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## **Bike trail finish pedaled to state grant agency**

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LISBON — A state grant is being sought to purchase an acre of land needed to complete the northern terminus of the Little Beaver Creek Greenway Trail, which is to link eventually with other bike trails that will connect Ashtabula to East Liverpool. The Columbiana County Park District has applied for a \$26,430 grant from the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund to help cover the \$40,000 cost of purchasing the land in Washingtonville from Jack Waggle. According to park district Secretary Marie Cox, they have been promised another \$8,000 grant from the Greater Ohio Lake to River Greenway Trail Coalition. The park district is contributing the remaining money with income earned from renting its garage. The acquisition is key to what is called the Bertolette Alley Connector, the last piece of the plan to connect the bike trail to Washingtonville and Mahoning County. The 10-mile trail currently extends from Lisbon to Leetonia, near the American Legion on High Street. The park district already has obtained \$460,000 in federal funding to cover the costs of extending the trail from Leetonia to Bertolette's Alley, a distance of about 1.5 miles, and has applied for another \$160,000 in state funding as part of the project. The park district would be required to contribute \$32,000 to qualify for all of the other funding. If everything works out, the extension could become a reality by 2012, which would bring the trail within 100 yards of the Mahoning County line. The Mahoning County Metroparks is planning to extend its bike trail to link with the Little Beaver Creek Greenway Trail at this point. This is all part of a larger effort to eventually create a Lake Erie-to-Ohio River bike trail by linking trails in Columbiana and Mahoning counties to trails in Trumbull and Ashtabula counties. [tgiambroni@mojonews.com](mailto:tgiambroni@mojonews.com)

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