



Vermont Legislative Research Service

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Multipurpose Indoor Track Facility in Randolph, VT

This report examines the costs and benefits of constructing a multipurpose indoor track facility in Randolph, Vermont on the campus of Vermont Technical College (VTC). This facility would be open to VTC students, VTC student athletes, Vermont high school athletes, and community members for events. This report examines the potential facility features and the costs of these features. Additionally, the report examines the potential benefits from constructing this space.

Location of the Facility

VTC's location in the town of Randolph is geographically central in the state and is one mile from Interstate 89. VTC is also approximately two and a half hours from Boston, making the proposed facility accessible to out-of-state athletic teams in the northeast region.

Demand for Facility Space

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each winter, and many have been forced to go out-of-state to the facilities at Dartmouth College, Plymouth State University, and Williams College.

There is evidence of an increase in demand for indoor track space for high school athletes. Participation in the sport of indoor track and field has continued to grow in the state of Vermont. In 2015, there were 23 varsity high school indoor track and field teams in Vermont which provided athletic opportunities for an average of 388 student-athletes per meet.³ As of 2019, there are 29 varsity teams in Vermont and indoor meets average participation of 430 student-athletes.⁴ This growth is not just limited to the high school athletic level; the number of private, club indoor track and field programs has grown from 12 in 2015 to 19 in 2019.⁵ Private club programs are not affiliated with schools, but offer a wide array of elite development, youth, adult, and specialized opportunities for track and field athletes.

Despite increasing demand for indoor track and field opportunities, the lack of indoor competition space has limited the indoor track and field athletic season. Since Norwich

Foundation Track has six full lanes and nine 60 meter sprint lanes and is approximately 60,000 square feet.¹⁴ To accommodate a 21,000 square foot turf inside the track oval, field events such as pole vaulting and long jump are located adjacent to the track, adding 10,000 square feet to the footprint.¹⁵ The Virtue Field House covers 110,000 square feet overall, which includes locker rooms, public restrooms, bleacher seating for 826 spectators, and added offices for athletic staff and sports medicine.¹⁶ Sasaki Associates, an architecture firm in Massachusetts, designed the facility. PC Construction, located in South Burlington, Vermont, built it. Construction costs amounted to \$29.5 million.¹⁷ Soft costs, which include architect fees, legal fees, and other pre and post construction costs, amounted to around \$7.5 million.¹⁸

Energy Costs of the Facility

Between July 26, 2017 and July 26, 2018, Middlebury Virtue Field House averaged 64,952 kWh of energy use per month.¹⁹ Additionally, Middlebury uses steam to heat the facility, which averaged 110,613 KBTU monthly during the same time period. The greatest monthly steam use

Potential Facility Features

For the facility to meet the needs of the community, it would need to have the capacity to house track meets, large events, and other sports practices. The track itself would need to be up to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) standards in order for VTC to host collegiate level meets.²³ Standard indoor tracks are 200 meters; however, by NCAA regulations, it may be any length less than 300 meters.²⁴ The track would need to include at least six full lanes that are 0.914 meters each.

The infield of an indoor track oval presents an opportunity for customization. To minimize the overall square footage of the facility, field events such as pole vault, jumping, and throwing could be located inside the track oval.²⁵ However, vStvhe/(ix)4 M(n)-4 (g)2 d(o)8 (o)-2 (au)-bll

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