



Willamalane. "Springfield is surrounded by rivers and this is providing people with great access to these rivers and an opportunity to experience nature close to home."

The preliminary planning is under way and before Christmas Willamalane plans to submit the perspectives that must be approved by the

River Loop Path would connect the Dorris Ranch Living History Farm with Clearwater Park, where it will eventually connect to a path along the Springfield Mill Race. When used with existing street lanes, the planned path would form an eight-mile loop beginning in downtown Springfield and connecting to the extensive riverfront path system in Eugene. The proposed path will also provide the first off-street connection between east and west Springfield south of Main Street.

"This is what people in Springfield told us they wanted [in a 400-person survey]," says Rebecca Gershow, a park planner for

Oregon Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Once approved, the funds designated by SAFETEA-LU will be released and contractors can be hired to start the detailed planning.

The tentative schedule has the detailed designing and engineering taking place in 2006, the right-of-way acquisition in 2007 and construction in 2008 and possibly 2009. Willamalane has a five-year window to complete the project.

Seventy to 80 percent of the land needed for the path is already publicly owned and Willamalane doesn't foresee

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

LINDSEY REYNOLDS

In her freshman year at South Eugene High School, Lindsey Reynolds joined a peer education program called AIDS and Substance Abuse Prevention. "I stayed with it all four years," she says. "I spent an incredible amount of time teaching HIV prevention." After graduation in 2000, Reynolds left for Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., where she ran a similar peer education program that served 14 schools. She won a grant to travel to South Africa for a thesis on HIV prevention efforts in KwaZulu-Natal province. There she also spent time helping out at a rural AIDS hospice, where fellow Wesleyan student Angela Larkin was studying orphan-care strategies. On their return, Reynolds and Larkin founded Thembanathi ("hope with us" in Zulu), a small-scale project to raise funds for day care at the hospice. Visit www.thembanathi.org to learn more. A \$5 donation will purchase a hand-beaded AIDS pin similar to the one in the photo. Reynolds will be selling other hand-crafted items from South Africa from noon to 6 pm Saturday, Dec. 10, at a Human Rights Day event at the UO Law School, and from noon to 5 pm the following day at 1452 Barber Drive in Eugene (call 345-6144).

