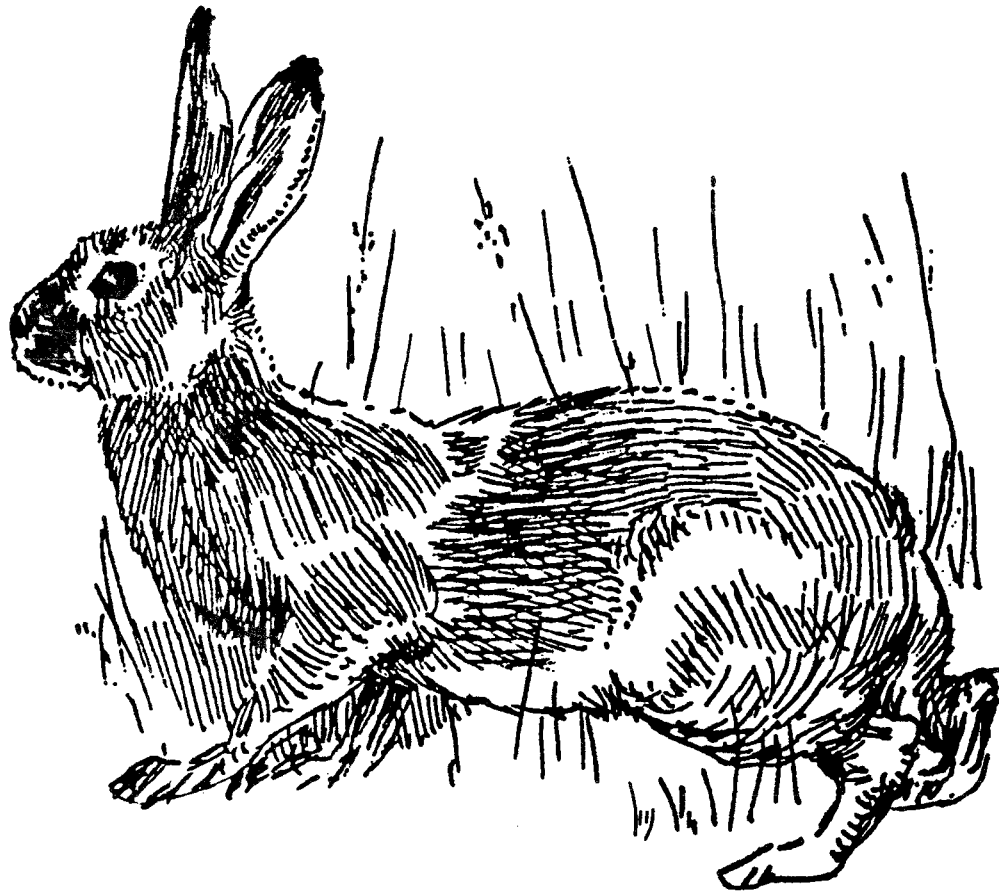


KING'S MARK ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM



REPORT FOR

**GOSHEN BASEBALL FIELD**

GOSHEN,  
CONNECTICUT

King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

**GOSHEN BASEBALL FIELD**

**GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT**

Environmental Review Team Report

Prepared by the King's Mark Environmental Review Team  
of the King's Mark Resource Conservation  
and Development Area, Inc.

Wallingford, Connecticut

for the

Goshen Recreation Commission

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. The results of the Team action are oriented toward the development of a better environmental quality and long-term economics of the land use. The opinions contained herein are those of the individual Team members and do not necessarily represent the views of any regulatory agency with which they may be employed.

**JANUARY 1991**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team Coordinator, Nancy Ferlow, would like to thank and gratefully acknowledge the following Team members whose professionalism and expertise were invaluable to the completion of this study:

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566-5518

I would also like to thank Susan Anderson, Secretary of the King's Mark Environmental Review Team for assisting in the completion of this report.

Finally, special thanks to Margaret Enkler, Litchfield County Soil and Water Conservation District and John Garvey, Chair, Goshen Recreation Commission for their cooperation and assistance during this environmental review.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

The Goshen Recreation Commission requested a review of 3 potential sites for a new Bambino League baseball field. The Goshen Fairgrounds site is located on the north end of the Goshen Fairgrounds. This site is an open field currently used by the fairgrounds for parking. Parking and sanitary facilities are available at the fairgrounds. The Center School site is located behind Center School and the Town Hall. This site currently is used as a multi-purpose field by the school. Parking and sanitary facilities are available at the school. The Camp Cochepianee site is located in southcentral Goshen at the south side of Dog Pond. This site is currently used for a soccer field. Municipal sewers are not available, and the camp is served by a small septic system.

The review process consisted of 4 phases: 1) inventory of the site's natural resources; 2) assessment of the resources; 3) identification of resource problem areas; and 4) presentation of planning and land use guidelines. Based on the review process, specific resources, areas of concern, development limitations and development opportunities were identified.

### Soil Resources

Soils on the 3 sites include Borrow and fill, Paxton, Ridgebury and Woodbridge soils. The soil limitations for Lawns are most appropriate for a baseball field.

### Erosion and Sediment Control

An E&S control plan was not provided with the plans. The Town should refer to the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control to develop a plan. Concerns to be addressed include silt fence, haybales, construction and permanent vegetation. The limitations include a hardpan zone, moderately steep slopes and small areas of wetlands. Well developed E&S control plans for proposed activities will reduce potential adverse impacts to the soil resources. The key to successful E&S control is the proper installation and maintenance of control measures.

### Threatened and Endangered Plant and Animal Species

According to the Natural Diversity Data Base, there are no known extant populations of Federally Endangered and Threatened species or Connecticut "Species of Special Concern" occurring at the sites. Records indicate that *Scirpus acutus*, a proposed State Threatened species, was found in the Dog Pond area in 1925. This plant grows in marshes and along ponds.

### Planning Considerations

Although the local plans do not specifically mention ballfields, they do endorse an enhancement of recreation. The State SCORP plan identifies ballfields as a local

concern and lists them as relatively important in an opinion poll. The proposed ballfield is consistent with the local and State plans.

### Goshen Fairgrounds Site

This site includes 0.54 acres at the north end of the fairgrounds. This site consists of a gently sloping field near the crest of a drumlin. Orientation of the diamond will push the field westward to avoid interference with traffic on Route 63. The slopes are steeper in the west and will require filling.

This site is covered by till. The till becomes silty and compact at 3 feet below ground surface, and a high watertable may result. Drainage work may be needed to dry out the area for the field. This site work may be expensive. Serious erosion problems could occur, and a detailed E&S control plan is needed. Bedrock underlying this site is a coarse-grained schistose gneiss. Depth to bedrock is unknown, but should pose no problems to ballfield construction on this site.

If the ballfield is developed on this site, the sanitary facilities that serve the fairgrounds should be opened to save the cost of building other facilities. The waterlines could be extended to provide water to a bubbler near the field.

Surface runoff flows west toward Long Swamp. Groundwater flows generally parallel the surface water flows. Groundwater in the field area is classified as GAA. Care should be taken with pesticide and fertilizer application to protect the water resource.

Soils of this site include PbB and PbC. Subsurface drainage must be considered due to the hardpan layer. If the field is constructed, it should be fenced to protect it and to facilitate maintenance.

Of the 3 sites reviewed, this site appears to be the least compatible. Conflicts are sure to arise with other uses, and considerable site improvements are required. Limitations for the ballfield include slope, wet areas, use as parking for the fair, inconvenient sanitary facilities and scheduling conflicts.

### Center School Site

This site consists of approximately 1.4 acres of open field. This site is relatively flat and is currently used as a multi-purpose athletic field for the school. The present baseball diamond faces southwest. A better orientation is facing northeast. If this site were used for the ballfield, homeplate should be located near the tennis courts.

This site is covered by till. The till is characterized by a hardpan layer with a high watertable. Wet field conditions may hinder use during late spring and after a heavy rainfall. Expansion of the field appears limited by wet conditions. Groundwater intercepting drains will dry the field, but daylighting the pipes may be difficult. The septic system for the school is located under the field and the drains may intercept partially treated effluent and cause a health problem. Bedrock beneath

this site is a light-colored gneiss. It should present no problems to the development of the ballfield.

If this site is used, the sanitary facilities at the school should be opened. It might be possible to use portable toilets and extend the waterline to an outdoor bubbler.

Surface and groundwater flow to the wetland east of the site. Groundwater is classified as GAA. Care should be taken with pesticide and fertilizer application to protect the water resource.

Soils at the site include Bl, PbB and WxB. The volume of surface water observed is possibly a result of a high watertable from the Woodbridge soils. Subsurface drainage must be considered for this site to be developed.

This site already supports a small baseball field. Adequate parking is available. Improvement of the existing ballfield will benefit both the school and the Bambino League. The size of this site is somewhat limited, and a potential conflict exists with the residential uses in the east. According to population projections, more school space may be needed, and additional classroom trailers will encroach on the field.

This site is feasible for a baseball field and should be given careful consideration. The most suitable location for the field is in the northeast corner. Advantages of this site are central location, adequate parking, flat topography, the required length for the outfield, the tree buffer and reduced scheduling conflicts with soccer, softball and baseball at Camp Cochipianee.

### Camp Cochipianee Site

Camp Cochipianee is approximately 58 acres in size. The ballfield will be located in the southwest corner. This site is currently used as a baseball/soccer field. The current backstop is oriented in the preferred direction. This site is located at the north end of a streamlined hill. This site is generally flat, but slopes to a wetland area in the east.

This site is covered by till that has a compact layer. The resulting high watertable is not as severe as at the other 2 sites. Bedrock underlying this site is Manhattan schist. Bedrock should pose no problems for development of a ballfield. This site appears to be the most favorable, but may be limited by size. Construction of the ballfield will overlap the soccer field unless the soccer field is shifted to the north. The infield of the baseball field should be kept out of the soccer field.

Unless the existing outhouses are used, a new toilet facility should be considered. The compact till may limit the septic system, but this can be overcome with a properly engineered system. Consideration could be given to portable toilets. A bubbler system could be installed by tapping into the camp water line.

Surface runoff flows to a small wetland which drains into Dog Pond. The wetlands should be protected against sources of pollution if this site is developed.

Siltation from development will be the principal source of surface water contamination. Proper planning for E&S control, fertilizer/pesticide application and septic systems will minimize the effects of runoff.

Soils at this site are PbA, PbB2 and Rg. The existing baseball field will not require major construction to expand the facility. The soccer field presents a conflict unless it is relocated to the north. Filling for the soccer field near the wetlands can have minimal impact, if properly planned and monitored.

There is evidence for historical archaeological sites in the area of Dog Pond. As proposed, the baseball field will avoid these areas. If the ballfield is moved, an archaeological survey is recommended. The area also has potential for prehistoric sites.

Of the 3 sites, this offers the most potential for a cost-effective baseball field. The orientation of the existing field is correct. Improvement of the field will enhance and compliment the other recreational facilities. Access is good, parking is adequate and the use is compatible with surrounding land uses. Minor clearing and filling will be needed to move the soccer field to the north, and a small amount of fill is needed to create a level infield.

This site is on an existing grass field with an existing soccer field. This site is ideally suited for soccer. There is an existing softball field in the southwest corner used for practice by Little League and men's softball teams. Advantages in using the existing baseball field include proper orientation, an existing backstop and the 200 feet distance in right and left fields. Moving the soccer field further to the north will eliminate the problem of the baseball infield encroachment on the soccer field. Disadvantages of utilizing the existing ballfield include the inconvenient location of parking, the increased illegal parking, the downward slope existing in center and right field, the lack of space and safety buffer for player benches and spectator seating and the distance from sanitary facilities and water. Also, use of a baseball field for softball play will cause damage to the pitcher's mound and enhance maintenance problems.

The new baseball diamond proposed by the Recreation Commission will be located in the northwest corner of the camp property. Advantages of this location include accommodation of the minimum 200-foot requirement down the left and right field lines, adequate space and safety zones, convenient proximity to parking, sanitary facilities and water, minimal encouragement to illegally park cars and no encroachment of the skinned infield on the existing soccer field. Disadvantages include expenses for tree removal, fill and grading and poor field orientation. The southeast orientation generally is not recommended, but the existing tree buffer will shade the western section at sunset at the time of day and season of the year that the diamond is planned for use. The further home plate can be located toward the southeast, the more it will reduce the amount of trees that need to be removed and the extent of filling and grading required in left field. Also, the tree buffer could be more effective in blocking the sun setting in the west and provide additional space for the safety buffer and seating.

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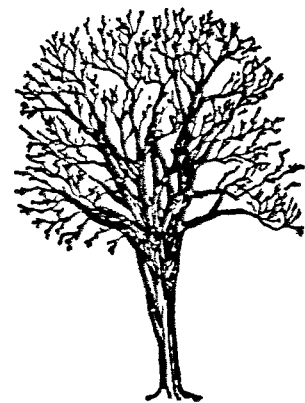
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**GENERAL PLANNING**  
**CHARACTERISTICS**



## INTRODUCTION

The Goshen Recreation Commission requested a review of 3 potential sites for a new Bambino League baseball field. The Goshen Fairgrounds site is located on the north end of the Goshen Fairgrounds. Access is provided by Route 63. This site is an open field currently used by the fairgrounds for parking. This site contains several wet pockets and some moderate slopes. Parking and sanitary facilities are available at the fairgrounds.

The Center School site is located behind Center School and the Town Hall. Access is provided by Route 63. This site currently is used as a multi-purpose field by the school. Parking and sanitary facilities are available at the school.

The Camp Cochepianee site is located in southcentral Goshen at the south side of Dog Pond. Access is provided by Beach Street. This site is currently used for a soccer field and equipment and debris storage. This site slopes to a wetland. Parking and sanitary facilities may be a problem. Municipal sewers are not available, and the camp is served by a small septic system.

The purpose of this review is to inventory and assess existing natural resources and discuss recreational opportunities, erosion and sediment (E&S) controls and the impacts of development. This environmental information will then be used to assist the Town in guiding conservation and recreation in these areas. Specific objectives include:

- 1) Assessing the hydrological and geological characteristics of the sites, including geological development limitations and opportunities;
- 2) Determining the suitability of existing soils to support recreational development;
- 3) Discussing soil erosion and sedimentation concerns;
- 4) Assessing planning issues; and
- 5) Assessing recreational issues.

## THE ERT PROCESS

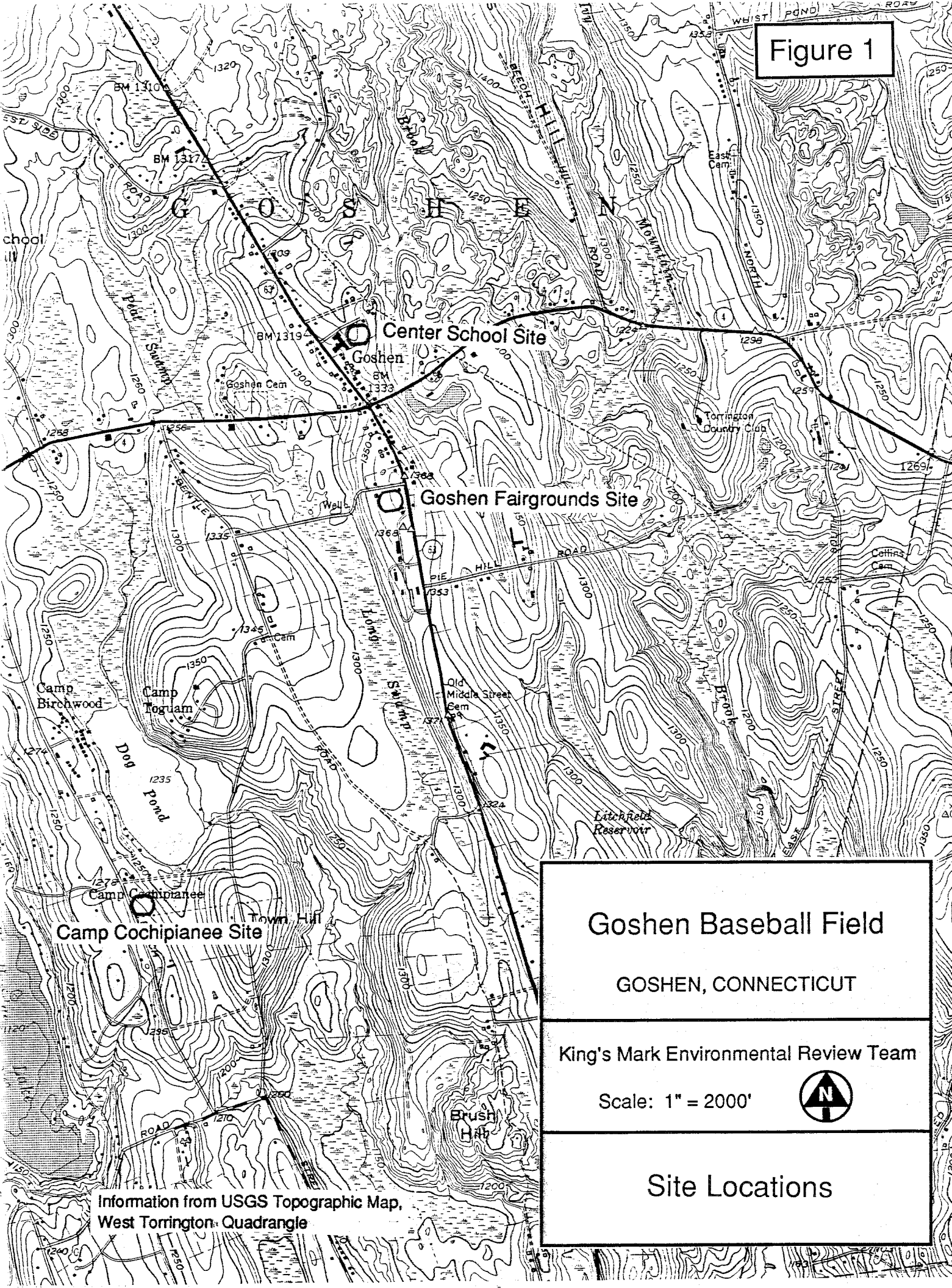
Through the efforts of the Goshen Recreation Commission and the King's Mark ERT, this environmental review and report was prepared for the Town. This report primarily provides a description of on-site natural resources and presents planning and land use guidelines. The review process consisted of 4 phases:

- 1) Inventory of the site's natural resources (collection of data);
- 2) Assessment of these resources (analysis of data);
- 3) Identification of resource problem areas; and
- 4) Presentation of planning and land use guidelines.

The data collection phase involved both literature and field research. The ERT field review took place on November 27, 1990. Field review and inspection of the proposed sites proved to be a most valuable component of this phase. The emphasis of the field review was on the exchange of ideas, concerns or alternatives. Mapped data or technical reports were also perused, and specific information concerning the site was collected. Being on-site also allowed Team members to check and confirm mapped information and identify other resources.

Once Team members had assimilated an adequate data base, they were able to analyze and interpret their findings. Results of this analysis enabled Team members to arrive at an informed assessment of the site's natural resource development opportunities and limitations. Individual Team members then prepared and submitted their reports to the ERT Coordinator for compilation into the final ERT report.

Figure 1



# Goshen Baseball Field

GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT

King's Mark Environmental Review Team

Scale: 1" = 2000'



## Site Locations

Information from USGS Topographic Map,  
West Torrington Quadrangle



## SOIL RESOURCES

The soils within the 3 sites include Borrow and fill, Paxton, Ridgebury and Woodbridge soils. Soil descriptions:

- 1) Borrow and fill land (Bl) consists of areas where the **original** soil has been disturbed or removed during construction activities and varies in permeability, drainage and suitability for vegetation. Because of these factors, limitations for development within these soils have not been established.
- 2) Paxton soils (PbA, PbB, PbB2 and PbC) are well-drained with a dense layer (i.e., hardpan) at approximately 24 inches in depth. Slope is a major limitation for development within PbC soils. Cut slopes are likely to have seeps flowing out during wet periods, and subsurface drainage may be required. The watertable depth is between 1.5 and 2.5 feet below ground surface, and the high water months are between February and April.
- 3) Ridgebury soils (Rg) are inland wetland soils. Wetness is a major limitation for development. The watertable depth is between 0 and 1.5 feet below ground surface, and the high water months are between November and May.
- 4) Woodbridge soils (WxB) are moderately well-drained with a dense layer (i.e., hardpan) at approximately 24 inches in depth. Wetness is a major limitation for development. Cut slopes are likely to have seeps flowing out during wet periods, and subsurface drainage may be required. The watertable depth is between 1.5 and 2.5 feet below ground surface, and the high water months are between November and May.

These soils are further described in the Soil Survey of Litchfield County (1970). Appendix A Tables 1, 2 and 3 summarize the soil conditions on-site. Since a baseball diamond is usually flat, grassed and lawn-like in appearance, the soil limitations for development under the category of Lawns in Table 3 will be most applicable for the proposed project. This does not preclude the remaining categories for planning considerations.

The soil limitations which are identified do not preclude development. However, they do require careful planning for, but not limited to, timing of construction activities, subsurface drainage systems and soil E&S control measures.

## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

A soil E&S control plan was **not** provided as a component of the proposed project. The Town should refer to the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (1985, revision 1988) to develop an E&S plan for the project. Special consideration should address, but not be limited to, the use of silt fencing, hay bales, construction entrances and establishing permanent vegetation. The key to successful E&S control is the proper installation and maintenance of selected control methods.

## THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

According to the Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files, there are no known extant populations of Federally Endangered and Threatened species or Connecticut "Species of Special Concern" occurring at the sites.

Records indicate that *Scirpus acutus*, Hard-stemmed Bulrush, was collected from the Dog Pond area in 1925. This plant grows in marshes, shores and pond margins, often in calcareous areas. *Scirpus acutus* is proposed for State Threatened status according to Public Act 89-224.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biologic resources available at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultation with the Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current



research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as enhance existing data. New information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

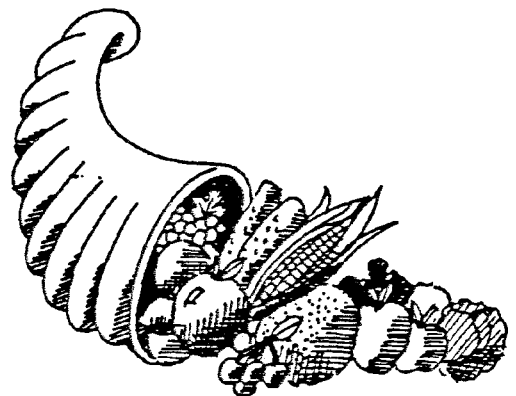
## PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Goshen Open Space Plan (1984), the Goshen Community Development Action Plan (1972), and the Goshen Plan of Development (1973) were reviewed for any specific reference to the need for additional ballfields in the Town of Goshen. The local plans do not specifically discuss the need for active recreational facilities such as ballfields in Town, but do endorse the general enhancement of public recreation opportunities in the community. In addition, the 1973 Plan of Development charges the Goshen Recreation Commission with actively developing an all-inclusive recreation program for the Town. The Goshen Planning and Zoning Commission is now in the process of preparing an updated Town Plan of Development which may provide more specific information concerning the long-term recreational needs of the community.

The Connecticut Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 1987-1992 (SCORP), identifies local governments as the primary source for the provision of ballfields in the community (as opposed to State and private sectors). In addition, the demand for ballfields in the Litchfield Hills Region was rated as relatively important according to the SCORP's public opinion poll (18th most important activity for a Town government to provide based on a list of 41 activities).

Although specific information is not available on the comparative need of a new ballfield in Goshen as opposed to other potential recreational needs, the development of a new ballfield appears to be consistent with available local and State plans.

# SPECIFIC SITES



## GOSHEN FAIRGROUNDS SITE

### Location and Topography

This site includes approximately 0.54 acres at the north end of the Goshen Fairgrounds, which are located south of the center of Town along Route 63. This site consists of a gently sloping mowed field located near the crest of a drumlin (i.e., streamlined) hill. To the west, the land slopes moderately to Long Swamp. According to the recreation specialist, the preferred orientation for a ballfield is the batter facing to the northeast. Orientation in this direction will probably require pushing the ballfield westward to avoid possible interference with traffic on Route 63. Since slopes become moderate moving westward, site grading and filling will probably be required to construct the ballfield. This type of work will increase site development costs.

### Geology

This site is covered entirely by till. Till is a glacial sediment that was deposited directly from an ice mass. Till consists of a non-sorted, generally structureless mixture of sand, silt, clay, gravel and angular to rounded boulders. While it is often sandy, very stony and moderately loose in the upper 1.5-3 feet, the till at greater depths commonly becomes slightly finer grained, less stony and tightly compact.

A seasonally high watertable is a significant geologic limitation for the use of this site as a ballfield. Soggy conditions characterized this site during the field review. Drainage work, including groundwater intercepting drains, may be necessary to dry out the area and keep it from being muddy. Due to potential site work (i.e., grading/filling and drainage), construction of a ballfield on this site may be relatively expensive.

The presence of silty soils, seasonally high watertables and moderate slopes, indicate that serious erosion problems could arise with ballfield development at this

site. A detailed soil E&S control plan, which is strictly enforced by the Town, is required to protect nearby wetland and water resources.

Bedrock underlying this site is identified as a dark-gray to silvery, rusty-weathered, coarse-grained schistose gneiss. Gneiss is a metamorphic rock (i.e., a rock altered by high temperatures or pressure) in which thin bands of elongate or flaky minerals alternate with layers of more granular minerals. The term schistose indicates that a high percentage of micaceous (i.e., flaky) minerals are in the rock.

Although the exact depth to bedrock on this site is unknown, it should pose no major obstacles with respect to constructing a ballfield because most of the site work entails filling (as opposed to cutting).

#### Sanitary Facilities/Water Supply

If a ballfield is developed on this site, consideration should be given to opening the existing sanitary facilities that serve the Goshen Fairgrounds during ballgames. These facilities are located approximately 500 feet from the ballfield site. Utilizing the existing sanitary facilities will eliminate the cost of constructing a new leaching system and building to house the sanitary facilities. Extending a water line from the nearest fairground building for a bubbler or utilizing water containers for drinking water appears to be the most suitable method for supplying drinking water to the ballplayers.

#### Hydrology

Surface runoff in the ballfield area flows westward towards Long Swamp. Groundwater flows generally parallel surface flows on this site. The unnamed outlet streamcourse for Long Swamp is tributary to the West Branch Bantam River.

Groundwater in the ballfield area is classified by the DEP as GAA, which means that groundwaters are within a public water supply watershed or within the area of influence of public water supply wells. The groundwater is presumed

suitable for direct human consumption. Application of fertilizers/pesticides on the field should be conducted with great care to protect local water resources.

#### Soil Resources

The soils of this site include PbB and PbC. There is no existing diamond or facility at this location. To achieve the proper orientation for a diamond, the baseball field must be constructed in part on a fairly steep slope containing Paxton soils (PbC). As a result, additional soil (i.e., fill) will be required to level the diamond. Due to the hardpan component associated with Paxton soils, subsurface drainage must be considered. Presently this site is used for fairground parking. If a new diamond is constructed, it should be fenced to protect it and to facilitate maintenance.

#### Compatibility of Proposed Ballfield with Existing and Surrounding Land Use

Of the 3 sites reviewed, the Goshen Fairgrounds location appears to be the least compatible with existing and surrounding land uses. Conflicts are sure to develop with the proposed location of the ballfield and other uses of the fairgrounds. Considerable site improvement activities (i.e., cutting, filling and drainage) are required for this site to support a ballfield.

#### Recreation

The Goshen Recreation Commission plans to develop a new baseball diamond for the Bambino League, a 6- to 12-year-old age group of Babe Ruth Baseball. This site poses some major obstacles and limitations for a baseball field. The land slopes severely downward to the west. This site is used as a parking area during the Labor Day weekend for the Goshen Fair. This site is wet and has poor drainage. The sanitary facilities and water are not convenient to players and spectators. There will be schedule conflicts between baseball and fair activities and other special events held at the fairgrounds. It is recommended that the Recreation Commission eliminate any further consideration of this site for a baseball facility.

## CENTER SCHOOL SITE

### Location and Topography

This site consists of approximately 1.4 acres of open field located at the rear of Center School in central Goshen. Center School, which also houses Town offices, is located off Route 63. This site is relatively flat throughout and presently serves a multi-purpose athletic field, including a baseball diamond for Center School. The baseball diamond is currently orientated so that the batter faces to the southwest. If this site were used for the Bambino League baseball diamond, should be located near the tennis courts with the batter facing to the northeast.

### Geology

This site is covered by till. Till is a glacial sediment that was deposited directly from glacier ice. Till consists of varying proportions of sand, silt, gravel, clay and boulders. Particles of different sizes are generally mixed together in a complex fashion. The till on this site is characterized by a compact silty layer that occurs approximately 1.5-2.0 feet below the ground surface. The presence of a compact soil zone commonly results in a seasonally high watertable condition. Therefore, wet field conditions may hinder ball playing during the late spring and early summer months or following periods of heavy precipitation. Even wetter conditions, possibly wetlands, occur south of the field area (i.e., behind the tennis courts). Expansion of the field into this area is limited due to very wet conditions. Installing groundwater intercepting drains may lower the watertable in the field area and even behind the tennis courts, but a cursory inspection of the area revealed that day-lighting drainage pipes may be difficult to accomplish due to flat grades. Also, it is understood that the Center School septic system is located in the field area. Therefore, the drainage may intercept partially treated effluent and cause a public health hazard condition.

Bedrock beneath this site is described as a light-colored granitic gneiss. The exact depth to bedrock in the field area is unknown, but is probably 10 feet or deeper in most places. Therefore, it should pose no problems in terms of using the Center School site for the Bambino League ballfield.

#### Sanitary Facilities/Water Supply

If this site is used, arrangements could be made to open the school during baseball games so that sanitary facilities and water fountains are accessible to spectators and ball players. Also, it might be possible to utilize portable toilet units and extend a waterline from the school to an outdoor bubbler(s). In 1971, the Center School bedrock well was deepened from 250 feet to 550 feet. It reportedly yields 25 gallons per minute.

#### Hydrology

Surface water, and probably groundwater to a large extent, flows easterly to a wetland area located approximately 375 feet east of this site. The outlet for the wetland flows northward, ultimately discharging to Fox Brook. Utilizing this site for a baseball field is not expected to change the existing hydrologic conditions.

Groundwater beneath the site is classified by the DEP as GAA, which means that groundwaters are within a public water supply watershed or within the area of influence of public water supply wells. The groundwater is presumed suitable for direct human consumption. Application of fertilizers/pesticides on the field should be conducted with great care to protect local water resources.

#### Soil Resources

The soils at this site include Bl, PbB and WxB. The existing diamond is not properly oriented for baseball. Alternatives to resolve this deficiency include:

- 1) Re-orient and expand the size of the existing diamond; and
- 2) Create a new diamond in the area behind the existing tennis court.

The volume of surface water which was observed during the field review is possibly a result of the high watertable associated with Woodbridge soils, drainage from the tennis courts or both. However, if a diamond is created in this area, subsurface drainage must be considered.

#### Compatibility of Proposed Ballfield with Existing and Surrounding Land Use

This site already supports a small ballfield which is used by students of Center School for softball, soccer and general recreation purposes. Adequate parking is provided by the 3 parking lots which serve the school, and additional roadside parking is available along Elementary School Drive which is adjacent to this site. This site is located in the center of Goshen and is readily accessible. Improvement of the existing ballfield could potentially benefit both the students at Center School and others such as Bambino League ballplayers. Improvement of the existing ballfield will complement the existing tennis courts and playground at this site.

Although this site offers potential for development into a Bambino League ballfield, the size of the site is somewhat limited, the orientation of the existing ballfield is not ideal and a potential conflict exists with the residential use located just east of this site. In addition, according to population projections prepared by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, the school-age population of Goshen is projected to increase slightly over the next 30 years, which may result in the need to provide additional classroom trailers on portions of the existing ballfield space.

#### Recreation

The grass field behind Center School is a feasible alternative for a Bambino League baseball field and should be given careful consideration by the Recreation Commission. The most suitable location for developing a ballfield on this site is in the northeast corner. Advantages of this site include it is in a central location, it has adequate parking facilities, the existing field is grassed and flat, it provides more than the 200-foot distance required in the outfield, it has a tree buffer along the



western boundary which should alleviate any sun problems with the diamond's southeast orientation, it will reduce scheduling conflicts with soccer, softball and baseball and it will reduce parking problems at Camp Cochipianee.

## CAMP COCHIPIANEE SITE

### Location and Topography

Camp Cochipianee is approximately 58 acres in size and is located in southcentral Goshen along Beach Street. The prospective ballfield will be located in the southwest corner of the Camp. This area is currently used for a baseball diamond and includes a backstop. Additionally, it is partly overlain by a soccer field. The existing baseball diamond is orientated in the preferred alignment (i.e., southwest/northeast) with the batter facing to the northeast.

This site is located at the north end of a streamlined hill, probably a drumlin, west of Town Hill. The land is generally flat in the area of the existing soccer/baseball field, but drops off moderately to a wetland area on the east. The wetland drains to Dog Pond.

### Geology

Surficial geologic and soil mapping data indicate that the soccer/baseball field area is covered by till. Till is a sediment that was deposited directly from an ice mass. Till consists of a non-sorted, generally structureless mixture of sand, silt, clay, gravel and angular to rounded boulders. The upper few feet of the till are normally loose or only moderately compact, but below these depths the till may become siltier and tightly compact. A seasonal high watertable condition may characterize the field area during late winter and spring months and following periods of heavy precipitation, but probably not as severe as the high watertable condition that characterizes the other 2 sites.

Bedrock underlying this site is classified as Manhattan Schist, a dark gray to silvery, rusty-weathering, coarse-grained schistose gneiss. (See Geology for Goshen Fairgrounds Site for description.)

The exact depth to bedrock is unknown, but it may be as much as 40 feet below ground surface. Therefore, it should pose no major problems in terms of utilizing this site for a baseball diamond.

From a geologic standpoint, the existing ballfield in the southwest corner appears to be the most favorable location for the Bambino League ballfield, but may be limited by its size due to the dimensions of the Bambino League field, wetlands on the east and stand of conifers on the east. Also, unless the soccer field was shifted to the north, construction of the ballfield may overlap the soccer field. If this site is considered, every effort should be made to keep at least the infield portion of the baseball field out of the soccer field.

#### Sanitary Facilities/Water Supply

Unless existing outhouses were utilized during ballgames for sanitary facilities, new toilet facilities served by an on-site septic system should be considered. The compact till layer may limit the feasibility of a "standard" septic system, but this limitation may be overcome by a properly engineered system. Also, consideration could be given to portable toilets.

A bubbler system for ballplayers could be installed by tapping into the closest water line serving Camp Cochipianee at the north end of the soccer field. No information was available for the well serving the camp, but there should be no problem serving 1 or 2 bubblers.

#### Hydrology

This site lies entirely within the watershed of the West Branch Bantam River. In the baseball field area, surface runoff flows northeastward to a small wetland which drains to Dog Pond. Groundwater flows generally mimic surface flows in the area. The West Branch Bantam River flows into the Bantam River near Litchfield.

The wetland area northeast of this site and Dog Pond should be properly protected from potential sources of contamination (i.e., silt-laden runoff, septic

effluent, fertilizers and pesticides) if this site is developed for the ballfield. Potential siltation problems due to uncontrolled runoff during active construction periods will probably be the principal source of surface water contamination. Judicious planning, including a formal E&S control plan, proper septic system siting (if required) and a proper fertilizer/pesticide plan, can minimize the effects of runoff.

### Soil Resources

The soils at this site include PbA, PbB2 and Rg. The existing baseball diamond is in good condition, oriented properly for baseball and will not require major construction to expand the facility to meet official diamond specifications. The overlapping recreational use with soccer in the same area is a conflict. To resolve this conflict, the soccer field could be relocated north of its present location. However, due to the existing slope of the northeast corner, additional soil (i.e., fill) will be required to level this corner. According to the Soil Survey of Litchfield County (1970), this corner is identified within a Paxton soil (PbB2), but is adjacent to a Ridgebury soil, a wetland soil. If construction activities and E&S measures are monitored carefully, adverse impacts to the wetlands should be minimal.

### Archaeological Resources

In the King's Mark ERT Report for Dog Pond Watershed (May 1989), the Office of State Archaeology cited evidence for the existence of the earliest industrial complex within the Town of Goshen along the southeastern shore of Dog Pond (see Figure 3). Physical evidence in the form of earthwork channels, holding ponds and stone structures can still be recognized on the landscape. Since the Dog Pond mills represent an early-to-mid 18th century industry, they are not only an important historic resource for the Town of Goshen, but also the State of Connecticut.

Plans for the baseball diamond at this site will avoid these historic resources. However, if plans should be altered and this area effected, the Office of State Archaeology strongly recommends a survey prior to the initiation of construction



activities. An archaeological survey should include the extensive mapping of all mill ruins, including all remnants of channels for water control and movement to the mill wheels. Archaeological test excavations should be conducted to determine the integrity of the sites and the distribution of cultural materials in association with this industrial complex.

A review of State of Connecticut archaeological site files and maps lists no prehistoric settlements in the Dog Pond area. However, inadequate archaeological surveys may account for the lack of information as opposed to the actual absence of prehistoric sites. For example, the brook and wetlands comprising this drainage would have provided valuable natural resources for Native peoples. Surveys of other highland locales indicated a series of temporary campsites on elevated, well-drained knolls adjacent to swamp and other wetland features. Dog Pond also has a rich deposit of clay near its current southern border, which would have been important in the production of clay pots by prehistoric Native Americans. Due to these circumstances, the Office of State Archaeology deems the proposed ballfield area as "moderate" in probability for prehistoric sites.

All archaeological survey work should be conducted in accordance with the Connecticut Historical Commission's Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources. The Office of State Archaeology is prepared to offer the Town of Goshen any technical assistance in identifying and locating the significant historic resources in the area.

#### Compatibility of Proposed Ballfield with Existing and Surrounding Land Use

Of the 3 sites reviewed, this site offers the most potential for the cost effective development of a Bambino League ballfield. The orientation of the existing ballfield at this site is ideal. Improvement of the ballfield will enhance and complement the other recreational facilities offered by the camp. Access to this site is good. The use is compatible with surrounding land uses. Adequate parking is available with the

existing parking lots and the additional off-road parking available along Dog Pond Road.

Minor additional clearing and filling will be necessary to move the existing soccer field slightly to the north so that the infield of the ballfield will not overlap the soccer field playing area. This comparatively minor site improvement will maintain the integrity of the soccer field. In addition to this limited clearing and filling activity, a small amount of fill will probably be required to create a level infield for the proposed ballfield.

### Recreation

This site consists of an existing grass field, approximately 5 acres in size, rectangular in shape, with its long axis north-south, which includes an existing soccer field 300 feet by 165 feet. This site is ideally suited for soccer with the field properly oriented north-south and is crowned in the middle pitching gradually downward toward the east providing good surface drainage. The downward slope intensifies moving eastward, but does not affect the eastern boundary line of the soccer field. There is an existing softball field in the southwest corner of this site used for practice by Little League and men's softball teams.

Restoration of the existing baseball field is a possible alternative. Advantages of utilizing the existing baseball field include it is properly orientated to the northeast, it has an existing backstop and it has the 200 foot distance in right and left fields required by Babe Ruth League regulations. Also, moving the soccer field to the north will eliminate the problem of the baseball diamond's skinned infield encroachment on the soccer field.

However, there are a number of disadvantages associated with this alternative. Disadvantages include the inconvenient location of the parking lot to the ballfield for players and spectators, the increased illegal parking on Beach Street generated by this location, the downward slope existing in center and right field, the lack of space

and safety buffer for player benches and spectator seating and the distance from the field to sanitary facilities and water.

The Recreation Commission should determine whether this field is needed to accommodate continued use for softball and little league practices or if this use can be eliminated. Commission members should keep in mind that the use of a baseball field for softball play will cause damage to the pitcher's mound and enhance maintenance problems.

Another alternative is to relocate the baseball field to the northwest corner of the property. Advantages of this location include accommodation of the minimum 200-foot requirement down the left and right field lines, adequate space and safety zones needed for the placement of player benches and bleachers for spectators, convenient proximity to parking, sanitary facilities and water, minimal encouragement to illegally park cars along Beach Street and no encroachment of the skinned infield on the existing soccer field.

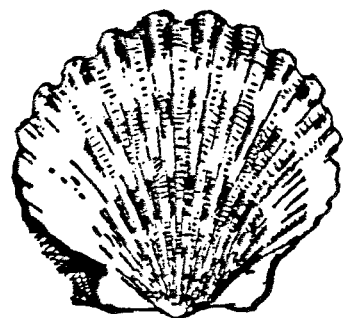
Disadvantages include expenses for tree removal, fill and grading required in left and a portion of center field and poor field orientation with home plate facing the southeast. The southeast orientation generally is not recommended. However, a number of factors must be examined by Commission members to determine whether this orientation is feasible. These factors include the effect of the existing tree buffer to the west along Beach Street at sunset and the time of day and season of the year that the diamond is planned for use.

The further home plate can be located toward the southeast, the more it could reduce the amount of trees that need to be removed and the extent of filling and grading required for left field. Moving the ballfield would also enhance the effectiveness of the tree buffer along Beach Street in blocking the sun setting in the west and provide additional space for the safety buffer needed for player benches and spectator seating.



A final consideration is the effect of active recreation on the passive recreational use of Camp Cochipianee. The 58-acre parcel is a beautiful, natural area adjacent to Dog Pond. It is heavily wooded and is an ideal setting for passive forms of recreation. The need to develop facilities for active recreation at Camp Cochipianee, versus another more suitable location, must be carefully scrutinized to avoid jeopardizing or eroding the passive recreational experiences the camp presently provides.

# APPENDICIES



**Appendix A: Soil Limitation Chart**

**TABLE 1: SOIL SYMBOLS AND MAPPING UNIT NAMES**

Soil Symbol	Soil Mapping Unit Name
Bl	Borrow and fill land, loamy
PbA	Paxton fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes
PbB	Paxton fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes
PbB2	Paxton fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes, eroded
PbC	Paxton fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes
Rg	Ridgebury stony fine sandy loam
WxB	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes

TABLE 2: SOIL CHARACTERISTICS IMPORTANT TO DEVELOPMENT

Soil Symbol	Permeability (in/hr)	K	Corrosivity to				Water Table Depth (ft)	Water Table Kind	High Water Months	Depth to Rock (in)	Frost Action
			Steel	Concrete	Flooding	None					
Bl	---	-0-	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
PbA	0.6-2.0	0.24	low	mod	none	1.5-2.5	perched	Feb-Apr	>60	mod	
PbB	0.6-2.0	0.24	low	mod	none	1.5-2.5	perched	Feb-Apr	>60	mod	
PbB2	0.6-2.0	0.24	low	mod	none	1.5-2.5	perched	Feb-Apr	>60	mod	
PbC	0.6-2.0	0.24	low	mod	none	1.5-2.5	perched	Feb-Apr	>60	mod	
Rg	0.6-6.0	0.20	high	high	none	0-1.5	perched	Nov-May	>60	high	
WxB	0.6-2.0	0.24	low	mod	none	1.5-2.5	perched	Nov-May	>60	high	

--- no data available

K - Erodibility Factor

.10-.24 - Low Erodibility

.28-.37 - Medium Erodibility

.43-.64 - High Erodibility

Flooding Classes

None

Occasional

Common

Frequent

**TABLE 3: MAJOR SOIL LIMITATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Soil Symbol	Septic System	Excavations	Dwellings	Basements	Commercial	Roads	Lawns	Fill	Ponds
Bl	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
PbA	C-6	B-13,2	B-2	B-2	B-2	B-2	A	A	C-11
PbB	C-6	B-13,2	B-2	B-2	B-2,9	B-2,8	A	A	C-11
PbB2	C-6	B-13,2	B-2	B-2	B-2,9	B-2,8	A	A	C-11
PbC	C-6	B-13,2,9	B-2,9	B-2,9	C-9	B-2,9,8	B-9	A	C-11
Rg	C-6,2	C-2	C-2	C-2	C-2	C-2,8	C-2	C-2	C-11
WxB	C-2,6	C-2	B-2	C-2	B-2,9	C-8	B-2	B-2	C-11

--- no data available

**Degree of Limitations**

- A - Soil properties and site features are generally favorable for indicated use, and limitations are easily overcome.
- B - Soil properties are not favorable for indicated use, and special planning, design or maintenance is needed.
- C - Soil properties or site features are so unfavorable to overcome that special design, increases in cost and possibly increased maintenance are required.

**Types of Limitations**

1 Seepage	2 Wetness	3 Poor Filter	4 Ponding	5 Banks Cave	6 Slow Perc
7 Flooding	8 Frost Action	9 Slope	10 Low Strength	11 No Water	12 Subsides
13 Dense Layer	14 Humus	15 Shallow Depth	16 Large Stone	17 Small Stone	18 Slow Refill
19 Piping	20 Dam Seepage	21 Erosion	22 Droughty	23 Area Reclaim	

## NOTES

# ABOUT THE TEAM

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of environmental professionals drawn together from a variety of federal, state and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, soil scientists, foresters, climatologists, landscape architects, recreational specialists, engineers and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the aegis of the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area - an 83-town area serving western Connecticut.

As a public service activity, the Team is available to serve towns and/or developers within the King's Mark RC&D Area - free of charge.

## Purpose of the Environmental Review Team

The Environmental Review Team is available to assist towns and/or developers in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities. For example, the ERT has been involved in the review of a wide range of significant land use activities including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrial developments and recreational/open space projects.

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 site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

## Requesting an Environmental Review

Environmental Reviews may be requested by the chief elected official of a municipality or the chairman of an administrative agency such as planning and zoning, conservation or inland wetlands. Environmental Review Request Forms are available at your local Soil and Water Conservation District and through the King's Mark ERT Coordinator. This request form must include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the land owner/developer allowing the Team to enter the property for purposes of review and a statement identifying the specific areas of concern the Team should investigate. When this request is approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and King's Mark RC&D Executive Committee, the Team will undertake the review. At present, the ERT can undertake approximately two (2) reviews per month.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District or Nancy Ferlow, ERT Coordinator, King's Mark Environmental Review Team, King's Mark RC&D Area, 322 North Main Street, Wallingford, Connecticut 06492. King's Mark ERT phone number is 265-6695.