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Officials: Early feedback on park plan is positive

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After a series of open houses and informational sessions, the community is showing an affinity for the Johnson Hills Park development, according to park officials.

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Ken Kushner, executive director for the Anderson Township Park District, said most who attended the open houses liked the preliminary plans for the park at 7950 Bridle Road.

Earlier this year park commissioners approved a development plan that includes a fishing lake, camping area, picnic shelters, disc golf and other amenities.

Hiking trails would be maintained throughout the 136-acre park.

"I think the rework is really nice," said Duffy Beischel, president of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Kushner said he will compile community feedback and present it at the January meeting.

Park commissioners will evaluate that feedback, make any adjustments and adopt a master plan early next year.

Operations manager Mike Smith said early development scheduled for 2010 includes paving a parking lot and access road, installing the necessary utilities for future development as well as creating and stocking the lake.

Kushner said it could take up to five years to develop a viable fish population in the lake.

Complete development of Johnson Hills Park is expected to take decades.