



ABOUT XCEL ENERGY CENTER

Opened: September 2000

Home to: NHL's Minnesota Wild, NLL's Minnesota Swarm

Construction Cost: \$170 million

Architectural Firm: HOK Sports Facilities Group

Owner: City of Saint Paul

Operator: Saint Paul Arena Company (SPAC),
an affiliate of Minnesota Sports & Entertainment

- Regarded as America's most intimate arena, 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 approximately 1.6 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.
- Four separate concourses on four seating levels, plus the Al Shaver Press Box on the fifth level, provide configuration capabilities to accommodate 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 Club Cambria Executive Suite Level. The Treasure Island Resort & Casino Club Level consists of approximately 3,000 leather seats, upscale food and beverage offerings, an exclusive merchandise store, and a full-service restaurant.
- One of the most eye-catching elements of Xcel Energy Center is the electronic display system that includes a 360-degree video ribbon board and an eight-sided, 50,000-pound scoreboard.
- Xcel Energy Center has been recognized as one of the best venues worldwide for sporting events, concerts and family shows. ESPN The Magazine has twice ranked the eight-year-old venue No. 1 for "Best Stadium Experience" (2003, 2007). Xcel Energy Center was named "Best NHL Arena" by SportsBusiness Journal/SportsBusiness Daily in its 2006 Reader Survey and 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 seven times (2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008) for "arena of the year" by leading concert-industry publication Pollstar magazine.
- Xcel Energy Center has played host to some of the music industry's most legendary performers including: The Police • Rolling Stones • Barbra Streisand • Paul McCartney • Pavarotti • Elton John • Billy Joel • Rod Stewart • Tim McGraw & Faith Hill • Neil Diamond • Bruce Springsteen • John Mellencamp • Bon Jovi • Simon & Garfunkel • three consecutive sold-out shows by hometown-favorite, Prince
- Each spring, Xcel Energy Center becomes the Twin Cities' epicenter of activity, hosting four straight weeks of athletic tournaments. Two of the most storied events include the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Boys' Hockey Tournament and the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Red Baron Final Five. Attendance marks are routinely broken as hockey-crazed fans clamor for tickets to these destination events each year.
- In 2003, the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce released a study that estimated Xcel Energy Center's overall impact added \$247 million into the Minneapolis-Saint Paul economy and \$103.8 million into Saint Paul's economy that year alone.
- Xcel Energy Center just capped an incredible year. In addition to hosting the 2008 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January, the arena welcomed the 2008 Republican National Convention in September. Major events previously hosted by the facility include the 2004 NHL All-Star Weekend, 2004 International Ice Hockey Federation World Cup of Hockey, 2006 U.S. Gymnastics National Championships and the 2002 NCAA Men's Frozen Four, which will return in 2011.

Xcel Energy Center
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Xcel Energy Center, the Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium and the Saint Paul RiverCentre convention center are neighboring facilities, located on the same city-block radius in the heart of downtown Saint Paul. The three venues are connected to one another through a series of walkways; both under and above ground. All are managed by Saint Paul Arena Company, an affiliate of Minnesota Sports & Entertainment.