



# FNSB CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

For official use only:

## 2019 Project Nomination Form

Nominations will be accepted from **August 12** to **October 11**. Please fill out the nomination form as completely as possible. If a section does not apply to the project you are nominating, please leave that section blank. Please attach additional relevant information to this nomination packet as appropriate. There is no limit to the number of projects that can be submitted.

Completed nomination forms can be submitted:

In person at:

Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Attn: Mayor's Office  
907 Terminal Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

By mail to:

Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Attn: Capital Improvement Program  
PO Box 71267  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

NOMINATOR'S NAME:	<u>Steve Taylor</u>	DATE:	<u>10/4/2019</u>
ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE):	<u>FNSB Parks &amp; Recreation Department</u>		
AFFECTED DEPARTMENT:	<u>Parks &amp; Recreation / Public Works</u>		
PHONE: ( <u>907</u> ) <u>459-1068</u>	EMAIL: <u>staylor@fnsb.us</u>		

Name of Proposed Project: Indoor Playground

Project Scope/Description:

Fairbanks is located in a northern climate and for approximately 8 months per year all of our playgrounds are covered with snow and weather conditions limit their usability. An indoor playground that is open year-round would provide immense benefit to families with young children.

This project would construct an 8,000 sqft indoor playground with play structures, soft surfacing and open areas for running. The playground would have the ability to open large portions of a wall in the summer months to function more like an outdoor playground

This project is envisioned to be part of a recreation center. Ideally it would be located with a new aquatics facility or another (existing?) indoor recreation facility to capitalize on multi-use aspects and reduce staffing and operational costs.

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## SAFETY AND CODE COMPLIANCE

1. Does the project reduce or eliminate a health or safety risk?

Yes     No

Please explain:

An indoor playground will foster an active and healthy childhood and help reduce childhood obesity.

2. In your opinion, what is the current condition of the facility?

Poor                       This is a new facility  
 Fair  
 Good  
 Excellent

Please explain:

3. Does the project improve accessibility compliance? (For example: parking lot design, doorway design, counter height, floor access, restroom access, etc.)

Yes     No

Please explain:

Most playgrounds are inaccessible during the winter. An indoor playground would be built to ADA standards.

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## FACILITY CONDITION

4. How old is the facility since original construction?

- 41+ years                       This is a new facility  
 31 - 40 years  
 21 - 30 years  
 11 - 20 years  
 0 - 10 years

5. Does the project replace an existing facility?

- Yes       No

If yes, please identify the building it would replace and any other supporting information, including the condition of the existing facility (poor, fair, good, excellent):

## PROJECT FUNDING

6. What is the status of project funding?

- Fully funded  
 Partially funded  
 No funding

Please identify the source and amount of any funding that is already secured in support of this project:

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7. Are there grant, foundation, sponsorship, or other alternative sources of funding available for this project?

Yes     No

a. If yes, is there a match requirement?

Yes     No

b. If a match is required, how much? Please choose the most applicable option.

- 1 - 10% match required
- 11 - 20% match required
- 21 - 30% match required
- 31 - 40% match required
- +41% match required

Please identify the potential funding sources, how the project is eligible for such funds, any work done to commit such funds (i.e., application or proposal submitted and/or approved), and any additionally relevant information:

Possible partners include:

Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation  
Rasmuson Foundation  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Aetna Foundation

The Department does not have any current proposals submitted to funding agencies for this project.

8. If applicable, does your organization plan on contributing any funds?

Yes     No

If yes, please identify the amount and source of funds planned in contribution of this project:

The Borough has the option to contribute voter-approved bond money, capital money, matching funds and/or maintenance funding.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL

9. Will the project clean up contamination (such as lead, asbestos, fuel contamination, etc.)?

Yes     No

Please explain:

10. Does the project improve air quality?

Yes     No

Please explain:

11. Will the project reduce storm water runoff?

Yes     No

Please explain:

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12. Will the project improve groundwater quality?

Yes     No

Please explain:

13. Will the project improve energy efficiency?

Yes     No

Please explain:

## PUBLIC USE

14. Will the project improve the customer experience?

Yes     No

Please explain:

There are no public indoor playground facilities in Fairbanks. Outdoor playgrounds are generally unappealing during the winter given the lack of sunlight and cold temperatures. They can be unsafe in the winter due to frozen ground and slippery play structures.

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15. Is the project served by a fixed transit route?

Yes     No

Please explain:

The proposed location is adjoining the Big Dipper Ice Arena. The Orange and Purple lines serve the Big Dipper Ice Arena.

Other locations may be considered, but it is advised that the facility be co-located with another indoor recreation facility.

16. Will the project improve facility capacity?

Yes     No

Please explain:

## ONGOING MAINTENANCE COST

17. Will the project reduce utility expenses on a cost per square foot (\$/SF)?

Yes     No

Please explain:

This would be new construction, so it will be a new cost. The actual utility expense will depend upon design and location.

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18. Will the project reduce maintenance expenses on a cost per square foot (\$/SF)?

Yes     No

Please explain:

19. Will the project extend the life of an existing facility?

Yes     No

Please explain:

This is a new facility

## PLANNING AND DESIGN

20. Does the project have complete designs?

Yes     No

Please explain:

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21. Have there been any project scope and/or engineering studies done?

- Yes     No

If yes, please explain all work that has been done on this project to date. Please attach and submit all relevant information as part of the project nomination packet.

## BUDGET IMPACT

22. How will the project impact the operation budget for the affected department?

- Increase the operating budget  
 Maintain the operating budget  
 Decrease the operating budget

Please explain:

If constructed adjacent to an existing facility or in combination, no significant increase in the operating budget would be anticipated. Programs could be based in the playground to reduce the cost.

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## POPULATION REACHED

23. What type of population will be served by the proposed project?

- Regional areawide users
- Single community
- Multiple neighborhoods
- Single neighborhood

Please describe the area, population served, and the need that will be met by this project:

An indoor playground would be an attraction for populations from all across the borough. Designed to meet ADA standards, the facility would serve persons with disabilities. Children under 5 years old represent 7.6% of the Borough population, those under 18 years old are 24.1% of the population.  
(<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fairbanksnorthstarboroughalaska>)

## SUPPORT

24. Please select all applicable form of support this project has:

- Resolutions of support (agencies, governments, etc.)
- Letters of support (groups, businesses, organizations, etc.)
- General public support or letters from residents

Please explain levels of support identified above and provide specific examples:

Public comments received from a Parks & Recreation survey conducted in the spring of 2019 are attached to this proposal.

Survey respondents ranked "indoor facilities" as the second most important priority (29% of all survey respondents) for the parks and recreation department behind "trails" (44%).

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25. Does this project meet any goals or objectives that are identified in any Borough plans (such as the Comprehensive Plan)?

Yes     No

If yes, please identify which goals and objectives in specific plans that this project meets:

Borough Comprehensive Plan (2005)  
Community and Human Resources:  
Goal 1, Strategy 2, Action A: "Consider special needs of individuals and groups in the development of public and private facilities, programs, and social support services."  
Goal 1, Strategy 3, Action A. "Support activities for youth by supporting new opportunities for youth-centered activities; support creating additional indoor youth facilities."  
Goal 1, Strategy 4, Action B: "Provide quality and economical public services facilities that: Fully utilize and maintain existing facilities; replace antiquated and wasteful facilities; build new space to accommodate needs; improve accessibility to all public facilities."  
  
Borough Parks and Recreation Plan (1990)  
Goal 1, Obj D: Provide facilities and programs which meet the special needs of youth, senior citizens and persons with disabilities."  
Goal 2, Obj B, Policy 1: "Establish maintenance of existing recreational facilities as a priority in Capital Improvement Project requests."  
Goal 2, Obj B, Policy 2: "Include safety and accessibility improvements in all budget proposals."  
Goal 2, Obj E: "Promote and develop multi-use areas and facilities."

## PROJECT COST

26. What is the estimated project cost?              \$ 3,402,000          

Please explain why this cost is reasonable and should be allocated to this project:

An indoor playground would provide year-round opportunities for recreation. It is important for communities in northern climates to have attractive indoor recreation spaces to promote active lifestyles. An indoor playground will maintain a high quality of life for the Fairbanks North Star Borough, which in turn will help attract and keep young families in our community.

# INDOOR PLAYGROUND

## INSPIRATION AND IDEAS



*Fairview Recreation Center, Anchorage, AK (coming soon!)*



*Williston Recreation Area, Williston, ND*



*Greystone Recreation Center, Raleigh, NC*



*Rustad Recreation Center, Fargo, ND*



## Public Comments regarding an Indoor Playground received in the Community Engagement Survey, Spring 2019

1. A multi use indoor facility that has a running track, turf football field/ soccer field, and play area for smaller kids and eating/ picnic space
2. An indoor facility that has a playground, track, workout equipment, conference rooms, and a big indoor field! Let's have a place where these littles can run amuck in the winter!
3. An indoor play area similar to the one at Eielson would be AMAZING during the winter!!! If it included a play area for children, some sports courts, and a workout area that would be ideal!
4. "An indoor playground, new pool.
5. An indoor playground. I work with a teen with disabilities and if he could swing all year it would be priceless. Also other disabled children and all children a no McDonalds playground 😊😊😊
6. and indoor playground would be fantastic!
7. Getting one really awesome community-built, accessible playground for our young kids would be fantastic too. More trails to connect parks and playgrounds, to create more loops between facilities would help families plan longer outings and spend the whole day just traveling between parks!
8. Big indoor playground. More turf fields. Update playgrounds.
9. Big picture, Fairbanks needs an indoor facility for multiple use by tennis, pickleball, soccer, basketball and volleyball. A separate facility, just need a bathroom and drinking faucet, no need for showers. Pie in the sky would be an all inclusive facility with all amenities.
10. Definitely need an indoor space playground track for winter and rainy day use!!!
11. Definitely need more to do indoors for kiddos during the winter... Roller skating would be amazing!!!
12. Fairbanks need an indoor rec center it is sad that McDonald's is the only place for indoor recreation in this town.
13. Fairbanks needs an indoor track, playground where parents can workout while their kids play (like the MAC center in eagle river or Arctic Oasis on JBER). Can we use the old Lamonts or Kmart buildings?
14. Fairbanks needs an indoor turf, track, playgroup
15. I would love for Fairbanks to have an indoor play area for children. The winters are long and it would be nice to have a place for kids to go run and play.
16. "I would love to have a playground indoors that could be used in the winter- just enough warmth to be snow free and offer the ability to move freely and burn energy for children.
17. I would support an indoor play area and dedicated walking track combined with a new aquatics center
18. I think indoor activities are especially important over the long winter. I appreciate the opportunity to walk indoors at the Dipper when it is too cold and slippery outside. "
19. In indoor recreational facility is needed. Something with an indoor track, indoor basketball court, and indoor roller hockey skating area. Something that's affordable for families and community

leagues/teams to meet out and rent out for a reasonable price. A place that's safe and promotes family and community togetherness during our long winter months.

20. "Indoor Park! Winter is long, and the trampoline park is expensive!
21. indoor play area and dedicated walking track combined with a new aquatics center
22. Indoor playground
23. Indoor playground for ages 0-16
24. Indoor playground, roller skate rink
25. Indoor playgrounds
26. It would be nice if there was a big indoor playground.
27. Like the facilities in Juneau. Also rooms to rent. Swimming pools with open swim, laps, and a toddler area. Workout room with workout equipment
28. More indoor facilities, indoor playgrounds and maybe even a skating rink to help burn energy during winter.
29. More kid friendly indoor spaces. Indoor soccer field!
30. The thing we need desperately is an indoor facility with a full playground! And an area for kids to ride bicycles (like a bicycle track) and just a big space to run! That is what is missing and we have needed it for so so long!
31. Also an indoor playground for the young kids in winter!!"
32. Would love an indoor park with a track and field, playground, workout equipment and a little food court.
33. Would love to see a low cost indoor playground and a roller rink
34. More to do inside during winter months other then swimming.... A indoor playground, roller skating, basketball....
35. Newer facilities with more modern offerings. Lets invest in the future of our community!!
36. Not enough options. We need more indoor sport areas for the winter that are accessible to local teams, families, and individuals!