

[Back to regular view](#)   [Print this page](#)

[CourierNewsOnline.com](#) Member of the Sun-Times News Group

[Search »](#)   [Site](#)   [STNG](#)

[Make us your Home Page](#)

[BECOME A  
MEMBER!](#)

[What's this?](#)

Become a member of our community!

[Sign In](#)

[Register](#)

## Elgin council OKs park impact fees change

[Comments](#)

[Recommend](#)

November 20, 2008

By [STEVEN ROSS JOHNSON](#) Staff Writer

ELGIN -- A plan designed to better use land impact fees for the development of new park space received preliminary approval from city leaders Wednesday.

New subdivisions are required to provide 10 acres of park space per 1,000 in population, or pay \$85,111 per acre when space is limited.

Money collected from fees could only be used for park improvements or development within those neighborhoods.

Elgin City Council members voted unanimously Wednesday to amend a city ordinance, to allow the money collected from fees to be used in areas where development is not taking place.

The change will allow the city's parks and recreation department to create neighborhood parks in areas currently scarce of green space.

Councilman John Walters said he approved of the plan but said the receipt of impact fees should not supersede the desire to create a park in an area in need of space, no matter whether it's being built by the city or a private developer.

"I just hope we don't lose sight of the fact that sometimes these parks we're getting are in areas that don't have other park facilities," he said. "I don't want us to be in the position where we go into an area and we already know there is a deficit of parks and decide to take the money instead rather than putting a park in there for people that are in the area."

The move comes as city leaders try to deal with the effects of a struggling economy nationwide.

Last week, it was announced city revenue was projected to decrease in 2009 by 2.5 percent compared to 2008, while expenditures are expected to rise by 9 percent.

One of the larger declines is expected to come from the sales tax generated by the Grand Victoria Casino, which so far this year has seen a 20 percent drop in its revenue.

Money from the riverboat has been used to fund various projects over the years, including development of new parks, which has been cut for 2009.

Final passage of the plan is expected at the next meeting of the city council, scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 3.

**A quick peek at the 40-man roster**

From Red Reporter

**Dos Pitchers, Dos Enigmas (Two Pitchers, Two Enigmas)**

From Seamheads.com

The views expressed in these blog posts are those of the author and not of the Sun-Times

News Group.