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Park district wants grant to extend bike trail

By TOM GIAMBRONI (tgiambroni@reviewonline.com)

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LISBON - Funding from one of two state sources is being sought to cover the engineering cost associated with a 1.5-mile extension of the Little Beaver Creek Greenway Trail.

Dottie Betz, chairman of the Columbiana County Park District, said they are applying for a \$68,473 grant from one of two grant programs available through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the hope one of them will be awarded.

The 10-mile Greenway bicycle trail currently extends from Lisbon to High Street in Leetonia near the American Legion. The park district has obtained \$460,000 in federal funding to cover the cost of extending the trail, minus the engineering fee, to Bertollette's Alley in Washingtonville, a distance of 1.5 miles.

Betz said they are required to come up with a \$92,000 match to qualify for the \$460,000 federal grant. She said the ODNR told them recently they could apply to them for the match and the park district may roll that in with their application for the \$68,473 for a combined request of \$160,743.

The park district then would have to come up with a 20 percent match to qualify for the grants covering the \$160,743. That match would come out to \$32,148.

"That would be easier to come up with than \$92,000," Betz said.

If everything works out, the extension could become a reality by 2012.

This would bring the trail within 300 feet of the Mahoning County line, where the Mahoning County Metroparks plans to extend its bicycle trail to link with the Little Beaver Creek Greenway Trail.

This is all part of a larger effort by the Greater Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway Coalition to link with bike trails in Trumbull and Ashtabula counties, creating a continuous trail that would extend eventually from Lake Erie to the Ohio River in East Liverpool.

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