

***BIG NEWS!!***

***APD Receives \$122,000+ In Gifts***

***For All-Inclusive Playgrounds***

To view the Beech Acres Park Playground design concept or to make a donation, click here:

<http://www.andersonparks.com/ParkAmenplaygrounds.html>

**W**ith spring in the air and the sounds of children laughing and playing in the parks, we wanted to report some very exciting news regarding two All-Inclusive playgrounds within your Anderson Parks.

The APD has been working hard to successfully accomplish the fundraising efforts for two playground projects: the renovation of the Lucky Lanier All-Children's playground at Veterans Park and the construction of a new 50,000 square foot all-inclusive play environment to complete Beech Acres Park as a premier park. The entire All-Inclusive Playground plan for Beech Acres is estimated to cost \$500,000. Our strategy is to build the playground in phases as funding becomes available.

In April, we began to see the tangible results of our fundraising efforts. APD staff installed swings including an array of toddler swings, fully accessible therapeutic swings, and traditional belt swings at Beech Acres Park, which represents the first phase of playground construction. This was made possible through donations and proceeds raised from last year's Greater Anderson Days and Run to Remember events.

We are very pleased to report that last week Fifth Third Bank, acting as trustee for the Dornette Foundation, awarded the Park District a grant in the amount of \$100,000 for additional construction of the all inclusive play environment at Beech Acres Park!! Expect

to see the play environment grow over the summer thanks to Fifth Third Bank and Dornette Foundations! We will now work to leverage the generosity of the Fifth Third Bank Foundation and The Dornette Foundation to interest other potential grantors to invest in this unique recreational environment that will stimulate the senses and where all children, regardless of their abilities, can play and learn together; a place where learning, exercise and acceptance can come together and flourish.

Once completed, the playground will feature an eye-catching Riverboat Shelter docked on a 'river' that provides natural separation between a tot-lot and a school-aged children's play area. Each section will involve unique elements and will offer play opportunities for children of varying physical abilities to inspire exploration, discovery and fantasy play. Most notable features include a canyon climb, train station, train, tree house, play house, water play, a 'sandsentional' sand play area, and sway fun. Other elements such as an arched bridge, walking paths, shaded pergolas and unique surfacing will tie together the river and village theme. Some of these areas will even be reservable for special occasions. Input for the playground design came from our playground committee of parents with able-bodied children, parents of children with disabilities, interested community residents, and others who are committed to seeing more inclusive play environments.

**MORE BIG NEWS...** At our last Board Meeting, the Kiwanis Club of Anderson Hills presented the Park District with a check for over \$22,000 to renovate the Lucky Lanier All-Children's playground at Veterans Park. This generous gift represents a three-year effort from the Kiwanis Club.

Almost two decades ago, the Lucky Lanier "All Children's Playground" was designed and built with the assistance of the Kiwanis Club in order to allow recreational opportunities for children of varying physical abilities. The playground, which has seen a lot of use in the past 18 years, is in desperate need of a total face lift. The gifts will allow us to take

advantage of advances in play equipment, especially those designed with the physically-challenged person in mind. The current play unit will be replaced by a variety of accessible and traditional play units coupled with other components promoting creative play. The renovation will also consist of re-galvanizing and painting the swing structure, and replacing the sand surface with an ADA approved surfacing.

It is rewarding to see the efforts and commitment of volunteers, committee members, community partners and businesses pay off as our two new playgrounds come to life. We thank everyone who has contributed to making these inclusive play environments a reality. For more information on the APD's playground projects or for information on how you can support these efforts, visit <http://www.andersonparks.com/ParkAmenplaygrounds.html> or call Molly McClure, (513) 388-5080.