



Austin, Minnesota's effort to collectively create a vision for a better community where all ideas are welcome and the best are brought to life.

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Community Recreation Center Feasibility Study

Study:

- Conducted by Anderson, Niebuhr & Assoc.
- April-May-June 2013
- Volunteer Jim Splinter lead sub committee
- Funded by City of Austin, YMCA of Austin, Blandin Foundation & the Hormel Foundation

Study Goals:

- Document unmet needs for recreation & fitness
- Identify potential partner organizations
- Discover how to include the whole community
- Document desired programs & amenities
- Confirm or disprove "common sense" assumptions

Study Logistics:

- 400 residents of Mower County including the cities of Austin, Adams, Brownsdale, Lyle, and Rose Creek surveyed by phone
- 100 households in Austin with a known fitness affinity* surveyed by phone
- Two focus groups: parents of children under age seven & Hispanic families
- 21 key informant interviews of community & business leaders

*YMCA of Austin members

Key Findings:

- Excitement in the community around the project
- Austin is perceived by respondents as a healthy living community
- All-in-one center for health, wellness, & exercise is desired
- Partnerships will be essential
- Partners should collaborate to avoid service duplication

Important Features for a Community Recreation Center:

- Welcoming atmosphere
- More accessible to low income households
- Employ a diverse staff that can speak multiple languages
- Hispanic families seek indoor activities for the whole family at a reasonable price

Identified Needs:

- More indoor recreational space
- Covered field for multi-sport usage
- Year-round recreational activities for kids age five or younger
- Rentable multi-purpose room for events, such as birthday parties or showers
- Public transportation access to center

Desired Amenities:

- Indoor walking & running track
- Cardiovascular equipment, strength conditioning machines & free weights
- Group fitness classes
- Indoor field house with a soccer field
- Bike trail access with equipment rentals
- Indoor pool
- Indoor water park
- Community gathering area