



Bridgewater park project crosses into second phase

Dec. 22--BRIDGEWATER -- Contractors this week finished the first phase of a \$4 million riverfront park and commercial/residential development known as Bridgewater Crossing.

The project is expected to transform 12 acres of prime real estate in Bridgewater at the confluence of the Beaver and Ohio rivers into a choice spot for public and private use.

Bought in 1999 by the Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development, the project has been hailed by public officials as a critical piece in an effort to reclaim Beaver County's riverfront properties for economic stimulus.

Contractors this year excavated sunken barges from the riverbank, graded the site, built roads, sidewalks and a railroad crossing and installed lighting, among other work.

On Tuesday, Marion Hill Associates, a commercial diving and marine construction firm from New Brighton, finished installing floating docks along the edge of the Ohio. That signaled the end of the first phase of construction, according to CED Director James Palmer.

Graziani Construction Inc. of New Castle was general contractor for the job.

Palmer said bids for the second phase, expected to total about \$900,000, should go out in January. Construction would begin in the spring.

The second phase includes a walking trail around the site perimeter, landscaping and construction of a riverfront park.

"The construction went real well," Palmer said. "We're pretty pleased with it."

The site includes two empty parcels, one measuring 6.3 acres and the other 2.3 acres, that Palmer hopes will be attractive to developers. CED is not stipulating what might be built there and will solicit proposals early next year.

Possibilities include office, residential and commercial space, or a mix of the three.

Palmer said CED wanted to accomplish two things in improving the site once known as Stone's Point: to create a location that would incorporate riverfront beauty and attract as many people to the site as possible.

The completion of Bridgewater Crossing would represent a large segment in long-range plans to connect communities on both sides of the Beaver River via a series of walking trails and parks.

Bob Bauder can be reached online at bbauder@timesonline.com

To see more of Beaver County Times, Pa., or to subscribe to the newspaper, go to <http://www.timesonline.com>. Copyright (c) 2008, Beaver County Times, Pa. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services. For reprints, email tmsreprints@permissionsgroup.com, call 800-374-7985 or 847-635-6550, send a fax to 847-635-6968, or write to The Permissions Group Inc., 1247 Milwaukee Ave., Suite 303, Glenview, IL 60025, USA.