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## Playground design moving forward

By Lisa Wakeland



The popular Juilfs Park playground, seen here, will be replaced next year. It was built in the mid-1980s.



This is a rendering of the proposed new Juilfs Park playground. The Anderson Township Park District plans to upgrade the equipment next year.

Area children will have a new place to explore when a popular playground gets an upgrade.

The Anderson Township Park District plans to replace the Juilfs Park playground next year. It was built in the mid-1980s.

A conceptual design shows the playground will have slides, climbing structures, monkey bars, swings and other features.

There will be minor changes to the design, including moving the sand play area closer to the shelter and improving sight lines for parents watching children, Park

District Executive Director Ken Kushner said at a recent meeting.

Initial feedback from surveys at Greater Anderson Days revealed 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.

Park Commissioner Duffy Beischel asked if it was possible to put a barrier under the sand play area because of the recurring issue with cicada killer wasps.

The wasp is fairly harmless and females will only sting when provoked, but it creates a summertime nuisance for many people on the Juilfs Park playground.

The wasps burrow under sand or soil where they lay their eggs. Adults, which can grow up to 2 inches long, begin emerging in early July and can live through mid-September.

Since the wasps typically emerge in Juilfs Park, 8249 Clough Pike, for a few weeks at a time, Kushner questioned whether there was a cost-effective way to create a barrier.

Currently, the entire playground sits on a sandy surface and the new playground will have a much smaller sand play area.

Park Commissioner Nadine Gelter suggested a fabric barrier that the wasps can't burrow through.

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 new play structure will be a combination of metal, wood and a composite plastic, similar to what is at Beech Acres Park off Salem Road.

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