



HODAG DOME SPORTS COMPLEX - FACTS

Hodag Dome Beginnings

- Project initiated with a generous donation of \$500,000 from Dr. Lee Swank for an indoor multi-purpose facility.
- The Hodag Schools Foundation (HSF) Board researched the effects that multi-purpose facilities have on students, academics, mental health, communities, and the economy.
- HSF and School District administration analyzed indoor and outdoor facility quotes and options for funding.
- HSF, School Board members, and SDR staff conducted site visits to Minnesota and Wisconsin where they viewed various facilities. The goal was a permanent structure and most domes are seasonal and used in similar climates (Minnesota has 36 domes mainly in the Minneapolis area... Wisconsin has only 3 and none in northern Wisconsin). HSF and SDR felt there could be a considerable advantage to having a permanent dome.
- HSF, School District administration, and the School Board came to the conclusion that they would build a permanent 128,000 sq. ft. dome that fits many needs for our community.
- HSF continued efforts in soliciting support from other donors with a goal of \$1,000,000. They ended up surpassing this goal, with actual pledges and donations reaching over \$2.4 million due to community involvement, expansion of the scope, and excitement for the project.
- Multiple contractors were approved for the building of the Hodag Dome Sports Complex with construction beginning in April of 2020.



What does the Hodag Dome Complex include?

- In the past, the land behind the high school had water drainage issues and was used minimally. Now all this land will be sufficiently utilized after 2,733 dump truck loads of dirt were provided and major excavating of the land took place. Per the Parks Task Force study with the city, Rhinelander has much more land per capita for school districts and parks than other communities, thus the objective to utilize the land behind the high school was a priority. The complex includes...
 - An approximately 128,000 sq. ft. dome to be used by the District and community
 - An outdoor practice football/soccer field
 - Two softball fields
 - One baseball field
 - New shot put and discus area
 - A storage building
 - Parking lots
 - Concessions

How will the Hodag Dome Complex be used? What are the long-term benefits for the school and community?

- The Hodag Dome will provide space for students, the community, and senior citizens in our area. Exercise and engagement of students shows a direct link between academic success and better cognitive skills, and improved mental health.
 - Mental health benefits – users will be able to see green turf and increased light, and won't be stuck inside during the cold and dark winter months. This will get kids away from electronics – they will play more and be more active.
- The Hodag Dome will allow for students to practice/play in inclement weather and avoid cancelled practices and events.
 - Previously, students had to practice until 10:00 p.m. at night due to lack of space. The Hodag Dome will help reduce the challenges of year round practice and competition, which in turn provides more family time and opportunities for activity success.
 - The additional playing surfaces will alleviate crowding in school gyms, fields, and hallways which will let students practice earlier and avoid being out late on school nights.



- The Hodag Dome will be available for youth sports such as Little League, Soccer Club, etc. Kids can practice and play even in bad weather and be home earlier.
- The Hodag Dome will provide facility space for community events such as trade shows, community gatherings, and other public events.
 - Other examples of community use: voting, fundraising events, music concerts, flag football, softball, pickleball, tennis, golf, walking and jogging, and much more!
 - The softball diamonds can be used for kickball tournaments, middle school and high school Phy. Ed., homecoming week, birthday parties, corporate team building or even youth and adult leagues. Turf fields can be used for dodgeball tournaments and other community activities.
 - The Hodag Dome will allow for multiple school and community activities to take place at the same time – can be divided into smaller areas so several groups can utilize it simultaneously.
- The Hodag Dome is the largest high school dome in the country at 128,000+ square feet. In addition, the Hodag Dome will be one of the largest air-supported domes in all of North America, and in the top 10% of the entire world to include turf for soccer, football, track, pole vaulting, baseball, softball, tennis courts, pickleball courts, basketball, wrestling, and seasonal gymnastics.
- The Hodag Dome will free up existing gym space for youth activities and community use (nearly 200,000 sq. ft. total, during all seasons).
- The Hodag Dome could be a vital piece in COVID back-to-school plans. It could be used by the community to safely social distance during certain activities like voting and other community gatherings (The Hodag Dome will be the polling place for the city for this November's election).
- The Hodag Dome should help enrollment trends, such as Open Enrollment, which in turn will bring more State aid to our District (we have lost over \$6 million to neighboring school districts over the past 6 years because of Open Enrollment... the improvement of facilities will make the District more competitive in terms of retention and attraction of students).
 - The Hodag Dome will be a great asset for people to consider Rhinelander as their destination for learning, activity, and community in the future.
 - New facilities will help attract and retain teachers and other staff, and in turn, can provide higher pay and benefits from more revenue brought into the school.



- This one-time capital investment has the ability to grow the District's annual budget, which can then be turned into annual investments in classrooms and staff.
- Rhinelander is once again being seen state-wide as an innovative, progressive school district, leading the way and taking matters into their own hands instead of waiting for State funding.
- The Hodag Dome Sports Complex could be a deciding factor when professionals are choosing where to live and where they want their kids to go to school.
- The Hodag Dome will boost the economy of northern and central Wisconsin by providing the opportunity for tournaments, concerts, and other activities. People from out of town will stay in local hotels, eat at local restaurants, buy gas at local gas stations, watch movies at the movie theatre, etc. The dome will bring tourism dollars to the school and the local economy.

Hodag Dome Funding

- The full dollar amount invested in the Hodag Dome Complex is \$8.4 million+
- With the help of HSF, the School District received generous donations from community members, corporate sponsors, and alumni of over \$2.4 million.
- SDR committed a major investment from savings realized through items such as medical and insurance benefits. The School District has been forward thinking in developing savings for building projects, curriculum and technology upgrades, and funding for operations. The District has not had to go to large referendums for building projects and upgrades.