

New river access coming to Jersey Shore next year

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JERSEY SHORE — After about four-and-a-half years of planning and acquiring funds, work to revitalize the Front Street river access point is ready to begin.

The grant-funded project — set to be finished in the spring — is seen as a gateway to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and a hub for outdoor recreational activity.

"This starts another venture of our history," said Mayor Dennis Buttorff during a groundbreaking ceremony Friday morning at the riverfront where uneven dirt and rock will be replaced by a concrete boat launch and a floating dock for anglers.

Buttorff envisioned the point as a place from which outdoors enthusiasts — bikers, hikers, canoers, kayakers and boaters — take off to see "what's out here in nature."

As part of the project, an overlook with benches will be built along the bank that rests behind the riverfront and an existing Front Street parking lot will be renovated to accommodate large trailers, according to Joseph Hamm, borough manager.

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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**Jersey Shore Mayor
Dennis Buttorff**

JERSEY SHORE

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He said that a new parking lot also will be constructed along Main Street at the back end of a property where a gazebo now sits, but emphasized that the gazebo, a borough landmark, will remain.

Construction of the nearly \$450,000 project will be done by Mid-State Paving. The first phase of the project — the parking lot work — will begin this month, while the remainder of the work will be done in the spring, according to Hamm.

The funding for the project was hailed as a collaborative effort.

"While it took longer than originally anticipated, we applaud the borough for their thoughtful planning, fiscal responsibility and commitment to community," said Jennifer Wilson, president of the First Community Foundation Partnership of



NICO SALVATORI/Sun-Gazette

Wes Fahringer stands on the brink of what will become a revitalized Susquehanna River access point in Jersey Shore next year. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday morning at the site. Fahringer works for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which contributed nearly \$206,000 for the \$450,000 project.

Pennsylvania, which provided \$100,000 for the project. "We are proud to be a small part of this effort and look forward to the end result."

Other contributors include the state Department of Conservation and Natural

Resources, the National Park Service and the Williamsport-Lycoming Visitors Bureau.

A fundraising effort headed by Mayor Buttorff and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership raised \$50,000 in contributions from local individ-

uals and businesses, Hamm said.

The groundbreaking represents the start of what borough officials hope to be a continued effort in enhancing the Jersey Shore outdoors experience to attract tourists and stimulate the local economy.

Preliminary plans are being discussed to connect the Pine Creek Rail Trail — which currently runs through the borough — directly to the new river access, according to Hamm.

He mentioned that Clinton County is considering connecting a Lock Haven trail to the river access as well.

The access point "will become a major hub, because it's part of a greater trail network," said Wes Fahringer, regional recreation and parks advisor for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "Trails are where it's at."