



Anderson Park District

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October 19, 2017

Dear Anderson Township Resident:

It has come to the attention of the Anderson Park District Board of Park Commissioners that there is confusion regarding two matters:

- the cost of the new entrance driveway and parking lot improvements at W. M. Johnson Hills Park;
- funds for the W. M. Johnson Hills Park improvements should instead be used to fund the proposed Ohio River Bike Trail project in the City of Cincinnati.

First of all, the Park Board believes a safe access driveway and parking lot is a basic standard for a public park. The total cost estimate for the new entrance driveway and parking lot improvements at W. M. Johnson Hills Park is \$450,000, not \$1,000,000 as is being stated by some community members. Once the capital improvement project is complete, a project summary will be made available to the community on AndersonParks.com. To view the plans for W. M. Johnson Hills Park, visit AndersonParks.com or check out the bulletin board in the park.

Second, we were disheartened, like many of you, when funding for the Ohio River Bike Trail recently fell through. While the proposed bike trail would have benefited our community, this project was a partnership between the City of Cincinnati and a grant from the federal government. It was suggested by community members that funds from the W. M. Johnson Hills Park driveway and parking lot improvements be used to pay for this portion of the bike trail. However, we cannot use tax dollars collected from Anderson Township residents to fund the City of Cincinnati's projects.

As stewards of the taxpayer's money we believe in full transparency. In 2015, we were the first Ohio park district to partner with Ohiocheckbook.com. This partnership with the Treasurer of Ohio enables all expenditures made by the Anderson Parks to be available online for public review. Board meeting schedules, meeting agendas, the approved budget, and minutes of the Park Board's meeting are also on our website at AndersonParks.com.

We hope this statement provides clarification for our residents! If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Ken Kushner, Executive Director of the Anderson Parks at 513.388.2492 or kkushner@AndersonParks.com.

Sincerely,

Anderson Park District Board of Park Commissioners