

# Anderson adds places to have fun

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The Cincinnati Enquirer

## ANDERSON TWP. - Just in time for

warmer weather, new recreation amenities

are blossoming in this eastern Hamilton

County community.

The township's skate park opened earli-

er this month at Beech Acres Park, and

trustees are expected soon to sign off on

contracts for new sidewalks in the south-

western portion of the township.

The new skate park will be 24,000 square

feet, about the size of the one in Middle-

town. The first 12,000-square-foot phase of

the park holds concrete bowls, ramps and

steps. Some streetscape work still needs to

be complete, but park officials opened the

skating area on April 8, in time for spring

break this week for the Forest Hills School

District.

"It's been widely popular," said Molly

McClure, executive director of the Ander-

son Park District. "The kids are so anxious

to start skating we decided not to stop them

from that. We'll work around them. They

needed a legitimate place to be."

The rest of Beech Acres Park, which is

being improved, remains closed, but the is

ball diamonds will be open by mid-May.

All of Beech Acres should be open by the

end of July with renovated walking trails

and an amphitheater to coincide with Great-

er Anderson Days.

The skate park came about after moms

and teens appealed to township leaders.

Before the park opened, teenagers say,

they didn't have any place to legally skate

and were getting into trouble when they

skated on business lots.

Scott Zellner, 18, has been to the skate

park almost every day this week. The Ar-

derson High School senior is on the volun-

teer park committee that helped plan it for

the past two years and raised money by

holding a neighborhood garage sale with

his mother and other parents of skaters.

"We needed one because there's so

many skaters around here," he said. "We

were getting kicked out of a lot of business-

cs and ended up getting into trouble. Now

everyone gets to skate together in one

place."

A mile-long trail also will be built into the

park from new sidewalks going in along Sa-

lem Road.

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ENC 6/24/04