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Posted December 11, 2006

Fox River Trail work in Calumet County slated for completion in spring

THE POST-GAZETTE

FOREST JUNCTION — Work on the Calumet County portion of the Fox River Trail is continuing through the winter.

Calumet County Parks Supt. Frank Wasdovitch said that Potts Construction of Oneida was awarded a \$240,000 contract to do the trail work.

“The surface will be crushed limestone screenings,” Wasdovitch said.

The Calumet County part of the trail is all within the Town of Brillion, running from the Brown County line south of Askeaton, through Forest Junction and south to Ott Road.

The trail ends there, about a mile north of the Village of Hilbert.

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The trail is being built on the abandoned roadbed built by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad in the late 1800s. It was the Milwaukee Road's mainline from Milwaukee to Green Bay but was made redundant by railroad mergers that began in the 1980s.

The rail line remains intact from Ott Road south to Hilbert Junction, and is used to store surplus boxcars.

Wasdovitch said Potts Construction began work on the trail earlier this month and will continue working as long as the weather cooperates.

"The whole project should be finished in April or May of 2007," he said.

Some of the major work includes remodeling the trestle bridge over the North Branch of the Manitowoc River. It is located in the marsh just north of Ott Road.

"The base structure and all that is good," Wasdovitch said. "All we need is to re-deck it to 12 feet wide and put up railing."

The materials for the bridge rehabilitation are on order and he expected no problems.

A number of culverts also need to be repaired or replaced.

The other construction project on the trail is the new access station on Holmes Road, just north of U.S. 10 in Forest Junction.

The county is leasing a portion of land that was the site of any old power transmission station.

It will be developed into a trail access parking lot and will include a small corral for trail riders to off-load horses from their trailers.

The Calumet County portion of the trail is will open to horses in the summer and snowmobiles in the winter.

At Forest Junction, it intersects with the Friendship Trail that runs between Forest Junction and Brillion.

The cost of the Fox River Trail was covered by two grants administered by the state Department of Natural Resources.

One is a National Recreational Trails Act grant for \$150,000. The other is a Wisconsin Acquisition and Development of Local Parks program grant, also for \$150,000.

Because the cost of the work underway is well under the \$300,000 covered by grant money, Wasdovitch said trail amenities may be added with any surplus funds.

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