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# eye on the eastside

## Park district discovers unused money

Posted by [lwakeland](#) 02/03/11, 11:17 am  0

By **Lisa Wakeland** • [lwakeland@communitypress.com](mailto:lwakeland@communitypress.com)

The Anderson Township Park District recently discovered \$50,000 of taxpayers' money that has been sitting in the budget for nearly four years.

During a review of the 2011 budget in January, Park Commission President Dale Bartholomew said Anderson Township gave the Park District the taxpayers' money in 2007 for trail expansion at Beech Acres Park and asked why the money was never used.

Park District Executive Director Ken Kushner said the money was designated for a trail near the playground to the outfield areas of the baseball diamonds, as well as additional widening around areas of the playground at Beech Acres Park, off Salem Road.



Kushner

"(The money) was for trail enhancements, to widen them to 25 feet ... but there is no room," he said. "It's just been sitting there until we can figure out how to widen the trails."

If the money was given to the Park District for trails it has to be used for trails, said Park Commissioner Duffy Beischel.

Bartholomew suggested asking the township for permission to transfer the funds to Johnson Hills Park.

The Park District plans to start constructing a paved, loop trail at Johnson Hills Park, near Little Dry Run and Bridle roads, in 2012 and recently applied for a state grant to pay for roughly half of the \$300,000 project.

Kushner said he plans to keep the trail funds at Beech Acres Park because that's where they belong.

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**vote4newtrustees** wrote:  
Based upon the article, it took the Township 4 years to audit their gift to the Park Board to ensure the money was used and used for the proper purpose?

Was Mr. Bartholomew on the committee in the Township that allocated the funds to the Park Board (where he is a commissioner)?

The struggles appear to grow deeper and deeper.  
2/4/2011 8:14:35 AM  
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