



292DesignGroup

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Pam Anderson, Tom Betti and Mark Wentzell established 292 Design Group in 2009 after many years together as partners in AKA Architecture. 292's long list of community-focused projects is a testament to their commitment and the firm's responsive and respectful character. With a full-service architecture, planning and interior design staff, 292 has expanded its client base from Minnesota to Connecticut to Arizona. Projects and services range from feasibility studies to the design of complex community-focused buildings—diverse community facilities such as the Como Park Pool, Chaska Community Center, Burnsville Performing Arts Center, the Bloomington Civic Plaza, or Normandale Community College renovations and additions.

Community involvement and collaboration, from visioning through occupancy, is central to 292's design philosophy. Each project truly becomes a "community center" where citizen interests and ideas are heard and incorporated. The facilities reflect their surrounding communities, meet critical operational requirements, promote a welcoming environment, and accommodate growth and change.

Community recreation projects are a primary focus of 292's work. 292 appreciates the issues particular to these facilities and understands that these projects are frequently born of partnerships between different entities such as city governments and private, nonprofit organizations. 292 understands that the long-term success of these projects relies on the ability to pool the collective strengths of these entities, and on a thorough planning and study effort to help a project reach its fullest potential.







**Tom** Betti, AIA  
Partner | Project Manager & Project Designer

Tom is an experienced project manager, designer and architect who has led many organizations through the planning and design process. He has worked on a wide range of project types but has a particular focus and expertise with recreation projects. Many of his projects have been recognized for their success in design and technical terms; the facilities function well and serve as important assets in their communities.

#### Education

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Minnesota

Associate of Arts, Ferris State University

#### Project Experience

St. Paul's Citywide Aquatics Study, St. Paul, MN

Como Park Pool, St. Paul, MN

Chain of Lakes YMCA, Lino Lakes, MN

Delaware Community Center, Delaware, OH

Gladstone Community Center, Gladstone, MO

Grandview Community Center, Grandview, MO

Legacy Park Community Center, Lee's Summit, MO

Monticello Community Center, Monticello, MN

Shakopee Community Center, Shakopee, MN

St. Peter's Rec Plex, St. Peters, MO

Broadmoor Curling Center Study, Broadmoor, CO

Waterloo Curling Center, Waterloo, IA



**Mark** Wentzell, AIA  
Partner | Project Manager & Project Designer

Mark is a 292 partner and an award-winning architect with more than 30 years of design experience. He directs the firm's design direction which is focused on community-centered work such as city halls, police stations, libraries, and recreational facilities. Mark is an skilled public facilitator and has led many communities through the design and planning process.

#### Education

Master of Architecture, Syracuse University, Florence Center

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Minnesota

#### Project Experience

Missoula Aquatics Facilities, Missoula, MO

Brooklyn Park Aquatic Study, Brooklyn Park, MN

Chaska Firemen's Park, Chaska, MN

Chaska Community Center, multiple renovations, Chaska, MN

Chain of Lakes YMCA, Lino Lakes, MN

Delaware Community Center, Delaware, OH

Gladstone Community Center, Gladstone, MO

Grandview Community Center, Grandview, MO

Legacy Park Community Center, Lee's Summit, MO

Monticello Community Center, Monticello, MN

St. Paul Tennis Club, St. Paul, MN

Waterloo Curling Center, Waterloo, IA

**Como Park Pool | St. Paul, MN**

Completion: 2005

292 partners and staff had worked with the City of St. Paul on a needs assessment and feasibility study for the city's aquatic program. The study encompassed demographic analysis of four neighborhood pool locations: Como Park, Highland Park, Oxford, and Lake Phalen. It also included a community-wide survey, an inventory of alternative recreation service providers, program development, conceptual designs, preliminary project cost estimates, and an operations analysis.

Based on study results, the Como Park Pool was selected as the first neighborhood pool to be renovated. The new project—which replaced a condemned pool and bathhouse—was designed to be a family aquatic experience for the regional community, complementing other, existing amenities located in Como Park. The new aquatic complex includes a bathhouse with locker rooms, concessions, support offices, and ticket sales. The pools include a lazy river, splash pool, lap pool, zip-line, and natural-themed climbing walls and diving platforms.







## Como Park Pool | St. Paul, MN

Completion: 2011

The Como Park Pool serves a regional community, complementing other amenities located in Como Park. The complex includes a new bathhouse with locker rooms, concessions, support offices, and ticket sales. The pools include a lazy river, splash pool, lap pool, zip-line, and natural-themed climbing walls and diving platforms.

The setting of the pool respects the adjacent oak savanna and topography, and minimizes the impact on the existing trees and surrounding woodland. The pool features are low in elevation and heavily landscaped with native plantings and rock outcroppings. The architecture of the pool buildings—clad in stone and ornamental metal work—stems from Como Park's historic framework. All colors in the facility are neutral in color allowing the facility to blend into the surrounding natural landscape.

The pool complex utilizes a number of sustainable design practices: recycled and highly recyclable building components and products including locally manufactured materials; low V.O.C paints and sealer; low flow plumbing fixtures; natural light; native landscape plantings; permeable pavement; water heating solar panels for bath house showers and hot water needs; variable frequency drives and high efficient motors for pool equipment; and regenerative media pool filtration.

The facility was designed and based on input from the Como Pool Task Force members, a community design charrette, and the Parks and Recreation Staff.







**Missoula Aquatic Facilities | Missoula, MO**

Completion: 2005

292 partners and staff, in association with MMW Architects and USAquatics, worked with the City of Missoula, Montana, on the plan and conceptual design of the City's aquatic and community center facilities. The aquatic facilities concept included four outdoor splashdecks, an outdoor aquatic facility and an indoor aquatic center with park and recreation offices.

The team also worked with a sustainable design consultant to address green design issues and LEED certification requirements.



*\*Project completed by 292 Design Group partners while leading previous firm*





**Chaska Firemen's Park | Chaska, MN**

Completion: Summer 2016

As part of an effort to reinvigorate the historic downtown, the City of Chaska identified Firemen's Park as a site for revitalization. Fireman's Park was once the location of an old brickyard and the small lake in the center of the park is a result of mining clay used in the brick making. 292 Design Group led the city through a re-visioning process for the park that resulted in new amenities and interpretive exhibits. Highlights include:

- The re-envisioned park includes interpretive exhibits on the history of Chaska, the brick making industry and the Chaska Fire Department.
- Structures at the park include a performance pavilion, picnic shelters, accessible pedestrian bridge, and curling and event center.
- The site is a demonstration project for the Carver County watershed district with innovative solutions for stormwater management and site irrigation.
- Multiple opportunities for recreation were incorporated: curling, swimming, walking, jogging, waterbike rental, gathering, picnic, playgrounds, etc.
- The pond, promenade, bridge and other amenities provide opportunities for people to connect with nature. The entire park can be explored and appreciated in active or passive ways.
- The many activity areas and recreation/gathering opportunities create a vibrant community place.
- City leadership worked with civic organizations and the public to ensure the project reflected community goals.







### Chaska Community Center | Chaska, MN

Completion: 1991-on going

292 partners and staff have provided ongoing design services to the Chaska Community Center since completion of the original building in 1991. Spaces in the original building included a leisure pool, an ice arena, two gyms, racquetball courts, exercise space, a multipurpose community room, and arts and crafts rooms. Since that time, a number of renovations and additions have been made including an arts addition, an ice arena addition, a fitness renovation, an outdoor splash pad addition, a senior center and multi-purpose rooms addition, park and rec office renovation and locker room renovation (current project).





**St. Paul Tennis Club** | St. Paul, MN

Completion: May 2018

The St. Paul Tennis Club is a private, neighborhood club that was founded in 1912. 292 worked with club membership to design a new, contemporary clubhouse that retained the quiet, understated presence and spirit of their original facility. The resulting, new facility includes a 25-yard pool; tennis courts; a clubhouse with community meeting space and a rooftop deck; and a bathhouse with lockers, toilets and showers. The scale of the clubhouse is such that the building blends into the surrounding residential neighborhood. Quiet outdoor spaces, which are so important to the membership, were created near the building's main entry and community room.







## Shakopee Community Center | Shakopee, MN

Feasibility Study Completion: July 2015

Community Center Completion: Summer 2017

Renovation of the existing Shakopee Community Center was the result of a feasibility study which examined the recreational needs of the city. Based on the results of the study, a new ice arena was built adjacent to the existing community center, and the center was renovated to include expanded fitness and cardio space, and gathering space for seniors, teens and other community members. The center's existing ice arena was renovated into a new aquatic center which includes a zero-depth entry pool with slide, a lap pool, and hot tub. A building extension with floor to ceiling windows was created to provide more daylight and views outside.

The exterior of the community center was transformed to coordinate with the design of the new ice arena. The two buildings, similar in use of wood, glass and a shared pergola create a unified campus setting to the city facilities.







## Monticello Community Center | Monticello, MN

Completion: March 2000

This project began with a feasibility study to define the community's interests and needs. The community wanted to connect its older downtown with their new commercial area and provide a new home for civic and public recreation activities, and what emerged was a center that consists of three primary areas: community center, National Guard facilities and city hall facilities.

Organized along an internal "main street," the building areas have separate program spaces, but also take advantage of their relationship to share facilities and offer unique programming opportunities. Recreational and activity spaces include: an indoor child play area, a gymnasium, a fitness area, a wheel park, a climbing wall, a teen center, a senior center, banquet space and an aquatic center. City hall spaces include: offices, meeting rooms and council chambers.

In addition to the recreation and city areas, the facility also includes spaces for the National Guard. Those areas include offices, unit storage and an arms vault. The Guard shares the kitchen and gymnasium with the community center and uses those areas for training exercises.



*\* Project completed by 292 Design Group Partners while leading prior firm*







### Delaware Community YMCA | Delaware, OH

Completion: December 2012

The Delaware Ohio Community YMCA is a partnership between the City of Delaware, the YMCA and the Ohio National Guard. 292 partner Mark Wentzell guided these organizations through a planning and design process to develop a facility that would meet each of their needs and optimize shared resources.

The first phase of the project included construction of a 75,000 s.f. community center managed by the YMCA. Facility components included a major aquatic center containing a recreational pool, spa and 25-yard competition pool with spectator seating; a large gymnasium to be used by the National Guard as a drill floor; individual fitness area; exercise classrooms; meeting and activity spaces; a teen center; and child care area. The lobby features a climbing wall.



*\*Project completed in association with Poggemeyer Design Group, Bowling Green, Ohio*





## Gladstone Community Center & Natatorium | Gladstone, MO

Completion: February 2008

The City of Gladstone, Missouri, partnered with the North Kansas City School District to envision a new community focal point for their citizens. The resulting facility — which includes an aquatic center, fitness spaces, community rooms and banquet facilities — is located in Gladstone's historic Central Park, adjacent to the existing outdoor pool and city hall. Sited on a rolling hill, the building is recessed into the ground on two sides to minimize its scale.

The City of Gladstone has a longstanding swimming tradition. The aquatic center contains a large competition venue that seats 1,500 spectators and includes a state-of-the-art 25-yard competition pool, diving well and warm up pool, and an interactive leisure pool.



*\*Project completed by 292 Design Group partners while leading prior firm in association with Gould Evans Goodman of Kansas City, MO*







## Grandview Community Center | Grandview, MO

Construction Completion: February 2004

The Grandview Community Center was constructed upon approval of a 1/2 cent sales tax by city residents. The center includes an aquatics facility, gymnasium, and multi-purpose/banquet room for up to 250 people. Other components within the facility include new office space for the park and recreation department, childcare, fitness areas, a running track, a senior center, and craft room.

The building spaces are organized along a central corridor and the design is influenced by an existing grove of trees on the selected building site. Special leaf patterns on glass, placement of skylights and other details create the effect of walking in the grove.

The building's facilities are organized along this central corridor. An upper level entry provides an overlook with views to the aquatics center and gymnasium.



*\*Project completed by 292 Design Group partners while leading prior firm and in association with Gould Evans Goodman of Kansas City, MO*





**Legacy Park Community Center | Lee's Summit, MO**

Completion: November 2003

The Legacy Park Community Center was the product of a multi-year development program for a new 800-acre park and community recreation facility in Lee's Summit, MO. The center's development began with a thorough planning and operations feasibility study to ensure efficient operations and a positive experience for diverse groups of patrons. The planning and design team investigated the staffing requirements inherent to design decisions in order to minimize operational costs in the future. They also focused on the patron experience to create a clear understanding of the building and a welcoming atmosphere.

The 57,000 square foot community center contains spaces for a variety of recreational and social programs. The recreation area includes a gymnasium, fitness area, multi-purpose fitness activity room, aquatics center with leisure pool and lap pool, racquetball courts and a running track. The social area includes a birthday party room, multi-purpose community room seating up to 350, and child-care room.

As a cornerstone of the park, the building is sited within rolling hills on the edge of a large pond. The aquatics center has views to the pond with a sun deck connecting the indoor water play with the outdoor water activities. The design complements the craftsman style of other existing park structures. The rustic stone, natural copper and concrete materials were carefully selected to maintain the natural character of the site and to reinforce the architectural design.

*\* Project completed by 292 Design Group partners while leading prior firm, and in association with the Hollis & Miller Group of Lee's Summit, MO*







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