

Padgett Award Application
City of Cottage Grove Ice Arena

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Introduction

The Cottage Grove Ice Arena was built in 1974 and has since served to satisfy recreational needs for communities in the South East Metro area. When the arena opened it was considered a “state of the art” facility which would be home to Park High School Hockey, the Cottage Grove Athletic Association, the Cottage Grove Figure Skating Club, and eventually East Ridge Boys High School Hockey. Recently many of these organizations have rallied in support of the arena, which needed updates to meet the growing demand for the facility. After reading and watching the information in this report, we hope you feel that this progress embodies the James Padgett Award.

Background

Efforts to modernize the Cottage Grove Ice Arena began in the mid-1990’s and have continued progressively over the years. Some of the earlier improvements included the installation of fluorescent lighting, low-emissivity ceiling, reverse osmosis water system, motion sensed lighting, chiller receiver insulation, and more. In 2008, with the addition of a third sheet of ice, the facility became one of the largest in the metro area.

Recent Renovations

In the Spring of 2019, the North and South rinks were taken down for major construction after almost 45 years of service. The aging Holmsten R-22 refrigeration system and the North rink’s boards were replaced, its sand floor was torn out and exchanged for a concrete slab, and all the refrigeration piping was completely replaced for both the North and South rinks. The new ammonia ice plant features three screw compressors that supply the cooling needed for the North (NHL 200x85) and South (Studio 120x65) rinks. Along with the improved cooling capacity and efficiency, the system will be sustainable in the future as the R-22 phase out ends production of the old refrigerant. In addition to the upgraded icemaking infrastructure, the arena received several other improvements including: a center hung scoreboard, a building wide sound system and a mural of the Wolfpack logo.



North rink in 1997



North Rink in 2019 pre renovation



North Rink after renovations

Improvements were prioritized by identifying areas that would have the most immediate impact to customers, and partnerships with local groups helped mitigate costs. Cottage Grove Hockey Association (CGHA) split the cost of a new center hung scoreboard, contributed door decals and stick racks for all the locker rooms in the North and South rinks, donated labor and material costs to install the netting on each end of the North rink, and provided new freeze-in ice logos for both rinks. 3M donated the mural of the Wolfpack logo. The South Washington County Telecommunications Commission (SWCTC) paid for a building wide sound/communication system. On the West Rink, in 2018, the East Ridge Boys Booster Club fundraised and contributed over \$300,000 toward varsity and JV locker rooms and the city matched \$100,000 in funds for two community locker rooms as an addition to the building's footprint. All these are examples of how support has solidified the arena as a key recreation destination of the community.

Below are a few short click-to-watch videos showcasing the construction, and some of our premier events.



Construction at Cottage Grove Ice Arena



Council Update January 2020 (Skip to 1:10)

In February, the Park Boys vs Woodbury High School 'Hockey Classic' was televised and live streamed on YouTube by the SWCTC. Alongside a barn burner of a game, the broadcast featured live commentary, public service announcements, and a collaborative effort to expose residents to the amenities within their communities.



As part of a continued effort to expand participation in recreation-based programs, events and facilities, Cottage Grove Ice Arena has added in-house offerings to include spring and summer baseball/lacrosse/softball camps, practices and clinics on the West Rink turf, a new Cosmic Skating drop in activity, and community events like the Easter Egg Hunt to bring different groups of people into the building. Many of the organizations that use the facility have followed suit. For example: CGHA's ultra-low-cost Intro to Hockey program was recognized by the Minnesota Hockey Grow the Game Award in 2018. Additionally, both CGHA and the East Ridge Boys Booster Club offered a series of free passes through the 'Pack the Stands' and 'Build This House' programs that gave a total of 764 students admission to varsity events during the 2019-2020 season.

Conclusion

As you can see, the community surrounding Cottage Grove Ice Arena and its staff have made tremendous strides working together to improve the facility and extend its use to as many people as possible. We hope you enjoyed getting to learn about some of the recent updates and efforts at Cottage Grove Ice Arena and hope you agree that the progress made is deserving of the Padgett Award. Thank you for your time and consideration in the reviewing process and we look forward to the results.