

After six-year effort

Forest preserve plans for ski hill slide away

by PAT DOYLE

After six years of trying, the Cook County Forest Preserve has ended its efforts to build a ski hill over a garbage dump in the Ned Brown Forest Preserve. And area residents couldn't be happier.

The ski hill was to be the pinnacle of Ned Brown Forest Preserve's winter recreation area, complete with \$300,000 worth of lifts and snow-making equipment.

But sinking ground and rising complaints about a parking lot that had been planned near the hill changed all that.

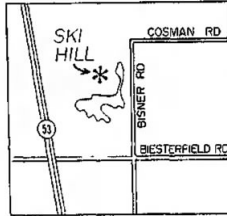
THE DIRT PILED west of Bisner Road most likely will remain a mound of grass and weeds for sledders to slide down in the winter.

"We have no plans at this time to make it a ski hill," Richard Buck, forest preserve district engineer, said Monday.

The forest preserve announced plans for the ski hill in April 1971, and in recent years it became a key feature of recreational facilities planned for the southwest corner of Ned Brown.

The ski hill proposal was used to justify plans for access roads to the southwest side of the preserve.

A **SKI HILL**, residents were told, would help draw another 30,000 persons to Ned Brown, State Sen. David



J. Regner, R-Mount Prospect, said two years ago.

Buck says the hill just isn't large enough to make skiing a worthwhile venture for the forest preserve.

"If it is marginal size, there would be no way to make it commercially feasible," he said.

The hill would have to be more than 100 feet high, Buck said. At one time the hill was about 100 feet, but has since sunk about 25 feet into the garbage dump beneath it.

THAT DOES NOT surprise one neighbor. Keith Beine of 550 W. Biesterfield Rd., who operates an excavating company.

Although it is possible to build a ski hill over a landfill, "you just have to have the right material," Beine said.

And the wet soil dug from a reser-

voir and hauled to the dump was not the right stuff, Beine said. Neither was the dump made to be a foundation, he said.

Tin cans and other debris, "just keeps shifting and settling," Beine said.

RESIDENTS OF Elk Grove Estates, who live on Ruskin Drive, near the hill, were happy to hear the project has been canceled.

"Nobody wants a parking lot in their backyard," said Mrs. Irma Kerstin, 620 Ruskin Dr.

The plans for the ski hill included a parking lot near it to handle the increased numbers of cars forest preserve officials expected.

"I could see masses of people and parking in the streets back here," said Mrs. Ione Anderson, 630 Ruskin Dr.

Proposals for access roads to the southwest side of the preserve already have angered many residents of Elk Grove Estates, and Buck said he did not want to antagonize them further with the ski hill.

John Radzisz, 560 Ruskin Dr., a frequent critic of the forest preserve, sees the decision as a sign the forest preserve officials may be listening to residents' complaints.

"Maybe they realize we do have a case," he said.

But Buck said the forest preserve district still would like an access road of some kind to the southwest side of Ned Brown.

Man breaks leg in cycle accident

An Elk Grove Village man was in fair condition Tuesday night after breaking his leg in a bicycle accident as part of a renovation project. Donko's bike apparently skidded on



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