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## **Anderson's newest park, Beech Acres, readies to open**

ANDERSON TWP. - With the Skate Park and softball fields already in use at the new Beech Acres Park, the rest of the amenities will be ready by June 10.

According to Troy Euton, Anderson Park District planning director, paving and grading work should be complete by that date.

The walking trail will be finished, water fountains installed, rest rooms operational and the basketball and sand volleyball courts ready for play, he said.

The first concert in the park is scheduled for June 10, Euton said.

An amphitheater, shelter and vending facilities round out the new offerings.

The improvements have cost about \$2 million and are funded by a park district operating levy.

While an official grand opening of the park will be during Greater Anderson Days, July 30, 31 and Aug. 1, the park district and the Jason William Hunt Foundation will host a grand opening of the Jason William Hunt Outdoor Leadership Training Center at Beech Acres Park June 3.

A Turpin High School graduate, Hunt died during a climbing accident. An outdoor instructor, the new center will honor his memory.

Focusing on outdoor experiential education, the center will offer a climbing wall and ropes course, said John Hunt, Jason's dad.

Formalized programs are expected to begin in September, Hunt said, with an expansion into backpacking and hiking.

"To have something like this in the township is rather unique," he said.

The programs help participants learn respect of themselves and others and to take responsibility for their actions, Hunt said.

The activities also support team work and creativity, he said.

With Jason working as an outdoor instructor, the family saw growth in his character, Hunt said.

"When he died, the response we got from people who knew him was we really can't let this thing by," Hunt said.

Proceeds from Greater Anderson Days' kick-off event, a 5k run/walk, Jazzin' in July,

will help support the center, he said.

Ticket prices for the center's grand opening are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible.

For information about the events and to register, visit [www.andersonparks.com](http://www.andersonparks.com) or call 474-0003 ext. 5083 with questions.

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