



# BROOKLYN SUN JOURNAL

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## Paving the way

*Proposed trail to connect reservations*

By Joe Noga  
Staff Writer

**BROOKLYN** — Officials here said they have spearheaded a successful \$60,000 federal grant application to help pay for a feasibility study that will look at expanding the Big Creek greenway trail through a three-mile stretch of the city.

The proposed study will develop preferred alignments for an all-purpose trail connecting Big Creek reservation in Parma on Brookpark Road with the Memphis Avenue picnic area, and continuing up to the Brookside reservation in Cleveland near the Metroparks Zoo.

The grant was made available through the federal Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative. Officials were informed Aug. 10 that the project will receive funding. A for-

mal announcement is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday at the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency office downtown.

Brooklyn's initial investment is a \$4,500 portion of the \$15,000 total matching requirement. The Cleveland Metroparks committed \$6,000 to the survey while Cleveland and Parma contributed \$2,000 apiece and Friends of Big Creek added \$500.

Mayor Ken Patton said the proposal will contain potential paths through the surrounding neighborhoods and establish greenspace for the future, while ensuring residents have access to a park-type setting.

He said there is also potential for development in Brooklyn's city center that would allow connecting paths to the parks behind the

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## Way

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city's recreation center.

"It might work out to be a good thing," he said.

Friends of Big Creek chair Bob Gardin said the trail, which could cover about three miles, would allow public access to the southern stretch of the Metroparks, the zoo and the towpath trail for more than 40,000 residents primarily in Brooklyn, Cleveland and Parma. \*

"It's a major link in the system," he said.

Gardin said the plan was first envisioned by Metroparks founder William Stinchcomb in 1917, but because of private development within the city of Brooklyn it was never implemented. He said the new proposal could incorporate some commercially developed areas such as Cascade Crossings.

Gardin said Friends of Big Creek met with the Cascade Crossings management board almost two years ago and that they were supportive of the idea.

Meanwhile, Gardin said the lower Big Creek study, known as the Greenway Restoration Plan, is already under way. That project is being administered by the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation.

\* 40,000 residents and employees living or working within one mile of the alignment.