

James Metzen Mighty Ducks Ice Arena Grant Program (1995-2000; 2014-2016; 2021-Present)

Between 1995 and 2000, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission managed an innovative program that provided grants of up to \$250,000 for communities seeking to construct new sheets of ice or \$50,000 for renovation projects on existing facilities. These grants were all matched by local private or non-state public funds.

The program was initiated because of a serious shortage of ice time around the state. Significant growth was taking place in all ice sports, but especially in girls' ice hockey. This growth spurt for a new female sport began in earnest in the mid-1990's and continued unabated through the duration of the Mighty Ducks Grant Program. There was already a shortage of ice time even without a growing group of female hockey players, but their arrival on the Minnesota sports landscape made the issue even more pressing.

Instead of battling head-to-head with male hockey teams, the MASC pioneered an innovative solution to resolve the shortage: help construct additional ice facilities. Thus, the Mighty Ducks Grant Program was born.

"The Mighty Ducks legislation provided the answer to the problem," said State Representative Bob Milbert, who was also a member of the MASC Board. "Equitable ice times became available for girls and women, without penalizing boys' teams."

Since the original round of grants in December 1995 through the completion of the program in 2000, a total of \$18,405,000 in grants were awarded toward the construction or renovation of Minnesota ice arenas, resulting in the construction of 61 new sheets of ice across the state.

Did the Mighty Ducks program accomplish its mission? If you look at the numbers of Minnesota female hockey players, the answer is yes. USA Hockey registration numbers for 2021-2022 show 15,377 female players in Minnesota. That figure is 5,000 more than the next closest state, Massachusetts, and more than double any other state behind Massachusetts. In fact, one in five female hockey players in the U.S. live and play in Minnesota.

While quantity does not always equate to quality, in the case of women's hockey in Minnesota, it has 6 players on the 2022 U.S. Women's National Team that train at the Super Rink in Blaine, from Minnesota. More US Women's Olympic team members are from Minnesota than any other US State. Check the roster

of the seven-time national champion University of Minnesota Women's Hockey Team and you'll find 21 of 28 players from Minnesota.

Minnesota women's hockey has grown and matured to the point that we have legends, players who've made their mark as the best in the world and are recognizable even to non-hockey fans - Natalie Darwitz, Jenny Potter, Krissy Wendell, Gigi Marvin, and others.

In 2014, the grant program was revived by the State Legislature to help Minnesota communities deal with two new issues facing ice arenas: **the EPA mandated phase-out of R-22 refrigerant and improving air quality of indoor rinks.** The program still requires local matching funds of at least 50% of total projects costs.

MASC provides grants of up to \$500,000 for replacement of direct R-22 systems, up to \$250,000 for indirect systems, and \$25,000 for HVAC repair and replacement to mitigate carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide exposure of athletes, patrons, and staff.

James Metzen Mighty Ducks Grant Program in summary:

- Total state investment: over \$24 million
- 82 grants awarded for new arenas, producing 64 new sheets of ice
- 110 grants awarded to improve existing arenas
- Non-state spending leveraged: Approx. \$170 million
- Sports benefited by Mighty Ducks grants: hockey, speed skating, figure skating, in-line hockey, broomball, bandy, disabled and senior ice sports.



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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Albert Lea	\$250,000	\$121,025	1997, 2016, 2021
Austin		\$260,000	1997, 2014, 2016
Faribault	\$250,000	\$30,000	1995, 1997
Fairmont		\$50,000	1997
Kasson-Dodge County	\$250,000	\$100,000	1996, 2015
La Crescent	\$250,000	\$108,293	1996, 2015, 2016
Le Sueur		\$50,000	1998
Luverne		\$53,500	1996, 2016
Mankato	\$250,000		1996
Mapleton		\$30,000	1996
Mower County	\$500,000		1998, 2000
New Ulm		\$70,000	2016
Owatonna	\$250,000	\$42,887	1997, 2021
Rochester-Olmsted County	\$250,000	\$145,000	1995, 1996, 2016
Sleepy Eye	\$150,000	\$50,000	1995, 1996
Steele County		\$25,488	1997, 2015
Waseca		\$50,000	1995
Winona		\$200,000	1997, 2014
Worthington		\$50,000	1995
TOTAL	\$2,400,000	\$1,436,193	

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Apple Valley		\$50,000	1996
Cottage Grove		\$40,000	1995
Eagan	\$250,000		1996, 1997
Farmington		\$100,000	1996, 2015
Hastings	\$250,000		1996, 1997
Inver Grove Heights	\$150,000		1996
Lakeville	\$250,000	\$71,000	1997, 2016
New Prague	\$250,000	\$20,968	1996, 2015, 2021
Northfield		\$50,000	2016
Red Wing	\$250,000	\$80,000	1998, 2000, 2016
Shakopee	\$192,645		2015
South St. Paul	\$250,000	\$50,000	1996, 1997
West St. Paul		\$300,000	1996, 1998, 2014
TOTAL	\$1,842,645.00	\$761,968.00	

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Bloomington		\$100,000	1997
Brooklyn Park	\$250,000	\$25,000	1995, 1996, 1997
Champlin		\$520,425	2014, 2021
Chaska	\$250,000		1997
Coon Rapids		\$50,000	1997
Eden Prairie		\$25,000	1996
Edina	\$250,000	\$25,000	1996, 2021
ISD 278-Orono Hockey	\$100,000		1996
Maple Grove	\$250,000		1996
Minnetonka		\$25,000	1996
Mound		\$25,000	1997
Orono		\$40,000	1997, 2016
Osseo-ISD 279		\$50,000	1996
Plymouth	\$350,000	\$100,000	1995, 1997, 2016
TOTAL	\$1,450,000.00	\$985,425.00	

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Arden Hills	\$250,000		1997
New Brighton	\$250,000		1996
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale ISD 622		\$400,000	2016
Oakdale-Maplewood	\$250,000	\$50,000	1995, 1997
Ramsey County	\$250,000	\$450,000	1995, 1996, 1997, 1998
Roseville		\$50,000	1997
Stillwater	\$250,000	\$58,606	1996, 1997, 2015
White Bear Lake		\$16,000	1996
Woodbury	\$250,000		1997
TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$1,024,606	

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Fridley		\$100,000	1997, 1998
Hennepin County		\$400,000	2015
Hopkins		\$16,000	1997
Minneapolis	\$250,000		1995
Minneapolis Park Board		\$100,000	1997
Minneapolis Public Schools		\$50,000	1996
New Hope-ISD 281	\$250,000	\$98,700	1996, 2014
Richfield	\$250,000	\$450,000	1995, 1998, 2000, 2016
St. Louis Park	\$250,000	\$400,000	1996, 2015
TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$1,614,700	

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Anoka County	\$250,000		1996, 1997
Blaine	\$250,000		1996, 1997
Buffalo		\$50,000	1997
Centennial School District		\$182,500	1998, 2000, 2016
Dassel-Cokato ISD	\$200,000		2014
Delano ISD 879		\$25,000	2021
East Bethel		\$72,000	2016
Elk River	\$250,000		1996
Monticello ISD 882		\$9,798	2021
Richmond	\$250,000		1995, 1997
St. Cloud	\$250,000		1997
St. Cloud State University	\$150,000	\$50,000	1998
St. Michael-Albertville	\$450,000		1996, 1997, 2015
Sartell		\$100,000	2014
Sauk Centre	\$125,000		1995
Super Rink Joint Powers Board		\$175,000	2016
TOTAL	\$2,175,000	\$664,298	

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 7	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Alexandria	\$150,000	\$25,000	1995, 2021
Bagley	\$200,000		1995
Baudette		\$430,000	2015, 2016
Bemidji	\$200,000	\$50,000	1997
Bemidji State University		\$50,000	1998
Crookston		\$186,000	1997, 2016
Detroit Lakes	\$250,000	\$50,000	1996, 1998
East Grand Forks		\$337,125	1996, 2014, 2021
Fergus Falls		\$137,000	2016
Hutchinson	\$183,500	\$50,000	1996, 1998, 2000
Kittson Central ISD		\$200,000	2014
Litchfield		\$140,000	1997, 1998, 2015
Marshall		\$50,000	1995
Moorhead	\$350,000	\$68,000	1996, 1997, 2016
Morris-Stevens County		\$50,000	1995
Paynesville-New London-Spicer	\$250,000		1996, 1997
Red Lake Falls		\$15,000	2016
Redwood Falls	\$250,000		1998, 2000
Thief River Falls		\$50,000	1997
Wilmar		\$100,000	2016
Windom		\$50,000	1995
TOTAL	\$1,833,500	\$2,038,125	

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CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8	NEW ARENAS	IMPROVEMENTS	YEARS
Babbitt		\$12,000	1995
Brainerd	\$125,000	\$45,000	1996, 1998
Cambridge-Isanti	\$250,000		1997
Carlton		\$50,000	1995
Chisholm		\$100,000	1997
Cloquet	\$250,000		1995
Coleraine		\$113,000	1996, 2016
Cuyuna Range-Crosby	\$250,000		1997
Duluth		\$149,000	1996, 1998, 2016
Eveleth		\$50,000	1998
Gilbert	\$250,000		1998, 2000
Grand Rapids		\$135,000	2015
Hibbing		\$69,000	2016
Hoyt Lakes		\$378,785	1997, 2021
International Falls	\$200,000	\$20,000	1996, 1997, 2014
Koochiching County	\$135,000		1998
Lindstrom		\$50,000	1995
Moose Lake	\$150,000	\$200,000	1996, 1997, 1998, 2016
Mora		\$100,000	1995, 2016
Park Rapids		\$50,000	1998
Pine City ISD		\$45,000	
Proctor		\$50,000	1996
St. Louis County		\$150,000	2016
Silver Bay		\$122,000	1996, 2015
Virginia	\$250,000	\$69,000	1997, 2016
TOTAL	\$1,860,000	\$1,957,785	