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A crew works to cover and clean up a section of water line that has been put in the ground recently along Natural Tunnel Boulevard near Natural Tunnel State Park.

# Natural Tunnel water project still on schedule and on budget

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**DUFFIELD** — As Craig Seaver looks out his office window, the director of Natural Tunnel State Park can see workers repair the road where a new water line was installed.

Though the construction in the park has created problems for some of this summer's visitors, Seaver foresees it helping to sustain the park's future.

The water project features a \$1.4 million water line that runs a 21,400-foot-long 12-inch line along Route 871, through Natural Tunnel to US 23.

Right now, there are 66 residential service connections. Of those, about half qualify for free hookups through the Department of Housing and Community Development Community Block Grant, said Randy Beckner, Mattern and Craig Engineering project manager.

Those connections are made with a \$60,000 grant.

Between the main line and the individual connections, Beckner said crews are laying 2,400 foot of

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**Mattern and Craig Engineering**

4-inch line, 4,400 feet of 6-inch line and 21,400 feet of 12-inch line. Besides the main line along Route 871, lines will go toward Rye Cove on Route 646.

The project is on schedule and on budget, Beckner said.

“As of July 20, it was about 60 percent complete,” he said.

It is due to be completed by the end of September, but it will take about a month to complete tests of the line to ensure it is watertight and to perform bacteriological tests.

The bacteriological tests have to be reviewed by the health department before it can be used, Beckner said.

“We have to get approval (from the health department) before we can pressurize the line,” he said.

The water line represents an important step for Natural Tun-

nel's campground growth.

The park currently has 18 RV campsites, four tent sites and one group camp site, but plans are under way to increase the options for overnight stays at Natural Tunnel.

To do that, the park needed a new water source, Beckner said.

The water line will eventually feed 10 cabins and about 25 campsites with a bathhouse, said Natural Tunnel State Park's director.

“Those are out of the 2002 general obligation bond money,” Seaver said. “They will be sent out for bid this winter, and construction will begin in the spring.”

With the water line, Seaver said he can double the number of campsites and put in cabins — something he couldn't do before.

“The water line is going to be essential before we do any further development,” Seaver said. “We currently exist on one well for the entire park, and with resources as fragile as they are, it will be a great relief to have public water here.”