

Anderson Park District buys driving range

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Clear Creek Park on state Route 32 in Anderson Township could get bigger in the next few years.

The Anderson Township Park District recently spent close to \$394,000 of taxpayers' money to buy the roughly 27-acre Anderson Township Practice Range site, which is adjacent to the park property.

Park District officials have been looking at the property since the early 1990s, said Executive Director Ken Kushner.

There are no immediate plans to expand the park and Kushner said the first priority is to clean up the site and solve flooding issues.

Clear Creek Park generally floods some each year, but as the clean, hard fill area increased on the adjacent property it created more flooding problems for the Park District.

This spring's flooding probably took out four acres of sod, Kushner said. "When we can't use it ... it's not a good thing for us or users or the community in general," he said.

Scott Menke, who owned the Anderson Township Practice Range, received a permit for a clean, hard fill area in 2003, Dan Taphorn, an urban conservationist with the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, said earlier this year.



Flood waters in early March cover Clear Creek Park, off state Route 32. The Anderson Township Park District recently bought a neighboring property to mitigate flooding in the park.

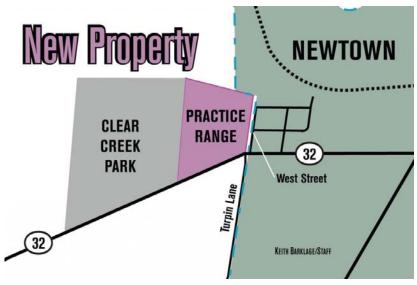
Back then, the Soil and Water Conservation District had jurisdiction of sites five acres or larger, but changes to the law gave the conservation district jurisdiction for sites around one acre, Taphorn said.

Contractor Ford Development was allowed to continue using the site for clean, hard fill in 2008, he said. Menke died in January.

The driving range will still operate as the Park District cleans up the site, which will likely take a few years, Kushner said.

Eventually, they will be able to expand Clear Creek Park and improve road access, said Park Commissioner Dale Bartholomew.

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