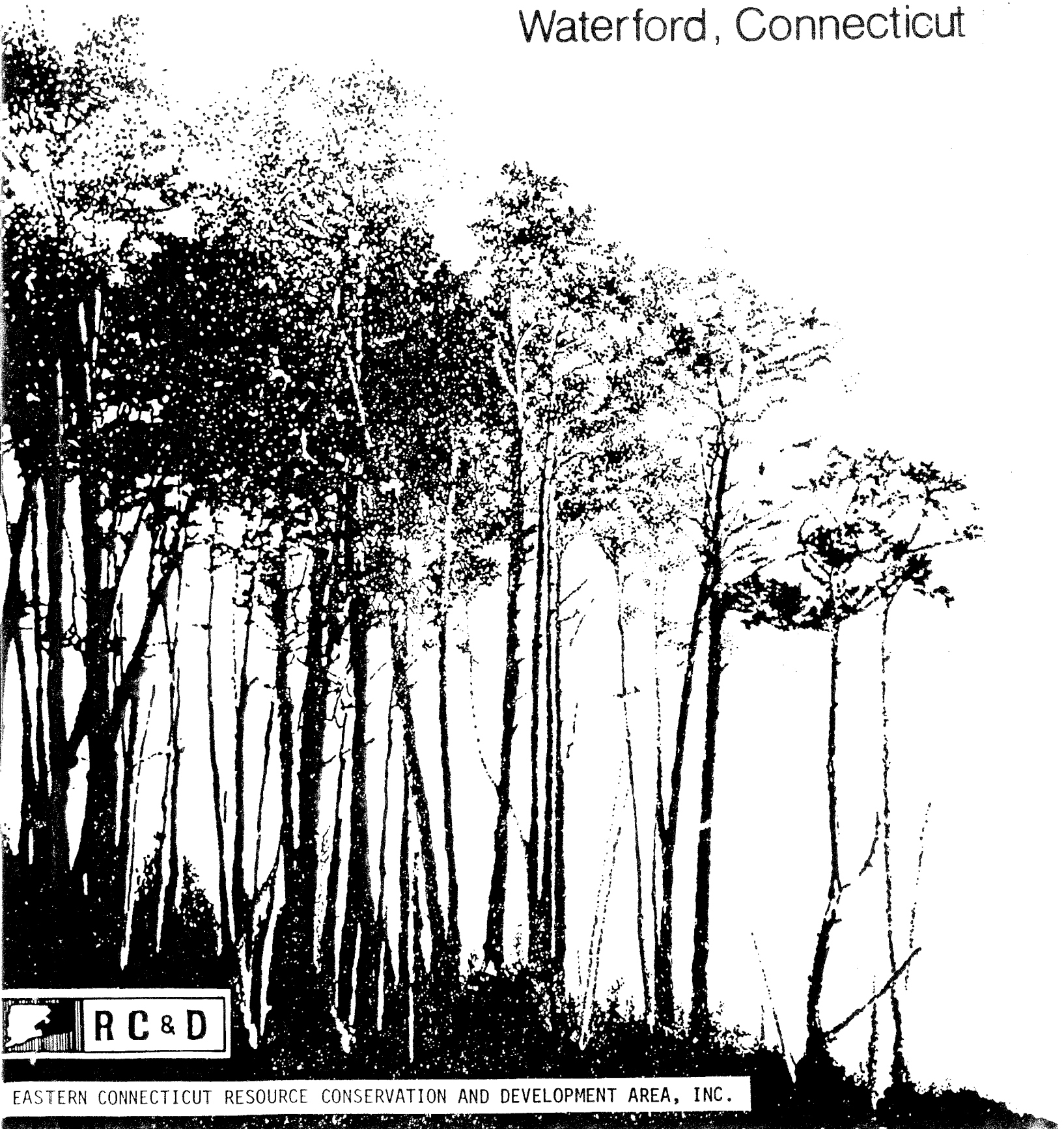
Environmental Review Team Report

Senkow Property

Waterford, Connecticut



RC&D

EASTERN CONNECTICUT RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

Environmental Review Team
Report

Senkow Property

Waterford, Connecticut

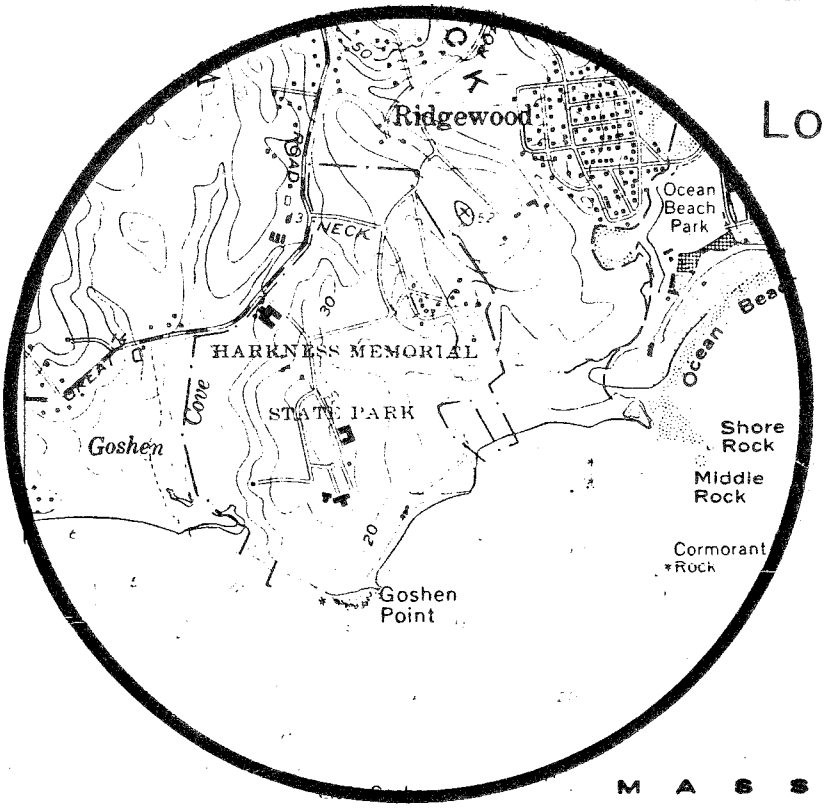
July 1984

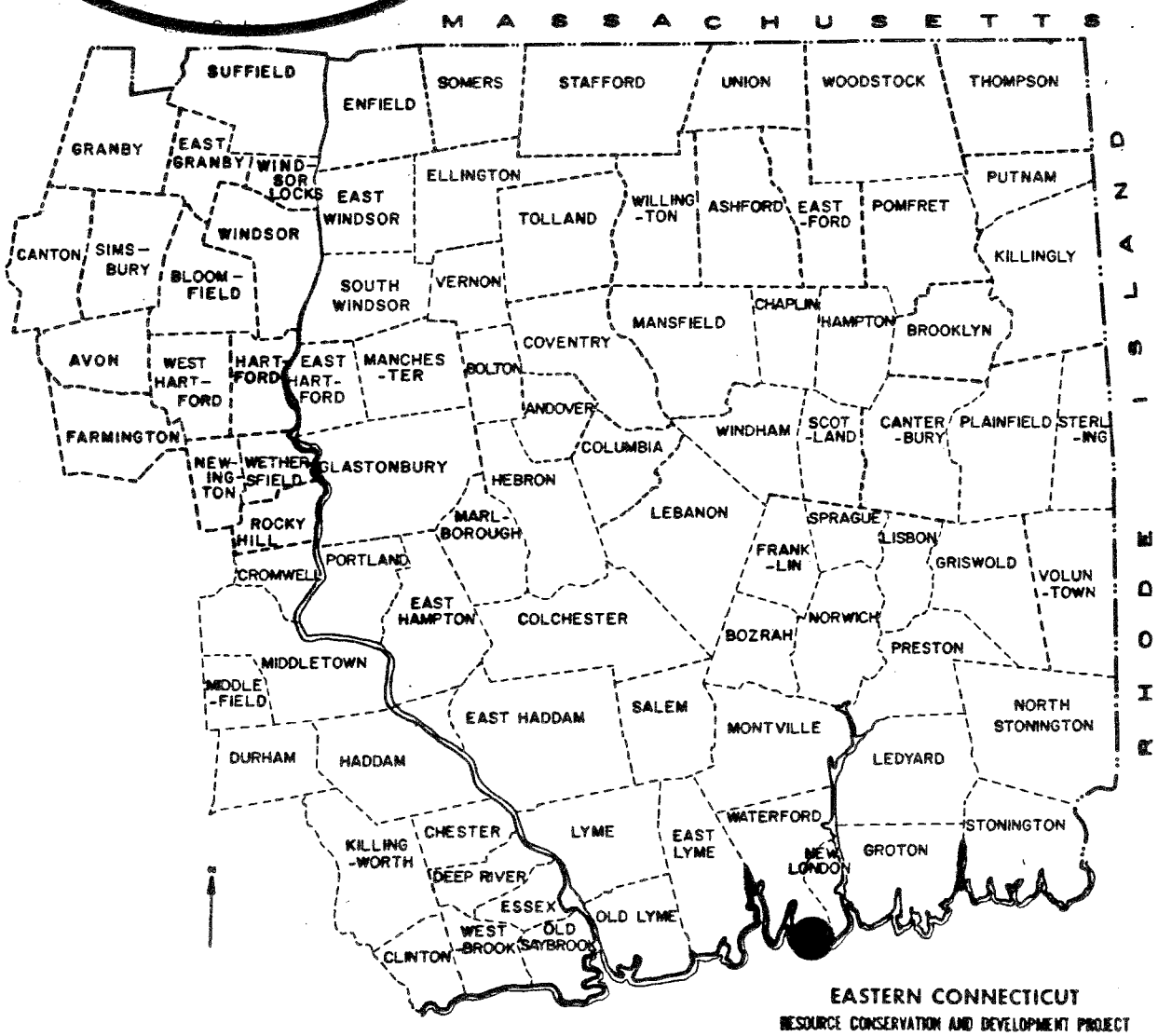
Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area

Environmental Review Team
PO Box 198
Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234

Location of Study Site

SENKOW PROPERTY
WATERFORD, CONNECTICUT





EASTERN CONNECTICUT
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT
ON
SENKOW PROPERTY
WATERFORD, CONNECTICUT

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the Waterford Planning and Zoning Commission to the New London 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 as a project measure. The request was approved and the measure reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The soils of the site were mapped by a soil scientist of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Reproductions of the soil survey map as well as a topographic map of the site were distributed to all ERT participants prior to their field review of the site.

The ERT that field-checked the site consisted of the following personnel: Liz Rodgers, Soil Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service (SCS); Bill Warzecha, Geologist, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Dana Pumphrey, Planner, Coastal Area Management, DEP; Ron Rosa, Ecologist, CAM, DEP; and Jeanne Shelburn, ERT Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area.

The Team met and field-checked the site on Thursday, May 17, 1984. Reports from each Team member were sent to the ERT Coordinator for review and summarization for the final report.

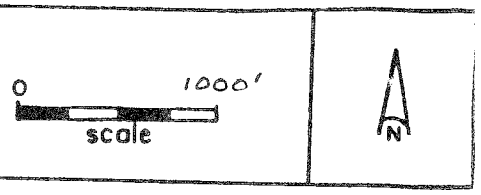
This report is not meant to compete with private consultants by supplying site designs or detailed solutions to development problems. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to the proposed development and also suggests considerations that should be of concern to the developer and the Town of Waterford. The results of this Team action are oriented toward the development of a better environmental quality and the long-term economics of the land use.

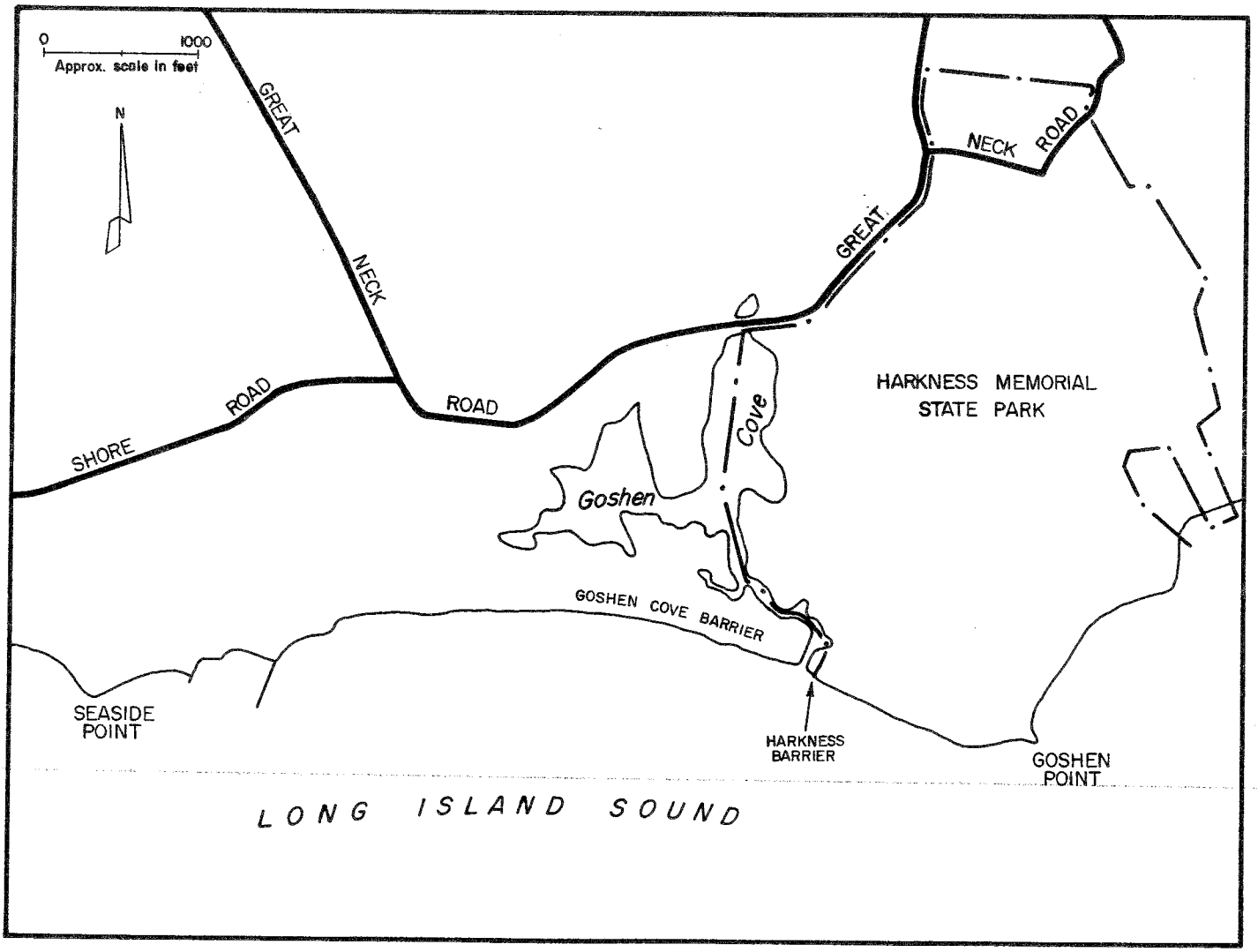
The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Project Committee hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in making your decisions on this particular site.

If you require any additional information, please contact: Ms. Jeanne Shelburn, Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, Box 198, RTE 205, Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234, 774-1253.

Location Map

Figure 1





INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team was asked to prepare a natural resource inventory and to determine any adverse impacts which may occur to the natural resource base of a 3.9 acre beach property at Goshen Cove owned by Theodore Senkow. It is Mr. Senkow's intention to grant beach rights on this site to the owners of property in the Westneck Estates subdivision, which he is in the process of developing.

Goshen Cove Beach is located along the southern shore of the Town of Waterford and to the west of Harkness Memorial State Park (see figure 1). Fastland (the upland, beach plus dune area; non-wetland component of the beach system) area embraces approximately 11 acres. To the south is Long Island Sound and to the north is Goshen Cove, a coastal embayment. The width of the fastland component ranges from 200' to 300' and the shoreline length totals approximately 2400'.

Presently, this beach remains largely undeveloped, except for a few residential structures located at the extreme western end. The primary uses are passive recreation such as walking, sunbathing and swimming by local property owners.

The study area owned by Mr. Senkow is more or less centrally located on the beach as shown in figure 2. This site is 2.6 acres in extent which can be subdivided into the following categories: beach (between mean high water and toe of dune)--.07 acres (3,000 sq. ft.), dune--1.0 acres (43,560 sq. ft.) and tidal wetland--1.5 acres (65,340 sq. ft.). These calculations exclude open water and public beach (beach below mean high water). It should be noted that the tidal wetland boundary as shown on the detailed plot plan does not use the state regulatory boundary. If this boundary were used (see figure 4), then the acreage figures for tidal wetland and dune would be larger and smaller respectively.

Goshen Cove barrier consists of three basic resources aside from the cove proper. These are beach, sand dunes and tidal wetlands (see figure 4). Note that the wetland boundary is an approximation of the state regulated tidal wetland boundary and differs considerably from the wetland boundary displayed on the plot plan.

The beach is technically that area which is subjected to tidal action, both on a daily basis and during extreme high or storm tides. Beaches can be divided into the foreshore and backshore zone. The foreshore beach is a zone positioned between low tide and high tide which in Connecticut is public beach. Landward of the high tide mark to the seaward edge of the dune is the backshore beach. This zone is inundated only by tides greater than average high tide events. The upper limits are usually flooded by the highest tides of the year and is often referred to as the annual wrack line. Recurrent flooding of the beach creates substrate instability which accounts for the general absence of vegetation. Only

at the upper limits of the backshore beach does a sparse vegetation of annual plants become established during the growing season.

Sand dunes are composed predominantly of aeolian (wind blown) sands derived from the beach proper. Beach sands, usually medium to coarse in texture, are transported by winds across the beach to a point beyond the influence of tidal action. Here debris or vegetation reduces the wind speed causing the wind to drop its load of sand. Vegetation not only traps sand but it also stabilizes the substrate. In the absence of vegetation, wind would continue to transport sand. Hence, in areas where dune vegetation has been destroyed, wind erosion occurs and the elevation of the dune is lowered thereby making landward areas more vulnerable to coastal flooding and wave action.

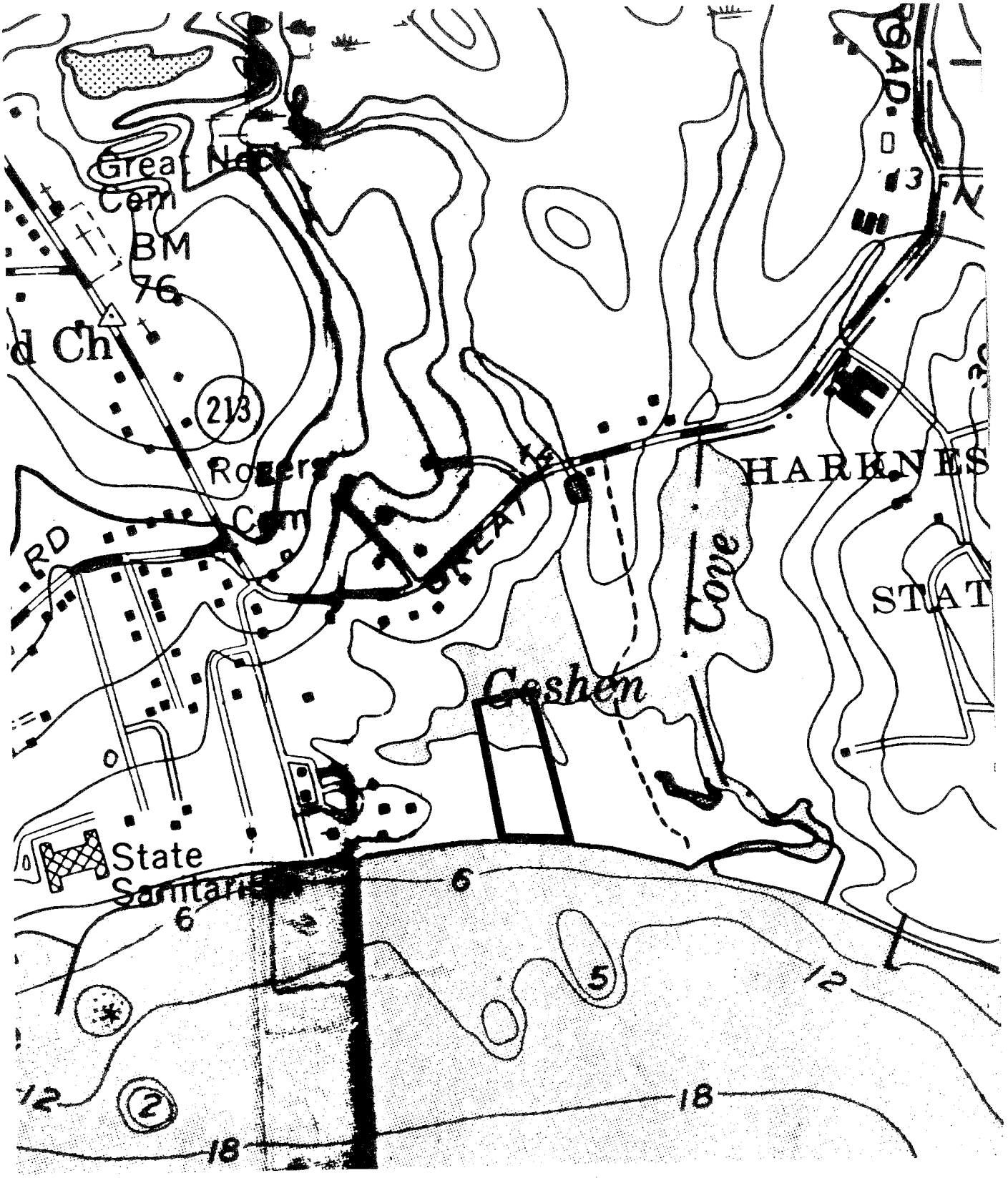
As vegetation traps sand, the dune begins to build vertically and seaward toward the source of the sand. The seaward limits of the dune are established by the landward extent of extreme and storm tides. Rates of sand deposition are maximal on the foreslope (seaward slope) of the dune and rates diminish progressively with increasing distance landward. In Connecticut, one occasionally observes more or less level sandy areas behind the primary (first) dune. These are called sandflats and are usually associated with the actively growing (prograding or elongating) sections of barriers such as near inlets. Such areas are the most youthful sections of a barrier which have not been subjected to long periods of erosion or retreat. On older sections, as is the case for most of the Goshen Cove barrier, the long history of overwash formation has converted a once more complex topography into a simple, linear dune ridge.

It is generally the case that dune height generally increases downdrift from the source of sediment or headlands. Thus, at the point where the beach attaches to the mainland, the beach sediments are usually coarse in texture consisting of stones, pebbles, and very coarse sands. This material is not readily transported by wind and thus, the adjacent dunes are invariably low in elevation or not present. Wave action moves the finer textured materials such as medium and coarse sands downdrift, in this case eastward. The composition of the beach sediments become progressively finer. Thus, as the composition of the beach sediment improves, so does the height of the dune. On Goshen Cove barrier, the highest dunes are generally located at more easterly locations.

Another important resource at this site are the tidal wetlands located behind and protected by the coastal barrier. These are mostly of the salt marsh type dominated by short meadow grasses such as Salt-meadow Cord-Grass (Spartina patens) and Spike Grass (Distichlis spicata). Along the ditches and edge of the marsh is found the taller Salt-water Cord-Grass (Spartina alterniflora).

The following sections of this report discuss the resource base of the site and Team members' concerns for potential adverse impacts in greater detail. Mitigation measures are suggested for consideration by the Town and developer.

Topography Figure 2	Site Boundary	0 660' scale	N



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

TOPOGRAPHY

Land surface on the property is generally level. Elevations on the site range from sea level at the high water mark of Long Island Sound to probably not more than 10 feet along the top of the dune in the south central part of the site.

GEOLOGY/MARINE PROCESSES

The property is located within the New London topographic quadrangle. A bedrock geologic map (Map GQ-574) and a surficial geologic map (Map GQ-176) for the quadrangle was prepared by Richard Goldsmith and published by the U.S. Geological Survey. Both maps are available for purchase or review at the Department of Environmental Protection Natural Resource Center.

Goldsmith classifies the bedrock underlying the site as Monson Gneiss. Although this rock unit is not exposed on the property, it outcrops a short distance east and northeast of the site (along Goshen Cove). The rock consists of a gray to dark gray medium-to-coarse grained gneiss which is composed chiefly of the minerals biotite, hornblende, quartz and plagioclase. A "gneiss" is a crystalline, metamorphic rock (rocks geologically altered by great heat and pressure deep within the earth's crust) which is streaked or banded.

Depth to bedrock probably ranges between 10 and 39 feet (Source: Connecticut Water Resources Bulletin No. 15).

The surficial geology for this area is depicted in figure 3. Note that to the west of the beach, the surficial geology is characterized by an outwash deposit that intersects the shore. In general, the optimal formation of beaches occurs along the seaward edges of outwash deposits since they are composed of primary sands or gravels or both. Through the centuries, marine processes have eroded outwash deposits such as this and used the eroded sands to build beaches.

To the east, the state park is largely comprised of glacial till which is a poorly sorted mixture of coarse textured soil, stones and rocks. The soils also overlie a material called compact basal till. This is a dense and compact sublayer which is mostly impervious to downward movement of water. Associated with the eastern and western shores of the park are sandy beaches. These, too, were formed as the result of centuries of erosion.

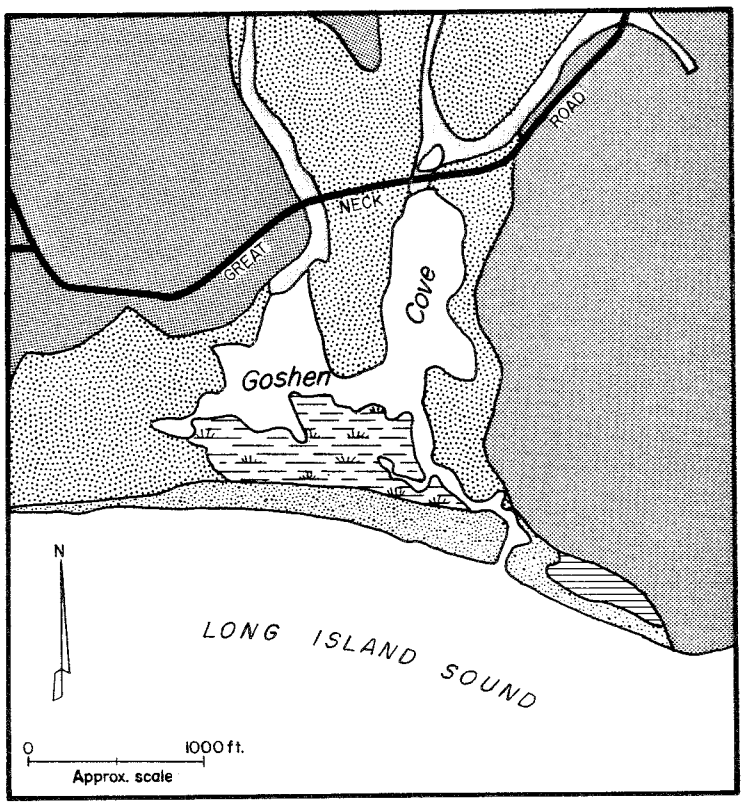
Critical to the growth and the maintenance of any barrier beach is the long-termed erosion of certain upland features called headlands. These are convex, seaward projecting upland features whose shoreline is composed of bluffs or sea-cliffs. This configuration is characteristic of eroding shorelines. Depositional features such as barriers, tend to be linear or concave (curvilinear). Headlands are the principal source of the sediment which is instrumental to the nourishment

Surficial Geology

Figure 3

0 1000'
scale

N



LEGEND

- Till
- Glacial outwash
- Alluvium
- Salt marsh deposits
- Beach deposits
- Dune sand

Information is from Richard Goldsmith's surficial geology maps of the Niantic and New London Quadrangles, 1959-1962. Base map has been modified to reflect changes in the mouth of Goshen Cove.

of contiguous barrier beaches. The headlands in the vicinity of Goshen Cove Beach are Goshen Point at the state park and Seaside Point (see figure 1). The sandy outwash deposits located between the point and Goshen Cove beach (see figure 3) are of critical importance to Seaside Point. However, much of the land between Seaside Point and the beach has been stabilized by a combination of seawalls and revetments. Such features temporarily interrupt the movement of sand to the beach. While these structures afford the land behind them temporary protection against wave erosion, the reduction in sand supply to the beach inevitably accelerates the rate of erosion of the beach.

Sediment in the nearshore and intertidal zones adjacent to a beach will move both onshore/offshore (perpendicular to the shore) and along or parallel to the shore (longshore transport of drift). Collectively this movement of sediment by waves and currents is called littoral drift or transport. At any given time as a function of wind and wave direction, sediment can move parallel to the shore in two directions. However, there is usually a net movement in only one direction. At Goshen Cove, there are two primary directions of littoral transport. The first is an easterly transport system along the shore from Seaside Point towards the central section of Goshen Cove beach. The second is in a westerly transport system from Goshen Point towards the central section of Goshen Cove. To the west of the inlet is a point of stability (see figure 3). To the west of this point the beach is 'eroding' (more aptly termed retreating) and to the east of this point, the beach is prograding (accumulating sand and building in a seaward direction).

Goshen Cove and 'Harkness' Beaches are coastal barrier beaches. A coastal barrier is defined as a marine depositional feature which 1) consists of unconsolidated sedimentary materials (in this case sands and gravel), 2) is subject to wave, tidal and wind energies, and 3) protects landward aquatic habitats. Both of these beaches are technically barrier beach spits. A "spit" is a type of barrier that is attached to the mainland on one side and has a free end situated adjacent to open water or an inlet.

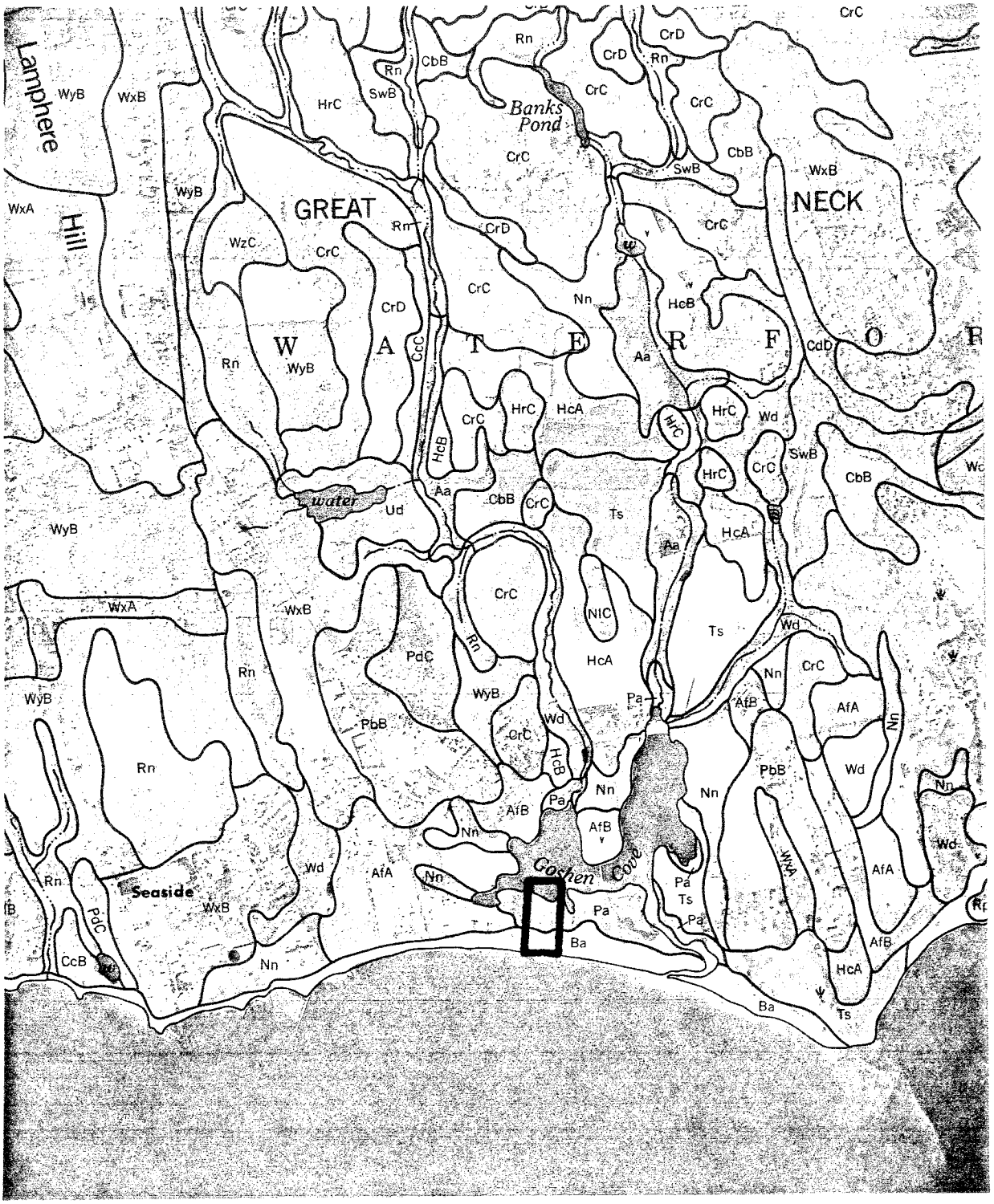
Coastal barriers are storm dependent geological features. Storm waves and tides will eventually overtop the dunes or cut a new inlet through a gap in the dune. When the dune is overtopped, sand is usually carried over and deposited behind the dune. An inlet will also result in sand movement from the Sound side to the lagoonal or cove side of a barrier. In both cases, the effective height and width of the barrier is increased. Sand deposited in shallow waters of a cove provides new substrate for the formation of salt marshes. Another way of viewing this process is to consider the beach as migrating landward or rolling over itself. This process is called retreat or migration. Overwash and inlet formation are phenomenon that can threaten and destroy structures erected on a coastal barrier. In these cases, man assigns this process a negative connotation and calls it erosion. The placement of a structure on a barrier, simply serves as a yardstick against which to measure the movement of the barrier.

These processes are most pronounced during storms. In the absence of these processes and in light of rising sea level, coastal barriers would have drowned thousands of years ago. The flood proofing mechanism, which maintain coastal barriers above sea level, is called retreat or migration. This is the reason why the placement of erosion control structures such as seawalls on a coastal barrier is undesirable. While these structures simply do not survive the

Soils

0 1320'
scale

N



vagaries of coastal storms in the long term, they threaten the very existence of the barrier with submergence. Coastal barriers possess the capacity to migrate in order to cope with the natural coastal processes.

SOILS

The two soil series that are typical of the site are Beaches (Ba) and Pawcatuck Mucky Peat (Pa). Both of these soils are wetland soils regulated under P.A. 155. These are described in detail below.

Ba-Beaches

This map unit consists of sandy, gravelly, and cobbly shores which are washed and rewashed by waves. Areas are partly covered with water during high tides or stormy periods. Slopes range from 0 to 8 percent.

Pa-Pawcatuck mucky peat

This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is on tidal marshes adjacent to Long Island Sound and Fishers Island Sound. The Pawcatuck soil has a high water table at or above the surface for most of the year. It is subject to daily inundations by salt water. Permeability is moderate through rapid in the organic layers and very rapid in the underlying mineral sediment. The available water capacity is high. Runoff is very slow, or the soil is ponded. The soil is strongly acid through neutral. If drained, it becomes extremely acid and toxic to plants. This soil is not suited to cultivated crops or trees because of the high salt content.

Maintaining the dunes and preventing them from eroding is a major concern at this site. Since there will be an increase in foot traffic across the dunes to the Beach, it will be necessary to insure that the dunes are protected from erosion.

One method of protecting the dunes is to provide fencing of the dunes and not allow foot traffic on them. A second alternative is to construct a wooden boardwalk across the dunes. This would enable them to be crossed without disturbing the fragile dune grass. Fencing also may be desirable in conjunction with a boardwalk.

DUNE VEGETATION

The dunes on site and for most of Goshen Cove barrier support a coastal grassland vegetation dominated by American Beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*). Associates include Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*), Seaside Rose (*Rosa virginiana*), Dusty Miller (*Artemisia stellariana*), Salt spray Rose (*Rosa rugosa*) and Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

Beachgrass is by far the most important plant on these dunes in regard to building and protecting the surface sands from wind erosion. Several intrinsic properties of this grass make it and it alone uniquely adapted to the dune environment. These are as follows:

perennial habit and persistence of aerial shoots during non-favorable growing conditions, namely winter (hence sand can be trapped and stabilized during the winter season)

extreme tolerance of salt spray

tolerant of excessively drained, xeric and nutrient poor sands

capacity for rapid horizontal growth as a mechanism for colonizing open areas

capacity for rapid vertical growth as a mechanism for avoiding burial by sand

In order to better understand the unique qualities of Beachgrass which make it ideally suited for the sand dune environment, a closer examination of the plant's morphology is necessary.

Beachgrass is classified as a cryptotphyte (i.e., the perennating bud is located beneath the soil surface). Specifically, it is a rhizome geophyte (terrestrial plant). A rhizome is simply a subterranean and horizontal stem which produces shoots and roots from the topside and underside of nodes or swellings on the rhizome respectively. The rhizome is capable of rapid elongation (horizontal) especially in the direction of sand supply (i.e. towards the beach).

As Beachgrass invades barren sand areas, the rhizome gives rise to vertical branched shoots and new roots. The vertical elongation of the shoot is dependant upon season and rate of sand deposition. These two factors are virtually interdependent. Accompanying the onset of spring, the shoot will grow the fastest through the large amount of sand that has accumulated during the winter season. Growth during the summer season is slow in response to the small amounts of sand deposition that occurs during this quiescent period. Beachgrass grows best on the foreslope of the dune where the sedimentation rates are maximal. Though, still dominant on the backslope of the dune, the density of Beachgrass diminishes somewhat and the diversity of other coastal beach plants increases.

WILDLIFE

Beaches and their inland coastal dune areas and salt marshes are very fragile habitats and should be left undeveloped if possible. Undeveloped areas with minimal human disturbance are needed for shorebirds, waterfowl and some species of mammals for nesting, feeding, courtship and brood rearing areas. Because there are fewer areas of undeveloped coast they are becoming more and more valuable to the many species of wildlife that use them.

Using a beach for recreation places high seasonal summer use on an area. The open beach areas and, to a lesser extent, the dune areas are crucial nesting areas to many species of shorebirds like piping plovers, killdeers, and sandpipers.

Most species of shorebirds will re-nest if their first nest is destroyed. Nesting may continue until August if several nesting attempts are made.

Trampling of dune vegetation and the resulting erosion could have long term effects on the ecology of the areas and should be avoided if possible.

Recommendations

1. Restrict use of fragile dune areas by fencing or signs to limit erosion and damage to the habitat.

2. Completely restrict use of a portion of the beach area where shorebirds are known to nest.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Coastal Site Plan Review

In terms of coastal management the impacts to dunes and tidal wetlands resulting from pedestrian traffic and recreational uses at the study site are the paramount issues. The coastal site plan review (CSPR) application dated January 16, 1984 for this site does not describe the location or nature of the access route or how potential adverse impacts to the aforementioned resources from recreational uses and pedestrian traffic impacts will be mitigated. This makes it impossible to assess potential adverse impacts on sensitive coastal resources in any definitive way. Plans for permanent beach access need to be proposed prior to the Waterford Planning and Zoning Commission's review and decision on the CSPR application.

It appears that there are several options for pedestrian access. The most desirable option from an environmental standpoint is to use an existing access corridor located off the Strand loop. This route is located adjacent to the sideyard of existing residential property and provides direct access to the beach. Such a route reduces the length of trail across sand dunes thereby reducing the risks of wind erosion of the dune.

Alternatively, the use of the existing access easement is a more circuitous route that constitutes a lengthy dune crossing. The route is currently a simple sand trail that at first is located behind the dune line and is oriented more or less parallel to the shoreline. It terminates on the beach which requires crossing through the primary dune. With regard to the latter, the trail creates a depression or gap through the dune. The absence of vegetation and the gap make the beach more vulnerable to wind and wave damage. Uncontrolled pedestrian traffic and recreation uses on the dune will trample and destroy the beachgrass which i stabilizing the sand and preventing wind erosion. These activities can diminish the beneficial properties of the dune.

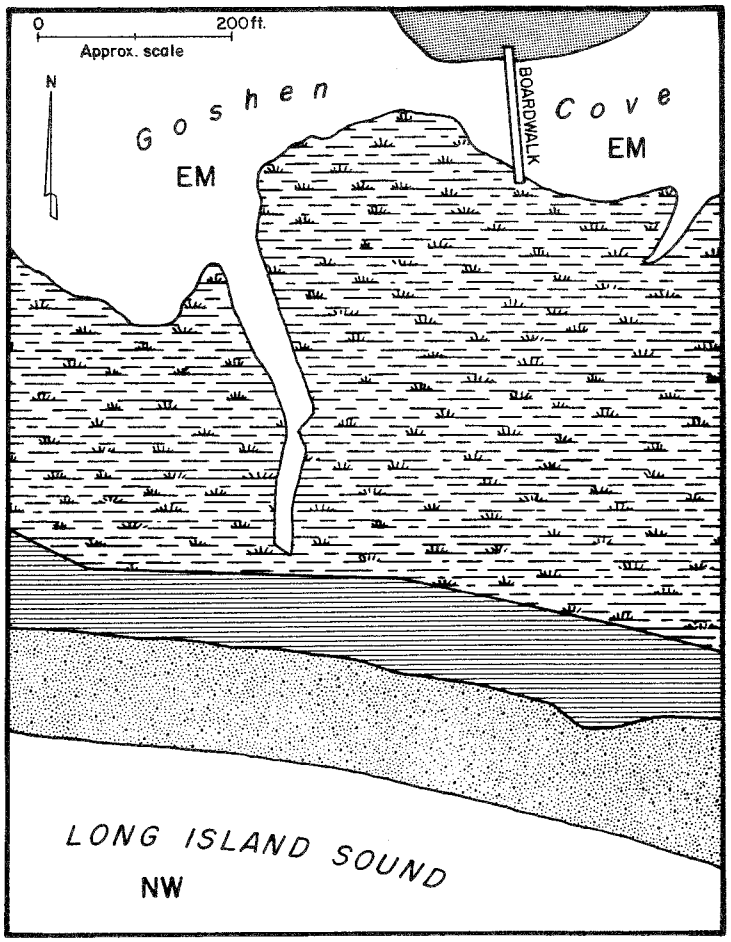
A related issue is the carrying capacity of the site for typical beach oriented recreation, namely sunbathing. A common optimum design standard used in planning for beach use is 75 square feet per person. Based upon the 3000 square foot estimate of dry sand area of beach, the carrying capacity of this beach is 40 people. At densities greater than this figure, the quality of the recreational

Coastal Resources

Figure 4

0 1000'
scale

N



LEGEND

- Regulated tidal wetland
- Dunes
- Beach
- Coastal flood hazard area
- EM Estuarine embayment
- NW Nearshore water

experience diminishes and the risks of people encroaching upon the dunes is increased.

If the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Waterford PZC that no beach access is available other than via the existing easement, the PZC, pursuant to Section 22a-106 of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), must determine whether or not the potential adverse impacts to the dunes are acceptable. Further, the PZC has the authority to modify the application to ensure adequate protection of the dunes thereby improving compliance with the state policy of preserving the integrity of beaches and dunes, as specified under Section 22a-92 (b)(2)(c), C.G.S. The most preferrable means for beach access, if the dunes must be crossed by pedestrians, is to construct a single elevated boardwalk. This boardwalk, which should be used by all beachgoers, would eliminate the need to use the multiple trails which currently crisscross the dunes. To further discourage the beachgoers from venturing off the boardwalk onto the dunes, the following management practices are recommended:

1. Railings or snow fencing placed alongside the elevated boardwalk could be installed.

2. Beach grass could be reestablished within the old dune trails.

3. 'Keep off the dune' signs could be posted.

A conservation easement for the dune area would be one method of preserving the dunes in perpetuity. The associated tidal wetlands of Goshen Cove should be included in such a conservation easement.

Dune Maintenance and Protection

It is imperative that the sand dunes be preserved and maintained. As noted earlier, coastal barriers afford protection to contiguous aquatic environments which in this instance are tidal wetlands and Goshen Cove. The higher the elevation of the dune line, the greater the flood protection afforded to the aquatic habitats located behind the barrier. The presence of gaps in the dune line or the lowering of the dune, make the beach susceptible to lower frequency coastal storms. Movement of water through these gaps will assuredly carry sand to interior areas and may culminate in the creation of new inlets.

The tidal hydrology in Goshen Cove is presumably different than that of the adjacent Long Island Sound due to the narrow inlet which connects these two water bodies. The existing inlet can convey limited quantities of water at any given time such that Goshen Cove is still being flooded when high tide occurs in the Sound. Before the water levels in the Cove can equilibrate with the level in Long Island Sound, the tide in the Sound starts to ebb. This means that high tide in the Cove is probably lower than high tide in the Sound.

The importance of understanding this hydrology is that as the existing inlet is widened or multiple inlets form during a storm, then flood waters can penetrate the Cove more quickly. The increase in the cross sectional area of the existing creek or formation of multiple inlets will increase the elevation of the flood in the Cove. This increases the area that will be flooded. Alteration of the tidal hydrology for long periods of time will alter the cove environment both

in terms of tides and slinity levels. Establishment of new tidal regimes will cause the plant communities to shift their elevation in accordance with the individual habitat requirements of these communities.

It, therefore, is crucial to preserve the dunes and at least protect them from undesirable man-made alterations. As noted earlier, to survive submergence, a coastal barrier must migrate. In order to do this, overwash and inlet formation must occur. This process must be protected and allowed to continue. However, it is not beneficial to increase the rate of these processes. Destruction of dunes by man through the creation of gaps in the dunes will accelerate these processes and make the barrier and the cove susceptible to lower frequency coastal storms. The primary management goal then is to safeguard the dune from unacceptable man-made impacts that increases its susceptibility to storm damage.

Any man-made activity that destroys the dune or vegetation of the dune constitutes an unacceptable impact on a coastal barrier. One of th epotential problems that can result from increased use of the beach for recreation is trampling of the dune vegetation. Beachgrass is not very tolerant of recurrent trampling. Trampling culminates in the establishment of sand trails devoid of vegetation. These areas in turn are susceptible to wind erosion. Wind erosion will lower the effective height of the dune and make it easier for water to move across or through the dunes.

It becomes critical then to restrict pedestrian access across and into the dune area. All recreational activities should be confined to the beach proper. The dunes should be a restricted area for all types of recreation including, but not limited to, sunbathing, kite flying, frisbee playing and hiking. If a trail across the dunes must be established, then it is best to construct an elevated boardwalk over the dune. This will reduce the risk of wind erosion and preserve the integrity of the dune. As noted earlier, a sand trail across the dune simply invites wind erosion.

Since there already exists multiple dune crossings on Goshen Beach, it may be best to consolidate these as much as possible. One dune crossing located at the western end of beach would be preferential to multiple crossings. Abandoned trails should be allowed to revegetate naturally or through planting of beach grass. Snow fence can also be placed at strategic locations in order to discourage pedestrian traffic. To assist in the protection of the dunes, 'KEEP OFF THE DUNE' signs should be posted. As necessary, this can be augmented by containing the dune with snow fence. An excellent example of dune protection can be observed at the Waterford Town Beach located west of Alewive Cove.

Dunes damaged by man of the elements can be repaired. This can be accomplished with a combination of snow fence and the active planting of Beachgrass in the gaps. Given the abundance of Beachgrass at Goshen Cove, grass could be selectively harvested from the backslope of the dune and used to plant denuded foreslope areas. In the event that this becomes necessary, the Coastal Management Office of DEP has a number of references which describe the simple procedure for dune restoration.

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.

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 activitis. 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, and a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the Team should address. 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 Jeanne Shelburn (774-1253), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 198, Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234.