

'Friends' gets grant of \$2,700

ROBERT MOSES PARK: Money to help update Nature Center's Web site, post newsletter

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ARTICLE OPTIONS



MASSENA — The Nature Center at Robert Moses State Park is giving itself a face-lift — online and in reality.

The Friends of the Nature Center have been awarded a \$2,700 grant from Parks & Trails New York to improve the center's Web site, put its newsletter online and determine what types of programs the public wants through surveys.

Construction on an exhibit wing also will begin this spring, giving the center an entirely different look. The construction is being paid for with a \$20,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation and is being administered by the Friends.

"The Friends group is a little Northern New York group of people who care about the Nature Center, but they need professional help," said Mary A. Danboise, assistant director of recreation at the Nature Center. "We're plugging away."

A Web site for the Nature Center was designed several years ago by one of the Friends members, but is not regularly updated because none of the members has much experience with site design. Professional assistance will improve the site and keep it current. Moving the quarterly newsletter online also will help the group "go green," Mrs. Danboise said.

"We're very excited, because I haven't seen a lot of

grants that would fund projects like this," she said.

Parks & Trails New York is a privately funded organization that gives grants of up to \$3,000 to state parks for organizational startup, fundraising aid, staff training, volunteer recruitment and communications. Of 76 applicants, eight groups received funds.

The center will be looking at exhibition designs at 5:30 p.m. today at the Friends of the Nature Center meeting. Since the group received the Alcoa Foundation grant last fall, Hadley Exhibitions Inc., Buffalo, has been drafting possible designs. Public opinion is welcome at the meeting, which will be held at the Nature Center.

"We want to see what kind of things the public wants," Mrs. Danboise said. "We want to make sure that we're working on what the public wants."