

# Anderson Twp. voters to consider .7-mill park issue

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(Photo: File photo)

The Nov. 3 ballot will include a .7-mill 15-year levy for the Anderson Township Park District.

This comes after months of discussion by the Anderson Township Board of Park Commissioners. If approved by voters, the issue would raise just over \$12.8 million. The additional cost to homeowners would be \$24.50 a year for every \$100,000 market value.

The money generated will cover the cost of purchasing the 36.71 acres of land from the Beech Acres Parenting Center on Beechmont Avenue, Park Board President Nadine Gelter said. The levy will also provide funds for: renovating the current RecPlex, preparing the property for public use, extending the walking trail from the current park, adding parking lot, developing field areas and debt service, she said.

Earlier this year, the park district announced it had the opportunity to buy the RecPlex and land from Beech Acres Parenting Center for \$5.4 million. The park district conducted a survey to receive community feedback regarding the possible purchase.

"The survey results showed quite clearly the residents support the park district in this endeavor," Gelter said. "The questions have always been about how much millage, how long, how much more should or could be done with the rest of the parks."

As the Park Board weighed these issues, discussions began between Anderson Township Board of Trustees, Forest Hills Board of Education and the park board. The discussions between the three entities were undertaken as an alternate idea with the goal of a new recreation building for the park district at no additional expense to tax payers, Trustee Josh Gerth said in April.

"We found this evening the plan was not viable at this time," Gelter said. "Although discussions have not reached the stated goal, we appreciate the commitment and efforts by all involved, and I believe we have opened the door for all three entities to work together for the best future possible for the residents of Anderson Township."

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