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New stadium to have improved disabled parking

By Jeff Swiatek

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Fans with disabilities should find ample handicapped parking spots near Lucas Oil Stadium when it opens in two weeks.

Parking marked for use by the disabled will be set up close to the stadium's four main gates.

"There is going to be some parking on the south side, on the north side, kind of all around," said Greg Fehribach, a stadium consultant. He is making sure the facility complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act, which sets requirements for handicapped accessibility in buildings used by the public.

Handicapped parking arrangements at Lucas Oil should be more convenient for users than they were at the RCA Dome, where there was only an official lot for the disabled, Fehribach said. That lot was just south of the dome, reachable by a ramp running under elevated railroad tracks.

Lucas Oil is adjacent to a large parking lot with about 1,000 spaces. Plans call for that lot to contain one handicapped spot for every 25 spaces, Fehribach said.

Because parking spots around the stadium aren't yet laid out and marked in paint, Fehribach said he doesn't know the exact number of handicapped parking spaces that will be set aside.

"We're still trying to run the math on that," said Fehribach, who is working with the Indianapolis Colts, the Indianapolis Capital Improvement Board and the Indiana Stadium & Convention Building Authority on issues dealing with handicapped accessibility.

Fehribach said fans with state-issued license plates or hang tags identifying them as disabled will be eligible to park in the special parking spots.

He said the Colts, along with state and city officials who are building and operating the stadium, have been open to dealing with issues involving the disabled.

"I'm thrilled with everybody's participation and continued diligence," he said.
