

Deal paves way for Ackerman expansion

Hafsa Naz Mahmood, Daily Herald Staff Writer

February 8, 2007

Dollars from the Glen Ellyn Park District referendum have been put toward the purchase of property next to Ackerman Park.

Officials used the funds to buy the property at 931 Lenox Road from the landowners, who live there. The roughly three-quarter-acre area consisting of three lots was purchased last week for \$450,000. The lots back up to Ackerman Park and will be combined with the existing 65-acre park.

Residents gave the park district the OK in November to spend \$11.9 million on projects, \$2.5 million of which was designated for land acquisition. Officials plan to purchase more land with the remaining \$2 million.

"Land acquisition is always going to be important because they're not making new land," Executive Director Cory Atwell said. "And with people buying homes and more development going on, we've got to protect open green space."

Atwell said the district is still determining just how it will use the property. Ideas include soccer fields or a Frisbee park.

That will be determined a year from now, the time the owners, Eugene and Mary Rio, have been given to remain in their home.

Mary Rio declined to comment Wednesday except to say: "We thought we got a fair deal."

As for the park system, the deal "really makes a lot of sense for us because it easily becomes accepted as part of the park," Atwell said.