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Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

**Date:** July 9, 2019  
**Contact:** Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager  
**Phone:** 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723  
**E-mail:** yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the July 9, 2019, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **Kids Around the World will reuse playground equipment from Lake Elmo park**

Kids Around the World will dismantle and reuse the playground equipment at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve modern campground, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the organization July 9.

The modern campground playground is 17 years old with limited handicap accessibility and a sand base surface. The playground has been well maintained by county staff, but the equipment is out-of-date and parts for repair and upgrades are no longer manufactured. Landscape Structures will install a new playground, and the county will sign a contract with Kids Around the World for the removal and disposal of the existing equipment.

Kids Around the World is a non-profit that works with agencies to remove and salvage existing playgrounds and refurbish and redistribute them to communities in more than 60 countries. The playground equipment is used to help make a positive impact for children in countries that are affected by war, poverty, diseases, or natural disasters. The removal of the existing playground and disposal of all play equipment will be done at no cost to the county.

**Contact: Eden Rogers, Engineer I, 651-430-4352**

#### **Kraus-Anderson will construct new Valley Library next door to current site**

*A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow*

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a construction agreement with Kraus-Anderson July 9 for \$836,580 to relocate and expand the Valley Library in the Lakeland Plaza, where the library is now.

The new location will be directly adjacent to the library's current location within the plaza. The county has a 10-year lease of the new space.

The construction contract uses Sourcewell, a joint-powers purchasing alliance.

Construction will begin in August with completion scheduled for November. The total cost of the project is budgeted to be \$1.2 million

The library has occupied its current location for nearly 30 years. It lacks proper restrooms and a dedicated mechanical room, and it has insufficient library program space.

**Contact: Joe Welter, Building Services Project Manager, 651-430-6226**

### **County Board chooses contractors for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park project**

Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc., will design the new Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Lower Landing building, and Wenck Construction will do construction management after the Washington County Board approved contracts with the two companies July 9.

The contract with Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc., is for \$416,100, and the contract with Wenck Construction is \$258,850.

Hammel, Green and Abrahamson will develop design concepts for the Lower Landing Facility Building in the park, which will replace the current shelter and restrooms. The company will also do design work and planning for projects that will be done in the future when funds are available, such as a picnic area, play area shade, fishing piers and shoreline fishing, and a non-motorized boat launch. The company will engage the community throughout the design process and identify key issues, such as a needed drain field, well, and other aspects of the project.

Wenck Construction will do cost estimating, project staging and feasibility, contract and bid administration, and construction safety, and develop the project schedule.

Public outreach and the preliminary design will be done now through next February, with construction expected to be next summer and fall. The projects will be paid for with proceeds from the county bond sale and state and Metropolitan Council grants.

**Contact: Eden Rogers, Engineer I, 651-430-4352**

### **County Board receives annual audit report**

James Honsvall, a citizen member of the Washington County Audit Advisory Committee, presented the 2018 annual audit report to the County Board July 9.

Washington County established an Audit Advisory Committee in 1984. The Audit Advisory Committee is comprised of Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3, the county administrator, and two citizen members. The two citizen members are Honsvall and Frank Rheinberger. The role of the Audit Advisory Committee is to provide assurance to the County Board concerning the internal and financial controls of the county and to provide greater independence and objectivity to county auditing.

The committee meets four times each year to review the quarterly report from the internal auditor, who reviews disbursements and the use of purchasing cards by county employees. During the course of reviewing each of these disbursement testing periods of 2018, one issue regarding making payments to several vendors without a valid contract was identified. Recommendations were made to the committee to increase internal controls to ensure that a valid contract is in place before allowing a vendor to provide services, and those issues have been resolved.

Purchasing cards are used by employees who are approved to make smaller purchases on behalf of the county. A purchasing card handbook spells out the procedures securing and approving purchase card expenditures. At each committee meeting, the internal auditor reviewed the tests done for purchasing made by employees using a purchasing card.

The committee also reviews cash counts, and any recommendations made by the county's outside auditor CliftonLarsonAllen, and helps the county prepare the timetable and other details of the external audit.

**Contact: Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant, 651-430-6014**