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Trail work continues

One path is complete; two others will follow this year and next

By Andrea Uhde
auhde@courier-journal.com

Staying in shape this winter will be a bit easier, thanks to some trails being developed in Oldham County.

Construction on a 1.1-mile bicycle and pedestrian route along Commerce Parkway began last month and is expected to be complete by the end of the year.



Work on a pedestrian and bicycle path along Commerce Parkway in La Grange began last month and is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Another two miles or so could be complete by the end of next year, allowing people to walk and bike between Buckner and La Grange, said Belinda Dimas with the Planning and Development department.

"The ultimate goal is to go through Pewee Valley into Jefferson County, and our hope is we would be able to meet up in Jefferson County" and continue the route, Dimas said.

But walkers this winter can also head to Buckner, where 1¼ miles of crushed limestone trails have recently been completed at Wendell Moore Park. Another six-tenths of a mile trail will be built to link that trail to the aquatic center, and eventually there will be another one-mile loop near the senior center.

"It's been our mission to continue to work with the county to provide safe walkways and bicycling routes for the citizens of our county," said Ashli Collins, president of Greenways for Oldham County, which has helped fund the projects. "This new construction fits all our plans for that."

The Commerce Parkway path will be 10 feet wide and made of asphalt, and will go between the Oldham 8 shopping center off Ky. 53 to Allen Lane. Dimas said officials hope to start the second

phase in the spring; there are seven phases.

The project is the start of Oldham's first bike and pedestrian path, which will help address residents' concerns that there aren't enough places to exercise outdoors in Oldham. It's also the culmination of years of planning, including the formation of a Bike, Pedestrian and Greenway Trails master plan that was completed earlier this year.

"It's nice to see the ground being moved there along Commerce Parkway," Collins said.

When it's finished, the path will go from La Grange to Buckner, then through Crestwood and into Pewee Valley -- a distance of about 13 miles.

So far, \$372,500 in federal money has been earmarked for the project, along with \$90,000 from Oldham Fiscal Court. The City of La Grange has agreed to contribute \$20,000 this year and \$20,000 next year toward the construction of the trail.

Greenways for Oldham County is contributing about \$49,000.

Dimas said they expect to get an additional \$500,000 in federal funds this year that will require another \$125,000 match from Fiscal Court.

Reporter Andrea Uhde can be reached at (502) 582-4663.

Additional Facts

To learn more

For additional information on the Bike, Pedestrian and Greenway Trails master plan, visit www.oldhamcounty.net and click on Departments, then Planning and Development, then Long Range Planning.
