

'Mount Ned' falls a little short

It's known as the ski hill, but that 75-foot tall mound of earth in the Ned Brown Forest Preserve, Elk Grove Township, will remain off limits to skiers all winter.

In fact, said Richard Buck of the Cook County Forest Preserve District, it won't be opened to sleds and toboggans until next year. And it'll take at least two more winters before the Ned Brown mound can become a full-fledged ski trail with \$300,000 worth of lifts and snow-making equipment.

Besides needing more money for the ski hill, Buck said the county also needs more hill.

A ski hill in the forest preserve was an afterthought to the recreational area planned around the new 600-acre Busse Woods reservoir near Elk Grove Village, he said.

AS CONSTRUCTION crews dug the reservoir, they piled the dirt atop an old landfill just off Bisner Road in Elk Grove Village. Forest Preserve offi-

cials figured the dirt would pile up 100 feet or more and, if properly landscaped and equipped, would attract skiers from throughout the Northwest suburbs.

But the wet soil from the reservoir settled steadily, and a wet spring last year added to the erosion. Buck says the hill now stands 75 feet high with a slope 400 to 500 feet long.

"Before we put any money into it, I'd like to see it higher," Buck added.

BUT THE RESERVOIR is finished now, so there'll be no more dirt. Buck said he hopes to get some additional material from the Metropolitan Sanitary District or road construction jobs.

The forest preserve district is planning soil tests on the hill next spring to see if it will stand more pressure. Grass will be planted to stop the erosion, Buck said.

Even if the hill grows to 100 feet or



so, it probably will be challenging only to beginners.

Betty Russell of Aspen Ski and

Sport, 14 N. Vail Ave., Arlington Heights, said any slope less than 450 feet "is exceptionally short."



Clipped By:

mhealyski

Wed, Sep 28,

2022