

# Anderson dog park set to come

By Amy Monahan

Staff Reporter

AMONAHAN@COMMUNITYPRESS.COM

Within the next month, dog lovers may have a place to allow their animals to roam free in Anderson Township.

Plans are moving forward to develop a dog park at Kellogg Park, with the site possibly open to the public within the next month or two, said Molly McClure, Anderson Park District executive director.

The Anderson Park District Dog Park Committee, comprised of park officials and citizens who are planning and raising funds for the dog park, recently selected Kellogg because of its size and some fencing already available, she said.

The citizens will raise the \$23,000 through donations to establish the dog park. "(Kellogg) offered the most

space and sort of a diverse landscape and probably the least amount of cost," McClure said.

Water, parking and rest rooms already exist at the site and Kellogg offers the largest area available in the park system, with about four acres to be used for the dog park, she said.

The dog park will be located behind the football fields where the Haunted Hike takes place.

It will co-exist with Haunted Hike, with the dog park closing a couple weeks for the event, McClure said.

Additionally, a temporary parking lot will likely have to be developed for the dog park during football season, she said.

In order to open the dog park, only an initial \$10,000 has to be raised in order to provide some fencing, an entrance area where dogs are let off their leashes, gates and other materials, McClure said.

*“Think it’s great just because*

*Anderson has so many parks. It’s a draw to the area.”*

Shawn Wiseman

In the future, benches and a water source within the dog park may be added, she said.

“It’s really a great way for dogs to socialize and dog owners and dog lovers,” McClure said.

On most evenings, more than half of those using Juffs Park have dogs, she said.

Dr. William Rueger, a veterinarian at Cherry Grove Animal Hospital and a member of the dog park committee, said area veterinarians have known for a long time there’s been a demand

for such a park.

“In experiences over the last 10 years or so, we’ve had a lot of clients come in and complain, especially if they were from a different part of the country, that we didn’t have an off-leash area,” Rueger said.

Interest in developing the park has been citizen-driven, McClure said previously.

Anderson Township resident and committee member Shawn Wiseman said the dog park will be a good addition to the park system.

“I think it’s great just because Anderson has so many parks. It’s a draw to the area,” he said.

The committee plans to have a fund-raising booth at Greater Anderson Days next month and to develop a fund-raising T-shirt, Wiseman said. To contribute, call 474-0003 ext. 3017.