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Park district plans projects, applies for grants

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The Anderson Township Park District has big plans for three of its parks.

Executive Director Ken Kushner said the Park District is requesting \$487,700 in federal and state grants to help with planned projects at Laverty, Kellogg and Johnson Hills parks.

At Laverty Park, Kushner said they plan to upgrade the playground to something similar to, but not as large, what is in Beech Acres Park to make the park more accessible.

Kushner said the park district is planning to construct a shelter at Kellogg park.

Kushner said the dog park is popular and people want a place to get out of the sun.

Johnson Hills Park, in the early stages of new development, will have a number of trail additions.

The Park District is requesting two grants, totaling more than \$428,000, to complete the two projects.

Kushner said the first set of trails will be 3,100 lineal feet of connectors to the planned sidewalks throughout the park.

The other, Kushner said, is for nearly 2 miles of looping trails throughout Johnson Hills Park.

"All these projects, except for Laverty Park, are brand new," Kushner said.

"They're planned and we have them in our budget, we just don't have all the money for them."

All four projects cost \$833,540 and the grants, if awarded, would cover roughly 58 percent of the costs.

Kushner said the park district has the matching funds available, but can also use in-kind labor to match the grants.

The park district also applied for two grants of \$200,000 each from the U.S. Soccer Foundation to help with installation costs for a planned synthetic field at Riverside Park.

Emily Armstrong, assistant director for the park district, said they have not received official notice, but the Anderson Township Park District is not listed as a grant recipient on the foundation's Web site.

Kushner said he expects to hear about the other grants in September.

Additional Facts

Grant requests

* Natureworks, from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The project is to update the playground at Laverty Park and costs \$53,540. The grant request is \$34,000.

* Land and Water Conservation, from the National Park Service. The project is to build a shelter at Kellogg Park and costs \$52,000. The grant request is \$25,700.

* Clean Ohio Trails, from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The project is to construct 3,100 lineal feet of connector trails at Johnson Hills Park and costs \$153,000. The grant request is \$90,000.

* Recreational Trails, from the Federal Highway Administration. The project is to construct 10,500 lineal feet of trails, almost two miles, at Johnson Hills Park and costs \$575,000. The grant request is \$338,000.
