



October 15, 2009

Planning Anderson's newest park

Like a fine wine, planning W. M. Johnson Hills Park takes time.

Since William McNeilan Johnson Hills Park was acquired in 2000 the Anderson Township Park District (ATPD) has gathered ideas and suggestions from interested residents for possible park amenities and facilities.

Through a combination of public meetings and surveys the ATPD has considered all the possibilities and developed a preliminary plan draft for review by interested citizens.

While the property boasts 136 acres, it is a challenge to incorporate all of the ideas that have evolved over the last eight years.

With the assistance of the design firm, Human Nature, we have sought to balance the public's demand for recreational opportunities while preserving the natural gifts of the property.

We invite Anderson residents to view the preliminary plans for William McNeilan Johnson Hills Park and to provide us with their input at any of the upcoming open house sessions:

- * 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, Julifs Park office.
- * 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, Julifs Park office.
- * 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, Julifs Park office.
- * 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, Julifs Park office.
- * 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, Julifs Park office.
- * 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, Heritage Center.
- * 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, Beech Acres Park RecPlex.

The Julifs Park office is located at 8249 Clough Pike; the Heritage Center is located at the corner of Forest and Eight Mile Roads; the Beech Acres Park RecPlex is located at 6915 Beechmont Ave.

Johnson Hills Park will be developed in phases, and like most of our other parks it will take years to develop.

The preliminary plans promote passive use and an activity potential that does not currently exist in other ATPD parks.

The feedback our community provides will assist us in the development of a final master plan for this unique parkland.

William McNeilan Johnson Hills Park is located at 7950 Bridle Road and is currently open to the public.

I encourage you to find some time this fall to enjoy the changing leaves in this beautiful part of

Anderson Township.

I hope you will come see what your newest Anderson Township park might have in store for you!

Ken Kushner is executive director of the Anderson Township Park District.
