



Photo by Renee Boucher

Dundas-area residents and businesses are rallying around the effort to pay for a bridge that spans the Cannon River.

Building a community bridge

Dundas footbridge is connecting two Cannon River parks

By Brett Rabe
Staff Writer

Spanning the Cannon River in downtown Dundas, a new footbridge will connect one existing park on the east with a new park on the west.

Roughly four years ago, Dundas residents were approached by the Rice County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and urged to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which funds the grants with a combination of state

and federal monies.

The idea is to expand the recreational space alongside the Cannon River, especially in the heart of Dundas where water still laps up against the remains of the old mill.

"We applied for and received the grant," said Dundas City Council Member Rod Anderson. The grant paid \$70,000 of the \$200,000 project, which includes developing a new park on the west side of the river, complete with a parking lot, shelter and walking trails.

Soon after the grant was

awarded, fund-raising activity went into high gear. "Funds raised through (the grant) and through donations and pledges from local civic groups amount to \$175,000," said Dundas Park Board Chairwoman Karleene Adams.

The major contributors, said Anderson, were the Dundas Jaycees, the Dundas Baseball Association and the Northfield Rural Fire Association.

The bridge is installed, minus a bit of landscaping. Anderson says that the finishing touches, along with the shelter and trails, will be

done by this summer.

In the meantime, the city is still trying to raise the last few dollars needed to pay for the park area. "We're selling planks on the bridge for \$100 apiece," said Anderson. Buyers likely will be recognized with either a plaque or nameplates on the bridge.

The city is still wondering what to call the parks on both sides of the river. "We haven't named either," said Anderson. "One of the things we're hoping to do is have people submit names." ■

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