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eye on the eastside

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Editor Eric Spangler and reporters Lisa Wakeland, Forrest Sellers and Rob Dowdy have the latest from the Eastside.



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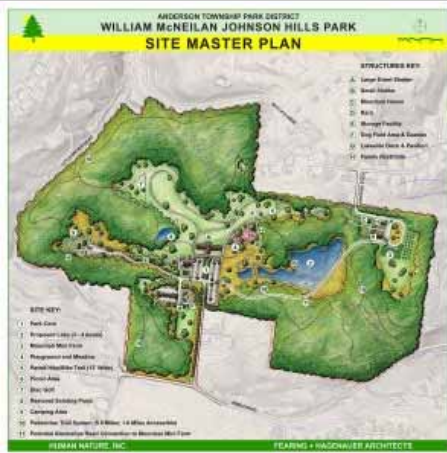
January 2011

Park district continues development work

Posted by lwakeland 01/06/11, 9:18 am

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By Lisa Wakeland
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This is the Anderson Township Park District's master plan for the development of Johnson Hills Park.

Area residents could have a new fishing spot this year as the Anderson Township Park District begins work on 5-acre lake at Johnson Hills Park.

The lake is situated on the eastern side of the park and will sit back from the main area to fit with the natural topography, said Park District Executive Director Ken Kushner.

It is one of the first major projects of the Park District's planned development at [Johnson Hills Park](#), off Bridle and Little Dry Run roads. Other amenities will include trails, a large event shelter, a off-leash dog field, tent camping, gardens and a disc golf course.

Engineering work for the new entrance off Bridle Road and the paved parking lots also should begin this year, Kushner said. He added that the new driveway will be further west, toward Little Dry Run Road, and cut across the property near the former stables' riding circle.

Last year, the Park District demolished a former stable and barn on the site and cleared old fencing around the park, which sits on roughly 137 acres with much of the land covered by woods. Kushner said the majority of the park is not going to change and complete development is expected to take decades.

Before the Park District can start building out the property an archaeologist has to examine the site for artifacts. Doug VonStrohe, the archaeologist working at Johnson Hills Park, said he digs holes approximately 10 inches deep at select intervals throughout the site to look for any clues about the parkland's former inhabitants.

"I'm focused on the most level spots (around the park)," he said. "So far, it's a lot of empty holes."

VonStrohe has found window glass from the former Johnson residence, nails and a horseshoe but isn't ruling out the possibility of finding something significant from the area's rich Native American history.

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