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## Committee unveils Geneva Civil War park blueprint

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**Star Beacon**

GENEVA — Start the countdown: The city's historic war monument will move to its new home at South Broadway and Park Street, this summer.

The committee to move the city's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Monument released a blueprint of the new Geneva City Civil War Monument Memorial Park, complete with a star-shaped space for flags, an oval-shaped spot for the historic monument and plenty of plants, trees and benches, committee chairman Rodger Fuller said.

"The monument move and park will be completed sometime this summer," Fuller said. "It takes a lot of time to consider all the factors in a move of this magnitude. We aren't just picking up the monument from one place and plopping it down in another. This is park development, a public space."

The park will also have an arched sign on masonry piers, a sloped flower bed, bronze soldiers, and flags honoring all branches of the military.

The monument, dedicated at its original spot in the middle of town on Aug. 4, 1880, later was moved to the corner of South Eagle and Park streets to accommodate automobiles in the downtown square.

U.S. presidents James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley spoke at the dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the website [www.visitgenevaoh.com](http://www.visitgenevaoh.com) reports.

"The monument is certainly important to the city, but it is also a piece of national history," Fuller said. "We are taking the utmost care to ensure its safe and proper relocation."

The monument move is part of a \$1.3 million downtown revitalization project, which includes the nation's shortest covered bridge and other bricks-and-mortar projects. The city accepted a \$394,600 Ohio community development block grant to defray some of the costs. The move required the city to purchase the corner piece of property at South Broadway and Park Street, where Atomic Window Tint and Detail was located. The building was demolished, and the property was used as an ice-skating rink over the winter, and city officials hoped the park could accommodate the rink each year.

"Unfortunately, because of the way the different monuments and memorials will be situated on the land, the city will not be able to put the ice skating rink there," Fuller said. "We just ran out of space."

The property now needs some restoration to make the scene more historically accurate, City

Manager Jim Pearson said.

“We have pictures of the monument before it was moved the first time,” he said, “and there are some things we can do to restore the monument back to its original shape.”

Fuller said while the plans are drawn, ideas are still flowing for the little park.

“We are getting ideas about how we want to ‘green it up,’” he said. “We want to create a barrier at the property lines and really define the space as a park.”

Fuller said the committee is taking the word “memorial” to the extreme.

“Later on, or fairly soon, we could expand the park by installing some memorial slabs, maybe naming people in the area who died in the wars from the Civil War to the war in Iraq,” Fuller said.

Money to move the monument and develop the park came from the Geneva Eagles Aerie and the Geneva Veterans of Foreign Wars, plus some donations from citizens, Fuller said.

Donations toward the historic move can be made by calling Geneva City Hall (466-4675).

“The project has a lot of great community support,” Fuller said. “I think people are excited, and that’s what makes the park so wonderful.”