

December 2013

### Nelson Park Covered Bridge

Have you walked, run, or used a wheelchair to cross the footbridge in Nelson Park lately? Some 550 or more of your fellow community members do on a daily basis. The bridge is a key component connecting the north end of Nelson Park with the west side of Island Park. It is part of the GKB Riverwalk Trail that connects five major city parks and runs for more than 5.5 miles.

The current footbridge, built in 1995, is 6' wide; the Riverwalk Trail is 10' wide. A new covered bridge to replace the current one is planned and will be 10' wide as well. Built to exceed American Disability Act (ADA) requirements, the bridge will be universally



accessible and will allow room for all personal mobility devices. People and pets from around Mt. Pleasant will be able to access the trail and bridge as a way to exercise, socialize and enjoy nature along the Chippewa River.

The project will be completed in 2014 with support from the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation. A \$10,000 grant was awarded to the City of Mt. Pleasant from the Access to Recreation Fund and the Brewster Family Access to Recreation Fund. The Mt. Pleasant Rotary Club has also pledged a sizable contribution to the project.

The City of Mt. Pleasant's Parks & Recreation Department seeks to improve the character of life in Mt. Pleasant by providing and maintaining adequate open space and quality indoor/outdoor recreational opportunities and facilities for the enjoyment and well-being of all area residents and visitors. More information about the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation's Access to Recreation Initiative can be found at <http://www.mpacf.org/access2recreation.html>.