FACT SHEET

ABOUT XCEL ENERGY CENTER
Opened: September 2000
Owner: City of Saint Paul
Home to: NHL's Minnesota Wild
Operator: Saint Paul Arena Company (SPAC), an affiliate of Minnesota Sports & Entertainment
Construction Cost: $170 Million
Architectural Firm: HOK Sports Facilities Group

- Regarded as one of the finest arenas in the world, Xcel Energy Center is a one-of-a-kind multi-purpose sports and entertainment facility located in downtown Saint Paul, home to more than 150 sporting and entertainment events and roughly 1.5 million visitors each year.
- Xcel Energy Center opened its doors on September 29, 2000, when the new National Hockey League (NHL) franchise Minnesota Wild took on the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim in a preseason contest and claimed a 3-1 victory. The Wild hosted sellout crowds for 409 consecutive games over the first nine seasons of existence.
- Built to showcase the game of hockey, a “State of Hockey” tribute pays homage to the state’s official sport with exhibits throughout Xcel Energy Center. One of the first things visitors notice is the ring of hockey jerseys representing every boys’ and girls’ high school hockey team in Minnesota.
- Four separate concourses on four seating levels, plus the Al Shaver Press Box on the fifth level, provide configuration capabilities to seat more than 20,000 guests.
- Xcel Energy Center's wide-open concourses - measuring as much as 70 feet in width - offer guests an open view of every event. Each of the four levels was strategically designed to create great sightlines and superior acoustics.
- There are 74 executive suites; 12 on the main concourse and 62 on the Bremer Bank Suite Level. The RBC Wealth Management Club Level features leather seats, an exclusive merchandise store and upscale food and beverage options, anchored by Jack Daniel’s Old No. 7 Club.
- Xcel Energy Center has free, venue-wide Wi-Fi available for all events. Inside the venue there are more than 400 Wi-Fi access points covering the seating area, concession stands and concourses on all levels. Guests can easily connect to the Wi-Fi network by selecting 'XECWifi' from among the connection options appearing on their device.
- In 2012, the Bud Light Top Shelf Lounge was added - an all-inclusive loge area on the west end of the RBC Wealth Management Club Level. The lounge has a Scandinavian influence and includes 24 loge boxes, a canoe-inspired bar, sustainable lighting, an exclusive club area, a complimentary buffet, a private bar and iPad access.
- In 2014, Xcel Energy Center and the Minnesota Wild partnered with Daktronics to manufacture and install a comprehensive technology upgrade that included a new custom HD LED center-hung video board that was nearly six times larger than the previous one, stretching from blue line to blue line. The design featured the latest technology available and incorporated the North Woods motif already conveyed throughout the arena. Additional upgrades included replacement of outdoor marquees and ribbon displays that encircle the interior arena fascia.
- At the end of 2015, The Reserve, a new upscale lounge on the Bremer Bank Suite Level, was added. The area features a diverse menu and full bar and is open for Minnesota Wild home games, concerts and special events to guests with suite level tickets or reservations.
- Xcel Energy Center has been recognized as one of the best venues worldwide for sporting events, concerts and family shows. ESPN The Magazine has ranked the venue six times among the top three for “Best Stadium Experience” in all of professional sports (2003-2004, 2007-2010) and ESPN fans voted it the “Ultimate Crib” in the magazine’s 2009 “Ultimate Standings.” Xcel Energy Center was named “Best NHL Arena” by SportsBusiness Journal/SportsBusiness Daily in its 2006 Reader Survey, and was recognized for the “Best Fan Experience” by Forbes magazine in its 2006 “Business of Hockey” report. Sports Illustrated named the arena its “top choice” among NHL buildings in its 2006 NHL Preview issue. In addition to hockey, Xcel Energy Center has been nominated nine times (2001-2003, 2005-2010) for “Arena of the Year” by leading concert-industry publication Pollstar magazine.
- Some of entertainment’s most legendary performers have dazzled Xcel Energy Center audiences including: Adele • Madonna • Bob Dylan • Elton John • The Police • Rolling Stones • Barbra Streisand • Paul McCartney • Pavarotti • Billy Joel • Lady Gaga • Rod Stewart • Tim McGraw & Faith Hill • Kenny Chesney • Neil Diamond • Bruce Springsteen • John Mellencamp • Bon Jovi • Simon & Garfunkel • three consecutive sold-out shows by both hometown-favorite Prince and Taylor Swift.
- Each year, Xcel Energy Center becomes Minnesota’s sports epicenter for high school athletic tournaments. The most storied event is the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Boys’ Hockey Tournament, where attendance marks are routinely broken each year as hockey-crazed fans clamor for tickets to this celebrated event.
- Xcel Energy Center has hosted several world-renowned events in its history including the 2016 and 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, 2011 and 2002 NCAA Men’s Frozen Four, 2011 NHL Entry Draft, 2011 and 2006 USA Gymnastics’ Visa Championships, 2008 Republican National Convention, 2004 NHL All-Star Weekend and the 2004 International Ice Hockey Federation World Cup of Hockey.