

# New Hartford pursuing rec center renovations

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New Hartford is in the middle of a three-year renovation plan at the town's recreation center in an effort to give the building several more decades of life.

“(We’re) doing a renovation like we did at Gander Mountain,” said Town Supervisor Paul Miscione, referencing the former outdoor supply store purchased in June 2018 that was renovated and turned into a new town hall.

Miscione said the center, which also houses the town's ice rink, needs the renovations after decades of neglect. The town's recreation center opened in the late 1960s or early 1970s, he said previously.

Work at the center began last year with ice rink renovations, including replacing the facility's 40-year-old ice maker and chiller. Other renovations included new LED lighting and razing and improving the playground space behind the recreation center.

Miscione said the work being done this year, expected to wrap by September, includes exterior cosmetic work. This includes addressing rusted doors, the installation of new windows and a new speaker system.

He further hopes to take down an inside wall by the bleachers left up following a past expansion at the center. This wall is just taking up space that could be used for the bleachers, Miscione said.

There also is a plan to add more parking at the center, Miscione said. Some of these spots will be leased back to high school students to use as parking during the school year.

Proposed renovations for next year include addressing the locker room, including the flooring; fixing the HVAC system and redoing the roof, which has some leaks, Miscione said.

If done, these renovations will take place when the center is closed.

"We're trying to go through and reconfigure," Miscione said. "Make it a nicer, safer environment."

Miscione said the renovations are funded through roughly \$180,000 in savings the town has accrued yearly by having him function as head of the parks department along with his role as town supervisor. Town employees also are handling the work, Miscione added.

"It's time to do it," Miscione said of the renovation project. "I think it's a nice project."