

Plans on the table for Johnson Park

By Amy Monahan

Staff Reporter

ANDERSON TWP. — Residents could find camping cabins, a historic farm village and even equestrian cabins at Johnson Park.

While Beech Acres Park is nearly finished, plans are just getting started for Johnson Park.

"Everything is out on the table," said Troy Euton, Anderson Park District planning director.

The district wants to complete Johnson Park's master plan next year, he said, with the first public

meetings likely held in the spring.

Molly McClure, park district executive director, said the planning process needs to be finished before officials can place a timeline on development.

For example, Juilfs Park was developed over a 10- to 15-year period, she said.

Another part of the process will be seeking funds, such as grants, for the park work.

Euton said there isn't any funding left from a 1.9-mill, 10-year levy passed in 2000 for future

development.

Beech Acres Park renovations, including walking trails and play fields, were funded through that levy, costing about \$1.8 million, he said.

"There's absolutely no capital improvement funding left in our levy funding," McClure said.

It's possible the district will request a levy a year or two early, Euton said.

The finishing touch at Beech Acres will be a playground, with the park district looking at grant

applications to provide funds, he said.

A preliminary conceptual design for the playground should be complete this winter, McClure said.

The park district is also looking at how to begin playground improvements at Veterans Park with \$13,000 in funding the Kiwanis have raised, Euton said.

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