



# Anderson parks: Drought dried up revenue

By Lisa Wakeland • lwakeland@communitypress.com • December 7, 2010

Anderson Township Park District officials said this year's drought conditions reduced revenue generated from field fees.

At the end of November the Park District was roughly \$90,000 below expected revenue in 2010 from field fees.

Financial Officer Brian Jordan said he expects another \$60,000 in field fees to come in by the end of the year.

Park Commission President Dale Bartholomew blamed the drought conditions for the reduced field fee revenue.

"The (game) schedule went as planned, which is good for (the teams), but they scheduled less fields," he said.

The Park District receives the majority of its revenue from property taxes, but also generates additional revenue from programs, rentals and field use.

Officials are predicting a jump in revenue from field fees next year.

The 2011 budget estimates that the Park District will generate \$160,000 in field fees from the synthetic fields installed at Riverside Park on Round Bottom Road earlier this year and another \$210,000 from field fees throughout the township.

Despite the reduced revenue this year, Bartholomew said he is comfortable with the 2011 estimates for field fee revenue.

"With the new fields and everything in place I have no problems with that," he said.

Park Commissioners recently adopted the 2011 budget and are expected to approve the nearly \$4.6 million final budget in January.

More than half of the general fund for 2011, which includes more than \$1.1 million in carryover from this year, will be spent on capital projects and park development, operations and maintenance, the recreation department and equipment.

This year, the cost of capital projects and park development was about \$995,000 more than budgeted, with most of that expense for development Riverside Park, Executive Director Ken Kushner said.

The Park District borrowed \$1.65 million through the sale of bonds to pay for Riverside Park improvements, including the synthetic fields, parking lot and trail.

Next year, the Park District is expected to spend about \$600,000 of taxpayers' money for park development, including early planning for a new playground at Juilfs Park and continued development of Johnson Hills Park, Kushner said.

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