

THE CUTTING EDGE

The Story of Seven Bridges

Grant Park, Milwaukee County's 2nd largest park best known for its Seven Bridges Trail, has roots that stem back nearly a century. The trail system was developed from paths originally created in the early 1900's by the park systems first Superintendent of Horticulture, Frederic C. Wulff. In the 1930's, the bridges that are now the park's namesake were added, but fell into disrepair over the years. Several volunteer efforts were made to restore the park to its original glory over the years, most recently in 2012 to repair damage caused by flooding in 2008 and 2010.

One important bridge however, the lakeside bridge, was completely washed out by flooding. After seeing the erosion to the ravine, and subsequent damage caused by visitors climbing down while the bridge was out of service, the Parks Department took action bringing in Stone Creek Contractors and Grunau Metals. Aside from the project getting underway in the dead of winter, the steep ravine around the bridge and pressure from groups who wanted to minimize environmental damage made the mobilization of equipment a challenge.

Working with Stone Creek, Grunau was able to install new, hot dip galvanized permanent steel support beams on freshly placed foundations. Stone Creek was then able to install the wood deck and façade with minimal disturbance to the surrounding environment. The restored bridge will officially reopen in the spring of 2013 to the delight of area residents. If you need expert help on a challenging project, contact Grunau Metals today!

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