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Plans in works to fix river erosion

ANDERSON TWP. - A plan is in place to stop erosion along the Little Miami River at Riverside Park.

The U.S. Corps of Army Engineers, which is handling the project, has submitted plans to the National Park Service, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to begin the permitting process, said Troy Euton, Anderson Park District planning director.

The \$1.1 million plan calls for river bank stabilization by using stone, adding dirt to create a slope and then placing vegetation on that slope, he said.

Eric Partee, executive director of Little Miami Inc., said the conservation group isn't happy with the use of stone extensions into the river.

Such material, he said, isn't appropriate for the scenic river.

"It's an overly ambitious project for that river bank," Partee said.

Little Miami would like to see the project make use of more natural stabilization, he said.

Euton said the stone will help assist the stream's main channel, provide points for sedimentation to occur, further stabilize the river bank and slow the velocity of water.

Additionally, he said, the material has been proven to help increase the natural habitat of fish and aquatic life.

Construction work is not slated to begin until August and would continue until October, Euton said.

With federal budget setbacks, the Corps is concerned about raising its 65 percent of the project's cost, he said.

The park district will fund \$270,000 and Anderson Township, \$132,000.

With a Native American village, circa 600-800 A.D., along the bank, the preservation of artifacts is what qualified the project for a fix, Euton said.

"There've been a lot of artifacts that have been washed away," he said.

In the past few years, 5 to 10 feet of river bank has been lost each year along the 1,400 feet of river bank, he said.

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