



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Contract Award: Playground Equipment for Regional Sports and Recreation Center Project No. J2870

MEETING DATE:

July 20, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

City Administration

AGENDA SECTION:

Consent Agenda

PRESENTER:

Zack Wood

Action Requested:

Awarding a contract in the amount of \$290,025.34 to St. Croix Recreation for playground equipment and installation at the Regional Sports and Recreation Center (RSRC) Project No J2870.

Report Narrative:

The design of the Regional Sports and Recreation Complex Project identified play structures within the project scope, and \$300,000 was budgeted under the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contract to provide and install the on-site play structure amenities. During equipment review, staff determined that purchasing through State Contract–approved cooperatives would deliver a substantially improved play experience compared to what was available through our CMAR contract partners, within the same approved budget. As a result, the \$300,000 budget was reallocated back to the City, and the Parks and Recreation Department worked directly with vendors under the State Contract system to design a play system that better aligns with the overall vision proposed for the project.

The playground equipment at the Regional Sports and Recreation Complex will be similar to other playgrounds within the Parks system in that it will provide play opportunities for both pre-school age kids (2-5) and school aged children from age 5-12 years old. There are a number of traditional play elements such as slides and swings as well as newer elements such as rope climbing and balancing. The equipment meets current accessibility and safety guidelines and is accessible via poured-in-place rubber from sidewalks to key locations on the equipment.

This proposal was sourced through the Minnesota Sourcewell service cooperative, which is authorized through Minnesota Statute §123A.21 to competitively bid and award purchasing contracts to state and local governments. Sourcewell cooperative purchasing contracts are made available through the joint exercise of powers law, Minnesota Statute § 471.59 to participating agencies. Sourcewell follows the competitive contracting law process to solicit, evaluate, and award cooperative purchasing contracts for goods and services. By utilizing this procurement method, we are taking advantage of approximately \$25,000 in savings with our owner-direct tax-exempt status as well as discounted volume pricing.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Quality Services

Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability

Policy Considerations & DEI Impact:

The Regional Sports & Recreation Complex Project will follow the City's targeted business utilization and

workforce participation goals. The completed project will provide opportunities for the community to utilize the facility. Trails for walking, running, and biking, connecting to the funded and planned Willow Creek trail. Outdoor recreation promotes health and wellness, with well-documented benefits for physical and mental health. Activities in nature improve cardiovascular health, mobility, flexibility, and reduce the risk of health issues. Designing the facility to be accessible ensures these benefits are available to everyone, regardless of age or ability, creating an inclusive and healthy space for all.

Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:

February 6, 2023: Council Meeting - Agreement with ISG for Professional Services to Further Inform the RSRC Local Option Sales Tax Proposed Project Approved.

March - June 2023 - Community Working Group Process

July 24, 2023: Council Meeting - Gaps Analysis, Community Engagement, Preliminary Design Program, and Projected Future Operations and Maintenance for the RSRC report.

July 24, 2023: Council Meeting - Adopted the sales tax extension ballot language

November 7, 2023 - City Special Election (Voter Passage of Local Sales Tax)

January 29, 2024: Council Study Session - Local Sales Tax Update provided to City Council February

21, 2024: Council Meeting - First Reading for Local Sales Tax Implementation

March 4, 2024: Council Meeting -Request for Proposals (RFP) for operations and programming planning activities for the RSRC

March 18, 2024: Council Meeting - Local Sales Tax Renewal Implementation

May 20, 2024: Council Meeting - Approval of Operator Planning Professional Services June 10, 2024:

Council Meeting - Executive Session - Property sites for RSRC project discussed

August 2024: Council Meeting - Request for Proposals (RFP) for Design professional services

August 5, 2024: Council Meeting - Assignment and Assumption of Purchase Agreements for the three properties under consideration for the RSRC approved

September 23, 2024: Council Meeting - Request for Qualifications (RFQ) / Request for Proposals (RFP) for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) professional services

October 14, 2024: Executive Session - Property sites for RSRC project discussed.

October 21, 2024 Council Meeting - Approval of Design Services

November 18, 2024: Council Meeting - Approval of CMAR Services

February 3, 2025: Real Estate Purchase and Design Direction

March - May 2025 - RSRC Community Working Group Process

June 2, 2025 - Rezoning and Annexation of RSRC Property

July 28, 2025 - Study session - Operating Model Discussion

October 6, 2025: Council Meeting – Authorized Bid Award

November 18, 2025 - Neighborhood Informational Meeting

November 17, 2025 - RCTC meeting

December 8, 2025 - Authorization of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Amendment - Approved

April 6, 2026 - Contract Award for Testing Services - Approved

June 1, 2026 - Phase 2 Indoor Options Next Steps - Partially Approved

June 15, 2026: Council Meeting - Contract Amendment - Approved

Fiscal & Resource Impact:

The \$65M budget for this project will be funded by the Local Sales Tax designated for the Regional Sports and Recreation Complex. \$300,000 was allocated under the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contract for materials with Knutson Construction for playground equipment, those funds were allocated back to the City to self procure the playground equipment utilizing State Purchasing Contracts for more competitive pricing.

Alternative Action(s):

No alternative actions recommended at this time.

Prepared By:

Zachary Wood

Attachments:

[Exhibit - RSRC Playground Proposal](#)