

# LOCAL

ENTERTAINMENT  
INSIDE

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2000 KENOSHA NEWS **C1**

## Village leaders support new park

**JILL TATGE-ROZELL**  
KENOSHA NEWS

Municipal leaders from Wheatland and Randall have voiced their official support for plans by Kenosha County to purchase and develop a 234-acre youth sports complex on Highway KD in western Kenosha County.

Both municipal boards have made resolutions in favor of the development, which have been forwarded to the office of state Rep. Clloyd Porter, R-Burlington.

"I think it will be a big asset," Wheatland town chairman Don

Smitz said. "There is no doubt it will enhance the area. It will be both functional and convenient."

Randall town chairman Lauren Fox agreed.

"It will be beautiful. If what they are proposing truly comes to be, it will be a showcase for parks," Fox said. "The children and the residents out here need, and deserve, it."

The 234 acres the county plans to acquire borders both the towns of Wheatland and Randall. It is currently owned by Meyer Material Co., which operated a gravel mining operation there.

As a result of its use, a large body of water has formed on the land.

In addition to serving as a new county park, a proposal presented by the Western Kenosha County Youth Sports Committee calls for four full-size baseball diamonds, eight Little League diamonds that can also be used for softball, and four soccer fields.

Fred Patrie, county public works director, said that the county has planned a series of meetings with Meyer officials in May.

Money from the sale of three county parcels in Silver Lake and Salem will be combined with

grant money from the Department of Natural Resources to purchase the land. The county hopes to close on the sale of the last of these three parcels by June 1.

The town of Salem purchased two of the sites at a cost of \$203,500. The third site is located off of Highway B, just north of the Silver Lake Industrial Park. Neither Salem, nor Silver Lake, showed an interest in the final property.

In the meantime, plans are already emerging with regard to how to fund development at the

park.

Last week, the county voted to contract with Waste Management of Wisconsin, which will pay the county a \$780,000 primary charge, plus \$250,000 in "corporate benefactor" funds, for a total of \$7.8 million over the next 10 years.

Mike Serpe, administrative assistant to County Executive Allan Kehl, said that these funds could be used to offset the cost of projects such as the proposed baseball diamonds in western Kenosha County, as well as in the city.



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# Door County bluff tops list for land purchases

## Panel also gives OK for use of Stewardship funds for Waukesha County site

By Richard P. Jones  
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: May 3, 2000

**Madison** - Nearly \$3 million in land deals, including the purchase of 86.2 acres in Door County for \$1.55 million, won the approval Wednesday of the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee.

The Department of Natural Resources sought authority to use the state's Stewardship Fund, and with little opposition the committee approved purchases in Door and three other counties: Brown, Kenosha and Waukesha.

The Door County purchase in the Town of Liberty Grove would add to the Ellison Bluff County Park.

The heavily wooded parcel drops 200 feet in a series of terraces to a cobblestone beach and 1,939 feet of frontage on Green Bay's eastern shore.

The land lies just south of the 88-acre Ellison Bluff park.

Based on three appraisals for the DNR, the value of the property was between \$2.6 million and \$3.2 million.

The panel also approved a \$670,000 Stewardship grant toward Waukesha County's \$1.75 million purchase of 347 acres in the Town of Oconomowoc to expand Ashippun River County Park.

The DNR had proposed that the state share in the county's purchase of the land, which was made last June to preserve the corridor along the river.

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Wisconsin

Milwaukee

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Oz/Wash

Racine

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Columnists

Obituaries

Letter to Editor

Weather

AP The Wire

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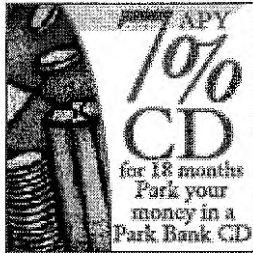
**Opportunities:**

Plans call for using the corridor for hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing, nature study and river access for canoeing.



The committee agreed to use \$435,000 in Stewardship money to buy 144.23 acres in Brown County, primarily consisting of a narrow 13.9-mile former railroad corridor from Green Bay to Greenleaf.

The proposed state trail could be used for hiking, bicycling and cross-country skiing.



The trail would provide access to the Fox River and connect with other area parks and trails, including the Mountain Bay State Trail, Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay and De Pere's Fox Point and Voyageur parks.

Developing the trail, which is to be covered with asphalt in urban sections and crushed limestone in rural parts, would cost \$495,000, according to a Brown County estimate.

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Some property owners along the rail corridor raised concerns about a recreational trail running along their land and the potential for trespassing and vandalism on their property.

However, Sen. Bob Cowles (R-De Pere) said only a minority of landowners opposed the deal.

In the recent spring election, he said, they failed in their attempts to defeat two county supervisors who supported the project.

In Kenosha County, the DNR sought approval to buy 233 acres for \$303,500, the first purchase of a proposed 488-acre Wheatland-Randall-Twin Lakes County Park.

The parcel is an abandoned gravel quarry.

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on May 4, 2000.

[BACK TO TOP](#)






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up track driven by Roger Cerda,  
26, of 5024 17th Ave. in Kenosha.

She was treated and released  
from Kenosha Hospital and  
Medical Center.

K May 15, 2000

## County seeks support for park project

Kenosha County has request-  
ed matching grant assistance  
from the Department of Natural  
Resources for acquisition of the  
233-acre Meyer Materials prop-  
erty near Twin Lakes.

The property would be used  
as a regional county park site in  
the towns of Randall and Wheat-  
land.

The money would come from  
the DNR's Urban Rivers and  
Streambank Protection Grant  
programs.

"This Phase I acquisition is  
proposed as part of a needed  
large, regional county park in  
western Kenosha County," said  
Gene Park, DNR community  
services specialist.

The site includes a 40-acre  
lake for swimming, fishing and  
non-motorized boating; wetland  
and critical habitat areas associ-  
ated with Palmer Creek envi-  
ronmental corridor; and a tribu-  
tary to the Fox River. The site is  
adjacent to the New Munster  
wildlife area.

For additional information  
about the proposed project  
grant, call Tom Blotz at (414) 263-  
8610 or Gene Park at (414) 263-  
8676. Comments on the project  
grant will be accepted through  
Thursday.

*★ May 4, 1998*

**Local**

# Tech school tuition break extended to Illinois sites

**BY KEVIN MURPHY**  
KENOSHA NEWS CORRESPONDENT

MADISON — Wisconsin residents attending nearby Illinois community colleges will soon receive a price break on tuition.

The state legislature's Joint Finance Committee Wednesday approved the change, which also affects Illinois residents attending Gateway Technical College.

Employers at Westpark business center wanting more technical training for their employees sought the expansion of Gateway's reciprocity agreement with community colleges in Lake and McHenry counties, said Gateway's president Sam Borden.

Gateway responded to the demands for more engineering and computer networking courses and other programs for firms involved with just-in-time manufacturing, Borden said.

"Employers based in Wisconsin and paying taxes here had a concern about paying out-of-state fees for their employees who live in Illinois. This agreement simplifies billing and fees for all employees regardless of where they live," Borden said.

Gateway charges Wisconsin residents \$61 per credit and non-residents \$419 per credit. The resident fee would apply to Illinois residents working in the Badger State.

The agreement also allows Wisconsin residents working in Illinois to pay \$54 per credit to at-

tend College of Lake County and \$44 to attend McHenry County College. Otherwise, the schools charge non-residents \$329 and \$269 per credit respectively.

Borden said the tax impact to the technical college district will not be significant because he expects only 100 to 150 Illinois residents to annually attend Gateway classes.

In other business, the Joint Finance Committee approved a \$303,500 grant to Kenosha County for purchase of a 233-acre abandoned gravel quarry and buildings located near the Randall Park on the county's far west end.

Different appraisers set the value of the Meyer Material Co. property at \$1 million in 1998 and \$807,000 last year. Kenosha County, which is still negotiating a final purchase price, would have to provide the difference, said George E. Melcher, director of planning for the county parks system.

The property has a 38-acre quarry lake that could be developed for swimming as well as land suitable for much-needed playing fields.

"This would become a 488-acre park in an area which could benefit from one," Melcher said.

The proposed park has not been named yet but would border the New Munster State Wildlife Area in addition to the Randall Park.

## LOCAL NEWS

## Grant requested for Kenosha County park land acquisition

Kenosha County has requested matching grant assistance from the Department of Natural Resources' Stewardship-Urban Rivers and Streambank Protection Grant Program. If awarded, the county intends to acquire the 233-acre Meyer Materials property near the Village of Twin Lakes for the purpose of establishing a regional county park site in the towns of Randall and Wheatland.

"This phase I acquisition is proposed as part of a needed large, regional Wheatland/Randall/Twin Lakes county park in western Kenosha County," says Gene Park, DNR community services specialist. The site includes a number of landforms and features such as a 40-acre lake for swimming, fishing, and non-motorized boating; wetland and critical habitat area associated with Palmer Creek environmental corridor; a tributary to the Fox River, and is adjacent to the New Munster wildlife area.

Kenosha County intends to preserve, and possibly enhance, the significant and di-

verse natural resources features at this proposed regional park site. Preliminary conceptual plans for future development, as outlined in the County's Park and Open Space Plan, include both active and passive activities such as picnicking, hiking, sports fields and winter sports.

This type of land acquisition project typically does not have the potential to cause significant adverse environmental impacts, according to Park. Therefore, the Department has made a preliminary determination that an environmental analysis will not be required for this potential grant project.

Information regarding the Department's grant determination can be reviewed at the DNR Southeast Region Headquarters, 2300 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, in Milwaukee. For additional information about this proposed project grant, call Tom Blotz at (414) 263-8610 or Gene Park at (414) 263-8676. Comments on the project grant are welcome and should be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 18.

## Park planning

# County requests DNR grant

By Carrie Dampier  
STAFF WRITER

MILWAUKEE – The Southeast Region Headquarters of the Department of Natural Resources has received a matching-grant assistance request from Kenosha County, and has opened the issue up for public input.

The grant, to be awarded by the DNR's Urban Rivers and Streambank Protection Grant Program, is for a proposed 233-acre park the county has been planning.

Located in the town of Randall and the Village of Twin Lakes, the regional county park will be built on what is now known as the Meyer Materials property, or on Highway 50 along Highways KD and F.

"This phase one acquisition is proposed as part of a needed large, regional Wheatland-Randall-Twin Lakes county park in western Kenosha County," said Gene Park, DNR community services specialist.

The site has in its future a number of landforms and other features, such as a 40-acre lake for swimming, fishing and non-motorized boating.

There will also be areas devoted to a wetland and critical habitats.

According to the DNR, "Kenosha County intends to preserve, and possibly enhance, the significant and diverse natural resources featured at this proposed regional park site."

The DNR also says that: "This type of land acquisition project typically does not have the potential to cause significant adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, the department has made a preliminary determination that an environmental analysis will not be required for this potential grant project."

There, is however, environmental analysis being conducted on another piece of county land, and it has a direct tie to this proposed park.

The money that the DNR will match is coming from the sale of three pieces of county-owned land, located in the Town of Salem and the Village of Silver Lake.

While two of those parcels have been sold to Salem for \$203,500, the other, which rests in Silver Lake, has not.

It is that land that is currently under investigation by DNR Waste Management Specialist, Mike Ellenbecker.

The land, which Ellenbecker has said holds "visible and significant indicators of contamination," is known as the old Silver Lake Garage Property.

Located on Highway F, just south of Highway 50, it is the site of the former County Public Works garage.

While it remains unclear what may be on the land, Ellenbecker was originally called out to make an inspection of the land by Village of Silver Lake President Steve Shippee last month after Shippee heard allegations of toxic dumping that occurred there. Materials such as DDT and coal tar.

Ellenbecker said last week that the investigation is still ongoing.

The land is not registered with the DNR's registry of waste disposal sites.

The county has, unsuccessfully, tried to sell the 13.9-acre parcel to both Silver Lake and Salem for \$125,000.

In both attempts to sell, the county had as part of its stipulations, a hold-harmless agreement. This would clear the county of any negligence or clean-up costs, should any toxic wastes be found there.

As it stands, now, the county is again attempting to sell the land, with the same stipulations, in a sealed-bidding process to the highest bidder.

As for the impact the investigation has on the grant request Park feels there might not be one.

"We usually don't pay a lot of attention to where the local match comes from," Park said, but admitted, "It hasn't been very clear on where the local funding was coming from."

When asked about his stewardship's knowledge of the investigation of the Silver Lake property, Park said "I'm not aware of that."

There has been no date set for an award or rejection of the grant request.

Park encouraged anyone with comments, or those who simply want to learn more about the proposed park site, to call him at 414-263-8676.

Comments, he said, are welcome up until May 18 at 4:30 p.m.

# Listening session for KD Park is Monday

The Kenosha County Highway and Parks Committee, along with Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser, will host a public hearing on plans for the KD Park at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4, at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, in Bassett.

The Highway and Parks Committee will hold its regular business meeting immediately following the public hearing. Kenosha County purchased the former gravel pit on County Highway KD between State Highway 50 to the north and County Highway F to the south in the towns of Wheatland and Randall about seven years ago with the idea of transforming it into a public park.

"The KD Park will be a wonderful addition to the quality of life in Kenosha County, particularly for western county residents," Kreuser said. "We want to listen to area residents about their ideas for the park."

County Board Supervisor Dennis Elverman, chairman of the Highway and Parks Committee, said it was important to bring the public hearing to Randall.

"It is important that the park reflect the needs of Kenosha County residents and that's why we want to hear from them," Elverman said.

Both Kreuser and Elverman said it is a goal to start work on the park as soon as is practicable so that it can be open for public use.

For more information about the public hearing, contact the Kenosha County Executive's office at (262) 653-2600.



# Twin Lakes Report

*Proudly serving the Village of Twin Lakes and the Town of Randall*

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SATURDAY, AUG. 9, 2008

No. 1751

## KD Pit could morph into passive-use lake

*Residents, officials, kick around suggestions at first listening session*

By Gail Peckler Dziki

CORRESPONDENT

Dennis Elverman, county board representative and chairman of the county parks and highway committee and Jim Krueser, newly elected county executive, unveiled a concept plan for a county park located at the old county gravel pit on Highway KD at a listening session held at the Randall Town Hall on Aug. 4.

The parcel, located in the towns of Randall and Wheatland and bounded on the west side by Highway KD and the south by Highway F, was purchased six years ago with an eye toward adding more playing fields for baseball, soccer and football, according to Elverman.

"We filled those needs with fields

in other parks," explained Elverman. "The lay of the land at the old KD pit lends itself toward other, more passive uses."

A main feature of the parcel is a 39-acre lake. Right now, the plan is to keep it for non-motorized use. "We do want to give the county board latitude to decide for an occasional use by the Aquanuts," said Kreuser.

Several of the more than 50 members of the public who attended the session said no. Lynn Dohse said that scuba instructors would love to use a virgin lake like this for classes. Others touted the many passive uses of such a lake, including fishing. Charlie Lovely from Twin Lakes said he believed that state law disallowed the use of motor-

boats on lakes smaller than 40 acres.

What fish are already in the lake and possible future stocking of the lake was discussed. It was mentioned that people already fish on the lake, even though it is closed to the public. Wheatland resident Dave Tenhagen suggested that the county put in a gravel parking lot and allow people with state park stickers to fish there. "If the sheriff sees a car without a sticker, ticket that person for \$250 and use part of that money to develop the park."

Other possible uses mentioned were hiking and biking trails, ATV and snowmobiling and a dog park. There are plans to link trails through the KD park to already existing trails like the Ice Age Trail, but no timeline on this

was given.

Kreuser said that he was open to other suggestions and that the county would welcome any private money or other donations of materials and labor to get this park developed.

Kreuser said the county plans to start on parts of the park this fall.

"We would like to get a beach put in and a parking lot and driveway that lead to it, along with a primitive boat launch." Some future plans include walking trails with shelters and benches and pavilions. Those pavilions would be moneymakers for the park.

"We have not set phases for the development of this park but would like to have at least part of it open to the public by next year," Kreuser said.