



City of Duluth Athletic Venue Reinvestment Initiative



The City of Duluth Athletic Venue Reinvestment Initiative seeks legislative authorization to renew an existing one-half-of-one-percent increment in local tourism taxes for up to 30 years to fund up to \$36 million in improvements to parks-based athletic venues that drive regional sports tourism.

The City's athletic venues – rinks, links, courts, diamonds, and fields – are beloved Minnesota destinations that support tourism, grow strong Minnesota kids and families, and sustain historic Minnesota traditions.

Duluth's youth hockey facilities alone contribute approximately \$6 million per year to the regional economy, attract more than 13,000 spectators, and support the healthy development of hundreds of young athletes from across the state.

Duluth's amateur athletic facilities include historic gems such as Wheeler baseball and softball complex (1926), Longview Tennis Club (1917), Wade Stadium (1941), and Enger Park Golf Course (1927).

Age and under-investment have contributed to severe deterioration of critical athletic facilities. Foremost among them is Duluth's most important youth hockey venue, 50-year-old Fryberger Hockey Arena, now at imminent risk of failure.

The City of Duluth Athletic Venue Reinvestment Initiative will give new life to this, and other, destination athletic facilities, growing regional sports tourism, lowering barriers to athletic participation, enriching quality of life, and adapting aged facilities to support a diversity of Minnesota athletic traditions, old and new.

