



# TUCKER ROAD ICE RINK

REBIRTH OF A COMMUNITY CENTER

Location:  
Fort Washington, MD

Category:  
Institutional  
Architecture

The new Tucker Road Ice Rink comes as the result of an unfortunate fire that forced the original ice rink to be demolished. Inspired by explorer Matthew Henson, the project plays with the concepts of ice, the arctic, and the northern lights. Decorative lighting inside and outside the building display the vibrant and dynamic colors of the northern lights. The new rink has an NHL-size rink for hockey or figure skating, a dance room for stretching, a heated seating area, a cafe, and a community lounge featuring a fireplace. This welcoming and inspiring facility is nestled in the park, creating a focal point of activity and recreation for the community, a jewel in the M-NCPPC crown. The new rink is connected to the surrounding park and nature both physically and metaphorically through a design that celebrates the surrounding site and the history of Fort Washington. The rink encourages an active lifestyle and opens the door to new opportunities that would otherwise remain underserved in the neighborhood.

# PROJECT NUMBERS

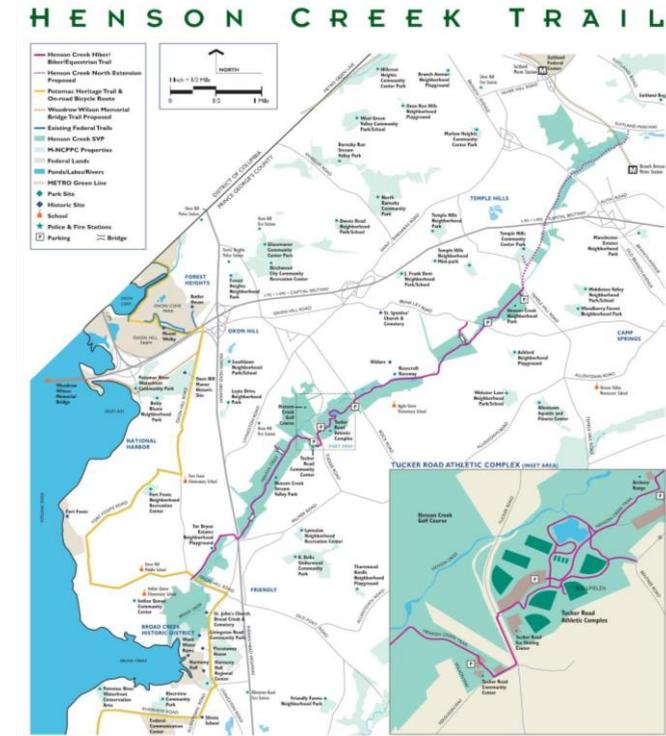
SIZE  
47,290 GSF

CERTIFICATION  
IGCC



# CONTEXT

The Tucker Road Ice Rink project was born out of necessity, it was a **reactionary response to a fire that damaged a vital community center** in the Fort Washington area. The ice rink is a second home for many in the community, its after school actives, weekend skating lessons and hockey team provided many residents with a place to connect and engage with each other. As a part of a larger community athletic complex, **the ice rink anchored the surrounding ball fiends and running trails.**



When a fire tore through the existing facility during the early hours of a cold morning in 2018, the community was devastated. Time was of the most importance, as the community needed their ice rink back. Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning knew they needed to act quickly.



The project team was charged with designing the replacement ice rink, as well as **crafting an engaging design narrative that would inspire the community**. Turning to the site and the community for input, the project team held several public meetings, taking the time to listen to each stakeholder group’s concerns, and input. The information gathered at these meetings directly influenced the design of the new rink.

Landscaping was an important part of the project due to its location in an existing park and along a walking trail. The project team worked to develop areas around the new building that would showcase **plants and grasses naturally found in the area**. Storm water management swales also provided an opportunity for landscape features. Additionally, areas were carved out **for public displays of artwork at the plaza and along Tucker Road**.



# DESIGN INSPIRATION



Inspired by explorer Matthew Henson, the first African American to explore the Arctic, the project plays with the **concepts of ice, the arctic, and the northern lights**. The sleek metal panel and glass exterior of the building recall the sloping planes of ice bergs, glaciers, and mountains, while the lighting both inside and out recall the vibrant colors of sunrises and the northern lights.

Features such as patterns in the lobby floor and plaza similar to skate lines on the ice and yellow accent **colors reminiscent of the bright colored tents used by arctic explorers** are incorporated into the design. Decorative lighting inside and outside the building display the vibrant and dynamic colors of the northern lights.



A native of Fort Washington, Maryland, Matthew Henson, pictured lower center. Photo Credit: The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum

# INTERIOR

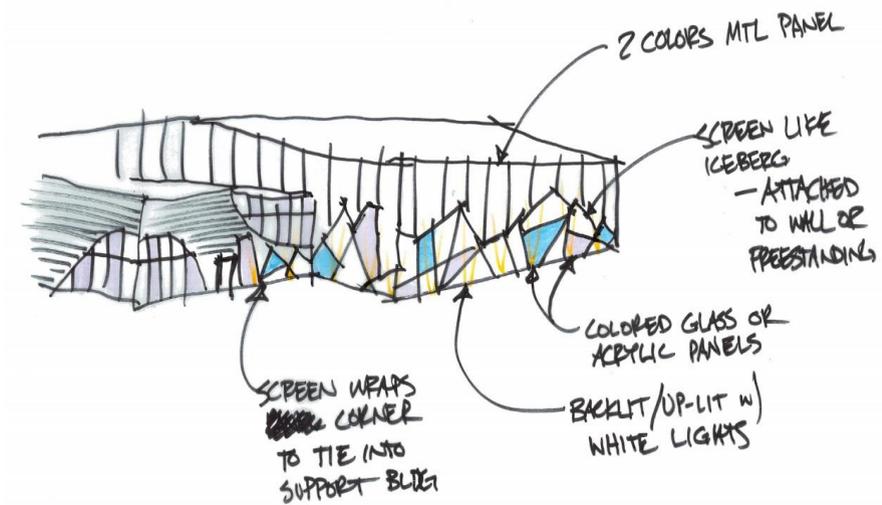


The interior lobby of the of the ice rink offers an escape from the cold, **with warm bright yellows and an accent fireplace that opens both to the lobby as well as to a community/party room**. A viewing area with comfortable seating and a laptop bar counter give community members a warm place to sit while watching the action on the ice. The new rink also boasts an inviting snack bar and spacious locker rooms for events.

## Designing for Integration, Wellbeing, and Discovery:

The Tucker Road Ice Rink is an integral part of the Fort Washington community. The new facility provides an improved experience for its users, gathering spaces for the community and reflects the community's strength and endurance. It is a point of pride for the neighborhood. The new rink is connected to the surrounding park and nature both physically and metaphorically through a design that celebrates the surrounding site and the history of Fort Washington. The rink encourages an active lifestyle and opens the door to new opportunities that would otherwise remain underserved in the neighborhood. The design process for the ice rink was one of inclusion, with active engagement and response from the community. The result was a state-of-the-art replacement facility, but also an amazing story of loss, recovery, and resilience.



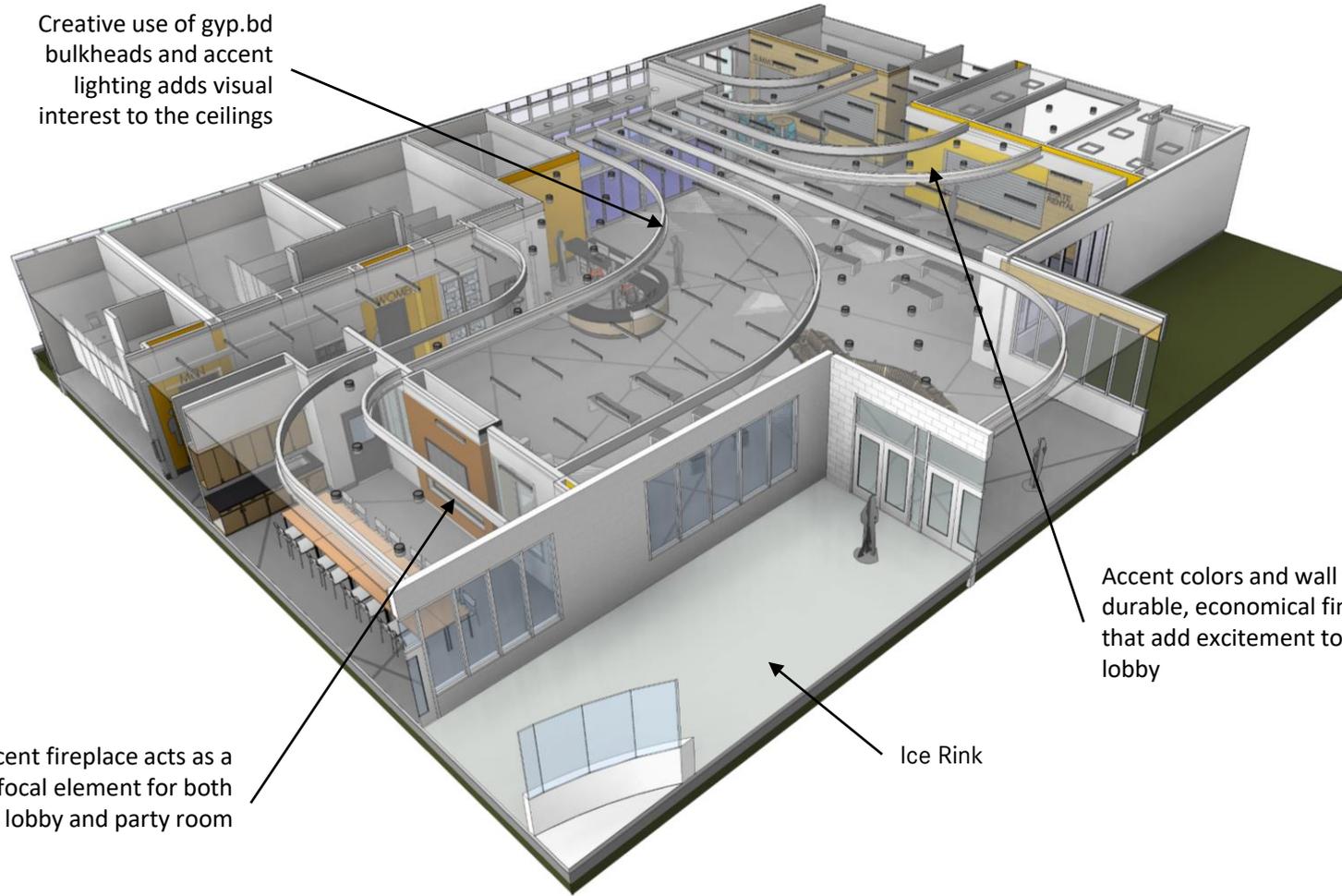


The northern lights, or the aurora borealis, are the beautiful dancing waves of light that have captivated people for millennia. **This spectacular light show at the North Pole transforms into a cinematic phenomenon.** At Tucker Road Ice Rink, a light show experience is replicated along the building facades dazzling visitors passing by.



# AURORA BOREALIS

Creative use of gyp.bd bulkheads and accent lighting adds visual interest to the ceilings



Accent fireplace acts as a focal element for both the lobby and party room

Accent colors and wall tile are durable, economical finishes that add excitement to the lobby

Ice Rink

### Designing for Ecosystems, Water, Energy, Resources, and Change:

The new ice rink uses high efficiency mechanical systems and a state-of-the-art ice making system. The building is also highly insulated to maintain the temp required for the ice rink, high performance glazing and thermally broken doors are used on both the interior and exterior of the rink to minimize thermal loss. The building reuses the existing site of prior rink, reducing the destruction of planted and green space. The new site also features a robust landscaping plan around the building designed to aid the storm water management ponds in cleaning managing the water runoff from the site. The design of the rink also allows for future growth, with plans for a second rink incorporated into the design. The use of high-quality materials like metal panel and concrete ensure a long service life for the new building.

Working in the confines of a tight project budget, the team developed simple solutions to add interest and flare to the ice rink. Simple LED lighting along with landscaping created an easily identifiable elevation along Tucker Road.



# DETAILS

# THE RINK





1. LOBBY
2. SKATE RENTAL
3. CAFÉ
4. OFFICES
5. RESTROOMS
6. DANCE STUDIO
7. PRACTICE AREA
8. COMMUNITY/PARTY ROOM
9. LOCKER ROOMS
10. ICE RINK
11. MECHANICAL

### Designing for Equitable Communities and Economy:

Tucker Road was an emergency project in response to a fire that had devastated the existing building. The Maryland -National Capital Parks and Planning commission had the difficult task of working the replacement facility into an already tight fiscal year. As a result, the design team made the project's cost a top priority, second only to ensuring community satisfaction. The new facility uses lighting, color, and economical finishes to make the design narrative come to life. The building footprint was made as efficient as possible, while portions were designed to allow for future growth. Each aspect of the building was carefully reviewed not just for initial cost, but also to ensure long term value for the community. As one of only a handful of ice rinks in the region, the existing building had an important role. The new rink takes this mantle and continues to offer opportunities and new experiences to the surrounding neighborhoods.

**This welcoming and inspiring facility is nestled in the park,** creating a focal point of activity and recreation for the community, a jewel in the M-NCPPC crown

