

The Glen Ellyn Sun

Park District moves ahead with center's renovation

Glen Ellyn Park District projects, given the official go-ahead by residents in the November referendum, are beginning to take shape. Officials have sold about \$5 million worth of bonds and intend to sell another \$6.9 million in January. The total \$11.9 million will be used for the renovation of the Main Street Recreation Center, the construction of a new recreational facility at Ackerman Park and land acquisition.

By Ron Pazola
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"We have no set timeline for acquiring land," Park District Executive Director Cory Atwell said. "The district will purchase property as it becomes available."

Atwell declined to reveal what property the Park District is trying to acquire.

The renovation of Main Street Recreation Center is expected to begin in June 2007 and will be finished by spring 2008.

Many believed that the March referendum failed to pass because local preservationists opposed tearing down the center, an 86-year-old former school they said was historically significant. Park District officials wanted to demolish the center and construct a new building.

Officials hope to finish much of the renovation between June and August.

"In the fall, we'll do painting and carpeting and put in electrical connections," Atwell said. "The building will really look nice when it's finished."

Meredith Zelewsky of the Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation and Glen Ellyn's Historic Preservation Commission thanked park board members for their renovation efforts and asked that her groups be involved in plans for restoring the building's original facade.

Meanwhile, the construction of a new 45,000-square-foot recreation facility at Ackerman Park should begin in fall 2007 and take at least one year to complete. The facility will include three full-sized basketball courts, a three-lane walking track, locker rooms, a small meeting area and a multipurpose athletics area for other sports.

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