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Barnesville lands grant to aid park

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BARNESVILLE — Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher announced Monday that more than \$18.1 million in economic development and roadwork development grants have been awarded to Buckeye State communities, with a Barnesville project to benefit from more than \$500,000.

The Belmont County Port Authority will receive a \$575,000 Roadwork Development Grant to complete public roadwork improvements in support of the new Eastern Ohio Regional Industrial Park in the village. The Port Authority is developing a new industrial park on a parcel of land that was utilized for strip mining in the 1980s that currently is utilized for pasture and cattle farming.

The park will be the first large industrial site in a four-county area, and the Port Authority plans to subdivide the land into 100- to 200-acre plots for large warehouse and similar uses. The Port Authority will construct a new road into the 740-acre parcel of land that will provide access to the industrial park.

The grants, administered by the Ohio Department of Development, were approved by the State Controlling Board and could create 3,217 positions and retain 8,257 jobs for Ohioans.

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