

Safety measures planned for park

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The Amity Township supervisors wanted to clear up rumors Wednesday night about their intentions for safety measures at the Monocacy Hill Recreation Area.

The supervisors are not going to have heavy equipment bulldoze paths through the 428-acre forest, but do want to look into ways to increase accessibility for emergency crews, they said.

<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=383859>

Recently, firefighters from the Monarch Fire Company had difficulty reaching a burning tree in the recreation area and officials are concerned about what could happen if there were an emergency in an even less accessible section.

Several members of the Monocacy Hill Conservation Association spoke out against the changes, concerned about disrupting the natural habitat.

"Anything going through will damage the hill and we've done so much work on it," Helen Brower said.

Supervisors Chairman Robert R. Yanos said the township appreciates the work done by the volunteer association and wouldn't want to use taxpayer money for it.

"But you're fighting a losing battle," Yanos said. "We're going to make some changes to improve safety and accessibility."

No plans have been developed but public works foreman Ali Howell-Clarke is studying the property to see what can be done.

The township is working with the fire company and Yanos asked Brower and MHCA to help make sure the changes are as unobtrusive as possible.

- By Stephanie Weaver