

FOX BROOK GOLF COURSE AND COMMUNITY

GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

NOVEMBER 1991

Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team Report

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team on
FOX BROOK GOLF COURSE AND COMMUNITY
GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the Granby Planning and Zoning Commission to the Hartford Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD referred this request to the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D) Executive Council 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 Thursday, October 3, 1991. Prior to the review day each Team member received a summary of the proposed project, a list of the town's concerns, a location map, topographic map and a soils map. During the field review the Team members were given maps and additional information. The Team met with and were accompanied by the Granby Town Manager, the Town Planner, a representative from the Farmington Valley Health District, the developer and his engineers and consultants. 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 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 Council hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in making your decisions on this proposed golf course and residential community.

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Fox Brook Golf Course and Community
Granby, Connecticut

Review Date: October 3, 1991

Report Date: November, 1991

Environmental Review Team
Report #495

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INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team was asked to assist the Granby Planning and Zoning Commission with their review of the Fox Brook Golf Course and Development.

The project is located in North Granby on approximately 366 acres. The site will be accessed from Granville Road (Route 189). An 18 hole golf course with a club house is proposed along with 97 single family house lots.

The following sections of this report provide basic natural resource information, a discussion of the project proposed with regard to possible impacts, recommendations to mitigate adverse effects and management considerations.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

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Topography

The proposed Fox Brook Golf Club occupies a 366 acre site along on the western edge of the valley of the East Branch of Salmon Brook in the northwestern corner of town of Granby, CT. Four distinct topographic areas can be recognized on the site. The western 61 acres cover the steep (slopes = 50%) easterly facing till covered wall of the Salmon Brook Valley. A sharp, well defined, break in slope separates this steep area from the nearly horizontal kame terrace which forms the largest portion of the property. A 75 foot high escarpment on the east boundary of the property delineates the western edge of the floodplain of the East Branch of Salmon Brook. A ENE trending boulder covered ridge divides the terrace into two contrasting terrains. North of the ridge, the topography is irregular and distinctly hummocked whereas gentle uniform slopes are characteristic of the area to the south. The northern terrace occupies roughly 95 acres of the property and the southern portion 167 acres.

Surficial Geology

The distribution, age and origin of the surficial deposits on the site were delineated by R. W. Schnabel on his map of the Surficial Geology of the Southwick Quadrangle (GQ-891) published by the USGS in 1970. The later 1974 USGS "Map showing Unconsolidated Materials, Southwick Quadrangle" (MF-606A), also by Schnabel, is based on same field data but only the material characteristics of the deposits are differentiated. A portion of this map is included here as Figure 1.

A thin layer of compact glacial till, a poorly sorted mixture of material ranging in grain size from clay through large angular boulders, mantles the bedrock over much of the site. The stratified sands, silts and gravels of the kame terrace overly till. Till is exposed on the steep western slopes and underneath the terrace deposits at the base of the along the edge of the Salmon Brook floodplain. The ENE trending ridge which divides the terrace into two distinct topographic areas probably represents an ice front feature deposited during a brief still-stand of an ice in the valley during deglaciation. The large rounded boulders that cap the ridge were carried to the site by meltwaters flowing down

the steep gradient on the ice front. The stratified sands and gravels north of the ridge were originally deposited on the ice itself. The hummocked topography reflects the irregularity of that surface and the complicated pattern of collapse as the underlying ice melted. South of the ridge sands, silts, and gravels were laid down directly on till or bedrock. The smooth gentle surface of the terrace in this area suggests the complete absence of ice. In addition to the surface topography these two types of stratified drift deposits also differ in their proportion of silt. The northern terrace is predominantly clean well sorted sands and gravels. Test borings have documented several tens of feet of permeable sands in the area north of the ridge. Test pits on the southern terrace encountered less permeable more poorly sorted material. Presumably water flowing down the steeper gradients on the ice front carried off most the fine sands and silts leaving well washed sands and gravels behind. The thickness of the southern terrace deposits have not yet been established. Based on topography, and the elevation of the till exposures along Salmon Brook Schnabel suggested a total thickness less than 10 feet. Greater thickness may be encountered in situations where channels, now filled, were cut into the underlying till or bedrock. Subsequent to the formation of the terrace, Salmon Brook was incised into the stratified deposits and a new floodplain formed at a lower elevation.

Bedrock Geology

The bedrock lithology and structure of the Southwick Quadrangle was mapped by R. W. Schnabel (GQ-1170). The Fox Brook site lies in the core of the North Granby Dome which is formed by rocks of the Collinsville Formation (Oc on the 1974 quadrangle map and Ocg on the 1985 State Geologic Map). On the Fox Brook site outcrops are found only in the bed of the northernmost stream and at the base of the floodplain escarpment on Rte 189 but amphibolites of the Collinsville formation occur abundantly as rounded cobbles and boulders in the stratified drift and as angular talus blocks on the steep western slopes. The unit is a heterogeneous layered sequence of amphibolite, granitic gneisses, mica schists and coticules. The amphibolites are black, medium grained and consist primarily of the common minerals hornblende, plagioclase and quartz. The gneisses and schists are lighter in color, also medium grained and composed of various mixtures of the minerals quartz, plagioclase, biotite, muscovite, garnet. Some rocks in the formation contain small amounts of graphite and iron sulfides. The presence of minor sulfides is recognizable by the rusty discoloration of the weathered rock. Coticule is an uncommon rock consisting of quartz and manganese-rich garnet. The garnet gives the rock a characteristic pinkish gray color. Coticules are thought to originate as deep sea manganese-rich cherts.

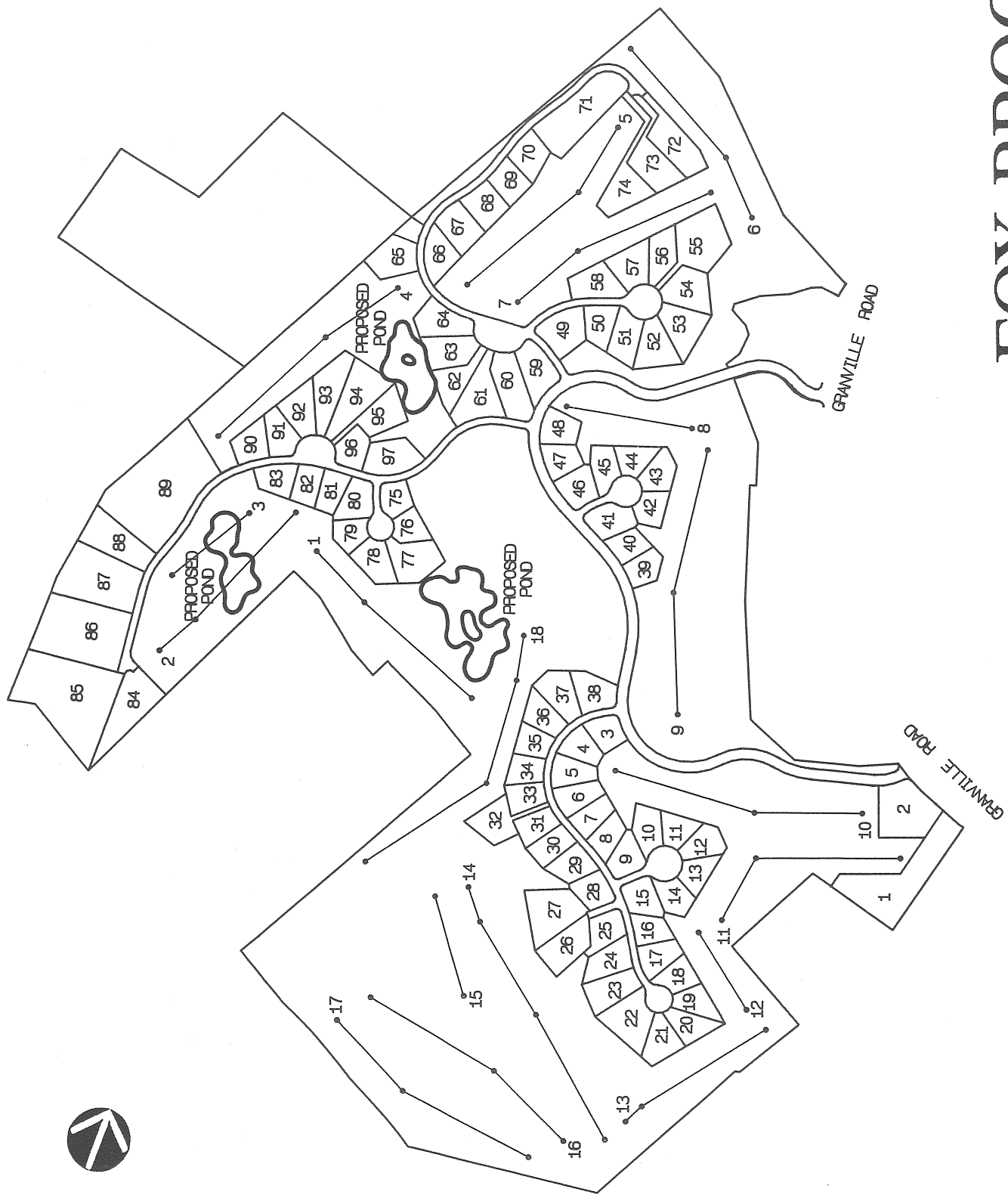
The granite gneiss exposed in the bed of the northern-most stream is deeply decomposed. The rock crumbles readily and can be excavated with pick and shovel. Schnabel noted other occurrences of decomposed, disintegrating rock which he ascribed to deep preglacial weathering. The recent glaciation scraped most of this saprolitic mantle from the hills but left isolated patches undisturbed in deep valleys and other protected sites.

Hydrogeology

Considerable thickness of water saturated stratified sands and gravel (> 50 feet) are likely to be found north of the ENE ridge. This groundwater discharges into the unnamed ENE stream which flows into Salmon Brook. However, the aquifer potential and groundwater flow direction in the southern portion of the property is less certain. Surface topography suggests flow to the east. Springs at the stratified drift-till contact along the floodplain escarpment confirm that at least some water is moving in that general direction. However, as the terrace was deposited by streams flowing towards the SE it is possible that highly permeable paleostream channels carry some groundwater to Beldlen Brook in the vicinity of Acres and Donahue Roads.

FOX BROOK

SCALE: 1 IN = 800 FT

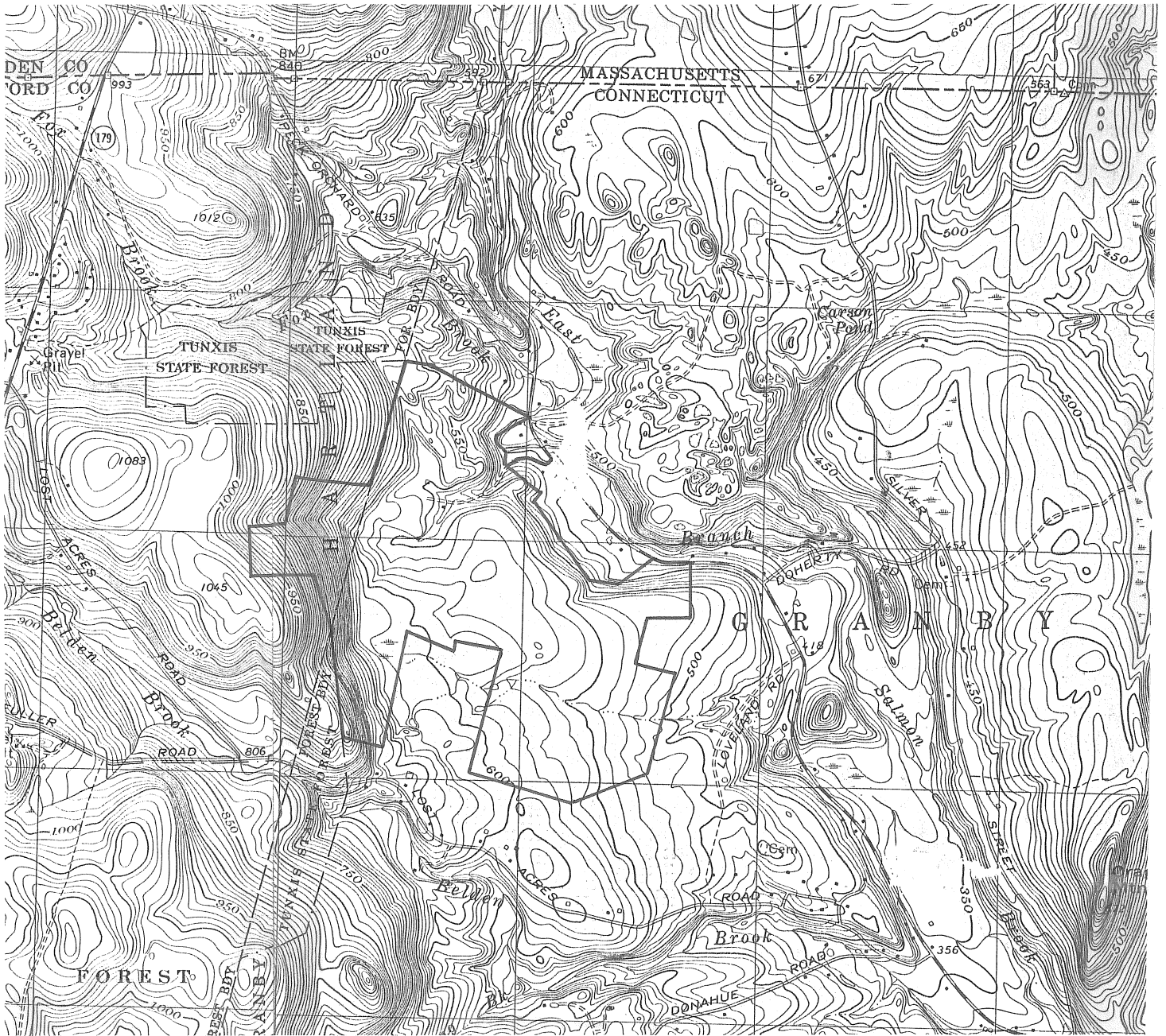


Location and Topographic Map

Scale 1" = 2000'



— Approximate Site Boundary



SOIL RESOURCES

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SOILS DESCRIPTIONS

The soils on the site are formed in glacial till and glacial outwash materials. According to the applicant's soil scientist and the Soil Survey of Hartford County, soil map units on the site include Acton, Charlton, Gloucester, Hinckley, Hollis, Leicester, Merrimac, Ridgebury, Sudbury, Sunderland and Walpole. These soils are described as follows:

- 1) **Acton** soils are deep and moderately well drained. Slope is the major limiting feature for development.
- 2) **Charlton** soils are deep and well drained. Slope is the major limiting feature for development.
- 3) **Gloucester** soils are deep and somewhat excessively drained. Stones and slope are the major limiting features for development.
- 4) **Hinckley** soils are deep and excessively drained. Slope, droughtiness and poor filtration are the major limiting features for development.
- 5) **Hollis** soils are shallow and well drained. Slope, depth to rock and large stones are the major limiting features for development.
- 6) **Leicester** soils are wetland soils. Wetness and frost action are the major limiting features for development.
- 7) **Merrimac** soils are deep and somewhat excessively drained. Poor filtration for septic systems is the major limiting feature for development.
- 8) **Ridgebury** soils are wetland soils. Wetness and frost action are the major limiting features for development.

- 9) **Sudbury** soils are deep and moderately well drained. Wetness and frost action are the major limiting features for development.
- 10) **Sunderland** soils are shallow and well drained. Depth to rock is the major limiting feature for development.
- 11) **Walpole** soils are wetland soils. Wetness and frost action are the major limiting features for development.

The soil limitations which are identified do not preclude development. However, they do indicate the need for detailed planning, engineering and review of the project components. In some cases the costs of development may exceed the benefits.

Septic systems will require engineering plans to function properly in the many of the proposed locations. Those areas of greatest concern include areas which contain slopes of 15% or greater, areas where the percolation rate exceeds 30 minutes per inch, areas where the seasonal high water table is less than 3 feet below the surface and areas where depth to bedrock is less than 72 inches. Careful planning and inspection will be needed to insure properly functioning systems in these areas.

Each lot should have the septic system and well locations approved with the subdivision plans. Currently these plans are conceptual. If any changes are to be made by the homeowner, the Town will need to carefully review the new plans. This will insure that future homeowners will have a lot with a viable septic system and well.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Erosion and sediment control measures should be consistent with the information and details contained within the Connecticut Guidelines for Erosion and Sediment Control. The erosion and sediment controls for this project appear to be adequate. Several additional comments and recommendations should be considered:

- 1) The foundation/curtain drains for Lots 1, 2, 5, 12, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 40, 65, 67, 75, 76, 77, 78, 84, 85, 93, 94, 96, and 97 are outletted with no erosion controls or details for protected outlets. Details for the outlets should be included in the plans. The drainage system under the fairways, greens and sand traps also need to have outlet details.

- 2) According to the plans, the fairway wetland crossing for Hole 14 will be converted to a normal fairway. This should be reviewed carefully to ensure that any drainage does not disrupt the hydrology of the wetland.
- 3) There is a small wetland pocket located in the fairway for Hole 16. The plans for this wetland are unclear. These plans should be specified and reviewed carefully.
- 4) There are several temporary stockpiles for material dredged from the pond sites. These piles should be protected with filter fence barriers.
- 5) The construction entrances and the erosion and sediment controls should be installed before vegetation clearing and stumping if possible. The machinery used for clearing and stumping bares the soil which can erode. The construction entrances should be shown on the plans for all phases.
- 6) In areas where roads are built before the houses, the road limits should have filter fence barriers to protect them from erosion. These erosion and sediment controls should be in place until the road shoulders and road have stabilized.
- 7) In several areas there are long runs of filter fabric that occasionally run up and down the slope. Wherever possible, the filter fabric should cross the slope, otherwise it creates a channel for water to flow down and causes more erosion than it prevents.
- 8) Houses and septic systems in Lots 32, 37, 49, 59, 60, 61, 77, and 94 are close to the wetlands. These lots should be reviewed carefully.
- 9) There is a wet area located by Test Hole #85A that appears to be wetland soils. A soil scientist should check this area.
- 10) The ponds for the golf course are located in the wetlands. If possible, these ponds should be moved to adjacent upland areas where they can enhance the wetland systems without the loss of existing wetland habitat.
- 11) Several construction notes state that the design engineer will be able to change the road and shoulder grades during construction. Any major changes should be cleared with the Town before construction.



Soils Map

Scale 1" = 1667'



Soil Map Units for Fox Brook Development

AcB	ACTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
CaB	CHARLTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
CaC	CHARLTON FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
CrC	CHARLTON VERY STONY FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
CrD	CHARLTON VERY STONY FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
GsB	GLOUCESTER STONY FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
GsC	GLOUCESTER STONY FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
HkA	HINCKLEY GRAVELLY SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
HkC	HINCKLEY GRAVELLY SANDY LOAM , 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
HnC	HINCKLEY LOAMY SAND, 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
HoC	HOLLIS ROCKY LOAM, 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
HoD	HOLLIS ROCKY LOAM, 15 TO 35 PERCENT SLOPES
LcA	LEICESTER LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
MrA	MERRIMAC FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
MrB	MERRIMAC FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 8 PERCENT SLOPES
RdA	RIDGEBURY LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
SsA	SUDBURY FINE SANDY LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES
SuC	SUNDERLAND ROCKY FINE SANDY LOAM, 3 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
WcA	WALPOLE LOAM, 0 TO 3 PERCENT SLOPES

Slight limitations - soil properties and site features are generally favorable for the indicated use and limitations are easily overcome.

Moderate limitations - the soil properties are not favorable for the indicated use and special planning, design or maintenance is needed.

Severe limitations - soil properties or site features are so unfavorable to overcome that special design, increases in cost and possible increased maintenance required.

SOIL INTERPRETATION REPORT

Survey Area- HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

Map Symbol, Soil Name	Septic Tank Absorption Fields	Shallow Excavations	Dwellings Without Basements	Dwellings With Basements	Dwellings with Basements
AcB SUTTON	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	MODERATE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	
CaB CHARLTON	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	
CaC CHARLTON	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	
CrC CHARLTON	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	
CrD CHARLTON	SEVERE Slope	SEVERE Slope	SEVERE Slope	SEVERE Slope	
GsB CANTON	MODERATE Large Stones	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	
GsC CANTON	MODERATE Large Stones Slope	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	
HkA HINCKLEY	SEVERE Poor Filter	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	
HkC HINCKLEY	SEVERE Poor Filter	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	
HnC HINCKLEY	SEVERE Poor Filter	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	
HoC CHARLTON	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	
HOLLIS	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock	

HoD CHARLTON

SEVERE
Slope

SEVERE
Slope

SEVERE
Slope

SEVERE
Slope

SOIL INTERPRETATION REPORT

Survey Area- HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

Map Symbol, Soil Name	Septic Tank Absorption Fields	Shallow Excavations	Dwellings Without Basements	Dwellings With Basements	Dwellings with Basements
HOLLIS	SEVERE Depth To Rock Slope	SEVERE Depth To Rock Slope	SEVERE Slope Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock Slope	
LcA LEICESTER	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	
MrA MERRIMAC	SEVERE Poor Filter	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	
MrB MERRIMAC	SEVERE Poor Filter	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	
RdA RIDGEBURY	SEVERE Percs Slowly Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	
SsA SUDBURY	SEVERE Wetness Poor Filter	SEVERE Wetness Cutbanks Cave	MODERATE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	
SuC HOLYOKE	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock	
WcA RAYPOL	SEVERE Wetness Poor Filter	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Wetness	

SOIL INTERPRETATION REPORT

Survey Area- HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

Map Symbol, Soil Name	Local Streets and Roads	Lawns, Landscaping, and Golf Fairways	Excavated Ponds--Aquifer Fed	Drainage	Irrigation
AcB SUTTON	SEVERE Frost Action	MODERATE Wetness	MODERATE Slow Refill	LIMITATION Frost Action Slope	LIMITATION Slope Wetness
CaB CHARLTON	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
CaC CHARLTON	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Slope	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
CrC CHARLTON	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Large Stones Slope	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
CrD CHARLTON	SEVERE Slope	SEVERE Slope	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
GsB CANTON	SLIGHT	MODERATE Large Stones	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
GsC CANTON	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Large Stones Slope	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
HkA HINCKLEY	SLIGHT	SEVERE Drouthy	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Drouthy
HkC HINCKLEY	MODERATE Slope	SEVERE Drouthy	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope Drouthy
HnC HINCKLEY	MODERATE Slope	SEVERE Drouthy	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope Drouthy
HoC CHARLTON	MODERATE Slope	MODERATE Large Stones Slope	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
HOLLIS	SEVERE	SEVERE	SEVERE	LIMITATION	LIMITATION

Depth To Rock

Depth To Rock

No Water

Deep To Water

Drouthy
Depth To Rock
Slope

SOIL INTERPRETATION REPORT

Survey Area- HARTFORD COUNTY, CONNECTICUT

Map Symbol, Soil Name	Local Streets and Roads	Lawns, Landscaping, and Golf Fairways	Excavated Ponds--Aquifier Fed	Drainage	Irrigation
HoD CHARLTON	SEVERE Slope	SEVERE Slope	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
HOLLIS	SEVERE Depth To Rock Slope	SEVERE Slope Depth To Rock	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Drouthy Depth To Rock Slope
LcA LEICESTER	SEVERE Wetness Frost Action	SEVERE Wetness	MODERATE Slow Refill	LIMITATION Frost Action	LIMITATION Wetness
MrA MERRIMAC	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	FAVORABLE
MrB MERRIMAC	SLIGHT	SLIGHT	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope
RdA RIDGEBURY	SEVERE Wetness Frost Action	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Percs Slowly Frost Action	LIMITATION Wetness Percs Slowly
SsA SUDBURY	MODERATE Wetness Frost Action	SLIGHT	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	LIMITATION Cutbanks Cave	LIMITATION Wetness
SuC HOLYOKE	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE Depth To Rock	SEVERE No Water	LIMITATION Deep To Water	LIMITATION Slope Drouthy Depth To Rock
WcA RAYPOL	SEVERE Wetness Frost Action	SEVERE Wetness	SEVERE Cutbanks Cave	LIMITATION Frost Action Cutbanks Cave	LIMITATION Wetness Erodes Easily

WETLAND REVIEW

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GENERAL SITE FEATURES

The ±366 acre site is located on the south side of Granville Road in North Granby where it borders with Hartland. The topography on the property ranges from relatively level areas in the central and southeastern sections of the site to extremely steep slopes on the western and northern borders of the site. The site has undergone selective logging, leaving many areas cleared of mature timber trees, while some portions of the site remain cleared from previous agricultural activities. The wetlands on the property exist in association with numerous perennial and intermittent watercourses. For a complete description of the various wetland areas, see the report titled Wetland Habitat Assessment and Recommendations for Proposed Fox Brook Golf Club & Community Development prepared by Lee Alexander, M.S., Ph.D, Certified Wildlife Biologist. Dr. Alexander has divided the wetlands into three categories based on, among other factors, the development, diversity and structure of the vegetative communities contained within the wetlands.

WETLAND FUNCTIONS AND VALUES

The wetlands serve to collect and store overland runoff prior to the water's entrance into the many permanent and intermittent waterways. This storage function becomes increasingly important upon the removal of vegetation and construction of impervious and grassed surfaces which increase the rate of runoff.

In addition to their water storage capabilities, wetlands, by the nature of the soils and vegetation contained therein, also provide pollution abatement functions. Sediments and other pollutants entering wetlands through runoff are filtered by the vegetation and allowed to settle out prior to entrance into the major streams. With the addition of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides for the maintenance of manicured greens and fairways, coupled with the fact that some of the water from this site flows into East

Branch Salmon Brook, this pollution attenuation function becomes very important.

The most important water resource on the site is a stream that is located on the southeast portion of the property that flows easterly into East Branch Salmon Brook. East Branch Salmon Brook is a very valuable cold water fisheries resource and is stocked by the State of Connecticut with salmon and trout. It is important to maintain the vegetative cover on streams tributary to East Branch Salmon Brook to protect against thermal loading.

The mixed hardwood swamps provide excellent habitat for the area's population of wildlife. Dr. Alexander's report details the utilization of these wetland areas by numerous species of songbirds and cavity nesting birds. Dr. Alexander has also observed several small vernal pools which are essential in the life cycles of amphibians. As stated previously, the wetlands exist in association with many watercourse corridors resulting in narrow bands of wetlands traversing the property in numerous directions. These long, narrow expanses of wetlands provide travel corridors for the passage of the region's wildlife. They also serve as a connection to neighboring wetland systems to north and east.

The combination of different vegetative and open water communities including open field, wooded upland, wooded wetland, shrub wetland and vernal ponds create a diverse landscape for wildlife to utilize for feeding, cover, water, and reproduction.

PROJECT IMPACTS TO REGULATED AREAS

1. Pond Construction.

The applicant proposes to construct three ponds within wetlands on this site. The ponds are designed to be multifunctional. They will provide detention and treatment of stormwater runoff, provide a golf hazard, and add to the aesthetic quality of the golf course and subdivision.

The Inland Water Resource Division agrees that the addition of an open water body adjacent to wetlands will result in an increase in species richness and lead to an overall increase in the habitat value of an area. However, replacing an existing functional wetland habitat with an open water body simply replaces one type of viable habitat with another. This may lead to an increase in the number of species that utilize the open water

environment, but may also result in a decline of the species that currently utilize the forested or shrub wetland for shelter, cover, feeding and reproductive purposes. Further, when ponds act as settling basins, collecting runoff containing chemical fertilizers, pesticides and sediment, they may become unattractive to wildlife that would otherwise inhabit an aquatic environment.

Ponds developed in a fashion which incorporate a stream (whether intermittent or perennial) will alter the streambank, stream bottom and stream flow characteristics. Changes to the vegetative communities along the stream bank and alteration of stream bed will result in associated changes in the suitability of these areas to support aquatic species, terrestrial wildlife, waterfowl and other birdlife. Removal or loss of tree and shrub cover may reduce shading of the watercourse and thereby elevate water temperatures with associated impact on water quality, accelerated weed growth, diminished fishery value and other important benthic life. Changes in sediment load due to the presence of an impoundment or excavation in-stream may also significantly affect habitat values. Impoundments impede fish passage and should be avoided where fish passage is a consideration.

Ponds constructed in-stream (whether by excavation or by impoundment of water flow) will frequently have a measurable impact on water quality. These impacts can range from short term construction related impacts such as siltation and turbidity, to long term impacts such as warming of the water, depressed dissolved oxygen levels, nutrient enrichment from non-point runoff from upland watershed areas or from water fowl, weed growth or algal blooms. The primary causes of temperature increase and/or diminished concentrations of dissolved oxygen in waters which flow through in-stream ponds and impoundments are: loss of natural reaeration processes due to the reduction of shallow turbulent flow over stream bed materials, increase in oxygen demand caused by organic accumulations in the pond bottom, increased residence time of waters within the pond, nutrient loading and biological activity in the water column, and loss of shading due to vegetation removal.

Depending upon location within and characteristics of the watershed, in-stream ponds may become zones of deposition for stream bed transported sediments, organic materials and other pollutants. Maintenance activities in these ponds usually include silt removal and dredging, shoreline stabilization, chemical applications for algae or weed control. All of these activities can have a profound effect on downstream water quality. The increased maintenance requirements, especially for the periodic removal of sediment

accumulations, of instream ponds along with considerable potential for adverse impacts cited above make in stream ponds less desirable.

Determining the suitability of a particular area for the introduction of an open water body is highly site specific. In some instances, the wetlands involved may be so highly disturbed as to accept pond creation as a welcome alternative. However, in this case, two of the three proposed pond locations contain wetlands that have been deemed "High Functional Value/Integrity" on the map titled Fox Brook North Granby, Connecticut Golf Club & Community, which color codes the wetlands according to their functional value. The third pond is proposed within wetlands deemed "Moderate Functional Value/Integrity."

If the two primary objectives of the ponds are aesthetics and wildlife, the ponds should be constructed adjacent to, not within, the existing wetlands. Habitat replacement should not be an acceptable alternative to wetland loss when those losses are otherwise avoidable. If there is insufficient water to supply the ponds outside of the wetlands, then perhaps the site is unsuitable for pond creation.

2. Fairway Crossings

Wetland and watercourse crossings to accommodate foot traffic on and between the fairways are proposed in a number of fashions: metal pipe-arches, metal culverts, wooddeck bridges, and general grading. Two bridges are proposed in one of the pond locations.

Where the fairways cross wetlands, it is desirable to maintain rough shrub vegetation and only remove the large trees. Where stream flows and fish passage are a consideration, crossings should be designed to maintain adequate flows during the dry season.

3. Road Crossings

The proposed access road and private driveways cross the narrowest portion of any wetlands and utilize existing crossings where possible. The expected impact of these crossings is minimal.

The greatest concern during the development of this site is the location of lots 65, 66,

67, 68, 69, 70, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 and 89 where the slopes are excessively steep (greater than 20%). While the lots are fairly large, the potential for erosion during construction is considerable. If lots are approved on these slopes, extreme precautions to prevent erosion should be adherence to the erosion and sediment control plan.

There are several points of direct stormwater discharge into watercourses through end walls or flared end sections. The potential for sediments and other pollutants (i.e., salt, oils, greases, etc.) to enter the watercourses is of concern. We would suggest that the applicant evaluate the alternative of redirecting the discharge point to an overland area and provide stabilization and protection from erosion into the watercourses. A flared end pipe outlet to a riprap energy dissipator would decrease the potential for higher velocities to cause erosion; overland flow and additional filtering material would decrease the potential for sedimentation to the watercourses.

During the site walk, it was observed that there were areas that appeared to be wetland soils, however, were not designated as wetlands on the site plan. In particular, the open field area in the vicinity of deep test hole #85a appeared to contain a poorly drained soil upon examination. We would strongly recommend that a soil scientist hired by the current applicant verify the location of wetlands and investigate the possibility of omission of wetland areas from the most recent mapping.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the site appears able to accommodate a golf course community, however, the placement of ponds within wetlands and watercourse corridors, and the location of building lots on excessively steep slopes may result in adverse impacts to the wetland and watercourse resources on the site. We would recommend a design alternative that reduces the number of lots (regardless of how many lots are allowed by zoning regulations) and relocates the ponds from within wetlands to adjacent to wetlands. Additionally, those areas that are protected by Conservation Easements should be staked clearly on each property to avoid any confusion by homeowners as to where the easement is located. These easements should also be contained on the individual deeds for each property.

REVIEW OF PROJECT PHILOSOPHY AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MUC

Dana Karpowich
Integrated Pest Management/Turf Grass
CT Cooperative Extension System
Telephone: 241-4948

Report not received yet 11/20/91

THE NATURAL DIVERSITY DATA BASE

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Biologist/Environmental Analyst II
DEP, Natural Resources Center
Telephone: 566-3540

The Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the "Fox Brook Golf Club and Community" in Granby, Connecticut have been reviewed. According to the information, there are no known extant populations of Federally Endangered and Threatened species or species proposed for State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern status (General Statutes Section 26-306) at the site.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biologic resources available to us 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 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. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

VEGETATION

Larry Rousseau
Forester 2
DEP, Division of Forestry
Telephone: 379-7085

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

The Fox Brook Development is a 366 acre site with 310 acres forested and 56 acres non-forested land.

The vegetative description for the site can be divided into four broad vegetative cover types. These are mixed hardwoods, mixed softwoods, open field, and cleared land. The cover types are described in greater detail under the heading VEGETATIVE TYPE DESCRIPTION.

In general, the site consists of several parcels of which 180 acres has undergone extensive timber harvesting and development activities within the last ten years. The remaining 186 acres contain forest stands of mixed hardwood and softwood sawtimber of moderate commercial value. Of equal or greater value is the aesthetics, watershed capacities, diversified wildlife habitat, and passive recreation potential of the site's forest cover.

The potential for conventional forest management on the site is greatest in the areas surrounding the proposed golf course, especially in the southern portion where the majority of the undisturbed forest cover will be. In the area where residential and recreational development is planned, the extent of forest management would be to identify and protect trees to be left on building lots and to market forest products that could be generated through construction activities. Proper forest management of both the open space and the developed areas would complement the other land values.

VEGETATIVE TYPE DESCRIPTION

The following is a broad breakdown of the vegetative cover types. The types are directly influenced by either soil conditions, historical use, past management, or a combination of these factors. Soil types often dictates the moisture availability which can

limit or restrict certain vegetation's growth. Historical use and the past management of the land also influences the occurrence of the types of vegetation present.

Type 1 - Mixed Hardwoods - Approximately 270 acres of the site is comprised of this type. The hardwood species present are alder, ash, aspen, beech, black birch, gray birch, white birch, yellow birch, butternut, black cherry, pin cherry, American chestnut, elm, black gum, hickory, red maple, sugar maple, black oak, chestnut oak, red oak, scarlet oak, swamp white oak, white oak, yellow poplar. The softwood species present are red cedar, hemlock, pitch pine, and white pine. Species usually found in the understory are barberry, highbush blueberry, mountain laurel, striped maple, juniper, spicebush, staghorn sumac, winterberry, and witch-hazel.

Approximately 180 acres of this type (Type 1A) was heavily logged for timber during the last ten years. Due to this activity, the present tree size ranges from sapling (2 to 4 inches in diameter at breast height) to pole (6 to 10 inches dbh) with scattered sawtimber (12 inches and larger dbh). The harvest operations removed mostly oak sawtimber leaving a predominance of poor quality red maple and birch sawtimber in the overstory. The remaining 90 acres (Type 1B) has not been logged in the last 50 years and the tree growth is predominantly sawtimber size oaks.

On drier growing sites there is a tendency to find a larger percentage of gray birch, white birch, black oak, chestnut oak, red cedar, pitch pine, and white pine. Understory species present are barberry, mountain laurel, and juniper.

On more moist growing sites there is a tendency to find a larger percentage of ash, aspen, beech, black birch, yellow birch, butternut, black cherry, American chestnut, black gum, red maple, sugar maple, black oak, red oak, scarlet oak, swamp white oak, white oak, yellow poplar, hemlock, and white pine. Understory species present are mountain laurel, striped maple, spicebush, and witch-hazel.

On growing sites where the soils are poorly drained or have seasonally high water tables, trees present are alder, ash, elm, black gum, red maple, scarlet oak, swamp white oak, and hemlock. Understory species present are highbush blueberry, spicebush, and winterberry.

Type 2 - Mixed Softwoods - approximately 43 acres of the site is occupied by this type. These are areas where hemlock and white pine make up the majority of the tree cover.

Some of the hardwood species found in **Type 1** may occur within this type. Other softwood species associated with hemlock and white pine are red cedar, pitch pine, and juniper. As in **Type 1**, the soils moisture availability influences the occurrence and growth of softwood species. Hemlocks tend to favor more moist soils, while on drier sites white pine and other softwoods are more abundant. Barberry and mountain laurel are usually found under white pine cover.

The quality of trees' stems for lumber production relates to the soil type and the past land use. The deeper, well drained soils tend to produce better quality tree growth. The extent and intensity of past land effects the tree growth's form and quality.

Type 3 - Open Field - Approximately 44 acres of the site contain openings ranging from active hay fields to fields reverting to forestland. In the openings reverting to forestland, the tree species present in seedling and sapling form are aspen, birch, cherry, red maple, oak, red cedar, and white pine. Shrub species include barberry, blackberry, blueberry, multiflora rose, and juniper.

Type 4 - Cleared Land - Approximately 9 acres of the site was cleared within the last five years for road right of ways. All vegetation now present is similar to **Type 3**, but with more hardwood species arising from stump sprouts.

LIMITING CONDITIONS AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS

This section will address the factors which could limit forest management activities on the site.

According to the Fox Brook Subdivision Application 30 percent of the site or 111 acres will not be disturbed by construction activities. This acreage is predominantly in the southern portion of the site. Here conventional forest management activities could be used to maintain and improve the health of the forest cover. On the remaining 255 acres slated for development the scope of management would be to identify and protect "specimen trees" to leave during construction. These trees because of their size, form, or species would improve the aesthetic quality and other land values of the development. Another aspect of forest management in the developed area would be to market the forest products that would be generated by the clearing of approximately 200 acres.

The natural factors that may limit operations on the site are the soils that have poor

drainage, seasonally high water tables, or are excessively shallow to bedrock. The potential hazards here are that openings made in the forest canopy could predispose the remaining trees to windthrow, and equipment operations would be severely restricted. There would be a higher incidence of rutting and root damage by equipment operating on these soils. Alterations in the wetlands which permanently changes the water table and/or restrict natural drainage may have negative impact on the vegetation in the immediate area. Raising the water table may drown root systems causing widespread plant mortality. Lowering the water table may also result in mortality from desiccation. These situations may occur when crossing wet areas with roadways, driveways, cart paths, ect. or diverting natural drainage away from building sites. Care should be taken in the design and placement of drainage structures in wet areas to avoid altering the water table.

Insects and disease are always a natural threat to the health of a forest. Some signs of disease and insects are visible on the site and are of common occurrences. Nectria canker on the birch, beech bark disease, and chestnut blight are visible. White pine weevil have deformed the white pine and evidence of gypsy moth defoliation was observed. The population of gypsy moth may be increasing and severe defoliation of oaks may occur next year. Two pests of hemlock that may have a negative affect on the hemlocks in the area are the hemlock wooly adelgid and the hemlock looper. The adelgid is a sap sucking insect while the looper feeds on the needles, both insects cause defoliation. *(A separate packet of information on the life cycle and description of both pests was given to the Town)*

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

A representative of Granby's Conservation Commission voiced some concern at the ERT field review meeting regarding the developer's intention to use a licensed arborist instead of a professional consulting forester to help plan and supervise the logging/clearing phase of the development. There are several reasons for using the services of a consulting forester over those of an arborist:

- 1) Connecticut's Forest Practices Law as of July 1, 1992 mandates that commercial timber harvest can only be carried out by a logger licensed by the State and may require a State licensed forester to plan and supervise the harvest,

- (2) a considerable volume of forest products could be generated by the clearing of approximately 200 acres. A forester is better suited to market this material,

- (3) The task of selecting specimen trees or groups of trees for preservation and protecting them from damage during construction is within the capabilities of most professional consulting foresters and

(4) A forest management plan should be developed for all forested acres on the site. Such a plan would evaluate the trees' health, the species make up, the size, volume and quality of the timber resource. Base on this evaluation and tied directly with the landowner's objectives, management recommendations would be developed to maintain and enhance the health of the forest. Any silviculture practice that may be needed on the open space forest should be done during the logging/clearing phase of the development. *(Information regarding the qualifications and services offered by the professional consulting forester and an arborist were given to the Town)*

Wildfires are always a concern in the forestlands. Although several thousands of acres burn each year in Connecticut the chances of any one acre burning is low. Traditionally this area has had a low incidence of wildfires and there is no reason to believe that this will change. However, development of wooded acres can increase the occurrence of woodland fires and add a new dimension to rural fire fighting. Houses in close proximity to forestland can face the problem of woodland fires causing structure fires. *(Given to the Town was a booklet which lists standards for rural developments which help to minimize the threat of wildfire)*

Vegetation Type Map

Scale 1" = 1000'



Type Boundary

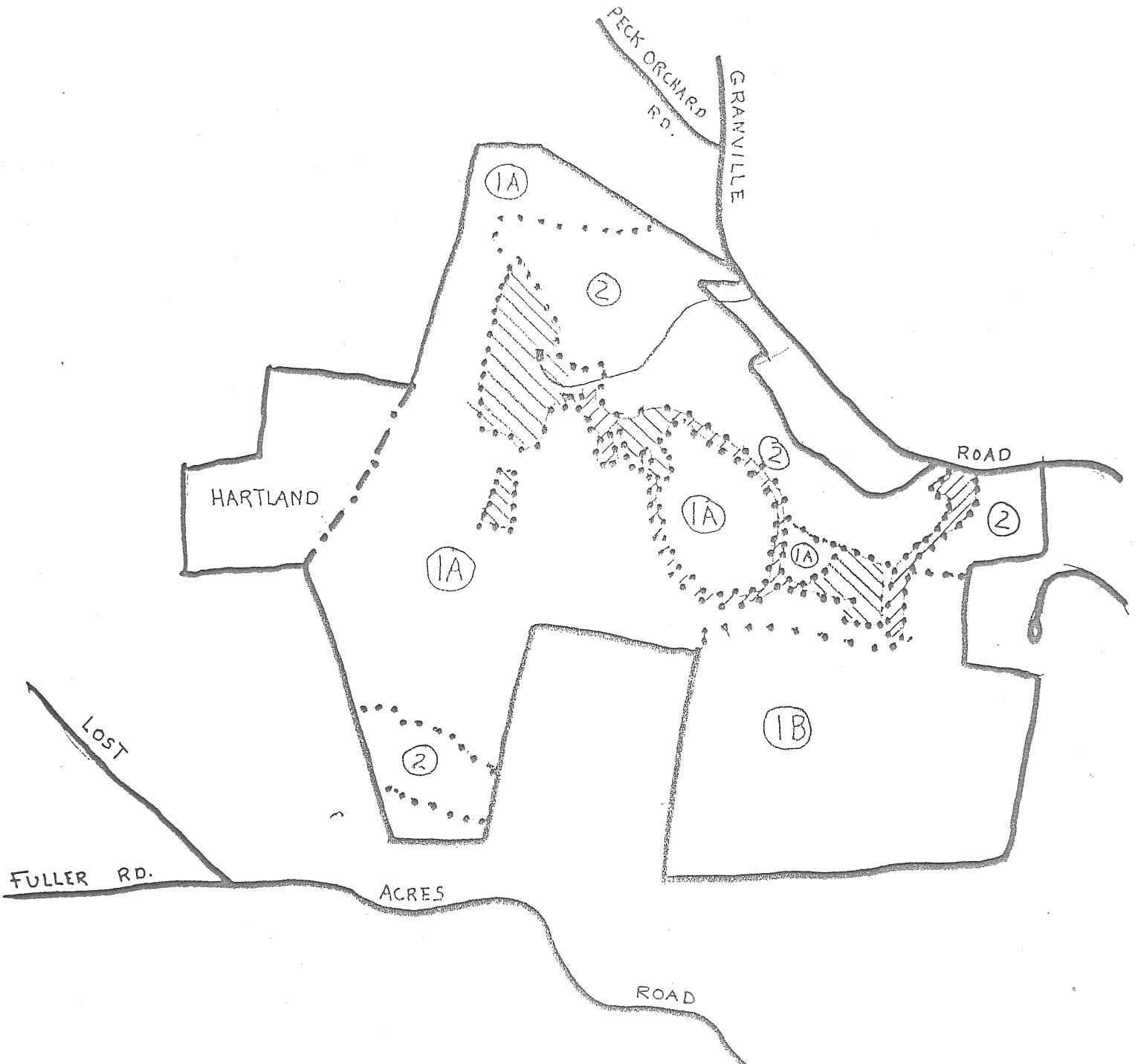
Type 1A (mixed hardwoods, recently logged)

Type 1B (mixed hardwoods)

Type 2 (mixed softwoods)

Type 3 (open field) \\\

Type 4 (cleared land) ////



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Judy Wilson
Wildlife Biologist
DEP, Western District Headquarters
Telephone: 485-0226

Report not received yet 11/20/91

FISHERIES RESOURCES

Don Mysling
Technical Assistance Fishery Biologist
DEP, Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife
Inland Fisheries Division, Western Headquarters
Telephone: 485-0226

SITE DESCRIPTION

The proposed Fox Brook Golf Club and Community site contains two perennial watercourses, East Branch Salmon Brook and an unnamed tributary, as well as several intermittent drainages. Both East Branch Salmon Brook and the unnamed tributary can be classified as coldwater stream habitats. The moderate to steep stream gradient has produced surface flows predominated by shallow riffle interspersed by moving pool. Being within a relatively unaltered watershed, surface water has been protected from degradation. The Department of Environmental Protection has classified East Branch Salmon Brook and the unnamed tributary as "Class A" surface waters; designated uses for water of this classification are potential drinking water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational use, agricultural and industrial supply and other purposes.

Although both streams are similar in classification they differ in dimension and in-stream habitat. East Branch Salmon Brook has a channel approximately 20 feet in width, depths averaging 1.5 feet. Substrate is composed of medium and small boulder, cobble, gravel, and coarse sand. Riparian vegetation is primarily of trees and woody shrubs however, several sections of stream side within the vicinity of the proposed development have been developed as agricultural field and residential home sites.

The channel of the unnamed stream is approximately 12 feet in width, depths averaging 1 foot. Substrate is composed of small boulder, coarse sand, and sand/silt fines. A diverse mixture of trees and woody shrubs comprise the stream's riparian vegetation.

AQUATIC RESOURCES

A formal fisheries resource inventory of East Branch Salmon Brook has recently been completed by DEP Inland Fisheries. Two sections of the stream between the Massachusetts border and the Dogherty Road bridge crossing were surveyed. Survey

results indicate a fishery population composed Atlantic salmon (juveniles), brook trout, brown trout, blacknose dace, and white sucker.

DEP Inland Fisheries actively manages East Branch Salmon Brook as a trout fishery. Approximately 8,200 adult brook, brown, and rainbow trout are liberated annually in effort to meet angler demand. East Branch Salmon Brook also serves an integral part of the program to reestablish Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River basin. Atlantic salmon juveniles are released yearly into the stream which serves as a nursery area; the salmon will remain in the stream from one to two years following stocking then begin their seaward migration.

The fisheries resources of the unnamed stream have never been investigated by DEP Inland Fisheries however, brook trout were observed during the field review. DEP Inland Fisheries has no active management programs on this stream.

IMPACTS

Land use changes associated with the proposed Foxbrook Golf Club and Community have the potential to adversely impact aquatic habitats of both East Branch Salmon Brook and the unnamed tributary stream should mitigative measures not be implemented. Anticipated impacts include:

■ Soil erosion and subsequent sedimentation through increased runoff from unvegetated areas. Excessive erosion and sedimentation can degrade water quality and in-stream habitats in turn impacting the resident fishery population. Specifically, excessive siltation has the potential to:

- cause a depletion of oxygen within the water column - disrupt fish respiration and gill function
- reduce water depth resulting in a reduction of habitats used by fish for feeding, cover, and spawning
- reduce fish egg survival
- reduce aquatic insect production

- promote growths of aquatic plants

■ Influx of stormwater drainage may cause aquatic habitat degradation due to the release of "pollutants" from developed areas; such pollutants include gasoline, oil, heavy metals, road salt, fine silts, and coarse sediments.

■ Excessive groundwater withdrawal may cause a subsequent depletion in surface water flow.

■ Nutrient enrichment from fertilizer runoff and septic system failure will stimulate aquatic plant growth. Herbicide runoff may result in fish kills and water quality degradation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In an effort to mitigate impacts to the aquatic resources of East Branch Salmon Brook and the unnamed tributary stream the following should be considered:

■ Maintain, at a minimum, a 100 foot open space buffer zone along the development's closest encroachment to both intermittent as well as perennial surface watercourses with no construction or alteration of riparian habitat taking place within this zone; research has indicated that buffer zones of this width prevent damage to aquatic ecosystems that are supportive of diverse species assemblages; these buffers absorb surface runoff, and the pollutants they may carry, before they enter wetlands and aquatic habitats.

■ Establish a comprehensive erosion and sediment control plan with mitigative measures (hay bales, silt fence, etc.) to be installed prior to and maintained through all development phases; land disturbance and clearing should be kept to a minimum with all disturbed areas being protected from storm events and restabilized as soon as possible.

■ Design and implement an effective stormwater management plan to contain storm water runoff on-site and not be allowed to discharge directly into surface water courses; the stormwater detention basins/ponds should not be constructed in watercourses rather be located in upland areas.

■ Provide documentation pertaining to groundwater availability and set groundwater

production limits (i.e. number of wells or withdrawal rates) in effort to maintain surface water flow.

■ Limit any permitted activities within or adjacent to watercourses to historic low stream flow periods of the year; reduced stream flows and rainfall during summer - early fall provides the least hazardous conditions to work near sensitive aquatic environments.

■ Limit liming, fertilizing, and the introduction of chemicals to developed land susceptible to runoff into watercourses.

PLANNING COMMENTS

Carol Szymanski
Planner

Capitol Region Council of Governments
Telephone: 522-2217

The site is zoned R2A under Granby's zoning regulations, requiring two acre minimum lots. A standard subdivision would result in a "cookie cutter" subdivision, a landscape dotted entirely with homes and attendant lawns. Approximately 140 to 150 homes could be constructed, according to the developer's own estimates.

The alternative which is presented, a cluster subdivision of 97 homes with a recreation component, is preferable. Cluster development is promoted in the Regional Plan of Development because its impact on the landscape is less severe.

The addition of a viable recreation resource, an 18 hole golf course, will also benefit the community at large.

From a planning perspective, if environmentally feasible, the individual lots should be smaller, thereby reducing the road network and increasing the overall open space.

The golf course should be sufficiently buffered from the homes to protect the safety of the homeowners as well as the golfers who may feel inhibited in their playing by the presence of homes. Landscaping should be a primary consideration in this development.

Erosion and sedimentation control measures should be taken. Ideally, the developer should name one responsible individual with whom the Town Wetlands Enforcement Official confers with on the successes and failures of the measures taken. The developer's representative should be familiar with erosion and control measures and how to implement them. The phasing concept is an excellent one in many respects. First, the site will not be opened up and exposed to erosion all at once. Second, the developer's liability as well as the Town's is lowered by completing each phase, particularly infrastructure improvements, before beginning a new phase. Thus, a cluster of homes will not be left without essential improvements. However, the Town should not neglect to obtain sufficient bonds to ensure that the potential homeowners are protected.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni
State Archaeologist
CT State Museum of Natural History, UCONN
Telephone: 486-4460

A review of the State of Connecticut Archaeological Site Files and Maps shows no known prehistoric or historic sites in the project area. However, this lack of data is more likely the result of no archaeologist having tested the property than there being no cultural resources existing in the area.

On-site review noted no historic and/or architectural resources located directly within the project limits. However, potential National Register of Historic Places architectural properties exist along Lost Acres Road. Maximum retention of mature tree species should be implemented along the Lost Acres Road project boundaries.

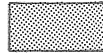
Based upon environmental factors, including soil type, slope, drainage patterns and bedrock outcropping, the area's potential for yet undiscovered archaeological sites probably ranges from medium to high sensitivity. The following map highlights areas of archaeological concern.

The Office of State Archaeology and the Connecticut Historical Commission highly recommend a reconnaissance survey of the sensitive areas to identify and evaluate all archaeological properties which may exist. All survey work should be undertaken in accordance with the Connecticut Historical Commission's ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PRIMER FOR CONNECTICUT'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

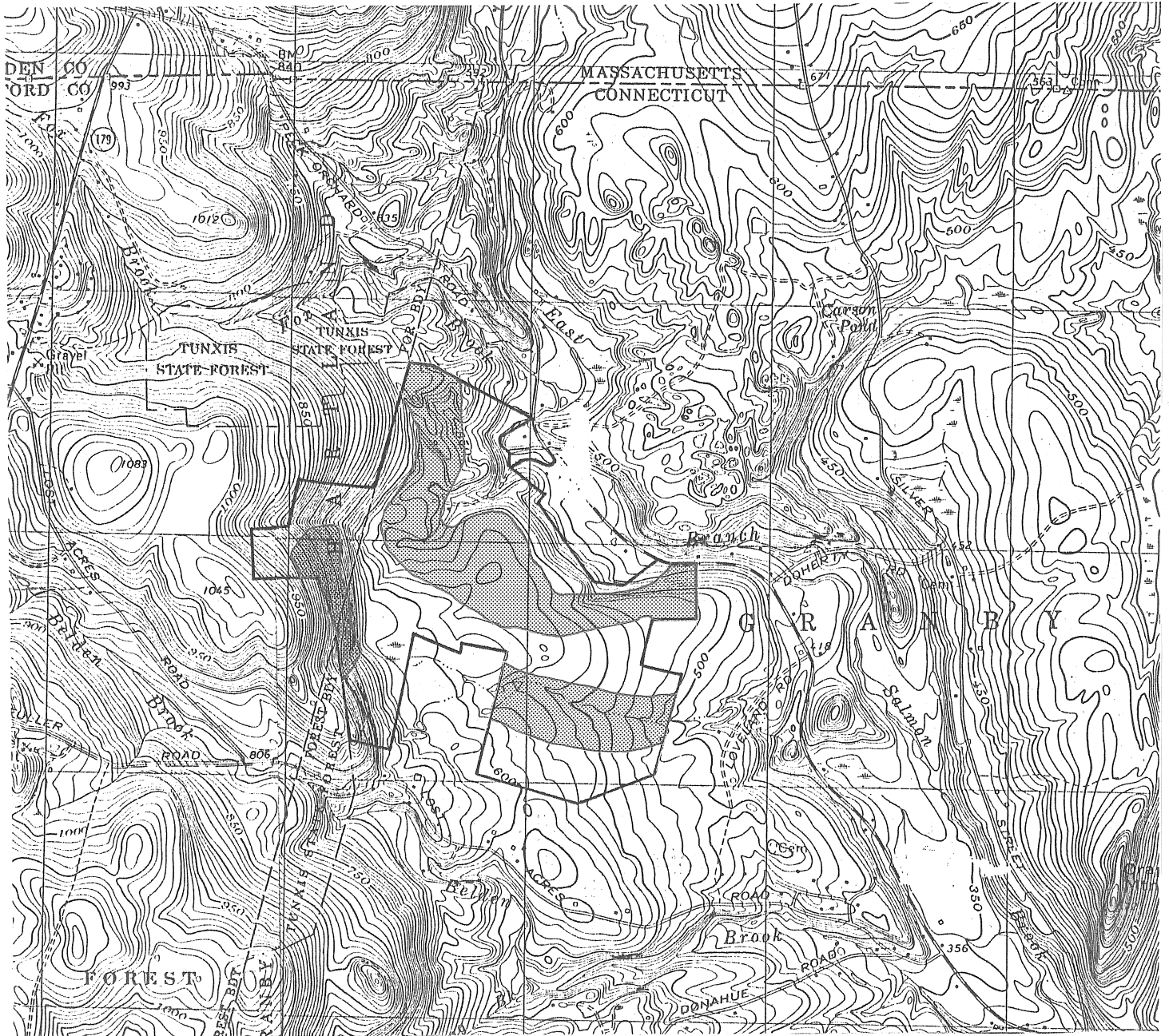
The Office of State Archaeology is prepared to offer the Town of Granby and Fox Brook Associates any technical assistance in coordinating the recommended survey to ensure the preservation and conservation of these cultural resources.

Areas of Archaeological Concern

Scale 1" = 2000'



Area of Concern



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, soil 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 region.

**The services of the Team are 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, landfills, commercial and industrial developments, sand and gravel excavations, 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 official 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 and the ERT Coordinator. A request form should be completely filled out and should include the required materials. 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 and request forms regarding the Environmental Review Team please contact the ERT Coordinator: 203-345-3977, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 70, Haddam, Connecticut 06438.