

## Hawk Eye, The (Burlington, IA)

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### Rec trail gets logo *Will Smith*

Construction for **trail** linking Burlington to Big Hollow to begin no later than 2009.  
By WILLIAM SMITH

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Construction on phase one of the 19-mile-long Des Moines County Flint River Recreational **Trail** likely will begin in 2009. But a **logo** for the **trail** was decided on during a Thursday meeting of the Flint River Recreational **Trail** advisory committee.

"This is an exciting time," said Mike Norris, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission transportation planning director.

The round **logo** features people engaged in sporting activities and officially will be unveiled during an April press conference. The **logo** will be presented to the Des Moines County Supervisors for final approval.

Norris said the **trail**, which will link Burlington, Starr's Cave Nature Preserve, Thye Woods and Big Hollow, could cost a total of \$3.5 million.

The first phase of the **trail**, which will link Iowa 99 with Flint Bottom Road, is being mapped out by environmental consultants for the possibility of future wetlands.

"The environmental consultant has about three-quarters of the entire corridor mapped out," Norris said. "They have been working through December, and they'll finish up when the ground starts thawing out a little bit, hopefully in February or March."

Since the city is responsible for a 4-mile section of the **trail**, the city and the county have filed joint grant applications. The two entities recently were recommended for a \$220,000 grant they will divide evenly.

Nineteen of 23 land easements needed to complete the **trail** have been secured, and the county will abate property taxes on the easements after the **trail** is constructed.

The first phase of the city's 4-mile portion of the **trail** includes a mile from the Port of Burlington to the shuttered Burlington Basket Co. building. The entire length of Burlington's **trail** will reach to and loop around the RecPlex.

The first phase of Burlington's **trail** is scheduled to open this fall, with the final phase to be completed toward the end of this year.

Norris said it is still too early to offer a definitive timeline on phase one construction of the county's portion but is certain it will begin no later than 2009.

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