

Nelson Family Heritage Crossing

2022 ACEC Engineering Excellence State Finalist



Entering Firm: GRAEF

Clients: City of Kaukauna & Village of Little Chute

The Fox River is an incredible natural resource. Communities adjacent to the river have used it for economic and entertainment purposes for decades and have continually redeveloped their infrastructure around it. Currently, there is an extensive path system near the river and an active lock system, but many paths were inaccessible to each other without this crossing.

GRAEF's primary mission was to develop a bike/pedestrian bridge to connect three miles of paths to the broader network. First, the team worked with the Coast Guard to maintain navigation on the river. To accomplish this, the distance between supports on the bridge was expanded. The increased distance required reinforced, strong materials that would be able to support the spans above.

The design team overcame difficult soils and river hydraulics as well. To properly reinforce the structure, the team anchored the midpoint at a small island in the river. The design team worked carefully around unstable soils and shallow bedrock. Acquisition of a nearby railroad bridge allowed the path to use a shorter route which avoided questionable soils and saved over \$100,000.

Many segments of this path system were previously inaccessible to the public. With the new bridge, these paths are now part of a 13-mile network around the Fox River, benefitting visitors and residents of the surrounding communities.



ACEC Wisconsin

Creating a healthy environment to advance the prosperity and welfare of Wisconsin engineering firms



American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin serves as the voice of the engineering industry, continually promoting the profession to a variety of audiences. The organization serves as a source of ideas, a sounding board and a professional resource for state and city leaders, as well as a fervent promoter of the profession. Our work involves advocating, education, providing networking opportunities and enhancing the image of professional engineers. We keep an eye on the big picture in our industry, allowing our member firms to concentrate on keeping Wisconsin safe, healthy and moving forward.

We are governed (<https://www.acecwi.org/governing-documents>) by a board of directors comprised of principals from our member firms. The organization is dedicated to creating a healthy environment to advance the prosperity and welfare of Wisconsin engineering firms.

Our goals:

- Creating a favorable environment for engineering firms
- Providing access to knowledge
- Delivering member value
- Maintaining a strong organization

OUR MEMBERS

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC WI) represents Wisconsin's engineering businesses. Our mission is to create a healthy environment for engineering firms to advance the prosperity and welfare of Wisconsin. ACEC WI members design roads, bridges, dams, water and wastewater facilities, buildings, recreational facilities and more.