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Input sought for Juilfs Park playground

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By Lisa Wakeland • lwakeland@communitypress.com

The Juilfs Park playground will have a new look next year.

The Anderson Township Park District plans to replace the playground, which was built in the mid-1980s, next year. A concept design shows the playground, 8249 Clough Pike, will have slides, climbing structures, monkey bars, swings and other features.

The play structure will be a combination of metal, wood and a composite plastic, similar to what is at Beech Acres Park off Salem Road, said Park District Assistant Director Emily Armstrong.



This is the rendering for the new playground at Juilfs Park. (Provided)

Initial feedback from surveys at Greater Anderson Days reveals a strong desire for a variety of play equipment, mixed reviews on the sandy surface and calls for more shaded areas. Safe equipment and a well-lit playground area also were priorities listed on multiple surveys.

Anderson Township resident Steve Shadix wrote that he'd like to see a "wide range of options for both toddlers and older kids, with appropriate separation."

Township resident Kelly Meyers wrote that she doesn't areas that don't have shaded spots and avoids these areas with toddlers.

Juilfs Park playground currently has a sandy base and some residents wrote that they dislike the sand because it can be messy and attract insects, like the cicada killer wasps. Others, like Katie Teixeira, said she'd like to see the sand remain because her child loves playing in the sand.

Some of the new playground area will have sand but not all of the space will be covered in sand, Armstrong said. The silver dome on top of the play structure also will be repurposed in the new design, she said.

The new playground will have roughly the same footprint as the current playground but a slightly different orientation. It is located to the west of the office.

The Park District continues to seek public input on the design.

Open house

The Anderson Township Park District is hosting an open house for the new Juilfs Park playground from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12 at the park, 8249 Clough Pike. Those who can't make it to the open house may schedule a time to view the plans by calling 474-0003.

Feedback forms are also available on the Park District's website.

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