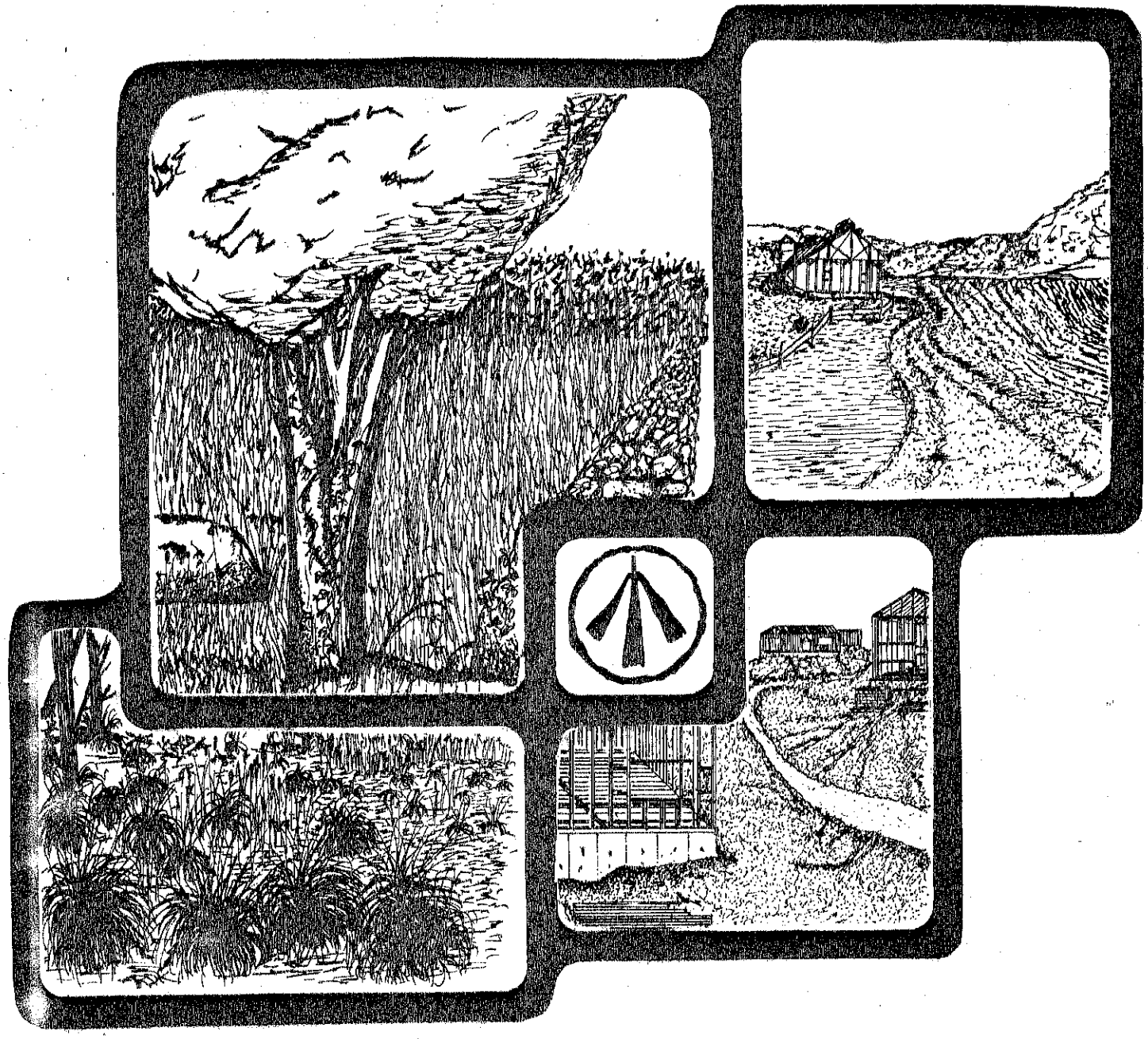
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT



WEBB MOUNTAIN PARK
MONROE, CONNECTICUT

KING'S MARK
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA

KING'S MARK
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

ON

WEBB MOUNTAIN PARK
MONROE, CONNECTICUT

NOVEMBER 1979

King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area

Environmental Review Team

P.O. Box 30

Warren, Connecticut 06754

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team operates through the cooperative effort of a number of agencies and organizations including:

Federal Agencies

U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

State Agencies

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Local Groups and Agencies

LITCHFIELD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NEW HAVEN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
HARTFORD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FAIRFIELD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
LITCHFIELD HILLS REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
HOUSATONIC VALLEY COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS
AMERICAN INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

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KING'S MARK RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

Victor Allan, Chairman, Executive Committee
Stephen Driver, ERT Committee Chairman
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Staff Administration Provided By

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Bruce M. Ridgway, Chairman
Thomas A. J. McGowan, Director
Richard Lynn, ERT Coordinator
Rebecca West, ERT Draftsman
Irene Nadig, Secretary

LOCATION OF STUDY SITE

WEBB MOUNTAIN PARK
MONROE, CONNECTICUT

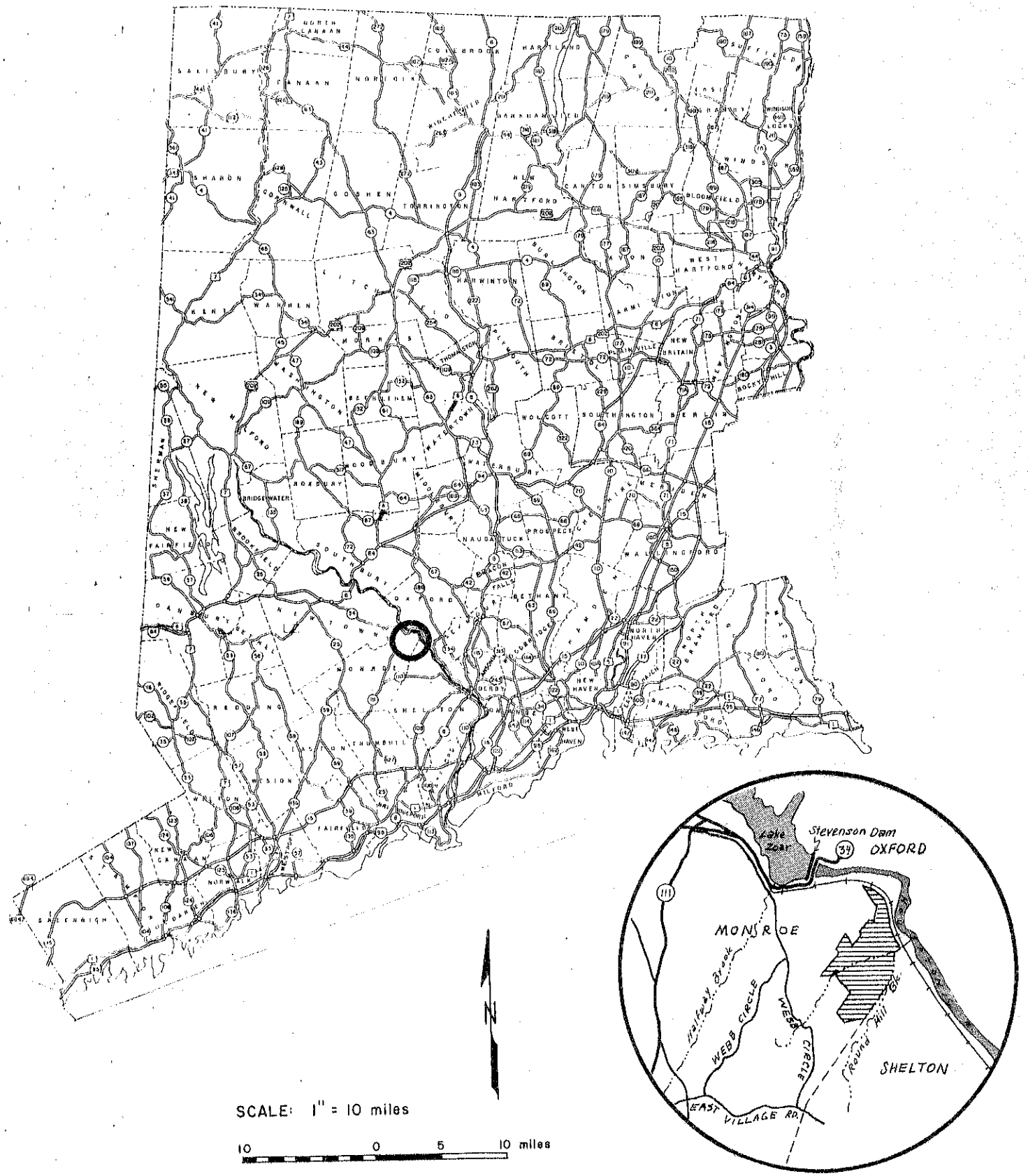


TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT
ON
WEBB MOUNTAIN PARK
MONROE, CONNECTICUT

I. INTRODUCTION

The Monroe Conservation Commission is interested in improving a ± 135 acre town-owned park for open space and recreation purposes. The park, known as Webb Mountain Park, is mostly wooded and located in the northeastern corner of town near the Housatonic River. The park has been used in recent years for a limited amount of passive recreation, but no facility development has occurred on the site.

The Chairman of the Monroe Conservation Commission requested the assistance of the King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) to help the town in planning the use of this parcel. Specifically, the ERT was requested to inventory the natural resources of the site and to comment on the opportunities and limitations of the site for passive recreational development.

The ERT met and field reviewed the site on October 3, 1979. Team members for this review consisted of the following:

Michael Zizka	Geohydrologist	State Dept. of Environmental Protection
David Thompson	District Conservationist	U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service
Robert Rocks	Forester	State Dept. of Environmental Protection
Edward Rizzotto	Recreation Specialist	State Dept. of Environmental Protection
Shirley Rasmussen	Environmental Planner	Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency

Prior to the review day, each team member was provided with a summary of the proposed project, a checklist of concerns to address, a detailed soil survey map, a soils limitation chart, and a topographic map of the site. Following the field review, individual reports were prepared by each team member and forwarded to the ERT Coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report presents the team's findings and recommendations. It is hoped the information contained in this report will provide fresh insight into the natural situation at Webb Mountain Park; and that the report will assist the Town of Monroe in environmentally sound decision-making.

If any additional information is required, please contact Richard Lynn, (868-7342), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, King's Mark RC&D Area, P.O. Box 30, Warren, Connecticut 06754.

II. GENERAL SITE CONDITIONS

Setting

Webb Mountain Park is situated approximately three and one-half miles northeast of the Monroe Green. The southeasterly boundary of the park coincides with the Monroe-Shelton town line; the easterly boundary parallels Conrail's Maybrook to New Haven right of way. The park consists of a wooded hillside with an easterly exposure that rises abruptly from the Housatonic River. Two plateaus are present on the northern portion of the property. These plateaus were planted in recent years to evergreen trees for Christmas tree use.

Access to the property is provided by an unimproved road originating from Webb Circle. This road continues into the park terminating at it's northern extremity. The property is also transected by numerous hiking trails (see Figure 1).

Topography

The property consists of two land forms: a steeply sloping, shallow to bedrock hillside, and a sand and gravel terrace (see Figure 2). The hillside is a composition of complex slopes irregularly festooned with austere bedrock outcroppings, large boulders, percipitous rock escarpments and seasonal drainageways. The terrace, at the base of the hillside, consists of undulating to steep stratified glacial drift deposits by post glacial flood waters. The smoothly rounded character of the terrace is in sharp contrast to the angular coarseness of the hillside. The difference in elevation from the summit of the hill to the lowest point along the easterly boundary is 440 feet.

All runoff from the property flows directly to the Housatonic River via several intermittant streams, the central perennial stream and Round Hill Brook.

III. GEOLOGY

Webb Mountain Park is located in the Southbury and Long Hill topographic quadrangles. The Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey has published bedrock maps of both quadrangles (respectively, QR-30, by R. B. Scott, 1974; and QR-24, by W. P. Crowley, 1968). An open-filed map of the surficial geology of the Southbury quadrangle is available for inspection at the Natural Resources Center of the Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford.

Two major formations, the Straits Schist and the Collinsville Formation, comprise most of the bedrock on and near the site (see Figure 3). The Straits Schists is a uniform, rusty weathering, medium- to coarse-grained schist composed predominantly of quartz, muscovite, biotite, plagioclase, garnet, and graphite, with subordinate kyanite and sillimanite. The term "schist" indicates that the rock is metamorphic (has been altered by tremendous heat and pressure within the earth's crust) and that its platy, flaky, or elongate minerals have become aligned to form surfaces of relatively easy parting. Muscovite, a silvery, flaky mineral, commonly gives these surfaces a lustrous sheen. The Collinsville Formation on the site consists primarily of a uniform, nonrusty weathering, medium-grained gneiss on schistose gneiss composed of quartz, plagioclase, biotite, muscovite, and garnet. "Gneiss" is also a metamorphic

FIGURE 1.

PRINCIPAL SITE FEATURES

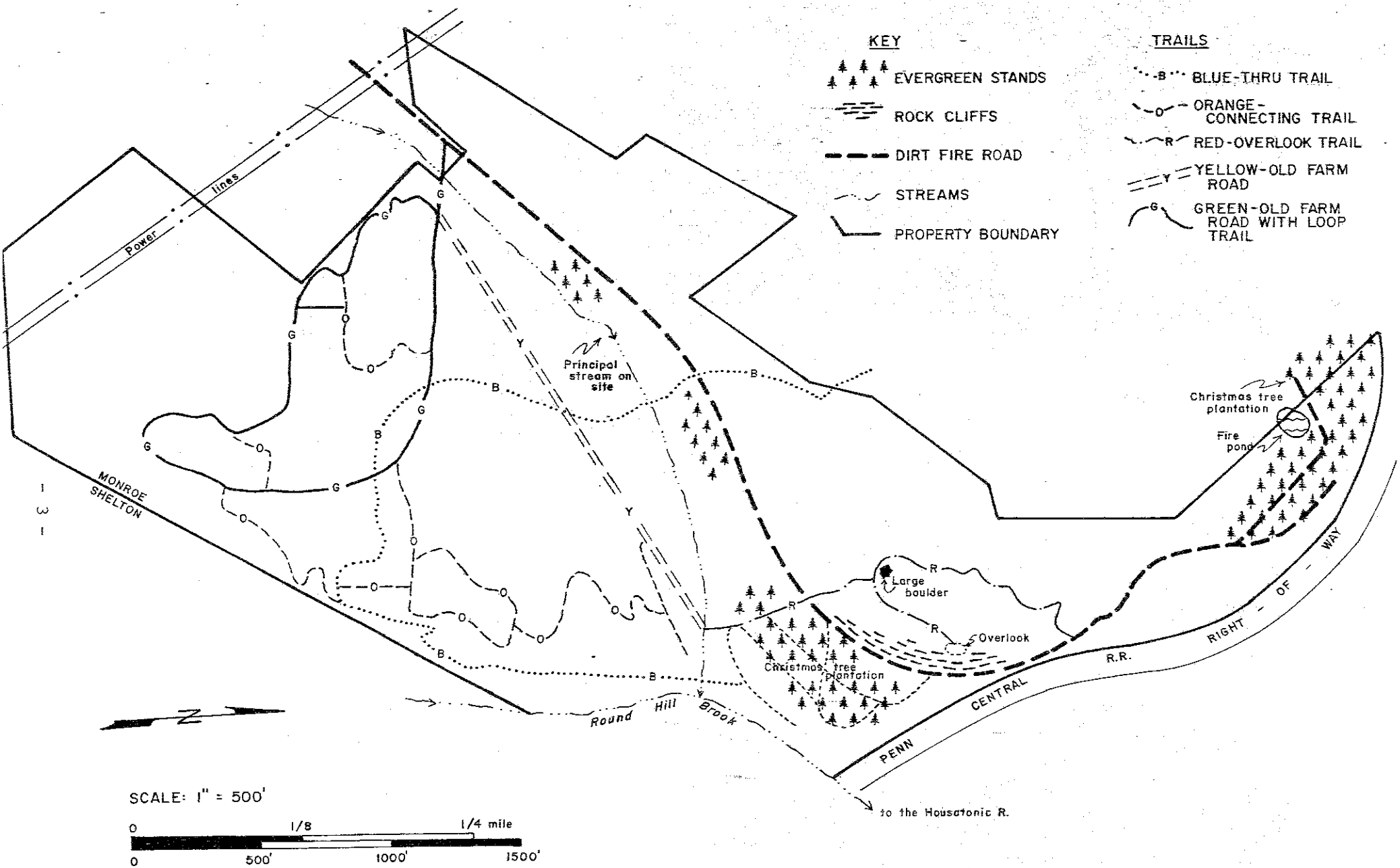


FIGURE 2.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

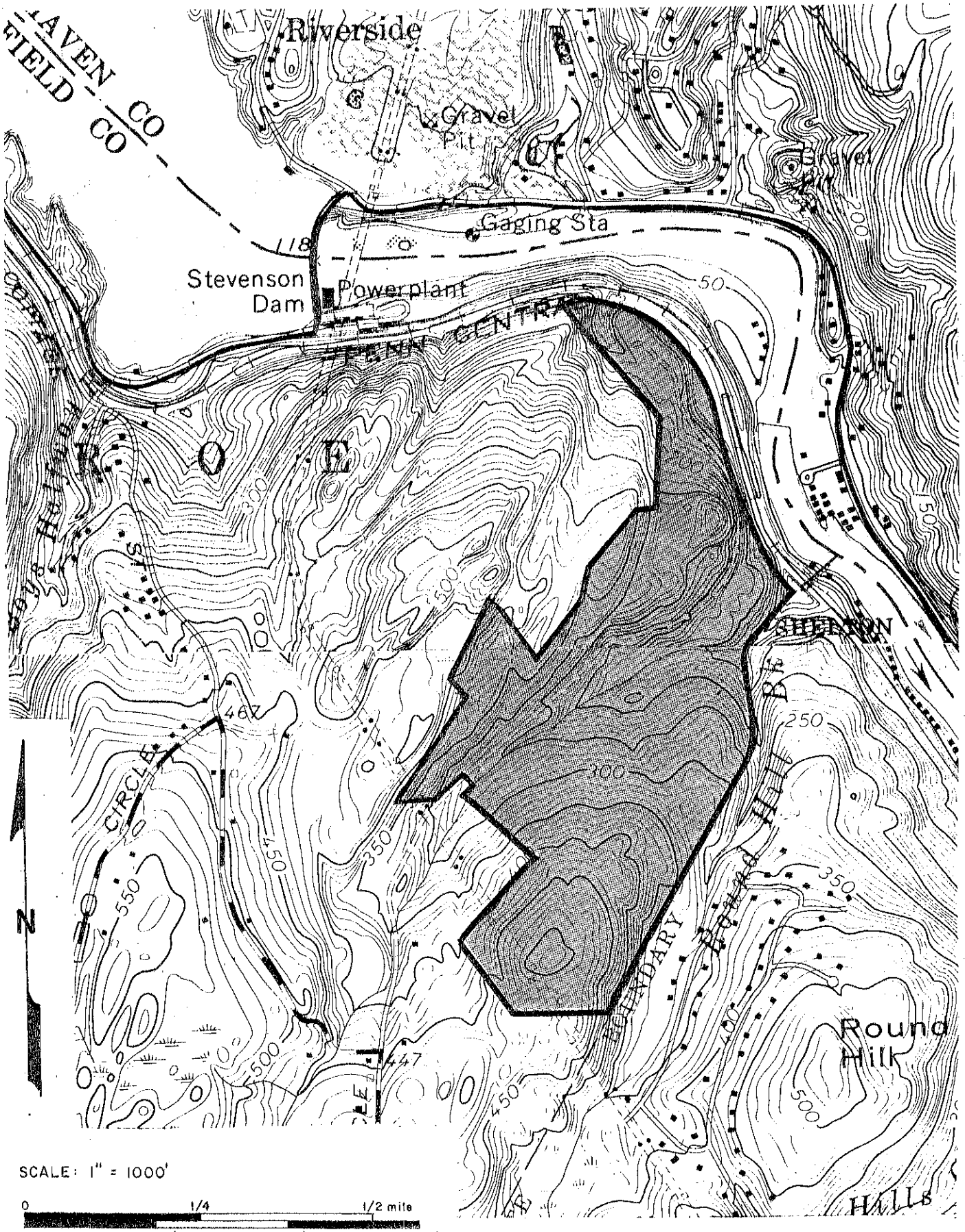
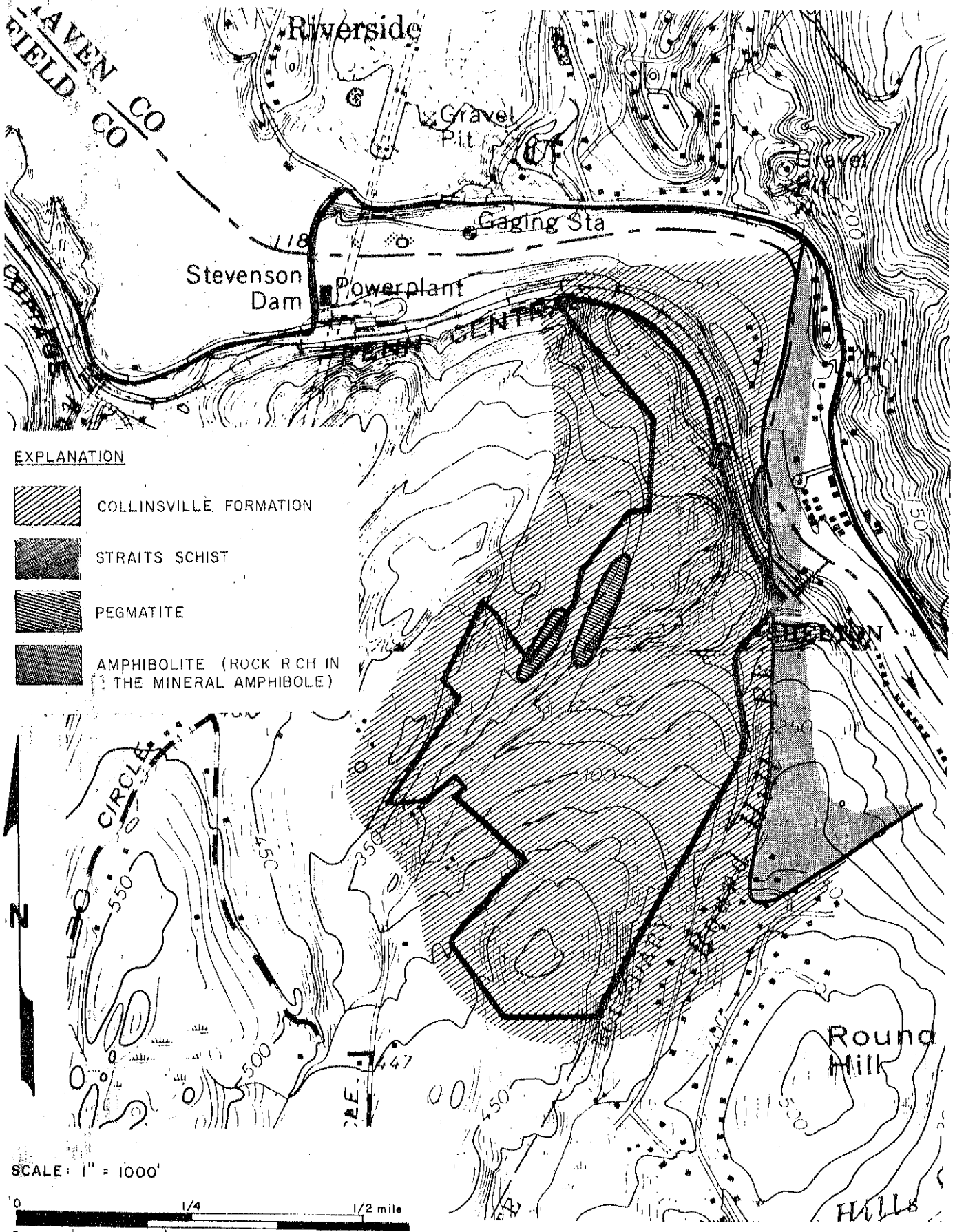


FIGURE 3.

BEDROCK GEOLOGY



rock, but it contains alternating bands of elognate minerals and more rounded minerals. In many places, lenses of coarse-grained or very coarse-grained granitic rocks intrude the formations mentioned above. These lenses are very rich in quartz, potassium feldspars, and mica.

Brief outlines of the geologic history of the quadrangle areas discussed in the reports cited above indicate that the bedrock of the region originated as oceanic sediment and volcanic material. The Collinsville Formation rocks on the site began as volcanic flows with a few interbeds of shale, sandstone, and thin limestone. The Straits Schist originally was a highly organic black shale. The Collinsville Formation rocks were deposited during the Cambrian and/or Ordovician geologic periods (approximately 570-430 million years ago), while the Straits Schist was deposited during the Silurian and/or Devonian periods (approximately 430-345 million years ago). Metamorphism of the rocks occurred during a series of crustal movements known collectively as the Acadian Orogeny. This series of events culminated about 330 million years ago. Further deformation and faulting (fracturing of the bedrock)occurred during the Allegheny Orogeny, which ended about 220 million years ago.

Although no mineral deposits of commercial value by today's standards appear to be present on the site, numerous old mines and quarries are scattered throughout the Long Hill and Southbury quadrangles. The closest known mine is approximately one mile north of the park in the Riverside section of Oxford. Known as the Stevenson Mine, the excavation produced various sulfide minerals, including pyrite (iron sulfide) and chalcopyrite (copper and iron sulfide) as well as malachite and azurite (green and blue copper based minerals). The zone of these minerals is near the contact of the Collinsville Formation and the Straits Schist. An old mine in Trumbull, also at this contact, and two mines in other sections of the town of Monroe produced tungsten, bismuth, copper, and nickel minerals. Close examination of the bedrock outcrops within the park may yield similar treasures for ambitious rock-hounds.

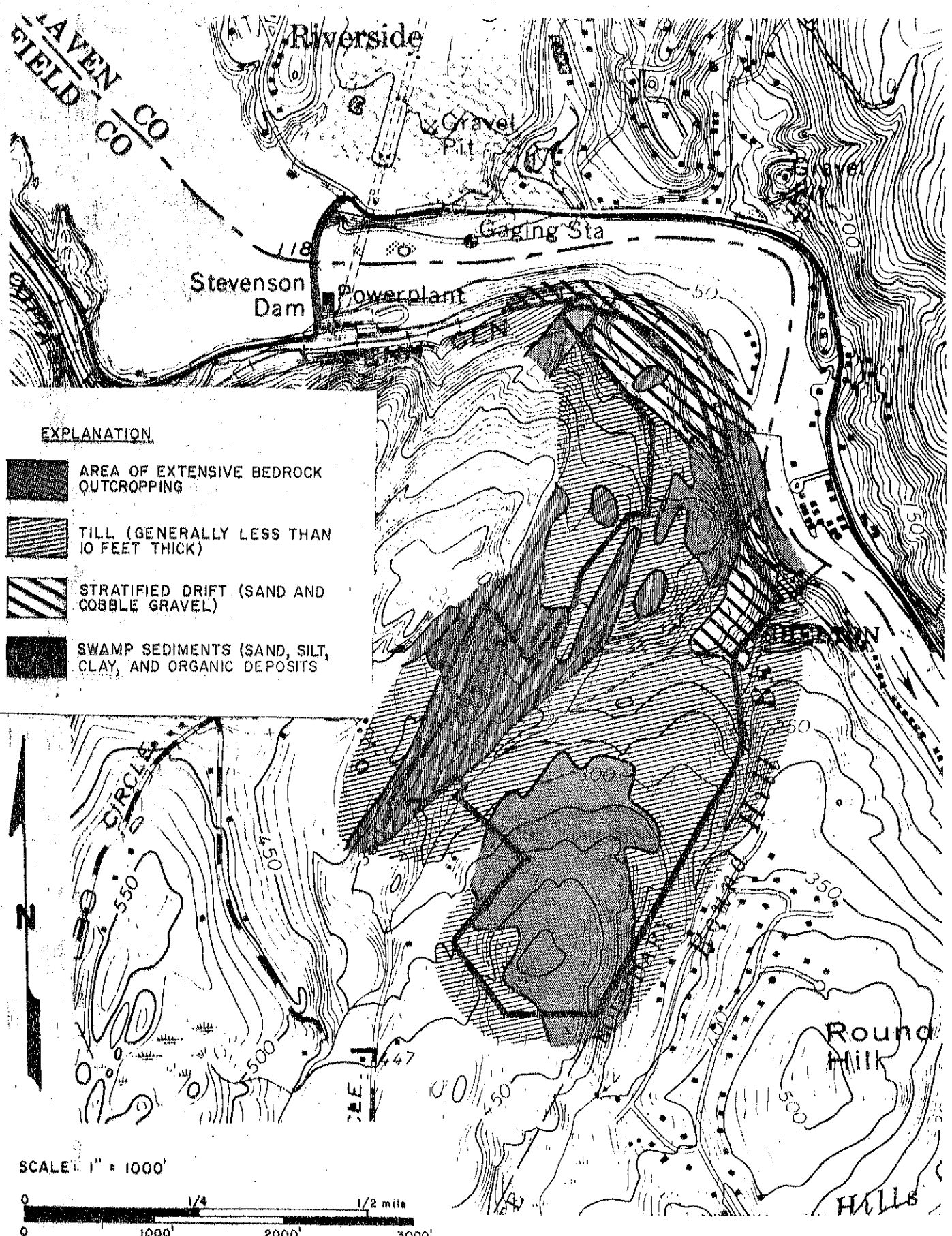
Overlying bedrock on most of the site is a blanket of unconsolidated sediments of glacial origin. As ice advanced over Connecticut one or more times during the last million years or more, it scraped and chipped bedrock outcrops and bulldozed preexisting soils, incorporating the rock particles into the ice mass. These particles were later plastered against bedrock ridges and knobs by the ice as it continued its advance, or were let down gently from the ice as it began to waste away. The nonsorted accumulation of rock fragments that resulted contains a wide range of sizes and shapes and is known as till. This deposit covers most of the upland areas of the park. Closer to the river, flat-topped terrace deposits of sand and cobble gravel may be found. These materials, known as stratified drift, were washed out of and away from the receding ice sheet by meltwater streams. The Christmas tree tracts in the northern part of the site are situated on these deposits. Figure 4 shows the surficial geology of the park.

IV. HYDROLOGY

The park contains only one principal stream, which parallels the access road for most of the stream's length (see Figure 1). Round Hill Brook, to which the unnamed stream mentioned above is tributary, forms the southeastern boundary of the site to the extent that it forms the Shelton-Monroe town line. Several small, intermittent streams exist in other parts of the park. The flow patterns

FIGURE 4.

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY



of the various local watercourses are controlled by bedrock structure: the trends of the ridges and valleys parallel the streams. Small wetland areas in the upland parts of the site reflect the shallowness of the soil and the impeding of groundwater movement by bedrock.

Although there are rather thick sand and gravel deposits in the northern portion of the park, their value as a water supply source is uncertain. Because the sediments are coarse, consisting largely of cobble gravel, groundwater drains quickly through them.

A well located on the terrace portions of the site may have to penetrate 40-50 feet of dry gravel before reaching the saturated zone (water table). The saturated zone itself may then be no more than 10 feet thick. Hence, the sand and gravel probably has only a limited potential for high-yield wells. On the other hand, development of small supplies for any active recreation that may be considered should be easily possible.

V. SOILS AND RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL

A soils map of the property is presented in the Appendix of this report. Also included is a "Soils Limitation Chart", which shows the potential of each soil type for recreational development, and a list of soil descriptions. Although eight distinct soil types have been identified on the property, similarities in their potential for passive recreation permits their segregation into four homogeneous groups (see Figure 5). This discussion will focus on two critical characteristics, slope and drainage, which relate most directly to their use potential.

The group having the highest potential is made up of the Enfield (65B) and Merrimac (70B) soils. These soils occupy the two meadows previously used for raising Christmas trees. These areas are well drained, nearly level, and can support a variety of activities with a minimum degree of difficulty for all age groups.

The second group of soils consists of the Hollis-Charlton complexes (17C-17MC) which constitute the lower ridge lines and hillside plateaus. These areas are characteristically austere in appearance due to the ruggedness of the bedrock outcroppings, but the land separating the outcroppings is gently to moderately sloping. The soils in this group are widely dispersed throughout the property, and pose a high degree of difficulty in terms of access, however they provide excellent opportunities for primative camping.

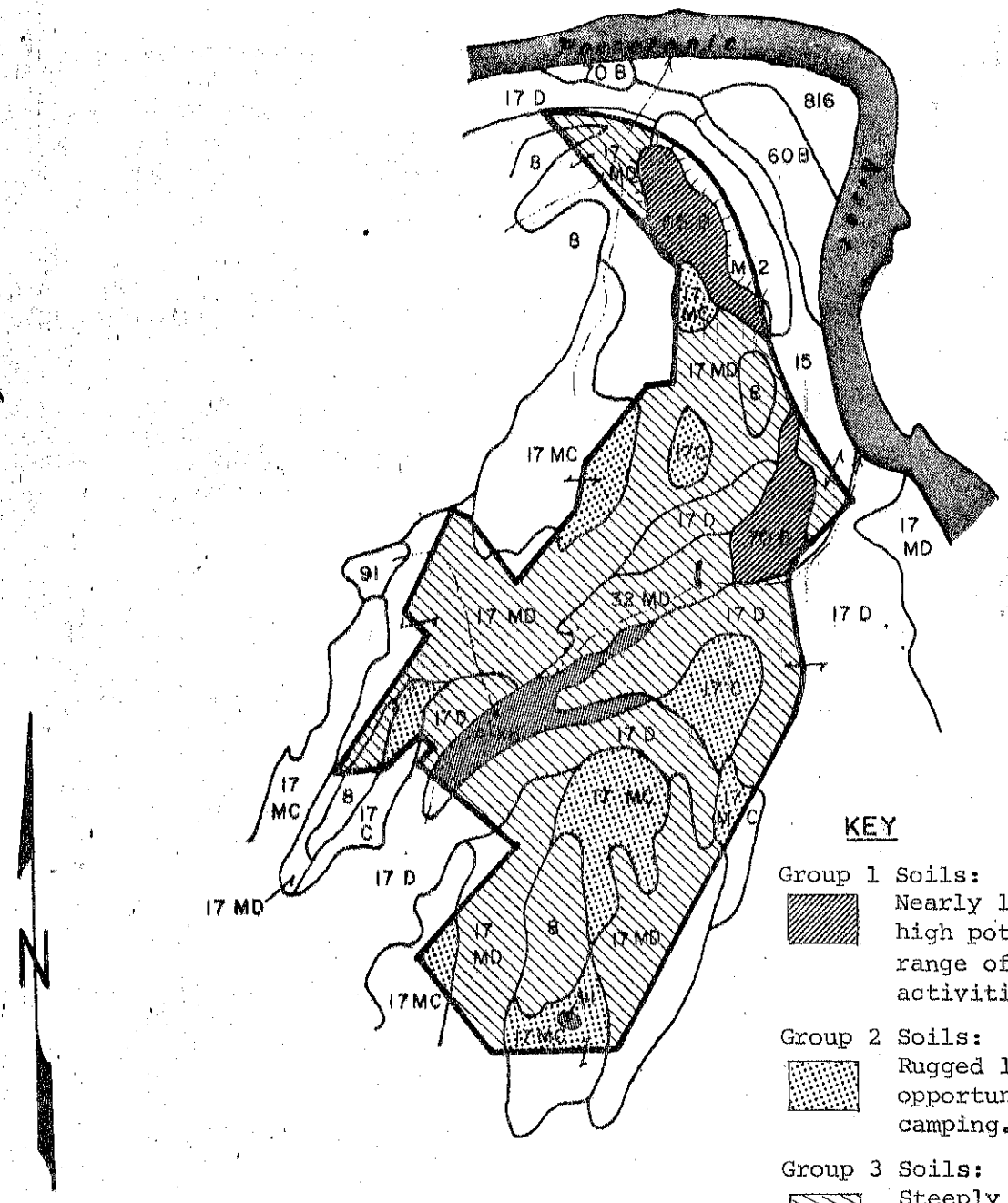
The steeply sloping soils make up the third group of soils, and are predominant on the property. Soils included within this group are the Hollis soils (17M - 17D); Rockland (8); the Hinckley-Windsor complex (15) and Charlton (32MD). Slopes in excess of fifteen percent prevail and severely limit the adaptability of these areas for other than the amentities associated with hiking.

The fourth soil group includes soils with drainage restrictions--Shallow Muck (91) and Sutton (41XB). Although the slope gradient associated with the Sutton soil is not limiting, its overall potential is only equivalent to a group three soil due to drainage problems. The Shallow Muck area has virtually no potential due to its perennial high water table.

FIGURE 5.

SOIL SUITABILITY FOR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ADVANCE COPY SUBJECT TO CHANGE
1979 · PREPARED BY U.S.D.A. – S.C.S.



SCALE: 1" = 1000'

0 1/4 1/2 mile
0 1000' 2000' 3000'

KEY

Group 1 Soils:
Nearly level land with a high potential for a wide range of recreational activities.

Group 2 Soils:
Rugged land with excellent opportunities for primitive camping.

Group 3 Soils:
Steeply sloping land suitable only for hiking.

Group 4 Soils:
Drainage problems severely limit use of this area.

Erosion Impact

The development and use of group one soils (see Figure 5) poses no significant erosion problem as long as good turf cover is maintained and vehicular access is restricted to reasonable grades.

Formal development or excessive use of camping sites located within group two soil areas could lead to their deterioration through erosion. These are fragile areas, and will not sustain if the tree canopy or ground cover is destroyed, or if soil compaction results from over use.

Soil erosion is of most concern with respect to the proposed and existing hiking trails on the property. Multiple use trails (hiking, bridle, motor bike, snowmobile) are even more vulnerable to erosion. All trails should be laid out in harmony with the contour of the land, and with respect for the hiker. Hiking is not a test of endurance. Straight up, frontal assults on steep slope is not appealing; a leisurely switchback assent is. Employing this concept in establishing trails will substantially reduce the risk of erosion.

Other methods that help control erosion include leaving fallen trees across the trail and by guiding the trail over obstacles like ledge outcroppings, and through very stony areas.

At the present time portions of the existing trail system are eroding, and sections of the access road are contributing significant amounts of sediment to the central stream. The eroding sections of trail need to be rerouted in observance of the concepts referred to above. A drainage plan is also needed to control erosion of the access road.

Pond Potential

There are three sites on the property that could support a seasonal pond. One is indicated by a swamp symbol on Figure 2, along the westerly boundary within the angular projection of that boundary. Another of these sites is the 91 soil delineation on the southern boundary (see Soils Map). Both of these sites are virtually inaccessable from the access road, but other access may be possible from adjacent properties. The third site is on the west side of the access road at the south end of the farthest meadow area. A culvert crosses the road at this point to accommodate runoff from this site.

All of these locations can be expected to collect and hold water during the early spring and late fall season and would provide water for fire suppression use.

The grade of the principal stream bed is too steep to consider the construction of an impounded pond. In addition to the grade limitation, any dam on the stream would have to be constructed of concrete, and maintenance would be a big problem due to stream born sediment and debris.

There are innumerable opportunities for creating small pools along the principal stream course as emergency water sources.

VI. VEGETATION

Webb Mountain Park consists of five (5) distinct vegetation types (see Figure 6). Brief descriptions of each of these types is presented below, followed by a discussion of a number of vegetation related concerns.

Vegetation Stand Description

STAND A. Mixed Hardwoods. This 86 acre fully-stocked stand consists of pole to sawlog-size white oak, black oak, red maple, black birch, tuliptree, shagbark hickory, as well as scattered sugar maple and yellow birch. The trees in this stand are generally healthy. Some mortality is present in sawlog size trees but it is not substantial. The understory is dominated by mapleleaf viburnum, mountain laurel and occasional flowering dogwood. White pine seedlings and hemlock seedlings are also present. Club moss, Christmas fern, grasses and a large variety of wildflowers form the ground cover in this area.

STAND B. Hemlock. Pole to sawlog-size hemlock are present, along with occasional yellow birch and black birch, in this 28 acre fully-stocked stand. This stand's understory consists of seedling size hemlock, red maple, and sugar maple. Club moss, Christmas fern and hayscented fern form a spotty ground cover in this stand.

STAND C. Plantation. Several abandoned Christmas tree plantations totaling approximately 9 acres are located along the site's access road. Fifteen to twenty foot tall white spruce, Colorado blue spruce, Scotch pine and Douglas fir are present in these areas. Ground cover is made up of grasses, goldenrod and assorted wildflower and weed species.

STAND D. Oak Ridge. Poor quality pole size chestnut oak and occasional hickory are present in this 8 acre understocked stand. Chestnut sprouts, mountain laurel and black birch seedlings form the understory in this stand. Ground cover is dominated by club moss, huckleberry and Christmas fern.

STAND E. Mixed Hardwoods. This 4 acre understocked stand is composed of pole size black birch, red oak, and big tooth aspen. Understory vegetation is lacking except for scattered hardwood tree seedlings. Grasses form the dominant ground cover in this area.

Aesthetics and Preservation

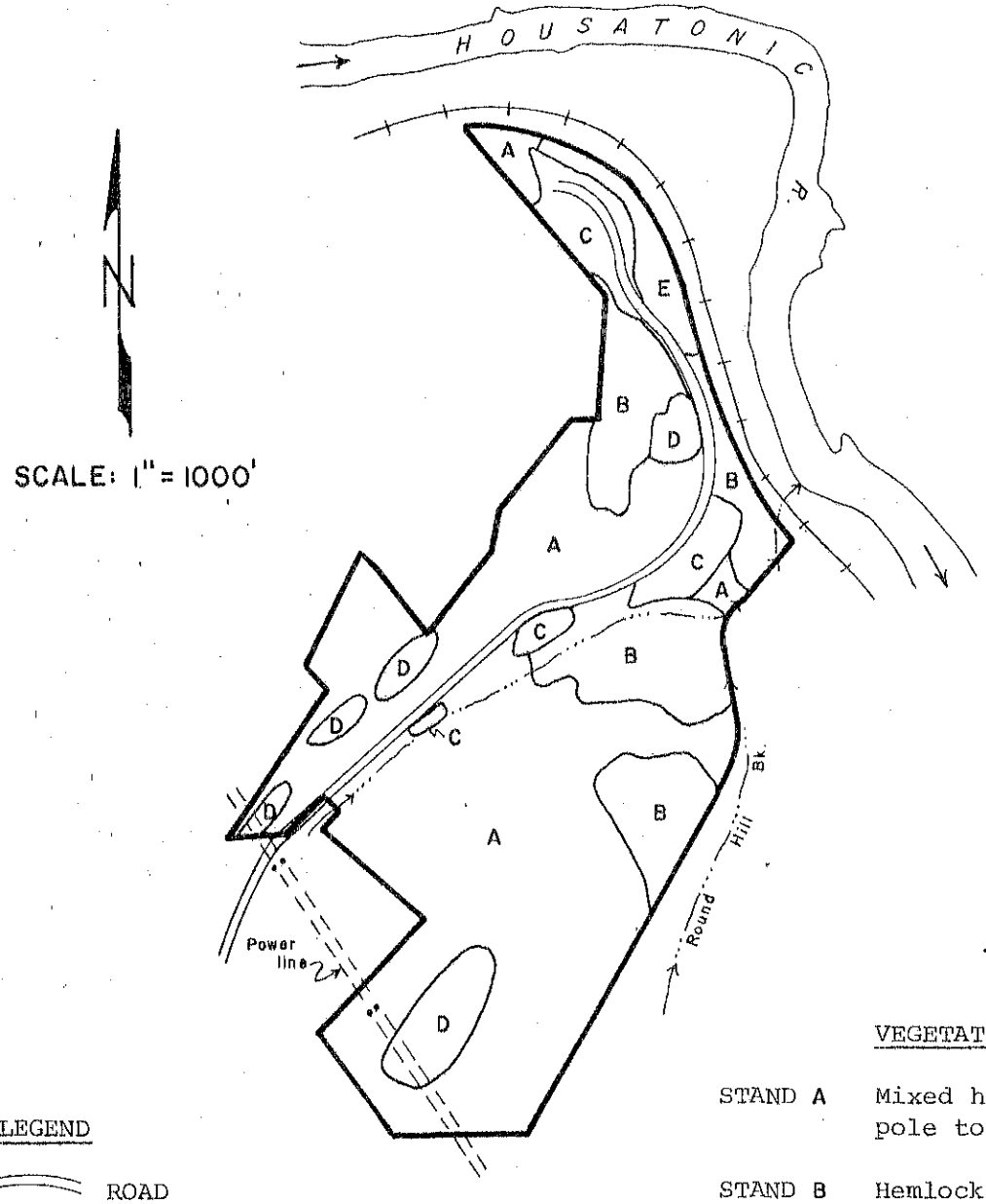
Although most of the trees in Stand C (plantation) are no longer usable as Christmas trees, their value for aesthetics remain high. If the town plans on developing this area for camping, it would be desirable to save as many of the conifers as possible between camp sites. These trees will serve as vision and sound barriers between camp sites once the sites are established. At present these trees provide excellent cover for the wildlife in this area.

Limiting Conditions

Droughty, shallow to bedrock soils severely limit tree growth potentials and species composition in Stand D (Oak Ridge). The lack of adequate moisture retained in the soil throughout much of the year is the primary factor which causes the slow growth and malformed appearance of the trees present in this stand. These areas are not suitable for timber management.

FIGURE 6.

VEGETATION TYPE MAP



LEGEND

- ROAD
- RAILROAD
- STREAM
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- VEGETATION TYPE BOUNDARY

VEGETATION STAND DESCRIPTIONS*

STAND A	Mixed hardwoods, fully-stocked, pole to sawlog-size, 86 acres.
STAND B	Hemlock, fully-stocked, pole to sawlog-size, 28 acres.
STAND C	Plantation, 9 acres.
STAND D	Oak ridge, under-stocked pole size, 8 acres.
STAND E	Mixed hardwoods, under-stocked pole-size, 4 acres.

*Seedling size = trees 1 inch and smaller in diameter at breast height (d.b.h.)
Sapling size = trees 1 to 5 inches in d.b.h.
Pole size = trees 5 to 11 inches in d.b.h.
Sawlog size = trees 11 inches and greater in d.b.h.

Town officials expressed interest in determining the feasibility of beginning a fuelwood program for Webb Mountain Park. Unfortunately poor access is a major factor which limits utilization of Stand A (mixed hardwoods) for fuelwood production.

At present the only access to the park is via an unimproved road off Webb Circle. Steep slopes and rockiness characterize the property west of this interior road. Management of this area for timber production or fuelwood production is not feasible at present because of the difficulty encountered while removing wood from the forest.

Access to approximately 58 acres of mixed hardwood to the east of the interior road is also limited. The major obstacle is the brook which runs parallel to the road. If a bridge were built, and an access road following contours were developed through this area, management for timber or fuelwood production would become feasible. Roads developed for this purpose could also be utilized for multiple uses such as fire protection and recreation.

Potential Hazards and Mitigating Practices

Sawlog size dead trees are located along many of the trails which have been established in this park. These trees represent a potential hazard to trail users. The felling of these trees will eliminate this hazard.

Suggested Management Techniques

Management of the area to the west of the interior road for fuelwood production is not feasible at present.

A bridge over the brook which parallels the interior road and an access road network, would open up the 58 acre mixed hardwood stand to the east of the road to cordwood production. Removal of approximately 1/3 of the total volume would provide between four and six cords of fuelwood per acre, and in time improve the growth rates of residual trees by reducing competition.

Once adequate access was established, this thinning could be implemented all at once or spread out over several years so that 5 to 10 acres are harvested per year. Thinning 5 to 10 acres per year has the advantage of improving wildlife habitat for a longer period of time. Another alternative would be to have periodic fuelwood clearcuts of 3 to 5 acres every few years. This system would provide a sustained yield of fuelwood and also provide long term wildlife habitat improvement.

A publicly employed forester should be contacted to work with the town in setting up a town wide fuelwood program.

VII. PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Supply and Demand

At the present time there are approximately 4,000 acres of areawide recreational land in the Greater Bridgeport Region. Using a modest standard of 12 acres

per thousand, the existing supply is adequate to meet the regional demand. Over the next 20 years, the total population of the Region is expected to remain fairly static (with a projected 2.6% increase from 1975 to 2000), while the population of Monroe is expected to continue with a modest increase (26% from 1975 to 2000). (see chart below.)

Population Projections

	Monroe	Greater Bridgeport Region
1975	12,988	315,215
1980	13,967	317,306
1985	14,882	322,083
1990	15,945	324,950
1995	16,914	325,504
2000	17,570	323,954

(From: State of Connecticut "Revised Preliminary Population Projections", March, 1979.)

The Monroe Plan of Development, using a standard of 6 ac/1000 for areawide recreation, predicts that the existing 4,000 acres of areawide recreation land should be adequate to meet town needs with even a saturation population of 32,000.

Comparable Facilities

Within the Region there are several parks which provide opportunity for picnicking, hiking, and limited camping. These include Brett Woods in Fairfield, Roosevelt Forest in Stratford, and Robert G. Beach Memorial Park in Trumbull. The State Department of Environmental Protection operates 18 camping areas for non-profit youth organizations (including one in Redding and two in Southbury). Webb Mountain Park is, however, unique in its isolation from population concentrations and in its particular natural features.

Compatibility with Existing Plans

Both the State recreation plan and the Regional plan strongly encourage development of existing parkland for increased utilization. In addition, the State Conservation & Development Policies Plan 1979 - 1982 specifies several priority actions which apply to the development of Webb Mountain Park. These actions include:

- Protect existing recreation trails and develop new ones.
- Expand and modernize camping facilities.
- Give priority to the purchase and development of facilities in and locations accessible to the greatest number of users.

The Monroe Plan of Development also specifically recommends development of Webb Mountain Park for low intensity use such as camping, hiking, and riding trails.

Surrounding Land Use

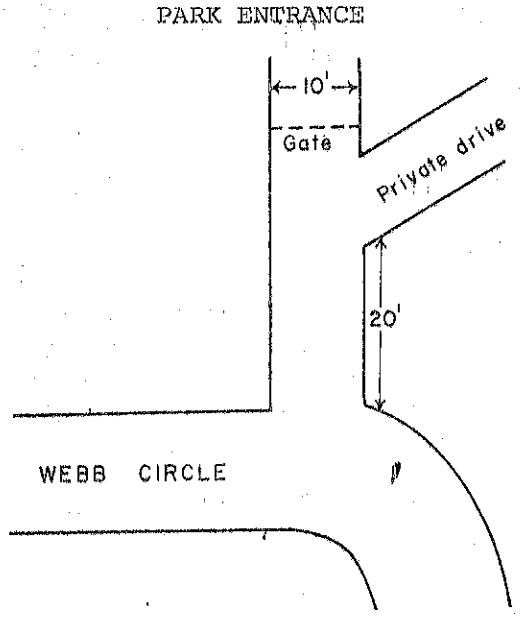
The surrounding land use in both Monroe and Shelton is very low density residential and farm land. Zoning in the vicinity is for 3 acre lot residential use. Thus, it is not expected that future development will be so intense as to detract from the wilderness quality of the park. Likewise, low intensity recreational

use of the park is not likely to detract from the existing rural character of the neighborhood.

Transportation

Development of Webb Mountain Park for low intensity recreation would require a number of improvements. Since the park is fairly isolated, public transportation is not feasible; users would have to travel to the park by car. To accommodate even a modest number of vehicles, it would be necessary to: 1) reconstruct the park entrance, 2) provide parking, and 3) improve the one-way dead-end dirt road inside the park. These improvements are briefly described below.

1.) The only access to the park is by way of a dirt road off of Webb Circle (see diagram below).



The intersection with Webb Circle does not have any traffic controls. Webb Circle at this point is an S-curve on a hill, with a private driveway off the east side of the entrance road. Because of the poor sight lines, the entrance road would require substantial reconstruction (widening, grading, and paving) if it were to be used daily by the general public.

2.) At present there are no parking facilities at the park. Some parking might be provided at the intersection of the dirt access road with the power line right-of-way or at end of the road in the northern tip of the park. Elsewhere the ruggedness of the terrain severely limits parking potential and construction of any standard parking lot would require extensive grading. Roadside parking outside the gate at Webb Circle does not seem available.

3.) The dirt road which runs the length of the park and intersects Webb Circle provides the only vehicle access into the park. This road is approximately ten feet wide and is beginning to wash out in several places. Opening the park to the public would require, at a minimum, provison of turn-out spaces so that vehicles going in opposite directions could pass, and repair of eroded spots in the road.

The Team considered the possibility of creating a second access to the property from the north. This would be desirable in that the northern portion of the property offers the most potential for general recreational use and parking. Access from the north does not appear feasible at this time, however, due to engineering, economic, and ownership considerations.

The roads which lead to the present park entrance (i.e. Webb Circle, East Village Road, and Cottage Street) should be adequate to carry the additional vehicles that might reasonably be expected to travel to a low intensity use park. All three roads are two-lane rural roads, with a capacity of 2,000 cars per day. Current use is estimated to be about 1,000 vehicles per day on East Village Road, and a few hundred per day on Webb Circle and Cottage Street. Webb Circle and East Village Road were repaved and regraded two years ago; the estimated life of both roads is eight to ten years. None of the roads are currently planned for improvement. If Webb Mountain Park was to be developed into an intensively used town recreation center, road improvements such as widening and straightening would be desirable.

VIII. ADDITIONAL RECREATION CONSIDERATIONS

Scenic and Visual Characteristics

A relatively high diversity of topography and a moderate diversity of biota provide for a number of aesthetic and scenic situations within the site. The stream ravine through the center of the property is attractive as is the series of small waterfalls on the lower portion of Round Hill Brook which abuts the eastern boundary of the property.

Good short and medium distance views can be had from the north and northeastern portions of the parcel. The view from the overlook atop the rock cliffs on the site (see Figure 1) down the Housatonic River Valley is outstanding. Although much of the land viewable from the park is within 2 or 3 other town jurisdictions, and therefore susceptible to the vagaries of non-controllable municipal priorities, much of the adjoined valley is of steep slopes and hence unlikely to be developed. Railroad, river, and State highway (Route 34) use and development in the area are also variables which can enhance or detract from the scenic amenities of the park.

It should be noted that many of the present vistas on the site must be maintained or they will be completely lost to encroaching plant growth. Careful study of the property may reveal additional opportunities to open up scenic vistas, given the rugged terrain of the site.

Facilities

Few facilities are needed with the planned use of this parcel. It appears that the greatest need is the development of satisfactory access and parking facilities as discussed in the previous section of this report.

Drinking water facilities are generally not necessary on lands used exclusively for passive recreation. Hikers, picnickers, and overnight campers can often "carry in" all the water needed. Should well water be desired to service an active recreation area on the terrace portion of the property, no problems are foreseen in establishing a satisfactory facility.

Sanitary facilities, via outhouses, might be provided in a couple of interior locations but again may not be necessary. Transient users often won't need or use these facilities.

In considering any facility development, the town should carefully weigh actual public service against development cost, maintenance cost and feasibility, vandalism potential, visitor concentration effects, and other environmental demands.

Passive Recreation Use

It was evident from the ERT's field review that many of the "potential" uses of the property are already in practice. Below are a few comments on various passive recreational activities as they relate to the site.

Hiking and Trail Use

As discussed in the Soils portion of this report, trails should not be laid out directly down steep slopes. Sidehill and switchback trails are preferable. The layout and construction of trails can either encourage or discourage use of the trails for other activities. Ski-touring might be one activity to be encouraged. An excellent reference which should be consulted prior to any trail work is the "AMC Field Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance" (R.D. Proudman, Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, Mass. 1977). One idea which the town may wish to consider is establishing numeral signs at important locations within the site. Such signs could help visitors relate their ground position to a corresponding position on a handout map.

Camping

Townspeople indicated to the Team that Webb Mountain Park has been used in recent years for camping by youth groups and perhaps some backpacking individuals. With future camping use of the site, it is suggested that a number of locations with adequate provision for safe fire building be selected. While there is a trend that long distance hikers often will not build a fire, it is still typical practice of those on short overnights to hold an evening campfire for recreation, if not cooking purposes. By rotating sites, an overused appearance caused by soil compaction, the absence of forest debris, etc. can be avoided. A procedure could be developed whereby users "pack in, pack out" and obliterate all outward signs of their use. The lack of obvious campsites will offer less encouragement to unplanned "gypsy" camping.

Other Uses

Webb Mountain Park offers an attractive natural area for picnickers, birdwatchers, and nature study enthusiasts. The site also has potential for use by school groups interested in studying Connecticut's natural environment.

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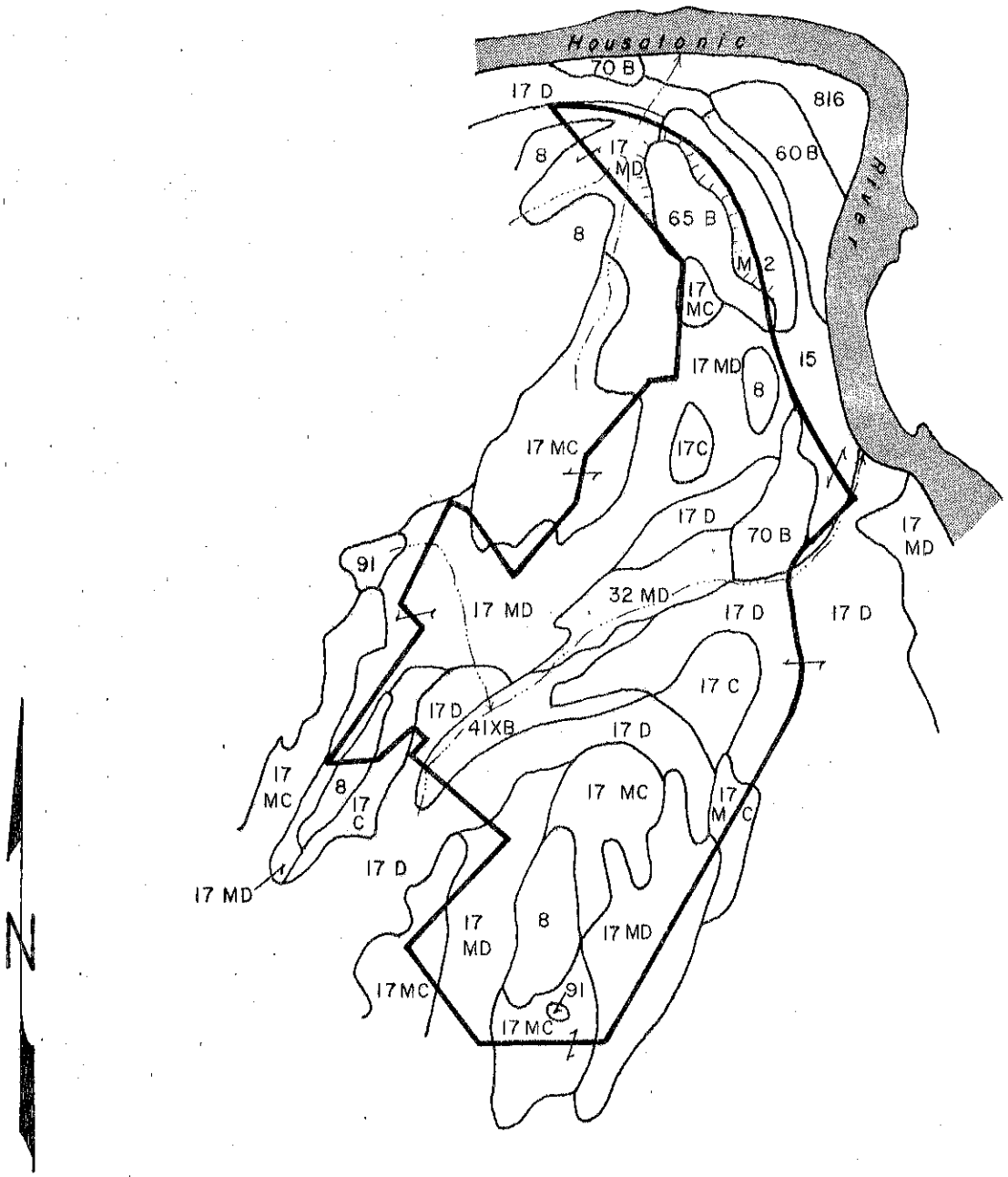
IX. APPENDIX

SOILS MAP

ADVANCE COPY SUBJECT TO CHANGE
1979 · PREPARED BY U.S.D.A. – S.C.S.



SCALE: 1" = 1000'

0 1/4 1/2 mile

0 1000' 2000' 3000'

SOILS LIMITATION CHART

WEBB MOUNTAIN PARK, MONROE, CT.

MAP SYMBOL	SOIL NAME	CAMP AREAS	PICNIC AREAS	PLAYGROUNDS	PATHS & TRAILS
8	Rockland	Severe: Bedrock outcrops	Severe: Bedrock outcrops	Severe: Bedrock outcrops	Severe: Bedrock outcrops
15	Hinckley and Windsor Soils, 15-35% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate-Severe: slope
17C	Hollis-Charlton rocky complex, 3 to 15% slope	Severe: large stones	Severe: slope, large stones	Severe: slope, large stones	Severe: large stones
17D	Hollis-Charlton rocky complex, 15 to 35% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: large stones, slope
17MC	Hollis extremely rocky fine sandy loam, 3 - 15% slopes	Moderate: slope, large stones	Moderate: slope, large stones	Severe: Depth to rock, slope	Severe: large stones
17MD	Hollis extremely rocky fine sandy loam, 15 to 35% slopes	Severe: large stones	Severe: slope	Severe: Depth of rock, slope	Severe: large stones
32MD	Charlton very stony fine sandy loam, 15 to 35% slopes	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Severe: slope	Moderate: large stones, slope

SOILS LIMITATION CHART

WEBB MOUNTAIN PARK, MONROE, CT.

MAP SYMBOL	SOIL NAME	CAMP AREAS	PICNIC AREAS	PLAYGROUNDS	PATHS & TRAILS
41XB	Sutton stony fine sandy loam, 3 - 8% slopes	Moderate: large stones	Slight	Moderate: slope, large stones	Moderate: large stones
65B	Enfield silt loam, 3-8% slopes	Slight	Slight	Moderate: slope	Slight
70B	Merrimac sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	Slight	Slight	Moderate-Severe: slope	Slight
91	Muck, shallow	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness
M2	Borrow and Fill Land, coarse material	---- Soil Characteristics Variable ----			

EXPLANATION OF RATING SYSTEM

1. SLIGHT LIMITATION: indicates that any property of the soil affecting use of the soil is relatively unimportant and can be overcome at little expense.
2. MODERATE LIMITATION: indicates that any property of the soil affecting use can be overcome at a somewhat higher expense.
3. SEVERE LIMITATION: indicates that the use of the soil is seriously limited by hazards or restrictions that require extensive and costly measures to overcome.

NOTE: Limitation Ratings Based Upon U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service Criteria.

SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

WEBB MOUNTAIN PARK, MONROE, CT.

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08 Rockland. This unit consists of rocky soils where the exposed bedrock occupies more than 50 percent of the area. Soils that are shallow to bedrock occur between and around the bedrock exposures. This mapping unit generally occurs on moderately steep to steep uplands having 15 to 35 percent slopes. The exposed rock is granite, gneiss, or schist.

15 Hinckley and Windsor soils, 15 to 35 percent slopes. This unit consists of soils that are of sandy or of sandy and gravelly materials on slopes greater than 15 percent. It occurs on steep terrace breaks, kames and eskers. The slopes are generally short and range from about 100 to several hundred feet in width.

17C Hollis-Charlton rocky complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes. This mapping unit is composed of gently sloping and sloping soils. It consists of about 30 percent Hollis fine sandy loam, 30 percent of an unnamed soil that is 20 to 40 inches deep over bedrock and about 20 percent of Charlton fine sandy loam. The remainder of this unit consists of inclusions of Paxton, Sutton, and other soils. The soils in this unit occur in such an intricate and complex pattern that it is not practical to separate them on the scale of map used. In many places there are narrow drainageways with poorly drained soils that are too narrow to separate on the map. Bedrock outcrops are few to numerous and stoniness ranges from almost none to extremely stony.

The Hollis soil is somewhat excessively drained and consists of friable to very friable fine sandy loam less than 20 inches deep to bedrock. The well drained unnamed soil is also a fine sandy loam. The well drained Charlton soil developed in glacial till. Surface soil and subsoil textures to a depth of 20 to 30 inches is fine sandy loam. The underlying material is a sandy loam to fine sandy loam with numerous rock fragments. All of these soils are moderately permeable but drainage is restricted by the underlying bedrock.

17D Hollis-Charlton rocky complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes. Except for differences in slopes, this soil is similar to Hollis-Charlton rocky complex (17C).

17MC Hollis extremely rocky fine sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes. This shallow soil is less than 20 inches to the underlying bedrock. It is somewhat excessively drained. Bedrock outcrops are numerous and surface stones and boulders are present in most places. This soil is very friable fine sandy loam and is moderately permeable above the bedrock. The gently sloping and sloping topography is mostly irregular.

17MD Hollis extremely rocky fine sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes. Except for differences in slopes, this soil is similar to Hollis extremely rocky fine sandy loam (17MC).

32MD Charlton very stony fine sandy loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes. This moderately steep to steep, well drained, upland soil developed in very friable to firm glacial till. This very stony soil has more than 3 percent of the surface covered with stones and boulders. Surface soil and subsoil texture to a depth of 20 to 30 inches is fine sandy loam with some small, angular rock fragments. The underlying material is sandy loam or fine sandy loam with many gravel size rock fragments and stones in places. This soil is moderately permeable, but some slowly permeable lavers may be present below 36 inches. Charlton soils are members of a drainage sequence that includes the moderately well drained Sutton and the poorly drained Leicester soils.

41XB Sutton stony fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This is a stony, moderately well drained, upland soil developed in very friable to firm glacial till. From 0.1 to 3 percent of the surface is covered with stones and boulders. Texture of the surface soil and subsoil is fine sandy loam to a depth of 20 to 30 inches and contains some small, angular rock fragments. The underlying material is sandy loam or fine sandy loam with many stones and gravel size rock fragments in places. The lower subsoil is mottled indicating a waterlogged condition at times. A fluctuating water table is sometimes within 15 to 20 inches of the surface during the winter and early spring. This soil is moderately permeable throughout, but slowly permeable layers may be present below 36 inches. Sutton soils are a member of the drainage sequence that includes the well drained Charlton and the poorly drained Leicester soils.

65B Enfield silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This well drained, gently sloping soil developed in a silt loam mantle 18 to 30 inches thick over stratified sand and gravel. The moderately permeable surface soil and subsoil layers are friable to very friable silt loam. The rapidly to very rapidly permeable underlying layer of sand and gravel contains numerous cobbles. Enfield soils are associated in drainage sequence with the moderately well drained Tisbury soils.

70B Merrimac sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This is somewhat excessively drained gently sloping soil. Surface and upper subsoil textures range from fine sandy loam to sandy loam. The lower subsoil is sandy loam or coarser and is underlain by sand and gravel at 18 to 30 inches. The surface and subsoil layers are very friable and are moderately to rapidly permeable. Permeability in the substrata is very rapid. This soil is generally free of stones, but most areas have some gravel in the surface soil and subsoil. Merrimac and Enfield soils are closely associated. Enfield differs from Merrimac in being finer textured.

91 Muck, shallow. This mapping unit consists of organic deposits of muck less than 40 inches thick over mineral soil material. The water table is at or near the surface most of the year. It is often flooded during the winter and after rainy periods.

ABOUT THE TEAM

The King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of environmental professionals drawn together from a variety of federal, state, and regional agencies. Specialists on the team include geologists, biologists, foresters, climatologists, soil scientists, landscape architects, recreation specialists, engineers, and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the aegis of the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area - a 47 town area in western Connecticut.

As a public service activity, the team is available to serve towns and developers within the King's Mark Area --- free of charge.

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 the review of a wide range of significant activities including subdivisions, sanitary landfills, commercial and industrical developments, and recreation/open space projects.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision-making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the 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 an administration agency such as planning and zoning, conservation, or inland wetlands. Requests for reviews should be directed to the Chairman of your local Soil and Water Conservation District. This request letter must include a summary of the proposed project, a location map of the project site, written permission from the landowner/developer 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 King's Mark RC&D Executive Committee, the team will undertake the review. At present, the ERT can undertake two reviews per month.

For additional information regarding the Environmental Review Team, please contact your local Soil Conservation District Office or Richard Lynn (868-7342), Environmental Review Team Coordinator, King's Mark RC&D Area, P.O. Box 30, Warren, Connecticut 06754.