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Sports Business

# Wayne Gretzky-backed ice skating facility to open in South Florida (Photos)

Billionaire Larry Robbins also is associated with the \$40M development

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The ice center will have at least two NHL-size ice rinks for sports and leisure skating.

By Courtney Danielle Moore - Reporter, South Florida Business Journal  
 Apr 5, 2024 Updated Apr 5, 2024 1:41pm EDT

Palm Beach Gardens is getting a state-of-the-art ice skating facility.

The Palm Beach North Athletic Foundation, Inc. (PBNAF), a nonprofit organization, announced it entered into a public-private partnership agreement to develop and operate the facility at Plant Drive Park. The city of Palm Beach Gardens approved PBNAF's 40-year lease agreement during its April 4 City Council meeting.

It is east of Military Trail and south of Burns Road behind Palm Beach Gardens High School.

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The facility is expected to open in summer 2026 and cost \$40 million to build, according to the foundation. Plans call for two ice skating rinks that are National Hockey League size, a full-service restaurant and sports bar, a retail store, a training area, an academy space and a dedicated medical space sponsored by the Hospital for Special Surgery.

PBNAF noted it would incorporate a third NHL-sized ice rink if the organization achieves its fundraising goals.

The project will be led by PBNAF Founder and President Michael Winter in collaboration with retired New York Giants NFL running back Tucker Frederickson, a PBNAF board member. Billionaire hedge fund manager Larry Robbins and hockey legend Wayne Gretzky have also offered support for the new facility, the foundation stated.

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Robbins is CEO of New York-based Glenview Capital Management. He's a former university hockey player and an 18-year youth hockey coach. PBNAF said Robbins and the nonprofit Robbins Family Foundation recently "committed a substantial leadership gift" to ensure the skating facility's timely construction.

"My wife Sarahmay and I are thrilled to relocate our family to Palm Beach Gardens, an active, hardworking, and optimistic community whose only shortcoming is a current lack of ice skating facilities to serve the growing base of passionate hockey players and figure skaters," Robbins said in a statement. "We are thrilled to partner with Mike, Tucker, Wayne, and the entire PBNAF team and family to bring this new centerpiece of the community to life."

Gretzky will host his Gretzky Hockey School at the new ice skating facility, according to PBNAF. The NHL's all-time leading goal scorer founded the hockey school in 2014 with his son Ty Gretzky.

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"Together with my son, we're honored to expand the reach of our hockey school to more residents in Palm Beach County," Gretzky said. "Hockey has the power to unite communities, and we are thrilled to be a part of bringing that unity to even more people to cultivate a new era of hockey enthusiasts."

Aside from ice hockey, the facility in Palm Beach Gardens will be available for figure skating, leisure skating, curling and sled hockey.

Plant Drive Park is east of Military Trail and south of Burns Road behind Palm Beach Gardens High School.

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