

# PROPOSED RECREATION AND EVENTS CENTER

## Frequently Asked Questions

Public Vote: Nov. 8, 2016



## THE BASICS

**What is the size and estimated cost of the recreation and events center?**

57,000 sq. ft. at a projected cost of \$14,530,000.

**What type of recreational activities and events will be held in this facility?**

The current proposed design will accommodate a variety of programming including sports practice space, sporting events, small tournaments, performance arts, trade shows, banquets, and special events.

**Where would the facility be located?**

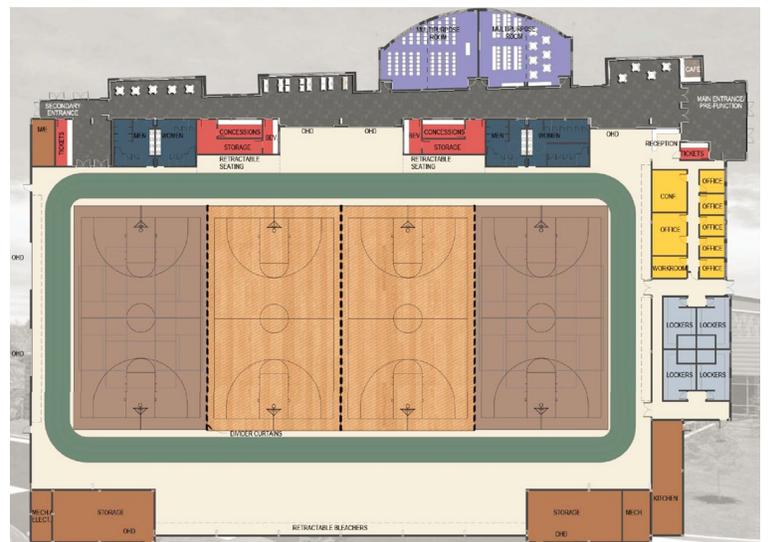
The proposed site is located in the northeast area of Pierre near North Garfield Avenue and Highway 14.



**What research was conducted regarding Pierre's need for a Recreation and Events Center?**

A citizen task force was convened in 2010 to address gym space shortage. That task force recommended hiring ICON Holdings, an architectural design firm to assist with a feasibility study. Pinnacle, an Indoor Sports Facility Development Company, also completed research and interviews in our community. A third consultant, CSL, researched demand for facility space. Results of all three studies can be found at [cityofpierre.org](http://cityofpierre.org).

## DESIGN & AMENITIES



**What features and amenities are included in the proposed design?**

The design includes multipurpose court space, a three-lane walking/running track, multi-purpose rooms for programs, meetings, parties, locker rooms, rest rooms, lobby, concessions, offices, and storage.

**What is seating capacity?**

Depending on final design and seating configuration, between 2,000 and 4,000.

**Does the current design allow for expansion?**

Yes. Expansion is possible if a need arises or additional financing became available.

**Is the sale of alcohol at the proposed recreation and events center possible?**

State law allows licensees to request a special license for certain events at the facility.

**Is food service at the proposed recreation and events center possible?**

Yes. The facility will have a concession area equipped to allow a vendor to cater in meals.

# FINANCING

## Will my taxes go up to pay for such a facility?

The proposed funding plan does not include a tax increase.

## How will the City pay for this facility?

The City proposes to utilize various funding sources to pay for the facility. The funding sources considered include redirecting retired debt payments, additional sales tax from consumer spending growth and sponsorships.

## Will this facility be self supporting?

Research of recreation and events facilities around the country show they do not typically pay for themselves.

## What would the facility mean to the Pierre economy?

Early economic impacts estimated by the Pierre Economic Development Corporation show that one event that brings 1,200 visitors to Pierre for two nights would equate to \$250,000 in visitor spending. Consequently, 10 events that do the same would bring \$2.5-million in visitor spending.



# HISTORY

## Why is the city considering building a recreation and events center?

Following requests from citizens, the city commissioned two studies and convened a public facilities task force to determine how much space and what amenities were necessary to meet the current demand for gym space in Pierre. The Rec and Event Center proposal is designed to meet those demands.

## Don't most organized sports groups already have gym space?

The research indicates the existing gym space is causing groups, including student groups, to practice in less than ideal conditions or at less than ideal times.

## Is this project a part of the City's Strategic Plan?

Yes, the City's Strategic Plan calls for replacing the City Auditorium.

# OPERATIONS

## Would the Pierre school district use this facility for any of their activities?

The City is open to those possibilities and has a history of partnering with the school district.

## Who will manage or have oversight of this facility?

The City of Pierre's Division of Parks and Recreation

## What will be the hours of operation?

Preliminarily, the City plans to operate it seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

## What is the fee structure to use the facility?

There will be a cost for use. The initial fee structure will be established by the Pierre City Commission.

## Has the City talked to user groups about paying to utilize the space?

Yes. Two surveys were conducted. The most recent survey, completed in 2014, shows user groups agreed that a new facility needs to charge a fee to offset costs.

## Will the recreation and events center compete with other facilities?

The intent of the Recreation and Events Center is to expand opportunities for recreation and entertainment in Pierre.

# NOW WHAT?

On November 8, 2016, the citizens of the City of Pierre will vote on the proposal and determine whether they support the Recreation and Events Center being built.

If you have questions or comments, contact Tom Farnsworth, Director of Parks and Recreation at 605.773.7407 or [tom.farnsworth@ci.pierre.sd.us](mailto:tom.farnsworth@ci.pierre.sd.us)

For additional information visit [cityofpierre.org](http://cityofpierre.org) and click on the Proposed Recreation and Events Center link.

