University of Maine Athletic Facilities Master Plan

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ADVANCING ATHLETICS CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
We value and respect our athletic history, our university and our state. We are proud to be Black Bears.

We face all challenges with focused determination and a will to win.

We are responsible stewards of our resources and always work to find a better way.
The Harold Alfond Foundation’s historic investment in Maine and its people includes a $240 million commitment to the University of Maine System to bring transformative change to the state’s largest educational, research, innovation and talent development asset.

Of that, $90 million will be used for athletic facilities at the University of Maine and the well-being of Maine people, providing support to maintain excellence in the state’s only Division I athletics program, strengthen gender equity, and provide a preferred destination for high school sports championships, large academic fairs and competitions, and community events. All of the university’s students and people from throughout Maine will be able to use the state-of-the-art athletic and convening venues at the state’s flagship university in Orono.
Black Bear student-athletes — responsible stewards of our resources.

EXPANSION
OVERVIEW
$110M

Campaign Priorities

Alfond Arena renovations
Walsh Center renovations
Multipurpose Center
Strength and Conditioning plus Sports Medicine
Playing Fields
Speed Dome
Indoor Facility
Morse Field update
We have just been handed the opportunity of a lifetime. Thanks to a tremendous lead grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation, we have the opportunity to completely re-energize the future of Division I athletics at the University of Maine. We are going to boldly reshape our athletic facility infrastructure and put UMaine back in the conversation as the go-to destination for top collegiate athletes.

It takes a lot to maintain competitive Division I sports in the current marketplace. Success at this level requires a firm commitment from everyone involved. From university leadership through the coaches and then to the athletes themselves, everyone involved must be prepared to seek the excellence required of the Division I world. The support needed extends to our fans, donors, corporate partners, sponsors, and other supporters. There can be no weak links in the chain as we seek to elevate our level of competitiveness throughout the program.

We are seeking competitive excellence throughout our entire Athletic Department and among all of our 17 sport offerings. To help us get there, we are launching a comprehensive $110 million capital campaign to elevate the quality of all of our competitive venues. The Harold Alfond Foundation has kick-started this effort with a historic $90 million grant to the project. We need everyone who loves Black Bear Athletics to be a partner with us to raise the additional funds to complete the project. We will get this done! We owe it to our students, our alumni, and our community.

There are additional benefits to this project. The plan we are putting forward will make UMaine a leader in gender equity for athletics. The plan also will allow us to grow campus offerings in club sports, intramurals, and recreation. The new and renovated facilities will enable us to host exciting functions such as state high school championships, youth club sport events, and even non-athletic events such as robotics and band competitions. There also will be tremendous opportunity for the growth of our camp and clinic programs, helping to bring the joy of competitive sport to the youth of the state. In all, the goal is to make Orono the destination of choice for competitive sports in Maine and, by extension, make the University of Maine the first-choice college for the next generation of students.

Your state flagship university — your land, sea, and space grant institution — your leader in sponsored research — Maine’s only Division I athletic program. Now is the time to make a bold move and do what people have told us in the past is impossible. Black Bear Nation needs you. Please join us for this journey.

Ken Ralph, Director of Athletics
Campaign vision:

$20M fundraising goal
$90M grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation
$110M capital project
The legendary Harold Alfond Sports Arena will undergo significant upgrades to increase the student-athlete and fan experience inside the historic building. Fans will be treated to a beautiful, advanced entryway to Alfond Arena, complete with expanded open space on the entry concourse and significant improvements to the Hockey Hall of Fame area. The arena will be equipped with new, high-definition video boards, the latest modernized sound system, new external videoboard signage along College Avenue, exterior upgrades to the building and new Zambonis. The fan experience will further be increased with upgraded WiFi throughout the arena, an enhanced space for the Bear Necessities Fan Shop, improved seating areas, state-of-the-art lighting through the rink, and significantly enhanced television production equipment.
Alfond Arena Expansion continued

Hall of Fame lobby

Men's locker room

Women's locker room
As the Black Bears continue to honor the lasting memory of historic head coach Shawn Walsh, significant upgrades will be provided to the Shawn Walsh Center. The Maine Women’s and Men’s Ice Hockey programs will receive new, state-of-the-art locker rooms and lounges. The Shawn Walsh Center will be equipped with a player development center, complete with a new strength and conditioning center and a first-rate film room, which will be constructed to provide the programs with extra space and superior video equipment. Expanded equipment rooms, sports medicine spaces and new staff offices will complete the impressive Shawn Walsh Center upgrades.
A new Multipurpose Center will be one of the signature projects of the master facilities plan. A new 3,000 seat arena will serve as the primary home venue for Men’s and Women’s Basketball. New locker rooms and basketball office suites, and visiting team locker rooms will create an environment that our basketball programs can clearly and proudly call home, as well as provide a much-needed space on campus for other large-scale events, such as Convocation, Graduate Student Commencement, and many other campus and community events.

In addition to the important facility upgrades it will provide, the Multipurpose Center will serve as a backdrop to Morse Field at Alfond Stadium, with opportunities for improved preferred seating, and to create a true stadium look and feel for our football program. Much-needed facility improvements for Black Bear Football include a new locker room and dedicated office space for our coaches and staff. A 125-person video meeting room will provide all of our teams with space that is appropriate for full team meetings.
The new facility will include dedicated areas for strength and conditioning, and sports medicine, ensuring that all of our student-athletes continue to receive the best training and care in new and improved spaces. The facility also will become the new home for the Athletic Department staff, with office and meeting spaces, and new locations for ticketing and soft goods sales. When completed, the new Multipurpose Center will be one of the signature buildings for Black Bear Athletics and the entire University of Maine campus.
Basketball arena

Strength and conditioning

Team film room
The existing indoor dome facility will be replaced with a new dome structure, complete with the latest upgrades and first-rate materials. The dome will receive expansions and a new synthetic turf field inside. The facility will include 58% more usable space than the existing domed structure. The enclosure will be a next-generation insulated bubble, equipped with the latest features to protect from the elements and a 25-year life expectancy.
The University of Maine softball program will compete on a new, NCAA-regulation-size field, complete with a synthetic playing surface. The layout will feature bleacher seating between each brick dugout, an enclosed press box located directly behind home plate, and bullpens down each line. The softball facility will be equipped with television-quality lighting. When complete, this will be one of the best dedicated softball facilities in the state and will not only serve as the home of Black Bear Softball, but also will provide a valuable venue for area teams and the ability to host state and regional championships.

The new, 120-yard x 75-yard home of the Women’s Soccer program will feature a state-of-the-art FIFA-approved synthetic turf playing surface. The new facility will be equipped with bleacher seating along the west sideline with an enclosed press box located at the peak of the bleacher structure. The field will be lit with high-quality lighting, meeting the standards set for television broadcasts. Each team bench, and the midfield scorers’ location, will be covered to protect from the elements and provide secluded areas for each team and official personnel.
The new field hockey facility will feature a NCAA-regulation field complete with a state-of-the-art field hockey-specific playing surface. The new home of the UMaine Field Hockey program will be complete with the latest field irrigation system, a new bleacher seating area, and an enclosed press box located above the seating. First-rate, television-quality lighting will surround the playing surface, while the benches will feature enclosed sheltering to protect from the elements and provide seclusion to each team.

Baseball facility

Mahaney Diamond, already one of UMaine’s premier athletics facilities, also will receive upgrades. We intend to keep this facility among the best college baseball parks in the Northeast. The playing surface will be replaced with a state-of-the-art synthetic surface. Mahaney Clubhouse will benefit from upgrades to the locker room, coaches’ offices, meeting rooms, and pavilion areas.
The new Maine Athletics Speed Dome will be a state-of-the-art facility that will benefit all 17 varsity programs, as well as the state’s high school and youth athletic programs. It will provide campus and the community with several new programming opportunities, and will be home to the state’s only 300-meter indoor track. Located on the interior of the indoor track will be a first-rate, high-quality 100-yard synthetic turf field, which will provide additional indoor space for practices and community events.

Memorial Gymnasium

The historic Memorial Gymnasium will receive significant upgrades to the current structure, headlined by new locker room facilities for Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving, Field Hockey, Women’s Soccer, and Softball programs. All other locker rooms currently housed in Memorial Gymnasium will undergo significant renovations. Modernized, renovated office spaces for coaching staff, administration, and support staff also will be included in the overall renovations.
The home of UMaine Football will undergo significant upgrades that will improve the playing experience for the student-athletes and enhance the overall atmosphere on game day. A state-of-the-art synthetic turf surface will be installed as part of the substantial structural improvements to the stadium. The track will be removed from the complex, which will allow for visiting bleachers to be shifted closer to the playing surface while the turf will be transported closer to the home grandstand to provide a more intimate environment. The stadium also will benefit from pivotal upgrades to the restrooms and concession areas. Overall, these improvements will secure Alfond Stadium as the top football establishment in the state.
Football locker room
What an exciting time to be a Black Bear! As Ken mentioned in his message, we have been granted the opportunity of a lifetime thanks to the transformational grant made by the Harold Alfond Foundation. In order to leverage these funds, we have been tasked with raising $20 million over the next 10 years.

Private support is essential to our success. It enables us to provide University of Maine student-athletes with the state-of-the-art facilities and resources they need, and deserve, to succeed academically and athletically. The facility upgrades also will have a tremendous impact on our community, as the UMaine campus continues to serve our students and the people of Maine as part of our mission as a land grant institution. We couldn’t be more excited about the future and the opportunities before us!

There are many ways to support UMaine. Our team continues to work with donors to match the needs of the university with the philanthropic goals of our donors. Whether it is an outright gift of cash or stock, or a legacy gift with one of the many planned giving vehicles, such as a bequest or charitable gift annuity, we continue to be donor-centered in our approach as we seek philanthropic support that is meaningful to both the donor and UMaine. Please turn to the next page to learn more about all the ways to give.

One of the most impactful pieces of the Harold Alfond Foundation grant to UMaine and UMaine Athletics is that additional donations will be matched, dollar for dollar. This provides us with an incredible and unique opportunity for transformational change. A gift to UMaine Athletics is an investment in our team, and we are all ONE team in Black Bear Nation.

We have an attractive list of naming opportunities for the facilities with a wide range of levels available upon request. Donors of all levels will be recognized as we celebrate the fundraising efforts throughout the capital improvements. We would love to hear from you if you are interested in learning more as you consider a gift to UMaine and/or the campaign to support Black Bear Athletics. Our contact information is provided below. A member of our team is ready to connect with you to answer any questions you may have, and to work with you to find the best and most meaningful way for you to support our efforts.

The University of Maine Foundation has provided fundraising leadership to the University of Maine for over 86 years. It is a tremendous honor to work on this transformational fundraising effort. Our fundraising team is excited to work with you to accomplish your philanthropic goals for Black Bear Nation.

Always Black Bears,
The type of gift that is best for you depends on many factors, including your age, health, family and employment situation, assets and lifestyle choices. Many companies will match your gift, maximizing the impact of your personal philanthropy. Charitable giving often carries significant tax benefits for donors. All gifts to the University of Maine Foundation for UMaine and its fundraising partners are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you have questions regarding the tax implications of your giving, consult your attorney or financial advisor.
“If you keep chopping wood, pretty soon there will be a pile.”

— Harold Alfond

#keepchopping