

# Healing Kid's Creek: Project Begins in October



Rendering by Mark Meyer,  
Munson Medical Center Facilities Design

A section of Kid's Creek that borders Munson Medical Center's campus will receive some intensive care in October.

A restoration project will get underway to improve the appearance and ecological health of Kid's Creek that runs along the hospital's main visitor parking lot on Elmwood and Sixth streets.

"This is our front yard – it's the first impression that people have of Munson Medical Center," said Steve Tongue, VP Facilities and Plant Engineering. "We envision this as a park-like place where people will be able to get rid of some of the stresses involved with visiting and working in a hospital."

Tongue and Munson President and CEO Ed Ness began discussing the project last summer while walking about the hospital grounds. Munson assembled experts from the Watershed Center and the Grand Traverse Conservation District to plan the project. "We thought we would just research other urban creek

restoration projects and follow their lead, but we found very little information," Tongue said. "So we decided we would create the model."

That model will be shared with the community during a public workshop on Sept. 19 at the Boardman River Nature Center. "A lot of people have streams running through their backyards and may be interested in learning how to do restoration and keep the watershed healthy," Tongue said. "We will talk about urban watershed restoration and how the Munson project will go."

Tongue also will meet in September with local master gardeners and employees at Munson Medical Center and Munson Community Health Center to solicit their support.

"We will need about 200 volunteer hours during the first phase of the project in October," Tongue said. The project will create a buffer zone between the parking lot and the creek of non-ornamental plantings that will not require fertilizer or maintenance.

Professional landscapers will com-

plete portions of Munson's \$110,000 project, but community members and Munson employees also are invited to participate – either through hands-on work or monetary support. A lead gift of \$60,000 has been pledged by a local family foundation, and naming opportunities are being developed for other donors who would like to honor or remember loved ones.

Kid's Creek is on the State of Michigan's Impaired Waters list because sediment runoff and excess sand contribute to its poor water flow and reduced aquatic habitat.

"One of Munson's values is stewardship, and that includes taking care of our environment," Ness said. "This creek is a wonderful resource and I'm happy it's getting the attention it needs. When this project is done, it will provide a very inviting place for our visitors and employees to enjoy."

**To learn more about the project and how you can help, contact Beth Karczewski, Foundation Leadership Giving Specialist, at (231) 935-7689.**

# Restoring the Health of Kids Creek



**Kids Creek** is a coldwater trout stream that, when given proper care, can support large and healthy populations of brown and brook trout. For decades, Kids Creek has been negatively impacted by storm water runoff, stream bank erosion, and nutrient loading from lawns. Munson Medical Center is taking action to help reverse this trend.

Kids Creek watershed, like many urban watersheds, has suffered from a lack of vegetated buffer strips that act as filters. Many property owners don't plant sufficient buffer strips because they don't like the look of tall shrubs and prefer to plant grass to the water's edge.

Munson Medical Center, along with several community partners, developed an Urban Buffer Design that not only looks good, but protects the health of the stream. This project also includes repair of eroding stream banks by installing fish habitat structures, large rocks, and logs to improve habitat for fish and insects.

To learn more, or to support this project, please call **(231) 935-XXXX**.

