

those groups. The two organizations will also have to provide their members with adequate insurance.

"We've had a lot of people donate their time and money to help prepare the site, but so much still has to be done," said Leonard D'Orazio, vice president of the Silver Lake Soccer Club, which has 11 teams with players 5 to 30 in age.

"We're still grading the land and we have to put down seed and install a sprinkler system," he said. "We're already looking into running some fund-raisers to help with the cost of these new endeavors."

While there is a lot of work involved, D'Orazio and company are just thrilled to have a place of their own.

"Land is so hard to come by and there is a real need on Staten Island for more soccer fields like

this one," said D'Orazio. "This land will give us the opportunity to have a more extensive training program and practice sessions. It will also solidify a place for home games without the time restraints."

At NSLL, the thought of an extra field was met with just as much enthusiasm.

"Our league enrollment has been steadily increasing year after year and it's showing in that now some of our teams are starting to enjoy success in all-star competition," said Nino Crivello, the NSLL's newly elected president. "This field (it will be NSLL's fifth) will allow us to schedule more games and allow more of our teams to practice here. It appears we'll have room for a small Major field (about 200-foot fences) and we're prepared to enclose the area right upon the field's completion."

Witkowski said the New Springville site was the last parcel of land that his office had that

could be used for extra ballfields. "We really do not have any more sizeable lots that are not covered with trees like this left," said Witkowski. "We've always had a good relationship with the (New Springville) Little League and we feel the Silver Lake Soccer Club will also prove to be a good neighbor."

The SLSC is already trying to make that a reality.

"We'd like to give a little something back to the state and Mr. Witkowski's office in particular," said D'Orazio. "Once we're set up at the new field, we're planning on having some special soccer clinics and programs for the handicapped and disabled. It would be a great experience for all involved."

If anyone would like to make a donation or volunteer their time to help with the construction of the Silver Lake Soccer Club's new field, Leonard D'Orazio can be reached at 494-6029.

Page 2 of 2