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## Motocross Plans Causing Stir in Augusta

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A group of Fishersville residents are calling on Augusta County to reject on a plan for an extreme sports park at Expoland. The three-phase \$500,000 plan calls for a 17-acre competitive motocross track to start.

A skate park and picnic areas would follow. Developers say the extreme sports park has the potential to become a regional attraction for recreational sports.

"There's a lot of land here and a lot of community need. We're going to supply everything that we can possibly supply," said Terry Argenbright, the park's developer.

But many Fishersville neighbors say they aren't happy about the plans.

"This is not what we want for Fishersville," said Buddy Rittenhouse, who lives nearby.

Neighbors like Rittenhouse are making noise to send a message to the county's zoning board. The board's waiting on a sound study scheduled for Saturday that will test the track's decibel disturbance for Expo's neighbors.

"We don't want to hear this noise. We don't want the dust coming over. We do not want this in our neighborhood," said Jeanie Jones.

The track's developers say their previous tests show the sound impact is as loud as a speaking voice at the nearest home.

They're offering a concession to the community with a 14-acre walking and biking trail. But the neighbors say they don't want to see or hear anything else at Expoland.

"We'd rather have nothing. We'd rather have bare earth than a motocross track. We do not wish to be disturbed," said Jones.

Racers from around the region will put the track to the noise test Saturday morning to meet the zoning board's request.

The board is then expected to vote on the proposal in March. Until then, neighbors say they will launch a writing campaign to board members so they're heard loud and clear.

**Reported by Matt Talhelm**

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