

Park district buys more land

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Glen Ellyn Park District officials Wednesday bought another property to add to Ackerman Park.

The district paid \$295,000 for the 7,500-square-foot parcel at 927 Lenox Road. Residents living in a house on the lot are expected to move by October.

All together, referendum-approved dollars have helped increase the size of Ackerman Park by about two acres.

Parks officials had already bought two other properties this year. In March, they purchased a home on two lots at 921 Lenox Road for \$390,000. In February, officials closed on a house at 931 Lenox Road for \$450,000.

The houses on all three properties eventually will be torn down and turned into green space, Executive Director Cory Atwell said.

When most occupants officially move out in the fall, board members may discuss when the structures will be taken down.

Officials don't intend to rent out the houses for an income.

"There are no plans at this time to do anything other than turn it back into open space," Atwell said.

In the long run, the land would be used for recreation, and future boards would determine exactly what could be done in the area, Atwell said.

Residents gave the park district approval in November to borrow \$11.9 million to spend on projects, \$2.5 million of which was designated for land acquisition. Officials plan to buy more land with the remaining \$1.4 million.

Ackerman Park is about 67 acres. The district started to buy land for the park in 1966. By 1973, it had purchased 57 acres. Small parcels have been acquired since.