



## Park district concerned about flooding

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Anderson Township Park District officials are concerned with a neighboring land use that could increase flooding at Clear Creek Park.

A hard fill area at the Anderson Township Driving Range, off Ohio 32, has created flooding issues at the park, Executive Director Ken Kushner said at a recent board of park commissioners meeting.

"The Anderson Township Park District is seriously concerned the recent floodway alterations will continue to impose significant, negative impacts to our adjacent property," he wrote in a letter to Hamilton County, dated Feb. 23.

"The effects of the landfill project have resulted, and will result again, in the prolonged flooding of several public athletic fields, causing significant damage and loss of use."

Kushner reported he heard back from the project engineering manager who said the county officials would investigate the issue.

Scott Menke, who owned the Anderson Township Driving Range, received a permit for a clean, hard fill area in 2003, said Dan Taphorn, an urban conservationist with the [Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District](#).

"At that point, it was exempt from our regulations, giving the footprint of the fill area itself," he said. "Back then, we had jurisdiction over sites five acres or larger."



Clear Creek Park was flooded by March 10 as water was just a few feet away from Ohio 32. (Lisa Wakeland/staff)

The first permit also was approved under the Federal Emergency Management Agency floodplain regulations, Taphorn said. Culvert plans also were approved.

Changes to the law gave the conservation district jurisdiction for sites around one acre and contractor Ford Development was allowed to continue using the site for clean, hard fill in 2008, Taphorn said.

He added that Ford Development has been ordered to stop accepting fill until the storm water drainage issues are fixed. Both the county Soil and Water Conservation District and the Planning and Development Storm Water and Infrastructure division will issue notices of violation to the fill area owners.

"We will be inspecting the site and will coordinate anything from an enforcement aspect," Taphorn said, adding the approved culvert was either not installed or currently obstructed.

Park Commissioner Duffy Beischel said Clear Creek Park usually floods in the spring, but

the park was designed to handle some flooding.

Menke died in January and Taphorn said they will have to work through his estate to solve the issue.

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**What is clean, hard fill?**

*A company that operates a clean, hard fill area can accept concrete, asphalt, brick, soil and similar materials, said Dan Taphorn, an urban conservationist for Hamilton County.*

*Those sites can't accept construction debris such as drywall, shingles or metal pipes. Trash, yard waste and woody debris also are not permitted, Taphorn said.*

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