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Going downhill

Scott Dalzell / The Northwest Herald

Mike Lynch, left, and Keith Duck look over a model of Raging Buffalo Snowboard Park. Lynch and Duck, along with their other partner Bob Cuttle, plan on opening the park Dec. 19.

Snowboarding arrives

By GERARD DZIUBA
The Northwest Herald

ALGONQUIN — A Hanover Park man hopes that a hill and a broken-down shack will make him and his partners money.

The trio — Keith Duck, Mike Lynch and Bob Cuttle — want to lease six acres of Buffalo Park from the Kane County Forest Preserve Commission for a snowboarding complex on Route 31.

They have formed Avalanche Enterprises Inc. and have reached a tentative accord that calls for the county to lease the property to the firm from November through April for the next five years.

The lease could be extended.

In return, Kane County will receive 10 percent of the operation's gross revenue and money collected from board and equipment rentals .

The complex is expected to open Dec. 19. Duck, the firm's chief executive officer, said it will be the only hill, located just south of Buffalo Park, that will be designated solely for snowboarding in northern Illinois.

Memberships will be available for $19 a season or $2 a day, said Duck.

Snowboarding is similar to surfing, in that people stand on one board without poles and slide down hills.

"Interest in snowboarding is constantly growing. It's growing at about 20 percent this year," said Duck.

"The hill is not big enough for skiing and snowboarding — plus, there's too much competition for skiing."

Only ski patrollers will be allowed to have skis.

The company's executives are not worried about enough snow falling to be profitable. They will have snowmaking equipment.

"As long as it's 30 degrees or colder, we can make snow,"

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