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For immediate release:

Partners come together to make new 23-acre park a reality

Open space preserved by the Centerville-Washington Park District has increased once again with the addition of a new community park in the southwest area of the district. “The Park District master plan called for community parks to be spread throughout the district to be convenient for the residents,” said Park District Director, Carol Kennard. “Yankee Trace Golf Course was developed over the targeted area in the southwest region and preserves a large expanse of green space, but until recently, adequate land for a community park was not available.” When the Park District became aware of Divided Ridge, Ltd.’s interest in selling property along Social Row Road a plan came together. In January the Park District purchased 23 acres, using funds obligated for park land acquisition.

Around the same time, the Park District was contacted by a local family who was interested in making a donation to provide a significant contribution to the Park District for the benefit of the community. Robert Mays raised his family in Washington Township, and the parks were a big part of their everyday lives. In his early years, Bob and his friends helped develop a new park in Sidney and now he was interested in helping create a “jewel in the crown of the parks” for the Centerville/Washington Township community. “My family spent many enjoyable hours in our local parks as the kids were growing up,” said Bob Mays. “We have always felt proud of the value our parks bring to the community, and I feel fortunate to be able to support park growth.”

When the idea came up to develop a new park, Bob Mays was dedicated to helping make a difference. He made a substantial commitment to the Park District for the initial development of this new park. “This is the largest private donation ever received by the district,” said Bill Williams, Park Board President. In recognition of Bob’s generosity, the Park Board officially named the new park, Robert F. Mays Park at their January meeting.

The Park District also became aware of a new non-profit group, Washington Township Trails, Inc., dedicated to providing multi-use trails in the community. The approved multi-use trail master plan for providing community connections includes a trail along Social Row Road, with connections to neighborhoods and activity centers. Divided Ridge, Ltd. donated land along the perimeter of the new park area to the trails group, establishing another partner in the development of this new park. By purchasing the new park land and partnering with the trails group, another section of multi-use trail will be developed for the community’s use.

Next is the exciting process of developing a master plan for the park. As with other community parks in the district, basic plans will include athletic fields (identified need is for lacrosse/soccer), adequate parking, picnic shelter with restrooms and storage, all-access playground for year-round use, multi-use trail, and trees/plantings to provide shade, natural beauty and an attractive buffer for the adjacent neighbors. The Park District is interested in the community's involvement in planning the park and identifying other potential amenities to include in the master plan. Watch for an announcement of an Open House where residents can view the preliminary plan and provide input and suggestions.

"The new Robert F. Mays Park is the district's 49th park," said Kennard, "and brings the total preserved open space in the Park District to 996 acres. It is wonderful to have 23 acres of preserved green space along the busy Social Row Road corridor that will only get busier as development increases." The generosity of Bob Mays and the partnership with Washington Township Trails is the perfect combination for furthering the mission of the Park District to provide quality parks, outdoor education, and recreation, while preserving open space.

For additional information on the Centerville-Washington Park District, please call (937) 433-5155, visit www.cwpc.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



Artline: Robert F. Mays (4th from right) and his son, Doug (far right) recently attended a Park Board meeting to share their donation commitment to the Centerville-Washington Park District to develop a new park.