

Walking Trail Project receives \$25K grant, work could begin soon

By Tom Kuhns
Meade County News

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, preliminary work on the Meade Walking Trail could be getting underway very soon.

"I was so shocked," said Darcy Gollhier, the Walking Trail Project's leader. "I was so excited."

Gollhier said the grant brings the total amount of money raised for the Walking Trail Project to \$30,000. Although that amount is not quite one-fourth of the expected cost of the total project, Gollhier said it's enough to start actual work.

"We're going to do a portion at a time as we raise money," she said. "We're trying to raise \$125,000 so this is a small portion."

The Meade Walking Trail will be located near the Lone Tree Retirement Center. The majority of the proposed facility will be located in the vacant area south of the nursing home. Once completed it will be 6 feet wide and will meander for a total length of about 5300 feet.

Gollhier indicated that the portion of the trail to be built first will start at the southeast corner of the nursing home and will circle around to the north side and end at the west side of the building - a distance of about 1200 feet.

"It's all going to be concrete," Gollhier said of the trail. "At first we looked at going with the rubber track surface, but in listening to other people, we would always have to maintain it every couple of years."

"The concrete is more reliable, more long term," she added.

Further plans call for landscaping features along the trail such as trees, street lights, and benches.

Gollhier explained a little bit about the Kansas Health Foundation and how fortunate the Walking Trail project is to have received the grant.

"They mainly center around healthy living for Kansans," she said.

Trail

the work that will be done

Continued from
Front Page

"It's a very prestigious grant. The hospital itself has applied for it three times but has never received it."

"They said the max is \$25,000 but they hardly ever give out the max because they like to spread it out more," Gollhier added. "So to get the max, the amount we applied for, it was just amazing."

"You can reapply for this grant once a year, so I'll be sure to apply for it again next year," she added.

In light of the Kansas Health Foundation grant, Gollhier said she is also working on three other

grants that are still pending. "They're smaller than this one but every bit counts," she said.

Along with grants, the Meade Walking Trail is being funded through private local donations and fundraisers.

See Trail on
Page 4