

St. Paul Blackhawks CIP Proposal for Orchard Recreation Center



St. Paul Blackhawks at a Glance

- 63 Year History—the oldest soccer organization in Minnesota, with roots in immigrant populations coming together to build community
- 1150 players ages 5–19
- 85% of our players are St. Paul residents
- 30% of our players receive need-based financial aid

What's Sets Blackhawks Apart from other Youth Sports Organizations

Our program balances traditional soccer training and development with an appreciation of different cultures and styles offering programs for a range of developmental and competitive aspirations and abilities. Because our players and coaches come from different cultures, neighborhoods and backgrounds, they learn critical skills to help them communicate, cooperate, work together, and appreciate differences.

- 30% of our players receive need-based financial assistance provided by increased fees from paying players. More than half of those players are first generation Americans or come from immigrant families. This reflects the changing demographic of St. Paul.
- In 2014, this was valued at >131k or ~10% of our operating budget.
- Our financial assistance enables access for any young person in both our competitive and developmental programs; it is not based on ability.
- We develop and support former Blackhawk youth players who are committed to coaching
- Blackhawk programs create opportunities to help bridge the achievement gap

Goal of the Blackhawk – Orchard CIB Proposal

We're planning for our future. Our objective is to build the infrastructure necessary to support the boom of youth playing soccer (reflective of the growing immigrant population) in a safe space that will benefit the youth we serve and the community of St. Paul.

- Need more indoor and outdoor practice space
 - Fields and facilities are the primary limiter in Blackhawks' ability to deliver programs to area youth.
 - Field spaces ranges from \$75-400/hour and represents up to 40% of our operating budget
 - Minimizing rental fees allows us to offer more need-based financial aid
 - 2014 Concordia field rental was ~\$120k. This would represent support for an additional ~140 players
 - We compete with multiple sports organizations for limited St. Paul athletic spaces; additional play spaces benefits all organizations including Como Senior High School
 - A dome over Orchard will sustain the longevity of the investment during MN winters and extends ROI through winter months; this is a trend among city-owned domes
 - Having a space available allows us to bring in programs, tournaments, and revenue-generators for the city. Today, we cannot do this because we can only reserve space 90 days in advance.