive building assessment, including architectural, mechanical, electrical and ice systems was conducted by Hammel, Green and Abrahamson Architects (HGA). The assessment, which included cost estimates, identified a number of functional and operational challenges that need to be addressed. Of critical importance is replacement of the refrigeration system powered by ozone-depleting and nationally phased-out R-22 refrigerant. Existing systems may still be serviced by recovered, recycled or reclaimed refrigerant, but as of 2019, production and importing of R-22 is banned, ensuring the cost will not only continue to increase but will eventually become prohibitive. The ice system serving rinks 2 and 3 has reached the end of its expected life and all three sheets use R22 refrigerant.

GOALS FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS

This project provides an opportunity to modernize one of Minnesota's most historic ice arenas. Improvements under consideration include:

- Updates to many major mechanical and roof systems.
- Improvements to ADA accessibility including adding elevators to allow guest access to viewing areas on all three rinks and renovating older locker rooms and restrooms between rinks 2 and 3.
- Downsizing rink 3 ice sheet from Olympic to standard NHL size.
- New high school locker rooms.
- Dedicated dryland training area.
- Improved guest experience, including building flow, ticketing, security, offices and concessions.

QUESTIONS

For more information, contact Susan Faus, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation at 952-563- 8899 or sfaus@BloomingtonMN.gov.