



History of the Rink

Construction for the Kirkwood Ice Rink began in March 1966 along with the Community Center for a mere \$750,000 dollars. The original plans for the Rink called for a circular shape with surrounding rails. The Rink was a mere 85 by 185 feet (small by today's standards) "designed to serve multi-uses in other seasons including roller skating, square dancing, games and attendant physical fitness pursuits."

The Rink did not actually open until 1967 due to delays as Francis Scheidegger, then commissioner of parks and recreation announced, "numerous delays, including rainy weather, which made site preparation difficult, and the sheet metal workers' strike forced postponement of construction until winter."

General admission prices were \$.75 for adult Kirkwood/Glendale residents and \$.40 for youth residents which entitled users to a three-hour morning, afternoon, and evening session. The ice rink remained relatively unchanged until a roof was added in 1992 to extend the season and cut down on cancellations due to inclement weather. It had also served as an in-line hockey rink during the summer months due to the popularity of that sport.

With the growth of rink related activities in the St. Louis market, coupled with the need to replace aging operational systems related to the old outdoor facility, the determination was made to develop a year round, fully enclosed and modernized facility. With the passage of a sales tax to fund a new facility in April 1998, design began and demolition of the existing rink started in March 1999 and the facility was substantially completed for hockey team use in November 1999. The facility was completed in December of 1999 for general public use.

The new, year round, indoor rink features five locker rooms, a referees room, skate shop, warming area, dining area with concession stand, a party room, and bleacher seating for up to 300 people. The rink also features translucent panels to allow natural lighting as well as a ventless fireplace in the warming area.

Did You Know?

- ◆ Former NHL Star, and current Hall of Famer, Pat LaFontaine was born in Kirkwood and began skating at the Kirkwood Ice Rink.
- ◆ Nikki Ziegelmeyer was a member of the Gateway Speedskating Club before Medaling in the 1992 and 1994 Olympics.
- ◆ Former Gateway Speedskating member Tommy O'Hare competed in the Nagano Olympics in 1998.
- ◆ Speed skater Brendan Eppert was a member of the 1994 U.S. Olympic Team after honing his skills at the Kirkwood Ice Rink.
- ◆ Dean Patrick, son of the first ever St. Louis Blues coach Lynn Patrick, was a Kirkwood Youth Hockey player who went on to star for the Kirkwood High School team.
- ◆ Kirkwood Youth Hockey Association is the oldest, still competing youth association in St. Louis.
- ◆ Current NHL players, Chris Butler (Buffalo Sabres), Mike McKenna (New Jersey Devils/Tampa Bay Lightning), and Ben Bishop (St. Louis Blues) all began their hockey careers at the Kirkwood Ice Rink.