

MIDDLETOWN

Contract will be given for park work

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Major upgrades at a Middletown park should be coming soon after supervisors unanimously approved a notice of intent to award a contract at Tuesday night's meeting.

Supervisors Robert McMonagle, George Leonhauser, Jasper Caro, Kathy Heuer and Chuck Thompson voted 5-0 to approve the notice of intent to award a \$1.24 million contract to DePaul Construction for work at Lance Corporal Harry J. Simmons Jr. Memorial Park on Brownsville Road.

The work will include the following new features: two full basketball courts, two tennis courts, a parking lot, restroom, paved walking trails, storm water system and other items. Because of the extensive nature of the project, the park will be closed while work is going on, township Parks and Recreation Director Debby Lamanna said.

Township officials must now take 30 days to make sure DePaul meets all the requirements of Middletown's responsible contractor ordinance. Then, the ordinance requires a 14-day public comment period before the contract can actually be awarded.

Officials estimated work would start late next month or in May. Lamanna said she hopes it can be mostly completed by the end of the year.

Money for the Simmons Park work is coming from a \$10 million bond issue passed by the supervisors last year. While the \$1.24 million proposed contract is higher than the \$1.1 million allocated in the township budget, Lamanna said the difference can be made up in other parks projects in this year's budget that will not be completed or will come in under budget.

Simmons Park was known as Veterans Park before being renamed for a Middletown veteran killed in the Vietnam War.