



NEWS RELEASE



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April 6, 2006

Board of Trustees Unanimously Approves Site Selection for New Newcastle Library

On Tuesday, March 28, the King County Library System (KCLS) Board of Trustees unanimously voted to complete the purchase of a vacant one-acre parcel of land at 129th Avenue SE and Newcastle Way.

This lot, strongly favored by Newcastle residents, will be home to the new 10,000-square-foot Newcastle Library. This decision was made after consideration of public comment, input from elected officials and analysis by KCLS staff.

"KCLS is committed to being a positive addition to our local neighborhoods," said KCLS Director Bill Ptacek. "This includes creating spaces where patrons can gather and forming a sense of community."

KCLS is also committed to placing libraries on sites that are near other amenities and enable patrons to arrive at the library through various transportation options. The vacant site KCLS has selected accomplishes these objectives. It is adjacent to residential and retail services, has direct bus access, sidewalk connections to multiple neighborhoods and links to a nearby trail system.

The approved library site is also amenable to co-location and KCLS has offered to explore the option of partnering with the City to construct a combined City Hall/Library. If such an agreement were reached, the Board would need to approve an interlocal agreement.

Once the purchase and sale agreement for the parcel is complete, KCLS will embark on a process to select a team of architects to design the new library. Construction of the Newcastle Library is expected to begin in late 2007. Funding for this project was approved by voters in September 14, 2004 as part of KCLS' ten-year capital plan.

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For more information about the King County Library System, please visit our Web site at www.kcls.org.



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Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available; please contact the library prior to the event if you require accommodation.