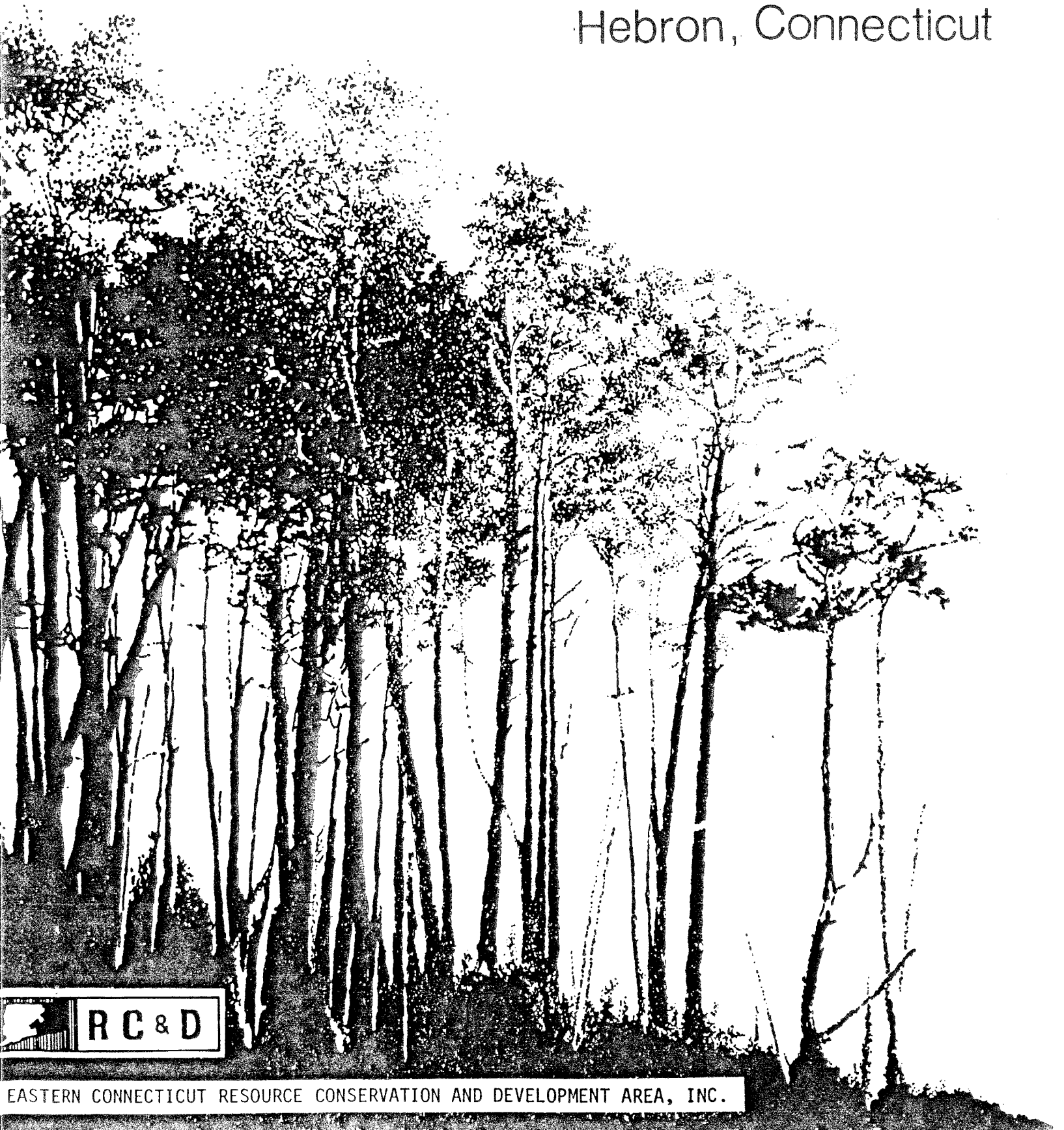


Environmental Review Team Report
Loveland Road Recreation Area
Hebron, Connecticut



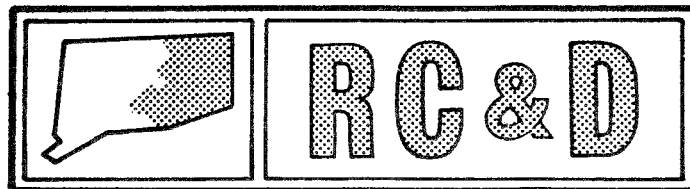
EASTERN CONNECTICUT RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

Environmental Review Team
Report

Loveland Road
Recreation Area

Hebron, Connecticut

January 1984



Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area

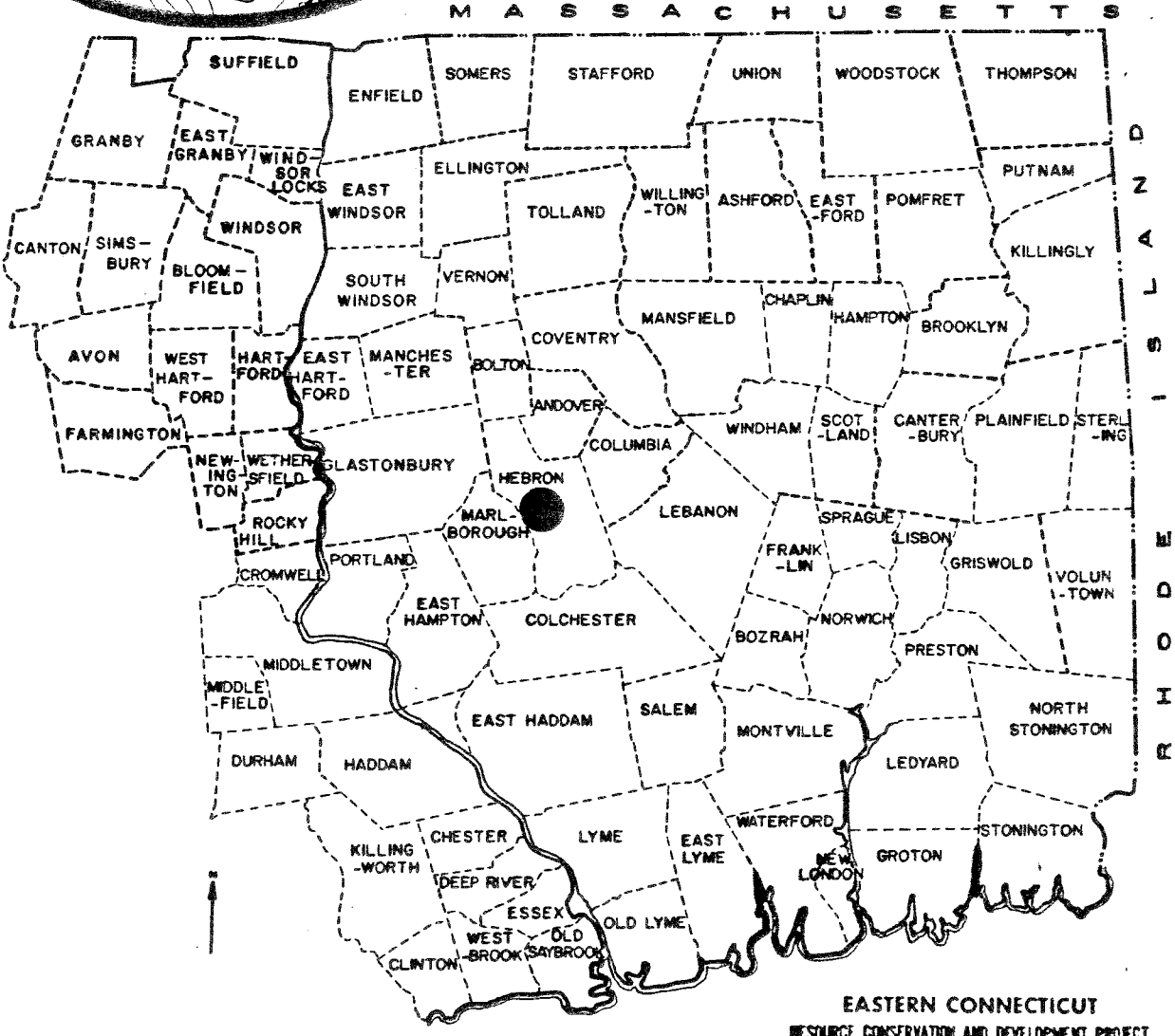
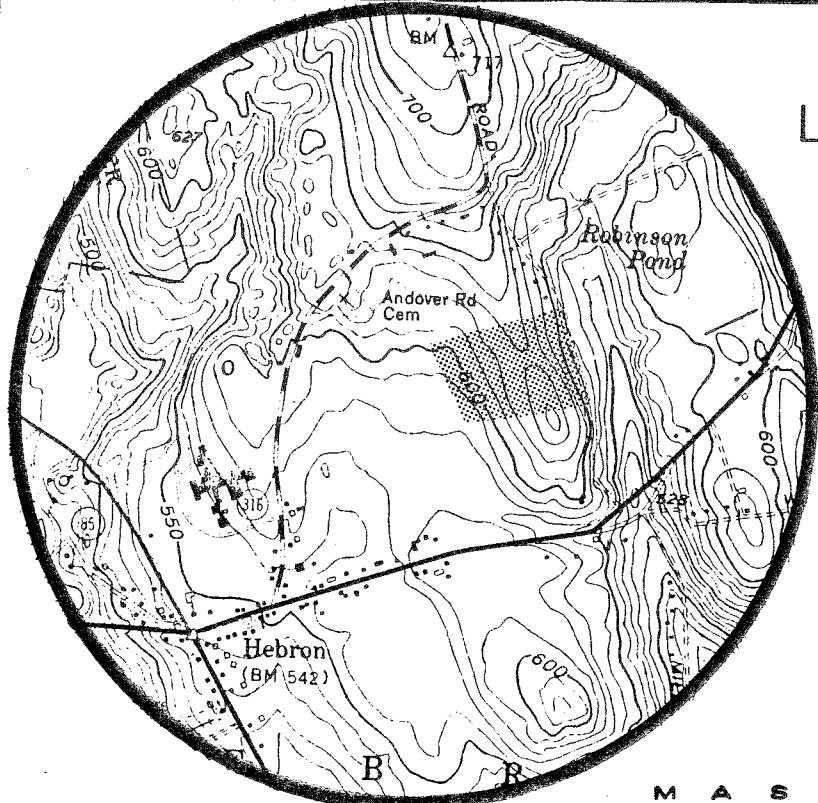
Environmental Review Team

PO Box 198

Brooklyn, Connecticut 06234

Location of Study Site

LOVELAND ROAD RECREATION FACILITY
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT
ON
LOVELAND ROAD RECREATION FACILITY
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

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

The soils of the site were mapped by a soil scientist from the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Reproductions of the soil survey map, a table of soils limitations for certain land uses and a topographic map showing property boundaries were distributed to all Team members prior to their review of the site.

The ERT that field-checked the site consisted of the following personnel: Joseph Neafsey, District Conservationist, SCS; Jim Parada, Forester, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Bill Warzecha, Geologist, DEP; Bob Dlugolenski, Recreation Specialist, DEP; John Rook, Wildlife Biologist, DEP; Don Capellaro, Sanitarian, State Department of Health; and Jeanne Shelburn, ERT Coordinator, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area.

The Team met and field-checked the site on Monday, November 21, 1983. Reports from each contributing Team member were sent to the ERT Coordinator for review and summarization for the final report.

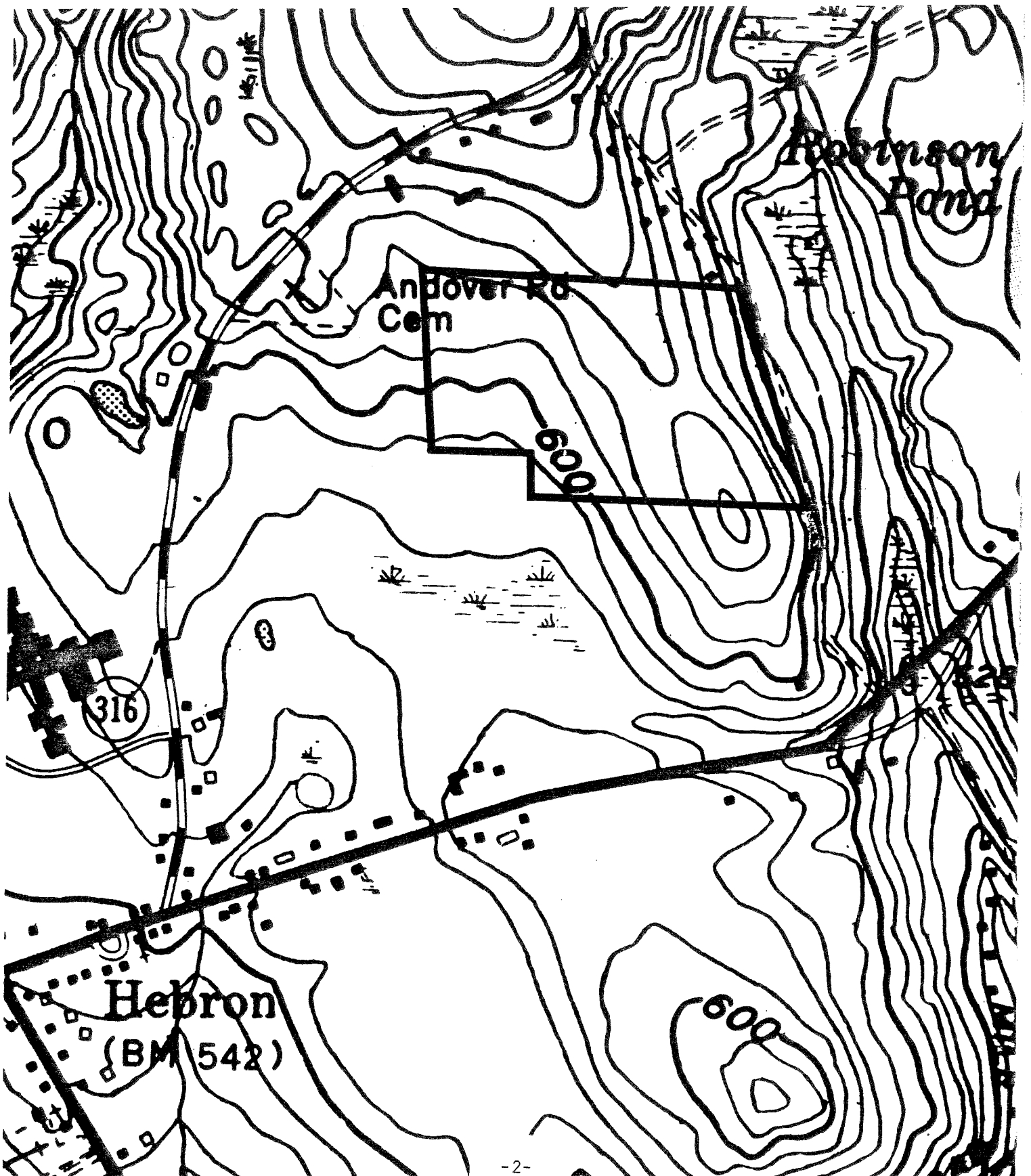
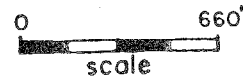
This report is not meant to compete with private consultants by supplying site designs or detailed solutions to development problems. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to the proposed development and also suggests considerations that should be of concern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

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

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

Topography

— Site Boundary



INTRODUCTION

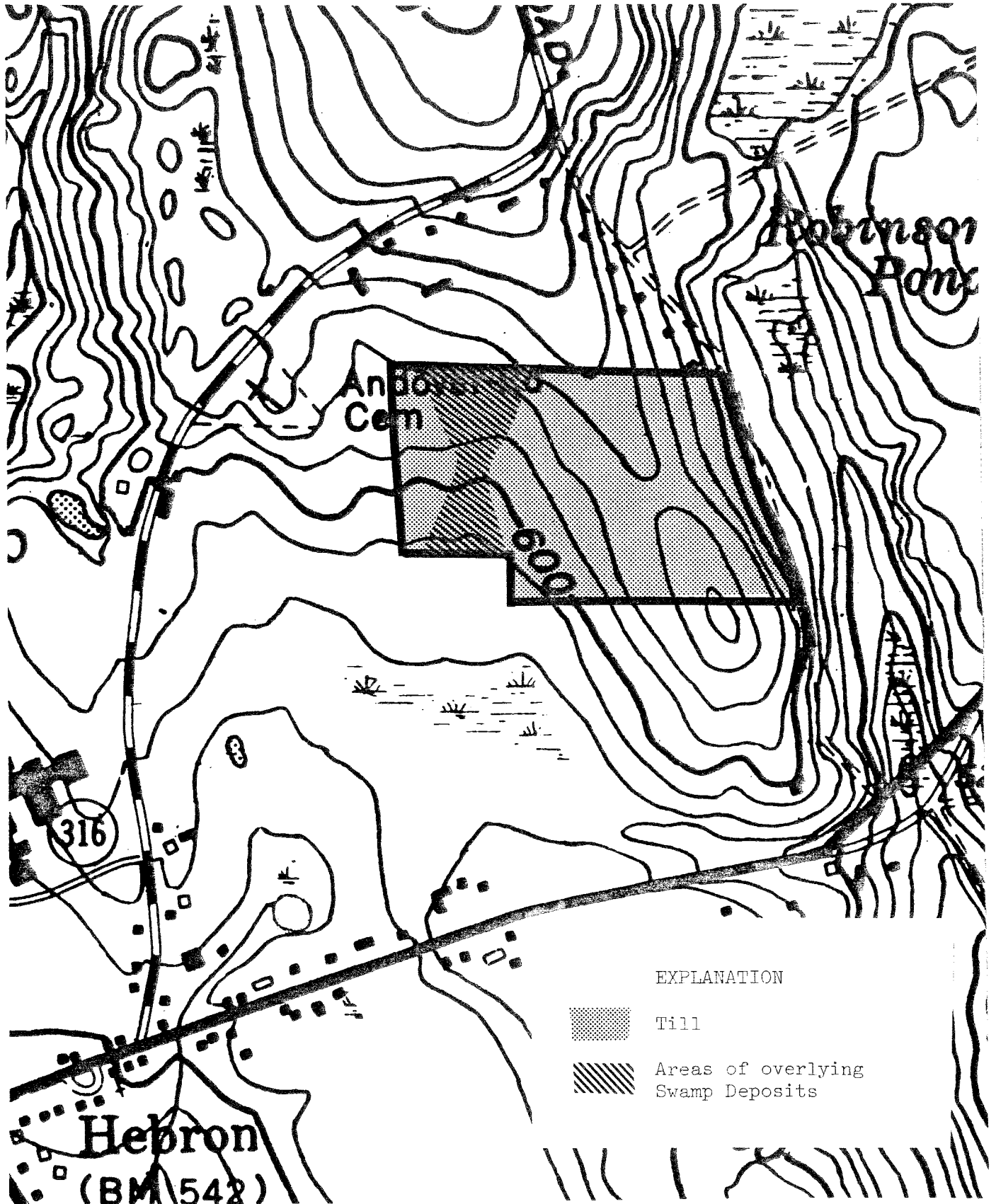
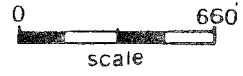
The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team was asked to prepare an environmental assessment for a proposed recreation facility in the Town of Hebron. The property is approximately 44 acres in size and is located on the west side of Loveland Road between Routes 66 and 316. The area is zoned R-1 residential where recreation parks are a permitted usage.

Approximately 20 acres transecting the property in a north to south direction is presently utilized as a cornfield; the western portion extending from the northern to the southern boundary is gradually sloping, wooded, stoney and wet with an intermittent watercourse while the eastern section slopes steeply to Loveland Road and is wooded with a heavy undergrowth of brambles and other woody shrubs.

If the property is acquired, the Town plans to develop an extensive recreation complex which would be developed in phases depending on available funding. The development's facilities are tentative at present, however, the proposal includes three little league ballfields, one baseball/soccer field combination, one softball field, four tennis courts, picnic areas, a building containing sanitary facilities and a food concession, there would be a paved parking area for approximately 90 cars and several smaller unpaved overflow parking areas.

The Team is concerned with the effect of this proposal on the natural resource base of this site. Although many severe limitations to development can be overcome with appropriate engineering techniques, these measures can become costly, making a project financially unfeasible for development. The most severe development limitation of this site is that of a seasonal high groundwater table, which will necessitate use of underdrains on all of the athletic fields. Terracing to achieve flat areas for these fields will also cause drainage problems as the water table is intercepted. Engineering and construction work for the proposed project will no doubt be costly. The Town should take this factor into consideration when making a final decision for acquisition and development of this parcel.

Surficial Geology



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

TOPOGRAPHY

The site, which is ±44 acres in size is located in the eastern section of Hebron. As shown in the accompanying topographic map, the parcel is nearly rectangular in shape and occupies a topographic saddle. To the north and south, the land rises into two streamlined hills. These hills are probably drumlins. Drumlins are thick till deposits that were molded into streamline form by overriding glacial ice. The long axis of the drumlins point in the direction of ice movement. In regard to these drumlins, the movement was south-southeast. Steepest slopes (10-20%) occur along the eastern limit of the property.

Maximum and minimum elevations on the site are 640 and 590 above mean sea level, respectively.

The western portion of the site is comprised largely of wetlands.

GEOLOGY

The proposed recreation acquisition site is encompassed entirely within the Columbia topographic quadrangle. A bedrock geologic map (GQ-592) by George Snyder has been published by the U.S. Geological Survey. The surficial geologic map for the quadrangle has not been published to date, however, there is pertinent information available for review purposes at the Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Resources Center in Hartford.

No bedrock exposures are believed to be on the site. Nevertheless, based on Snyder's map, the underlying bedrock, which is mapped from outcrops south and east of the site, is Canterbury gneiss. This formation consists of a medium grained, metamorphic rock (rocks altered by great heat and pressure) which is gray to white in color. It is characterized by banding, which results when thin, elongate, dark minerals alternate with rounder, blockier, light colored minerals.

Minerals in the rock include quartz, potassium feldspar, albite, and biotite and muscovite micas.

In terms of the proposed recreation facility, underlying bedrock should not pose any major problems. However, it may affect the quantity and quality of well water since the underlying bedrock appears to be the most likely source of water on the site. This will be discussed in more detail in the Water Supply section of this report.

The unconsolidated materials overlying bedrock throughout the site is till. Till is a non-sorted sediment that was deposited directly by the ice sheet. It

is composed of an intricate mixture of rock fragments comprised of clay, silt, sand, boulders. Generally in the upper 3 to 5 feet, till is sandy, stony and loose and at greater depths the till becomes siltier and quite compact. The exact thickness of the till is unknown, however, it probably is greater than 10 feet.

In the wetter areas to the west of the parcel, the till is overlain by a layer of dark organic material intermixed with varying amounts of sand, silt and clay. As mentioned earlier, these areas are found in the western parts of the property.

From a geological standpoint, it appears the most limiting factor with regard to developing the site, at least seasonally, would be a high groundwater table, which is commonly associated with till based soils and slope, particularly along the eastern limits. The high groundwater table results mainly from the compact nature of the till soils which tend to restrict the downward movement of groundwater. On December 8, 1983 three Team members observed deep test holes along the east flank of the hill. The three test holes revealed groundwater at approximately 24 inches below the surface of the ground.

The planned baseball, softball and soccer fields might be troublesome to create and maintain, since much of the site is likely to become very muddy during the normally wet times of year.

Grading, as well as cutting and filling of the area, will be needed for use as baseball, soccer, softball fields and tennis courts. Such excavations may reduce the depth of soil to the water table, in which case, tile drainage will be required to remove groundwater.

SOILS

Soils in the proposal area correlate well with the mapped information. The east side of the parcel is open land and it is the area which is proposed for future development. Its present use is cropland. The soil types on the 14 acre cornfield are identified as prime farmland. Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage and fiber.

The soils in the area of the proposed recreation facilities are well drained and moderately well drained. They have severe limitations for septic tank absorption fields; and moderate limitations for picnic areas, playgrounds, and ballfields. These Paxton and Woodbridge soils perc slowly and are often wet. The hardpan, that is common within 30" of the top of the ground, is an impervious layer that impedes water movement; therefore, a perched water table is often found in these soils. Installation of tile drainage will be necessary for adequate drainage in the ball fields. Also, any areas that have been cut and filled may need tile drainage, or toe drains, to minimize water seeping out of the cut slopes. A tile drainage system could be easily planned and tied in with the stormwater system.

A detailed stormwater management and runoff control plan should be developed for the project. This should include access roads and parking lot storm drains, drainage along Loveland Road and any measures necessary to control hillside runoff.

A detailed erosion and sediment control plan should be developed and implemented for the site. The plan should be integrated into the stormwater management plan. The Connecticut Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook is an excellent guide for plan development.

The site appears to be compatible with the proposed use if an adequate septic system can be designed and if a site plan for the facility can be developed that implements measures to alleviate water management problems and control erosion on the slopes on the site.

On request, the Tolland County Soil and Water Conservation District can provide technical assistance to the project engineer on development or review of erosion and sediment control and stormwater management plans.

HYDROLOGY

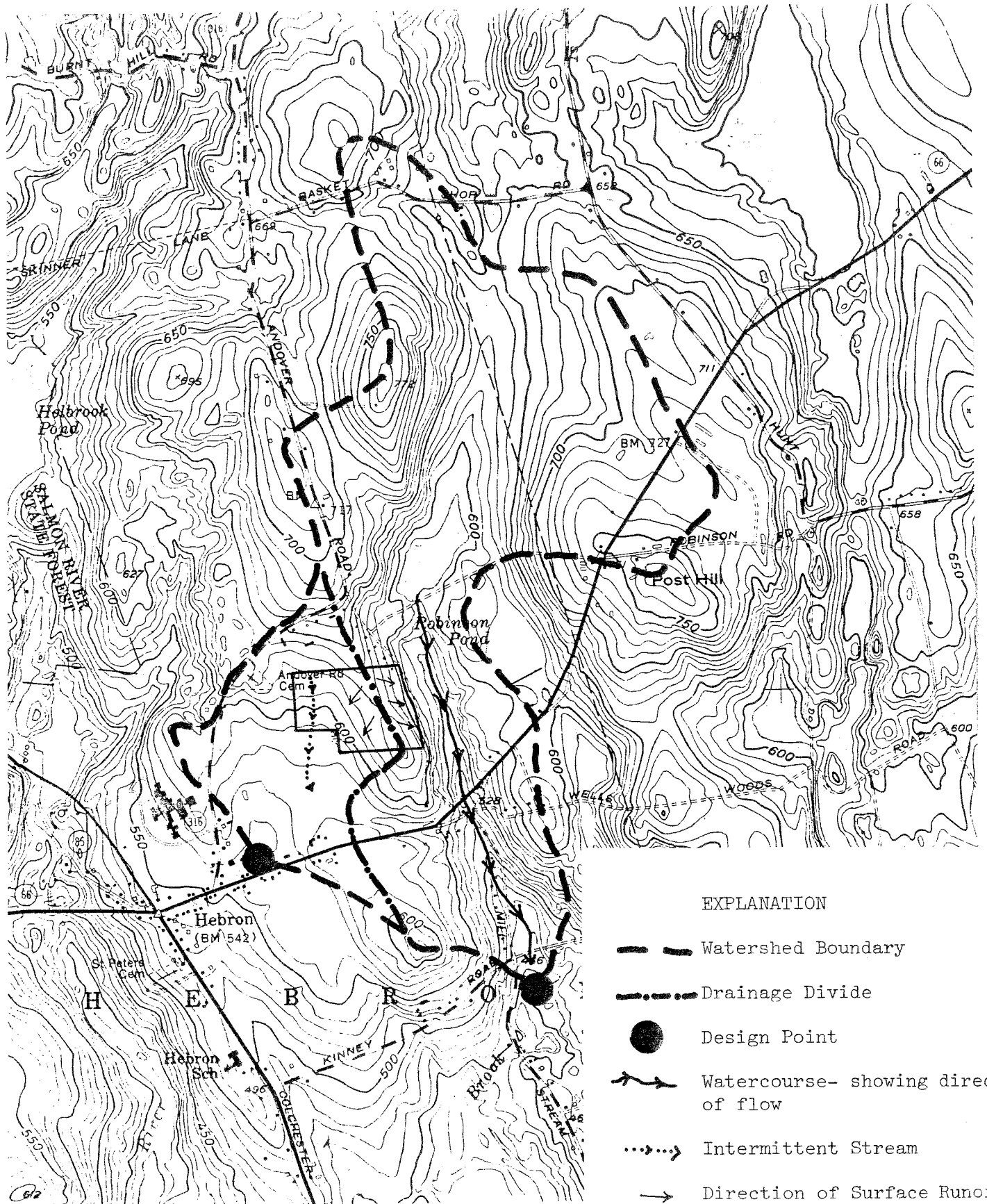
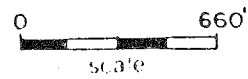
The drainage divide for the site runs along the crests of the drumlin hills in the east-central portion of the site (see Watershed Boundary Map). Surface runoff throughout the eastern limits of the site drains eastward towards Raymond Brook. Runoff from the remaining portion of the site drains westward into the wetland area, which in turn is drained southward by an intermittent watercourse, named Mill Brook.

No perennial watercourses or water bodies were seen on the site. However, numerous small gullies eroded by rills (very small streams) were observed during the review along the hillsides, particularly on the steeper sloped eastern flank. These gullies occur mainly as a result of the topography, geologic condition (presence of hardpan), and the absence of a vegetative cover throughout the cornfields.







Development of the site as proposed can be expected to cause increases in the volume of runoff. These increases would be caused by removal of vegetation, compaction of soils, creation of impervious surfaces, such as tennis courts, roof tops, entrance drive, paved play areas, etc., and the timing of each development within the facility. For this reason, a detailed engineering study of the pre- and post-development runoff from the site should be prepared and a runoff control plan be implemented prior to any significant development at this site.

It is evident, from the gullying observed throughout the open corn fields, that increased runoff could cause erosion problems to the site. Eroded gullies were also observed along various points east of Loveland Road. As mentioned earlier, this result is primarily due to the absence of a vegetative cover and steep slopes. Therefore, if the proposed recreation facility is developed, it is crucial that an erosion and sediment control plan be formulated and followed closely during the construction phase. The wetland areas in the western portions of the site may have some value in runoff retention and sediment storage.

Drainage Areas



EXPLANATION

-  Watershed Boundary
-  Drainage Divide
-  Design Point
-  Watercourse- showing direction of flow
-  Intermittent Stream
-  Direction of Surface Runoff

WATER SUPPLY

No groundwater resources of particular significance, i.e., coarse grained stratified drift, appear to exist on the site. Therefore, the underlying bedrock would be the most suitable water source. Bedrock wells generally produce only small to moderate yields, but these yields should be reliable for the proposed recreation facility. A survey of 314 wells tapping the underlying gneissic bedrock in the lower Connecticut River Basin shows that 90 percent of these wells yielded just under 2 gallons per minute or more, whereas only 10 percent of the wells yielded approximately 18 gallons per minute or more (Source: Lower Connecticut River Basin-Water Resource Bulletin #31).

Water from wells tapping gneiss bedrock usually provide good quality water. However, there is a chance that water may contain elevated levels of iron and/or manganese. If elevated, these constituents can usually be treated without too much trouble with a properly installed filtering device.

Wells should be located as far from any source of pollution as possible, i.e., septic systems, ground or surface water drains, etc., and should be placed at a high point on the site. Once the well is installed, it is recommended that a water sample be collected and analyzed for chemical, bacteriological and physical qualities. Also, the water should be sampled periodically thereafter.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Because the area where development is proposed is a drumlin (a low, smooth, elongated oval hill, mound, or ridge of compact glacial till), there will have to be extensive cutting and filling to accomplish a finished grade that is nearly level in order to facilitate the area for its intended purpose.

The soils in this area tend to have a slow percolation rate above a distinct hard layer which would indicate a seasonal perched water table during wet periods. In view of these conditions, it would be advisable to locate the subsurface sewage disposal system in soils which will not be disturbed by the cutting and filling operation. This will enable the installation of a ground water intercepting drain to function more efficiently by channeling perched water away from the sewage disposal system. It is apparent testing will have to be conducted and the system will have to be designed by a professional engineer familiar with the unique conditions associated with the site.

The building containing sanitary facilities should be centrally located so as to facilitate all areas in the complex. The building should contain toilets, urinals and hand sinks in numbers estimated to accommodate the anticipated peak demand. Showers are not necessary for this type of recreation park and in light of the site's limitations for sewage disposal, would not be advisable.

SOLID WASTE

Recreational areas, particularly picnicking areas and areas associated with spectator sports, generate sizable amounts of refuse. An adequate number of conveniently located containers for the storage of refuse should be provided. The containers should be provided with tight fitting covers to exclude animals and insects. Refuse should be collected on a regular basis with final disposal at an off-site landfill.

VEGETATION

This 44 acre tract proposed for development is composed of three vegetation types. There are 15 acres of open field planted to corn, 5 acres of sapling mixed hardwoods and 24 acres of sawtimber mixed hardwoods. The forested areas are characterized by moderately well drained, hardpan soils which are excellent soils for growing trees. The terrain is gently sloped, but somewhat rocky and wet. A stream bisects the 24 acre tract.

Vegetation Type Descriptions

Stand 1: Mixed hardwoods. 5 acres. (white ash, red maple, black locust, black cherry, apple) This stand is composed of sapling size hardwoods--in a fully stocked condition. Occasional sawtimber sized trees occur primarily around the edge of the stand as a hedgerow adjacent to the field and along the road. The understory consists of raspberry and blackberry, multi-flora rose, poison ivy, meadowsweet, grape, bittersweet, spicebush, gray dogwood, staghorn sumac, pokeweed and elderberry.

Stand 2: Open field. 15 acres. Agricultural land planted to corn in 1983.

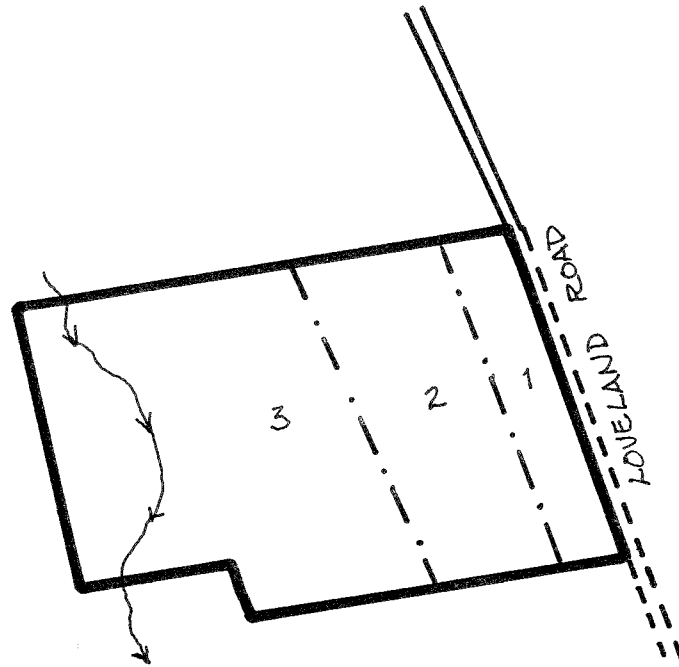
Stand 3: Mixed hardwoods. 24 acres. (white ash, red maple, sugar maple, yellow birch, red oak, tulip poplar, white oak, American beech, aspen hickories) This is an overstocked stand that has suffered from lack of management. The stand is presently low quality sawtimber with a large amount of culls, but with harvesting, can grow well and become high quality timber. The understory is composed of primarily maple and white ash regeneration. Shrubs present include hornbeam, hop hornbeam, spicebush, viburnums, blueberry, mountain laurel, and flowering dogwood. Ground vegetation includes clubmosses, poison ivy and several ferns, predominantly Christmas fern.

Aesthetic Considerations


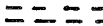
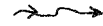

It does not appear that the forested tracts are suitable for recreational or building purposes due primarily to wetness and stoniness. Aesthetic considerations would therefore be concerned with timber management. Impact from timber harvesting can be minimized by carefully selecting the trees one wishes to remove. The poorest trees should be harvested (crooked, bent, rotten, diseased) leaving the tallest, straightest ones to continue to grow. Tops should be lopped or sold as fuelwood to encourage rapid decomposition of unused material. Harvesting should occur with leaves off the trees and be prohibited during wet seasons to avoid rotting. Flowering shrubs, such as dogwood and spicebush, could be encouraged

Vegetation

C 660
scale



EXPLANATION

-  Asphalt Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Stream
-  Stand Boundary

- STAND 1 Mixed hardwoods, fully stocked seedling - sapling size with occasional sawtimber size. (5 Acres)
- STAND 2 Open Field, agricultural. (15 Acres)
- STAND 3 Mixed hardwoods, overstocked, pole-sawtimber size. (24 Acres)

along the open field, to flower in spring. Finally, the forest should be thinned to the proper level of good growing stock trees to promote tall straight fast growing timber, not culls and trees with excessive lower branching.

Limiting Conditions/Potential Hazards

Due to wet, hardpan soils in Stand 3, harvesting should be prohibited from the area from about March 1st until June 20th of any year.

Windthrow is a potential hazard in Stand 3, especially along the stream. Tree root depth is restricted by saturated soils and trees cannot become securely anchored, thereby making them susceptible to windthrow. Under these conditions, trees which are crowded rely on each other for support and stability and any large openings increases the chances for windthrow and crown breakage, especially after heavy rains, high wind, or ice and snow storms. This hazard can be overcome with light thinnings and retention of firmly rooted species.

Management

Stand 1 is essentially a non-commercial area where harvesting would not occur due to the small size of the trees. Some of the larger trees overhanging the field or which appear to be a potential safety hazard, could be removed as fuelwood. However, no intensive management would be performed in this stand for about 20 years.

Stand 3 is predominantly a sawtimber stand which would benefit from an intermediate harvest for sawtimber. Trees which are unhealthy and not growing vigorously due to crowded conditions, are most susceptible to insect and disease attack. An intermediate harvest, or thinning, would remove cull trees and undesirable trees and reduce competition for water, sunlight and nutrients. The higher quality residual trees left to grow, will maintain their good health and vigor, improve their quality of lumber and thereby increase their value over time. A thinning, when properly implemented, can improve wildlife conditions and provide many wood products. A harvest in this stand would yield 32-34 thousand board feet of timber and 125-150 cords of fuelwood in tops and cull trees. The stand should be left slightly crowded to minimize potential windthrow hazard. However, the stand could be brought to an optimum stocking level over a 5-7 year period to optimize growth on an excellent growth site.

A public service forester or private forester should be contacted to help with the implementation of the suggested thinning.

WILDLIFE

The area is approximately 44 acres in size and consists of a large corn field and a wooded section. The wooded section is made up of mixed hardwoods containing: oak, maple, American beech, yellow and white birch, white ash, muscle wood, ironwood, and tulip trees. The understory consists of maple, beech, barberry and blueberry. Sumac, rose, winterberry and briar are found at the edges of the corn field. Wildlife food and cover is provided by the underbrush, especially near the field edge. Snag, den, and wolf trees are found on the property which are valuable to many

wildlife forms. A seasonal brook flows through the property. The area gets wetter and rockier as one gets closer to the brook. Deer will find this area attractive (deer tracks were found) as will small animals and songbirds.

The proposed development will take place on the large field. Obviously, wildlife would not frequent the area if development does take place. However, if developed, landscaping, planting trees and shrubs, would be aesthetically pleasing and may be attractive to songbirds. Development should be avoided in the wooded area due to the wetness and rockiness. Suitable wildlife habitat is found in the woodlands and should not be disturbed. A hiking trail, complete with interpretive trail markers, could be incorporated in the wooded area.

RECREATION POTENTIAL

The acquisition of the 44 acres of land on Loveland Road being considered by the Town for the development of a major recreation facility, as a solution to the community's pressing recreation and leisure needs, should be carefully examined and evaluated in planning for the immediate and long range leisure needs of the community.

Of the 44 acres proposed for acquisition, approximately 50% of the property is suitable for active forms of recreation. The other half is inland wetlands and offers only limited possibilities for passive forms of recreation.

Reviewing the schematic plan for development seems to indicate that there is an apparent need and priority by the Town to develop athletic fields and facilities to meet the active recreation needs of the community. The Town must carefully scrutinize and weigh whether this acquisition, with limited development potential, is appropriate and justifiable in achieving these needs.

Recreational ballfields constructed on Paxton soils are commonly very wet and soggy in autumn and spring due to the perched water table. This would be a limiting factor as far as field usage time and could cause problems with scheduling and rescheduling of sporting activities. To reduce the time loss caused by wet playing fields, the ballfields could be provided with an underdrain system to collect and transport excess water from the playing areas. Discharging of the collected water may cause additional concerns with seasonal flooding in low lying areas and soil erosion at or near the discharge point. Retention basin construction prior to the final discharge point would act as a flow restricter thereby reducing the chances of erosion and/or flooding.

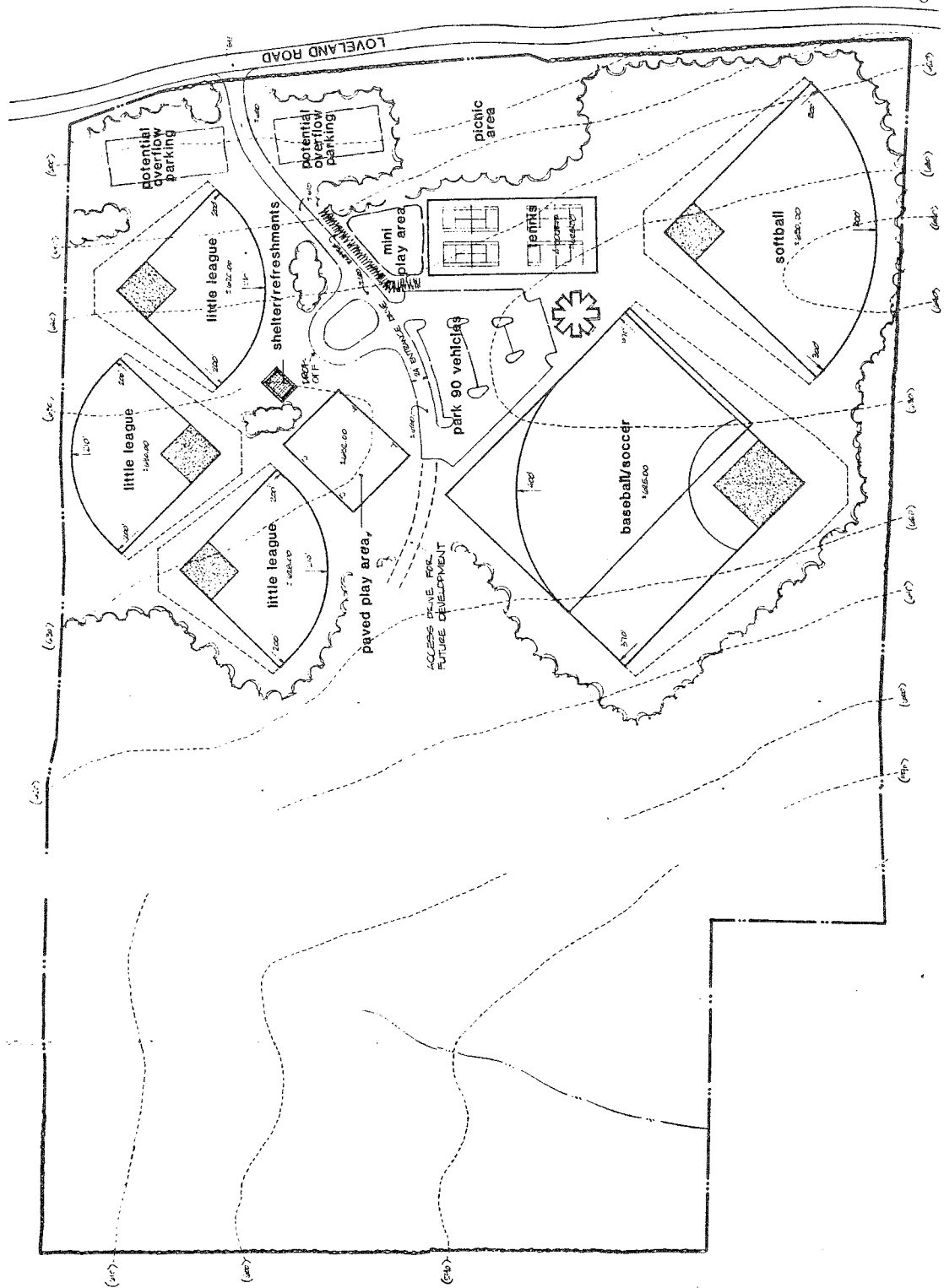
Picnic areas should be located on relatively level, well drained soils and where some shade is available. The area designated for this activity will have to be terraced to make picnic sites level. However, these areas may be excessively wet during the spring and at times after extended rainfall. This would reduce the picnicking season to only summer months and other dry periods of the year.

Comments on the Proposed Development Plan

1. Too many facilities have been planned on an inadequate amount of land space. The facility appears crowded and congested with athletic facilities leaving minimal open space for passive recreation and enjoyment.

Proposed Development Plan

NO SCALE



2. The concentration and proximity of the three (3) little league fields pose a serious threat to the safety of spectators and pedestrians from foul line drives and fly balls.
3. The access road leading to the middle of the park and the placement of the parking lot should be carefully reviewed. The access road, with cars, motorcycles and bicycles, will create serious safety hazards for all park users, particularly small children. Placement of the parking lot along the property fronting Loveland Road would eliminate this problem.
4. Parking facilities should be re-evaluated to provide adequate parking to handle peak park use. Ninety (90) parking spaces would be inadequate during peak use.
5. Extensive improvements will need to be made to Loveland Road to handle the traffic that the park will generate.
6. The Town should consider and prepare for the necessary financial commitment to operate and maintain the facility.

Appendix

ERT - LOVELAND ROAD, HEBRON

SOILS AND THEIR LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN LAND USES

Map Symbol and Soil Series	Septic Tank Absorption Fields	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds	Paths and Trails	Drainage Class
CrC Charlton very stony fine sandy loam - 3-15% slopes	moderate slope	moderate slope, large stones	severe large stones, slope	slight	well drained
*Lg Leicester-Ridgebury-Whitman very stony complex	severe wetness	severe wetness, large stones	severe wetness, large stones	severe wetness	poorly drained
**PbB Paxton fine sandy loam 3-8% slopes	severe percs slowly	moderate percs slowly	moderate slope, small stones, percs slowly	slight	well drained
PbC Paxton fine sandy loam 8-15% slopes	severe percs slowly	moderate percs slowly, slope	severe slope	slight	well drained
PbD Paxton fine sandy loam 15-25% slopes	severe percs slowly,	severe slope	severe slope	moderate slope	well drained
PeC Paxton very stony fine sandy loam, 3-15% slopes	severe percs slowly	moderate large stones, slope	severe large stones, slope	slight	well drained
SxA Sutton very stony fine sandy loam, 0-3% slopes	severe wetness	moderate wetness, large stones	severe large stones	moderate wetness	moderately well drained
**WxA Woodbridge fine sandy loam 0-3% slopes	severe wetness, percs slowly	moderate wetness, percs slowly	moderate wetness, percs slowly	moderate wetness	moderately well drained

ERT - LOVELAND ROAD, HEBRON

SOILS AND THEIR LIMITATIONS FOR CERTAIN LAND USES

Map Symbol and Soil Series	Septic Tank Absorption Fields	Picnic Areas	Playgrounds	Paths and Trails	Drainage Class
**WxB Woodbridge fine sandy loam 3-8% slopes	severe wetness, percs slowly	moderate wetness, percs slowly	moderate wetness, percs slowly, slope	moderate wetness	moderately well drained
WZC Woodbridge very stony fine 3-15% slopes	severe wetness, percs slowly	moderate wetness, large stones, slope	severe large stones, slope	moderate wetness	moderately well drained

*Inland Wetlands as defined by P.A. 155 as amended

**Prime Farmlands as defined by USDA Soil Conservation Service

SOIL INTERPRETATIONS FOR URBAN USES

The ratings of the soils for elements of community and recreational development uses consist of three degrees of "limitations:" slight or no limitations; moderate limitations; and severe limitations. In the interpretive scheme various physical properties are weighed before judging their relative severity of limitations.

The user is cautioned that the suitability ratings, degree of limitations and other interpretations are based on the typical soil in each mapping unit. At any given point the actual conditions may differ from the information presented here because of the inclusion of other soils which were impractical to map separately at the scale of mapping used. On-site investigations are suggested where the proposed soil use involves heavy loads, deep excavations, or high cost. Limitations, even though severe, do not always preclude the use of land for development. If economics permit greater expenditures for land development and the intended land use is consistent with the objectives of local or regional development, many soils and sites with difficult problems can be used.

Slight Limitations

Areas rated as slight have relatively few limitations in terms of soil suitability for a particular use. The degree of suitability is such that a minimum of time or cost would be needed to overcome relatively minor soil limitations.

Moderate Limitations

In areas rated moderate, it is relatively more difficult and more costly to correct the natural limitations of the soil for certain uses than for soils rated as having slight limitations.

Severe Limitations

Areas designated as having severe limitations would require more extensive and more costly measures than soils rated with moderate limitations in order to overcome natural soil limitations. The soil may have more than one limiting characteristic causing it to be rated severe.

About the Team

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

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

PURPOSE OF THE TEAM

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

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

REQUESTING A REVIEW

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

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