



For more information, contact:

Andy Radig, Communications Coordinator
(920) 236-5269; aradig@ci.oshkosh.wi.us

Historic decorative fixtures restored on Menominee Park bridge

OSHKOSH, Wis., May 3, 2021 – The design of the Cooper Wells Bridge in Oshkosh’s Menominee Park includes four magnificent globe decorative fixtures. Unfortunately, one of the original globe fixtures and pieces of a second were stolen a couple years ago. Replacement efforts began with a sensitivity to staying true to the historic fixtures. The replacement globes were to cost nearly \$10,000, an unplanned expense. That is when a generous anonymous donor came to the rescue of the Cooper Wells Bridge with an offer to pay for the replacement globes and pieces. The globes have recently been installed. Design elements like the globes are *significant to historic spaces*.

Some background: Menominee Park’s Cooper Wells Bridge is a historic stone bridge, built for posterity, in remembrance of the heroes who protected our country. It was dedicated on the 4th of July in 1921 to Sergeant Cooper Wells. He was a much loved young man who resided in Oshkosh. Sergeant Wells was deployed to France in WWI where he died serving his country.

The Oshkosh Parks Board president in 1921, John W. Hume, fought a long and uphill battle to secure funding for the bridge. Mr. Hume referenced the leadership of Mayor G. W. Pratt whose leadership in 1889 secured the purchase of Menominee Park and employed Professor Green of the Polytechnic school at Troy, New York, to create a landscape design for the park.

Donations to the Oshkosh Parks Department are greatly appreciated and can be made to the Oshkosh Parks Foundation at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. The fund consists of private dollars that go over and above the city budget for city parks improvements and development. The funds are used to enhance the community's quality of life through parks and open spaces by aligning philanthropic investment with the Parks Department strategic plan, the department's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and special park projects that may arise. <https://www.oshkoshareacf.org/fund/oshkosh-parks-foundation-fund/>

Find additional information about Menominee Park at www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/Parks/

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