

Project Requests for State Funds					
Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	2026	2028	2030
National Sports Center Asset Preservation (Blaine)	1	GO	\$ 28,300	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Grant Program: Mighty Ducks	2	GO	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Total Project Requests			\$ 33,300	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 33,300	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000

## National Sports Center Asset Preservation (Blaine)

**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$28,300**Priority Ranking:** 1

**Project Summary:** The 2024 Facility Condition Assessment found issues that are now reaching poor to critical levels. This report recognizes the cumulative deferred maintenance cost on the National Sports Center (NSC) campus to be \$79 million. \$53.4 million is the backlog needed to bring the condition rating to a fair rating, also known as the adjusted deferred maintenance value, including costs for the Super Rink and original campus repairs.

**Project Description**

This project will address the following issues from the 2024 Facility Condition Assessment (FCA), such as the ones listed below, are now reaching poor to critical levels. This report recognizes the cumulative deferred maintenance cost on the NSC campus to be \$79 million. \$53.4 million falls into the adjusted deferred maintenance categories.

Mold Remediation

Flood Plain Mitigation

Life Safety / Energy Efficiencies

Storm Water Management

Building Envelope Replacement

Water Supply Replacement

Mechanical Systems Replacement

ADA Compliance

Super Rink R-22 Changeover

Flood plain mitigation, stormwater management, and water supply replacement provide required storage of flood/ storm water for life of state facilities on the NSC campus.

**Project Rationale**

The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) is responsible for operating and maintaining the NSC in Blaine. The NSC is a 680-acre campus with the world's largest soccer facility, eight ice rinks, a golf course and other indoor sport facilities. The economic impact from events held at the NSC totals more than \$110 million per year. The MASC does not receive any operating funds from the state of Minnesota. However, it does depend on the state for capital improvements and deferred maintenance. According to the Department of Administration's FCA the MASC has the highest (38.3%) deferred maintenance percentage of replacement value. Buildings and infrastructure are reaching

their 20–30-year life expectancy. Buildings have been identified through the FCA where current conditions are in poor to critical categories as outlined by the Department of Administration. In order to continue operating at current capacity, the MASC needs to maintain the NSC with the requested funds.

### **Project Timeline**

Super Rink work will begin with equipment purchase as soon as funds are available and will continue through an anticipated completion date of Spring 2030. Other National Sports Center asset preservation and maintenance activities will be carried out as soon as practical after funding becomes available, and have varying timelines.

### **Other Considerations**

#### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

No impact to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) operating budget.

#### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

The Amateur Sports Commission received \$5 million in 2025 and \$ 9.6 million in 2023 for National Sports Center asset preservation. There have been no previous state bonding appropriations for the Super Rink project.

### **Project Contact Person**

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(\$ in thousands)

**Grant Program: Mighty Ducks****AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$5,000**Priority Ranking:** 2

**Project Summary:** The James Metzen Mighty Ducks Grant Program assists Minnesota local units of government in improving indoor air quality in ice arenas with the purchase of electric ice resurfacing machines and other equipment, and to provide financial assistance in eliminating the use of R-22 systems in ice arena refrigeration. The program requires a 50% match.

**Project Description**

The Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) requests \$5 million this fiscal year capital request period for the Mighty Ducks program. Funding would allow the agency to continue the administration of the Mighty Duck Grant Program (aka James Metzen grant program) established in 1995 for the purpose of providing funding assistance to local communities for indoor air quality and R-22 refrigerant replacement in ice arenas. The flagship program is called “Mighty Ducks.” It was originally authorized to help address gender equity issues related to Federal Title Nine compliance. Since then, it has been used to help facilitate clean indoor and outdoor air compliance through moving rinks away from R-22 and the purchase of electric ice-making machines (Zambonis) as well.

GO Bonds are for R-22 change outs and HVAC replacements. General fund cash is for air quality improvement equipment such as electronic Zambonis and Edgers and any R-22 changeouts municipalities had to take on due to equipment failure since the last allocation was awarded but prior to this request.

**Project Rationale**

MASC has developed an expertise assisting communities in completing projects for amateur sporting activities. The MASC grant funds help ensure the completion of submission for Mighty Ducks, Mighty Kids, and Skate Parks Grant Programs. MASC was created in 1987 by the Minnesota Legislature to promote the economic and social benefits of amateur sports. In the years since, MASC has become a role model for creating innovative and stable programs and events that have benefited Minnesota residents financially and socially. R-22 production was banned by the EPA in 2020, however, it is a refrigerant still utilized by 20-30% of public and private ice rinks across the state. Changing from R-22 to a new refrigerant can cost upward of \$1.5 million for older rinks, as they often must change out corresponding infrastructure such as piping and floors. There is a 50% match required by local government units. By funding Mighty Ducks, the legislature will help to continue Minnesota as the State of Hockey for boys and girls.

**Project Timeline**

N/A

**Other Considerations**

N/A

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

No impact to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission (MASC) operating budget.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

This would be a continuation of an existing grant program for which funding has been previously appropriated on multiple occasions. The most recent appropriation was \$1 million in 2025.

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