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Scouts improve access to Boone Woods

BY PAUL MCKIBBEN • SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

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A Boy Scout is helping to make Boone Woods Park in Burlington more accessible.

Alex Hoffman, a junior at St. Henry District High School in Erlanger, and Mark Rodgers, a part-time Boone County Parks and Recreation worker, have designed a bridge that will connect the park to the Darlington Farm condominium complex.

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Hoffman and other Scouts will help the county's parks department build it. The bridge is Hoffman's Eagle Scout project. It is replacing an older bridge that was removed.

"The Eagle Scout project focuses on the leadership aspect so I'm getting my leadership requirements done," he said. "And they're just there to help me out because we all sort of help each other out with that."

The Northern Kentucky University Center for Applied Ecology is paying for the materials. The bridge will be higher off the ground to get it out of the stream corridor and help improve water flow, according to David Whitehouse, the county's director of parks.

Hoffman, a Burlington resident, said he contacted Whitehouse and asked if there was a list of projects that were available.

Whitehouse said at anytime he probably has 10-12 projects that the county would like to do. He said the county just had an Eagle

Scout finish a big flower bed by the Central Park tennis courts. A bridge in Central Park was built by an Eagle Scout.

Whitehouse said he looks for projects that are doable and ones that aren't going to require a ton of extra equipment.

"Well, I think it goes back down to that sense of we're working together as a community," he said. "That's the most important thing."

Hoffman already helped design another bridge farther back in the park that connects a different



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Boy Scout Alex Hoffman of Burlington stands on a bridge in Boone Woods Park in Burlington that he helped design.

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section of Darlington Farm to the park. The county built that bridge. It wasn't part of his Eagle Scout project. Whitehouse said Darlington Farm residents requested the back bridge.

Hoffman is a member of Boy Scout Troop 727 out of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Burlington.

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