

The Glen Ellyn Sun

District to turn residential sites into parkland

The Glen Ellyn Park District will soon have more green space.

By Ron Pazola
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Within the next few months, the Park District will tear down two of the three houses it acquired on Lenox Road earlier this year. The additional property will add 2 acres to nearby Ackerman Park, which now has 68 acres.

According to Executive Director Cory Atwell, the parcel will be turned into an open area. A garage for off-season equipment storage will also be constructed on the site.

Demolition of the houses should cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000, officials said.

The Park District bought three houses on Lenox Road this year: one at 931 Lenox that cost \$450,000, one at 921 Lenox that carried a price tag of \$390,000 and one at 927 Lenox for \$295,000.

To watch over the properties, a Park District employee lives in the residence at 921 Lenox. That structure won't be immediately torn down.

"We bought the homes to get the land, not the homes themselves," Atwell said.

Neighbors will be notified before any work begins, officials said.

The Park District also wants to buy the other four houses on Lenox Road and continues to seek opportunities that will add to Glen Ellyn parks,

"Green space has always been one of the priorities of the Park District," Atwell said.

Funding for the projects comes from the district's \$11.9 million referendum measure approved last year. In all, \$2.5 million were designated for land acquisition. Park officials plan to buy more land with \$1.7 million approved by voters. Also, the referendum allowed \$7.4 million for the construction of a new 45,000-square-foot recreation facility at Ackerman Park.

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