

Funding Proposal for Improvements to Braemar Park and Arena

In the 2021 session, the Legislature authorized the City of Edina to conduct a local referendum asking Edina voters to decide the fate of a 0.5% local options sales tax to fund local park and recreation facility improvements that serve a wider regional audience. The projects included in the referendum are \$17.7 million for The Fred Richards Park Master Plan and \$21.6 million for The Braemar Park Master Plan. The total funding for both projects is \$39.3 million.

The spending proposed in 2021 for The Braemar Park Master Plan (\$21.6 million) will fund \$8.1 million in general capital improvements around the 400 acres of Braemar Park and \$13.5 million in capital improvement rehabilitation projects in Braemar Arena's operating infrastructure. In 2022, the City is asking the Legislature to authorize additional spending from the City's future local option sales tax revenue to fund a \$31.7 million expansion of Braemar Arena, which would add a 4th sheet of ice, and other improvements, to one of Minnesota's most historic and premier municipal ice arenas.

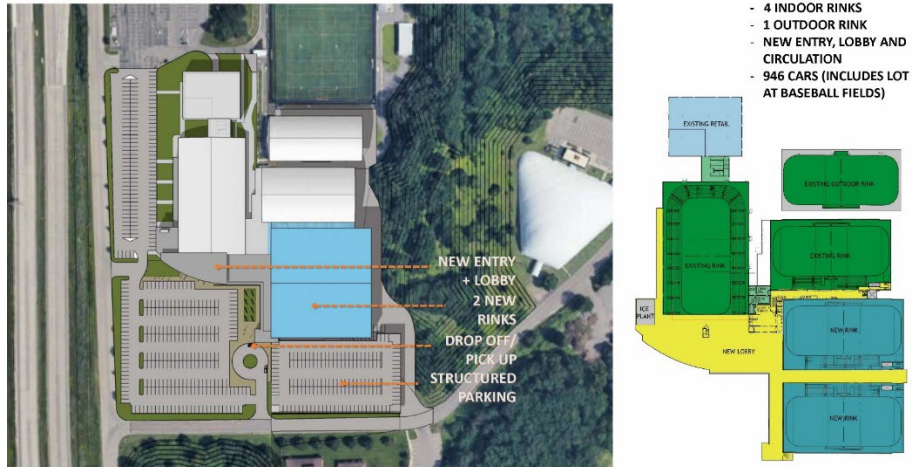
Braemar Arena is home to Edina High School, the Edina Hockey Association, Breakaway Academy, and the Braemar-City of Lakes Figure Skating Club. Braemar Arena is one of the busiest ice arenas in the entire state; approximately 500,000 annual visits are recorded there from residents of 158 Minnesota communities, 12 states and one other country.

Braemar Arena capital improvement rehabilitation projects include:

- Dasher board and glass safety system replacements
- Flooring replacements
- Ice Refrigeration system and delivery replacements
- Heat and boiler replacements for all rinks
- Electrical system replacements for all rinks
- Window and roofing replacements and repairs
- Hot water system replacements
- Domestic water distribution system replacements
- Sanitary system and fixture replacements
- Locker room rehabilitation
- Restroom rehabilitation
- Permafrost removal in east rink
- Energy efficiency improvements and insulation
- ADA route and walkway improvements
- ADA door and access improvements
- ADA restroom improvements
- ADA viewing and seating improvements
- Waterproofing and moisture control
- Fire protection and security improvement

Braemar Arena Expansion Project

Under the initial plans, one sheet of ice would be demolished, and two new sheets would be constructed, along with a covered walkway to the existing West rink and a parking deck. The building lobby would be expanded, as would the drive lane, a safety drop-off area and outdoor programming space. Due to the growth in youth hockey ice demand is ever increasing. Roughly half of purchased Edina Hockey Association ice time is secured outside of Braemar Arena. This expansion would have little to no impact on surrounding communities.



Local Option Sales Tax Funding for Braemar Park Projects

Braemar Park and Arena Request \$53.3M

The City's Request

The City's financial projections support that this additional spending capacity (\$31.7 million) can be realized with no change to the 2021 approved referendum parameters of a 0.5% tax rate with a 19-year tax duration. The City's request is only to increase the amount of sales tax the City is authorized to spend from what it anticipates it will collect from the 2021 approved amount of \$39.3 million to \$71 million. This additional amount will be sufficient to fund the Braemar Arena Expansion Project. If the City's request is granted by the Legislature, the voters of Edina will decide the fate of this matter through a referendum held in conjunction with the November 8, 2022 general election.

City of Edina Contacts:

James Hovland, Mayor	JHovland@EdinaMN.Gov	952-903-5702
Scott Neal, City Manager	SNeal@EdinaMN.Gov	952-826-0401
Perry Vetter, Parks & Recreation Director	PVetter@EdinaMN.Gov	952-826-0430