



## APWA MINNESOTA CHAPTER PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

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**Submission Deadline: October 1, 2019**

**All nomination and supporting data are to be submitted as a PDF to Sarah at [sarah.lloyd@bolton-menk.com](mailto:sarah.lloyd@bolton-menk.com) with a maximum page size of 5 pages, including photos.**

### Project Nominated:

Managing Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Design Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Construction Administration Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Project General Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Making Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria for Nomination

- Project must be substantially completed by October 31, 2019.
- Includes use of innovative construction management techniques and completion of the project on schedule.
- Maintained excellent safety performance and safety program throughout construction.
- Evidence of strong community relations during all project phases.
- Consideration given to the environment. Sustainable design techniques involved.
- Unusual accomplishments given adverse conditions.
- Provides future value to the public works profession and perception by the public.
- Additional considerations such as value engineering, innovative project financing, multi-agency coordination and participation.

**Reasons for Nomination:** Describe the project with the aspects and features of the project that fulfilled any of the applicable criteria listed. (Include description on a separate page.)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Washington County, in partnership with the City of Cottage Grove and the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD), delivered over \$6 million in improvements to Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park and the surrounding roadway infrastructure on County Road 19 and East Point Douglas Road.

This project reinvigorated Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, provided stormwater control to allow regional growth in Woodbury and Cottage Grove, addressed intersection traffic safety concerns, and added capacity at a gateway connection into Cottage Grove from the trunk highway system. An exhibit detailing the overall scope of the project is provided below.



One construction contract was awarded to Max Steininger, Inc. that combined three separate project area segments. These segments are described below.

**Segment 1 – County Road 19, TH 10/61, and East Point Douglas Road Roundabout Improvements**

The project included the construction of a new six-leg concrete roundabout at the intersection of County Road 19, East Point Douglas Road, and the access ramps to and from TH 10/61. This included reconstruction of approximately 900 feet of East Point Douglas Road and 1,600 feet of County Road 19 including a new access roadway connection for Cottage Grove Ravine Park. This new access point provides a more secure and visible entrance to the park. This segment included new sidewalk, trails, street lighting, storm sewer, watermain, and sanitary sewer improvements.



*Before: County Road 19 at TH 10/61 and East Point Douglas Road    After: Completed roundabout improvements*

**Segment 2 – Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Improvements**

The improvements included construction of a new park circulation roadway in conjunction with the relocation of the park entrance from East Point Douglas Road to County Road 19. The new park circulation roadway extends approximately 5,300 feet into the park to the location of an existing trailhead shelter adjacent to Ravine Lake. The improvements included over 4 miles of bituminous and turf/ski trails within the park. This segment also included a new entrance gate and plaza, four parking lots, new playground equipment, lighting, storm drainage improvements, infiltration basins, and construction of South Washington Watershed District’s Central Draw Overflow which included a new outlet from Ravine Lake. Together, the new outlet and circulation roadway provide a lake outlet with adequate capacity to limit lake water level fluctuations during local flood and overflow events along with improved access to the park. The park access road will no longer be flooded as a part of seasonal weather patterns or flash rain events.

**Segment 3 - SWWD Ravine Stabilization Improvements**

SWWD led a project to stabilize the ravine running the length of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. The goal was to protect the ravine against erosion from local flash flood events and overflow events while maintaining park use. Extensive ecological mitigation was also included. In addition to the ravine stabilization that included stabilized drainage pathways, grading, limestone revetment walls, and slope reinforcement, and over 4 miles of new recreational bituminous trail and ski trails were created.

**Public Improvement Schedule**

The overall project schedule was as follows:

Timing	Activity
Nov 2015 - Jan 2016	Concept Design and Environmental Analysis
Feb 2016	Public Open House #1
Feb - May 2016	Preliminary Design and Environmental Documentation
May 2016	Public Open House #2
Jun - Dec 2016	Final Design
2017 - 2018	Construction
Summer 2018	Construction Complete/Park Reopened

## REASONS FOR NOMINATION/CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

### Community Relations/Public Outreach

One of the main goals of the project was to employ a comprehensive process to engage agencies and the community. This was achieved through public open houses, newsletters, email notifications and updates, and numerous property and stakeholder meetings.

The Master Plan Update for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park was conducted concurrently with the public outreach process. The initial Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Master Plan was adopted by the Washington County Board of Commissioners in 1992 and updated again in May 2007. Since the development of the last Master Plan Update, several planning and development projects in Washington County have come to light, with direct impacts to Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. The latest Master Plan Update was approved in April 2017.

In January 2017, Washington County implemented a communication plan that outlined the goals and objectives, audience, strategy, communication tactics, print and social media plans, website updates, necessary signage to identify park closure, and a schedule.

Overall, many people use County Road 19, East Point Douglas Road, and Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. The audiences for this communication plan included:

- Cottage Grove residents who use County Road 19 and East Point Douglas Road including motorists and pedestrians
- Elected officials (so they can keep their constituents updated)
- Independent School District 833 schools and school bus drivers
- All businesses in the area
- EMS, police, and fire personnel
- Ravine Park staff and users
- Regional travelers (those who may be traveling to a destination in Cottage Grove or a neighboring community and are unfamiliar with the area)

It was important to communicate the breadth and depth of the project and share comprehensive information about the improvements, emphasizing the benefits that would be realized at the project's completion. In order to construct the improvements, the park had to be closed for just over a year. By communicating project benefits throughout that period and celebrating a grand reopening to showcase the park, the project was seen as a tremendous success. More importantly, Washington County has received frequent words of sincere appreciation and thankfulness for enhancing the overall user experience and access to the park. This was celebrated in a grand reopening of the park held in June 2018 that included free fishing gear, kids craft activities, kayaks, goat-yoga featuring yoga lessons alongside live goats, a 5K run, and a half-mile "Run the Ravine Kids Dash."

### Environmental Considerations

Natural resource features were highlighted in the improvements to Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park due to the desire to preserve the resources that park users love. Several examples are described below.

- The placement of the entrance road provides expansive views of the remnant oak savanna as it winds gently down the ravine following park contours that minimized grading needs, while adding an ADA accessible paved trail.
- All parking areas have stormwater collection basins with native plants that anchor the soil, infiltrate rainwater, provide habitat for pollinators and, most importantly, protect the water quality of Ravine Lake.

- When the old road was removed, small segments were kept allowing fisherman to have places to fish and enjoy Ravine Lake. The new road helps prevent flooding and reduces impacts to park users.
- Along the new road placement, high-quality oak trees were protected, roots were cut with a vibratory plow, and protection fence was placed to ensure they were protected throughout construction and would be preserved for future generations. Protection fence was also used to prevent equipment from going into a newly planted prairie and to preserve wetland habitat.
- A diverse array of native trees and shrubs was planted near the parking lot boundaries.
- The playground was placed adjacent to the parking lot area to make it more accessible, while providing a view of Ravine Lake and preserving the shoreline and wildlife habitat.
- Paved and soft surface trails weave through the majestic oaks found at the bottom of the ravine. Over 2 miles of new ski trails were installed to minimize trail conflicts and provide breathtaking views of the high-quality oaks and pines around which the trails meander.

### **Project Accomplishments under Adverse Conditions**

The City of Cottage Grove and Washington County had concerns regarding the operations and safety of traffic flow at the intersection of County Road 19 and East Point Douglas Road since the opening of the new Walmart store in 2014 northwest of the intersection. For this project to be successful, it was imperative to maintain business access and access to TH 10/61 serving the broader City of Cottage Grove. Additionally, a Regional County Park was going to be closed for more than a year – messaging this in a way that would minimize negative community feedback was essential to the project’s success.

This project addressed the existing transportation deficiencies including inadequate intersection spacing, increasing congestion and delays, and safety concerns at the interchange of TH 10/61 at County Road 19. The interchange configuration is a standard diamond, with the ramps controlled by stop signs. The existing bridge deck consists of one 12-foot travel lane in each direction in addition to a shoulder of approximately 6 feet. North of the bridge, the road quickly widens to a four-lane divided urban roadway.

The frontage road (East Point Douglas Road) is located close to the north ramps, with only 250 feet of space available between the intersections. This project included a six-leg roundabout that combined the ramp intersection with County Road 19 and the East Point Douglas Road intersection. The roundabout combined two closely spaced intersections into one control point while allowing full movements from each approach. This project included a roundabout that works now and well into the future, is expandable in the future without excessive cost or disruption to traffic and alleviated an existing safety concern given the high speeds and existing proximity of two existing closely spaced intersections.

### **Construction Safety Performance and Overall Program**

No construction safety incidents were reported during the construction of this project and the project was completed on time and within the overall project budget.

### **Public Benefit and Service Nature of Project**

The Washington County public works and parks departments came together to leverage the scale of a large public works project under a single contractor to cost effectively deliver both safety improvements to the adjacent county road as well as an executed vision of the master plan for the park.

Additionally, a primary reason for updating the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Master Plan was to accommodate the SWWD proposal to develop a stormwater conveyance system called the Central Draw Storage Facility (CDSF) Overflow Project. Together, SWWD and Washington County collaborated on a win-win project that achieved the watershed district’s goals which required using the park for stormwater conveyance and the County’s goals of realizing the vision outlined in the Master Plan. This project provided a controlled

emergency overflow outlet for runoff from 100-year flood events from upstream developed lands in the SWWD's northern watershed to the Mississippi River. The project stabilized the ravine against existing and future erosion risk, stabilized lake levels to protect park infrastructure, and reduced flooding downstream. The trail and ravine improvements were designed to meet the needs of skiers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and skijorers.

**Value Engineering, Innovative Project Financing, Multi-Agency Coordination**

Washington County, the City of Cottage Grove, and SWWD worked as key project partners to create a large scale area-wide project. Prior to commencing design, cooperative agency agreements between Washington County and the other partners were executed. These agreements outlined responsibilities for cost, design, operations and maintenance. A high level of interagency cooperation and collaboration was necessary for all the parties to achieve success and to execute the necessary agreements. Partnerships for each of the project segments were as follows:

**Segment 1:** County Road 19/TH 61/East Point Douglas Road Roundabout Improvements

- Partnership with City of Cottage Grove, MnDOT, and Washington County

**Segment 2:** Cottage Grove Ravine Park Improvements

- Partnership with SWWD and Washington County

**Segment 3:** SWWD Ravine Stabilization Project

- Partnership with SWWD, Met Council, and Washington County

**Project Funding Sources**

The total cost of the improvements was \$8,080,000 including all construction and indirect costs. Diverse funding sources were used to deliver the project as follows:

- County (\$3,890,000)
  - Levy (\$140,000)
  - Bond Proceeds (\$1,530,000)
  - Met Council Grants (\$1,220,000)
  - State Aid (\$1,000,000)
- City of Cottage Grove (\$2,400,000)
- South Washington Watershed District (\$1,790,000)