



The renderings in this flyer show a vision of what a renovated BIG could look like.

## CITY OF BLOOMINGTON | LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX REQUEST

# BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

**B**loomington 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 \$35 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 Ann Kattreh, Director of Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8876 or [akattreh@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:akattreh@BloomingtonMN.gov)





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## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

The Community Health and Wellness Center would provide an integrated approach to health and wellness by combining and enhancing the services provided by Bloomington Public Health and Creekside Community Center.

The center would offer a range of public health and recreational opportunities, with a goal of supporting the health and well-being of the community and the region. It would also target health equity by addressing barriers to wellness and fitness.

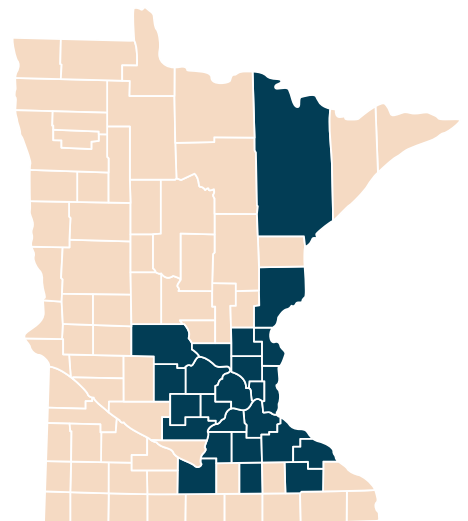
### REGIONAL IMPACT

**Bloomington Public Health** provides health services to a population of nearly 180,000 people across Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. Public Health serves additional people across the region who work in the three cities when they seek health services such as regular immunizations. This demand has been amplified during COVID-19 as people seek testing and vaccination (see sidebar).

Public Health focuses on individuals with less resources and who have experienced health disparities due to structural racism. For example, 86% of the clients of the Bloomington Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinic in 2020 were from BIPOC communities.

**Creekside Community Center** offers a variety of programming from recreation to arts and crafts. The center received approximately 110,000 visits annually prior to the pandemic. Creekside is undersized to accommodate current community center program demands in 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 CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$100 MILLION PLUS INTEREST AND FINANCING COSTS.



### SERVING RESIDENTS ACROSS THE TWIN CITIES REGION AND BEYOND

*In the last three years, Bloomington Public Health served thousands of individuals outside of its service area, including:*

- 2,013 individuals who received flu shots.
- 172 individuals who received regular immunizations for school or work.
- 6,915 individuals who received COVID-19 vaccines.

*\*Highlighted counties are those with five or more clients.*



### **CURRENT FACILITIES**

Both the Public Health and Creekside buildings were constructed in 1960 and have outlived their useful lives. There are also significant limitations on the way spaces could be remodeled or repurposed for programming and services. A new facility that combines fitness and wellness components could be right-sized, purpose-built and energy-efficient for the long-term benefit of the area.

### **THE PROJECT**

The Community Health and Wellness Center would integrate wellness services and enhance the health and well-being of the region.



Bloomington Parks and Recreation will partner with Bloomington Public Health to provide recreation, education and fitness programming for the residents of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. The project will create:

- A family-oriented facility that meets the broad-based wellness and health goals of clients and users from across the area.
- A wide range of recreational opportunities for people of all ages.
- Right-sized, multi-use and flexible spaces to meet the area's leisure and fitness needs both now and into the future.
- A modern, welcoming, and more effective environment for individuals seeking health and fitness services.
- Increased accessibility to services, particularly by those who have experienced health disparities, refugees, immigrants and individuals from Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

### **QUESTIONS**

Nick Kelley, Public Health Administrator, 952-563-4962, [nkelley@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:nkelley@BloomingtonMN.gov)  
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## NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR RENEWAL

Occupying more than 240 acres, Moir/Central Park in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed is one of the largest parks in Bloomington. Amenities include baseball and softball fields, a disc golf course, playgrounds, seasonal restrooms, miles of improved and natural trails, a volleyball court, two picnic shelters, and outdoor picnic areas. This region is enjoyed by visitors from throughout the southwest metro area.

The 2021 Park System Master Plan assessed existing park infrastructure, and established needs and priorities based on extensive stakeholder and community engagement and input. Priorities identified through this process included new park shelter buildings, outdoor gathering spaces, natural resources, and increasing diversification of park amenities.

### REGIONAL IMPACT

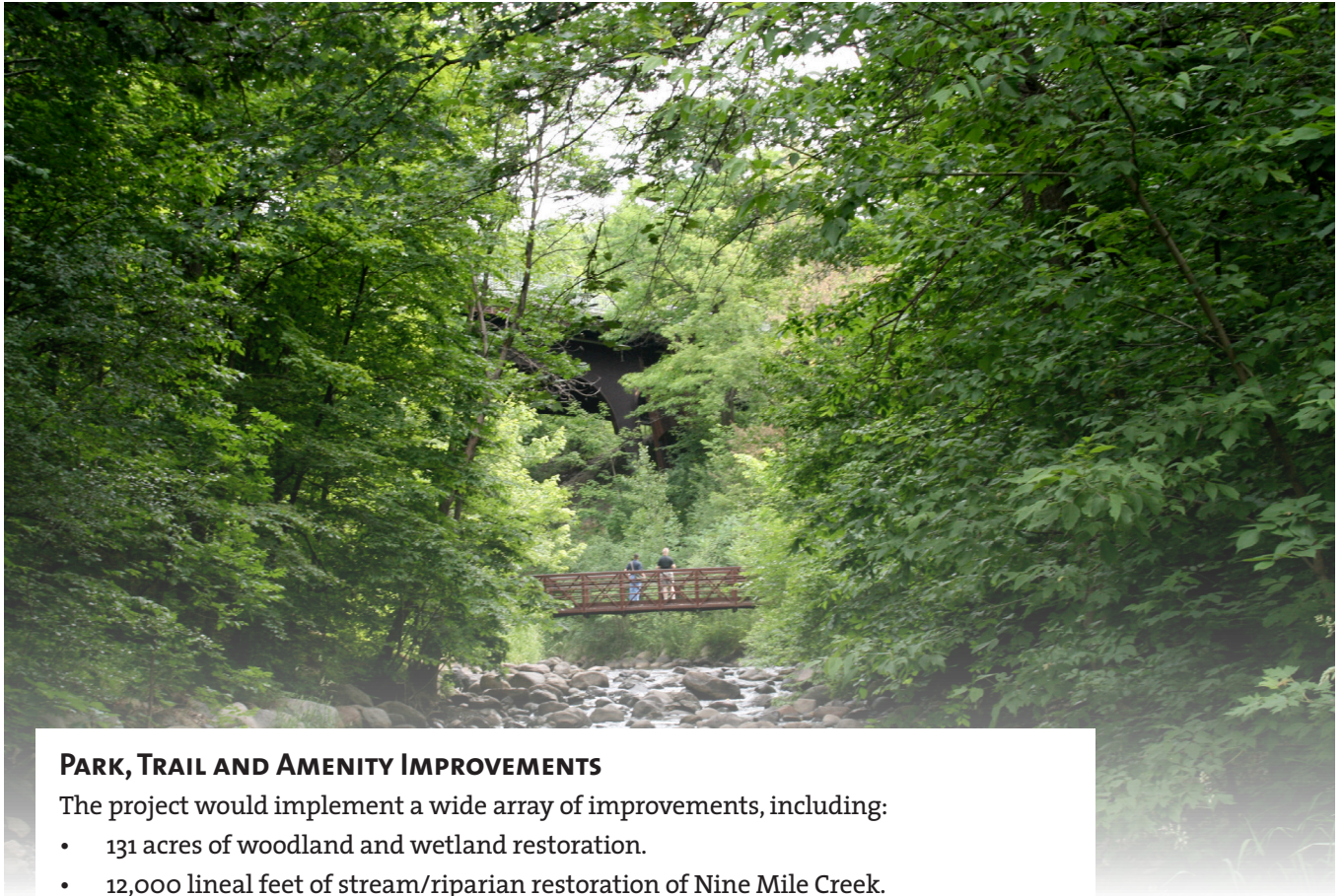
This project restores natural resources within a Metro DNR Conservation Corridor and provides the community with increased year-round recreational access to regionally significant trail networks in the Minnesota River Valley.

Natural areas are the underpinning of Bloomington's park system. The 2022 Natural Resources Prioritization and Management Strategies for Bloomington Parks ranked Moir/Central Park and Nine Mile Creek as the highest priority for restoration. A bike trail connection through Moir/Central Park to the Minnesota River Valley is also part of the Park System Master Plan. Trail connections to the river valley would provide increased access to existing and planned State trails.

**THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON IS SEEKING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL TO HAVE VOTERS CONSIDER A 0.50% LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FOR 20 YEARS TO HELP FUND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR AT AN ESTIMATED \$20 MILLION PLUS INTEREST AND FINANCING COSTS.**







### **PARK, TRAIL AND AMENITY IMPROVEMENTS**

The project would implement a wide array of improvements, including:

- 131 acres of woodland and wetland restoration.
- 12,000 lineal feet of stream/riparian restoration of Nine Mile Creek.
- 12,400 feet of trails with associated retaining walls, wayfinding kiosks and signage.
- Seven new trail bridges within Central Park.
- A boardwalk connecting the river bottom trails to Moir/Central Park.
- Trail widening to improve safety and allow bikes along the park trails.
- ADA accessibility improvements allowing easier access from upper portion of the park to trails and natural resource amenities in the lower portion.
- New park shelter building and outdoor gathering space with restrooms.
- New playground.
- Reevaluation of softball fields use.
- New amenities desired by the community.

A community-driven planning process will develop a new vision for Moir/Central Park, with design principles reflecting the Park System Master Plan's priorities of natural resources, park facility needs, trails/mobility and equity.

### **QUESTIONS**

For more information, contact Bloomington Parks and Recreation Assistant Director for Parks and Park Projects Renae Clark at 952-563-8890 or [rclark@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:rclark@bloomingtonmn.gov).