

# City of Aurora closes on \$5.3M sale of Geauga Lake site

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The City of Aurora announced last week its \$5.3 million purchase of 48 acres of lakefront land and the 53-acre spring-fed lake formerly part of Sea World. The city plans to build a public park.

“This is a legacy purchase for the people of Aurora,” Mayor Ann Womer Benjamin said in a press release. “Instead of having commercial and residential development, we are preserving a beautiful and memorable lake and adjacent land for the public’s future enjoyment.”

The city has been working on conceptual designs and engineering assessments, hoping to finish the first phase of the park by 2026.

“We are not only securing lake access for the public, but we are also creating a regional destination that will become a gem of Northeast Ohio,” Mayor Womer Benjamin said.

“We look forward to turning this vision into a reality and enhancing our community’s

quality of life.”

Plans for the park include a swimming pool, non-motorized boating and more.

“This was an extremely complex real estate transaction, involving a 53-acre lake and land in two municipalities and two counties,” Aurora Law Director Dean DePiero said in the release. “This is a project that will benefit the residents of this community and all of Northeast Ohio for generations to come.”

The city bought the land from real estate developer Industrial Commercial Properties, which has been working since 2020 to develop 377 acres that it owns around Geauga Lake.

After overcoming several legal battles, all parties came together to seal the deal, Mr. DePiero said.

The city is funding the acquisition with about \$1.3 million from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Its general fund will cover the balance.



Plans for development in the Geauga Lake District nod to the area’s history.