

# Murrysville Star

## PV Park issue OK'd for ballot

Tom McGee  
Staff Writer  
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Pleasant Valley Park may have its future decided not by council, but by the voters in next year's election.

After the future of the park was again debated before Murrysville Council at Wednesday's meeting, council voted unanimously to create a referendum for the November 2007 ballot.

Councilman Robert Brooks said putting the issue on the ballot

"The more lopsided the vote, the more sure we'll be," Brooks said.

Larry Nicolette said a final decision on the future of the 284-acre park needed to be made. He said it was hard to vote based on what would be best financially.

"You can't look at this in terms of dollars and cents because then you wouldn't have developed Murrysville Community Park, it costs money," Nicolette said.

Council said they would need to make sure the public was fully aware of the details behind the sale of the park before voting including whether a tax increase would be needed to develop the park. The money from the sale of the park would be used to help fund Murrysville Community Park.

Residents who attended the meeting said the park needed to be saved to preserve the land for the municipality much like the land the municipal building sits on was when it was first purchased.

"Think about the long term consequences of the decision," Bonnie Belak said. "Will developers keep the park? Probably not."

Joan Kerns, who was a Murrysville councilmember when the park was bought, said the current council needed to keep the land for the next generation of Murrysville residents.

"As elected officials, you're charged with being visionaries. You'll be depriving future generations of the land," Kerns said.

Other said it included elements that won't be found in Murrysville Community Park.

Joe Gallivan said the new park wouldn't have enough trail space to accommodate walkers, horseback riders and bike riders.

Solicitor George Kotjarapoglus said that even if the issue were on the ballot, it could still be brought up again every time there is a new council, regardless of how the public votes.

A motion to create a referendum for the ballot was passed unanimously by council.

### Photography

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Jan Fitzpatrick and Shelly Tichy are members of the Pleasant Valley Park Volunteers, an informal group that works to keep the park and its trails clean. Its members spoke out last week against selling the park.