



Allen council approves wakeboard park



Traditional wakeboarding, as seen in this photo, is performed while being pulled by a motorboat. The park approved at the Tuesday council meeting will pull boarders using a moving wire suspended above a lake connected to several ropes.

The city of Allen is on its way to having a new water entertainment attraction at Allen Station Park

It's called cable-operated wakeboarding, and it's been growing in popularity in recent years as a fun new combination of waterskiing and surfing.

Typically, wakeboarders are pulled across the water by a rope attached to a motorboat. Cable-operated systems, like the one planned for Allen, instead use a series of towers that suspend a motorized cable that moves in a circular motion over a body of water. Guests can waterski and wakeboard by attaching ropes to the cable, which pulls the rope – and the rider – around the lake.

The Allen City Council approved a ground lease agreement with America's Cable Park Group LLC for the facility in the consent agenda of its March 22 meeting. The Dallas-based company will construct the facility, additional parking and an administrative building, featuring a pro shop and restaurant, at its own expense.

The facility will be southeast of Station Park Drive, east of Allen High School. Partial reconstruction of the trail that runs parallel to the site may be required and would be paid for by America's Cable Park Group if necessary as per the agreement.

The 15-year agreement would also require the company to pay a rental fee of \$12,000 per year for the first nine years and \$16,000 a year for the remaining six. For years 3 through 15, the company would pay 1 percent of the facility's gross revenue if it exceeded the agreed-upon lease amount. The contract is renewable for two additional five-year terms.

By Conner Hammett, chammett@acnpapers.com Published: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:07 PM CDT