

# Woodridge board secures land to deter use as firing range, lot

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Talk about a possible DuPage County sheriff's outdoor firing range and vehicle impound lot near Woodridge prompted Village Board members this week to annex nearly 28 acres of county land near the Greene Valley Forest Preserve.

Despite assertions from sheriff's officials that the proposal had been dropped, the village on Thursday annexed the land to have more control of the area, according to Mayor William Murphy. The land is west of Illinois Highway 53 and Everglade Avenue and includes a portion of the county wastewater treatment plant, some DuPage County Forest Preserve land and undeveloped county land, according to Woodridge Village Administrator John Perry.

"We had a lot of calls and e-mails and people coming up to me and expressing their concern," said Murphy, adding that residents in the area have dealt with problems from the wastewater facility and the landfill for years. "This would be one more negative thing."

"The sheriff's office does consider it a dead issue," said Carol Roegner, sheriff's spokeswoman. "We got input from citizens and homeowners groups that they did not want it there. If they don't want it there, we don't want it there."

The county offered the sheriff's office an undeveloped site at its wastewater treatment plant west of Illinois 53 and south of 75th Street. Greene Valley Forest Preserve abuts the site on three sides.

For about 17 years, law enforcement has used land owned by the DuPage Airport in West Chicago as a practice firing range, but the developing DuPage Technology Park on the site near Fabyan Parkway has forced officials to look elsewhere. About 30 law-enforcement agencies and police academies use the range, officials said.