

I was surprised to see that the County was thinking about relocating the Sheriff's firing range and 250 car impound lot in Woodridge. That particular area is uncomfortably close to residences. Surely there must be a better choice somewhere else in the county, perhaps by industrial or other less-inhabited areas.

I urge you to consider other areas for the firing range / impound lot.

Thank you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Sheriff likes Woodridge area for new firing range

By H. Gregory Meyer
Tribune staff reporter

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After months of searching, the DuPage County sheriff is pitching a new location near Woodridge for an outdoor firing range.

The county has offered the sheriff's office an undeveloped site at its county waste-water treatment plant west of Illinois Highway 53, south of 75th Street and near the east branch of the DuPage River. Greene Valley Forest Preserve abuts the site on three sides.

For about 17 years, law enforcement has shot pistols and rifles into a dirt mound on land owned by DuPage Airport in West Chicago, but the budding DuPage Technology Park on the site near Fabyan Parkway has forced officials to look for a new outdoor range. About 30 law-enforcement agencies and police academies use the range, officials said.

County officials offered several locations, said Chief Thomas Janaes of the sheriff's office.

"We've picked what was the best," he said.

"It's remote enough," he said, noting the wooded environs and distance from houses.

According to a map unveiled at the committee meeting, a berm would be 25 feet high.

Construction would require the approval of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, which owns the woods, and the DuPage County Board, Janaes said. He said he plans to discuss the proposal with Woodridge's village manager next week.

"His police will be using that range," Janaes said.

How the idea will play among county residents remains to be seen. Some relatively new subdivisions have cropped up around the treatment plant.

Janaes said "the amount of noise on an outdoor range is a lot less than you think."

The proposed site is at the bottom of an incline, which would further dampen the sound of gunfire.

The sheriff's office also introduced a proposal for a 250-space parking lot outside the waste-water treatment plant.