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## Park, sewer district debate easement

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The Metropolitan Sewer district could soon own part of Riverside Park.

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Tony Dick, project engineer for the sewer district, said it needs a 20-foot permanent easement for a new line that would bring a sanitary sewer to residences and businesses in the northern part of Anderson Township.

Part of the project would run along Riverside Park on Round Bottom Road and Anderson Township Park District officials aren't sure they want to give up the land.

Ken Kushner, executive director for the park district, said installing the sewer line could temporarily disrupt the park and would restrict use on the property.

An additional 20-foot temporary easement would be needed during construction, for a total of 40 feet, about the size of the area between the road and the baseball field fences.

Trees around the baseball fields would be removed and the park district could not put any permanent structures, including lights or additional trees, on part of the easement.

"We're basically saying that by letting the sewer come through this area, nobody can build anything permanent on it for the rest of time," Kushner said.

"It's not a good decision at this point, but we're still working through the numbers."

The sewer district offered more than \$58,000 to the park district for the easement, which is close to the property's appraised value.

Dick said the sewer district has investigating running the new line through various locations on Round Bottom Road to avoid the park and most alternatives were too expensive.

The park district has asked for detailed costs on alternative locations for the line, and Dick said the numbers would be presented at the September park commissioners meeting.

"If everything worked out perfectly, we would lose minimal use (of the park)," Kushner said.

"If it has to get bigger than that, we would have to reduce the number of fields (we're) able to use."

Dick said the Riverside Park easement is the only one left to acquire for the project, which will cost more than \$6 million.

Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2010.

## Additional Facts

### Next meeting

\* The Anderson Township Board of Park Commissioners will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at the park district headquarters at Juilfs Park, 8249 Clough Pike.

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