

# Recreation Center Expansion: Indoor Playground, Wellness Center, and Gymnastics

## Importance to the Community

### Regional Wellness and Recreation Center - "One of a Kind"

By investing in an update and expansion to our recreation center we will have "one of a kind" in Southern MN serving the physical, social and wellness needs of a large and diverse population of all ages from preschool to seniors. According to the 2014 Park and Recreation community survey, respondents overwhelmingly supported (74 %) extending our local sales to invest in parks, trails and recreation facilities to serve our community and region into the future. Additional fitness and wellness space/programs will support our community momentum for a health lifestyle for all.

### Activity Space for Children

With a dedicated indoor play space for children we will keep them active throughout the year. In addition, this will provide opportunity for supervised childcare at the Recreation Center to spur more adult physical activity as well. Many families and groups leave our region for this type of facility.

### Gymnastics Reinvestment

New Ulm has a rich history of gymnastics and this project would provide a vast improvement in space and be a catalyst for partnership to support growth for all three programs including bringing more regional meets to New Ulm.

## Park and Recreation Department

### Proposed Need for Expansion to Recreation Center

An expansion of the Recreation Center is needed to meet the needs of many from across the region—play, fitness, and gymnastics. Currently, no indoor playground exists in New Ulm or the region. This proposed amenity located in the Recreation Center will provide year-round benefits to families and children from across the region.

Fitness space is lacking for our diverse and expansive membership and this project would double the space available for fitness and wellness. The Turner Hall and NUAGA Gymnastics programs are interested in merging but are in need of more space to accommodate current and future gymnasts in the region. This proposed project would repurpose some of our

existing space and add approximately 12,000 to 15,000 square feet to the Recreation Center. This project can meet the regional need for expanded multi-generational, family centered wellness and activity space. In addition, Recreation Center users regularly express great desire to have supervised child care which in this space would provide more flexibility for health, fitness and wellness activities for all.



Eden Prairie Community Center ~ Prairie Play Zone

### Keys to Project Success

- Efficient design to minimize capital and operating costs
- Partnership between gymnastics programs and Park/Rec
- Market and partner on new additions to ensure we realize potential of these investments in the region

## Value Impact of Indoor Playground, Wellness and Gymnastics Center

<u>Community</u>	<u>Regional</u>	<u>City</u>
◆ Promotes physical activity and wellbeing for ALL ages	◆ Indoor playground would serve the region as one of a kind	◆ Provides increased municipal revenue through rentals and memberships
◆ Addresses many of top interests of the community from 2014 Park/Recreation survey	◆ Gymnastics programs could expand regional reach and host more meets	◆ Makes New Ulm more Family Friendly to support growth
◆ Provides enhanced facility to support a growing population of active seniors		

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Estimated Cost: \$3,250,000\*



\* Could look to Community to help support private fundraising for enhanced Indoor Playground Structure (Waconia example)