



To: Lebanon City Council
From: Lebanon Parks and Recreation Board
Re: Resolution recommending to revise the 2008 Parks Master Plan development plan for Turtlecreek – Union Road Park to a community bike park.

At the April 1st, 2015 Parks and Recreation Board meeting, the Board discussed the existing development plan for the undeveloped Turtlecreek – Union Road Park. This property is the site of the old City-owned landfill, which has been closed for many years. Due to its former use as a landfill, any development on the property will need to be reviewed and approved by the OEPA. Generally speaking, placing fill material on the site would have little impact to the clay cap of the landfill and should be acceptable, but excavating areas could be problematic. The property is currently an open field that is periodically mowed by City crews.

The current plan outlined in the City Council adopted 2008 Parks Master Plan shows this 45 acre property being developed with multi-use fields, restrooms, a walking path, and a concession stand. A proposal was made to the Board to change this development plan to a bicycle park that would include a general use path, cyclocross course, mountain biking trail, and a skills track (see attached concept plan). These bike amenities could be utilized by both children and adults. The Board discussed several considerations prior to making their recommendation:

1. The Board felt that Lebanon already provided enough soccer fields to meet the community demand, and the new Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau sports complex that will be constructed at Otterbein will meet the regional tournament demand.
2. Concern was expressed about the initial construction costs, and maintenance costs, associated with athletic fields, public restrooms, and a concession building.
3. Constructing buildings on the property will necessitate excavating, which could be problematic on the old landfill site.
4. A bike themed park currently does not exist in Warren County, and this type of facility has the potential to draw visitors into Lebanon in addition to serving the need of a growing number of local residents.
5. The construction and maintenance costs associated with this park concept would be significantly less than the athletic field concept currently outlined in the plan.

Based on the discussion of this proposal, the following recommendations via a unanimous resolution were made by the Board:

1. The City should revise the 2008 Parks Master Plan development plan for Turtlecreek – Union Road Park to reflect a bike – themed park as shown at the concept level in the attached plan.
2. The City should work with the Cincinnati Off Road Alliance (CORA) to continue to evaluate this proposed park facility.

Jeff Napier – President Lebanon Parks
And Recreation Board