

FACILITY UPDATE

Facility and overall history:

In 2004 the Willmar Curling Club was started as a rather 'experimental' project in the Cardinal Arena with some borrowed rocks and a couple of curious people.

In just 4 years, there were almost 80 people playing in a mostly un-insulated Blue Line arena where temps inside were fairly close to outside and the condensation dripping from the ceiling made for some rather interesting obstacles when it froze on

the curling surface.

By 2011, even with Kevin Madsen's extraordinary work as arena manager and the help of the members, it was obvious that there was no chance of reaching all of the potential curlers in a shared arena setting. It was at that time the members of Willmar Curling voted to form a committee tasked with studying the possibility of building a "DEDICATED

CURLING FACILITY" in the area (dedicated meaning that it be dedicated to curling, nothing else).

As of today, we're happy to report that our goal seems to be within reach. We may soon be able to expand our leagues, adaptive and open programs, as well as provide curling for the future – school kids and grandkids, and scout, church, family and business groups – on more than just 6 hours per week.

A consultant recently conducted a study in the area showing that a campaign would potentially be able to raise the funds needed to build a facility dedicated to curling.

Willmar and Spicer location news

Things:

- A name change is in the works. We're currently going by Midwest Curling Association.
- Two of our members will be officiating curling at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Korea.
- Fargo, Brainerd, Blaine and Chaska have all built in the last 6 years.
- Our league curlers have come from more than 60 miles away.

You may have heard some of the stories going around regarding the happenings at the Willmar Civic Center arena.

Recently, the City of Willmar announced that a minor league hockey team, much like the Stingers baseball team, is coming to town. The specific fallout to our curling programs is unknown at this time though your Board of Directors is considering what affects there will be with more hockey and figure skating obviously

being pushed out of the Cardinal Arena and into the Blue Line.

Our members have met with the City of Willmar (COW) numerous times and they are currently considering a plan that would allow us to build a facility on the Civic Center site.

In 2015, after many exploratory efforts in the Willmar area, the committee came across affordable land in Spicer. The property owner and the City of Spicer (COS) were both willing

and excited to have our facility in their community.

Since then, we've been working with their Economic Development Authority and the city council toward that end.

Both cities will soon be providing us with detailing how they can help us to achieve our goals. In September our board should be able to make a decision on what the best location is for us to build for the future of curling in the region.