

## MIDDLETOWN

## Park to be closed for renovations

*The park will have environmentally friendly features like porous pavement on the basketball courts and walking trails.*

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A Middletown park will likely be closed for most of this year while it undergoes a major facelift, township Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna said.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the township supervisors unanimously authorized the preparation and advertisement of bid specifications for the estimated \$1.1 million project at Lance Cpl. Harry J. Simmons Jr. Memorial Park on Brownsville Road. It was formerly known as Veterans Park before being renamed for a Middletown veteran killed in the Vietnam War.

Lamanna said she hopes bids can be awarded in a few weeks and construction started sometime in March. The project could be finished by the end of the year, she added.

The extensive nature of the work will probably not allow the park to remain open during construction, Lamanna said.

"This is basically remaking the entire park," she said. "The park was built in the 1970s and nothing in the way of renovations or improvements has really been done there, so we feel after this rebuild the park will continue to serve the community well for another 35 years."

The work will include two new full basketball courts, two new tennis courts, a new playground, new parking lot, new paved walking trails and a new storm water management system. The project is being funded from a \$10 million bond issue approved by the supervisors last year.

The basketball courts and walking trails will have porous pavement that water can soak through, and a new restroom that's part of the project will have waterless urinals to conserve on water, said Lamanna.

"In planning this renovation, we wanted to be as efficient and as green as we could," she said.