

## Soccer, wellness center faces opposition

Residents say indoor facility would add significant traffic, isn't appropriate in the setting south of Eagle Creek Park

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It doesn't look as though Indianapolis residents will be able to kick their way to fitness at a new \$2 million indoor soccer and wellness center across the street from Eagle Creek Park. Indy Parks Resource Development Administrator Don Colvin said Indy Parks officials are expected to announce a decision on the proposed project this week. The Pike Youth Soccer Club would raise funds to pay for the building at the existing Mary and John Geisse Soccer Complex, southwest of 56th Street and Reed Road. Opposition to the proposal came from nearby residents who argued that the building wouldn't fit into the landscape. They were also concerned about a significant increase in traffic.

Pike Youth Soccer Club Executive Director Thomas Geisse, of the John F. and Mary A. Geisse Foundation, said the wellness center, which could include a turf practice area, exercise equipment and fitness classes, was proposed as a way to help fight the state's growing obesity epidemic. The club has 10,000 members. However, neighbors in the surrounding subdivisions fear the facility would detract from the surroundings and further burden traffic issues along Reed Road and 56th Street.

Neighbor Ray Rice said the work done by the soccer club was admirable, but he added, "While it looks like a wonderful facility, I feel the building isn't appropriate for the park setting." Todd Leyden, a neighbor and member of the soccer club, said people's fears about increased traffic were unfounded. "You can't have tournaments or competitions at the facility; it's just too small -- 112 feet by 227 feet," he said.

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