

## Local News

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# Skate the Beech to raise funds for park expansion

BY LIZ CAREY | COMMUNITY PRESS STAFF WRITER

ANDERSON TWP. -- Now that Phase I of the Anderson Township Wheels Park is completed, organizers of Skate the Beech, a skate and BMX bike competition, will bring additional publicity and money to the park's expansion.

"I don't think many people know that what is here is just Phase I," said Dee Stone, one of the parents organizing the competition. "I don't think even the kids who are here realize this is just Phase I."

The park, located in Beech Acres Park, is specially designed for skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX bikers.

The Nov. 12 competition will be the park's second competition. Money raised from entry fees would help fund an expansion of the park, Stone said.

Biz Martella, Anderson Park District's business director, said the expansion would not be finalized until the committee had raised enough funds to begin the second phase of the project.

"The second phase of the park would be another additional 12,000 square feet," she said. "We do have some preliminary plans that were developed at the same time the first phase was done. At that time, last year, it was at about \$300,000."

The wheels park opened in April 2004. Martella said the first phase of the park cost more than \$240,000.

Martella said the park board had not committed any funds to building the second phase of the park.

"The committee is working very hard to raise money for Phase II," she said.

The competition will be noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12. Cost is \$15 and registration begins a half hour before each competition.

Beginner skateboarders will start at 12:30 p.m., followed by intermediate skateboarders at 1 p.m., advanced skateboarders at 2 p.m., and rollerbladers at 2:30 p.m.

Rain date is Sunday, Nov. 13.

Contact Stone at 232-5909.

[lcarey@communitypress.com](mailto:lcarey@communitypress.com)