

Parks & Recreation Building Committee

Facility Needs Assessment

Who do our current facilities (Arenas and Stauss Park) serve?

- **Primary users**
 - Hockey
 - Figure Skating
 - Walkers
 - Senior High School Hockey teams
 - EGF Senior High & Sacred Heart High School baseball teams
 - Park & Rec summer baseball
 - American legion baseball
 - Adult amateur baseball
- **Secondary users**
 - Community events
 - Craft Show
 - Gun shows
 - Festivals/music events
 - High School spring sports
 - Fitness classes

With improvements to our facilities, who can additionally be served?

Note: these may be dependent upon final design considerations and final building project scope.

Indoor facilities & Stauss Park complex

- Youth sports
 - Soccer
 - Lacrosse
 - Softball
 - Golf
 - Football/flag football
- Spring & Fall High School Sports
- Community Fitness programming
- Senior Citizen health and wellness activities
- Area college baseball teams
- Area high school baseball teams
- High school softball

CIVIC CENTER ASSESSMENT

What is good about the Civic Center

- Great Seating/Spectator views
- Good concession stand
- Building is cleaned/maintained well
- Best rink is NW Minnesota for watching games/competitions
- Large parking lot
- Big enough to host large events/handle lots of spectators
- Plenty of restrooms; nice to have on each end and at ice level

What do we dislike about the Civic Center?

- Players Entrance is unsafe; needs to be removed/replaced
- Locker rooms are too small and there are not enough of them
- Parking lot is in terrible condition
- Sidewalks to building is poor design, unsafe
- Concessions at front of building is a poor use of space
- Side doors are too easy to access, allowing people to sneak in/out of building
- Area under bleachers/behind locker rooms needs to be repurposed
- Locker rooms need to be remodeled or replaced
- Ice plant is old, ice quality on busy days is bad
- No off ice exercise areas
- Poor lobby/entrance space
- Staff work areas make them un-accessible to the public
- No backs on the seating

What improvements can be made to improve function?

- By expanding locker rooms/lobby spaces, we improve health and safety of all users
- Bigger lobby where people can congregate.
- Could an addition include an off ice training/fitness space?
- Can water table and drainage issues be fixed?
- More storage is needed to allow for turf in the non-ice season for sports like soccer, baseball, softball, etc.
- New locker room addition including boys high school locker room.
- Team Bench reconfiguration – removing stairs from players benches.
- Ice plant replacement
- Bringing building up to code
- New & more locker rooms
- Safe players entrance for drop-off/pick up which is visible to staff
- Extra sheet of ice
- Re-finish the parking lots
- New locker rooms- new parking lot- new ice plant- put in something that the community could utilize at all times i.e workout area under bleachers- this is just wasted space
- Can we create a fitness space, walking track that we can sell memberships for?

VFW ARENA ASSESSMENT

What does the VFW Arena do well?

- Great youth arena
- Good size locker rooms
- Good viewing areas
- Nice rink for the south end of town
- Huge space on 2nd floor for exercise, events, or hospitality area
- Location next to Blue line arena
- Access for walkers, near Greenway system
- Great off-ice training areas
- Great potential for off-ice activities
- Great off-ice shooting area.

What is lacking at the VFW Arena?

- Needs a new roof; must fix all the leaks/drainage issues
- Poor use of space on the north end of arena
- Parking lot is too small and traffic is dangerous when full
- Interior needs a lot of TLC, painted, etc.
- Better air handling system for summer ice
- Too much non-utilized space
- Front lobby needs to be revamped
- No handicap accessible bathrooms
- Not enough locker rooms
- Inadequate concessions area
- Not enough seating for games/competitions

What improvements can be made to improve function?

- Connection to Blue Line Arena could improve function for both arenas and community events
- Ice on one of the rinks from September to April
- Need better, more, and safer parking spaces
- Sidewalk improvements to entrance
- Year-round function – Add turf when ice is out
- Expand use as a multi-function facility when ice is out
- Two rinks connected in the same complex would be a huge benefit

Questions?

- If building addition is added, how can we increase size of parking lot
 - How many parking spaces do we need?

Blue Line Arena Assessment

What do we like about the Blue Lien Arena?

- Fills our need for a third ice rink
- Location next to VFW Arena is important
- Great practice rink
- Ice is cold and fast

What do we dislike about Blue Line Arena?

- Small locker rooms
- Lobby space and concession area is too small/congested
- Too cold to watch games
- Parking is bad
- Bathroom facilities are small
- Sound in arena is bad, tough to hear/understand coaches on ice
- Too cold
- Ceiling is too low to work well for off-ice sports like baseball, softball, etc.

What improvements can be made to improve function?

- Expand east to connect building with VFW Arena, adding a community space between two buildings
- Improve lighting
- Expand to allow a more shared space between VFW & Blue Line
- Make building and ice plant useable all year round, allowing more use of VFW Arena for other functions
- Community center fitness space/multi-purpose rooms between VFW Arena & Blue Line
- Locker rooms could be added to/improved upon

STAUSS PARK ASSESSMENT

Who are current Stauss Park users?

- EGF & Sacred Heart Schools
- Park & Rec baseball
- American Legion baseball
- Adult amateur baseball

What do we like about Stauss Park?

- Two playing fields right next to each other
- Good concessions
- Location in center of town is good

Where is Stauss Park lacking/need improvement?

- Field drainage is poor
- No changing rooms/facilities for teams
- Field safety concerns
 - Fencing
 - Light poles in field
 - Gopher holes
 - Uneven playing surface
 - Lighting is bad on one field, not on the 2nd at all
- Poor flow through the park
- Security; lack of common entrance for ticketing
- No covered grandstand on either field
- 2nd field is unsafe for competitive play, especially on wet years

Stauss Park – What can be done to improve function or expand user groups

- Turf Field; could be used for multiple sports and attract many regional teams/events
- Add changing rooms for teams
- Must make sure two fields are game ready to host events/tournaments
- Improve flow of park, with common entrance, parking, etc.
- Fan and community experience improved with covered grandstand/picnic viewing area
- Outfield/infield drainage improved
- Improved training space, batting cages, bullpens, etc.