

Category 1 - Contribution to the Community

Contractor: Encore Electric

Project Name: Breckenridge Recreation Center Renovation

A recreation center isn't just a place where the community goes to work out, to compete or to swim. It's a place where a community congregates, where neighbors come together to not only chat about our lives, but to be in relationship with one another. It's a meeting place; it's a true pivot for our lives and the lives of our children. This is true in big cities and small towns alike, but it is vitally important for small towns that are geographically isolated from others, like in the mountains of Colorado. The original Breckenridge Recreation Center was built in 1991 as the first of its kind on the western slope of the Colorado Mountains. Over the course of 25 years, the needs of the community changed and so, the Breckenridge Recreation Center also needed to change.

That's where Encore Electric stepped in, along with their general contractor partners at Hyder Construction. The unique value that Encore provided was the ability to bring our expertise of electrical design/build together with the integration of technology design/build for an amazing, full user experience. The original center focused primarily on weight and strength training, along with a few classes, some tennis courts, a cardio area and a pool, providing the basics of fitness. While the original center served the town well, space and demand considerations, especially in the cardio and weight areas of the center, forced a change. At one point, the operations manager of the recreation center noticed 36 people in the weight room at the same time. It was too tight, and it wasn't working for anyone.

In 2016, the Breckenridge Town Council approved a much needed \$17.2 million renovation to the recreation center. The scope of the renovation was wide and included a new tennis facility, the repurposing of the old tennis facility into a two-level fitness wing with expanded cardio, strength, weight training and stretching areas, the installation of an indoor turf gym that is to be used by youth sports teams during the long winter, a dedicated youth wing, an indoor playground, a remodel of the lobby and upgrades to the multi-purpose rooms.

The new facility is 88,000 square feet, features three times the fitness space of the old center and is a huge part of how members of the community interact with each other. One of the main priorities of the project was the heating and cooling system - as the mountains of Colorado have long winters. But as cold as it can get in the winter, it also can be quite warm and uncomfortable in the summer. Ensuring that the facility had the correct power requirements for the heating and cooling systems, and interfacing with those specialty contractors in those areas, was a big consideration for Encore Electric.

There was a special requirement during construction that was extremely important to the community. The facility had to be open to the public during construction. There was only a short, three week period where it shut down to install large equipment. That meant that Encore Electric team members had to be respectful of all visitors, and maintain a safe, clean and productive workplace. While the team at the recreation center thought it might be easier to close the facility during construction, that was not part of the plan - they wanted to be open for the community's sake. During this three week period, Encore Electric replaced the main distribution center over a weekend. This was not possible to do while the center was open. It took a whole 36 hours' worth of focus. "We had a great team in the mountains that allowed us to put in all of the new equipment and remove the old equipment very quickly," said Brian Bannen, foreman for Encore Electric.

Encore Electric's work on the project really touched all aspects of the renovation. There was not a single room in the facility that was untouched by our electricians or technicians. Technology plays a vitally important role to the new and renovated facility. It has created a brand new look and feel to how the community uses the center. Employees have the ability to control lighting, cooling systems for fans, window blinds, and sound systems all from one mini iPad touch screen interface. This kind of building automation allows the facility to be flexible, whether it is snowing and zero degrees outside, or sunny and 82 degrees.

State of the art lighting systems bring efficiencies into the lighting and control sections. Operators of the facility can now lower the lights in one area, like in the Zen stretching area, and increase the lighting in another, like in the cycling studio. "We used to dim the lights by taking

light bulbs out,” said Kevin Zygulski. “We would take out one florescent bulb out of each fixture when we wanted lower lighting.”

Another major benefit of the remodel was the new sound system. Employees at the facility now have the ability to control sound in separate areas of the building. It has made a huge impact in places like the cycling studio, which used to be a huge distraction for everyone else trying to enjoy the building. The previous cycling studio used to be in an old racquetball court that opened to the running track, so when cyclists were in the studio, every single user of the recreation center could hear the music and microphone from the class leader. Now, the cycling studio is in a completely sound-proofed room that is separated from the rest of the activities. It has become so popular there is a waiting list to get into spin classes.

Electrical systems were put in place for the fans to move air and cool down the space in the facility. Power blinds allow for the warmth of the sun in the winter, and for shade in various areas when the sun is intense in the summer months. The 2,800 square foot children’s playground area is another part of the facility that is benefitting from increased technology use and power. Mood lighting controls can create a separate ambiance, like campfire and moonlight or bright sunlight.

An elaborate system was set up by Encore Electric’s Technology Solutions team to ensure that televisions and their audio could be controlled individually in the cardio space via wifi, so users could listen to whatever TV they want via their smart phone or tablet, according to Dylan Steffenauer, systems engineer at Encore Electric. New lighting was added in the pool steam room. Across the parking lot, the new 17,000 square foot tennis facility was built to accommodate year-long tennis enthusiasts. Along with all the lighting and technology solutions that went into that building, there is also a snow melt system that was installed to ensure that snow didn’t sit on the roof for months at a time in winter, as can happen in the Colorado Mountains.

All in all, the employees of Encore Electric worked 12,774 hours on the project with no lost-time accidents. That is due to the safe working practice of Encore Electric’s craftsmen and the

leadership of the safety team on this and every single project that is undertaken by the company. The reviews of the facility from the facility administrators, community members and workers are unanimously positive. The employees of the recreation center had nothing but great things to say about Encore Electric and our craftsmen who worked on the project.

“I like that Brian (Bannen) is local and he does what he says he will do,” said Kevin Zygulski. “I have not seen anyone faster than Brian. I have been really pleased with Encore.”

“We were learning in this process, and changing things on the fly,” said Scott Reid, director of recreation. “Encore would help with a fix, making changes while working off of old plans. Sometimes the Encore Electric team would look at the plans and ask us if that was what we really wanted, taking time to explain the benefits and possible downside.” Reid added: “We want this place to be top notch, and it is the people who make it so special. We are super happy with the results of our new space.”

Our craftsmen take tremendous pride in providing a long-term value to the community through their work on the Breckenridge Recreation Center. “Working on a facility that is open, has been up and running while keeping power on and visitors safe, has been a good challenge for me,” said Brian Bannen. “My favorite part of the project was seeing everything turnover in the proper time frames. It’s a good feeling.”

Even Eric Mamula, the Mayor of Breckenridge, was impressed. “The recent renovation to our Recreation Center in Breckenridge is an amazing amenity for our community. While I’m there every day, I hear countless comments from people who are blown away by what our team has been able to achieve. Myself and the entire Town Council are thankful for everyone involved in the project that worked hard to make these renovations happen in a smooth and timely manner.”

The facility was completed in April 2018 and a ribbon-cutting and dedication was held for the public on May 22, 2018. It continues to be a vital part of Breckenridge, and thanks to the work of Encore Electric, is helping the men and women of the town be in community together.









