

LEWISBURG — The state allocated a \$250,000 state grant towards restoring Bull Run in Hufnagle Park.

A portion of the money will be used to improve both flood control and the creek's health in the section of the park south of St. Louis Street. It will also allow greater access to the creek.

Riprap and concrete walls along the creek channel will be removed, according to borough manager William Lowthert. Soil on the west side of Sixth Street will be removed, too, in order to make a wider, more natural channel. That is the area where flood-damaged homes were previously acquired and razed.

Trees and shrubbery will be planted to shade the creek waters that could boost the habitat for aquatic life and add cover for insects and small animals.

"We want to remove some of the soil so we can expand the flood plain and have more room for water to disperse," Lowthert said.

Storm water pipes could be replaced with open channels that would divert water into a rain garden creekside, filtering out some of the pollutants and debris that as of now is directly channeled into the creek.

Funding will also be used to replace playground equipment at Kidsburg, improve access for the handicapped, install pedestrian pathways as well as perform landscaping and other related improvements.

Samantha Pearson, executive director of Lewisburg Neighborhood Corp., said a full match of the grant is required through cash, in-kind service or a combination. She said the borough pledged \$20,000, and that in-kind matches are expected through PlayWorld, existing grant funds and potentially additional grant funds.

All of the work will occur in Hufnagle Park south of St. Louis Street.

Lowthert estimates the funds to be released next year, followed by a project design period. Work at Hufnagle wouldn't likely begin until early 2018, he said.

When it does, it will mark the first action because of the Bull Run Greenway Plan. In development since 2003, the planning project was taken on by Lewisburg Neighborhood Corp. in cooperation with the borough and Bucknell University. It's meant to guide the development of public space from Danny Green Field south to Kidsburg and Hufnagle Park over the next two decades. A master plan and final reports were completed earlier this year.

Public input was an important factor in the plan's development. A public design workshop was held last fall at Bucknell and an online survey offered began late last winter.

"We've been working on this for years," Pearson said.

“This is a huge leap forward,” she said of the grant funding, but it’s an incremental thing.”

The funds for Lewisburg are a portion of nearly \$800,000 awarded in the district of Sen. Gene Yaw, R-23. It was the only award granted in Union County. Additional funds were allocated in Yaw’s district in Bradford and Lycoming counties.

“I am pleased that these investments have been made in my senatorial district,” Yaw said. “This funding will assist with the completion of park and other land and water conservation projects. Even more importantly, these dollars will generate additional revenues through increased economic, tourism and recreational activities locally.”

Writing Prompt: What did you learn from this article about ways to stop erosion? Answer in a five-sentence paragraph.