



**Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association**

**Park Design**

**Awards 2016 Entry**

**Form**

Agency City of Menasha Parks and Recreation Department

Address 140 Main Street

City Menasha State WI Zip Code 54952

Agency Contact Brian Tungate Title Director of Parks and Recreation

Email btungate@ci.menasha.wi.us

If a consultant is submitting the award, please complete section below:

Consultant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title Gilbert Site Riverfront Trail

Date Completed October, 2015

no category selected



## Project Summary

The City of Menasha created a unique linear park and trail along the banks of the Fox River. The 1,500 ft trail starts just below the Menasha dam and runs along the shore which once was the site of the old Gilbert Paper Company mill. The trail features outstanding walking, biking and fishing opportunities as visitors have direct access to the river and nearby downtown Menasha. The mill was removed and this public space was created to attract redevelopment to the site.

## Gilbert Site Riverfront Trail

Innovation: The rehabilitation and conversion of an existing 300 ft. railroad trestle into the 1,500 ft. trail proved to be the most challenging part of this project. We initially thought the entire trestle structure could be repurposed. We found out within the first two months of the project that approximately 2/3 of the existing trestle pilings had deteriorated to the point where their remaining lifespan was not acceptable. Fortunately, a cost effective solution was identified. We ended up re-routing the trail back onto land (instead of over the water) while still incorporating approximately 100 ft. of the trestle into the project. LED lighting and wood/composite decking on the new trestle combine to make this area both functional and visually appealing.

Functionalism: The entire 1,500 ft. trail is handicapped accessible. We negotiated an agreement with a dormant factory on the east end of the project to connect the trail to their existing parking lot (which they've also granted public access to). We've been pleasantly surprised by the numerous fishermen that now fish along the trail.

Aesthetics: Three main features stand out on this project. The south end goes past an existing small pond. We added a significant amount of landscaping to the new east side of the pond. Second is a small open picnic shelter that overlooks the river. Third is the rehabilitated trestle that takes trail users over the waters of the Fox River. We sought a relatively simple, yet functional design that would compliment this urban setting. It will also be compatible with future redevelopment planned for the site.

Community Benefits: We've received very positive feedback from the public, due in large part to the project's proximity to our downtown area and the Fox River. Downtown employees and visitors to the area now have an attractive new riverfront destination to enjoy.

Environmental Stewardship: Selecting native plant material, suitable for a riverside environment was a main project objective. A few spots along the shoreline were prone to seasonal flooding so that had to be considered in plant selection and landscape design. We also removed a 60 ft. section of the existing concrete shorewall and created a rocky, sloped shoreline which is more attractive to fish and small mammals.

Maintenance: We selected a concrete trail surface instead of asphalt to achieve the look and improved durability we were seeking. Materials used for the small picnic shelter and nearby were all chosen for their durability. Stacked concrete block, with a rock-like exterior finish and color were both cost effective and attractive. We also added a galvanized metal roof on the picnic shelter. That same material was used on the accessible picnic table under the shelter. Minimal grass cutting or trimming is expected at the site.

View of site before project



Ground trail east of new trestle



Finished ground trail & rip rap east of new trestle



East end of concrete trail



Construction of handicapped walkway to fishing platform



Finished walkway



Colored concrete fishing platform





Finished shelter and seat wall



Landscape bed erosion



Installing rip rap to repair erosion



Partial demolition of mill



Flex-a-mat and rock shoreline treatment



Rotted trestle piles



Second example of bad piling



Section of trestle that was removed



Second view of trestle in poor condition



Excavator removing trestle



After trestle removal, new trestle routed back to land



Ground trail around re-shaped pond





Finished section-east of pond



Seasonal high water-east of shelter





NORTH CHANNEL  
OF THE FOX RIVER

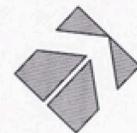


OFFICE  
BUILDING

POND

OFFICE  
BUILDING

AHNAIP STREET



NORTH

DESCRIPTION

DATE

**R.A. Smith National**

*Beyond Surveying  
and Engineering*

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Appleton, WI Orange County, CA Pittsburgh, PA

**MENASHA RIVER PARK  
MENASHA, WI**

**OVERALL  
LANDSCAPE PLAN**

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R.A. Smith National, Inc.  
DATE: 12/2/2013  
SCALE: 1" = 40'  
JOB NO. 1100015  
PROJECT MANAGER:  
JEFF M. MAZANEC, P.E.  
DESIGNED BY: TM  
CHECKED BY: TM

**SHEET NUMBER**

Seasonal high water-west of shelter



Pile driving-west of trestle



New piles-east of trestle



Salvaged trestle section



Trestle deck support system



Installing railing on trestle



### Breakdown of Project Expenses

1	\$	649,499.49	General Contractor payments
2	\$	50,732.54	Design and Engineering payments
3	\$	38,759.97	Electrical Contractor payments
4	\$	28,323.66	Landscaping Materials
5	\$	<u>7,191.01</u>	Miscellaneous Materials
	\$	774,506.67	

### Breakdown of Project Funding Sources

*	\$	499,400.00	DNR Stewardship Grant
	\$	25,000.00	City's Parkland Dedication Fund
	\$	40,869.17	Sponsorships & Donations
	\$	<u>209,237.50</u>	City TID #11
	\$	774,506.67	

\* City was able to leverage a DNR Grant amount beyond 50% because the property owner donated land for the project.