

Communities > Hamilton >

Anderson Township



Home
About
Advertise
Contact

News
Letters
Crime Watch
Real Estate
New Businesses
Photos
All

Our Sites The Web

search



Anderson park district wants state regulations eased

Posted by lwakeland • Thursday, July 07, 2011 11:54:30 AM

By Lisa Wakeland • lwakeland@communitypress.com

The Anderson Township Park District is seeking help from the state build a fishing lake at Johnson Hills Park.

Work was slated to start this spring but plans hit a snag when the Park District learned it had to hire a firm to classify all streams running toward the lake site after an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency official expressed her concern about lake construction affecting habitats for small organisms, including two endangered species.

Because of certain regulations, both the Ohio EPA stream specialist and a consultant noted it would be difficult for the Park District to receive the necessary permits to build the lake.

There was some discussion about moving the lake to another area of the park, but nothing was decided.



This is the Anderson Township Park District's master plan for the development of Johnson Hills Park. (Provided)

These regulations could further complicate development at Johnson Hills Park, off Bridle Road, not just the lake construction, Park District Executive Director Ken Kushner wrote in a memo to the Board of Park Commissioners.

The Park District believes the process to build the lake is too cumbersome and could drive up project costs, Kushner wrote in an email to a liaison for Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

A park development, he argued, should be in a different category than a housing development or strip mall because the comparative impact is minimal.

"It is difficult to explain to our constituents why re-establishing a farm pond will take a long time, cost significantly more beyond construction costs and may not even be possible," Kushner wrote.

"Our funds are limited and our taxpayers expect a public fishing pond. Our constituents expect their tax dollars to be spent in the parks, not wasted on battling red tape, nor on inflated project costs due to unreasonable regulation."

The Park District's concerns were also posted to Kasich's Common Sense Initiative website, which aims to reform Ohio's business regulations.

Paula Steele, a liaison for Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, wrote that though the Park District's concerns do not fit with the business regulatory reform, the information was shared with the Ohio EPA.

Kushner said they have not heard back from Ohio EPA officials about the lake at Johnson Hills Park.

[View Comments](#) | [Share your thoughts](#)



Take our quick, confidential survey and you can enter to win a \$100 gift certificate from American Express! [Click here to begin the survey or for more information](#)



Community Experts



Eric Spangler (Editor) - (513) 576-8251 espanqler@communitypress.com



Lisa Wakeland (Reporter) - (513) 248-7139 lwakeland@communitypress.com



Melanie Laughman (Sports Editor) - (513) 248-7573 mLaughman@communitypress.com



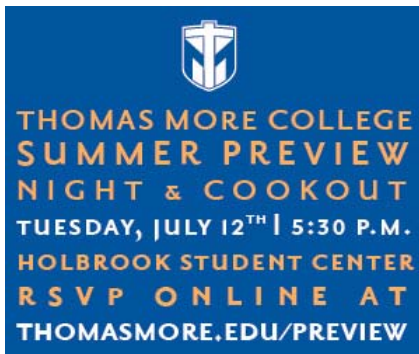
Nick Dudukovich (Sports Reporter) - (513) 248-7570 ndudukovich@communitypress.com

Subscribe

Get community news delivered straight to your inbox.

Email Address:

[Join Email List](#)



Contribute to Anderson Township

[Send us a tip or story](#)

[Send us photos](#)

[Send us an event](#)

E-Edition

FOREST HILLS
JOURNAL

Blogs