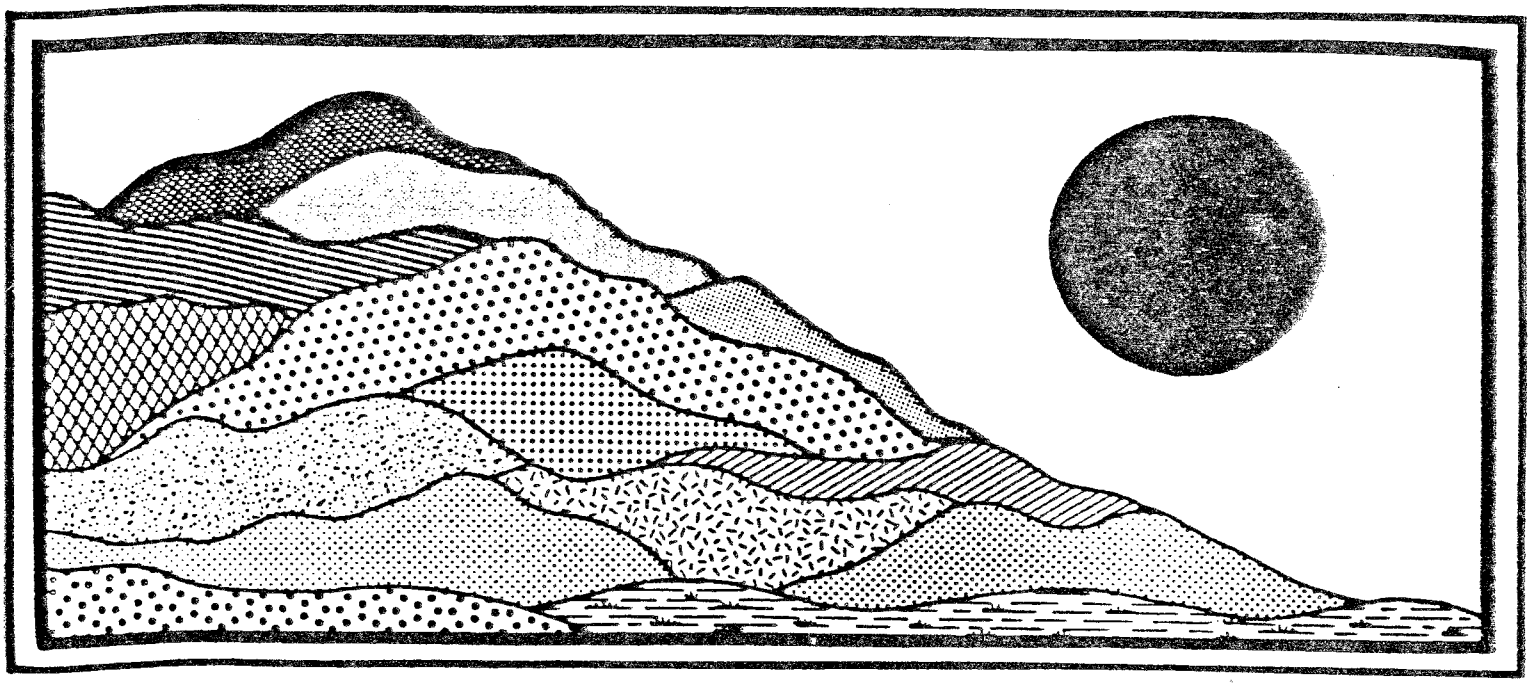
Quinebaug River Recreation Area

Canterbury, Connecticut

May 1986



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

EASTERN CONNECTICUT RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

Quinebaug River Recreation Area

Canterbury, Connecticut

Review Date: APRIL 15, 1986

Report Date: MAY 1986

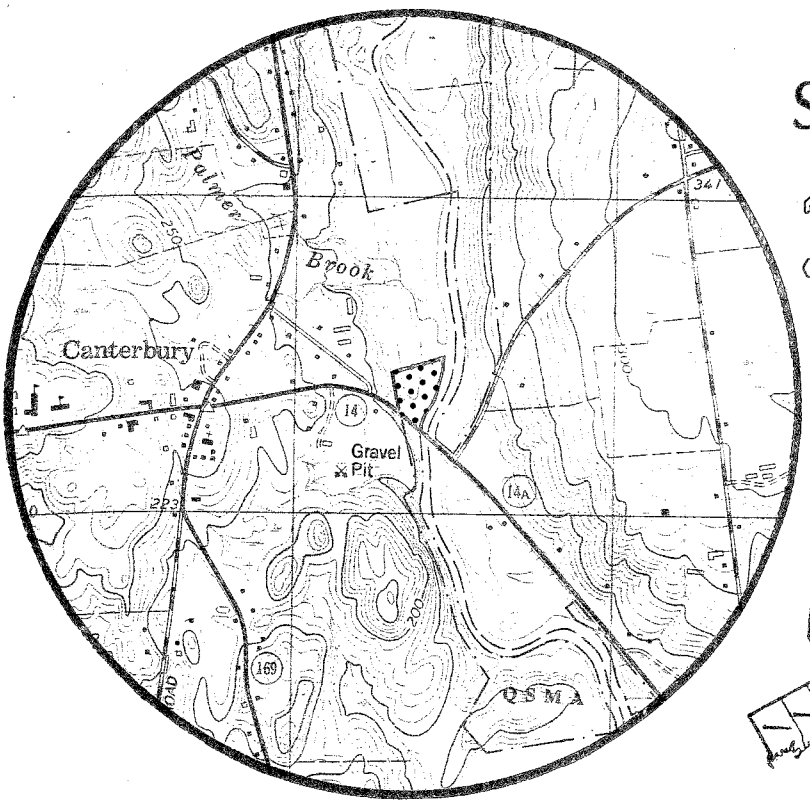
RC&D

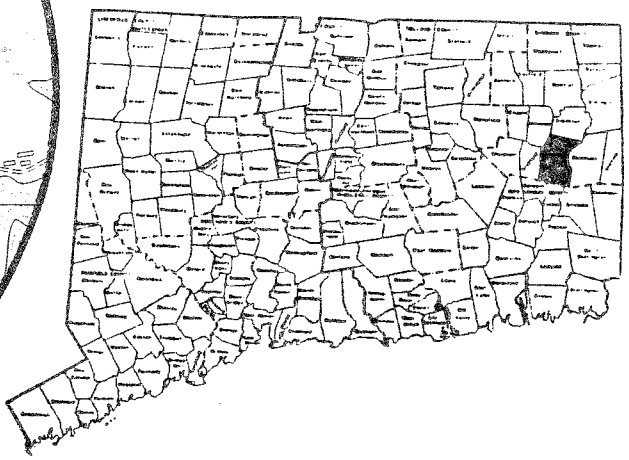
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM
PO BOX 198
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

Site Location

QUINEBAUG RIVER RECREATION AREA

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT





EASTERN CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

& DEVELOPMENT AREA

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT
ON
THE QUINEBAUG RIVER RECREATION AREA
CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the First Selectman of Canterbury to the Windham County Soil and Water Conservation District (S&WCD). The S&WCD referred this request to the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Executive Committee for their consideration and approval. The request was approved and the measure reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The ERT met and field checked the site on April 15, 1986. Team members participating on this review included:

Howard Denslow -	District Conservationist - U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service
Joseph Hickey -	Planner - DEP, Parks and Recreation
Judy Bouse-Pahl -	Regional Planner, - Northeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency
Joseph Polulech -	Design Engineer - U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service
Dick Raymond -	Forester - Department of Environmental Protection
Eric Schluntz -	Fisheries Biologist - Department of Environmental Protection
Elaine Sych -	ERT Coordinator - Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area
Bill Warzecha -	Geologist - DEP, Natural Resources Center
Judy Wilson -	Wildlife Biologist - Department of Environmental Protection

Prior to the review day, each team member received a summary of the proposed project, a list of the Town's concerns, a site location map, a parcel map and a topographic map.

During the field review the team members were given soils information. The Team met with, and were accompanied by the First Selectman and the Chairman of the Recreation Commission. Following the review, reports from each team member were submitted to the ERT Coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report represents the Team's findings. It is not meant to compete with private consultants by providing site designs or detailed solutions to development problems. The Team does not recommend what final action should be taken on a proposed project -- all final decisions and conclusions rest with the Town and landowner. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to the proposed development, and also suggests considerations that should be of concern to the developer and the Town. The results of this Team action are oriented toward the development of better environmental quality and the long-term economics of land use.

The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Executive Committee hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in making your decision on this proposed town recreation area.

If you require any additional information, please contact:

Elaine A. Sych
ERT Coordinator
Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area
P. O. Box 198
Brooklyn, CT 06234
(203) 774-1253

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I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The Town of Canterbury is seeking development funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to develop a site which they have leased from the State of Connecticut.

In recent years, an 8.2 acre parcel of the State property was leased to the town to provide recreation for area residents. The property, Quinebaug Wildlife Management Area (WMA), was purchased by the State Bureau of Fisheries with the intent of protecting the aquatic resources and providing access for fisherman.

The study area consists of an 8.2 acre parcel of land located just east of Canterbury Center. It is bordered on the south by Route 14, on the east by the Quinebaug River and on the north and west by private property.

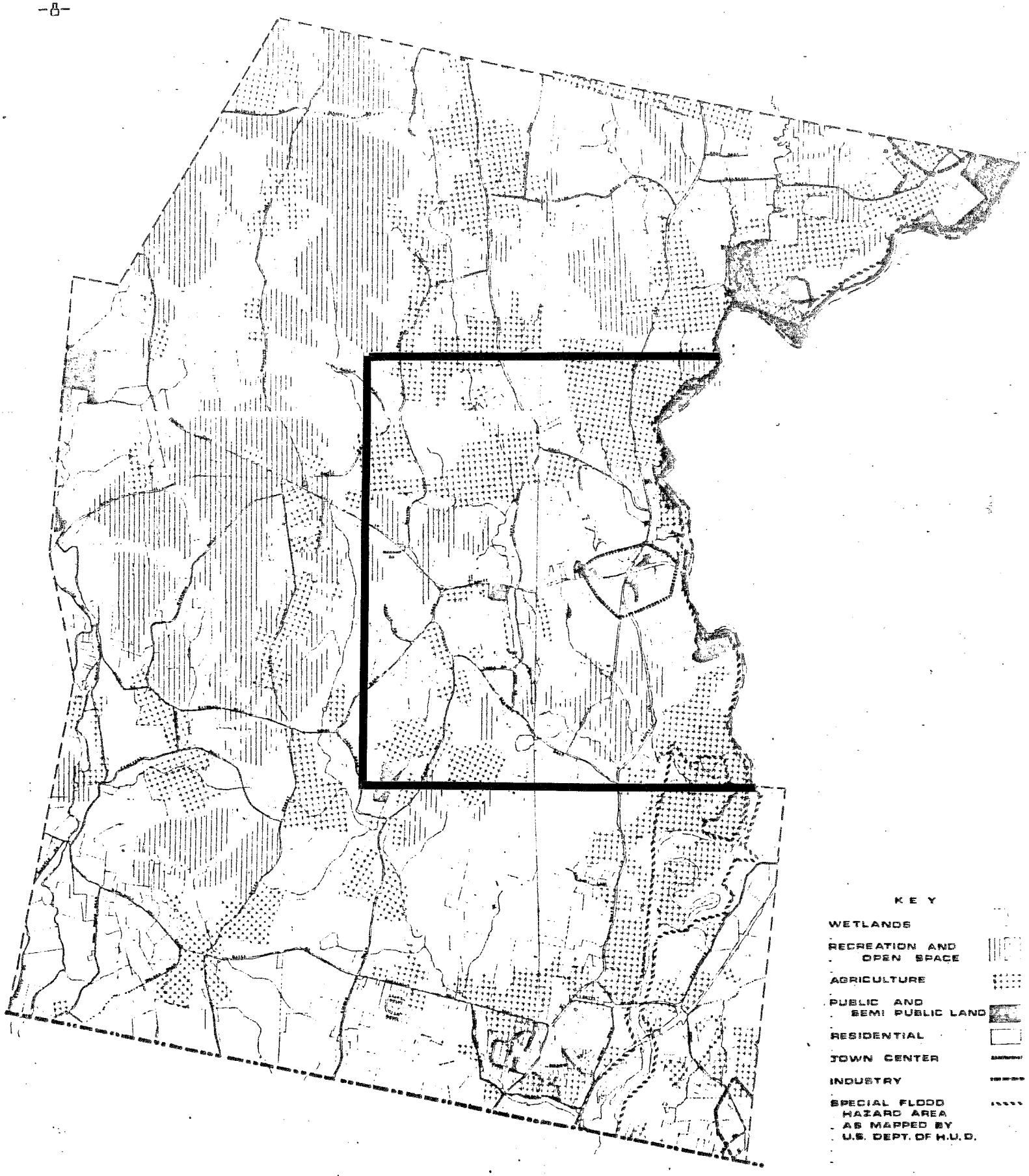
The Town of Canterbury has need for additional recreation facilities. The town is considering the possibility of constructing two (2) baseball fields, a soccer field, a boat launch facility and picnic areas.

The recreational improvements proposed for this 8.2 acre leased site will provide both active and passive recreational land for the 3,832 residents of Canterbury (OPM 1985 population projection). The two (2) baseball fields will be used by the school, by Little League teams and by other groups in the Town. The Town of Canterbury is a young town. The 1980 Census shows the median age to be 29. OPM 1985 population projections show that 2,230 of the 3,872 population are between the ages of 10-49. These 2,230 are the potential users of the active recreational area of the parcel.

The Town of Canterbury does not have enough active public recreational area to satisfy the current needs of the community. The Town has one Little League baseball field (on Route 14 in close proximity of the proposed lease site). Dr. Helen Baldwin School (also located on Route 14 in the village center area) has one ballfield, one basketball court and two (2) tennis courts. The school's ballfield is not in good condition and is in great demand. Furthermore, the need for school expansion (four (4) portable classroom buildings are already on the school site) may cause the loss of this ballfield. The Town is currently looking into the option of building on the school site as well as building on a non-contiguous site. The Canterbury Recreation Commission Chairman explained to the ERT team members that there are many requests to use the Little League field for softball as well as soccer and that these requests cannot be granted due to the heavy demands of the Little League Team games. Therefore, the construction of the proposed fields will meet a recognized need of the community.

The Board of Selectmen, the Recreation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission are in agreement on the need for active recreational facilities in the Town. The Town's Plan of Development identifies the 8.2 acre parcel as public and semi-public land. The Plan of Development also states that:

"A. The banks of the Quinebaug River and the Litter River should be preserved for open space, recreation and agriculture.



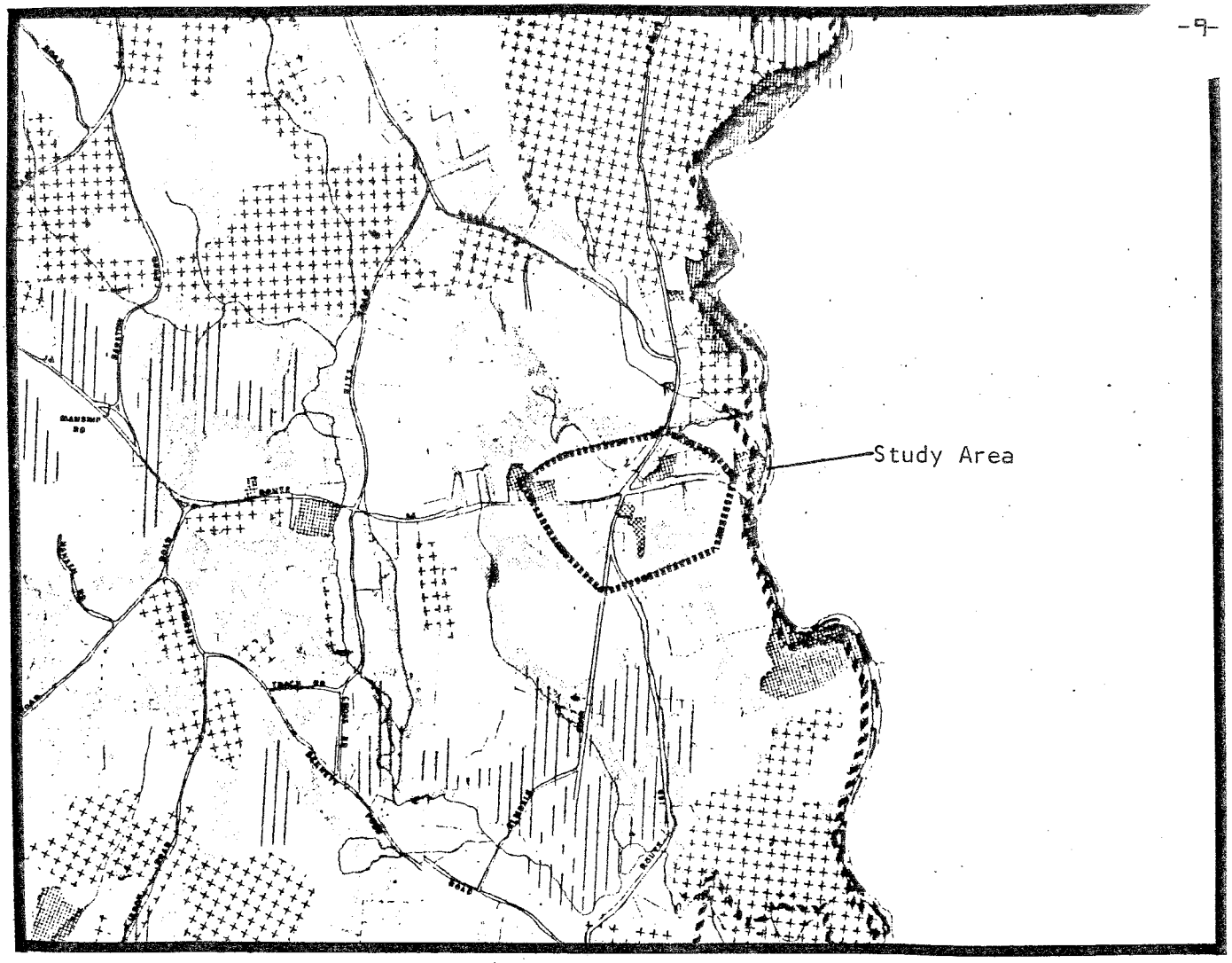
PROPOSED PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
TOWN OF CANTERBURY CONNECTICUT

SCALE 0 1000 2000 3000

NOV 1975

MONTS & LEE
PLANNING CONSULTANTS
DANBURY CONNECTICUT



KEY

WETLANDS

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC AND SEMI PUBLIC LAND

RESIDENTIAL

TOWN CENTER

INDUSTRY

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA AS MAPPED BY U.S. DEPT. OF H.U.D.

B. In providing areas for recreational use, special attention should be given to the need for play areas and ball fields, picnic sites, and tennis courts.

C. Consideration should be given to providing a site for a future community center to serve the Town."

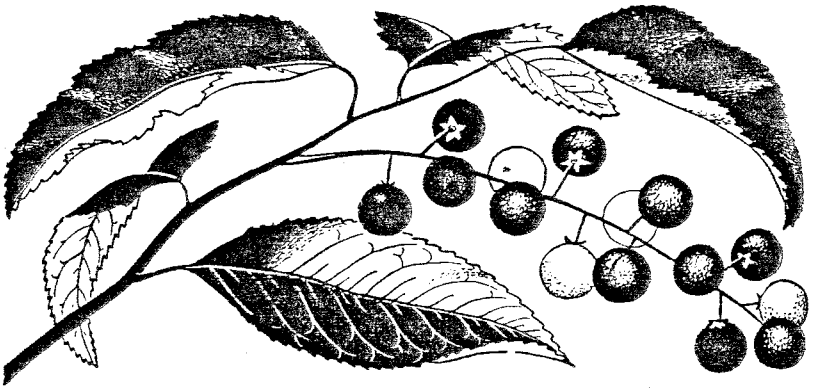
The Plan further states that:

"A Town Center at the intersection of Route 169 and Route 14 to serve as a central location for all commercial, educational and governmental facilities is advocated."

The Plan goes on to say that the Town Center "area is served by State highways and already the focus of community activity, i.e. the market, post office, library, school, churches, and the town office buildings. In line with this recommendation, it is also suggested that this area be used as the site for any improvement or expansion of either educational or governmental facilities."

There are no site plans at the present time.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT



A. PAST AND PRESENT LAND USES

A 1934 air photo of the site indicates that the entire piece of land was used for agricultural purposes.

The land is currently dominated by floodplain tolerant trees. The property is now part of the Quinebaug River Wildlife Management Area which was purchased by the State Bureau of Fisheries.

The two (2) lots abutting the property are privately owned residential properties. The existing Little League field is less than a half mile from the proposed recreational area, but is not contiguous. Present land uses in the immediate area of the site include a mixture of residential, commercial and agriculture uses.

B. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The 1980 Census shows Canterbury's population as 3,426. This was a 28% increase over the 1970 Census figure of 2,673. Office of Policy and Management 1985 population projections show Canterbury having a population of 3,832 and projects the school age population (5-14) in 1985-86 as 617. Current school enrollment for kindergarten through grade 8 is 650. Thus Canterbury's population at this time may be close to 3,900 to 4,000 people. The State Department of Housing's Permit Authorized Construction Reports show 159 housing units authorized by building permits from January 1980 to December 1985. Furthermore the Planning and Zoning Commission has been receiving many subdivision applications over the last five (5) years.

Many of the Town's new residents are families with young children. Thus the need for the proposed facilities will be even greater over the next ten (10) to twenty (20) years.

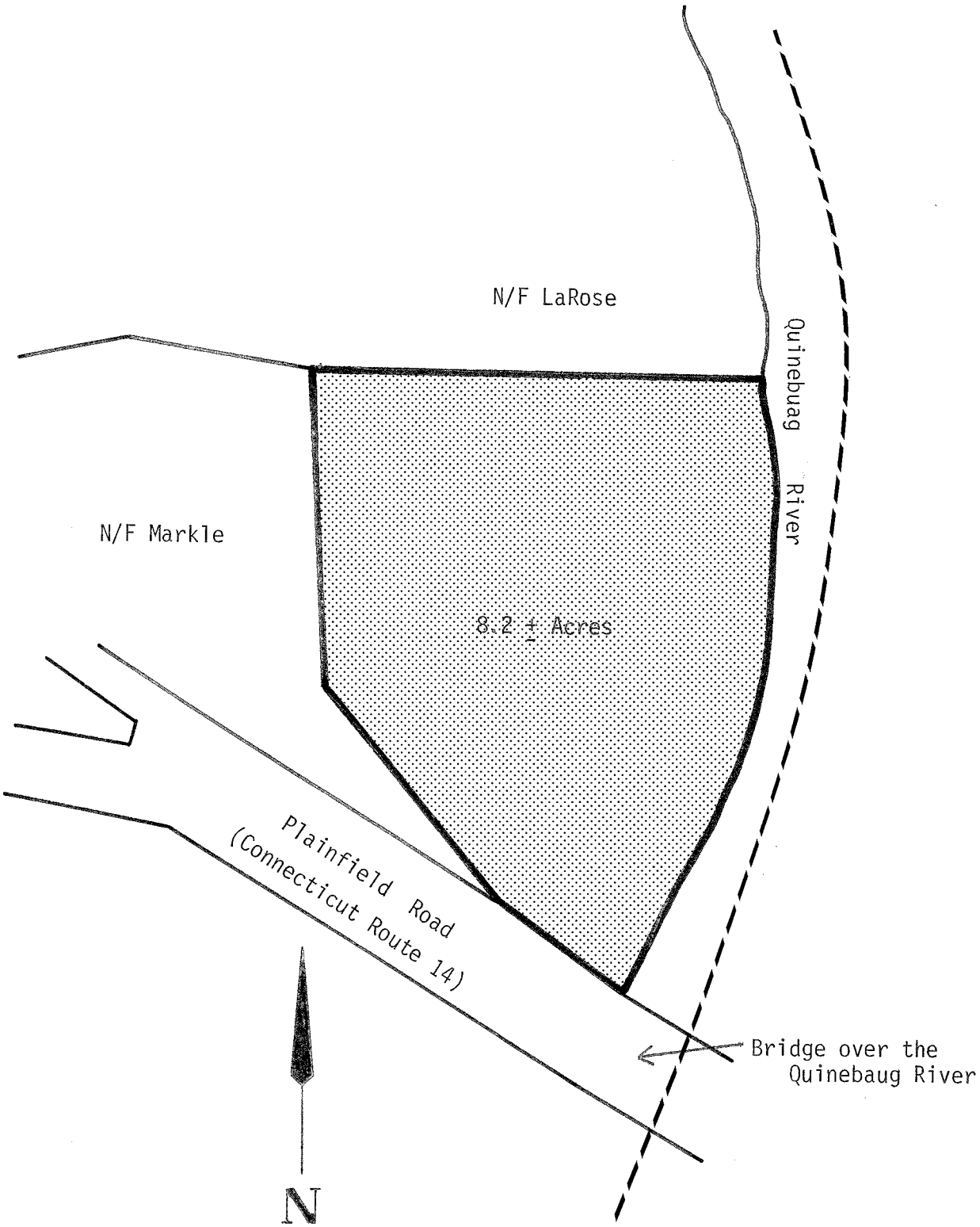
With the centralized location of the proposed activity all of the Town's residents of all age groups will have access to the site and will be served by the proposed recreational area. Children and adults can actively participate in sporting events. The elderly will participate as spectators and use the picnic facilities. In addition, handicapped parking and restrooms will be provided. Canterbury's minority population is less than 1% and will also be served by the facility.

The 1980 Census shows Canterbury's median family income as $19,167 with 3.9% of the community below the poverty level.

Canterbury is a rural residential town with only a few commercial enterprises, thus its budget is funded primarily by residential property taxes. Therefore the success of the Town's Land Conservation Fund application is vitally important so that Town funds will be needed for only 25% of the project costs.

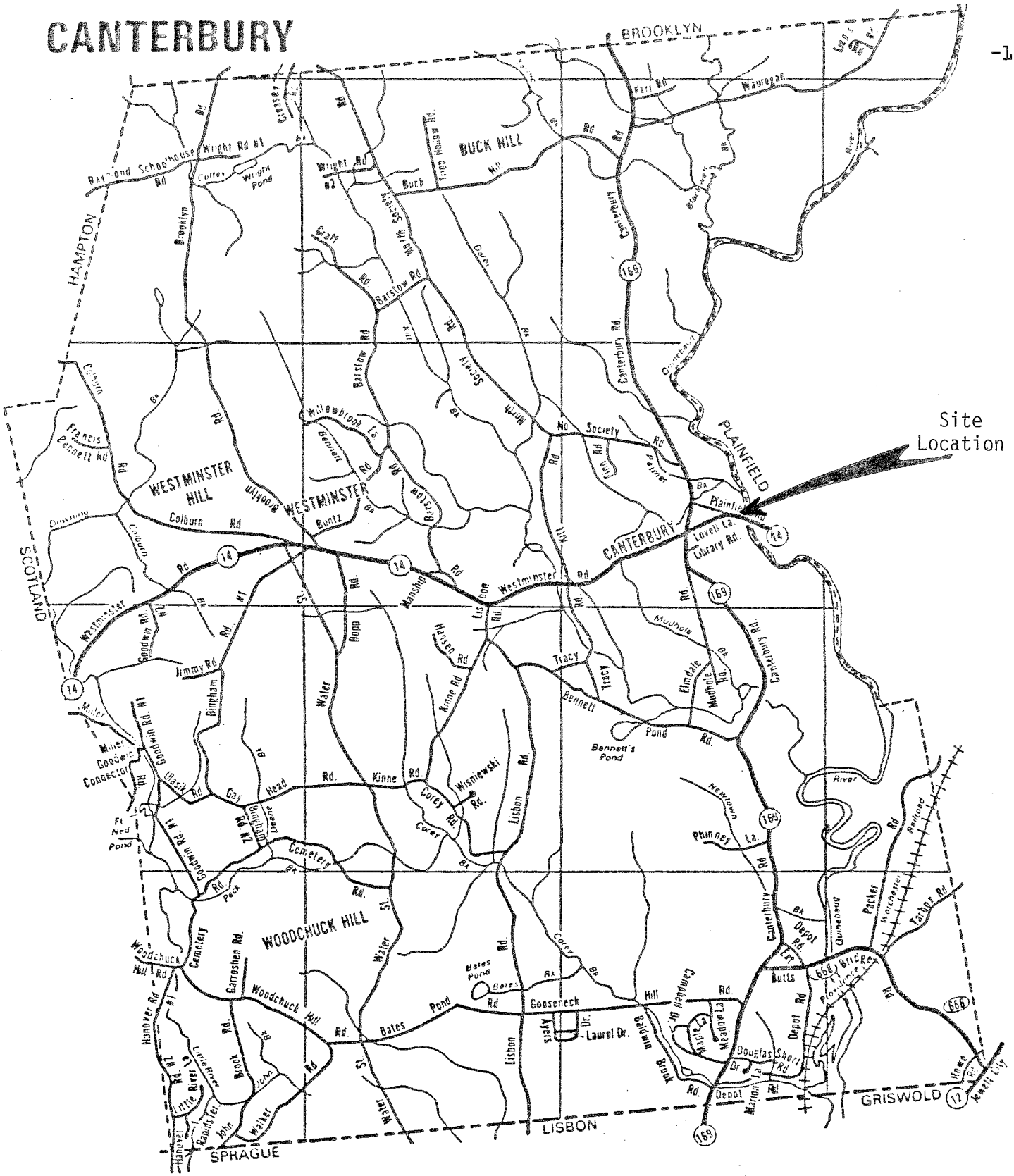
QUINEBAUG RIVER RECREATION AREA

Canterbury, Connecticut



SCALE 1" = 200'

CANTERBURY


Site Location
BROOKLYN
HAMPTON
SCOTLAND
PLAINFIELD
GRISWOLD
LISBON
SPRAGUE
BUCK HILL
WESTMINSTER HILL
WESTMINSTER
CANTERBURY
WOODCHUCK HILL
169
14
668
12
Raymond Schoolhouse Rd
Wright Rd #1
Wright Pond
Cotter
Buck Hill Rd
Tripp Hollow Rd
Kerr Rd
Wauregan
Barstow Rd
North Society Rd
Canterbury Rd.
Quinebaug River
Willowbrook La.
Bennett
Francis Bennett Rd
Colburn Rd
Brooklyn Rd
Buntz
Westminster Rd
Lisbon Rd.
Plainfield Rd
Lovell La.
Library Rd.
No Society Rd
Palmer
Finn Rd
Mill Rd.
Mudhole Rd.
Elmdale
Tracy
Bennett Pond Rd.
Bennett's Pond
Newtown
Phinney La.
Hansen Rd
Kinne Rd
Kinne Rd.
Wisniewski Rd.
Corey Rd.
Water St.
Bingham
Jimmy Rd.
Goodwin Rd #1
Goodwin Rd. #2
Miller Goodwin Connector
Ulasik Rd
Gay Head Rd.
Ft Ned Pond
Cemetery Rd.
Peck Rd
Garroshen Rd.
Woodchuck Hill Rd.
Hanover Rd
Little River
Rapidster
John Walker Rd
Bates Pond
Bates Pond Rd
Gooseneck Hill Rd.
Ayers Dr.
Laurel Dr.
Baldwin Brook Rd.
Campbell Dr.
Maple La.
Meadow La.
Douglas Short Rd
Depot Rd
Marion La.
Butts
Bridge
Providence
Packer Rd
Worcester Railroad
Tarbox Rd
Howe Rd
Jewett City

C. EXISTING TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The site is located on Route 14, a state route which is capable of carrying any increased traffic volume generated at the site. Route 14 is in good condition and the bridge over the Quinebaug River has recently been repaired. The site, being near the junctions of two (2) state route (169 and 14), is centrally located and easily accessible to all town residents. Sight lines near the proposed access road appear to be adequate. However, care should be taken in the placement and construction of the access road into the recreational area. Good sight line distance should be maintained; a stop sign erected; and road construction should be designed so as to minimize erosion and runoff effects on the severe slope of the site which exists along the property's Route 14 boundary line.

D. TOPOGRAPHY AND SETTING

The site is characterized by relatively flat slopes on the Quinebaug River Floodplain. There is slightly elevated area that projects into the central parts of the site from the north.

Elevations on the site range from about 110 feet above mean sea level along the Quinebaug River to about 120 feet above mean sea level in the western parts.

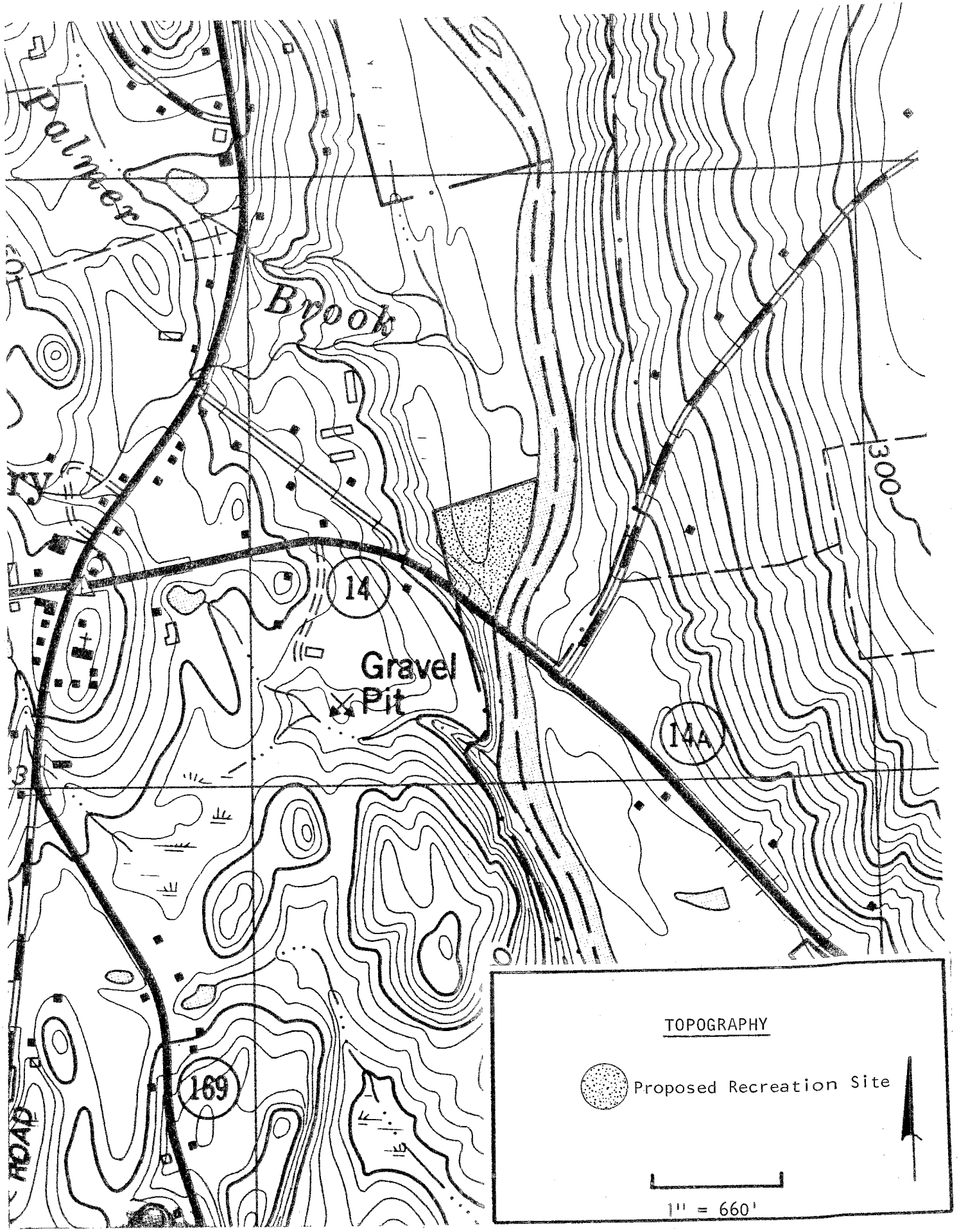
E. CLIMATE

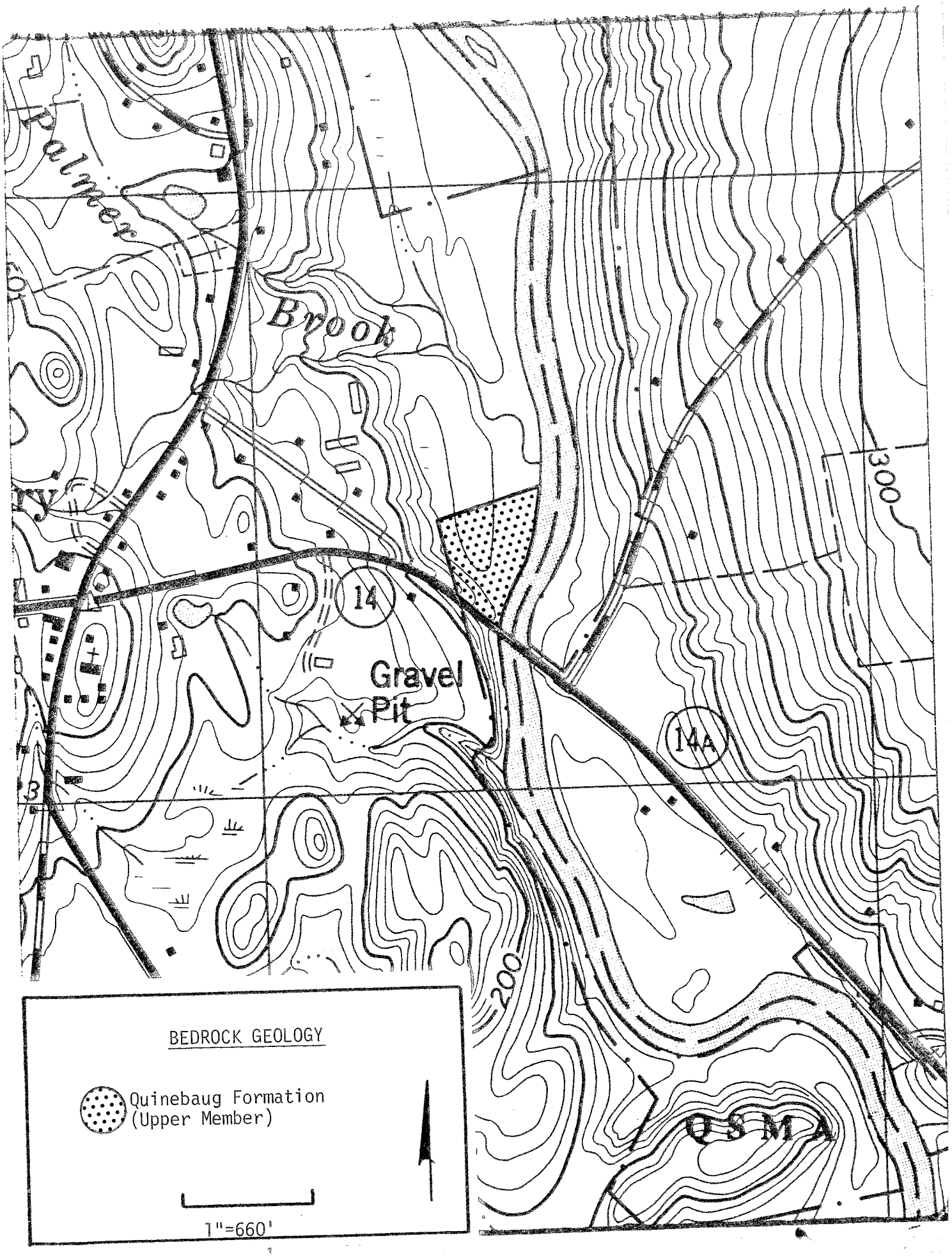
The mean annual temperature for Canterbury is about 48.5° F, averaging ± 68° F in the summer and 29° F in the winter. Mean annual precipitation for Canterbury is about 46" (inches) with a mean seasonal snowfall of about 44" (inches).

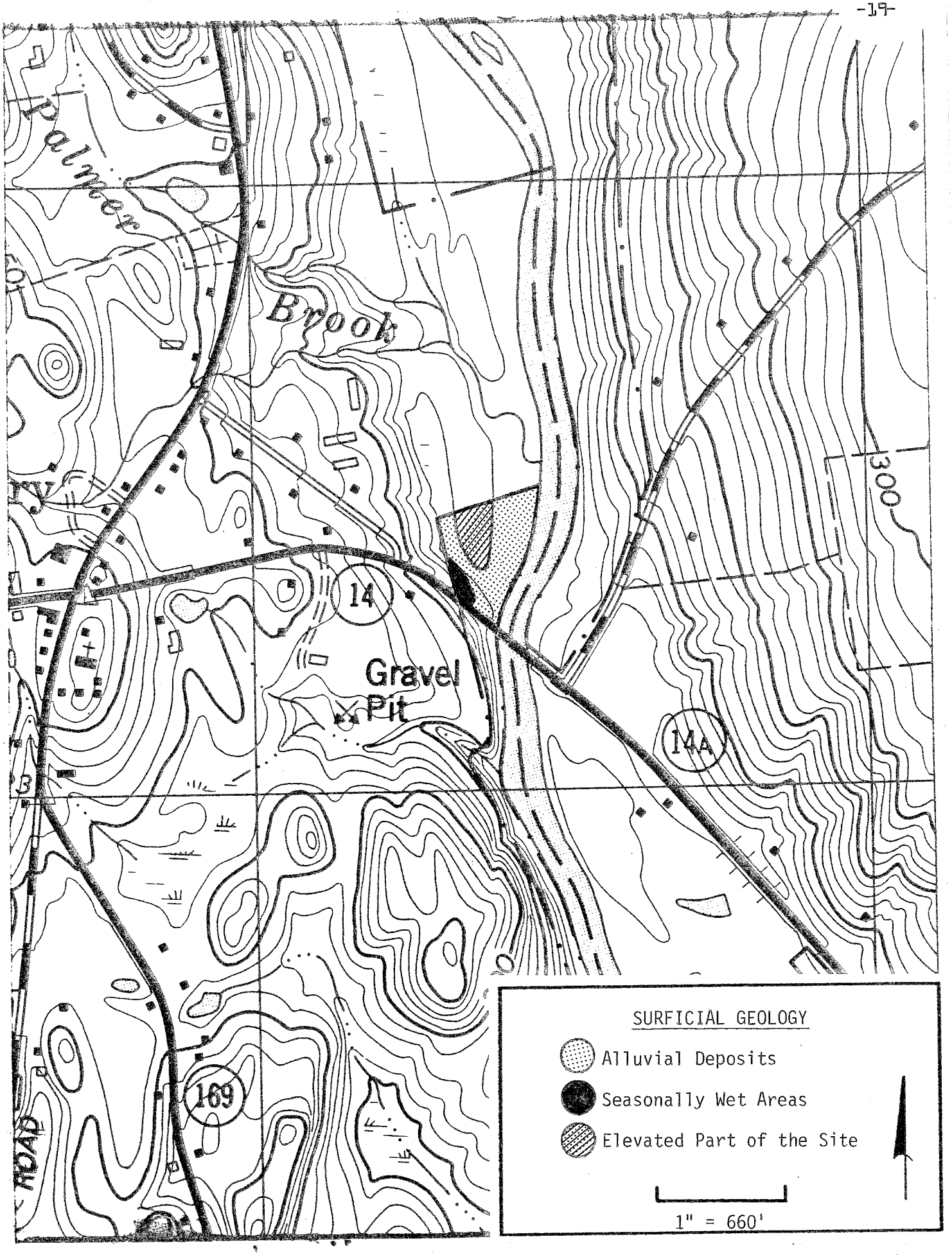
F. SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE GEOLOGIC CONDITIONS

The study area is located in the Plainfield topographic quadrangle. A bedrock geologic map (GQ-481, by H. Roberta Dixon) and a surficial geologic map (GQ-1422, by Byron D. Stone and Allan D. Randall) have been published for the quadrangle by the U. S. Geological Survey.

The parcel of land lies within the Eastern Highland Physiographic region of Connecticut. It is underlain by very old metamorphic rocks of the Ordivician geologic period (438-505 years old). The adjective "metamorphic" preceding the word rocks in the last sentence, refers to rocks that have been geologically altered by great heat and pressure within the earth's crust. It is believed that these rocks probably originated from two different rock groups; 1) sedimentary rocks (rocks formed from sediment and subsequently cemented into solid rock) and 2) volcanic rocks (rocks formed from molten magma, volcanic ash, etc.). Over a very long period of time, these rocks were metamorphosed into their present form.


Palmer
Brook
300
14
Gravel
Pit
14A
169
ROAD
TOPOGRAPHY
Proposed Recreation Site
1" = 660'


Palmer
Brook
14
Gravel
Pit
14A
300
200
QSMA
BEDROCK GEOLOGY
Quinebaug Formation
(Upper Member)
1"=660'


Palmer
Brook
300
14
Gravel
Pit
14A
169
ROAD
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY
Alluvial Deposits
Seasonally Wet Areas
Elevated Part of the Site
1" = 660'

Dixon identifies the rocks underlying the site as a subunit of the Quinebaug Formation (Upper Member). She describes the rock unit as a gray to dark gray, medium grained, well-layered gneiss composed of the minerals epidote, biotite, andesine and hornblende. It may or may not include the common mineral quartz. The rock unit also contains amphibolite layers. Both "gneisses" and "amphibolites" are metamorphic rocks. Gneisses" are commonly identified by banding in the rock. These bands result from thin layers of elongated or platy dark minerals alternating with layers of light-colored granular minerals. "Amphibolites" are dark-colored rocks of volcanic origin composed largely of minerals of the amphibole group, i.e., hornblende, plagioclase, etc. Water Resources Bulletin No. 9 (Quinebaug River Basin) suggests that the bedrock surface ranges from 40 feet to 80 feet beneath ground surface throughout the site. According to Bulletin No. 19, the log of a boring drilled at the southern part of the site indicates that the bedrock surface is at 87 feet below ground surface.

Because depth to bedrock is quite deep, the underlying bedrock should pose no major problems in terms of developing the site for recreational purposes. It should be pointed out, however, that it may affect the quality and quantity of the water withdrawn from a bedrock well. It seems likely that if a well was drilled on the site to serve a potential recreational development, bedrock would probably be the most reliable source for a water supply (See Water Supply Section of this report for additional information).

No economic value can be ascribed to the minerals composing the rock unit underlying the site. It is likely that the rock unit may have been used locally for building stone walls, foundations, etc. but only from areas where it was easily accessible (outcrop areas).

The site is covered by moderately thick alluvial deposits. "Alluvial deposits" consist of dark-gray to buff, pebble-cobble gravel, sand, and silt containing variable amounts of organic parts, the texture is generally gravelly at the base of the deposit, but becomes finer grained with silt at the top. Several probes with a hand shovel on the site by the Team's geologist revealed fine sand. The alluvial sediments were laid down by the Quinebaug River following the retreat of glacier ice. The coarser, gravelly material underlying the alluvial deposits were deposited by meltwater streams in close proximity to glacier ice. Because of the fine-grained texture of the alluvial deposits present, their value for aggregate material is low.

As mentioned earlier, several small depressions are visible on the site. The soils comprising these areas are "swamp sediments". According to the soils map accompanying the report, the eastern and southwestern parts of the site are also covered by regulated inland-wetland soils. If the land is developed for active recreational use, i.e., playing fields, etc., whereby extensive grading is required, inland-wetland soils, which include alluvial soils should be field-checked by a certified soil scientist. Swamp sediments consist of minor amounts of sand, silt and clay mixed with organic materials such as much and peat.

G. SOILS

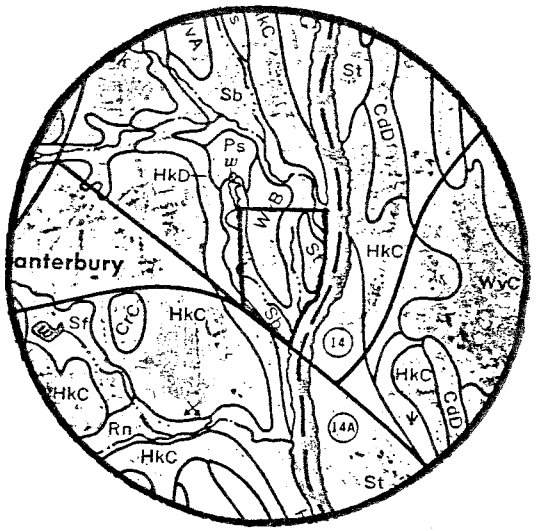
Three native soils are found on the parcel in addition to the filled embankment for Route 14, south side of property. The soils map shows location.

The Saco silt loam {Sb} is very poorly drained and normally has a groundwater table near the surface most of the year. Seasonal intermittent flow through this soil is shown on the map. This soil is subject to erosion because of incoming storm culvert runoff from Route 14. Erosion and subsequent sedimentation can be prevented with proper planning and design to slow and divert the runoff. Also, potential flooding can be averted with designed diversion of the runoff and an outlet for any ponding. {SCS engineer's recommendations}.

An embankment ridge of Suncook loamy fine sand {St} parallels the river. Higher in elevation than the Saco soil it is not likely to flood although it is within the 100-500 year flood boundary. Water table is usually about 6 feet below the surface. It is more droughty soil than the Saco and less likely to erode, except immediately next to the river's edge.

The Windsor loamy sand {WvB} found in the center of the parcel is excessively drained. It is the highest elevated of the soil areas present. It is not subject to erosion because of its easy 3-4% maximum slope and existing light forest cover.

Judging by existing vegetation all three soils are fairly infertile. The Suncoook {St} and Windsor {WvB} are however recognized as soils of statewide agricultural importance - and can be improved to grow playing-field grass or crops. The soils contain fine sands, and probably little gravel, as one excavates below.



SOIL SURVEY SHEET #55

SCALE 1" = 1320'

SOILS

* Sb - Saco Silt Loam

*# St - Suncook Loamy Fine Sand

\# WvB - Windsor Loamy Sand, 3-8% Slopes

---

* Wetland Soil

\# Farmland Soil of Statewide Importance

SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

Sb -- Saco silt loam. This soil is nearly level and very poorly drained. It is on the low parts of the flood plains of major streams and their tributaries. The areas are mostly long and narrow or irregular in shape and range from 10 to 150 acres. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent.

Typically, the surface layer is black silt loam about 14 inches thick. It is mottled in the lower 4 inches. The substratum extends to a depth of 60 inches or more. The upper part is mottled, dark grey silt loam, and the lower part is gray stratified sand and gravel.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of poorly drained Rippowam and Leisester soils and very poorly drained Adrian, Whitman, and Palms soils. Also included are a few areas that have a sandy substratum at a depth of less than 40 inches. Included areas make up about 25 percent of the unit.

The water table in this Saco soil is at or near the surface during most of the year, and the soil is subject to frequent flooding. The soil has moderate permeability in the surface layer and the upper part of the substratum and rapid or very rapid permeability in the lower part of the substratum. Runoff is slow. The soil has high available water capacity and is strongly acid to medium acid above a depth of 40 inches and medium acid to slightly acid below 40 inches.

This soil is mostly woodland. A few small areas are used for pasture.

Flooding and the high water table make this soil generally unsuitable for most uses other than as wetland wildlife habitat.

The capability subclass is VIw. Wetland Soil.

St -- Suncook loamy fine sand. This soil is nearly level and excessively drained. It is on the flood plains of major streams and their tributaries. The areas are long and narrow or oval and range from 5 to 30 acres. Slopes range from 0 to 3 percent.

Typically, the surface layer is dark brown loamy fine sand 9 inches thick. The substratum is dark yellowish brown, yellowish brown, and dark brown loamy sand and sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of well drained Agawam and Occum soils and moderately well drained Pootatuck soils. Included areas make up about 10 percent of this unit.

The depth to the water table in this Suncook soil ranges from 3 feet to more than 6 feet, but the water table is commonly at a depth of more than 6 feet. This soil is subject to flooding for brief periods from autumn to spring. The soil has low available water capacity and rapid or very rapis permeability. Runoff is slow. The soil is very strongly acid to slightly acid.

Irrigated areas of this soil are well suited to cultivated crops. The soil warms early in the spring and is easy to work. This soil is well suited to vegetables. Minimum tillage, cover

crops, and returning crop residue to the soil help to maintain tilth in cultivated areas.

Droughtiness makes this soil poorly suited to woodland; the rate of seedling mortality is high.

The hazard of flooding limits this soil for community development. Steep slopes of excavations in this soil are unstable.

The capability subclass is IIIs. Wetland Soil and Farmland Soil of statewide importance.

WvB -- Windsor loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is gently sloping and excessively drained. It is on glacial outwash plains and terraces. The areas are irregular in shape and range from 5 to 80 acres. Slopes are smooth and convex.

Typically, the surface layer is dark brown loamy sand 7 inches thick. The subsoil is dark yellowish brown loamy sand 25 inches thick. The substratum is light olive brown sand to a depth of 60 inches or more.

Included with this soil in mapping are small areas of excessively drained Hinckley soils, somewhat excessively drained Merrimac soils, well drained Agawam soils, and moderately well drained Sudbury soild. Included areas make up about 20 percent of the unit.

This Windsor soil has low available water capacity and rapid or very rapid permeabiltiy. The water table commonly is at at a depth of more than 6 feet. Runoff is slow. This soil is very strongly acid to medium acid in the surface layer and subsoil and very strongly acid to slightly acid in the substratum.

This soil is mostly in woodland. A few areas are used for corn silage and hay or pasture. Some areas are in community development.

This soil is droughty, but irrigated areas are well suited to cultivated crops. The soil warms early in the spring. Minimum tillage, cover crops, and returning crop residue to the soil help to maintain tilth in cultivated areas.

Droughtiness makes this soil poorly suited to woodland. The rate of seedling mortality is high, and productivity is low.

The rapid permeabilty in this soil causes a hazard of groundwater pollution in areas used for onsite septic systems. Steep slopes of excavations in this soil are unstable.

The capabilty subclass is IIIs. Farmland of statewide importance.

Quinebaug River Recreation Area

Canterbury, Conn.

Principal Limitations and Ratings for: Recreational Development

SOIL MAP SYMBOL AND SOIL NAME	PICNIC AREA	PLAYGROUND	DEWLLINGS WITHOUT BASEMENTS	SEPTIC TANK ABSORPTION FIELDS	SAND FILL
*Sb - Saco	Severe-wetness, excess humus	Severe-flooding, wetness, excess humus	Severe-flooding, wetness	Severe-flooding, wetness, poor filter	Probable
*□ St - Suncook	Moderate-too sandy	Moderate-too sandy	Severe-flooding	Severe-flooding, poor filter	Probable
□ WvB - Windsor	Moderate-too sandy	Moderate-too sandy	Slight	Severe-poor filter	Probable

*Designated wetland soil by Public Act 155

□Farmland soil of Statewide Importance

H. WATER RESOURCES

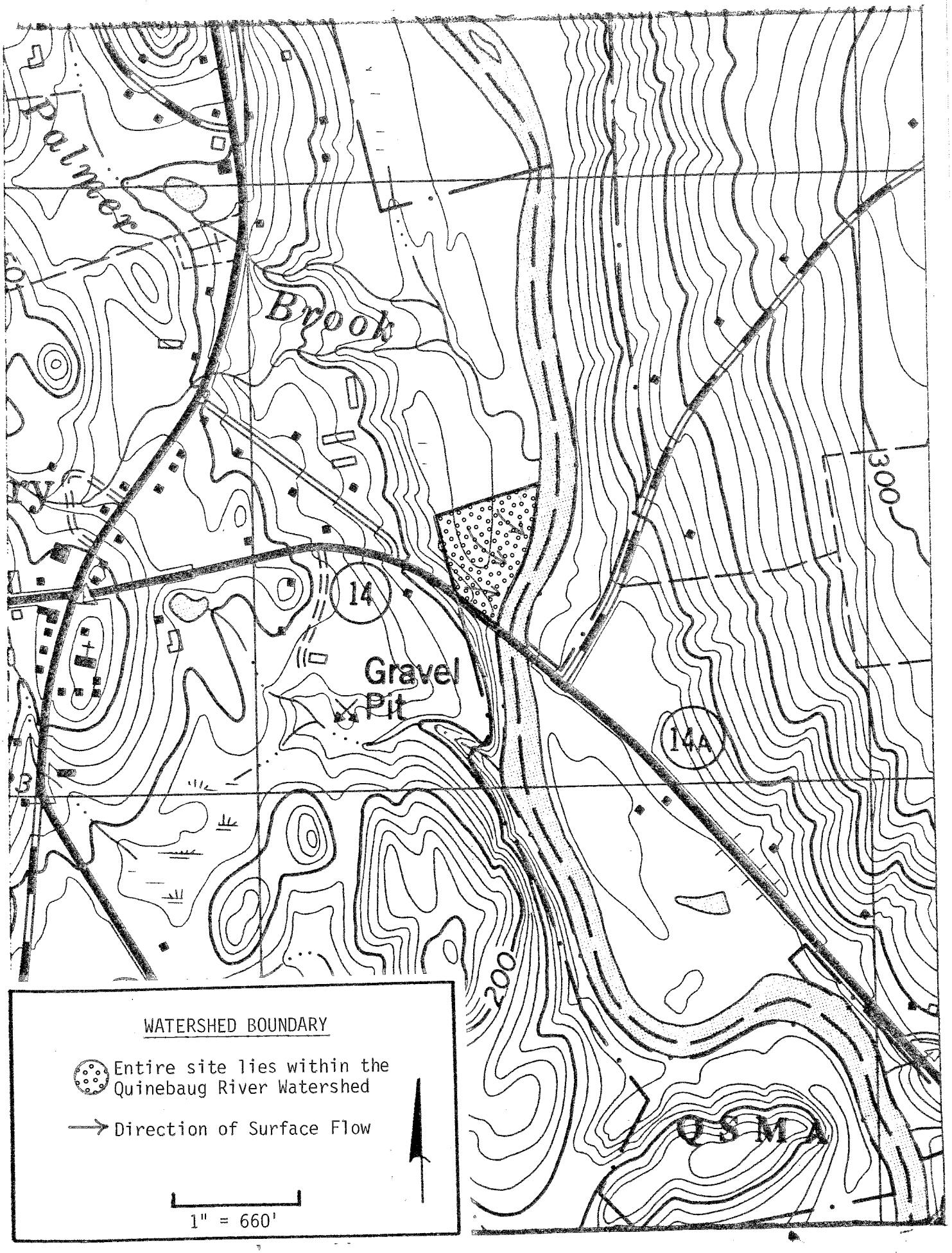
The entire parcel lies within the Quinebaug River watershed. As mentioned earlier, the site is bordered along the east by the Quinebaug River. From a recreational standpoint, easy access to the river is by far the most valuable asset of the parcel. Scenic vistas upstream and downstream are afforded from the banks of the River along the eastern property boundary. As a result, the parcel can support a variety of passive recreational uses such as hiking trails, cross country skiing, horseback riding, picnicking, etc. It seems likely that this part of the property could also easily support water related uses such as canoeing, boating and fishing.

According to Connecticut's Water Quality Standards and Criteria published by the Department of Environmental Protection's Water Compliance Unit, the portion of the Quinebaug River passing the property is classified as B_c. A surface waterbody with a 'B' classification would be suitable for bathing; other recreational purposes, agricultural uses, certain industrial processes and cooling; excellent fish and wildlife habitat; good aesthetic value. The subscript 'c' means that the river can support cold-water fisheries, e.g., trout. In fact, the Team's fishery biologist noted on the field review day that the State stocks the river with trout.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has produced a Flood Boundary and Floodway Map for the Town of Canterbury. According to this publication, about half of the parcel (southern half) has been studied in detail. The map indicates that most of the southern parts of the site lie within the 500 year flood boundary. A '500' year storm event has a one chance in 500 of a .2 percent that it will happen in any year. It should be pointed out that this does not mean a flood of the magnitude mentioned above will occur once in a 500 year period. The probability of occurrences remains the same each year regardless of what happened the year before.

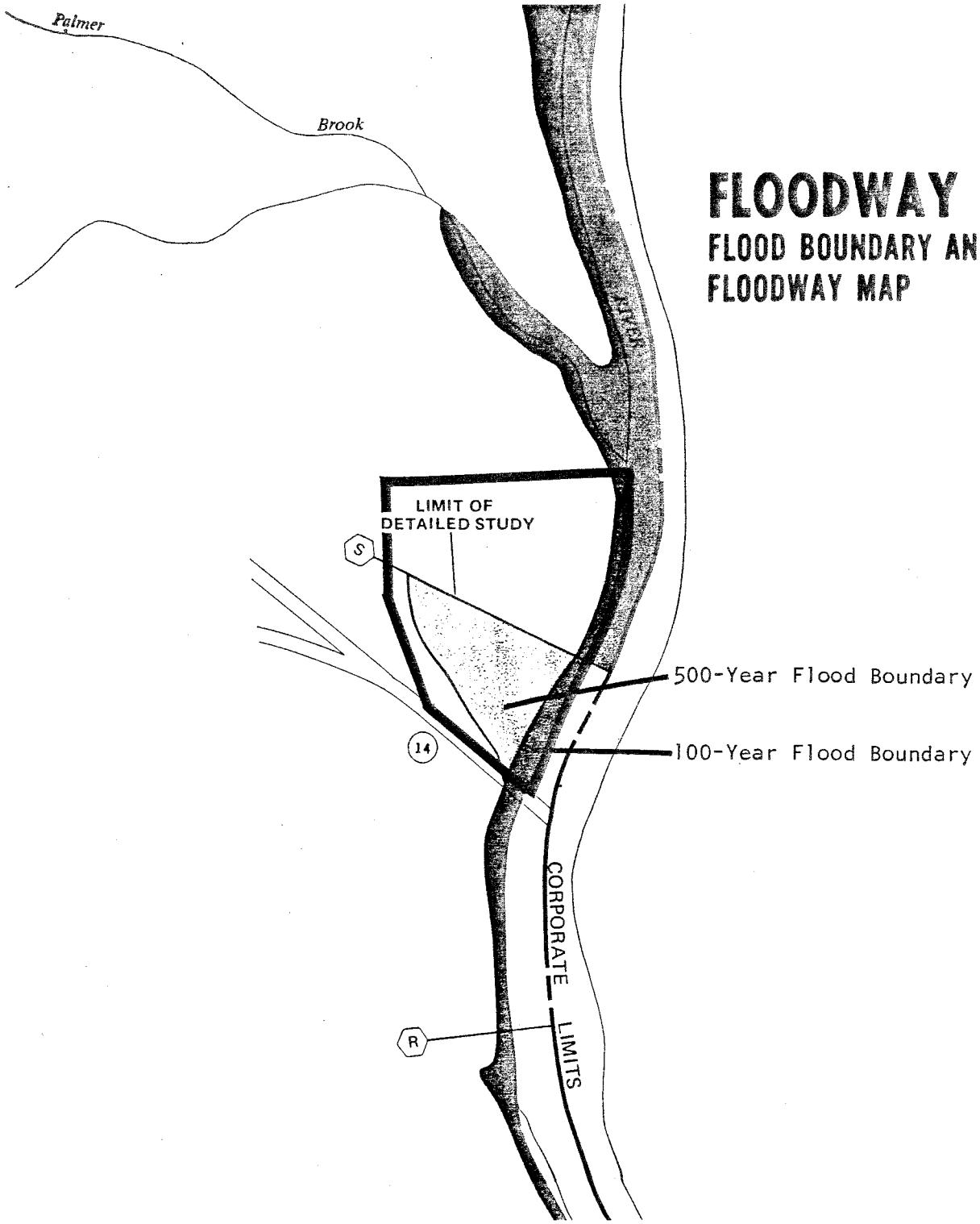
Public water facilities are not available to the site. Therefore, if a water supply is needed to serve potential recreational uses on the site, an individual on-site well will need to be developed. Although the unconsolidated materials (alluvium and fine-grained stratified drift) overlying bedrock are capable of supplying small to moderate amounts of water to a well, a well tapping the underlying bedrock should adequately meet the demands of active recreational uses on the site, and also, afford more protection, particularly in view of permeable sands. Bedrock is ordinarily capable of yielding small (2-3 gallons per minute) but, reliable yields of groundwater. A yield of 2-3 gallons per minute should be adequate for most recreational needs.

Water moves through metamorphic rocks chiefly by way of fractures. The success of a well drilled at any specific location depends upon the number and size of water-bearing fractures that the well intersects. Since fractures are distributed irregularly in bedrock, there is no practical way to predict the suitability of a particular location for a drilled well. It is known, however, that the probability of obtaining additional water from a drilled well decreases with depth.


Palmer
Brook
14
Gravel
Pit
14A
300
200
QSMA
WATERSHED BOUNDARY
Entire site lies within the
Quinebaug River Watershed
Direction of Surface Flow
1" = 660'

FLOODWAY

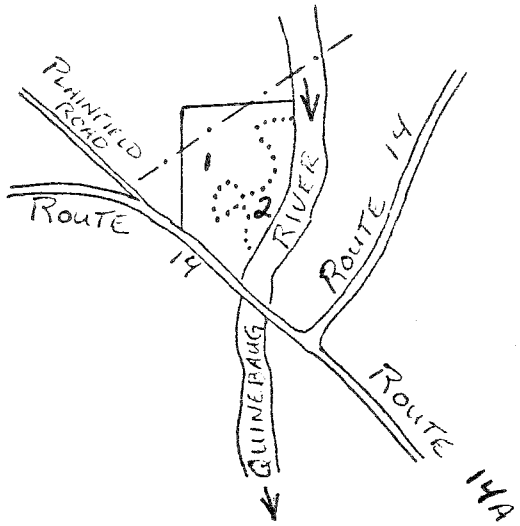
FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP



APPROXIMATE SCALE

400 0 400 FEET

VEGETATION MAP



Vegetation Type Descriptions*

Stand #1 Mixed hardwoods, 6.2 acres, overstocked, pole-size.

Stand #2 Old field, 2 acres, varibly stocked, seedling to pole-size

* Seedling-size	=	Trees less than 1 inch in diameter at 4½ feet above the ground (D.B.H.)
Sapling-size	=	Trees 1 to 5 inches D.B.H.
Pole-size	=	Trees 5 to 11 inches D.B.H.
Sawtimber-size	=	Trees 11 inches and greater D.B.H.

LEGEND

Road

Property Boundary

Vegetation Type Boundary

Telephone Line

Scale 1" = 1000'

N

I. VEGETATION

Stand 1. This mixed hardwood stand covering 6.2 acres is overstocked with fair to good quality trees. The overall site quality for tree growth is high. The overstory consists of pole-sized American Sycamore, American Elm, White Ash, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, Quaking Aspen and Black Cherry. Scattered sawtimber-sized trees of these species occur throughout the stand but are most prevalent along Route 14. Sapling-sized flowering Dogwood, Sassafras, White Ash, Black Oak and eastern Red Cedar along with shrubs such as Viburnum and Elderberry comprise the understory. Ground cover consists of various grasses, ferns, skunk cabbage and blackberry. Grapevines are common in some parts of the stand.

Due to the species composition and a low volume per acre in sawtimber (750 board feet) and firewood (8 cords), the stand at this time has little commercial value.

Stand 2. Occupying 2 acres along the Quinebaug River, this stand is an old field type which is variably stocked with fair to good quality trees. Overall site quality for hardwood growth is high. The overstory, which occurs as scattered groups, consists of pole to seedling-sized Quaking Aspen, Bigtooth Aspen, eastern Red Cedar, Red Maple, Black Oak, flowering Dogwood, Sassafras, and Apple. Barberry, Viburnum and Sumac from the understory. The ground cover is mostly grasses.

This stand is also non-commercial at present due to the light average stocking level and the abundance of pioneer tree species.

J. WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The area on which it is proposed to build a recreation site is now part of the State owned wildlife management area, know as the Quinebaug Wildlife Management Area. It is 1,219 acres in size. It has traditionally been used for hunting and other wildlife based recreation. The 8.2 acres lies on the flood plain of the Quinebaug River. The land rises from the river in a fairly steep river bank and then levels off on the flood plain itself. The area is covered by old field type cover with areas of pole and mature size trees interspersed within.

Mature dominant trees include sugar and red maple (Acer saccharinum, rubrum). Also found on the area are black cherry (Prunus serotina), aspen (Populus tremuloides), a few red pine (Pinus resinosa), white pines (Pinus strobus), and some ash (Fraxinum americana).

Some shrub species characteristic of the old field type cover found there are blackberry (Rubus alleghiensis), Japanese barberry (Berberis thunbergii), multiflora rose (Rosa multiflora), blueberry (Viccinium corymbosum) and various species of dogwood (Cornum spp.). These shrubs found in the area provide a good food source and cover for many species of wildlife.

QUINEBAUG RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

Department of Environmental Protection
State Office Building Hartford, Connecticut 06115

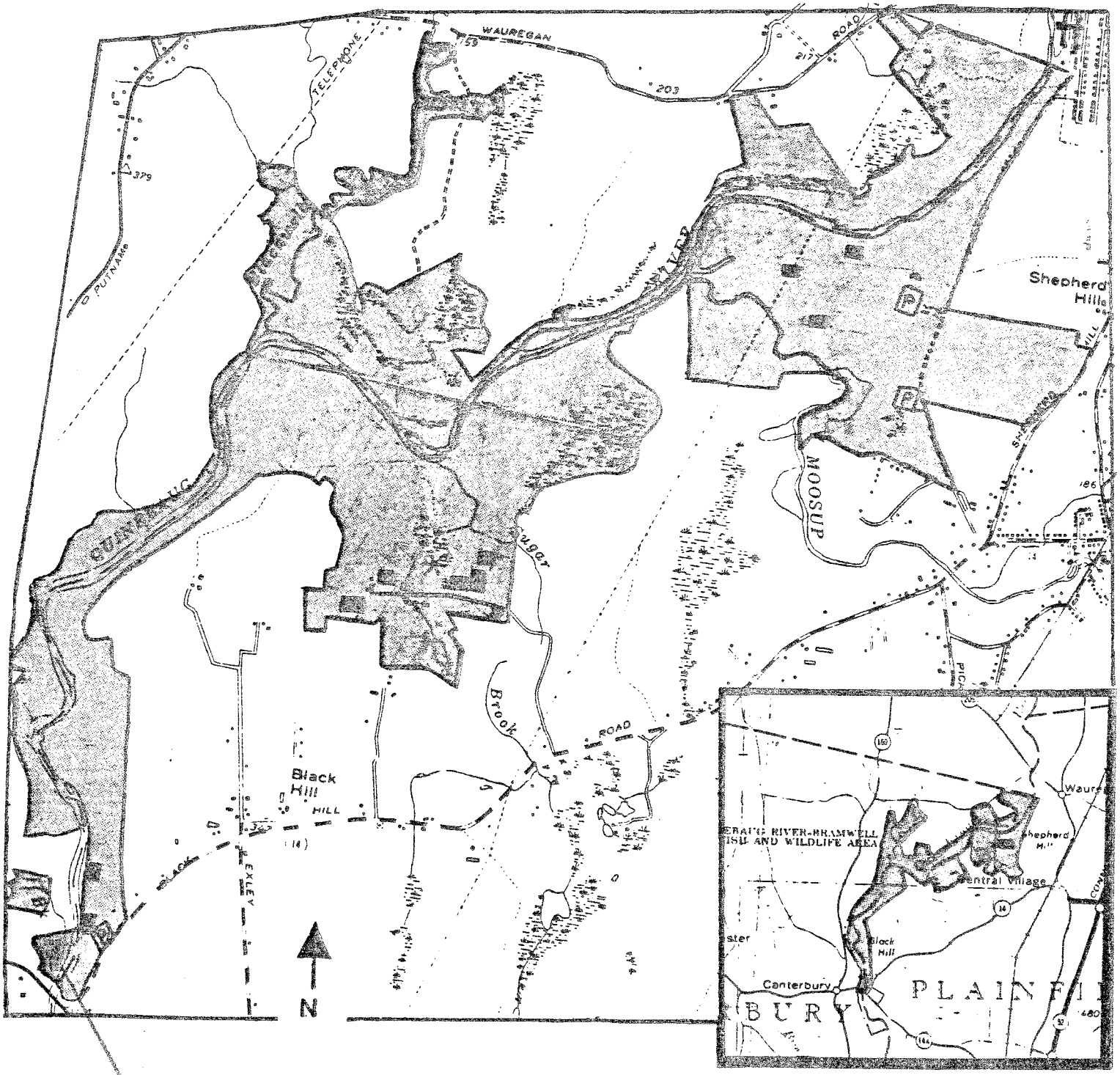
LOCATION: *Canterbury, Plainfield; Plainfield Quadrangle.*

DESCRIPTION: *1,219 acres; open fields, mixed hardwoods, pine plantations and swamps.*

WILDLIFE: *All game species, but primarily small game, pheasant.*

SYMBOLS: *Parking Area; Open land. Field Trial Area*

OTHER: *Take Rte. 52 to Plainfield Exit 89. At exit follow rte. 14 W. approx. 2 miles. Follow signs to Quinebaug Hatchery. Other access areas as marked.*



Area Proposed for Recreation Site

K. FISH RESOURCES

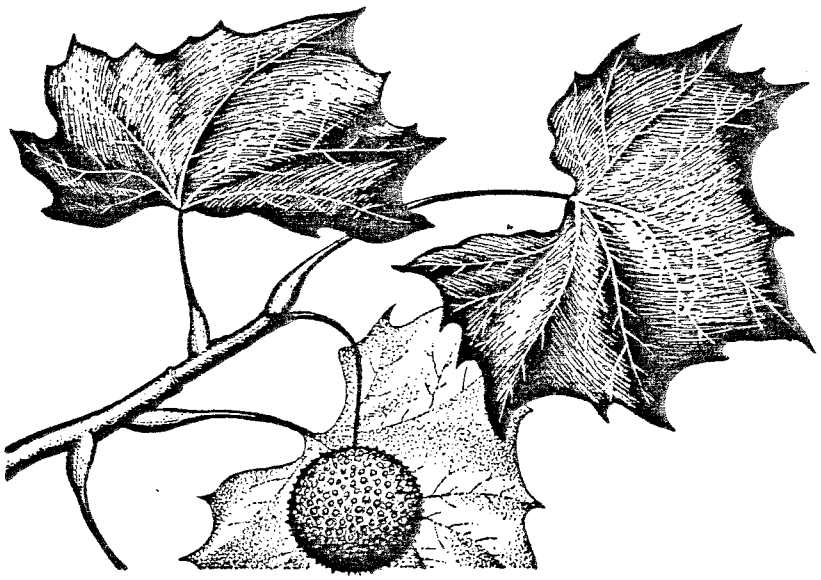
The Quinebaug River is one of Connecticut's largest trout streams. The 8.2 acre parcel is bordered by the Quinebaug River on the east side. The river's bank is eight to twelve feet high and consists of highly erodable silt and fine sand soils. The bank is preserved by the root system of streamside vegetation. The trees also provide shade and cover for fishes. Trout and fish species inhabiting the river include white suckers and a variety of shiner and dace species. The river's substrate consists of cobble, rubble and a few larger boulders that provide good conditions for insect production.

The river receives an annual plant of adult {9-12"} trout by the State each spring. Because of the steep banks, fisherman access from this parcel is limited to two {2} locations; one at the upper end and one at the lower end. Fishermen and canoe access to the river and parking is better on the east side of the river on another parcel of the State WMA.

L. PROBABLE FUTURE ENVIRONMENT

If this recreational project is not initiated the 8.2 acre parcel will remain in its natural unimproved and underutilized state since it is owned by the State of Connecticut. If this project is not completed the active recreational needs of Canterbury's population will:

a} not be filled or b} will be postponed until sometime in the future at a greater expense to the Town.



III. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Not applicable

B. EFFECT ON LAND USE

The proposed activity will create an active and passive recreational area rather than the natural and underutilized area that it is now.

C. EFFECT ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The Town of Canterbury, as a rural residential town of young families, needs recreational and community facilities. The proposed acitivity with its subsidized funding and lease of state lands would be an economical solution to Canterbury's recreational needs. The proposed use of land and environment is in conformance with Canterbury's Plan of Development, a Plan of Development which is based on environmental and natural resources limitations and concerns.

D. EFFECT ON TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The use of the ballfields will create more traffic along Route 14 since more organized teams will be using the facilities. Route 14 is capable of carrying the increased traffic volume. The major traffic concern will be the proper construction of the access drive to ensure proper sight lines, signalization and a minimalization of erosion and runoff.

E. EFFECT ON WATER RESOURCES

From inspection of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's floodway maps for the Town of Canterbury dated October 16, 1984, the majority of the site is located between the 100 and 500 year flood boundary. There appears to be adequate land on the proposed 8.2 acre site to build the proposed recreation fields and a parking lot above the 100 year flood boundary which is approximately elevation 112. A detailed topographic map of the area will need to be completed to more precisely determine the 100 year flood boundary on the parcel.

The generally flat topography in the floodplain makes this area very effective in storing water during periods of flooding. The flatness maximizes the available food-storage volume while the floodplain/wetland vegetation present reduces flow velocities. For these reasons, filling in floodplains/wetlands should be avoided under any development scheme, if at all possible. If the parcel flooded, it would probably do so mainly during the early spring and late fall/early winter months. Therefore, periods when flooding is most apt to occur, should not greatly interfere with active recreational uses such as baseball or soccer, whose prime seasons generally run from late spring to early fall. It should be noted that the First Selectman stated on the review day he could not recall the subject parcel to flood extensively, even during major storm events.

It seems likely that if the desired three (3) playing fields were constructed on the parcel, areas designated as floodplains would need to be filled. Based on cursory inspection of the parcel, it appears that perhaps one playing field could be constructed on the elevated portions of the site without too much filling on the floodplain. Access roads and parking areas to serve the facilities would probably also require some filling.

The town indicated on the review day that they would be interested in constructing toilet facilities for possible playing fields. It seems likely that the soils comprising the elevated portions of the site could easily support a small sized septic system to serve toilet facilities. Soil testing would be necessary in order to determine exactly the capabilities of the soils in the area to support an on-site septic system. Most importantly, the leaching area should be kept as shallow as possible to avoid possible groundwater interference or protect it from flooding during certain storm events. Because of the sandy nature of the soils on the site, leaching areas should be located as far as is practicable from water supply wells and the river. Waste holding tanks could be used and pumped if required by health officials.

Storm water runoff from Connecticut Route 14 and a town road enter the site from conduit outlets at the southwest and southeast corners of the 8.2 acre parcel. The outlet channel from the southwest conduit is an actively eroding gully approximately 20' deep and 30' wide at the top. The outlet channel from the southeast conduit is actively eroding and is about 2-3' deep and less than 5' wide. Sediment from both gullies eventually either enter the Quinnebaug River or settle out on the alluvial terrace west of the river. Both of the above drainageways will need to be stabilized with stone-lined waterways, conduit extensions, or a combination of both.

A natural kettle pond is located on adjacent property owner LaRose bodering the northwest corner of the 8.2 acre parcel. The pond appears to be recharged by groundwater and limited surface water runoff. No outlet for this pond other than seepage was evident. Further investigation is needed to ascertain whether a pipe outlet to the north exists. Care should be taken in diversion of the southwest storm drain to prevent adverse affects upon the water supply to this pond. The landowner apparently has already expressed his concerns about this to the town.

The 800 feet long east side of the parcel borders the Quinebaug River. The river bank height varies to approximately 10'. Some active erosion and undermining of trees is evident. It is recommended that a fence be installed to control and route pedestrial traffic along the banks so that a minimum of the existing stabilizing vegetation would be disturbed. Wholesale stabilization of the river bank is not presently warranted or recommended.

The southeast corner of the parcel appears to be the best location for a canoe launch access to the Quinebaug. It is recommended that the launch area be kept to a maximum width of 6' to prevent use by automobiles. Pedestrians only carrying canoes would use the proposed canoe launch. The launch should be made of concrete slabs, concrete cellular grids, gabions, or other permanent materials which require little maintenance. The ramp should be constructed on a slope no steeper than five (5) horizontal to one (1) vertical. The storm drain outlet in that same area would parallel the canoe launch ramp and be constructed adjacent to the toe of fill on Route 14.

One access ramp for cars is already present about 75' west of the present west bridge abutment on Route 14. It is suggested that another access ramp be constructed about 100' west of the present ramp to allow a one-way traffic loop to and from the proposed parking lot. A stormwater drain will be needed under the new ramp. Site distances and access from Route 14 have been preliminarily discussed between town and Connecticut Department of Transportation (Norwich Office) officials. Access road adjustments will be made in final design. The parking lot should be located adjacent to the access ramp loop in the southeast corner of the parcel. The size of the parking lot will be determined in final design. A gravel surface is recommended to minimize stormwater runoff.

Two little league size baseball fields and once soccer field are proposed. Each little league field requires about 1 1/2 acres, and the soccer field requires about two acres. Depending upon topography and final grading plans, a terraced plan with the baseball fields on the upper terrace (drier in the spring), and the soccer field on the lower terrace (used in the fall), may afford the best layout situation. Diversions and waterways, together with crowning of the fields, will be needed for control of surface runoff. Subsurface tile drainage may be needed in those locations where poor drainage is present. Backhoe test pits will be needed to more clearly define subsurface soil conditions for final design depth and spacing of tile lines.

F. EFFECT ON VEGETATION

The proposed utilization of the forested areas of the parcel for recreation development will impact the vegetation negatively dependent upon the extent of clearing, which depends upon the magnitude of development. Removal of some vegetation to open up areas proposed for passive recreation to increase sunlight and air flow must be considered. Clearing operations, where possible, should remove only the lowest quality trees and those which are a direct hazard to area users. The healthier, more vigorous trees should be retained for their high shade and aesthetic value.

Later, some loss of vegetation may occur due to soil compaction, mechanical root injury, direct trampling or vandalism. Such vegetation losses will reduce the aesthetic quality of the area and may potentially cause accelerated erosion in some areas. These disturbances will also accelerate mortality of the low vigor trees. Dead and dying trees in areas of use are hazardous and must be removed to reduce the risk of injury to users.

G. EFFECT ON WILDLIFE

Obviously if land is cleared in order to create ball fields, wildlife habitat will be lost. A few species may still use the area for feeding, such as birds feeding on insects and perhaps worms from the field areas.

Also, the increased human activity brought to the area may adversely effect some species of wildlife causing them to emmigrate from the area. Some species may not be adversely effected and will remain in the area, perhaps even expanding their territories. These species might include wildlife such as starlings and oppossums, which are very adaptable to man's activities and scavenge for their food.

H. EFFECT ON FISH RESOURCES

If developed, the riverfront portion of the property will be degraded by increased foot traffic or by alterations to riverbank soils or vegetations. If the river's bank is disturbed, high river flows will wash large quantities of soil and some trees downriver. The average width of the river would then be increased and the depth of the river decreased. The aesthetic and fisheries resource value of this river section will likely decrease if it is not protected. The development of a boat launch is not really feasible on this site because of the poor soil conditions, there is better access on the east side of the river.

I. EFFECT ON ENERGY CONSUMPTION

This recreational area is proposed for outdoor activities so that the only impact on energy conservation will be the electricity used for lighting of bathroom facilities, parking areas, and field illumination and possible scoreboards.

J. EFFECT ON AIR QUALITY AND NOISE LEVELS

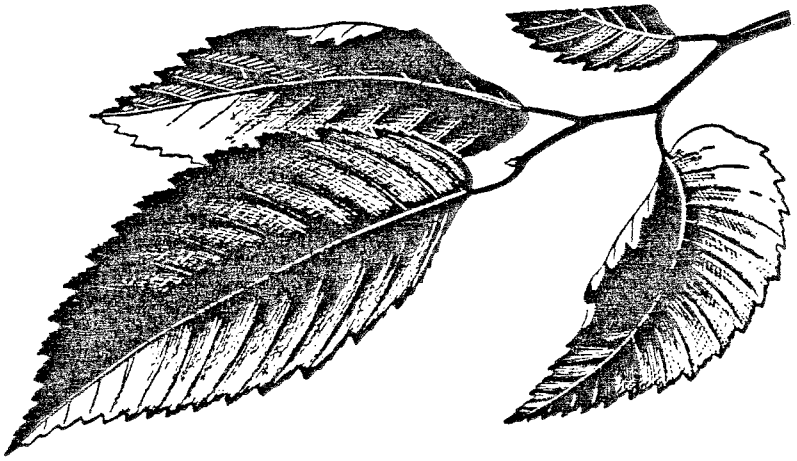
Changes in air quality due to increased traffic should be minimal. The few houses in the vicinity should experience only minimal increases of noise due to increased traffic and sports activity.

K. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Forest Management

Stand 1. In areas not being cleared, should be thinned by removing the low vigor and other undesirable trees. A range of size, classes and a variety of species should be favored for the residual stand. The thinning would not yield a commercial volume.

Stand 2. This stand could be left to develop naturally or planted to such softwoods as White Pine, Norway Spruce, Larch or Hemlock to reinforce the present stocking levels in areas not used for recreation.



IV. MITIGATING MEASURES

Soil and Erosion Control

The whole area would need to be regraded for playing fields following a detailed topographic survey. The USDA Soil Conservation Service has offered to survey the area. With application of during--construction erosion control measures disturbance should not be a problem. The higher ridge embankment along the river should prevent any runoff to the river during this process. The area could be revegetated with tree and shrub buffers, and of course, be all seeded down. In short, there does not need to be any adverse affect on the river. It will be important to develop a drainage and erosion control plan to direct upslop runoff, from the culverts, and graded areas, and to prevent soil wash and sedimentation at the river. Again, SCS could help with this. It is unlikely that development and use of the area could in any way adversely affect neighboring property.

For further, and more detailed mitigative measures please refer back to part III Environmental Assessment, Section E, Water Resources.

Vegetation

Trees that are to be removed during clearing operations should be marked to lessen the likelihood of removing desirable trees, especially in areas used for passive recreation. Trees that are to be retained should be in groups or "islands" where possible to maintain the windfirmness necessary on these soil types.

A buffer zone along the riverbank should be planted to trees to lessen the soil erosion potential caused by increased recreational use.

Fish Resources

Several measures should be taken to reduce the adverse impact of development on the fishery resources.

a. 50 foot buffer strip along the Quinebaug River -- no alterations to the landscape or vegetation within this protected zone. The area should be fenced off to eliminate foot traffic and prevent people from falling off the high river bank.
   Exception: stabilize two ten foot wide foot access areas: one on each end of the property to provide fishing access. Stabilize approximately 40 feet of eroded river bank at the south end of the property.
b. plant hemlock and red maple trees in buffer strip where vegetation is sparse to provide for increased bank stabilization.
c. install proper drainage and erosion control structures to prevent erosion and sedimentation into the river.

V. IMMEDIATE AND LONG TERM IMPACT

Vegetation

Without the proposed project, this parcel due to its size, species composition and commercial utility would not likely receive intensive forest management. The trees would be left to grow thus protecting the river's edge.

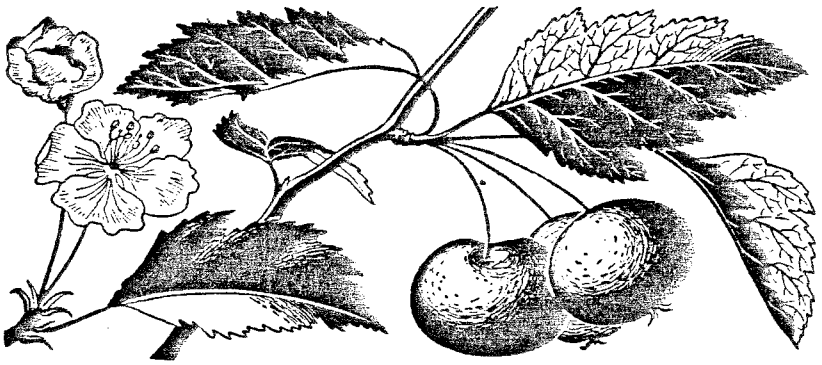
With the project, some forest management might be practiced on the non-developed areas. However, the acreage will not be of sufficient size to warrant intensive forest management or commercial harvesting operations.

Wildlife

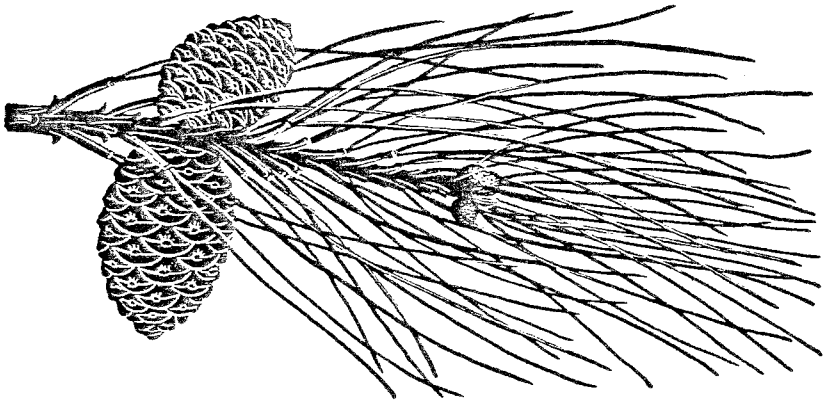
As stated before {Environmental Assessment, G}, resources now available to wildlife would not be available when ball fields are created. This loss in the long run would not be irreversible or irretrievable because if the ball fields were abandoned the natural process of succession would occur and the open fields would eventually revert to mature forest.

Land Use

The passive nature of the site as it is today conforms to good land use practices and the Town's Plan of Development. The proposed activity would also conform to the Town's plan for the future. With good construction and management practices the proposed ballfields and passive picnic area near the river should have no adverse environmental impacts. The proposed project will make a beautiful scenic area of the Quinebaug River accessible and available to the public as well as help to meet current and future recreation needs of the growing rural town of Canterbury. These new facilities will be of great importance to the recreational program in Canterbury which is very active, despite its few indoor {school} and outside facilities. If this project is not initiated and completed, the Town will have to address its recreational needs at a future date, probably at greater cost.



VI. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

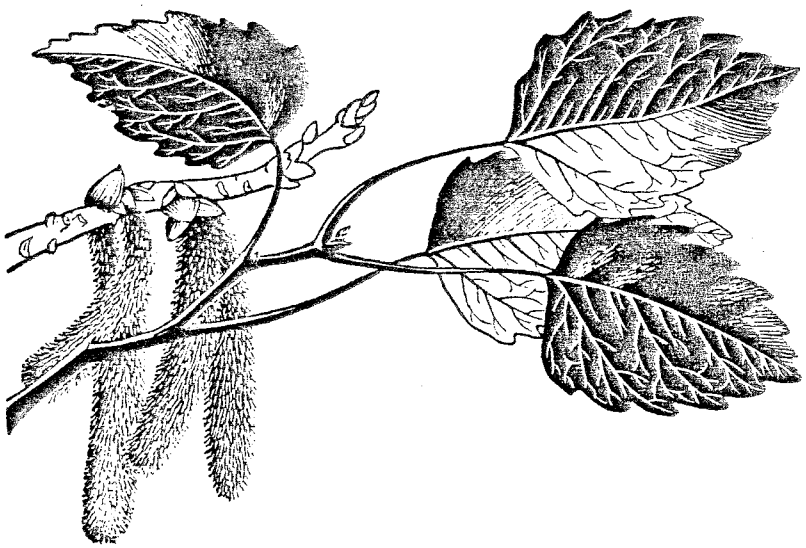


1. The town of Canterbury is a growing community, thus it requires a large parcel of property to provide adequate area for public service, education and recreation facilities. The development of the 8.2 acre parcel of State property is limited by its small size and relative poor quality. The town will expend much time and effort to develop this parcel into a recreation area, only to outgrow it in a few years. the town would be better served in the long term if they were to acquire a large parcel of quality land. Though this may be difficult for the town to do this at the present time, they will be better off in the future.

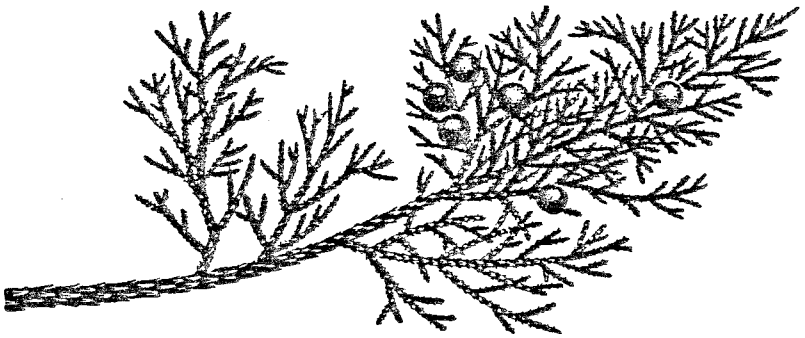
2. Utilize existing playfields at town schools on a multiple use basis for both school and youth sport program activities.

3. At the Quinebaug River site consider a multiple use field which could be used for both soccer and softball. This would require only a backstop and not the permanent fencing often seen at Little League fields. If Little League use was felt to be necessary at this location perhaps use of portable snow fencing should be considered to retain the multiple use potential of the area.

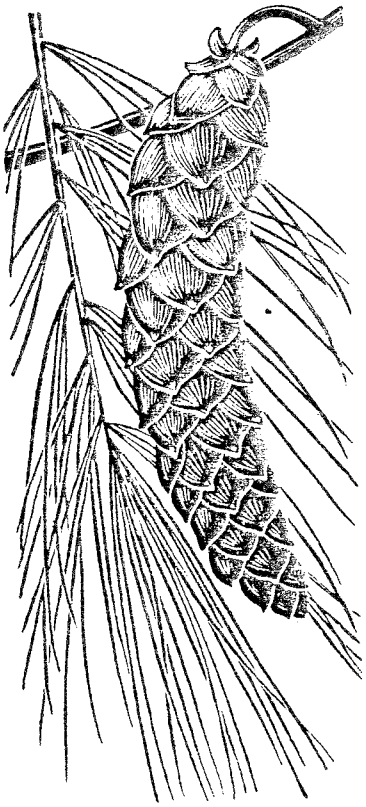
4. If possible, the area not be developed for ball fields and remain as is, and still be of some benefit to wildlife.



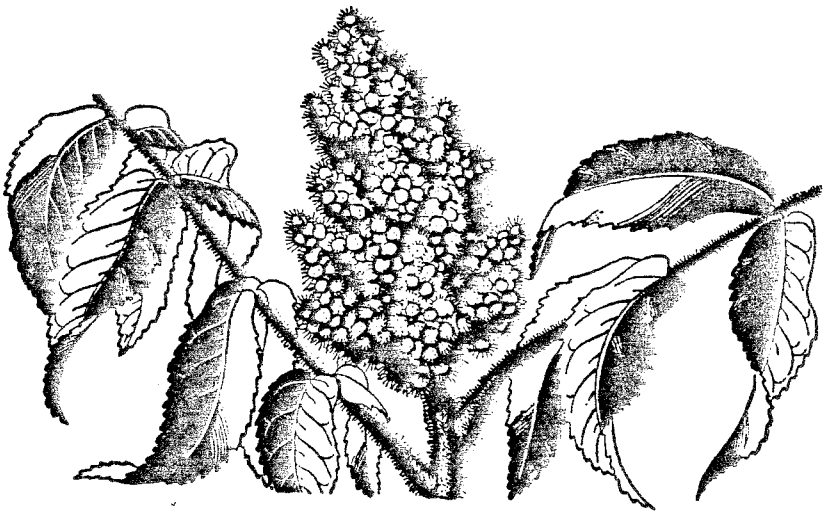
VII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION



Canterbury's Board of Selectmen and Recreation Commission have requested this ERT review. The Town of Canterbury has obtained a lease for the property from the State of Connecticut. The First Selectman has spoken with D.E.P. staff concerning the project. The Town of Canterbury will hold a public hearing on the land conservation funding application. The only controversy to this funding application would be the reluctance of Canterbury residents to commit themselves to the mill increase necessary to supply the 25% match for this project's costs.



VIII. RECREATION POTENTIAL



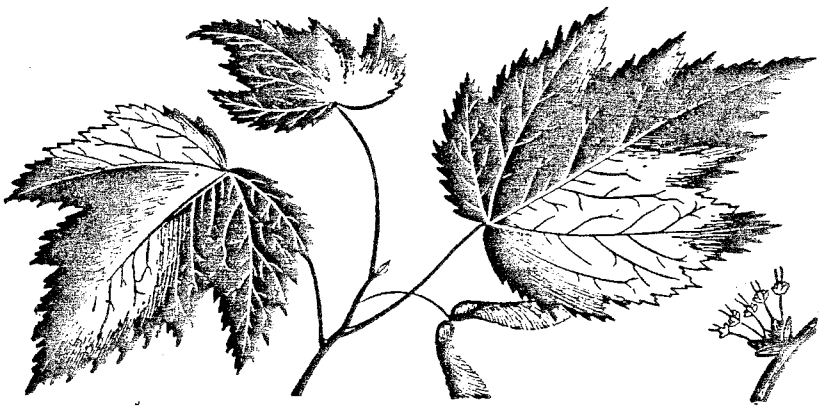
A quick map review indicates that the 8.2 acre site leased from DEP has the advantages of (1) close proximity to the town center, (2) river access, and (3) direct state highway access. Furthermore it is located near the intersection of the two major road arteries (Route 14 and 169) traversing the town.

Nevertheless the site had serious limitations from a soils standpoint. The bulk of the area consists of poorly drained Saco and Scarboro floodplain soils. In addition to the likelihood of periodic flooding on both soils, the Saco soil has the additional liability of being a silt loam. Thus ballfields built in such areas often will be wet, spongy, and tending to become muddy under any degree of sustained use. This wet tendency will be noticeable particularly on baseball fields in the spring and to a somewhat lesser degree on soccer fields in the fall, thereby inhibiting their use.

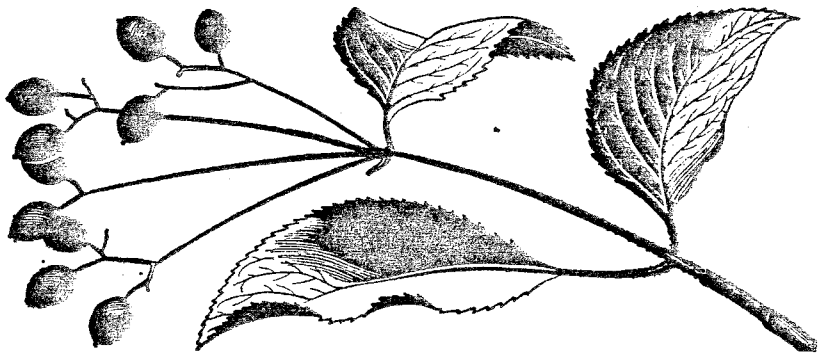
Therefore, any proposed playfield development on this property should be concentrated on the lobe of Windsor outwash soil found roughly in the north central portion of the tract. Although tending to be droughty and not supporting a turf cover as well as the heavier adjacent floodplain soils Windsor soil can support playfield use on a sustained basis and should dry out quickly enough in spring to permit Little League activity. However the area of Windsor soil is limited in extent and may be able to support only one ballfield instead of the soccer field and two little league fields felt to be needed.

Since suspended cables bisect the parcel, it is recommended that they be <u>buried</u> at the time of final grading. Presently, the three lines are suspended on a single row of poles from a maximum height of 10-12' to minimum height of 6-7'. Sports activities and available space on the parcel for field layout would be severly limited without burying these lines.

In general, from an engineering standpoint, the site has some limitations for development as a recreation complex, but it is felt that with proper planning and design those limitations can be overcome. With the exception of fill materials needed for the new access ramp, and graded gravel needed for the surface of the parking lot and for subsurface drain lines, little additional fill should be required.



IX. APPENDIX



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OUTLINE

This outline is intended to give applicants an understanding of the various aspects of a project which should be addressed in an environmental assessment. Responses under each main topic heading should be integrated in a narrative format. The degree of detail necessary in responses will depend upon the magnitude and complexity of a given project. It is most important to be objective; not to justify the project.

1. Description of the Proposal.

   Who is proposing the action?

   What is the nature of the action to be taken?

   What is it designed to accomplish? Who will it serve? What identified recreation needs will be met and to what degree?

   Where will it take place? Describe in general terms the physical setting for the project.

   When will it take place? Indicate phasing of acquisition and/or development, and timetable for completion. It is helpful to have phasing indicated on a site plan.

   How is it interrelated with other recreation-oriented projects and proposals?

   How does it tie in with the comprehensive planning efforts of other agencies?

2. Description of the Environment.

   What are the present and past land uses of the site and of the surrounding area?

   If possible, provide a map which delineates present and proposed land uses. Include a zoning map if applicable.

   Provide a topographic map of the area.

   Comment on any special topographic features which may be present.

   Elaborate on existing socio-economic conditions. Specifically refer to population projections and distribution as they may apply to the project. Also, nature of and distribution of economic activity. Identify data sources used.

   Describe the site's surface and subsurface geologic characteristics. Specific reference should be made to mineral deposits with commercial value.

   Describe the nature of the soils in the area, particularly their fertility and susceptibility to erosion. Provide a soil-survey map and an explanatory table which will indicate soil characteristics.

Provide data on climatic conditions, such as temperature and precipitation. It is usually helpful to incorporate this type of data into a table.

Describe the area's water resources, with special reference to ground water, water quality, aquifers and aquifer recharge areas, and areas subject to flooding.

Describe the area's vegetation, including species composition, distribution, commercial utility and aesthetics. Special reference should be made to unusual or unique species. If possible, delineate plant communities on a map.

Describe the fauna of the area, commenting on food chains and relative abundance of species. Special reference should be made to rare or endangered species.

Describe the nature of existing transportation routes in the area, and elaborate on accessibility to the project site.

Describe the probable future environment if the project is not initiated (be as objective as possible).

3. Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action. (Quantify wherever possible.)

Will the project affect a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or of state or local significance? Contact SLO for historic preservation.

What will be the effect on land uses in the area? Quantify changes.

What will be the effect on socio-economic conditions? Special reference should be made to effects on human values, area residents, displaced persons, settlement patterns, services, commercial enterprises, and the local tax structure.

Will solid wastes be generated? How and where will they be disposed of?

How will water resources be affected? Consider the water table, impermeable surfaces, runoff, sewer systems, rivers and streams, water supply, etc.

How will vegetation be affected? Quantify expected losses and changes.

How will fauna be affected? Consider habitat destruction, impact caused by human intrusion, mobility restrictions, food chains, etc.

How will transportation routes be affected? Consider congestion, capacity, hazards.

What will be the impact on energy consumption?

Effect on air quality and ambient noise level?

Describe management practices proposed for the area.

4. Mitigating Measures Included in the Proposed Action.

Discuss actions or measures which will be taken to avoid or alleviate adverse environmental effects. Include reference to erosion control methods and adherence to air, noise or water pollution control techniques and standards.

5. Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided.

If adverse effects have been identified in Section 3 and cannot be mitigated, they should be again identified here. Describe who or what will be affected, and to what degree. Quantify wherever possible.

6. Relationship Between the Local Short-Term Use of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity.

What are the impacts of the proposal in the context of other similar projects? In what way will future generations be affected by the currently proposed action?

How do the immediate and long-range impacts on the area with the project compare with the immediate and long-range impacts without the project?

7. Any Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources.

Discuss any irrevocable commitments of resources resulting from implementation of the proposal. An evaluation must be made of the extent to which the proposed action curtails or restricts the range of possible resource uses. Such commitments may occur because of resources extraction, erosion, destruction of archeological, geological or historic features, destruction of fragile habitat or endangered species habitat, unalterable changes in land use, and resources used in project development.

8. Alternatives to the Proposed Action.

Identify alternatives which may be considered, including modification of the present proposal and different approaches to gaining the same result. This may include alternatives which are beyond the control of the project sponsor. The alternative of no action shall be specifically discussed.

The beneficial and adverse effects of the alternatives should be discussed, along with the reasons for rejection. Where appropriate, consideration should be given to alternate construction methods which may avoid environmental degradation. (Impacts of the proposal and alternatives may be compared through use of a chart.)

9. Consultation and Coordination.

By what means has the public been involved in the decision making process, or been informed of the proposed action?

What agencies have been consulted in developing the proposal?

Has any other agency evaluated the potential environmental consequences of the project?

Is there controversy involved, or likely to manifest itself? Discuss the nature of any controversy. If it involves unresolved environmental issues or disagreements over impacts, discuss the conflicting points of view.

About The Team

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of professionals in environmental fields drawn together from a variety of federal, state, and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, foresters, climatologists, soil scientists, landscape architects, archeologists, recreation specialists, engineers and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the supervision of the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area--an 86 town area.

The Team is available as a public service at no cost to Connecticut towns.

PURPOSE OF THE TEAM

The Environmental Review Team is available to help towns and developers in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities. To date, the ERT has been involved in reviewing a wide range of projects including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrial developments, sand and gravel operations, elderly housing, recreation/open space projects, watershed studies and resource inventories.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision-making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the project site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

REQUESTING A REVIEW

Environmental reviews may be requested by the chief elected officials of a municipality or the chairman of town commissions such as planning and zoning, conservation, inland wetlands, parks and recreation or economic development. Requests should be directed to the Chairman of your local Soil and Water Conservation District. This request letter should include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the landowner allowing the Team to enter the property for purposes of review, a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the Team should address, and the time available for completion of the ERT study. When this request is approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Executive Council, the Team will undertake the review on a priority basis.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact Elaine A. Sych (774-1253), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 198, Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234.