

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MT. PLEASANT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT TO EXTEND RIVERWALK THROUGH CHIPP-A-WATERS PARK**

(Mt. Pleasant, MI – *May 24, 2007*) – The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation has been named as one of three community foundations in Michigan awarded a grant to expand and enhance recreation opportunities for all citizens. The Access to Recreation grant of \$419,000 will be used to construct a universally accessible trail through the Chipp-A-Waters Park and establish a permanently endowed fund with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation.

“We are very excited about the opportunities that this grant offers, said Stan Rathbun, executive director of the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation. “We are especially pleased that the Foundation was able to partner with the City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department to secure the funding necessary to extend the Riverwalk Trail System through Chipp-a-Waters Park. We are also pleased that the grant provided funding to help create the Access to Recreation Endowment Fund which will provide financial support to this and other universal access to recreation projects. The concept of establishing an endowment to support the ongoing financial needs of programs and facilities created in our community is a concept we support,” added Rathbun.

The centerpiece of the project will include the creation of a universally accessible ACCESS ADVENTURE TRAIL which will connect to the City’s existing barrier free Riverwalk Pathway and include a uniquely designed pedestrian bridge crossing over the Chippewa River. The project will be integrated with interpretive signage, highlight the area’s natural resources and history, and will incorporate navigational aids to assist residents of all ages and abilities. “We value and honor all of our citizens,” added

Rathbun. "It is important that we create recreation opportunities that everyone in our community, regardless of ability, can enjoy."

Access to Recreation, funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and coordinated by the Midwest Community Foundation Ventures, provide a combination of challenge grants, technical assistance, and public education, resulting in recreation facilities that exceed current ADA standards.

"We are excited that the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation will be leading the way to achieve our collective goal of making accessible recreation available for all," said Rob Collier, CMF and MCFV president. "We expect that these communities will provide a road map that will be used not only by Michigan communities, but other Midwest states as well."

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