

**Proposed New Pedestrian/Bike Trail Bridge across the Iowa River from Rocky Shore Drive to the Peninsula Neighborhood and Park, which includes the Dog Park and the Disc Golf Course**

January 19, 2007

Friends,

The City of Iowa is working on its budget for the FY08 budget year. For the past several years the Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended a pedestrian bridge over the Iowa River near Crandic Park. This bridge would be an important connection between the Iowa River Corridor Trail and the Peninsula and would supply a missing link in the trails system. It is the highest priority of the Commission and is unanimously supported by its members. It is not a new idea – it was originally part of the conceptual plan for the development of the Peninsula parkland in 1998.

This project is included on the City Manager's recommended list of capital improvement projects and is recommended for funding in FY08 in the amount of \$1.3 million. However, as the City Council considers the budget, the project does not appear to have sufficient support, even though the councilors have been quoted as saying they like the idea.

See the following article in January 17<sup>th</sup> Iowa City Press-Citizen:

<http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070117/NEWS01/701170307/1079&GID=zRPF5eSc1BmIaVF3OfxmTm3ETmz5NcQguBWcyINpu0Q%3D>

The Peninsula area, which has only one access road via Foster Road, is being developed into a thriving neighborhood. As planned, the neighborhood has a condensed design and narrow streets. Last year, the highly successful and popular Thornberry Dog Park (which supports building of this bridge, and of whose Committee I am a board member) was built at the end of Foster Road. This, and the recently built disc golf course (which is anticipated to be extremely popular, particularly by residents of the UI campus area), has drawn (and will increasingly draw) vehicular traffic through the Peninsula neighborhood.

Building this pedestrian bridge over the river at Crandic Park would:

1. Supply a missing link in the trails system from Iowa City to the northern trails; for example it would link the biking/hiking trails of the Waterworks Prairie Park and along Dubuque Street with the rest of the Iowa River Corridor Trail in Iowa City. The Iowa City/Coralville trails system is used extensively by Iowa City/Coralville (and visiting) walkers (often with their dogs), hikers, joggers, and bicyclists.
2. Specifically, it would be a direct link for pedestrian traffic to and from Iowa City

(and Coralville) for residents of the peninsula and for residents on the Crandic Park side of the river to the peninsula. Many of these latter people wish to walk or bike to the dog park and/or the golf course.

3. Reduce the dog park and disc golf course traffic in the Peninsula neighborhood because many people could walk (or bike) from the areas adjacent to Crandic Park. In addition, people from other parts of Iowa City and Coralville could park in the Crandic Park parking lot and walk across the bridge.
4. Reduce the need for additional parking at the Dog Park and Disc Golf Course. During the Summer and Fall months of last year, cars were parking on the grass because there were not enough parking spaces. This was before the golf course was built, which will draw further traffic. The Water Division, which has wells on the Peninsula, also has concerns about excessive parking in the area.
5. Reduce parking in the Iowa River Power Company's parking lot, which is another entrance to the Peninsula parkland from the Coralville side of the river.

This project is a winning situation for neighbors, bikers, runners, hikers, dogs, and disc golfers. In addition to addressing the topics above, having this bridge would promote a healthy lifestyle, a respect for the environment (by reduction of vehicular traffic), and be yet another aspect of Iowa City that would attract people to settle, work and enjoy life in this city.

Because the approval of this project by the City Council might be in jeopardy, I hope you will (and urge you to) add your voice to those, like myself and the JC DogPAC, in support of this bridge. **Please write to the City Council (as soon as possible) and ask them to follow the Parks and Recreation Commission's strong recommendation to fund this bridge. Also, please forward this email to anyone else you think might be interested.**

You can contact the entire Council through this email address (email is part of the public record):

[council@iowa-city.org](mailto:council@iowa-city.org)

or individually:

<http://www.icgov.org/council/default.asp>

Thank you,

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