

# District 99 will seek appraisal for Woodridge property

*Village, park district ready to negotiate for land*

---

**By Kathy Cichon**  
**STAFF WRITER**

After a series of meetings last week to discuss the sale of District 99 property, officials will seek an appraisal of the land for the village of Woodridge and its park district to consider.

Whether the parties will negotiate on the price, though, remains in question.

"The way they left the proposal was we could either take it or leave it," said Keith Frankland, director of parks and recreation for the Woodridge Park District.

On April 11, District 99 agreed to sell the property through a sealed-bid offering, with a deadline of June 3.

Frankland estimated it will take about 30 to 45 days to get an appraisal for the property in Woodridge. After the parties agreed last week to seek the appraisal, Woodridge officials asked the school district to stop the bidding process on the land. It refused, Frankland said.

Community High School District 99 could not be reached for comment at press time.

On April 21, the Woodridge Board of Trustees passed an ordinance authorizing the negotiation for the acquisition of the District 99 parcel for "park and public grounds purposes."

"It's important that they understand that we're willing to negotiate," Frankland said.

Talks last week also included whether the village and park district have the right of first refusal on the 45 acres of Woodridge land, which is at Woodridge and Center drives.

When the school district announced the sale, an accompanying fact sheet indicated District 99 had been advised that Woodridge does not have the right of first refusal.

Village and park district officials in Woodridge say otherwise and cite minutes from a June 1978 District 99 Board of Education meeting in which the site was annexed into the village of Woodridge and zoned R-1 for residential use.

During the meeting, school board members approved an annexation agreement with Woodridge for the site, along with the motion for "an agreement with the village of Woodridge on opportunity of first acceptance or rejection on purchase of site at such time as District 99 would determine to sell it, an authorized independent District 99 appraisal of market value, with the reasonable time request and alternative methods of paying for it to be considered at the time such sale is desired and authorized."

District 99 bought the Woodridge property in 1966 with the intent of building a third high school to serve the district's growing population. In 1973, 1974 and 1997, residents voted against referendums to approve the construction of a third high school.

In a June 2004 community survey, a majority of those responding believed the land should be sold. Funds generated from the sale would be used for capital improvement projects at Downers Grove North and South high schools, school officials have said.

The village and the Woodridge Park District are looking to buy the site as equal partners. Each party would have the ability to designate 50 percent of the land for specific uses, and a portion would be designated for open space.

For information about the sale of District 99's Woodridge property, visit [www.csd99.k12.il.us](http://www.csd99.k12.il.us).