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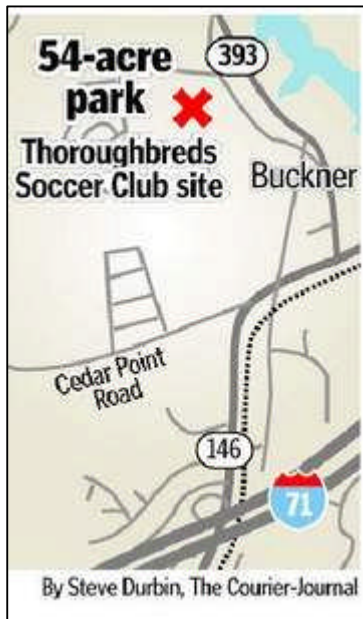
County, soccer club agree on new playing fields

By Derek Poore

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A year from now, players in the Thoroughbreds Soccer Club will be firing kicks on brand new fields in Buckner. That's the goal, at least, and a recent partnership announced by Oldham County officials should help.

About 54 acres of land, currently controlled by Oldham County Parks and Recreation, will be transformed into a sports park facility that will include space for the Thoroughbreds -- the competitive arm of the Oldham County Youth Soccer Association.



The youth soccer organization will lease space on the site with the provision that it construct and maintain a new soccer complex there, Thoroughbreds President Rock Thompson said.

Oldham Judge-Executive Duane Murner announced the partnership in a letter to Oldham County residents last month.

"This partnership will address a critical need for soccer facilities in our community," Murner wrote.

The youth soccer organization has maxed out its fields.

Tournaments it holds, like the Derby Cup each spring, have drawn so many teams in recent years that alternate sites, like the Oldham County Youth Football League, have been used for games.

The soccer organization operates a complex of five full-sized fields and about a dozen smaller ones off Ky. 146 next to Oldham County Middle School.

A club expansion to the nearby 54-acre site would add at least six more full-sized fields and several smaller ones, Thompson said. Plans are still tentative, but he said this official partnership allows the club's master plan -- which calls for 11 full-size fields to keep up with its growth -- to go forward.

The county will be responsible for access roads to the site, said Tim Curtis, director of Oldham County Parks and Recreation.

Thompson said the county's site also would leave space for the Thoroughbreds to construct an indoor practice facility in the future.

"There are a whole of details that need to be laid in place," he said.

Surveyors are expected to lay out two fields within the next few weeks and workers will seed them this winter, Thompson said.

Thompson said the club hopes to hold an official groundbreaking sometime in the spring.

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