

# Hopemead State Park Recreation Area

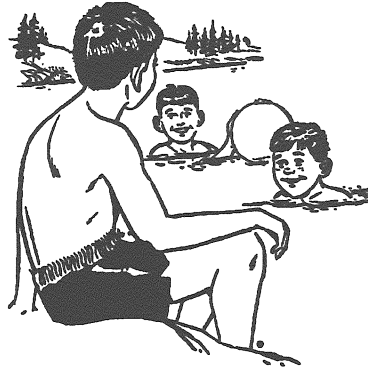
Montville, Connecticut

## EASTERN CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

February 1996

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

# Hopemead State Park Recreation Area Montville, Connecticut



## Environmental Review Team Report

Prepared by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team  
of the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area,  
Inc.

for the

Mayor  
Montville, Connecticut

February 1996

CT Environmental Review Teams  
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# Acknowledgements

This report is an outgrowth of a request from the Mayor of Montville to the New London County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD referred this request to the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area 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 19, 1995. Team members participating on this review included:

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Javier Cruz	Soil Conservationist USDA - NRCS New London County (860) 887-4163
Norman Gray	Geologist UCONN Department of Geology and Geophysics (860) 486-4434
Dawn McKay	Biologist/Environmental Analyst DEP Natural Resources Center (860) 424-3592
Brian Murphy	Fisheries Biologist DEP Eastern District (860) 295-9523
William Sawicki	Supervising Environmental Sanitarian CT Department of Public Health Recreational Health and Safety Program Environmental Health Services Division (860) 240-9262

Team members who declined to participate include:

Joseph Hickey	State Park Planner DEP - Division of Outdoor Recreation (860) 424-3202
Douglas Hoskins	Environmental Analyst II DEP - Inland Water Resources Division (860) 424-3903
Donald Smith	Director DEP - Division of Forestry (860) 424-3631

Prior to the review day, each Team member received a summary of the proposed project, and location and soils maps. During the field review the Team members were able to view maps at the town hall. The Team met with, and were accompanied by the Montville town planner, the director of recreation and a consultant engineer. 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 decision on this proposed town beach facility.

If you require additional information, please contact:

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## 1. Introduction

The Town of Montville has requested that the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team assist in evaluating a proposal for the town to develop a portion ( $\pm 17$  acres) of Hopemead State Park as an active recreation area. The town would become the conservator for this portion of the park.

Hopemead State Park is located on Cottage Road with frontage on Gardner Lake. The park is currently undeveloped and contains a few picnic tables and a small parking area on Cottage Road. There is a gated unimproved road that provides access to the lake area.

The town which currently has no access to a swimming area for their town summer programs is proposing constructing a swimming/beach area with handicapped access for swimming and fishing. The access road would need to be improved to allow cars and buses to drive to a parking area closer to the lake. A 40 car parking area is proposed to allow parking for both cars and buses. Both the access road and the parking lot would not be paved. The town also envisions a picnic area, nature trails and some type of sanitary facilities.

This ERT is only addressing some of the concerns and issues raised by the town in wanting to pursue this project. This proposal is not a new for the town. The town has made similar requests to the State in 1984 and 1994. The CT DEP Divisions of State Parks, Forestry and Inland Water Resources declined to participate on this review and cited the 1984 and 1994 letters from the DEP Commissioners' stating that the DEP does not believe that Hopemead State park is appropriate for this type of development.



## 2. Topography

Hopmead State Park straddles the boundary between the towns of Montville and Bozrah from the shore of Gardner Lake to Cottage Road. Except for a steep 40 foot escarpment along the edge of the lake the area is essentially flat and featureless with a very gentle slope to the north. Although the form of the escarpment has been modified by landscaping at the Hopmead Estate and by the construction of an artificial beach at the southwestern edge of the park, the original topography appears to have been somewhat more irregular and hummocky than suggested by the smooth contours on the 1" = 2000' topographic map.

### 3. Surficial Geology

The published Surficial Geology map of the Fitchville Quadrangle (USGS GQ-485, Pessel, 1964) shows the flat area east of Lake Gardner underlain by glacial till, a poorly sorted material composed of ground-up local bedrock material deposited either directly at the base of the last continental ice sheet or debris unceremoniously dumped by debris laden ice as it melted. The flat featureless form of the surface, which is quite unlike hilly till covered terrain elsewhere in the Fitchville and Montville Quadrangles suggests the surface deposits in Hopemead State Park formed during melting. Indeed it is likely that an ablation till accumulated as blocks of ice melted in stagnant water which ponded behind the east-west bedrock ridge formed by Forsyth and Raymond Hills at the south end of Oxoboxo Lake. Once the Oxoboxo Lake outlet was cleared of ice, the now rapidly flowing melt waters deposited sand and gravel (so-called ice-contact stratified drift) along the edges of the remaining ice. One such block occupied the low area which is now by Gardner Lake, and the edge of the former ice is now marked by the steep slope along its shoreline. The escarpment is veneered by a narrow ribbon of coarse angular sand and pebbles which although not shown on the Surficial map is the extension of thick stratified drift on the campus of the Thomas More School (QC1 on the surficial map). The fact that the site of the proposed town beach is underlain by coarse sand and gravel should simplify any excavation and regrading and minimize the amount of sand that must be imported. As the area has been previously disturbed by landscaping for the original Hopemead Estate and during construction of the beach at the campground, the town beach would not be expected to cause any more physical environmental damage than that done 50 years ago!

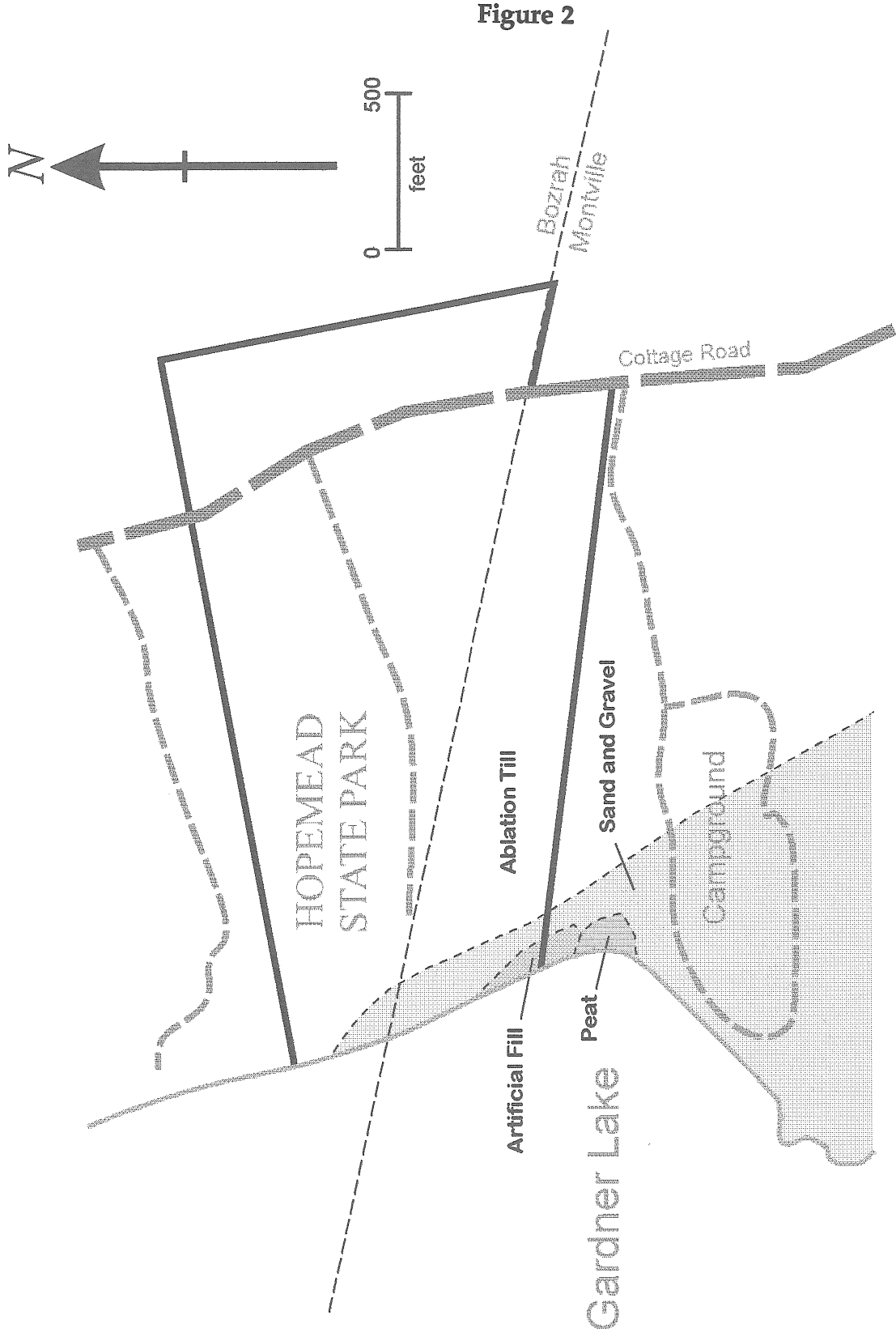


Figure 2

# Surficial Geology of Hopemead State Park and Vicinity

(Based in part on GQ-485; Pessel, 1966)

## 4. Bedrock Geology

No exposures of bedrock are found in Hopemead State Park; depth to bedrock probably being on the order of 50 to 100 feet. However, based on regional distribution of rock type the Bedrock Geologic map of the Fitchville Quadrangle (USGS Bulletin 1161-1, Synder, 1965) shows the area underlain by a highly sheared, friable biotite-muscovite-quartz plagioclase gneiss. The Honey-Hill fault zone, an important feature of the geology of Eastern Connecticut is inferred to pass directly through the park.

## 5. Soils and Erosion Control

There are a couple of eroding spots near the proposed beach area. Foot traffic, steep slopes and lack of vegetation, which seems to have resulted from previous disturbances, are the main reasons for the erosion. Restricting access to these areas and stabilizing the slopes by restoring vegetation should control these problem areas.

The plans for an access road are to add gravelly material to the existing road and to clear a few pull out spots to allow for vehicular traffic in both directions. The existing road seems to be in good condition. The proposed changes should allow for school buses to use the road, and prevent wetness problems. The wetlands crossing should be improved by installing an adequate culvert.

The road is relatively flat and as long as it is dry it should be suitable to vehicular traffic, especially if it is only used during the summer. As the road approaches the lake shore it gets very steep. This would limit its use for vehicular traffic. To prevent erosion problems on the road and to avoid potentially difficult driving conditions, vehicular traffic should be constrained to the flatter sections of the road. Therefore, the proposed parking area should also be moved east to facilitate access from the road.

The development of a beach area would be difficult because of the steepness of the shore area. The proposed beach area is small (around 125 ft. length x 75 ft. width) and is located on a flatter section of the shore, but the areas surrounding the site are much steeper, which creates difficult working conditions. Some sedimentation during construction should be expected, but should not be considered a major concern as long as erosion and sediment control measures are taken.

The shore is well protected by rocks and a dense vegetation. Wake action resulting from prevalent Northwest winds and boating is a concern, because it might impact the stability of the proposed beach area.

A surface water diversion above the beach area would provide some protection from runoff water, and would reduce loss of beach sand.

The proposed use of portable toilets eliminates concerns regarding use of septic systems as part of the sanitary facilities.



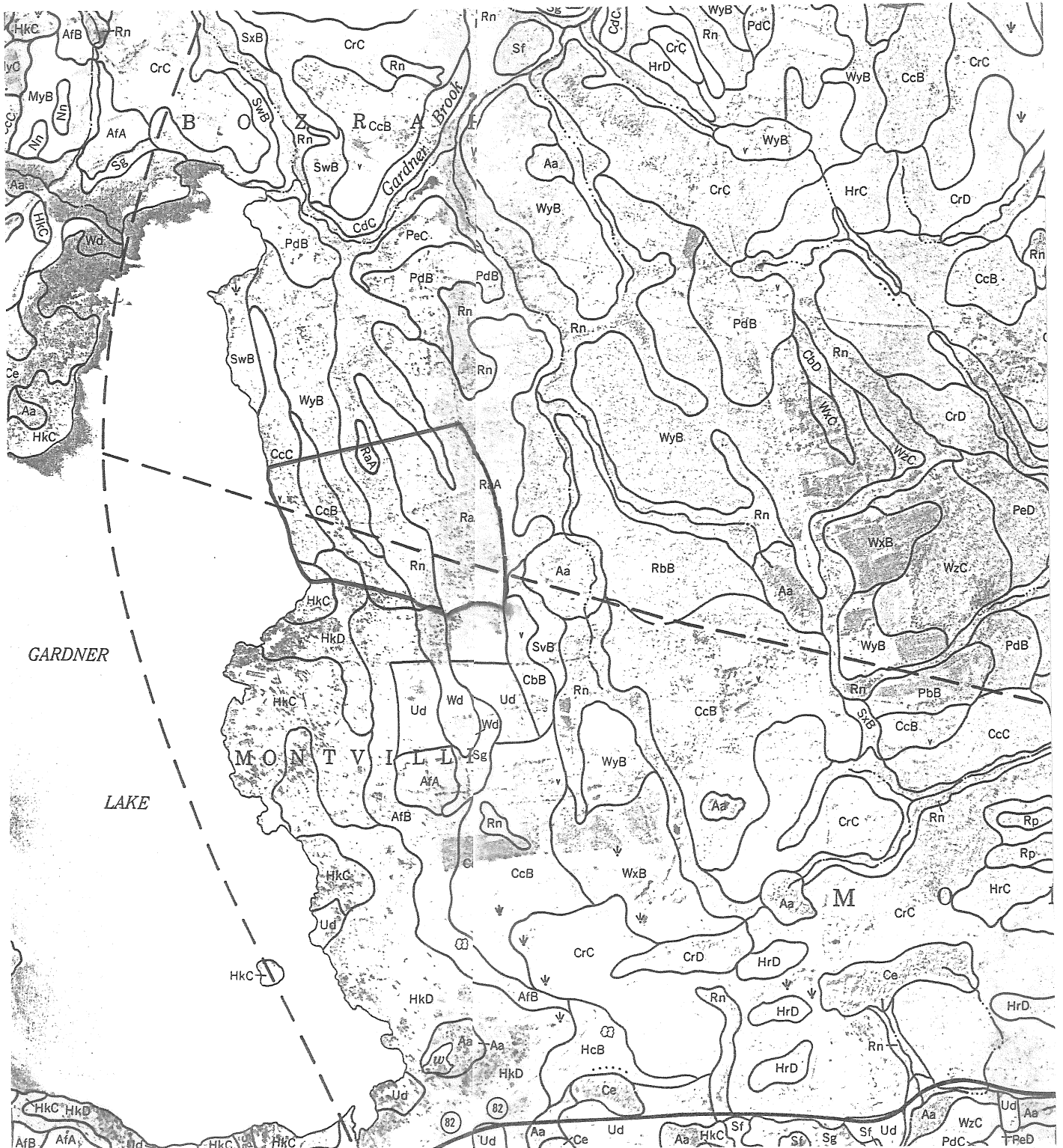
The existing plans call for the development of a small recreational swimming area for public use, but mainly for the use of the Town's summer youth program. The small scale of the existing plan seems to have few limitations and should not have a major impact on the lake.

Presently there is little public access to the lake and there is the potential for the numbers of users to exceed present expectations. Excessive use of the proposed beach area could result in unexpected impacts, especially from motor vehicles.

Figure 3

Soils Map

Scale 1" = 1320'



SOIL MAP LEGEND  
 ERT Report

Map symbol	Soil name
CcC	Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes
CcB	Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes
HkC	Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes
WyB	Woodbridge very stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Rn	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams
RaA	Rainbow silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes

NONTECHNICAL SOILS DESCRIPTION REPORT  
 ERT Report

Map Symbol	Soil name and description
CcC	<p>Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes</p> <p>This unit consists of sloping, well drained soils. The Canton soil formed in sandy deposits over friable sandy gravelly till and the Charlton soil formed in friable loamy till. It is on the side slopes of upland hills and ridges. Stones and boulders cover 2 to 10 percent of the surface. Bedrock is commonly more than 60 inches below the surface. The water table is commonly below a depth of six feet. The permeability of the Canton soils is moderately rapid in the surface layer and subsoil, and rapid in the substratum. The permeability of the Charlton soils is moderate or moderately rapid throughout. Surface runoff is rapid and the available water capacity is moderate.</p>
CcB	<p>Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes</p> <p>This unit consists of gently sloping, well drained soils. The Canton soil formed in sandy deposits over friable sandy gravelly till and the Charlton soil formed in friable loamy till. It is on the side slopes and crests of upland hills and ridges. Stones and boulders cover 2 to 10 percent of the surface. Bedrock is commonly more than 60 inches below the surface. The water table is commonly below a depth of six feet. The permeability of the Canton soils is moderately rapid in</p>

| the surface layer and subsoil, and rapid in the  
| substratum. The permeability of the Charlton soils is  
| moderate or moderately rapid throughout. The surface  
| runoff is medium and the available water capacity is  
| moderate.

HkC | Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes  
|

NONTECHNICAL SOILS DESCRIPTION REPORT  
ERT Report

Map Symbol	Soil name and description
	<p>This rolling, excessively drained soil formed in sandy and gravelly water-sorted materials. It is on terraces of stream valleys, outwash plains, kames and eskers. Bedrock is commonly more than 60 inches below the surface. The water table is commonly below a depth of six feet. Permeability is rapid in the surface layer and subsoil, and very rapid in the substratum. Surface runoff is slow and the available water capacity is low.</p>
WyB	<p>Woodbridge very stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes</p> <p>This gently sloping, moderately well drained soil formed in compact glacial till. It is on the top and side slopes of large drumlins and hills on glacial till uplands. Depth to bedrock is commonly more than 60 inches below the surface. From 1 to 8 percent of the soil surface is covered with stones and boulders. The soil has a seasonal high water table at a depth of about 20 inches from fall to spring. Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and slow to very slow in the substratum. Surface runoff is medium and the available water capacity is moderate.</p>
Rn	<p>Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams</p> <p>These nearly level, poorly drained and very poorly drained soils formed in compact and friable loamy glacial till. They are in depressions and drainageways of glacial till uplands. Depth to bedrock is commonly more than 60 inches below the surface. From 8 to 25 percent of the surface of these soils are covered with stones and boulders. The soils were mapped together because they have no significant differences in use and management. These soils have a seasonal high water table at or near the surface from fall through spring. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid in the surface layer and subsoil of these soils. The permeability is slow to very slow in the substratum of the Ridgebury and Whitman soils and moderately rapid in the substratum of the Leicester soils. Runoff is slow. The available water capacity is moderate in these soils.</p>
RaA	<p>Rainbow silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes</p>

NONTECHNICAL SOILS DESCRIPTION REPORT  
ERT Report

Map Symbol	Soil name and description
	<p>This nearly level, moderately well drained soil formed in silty deposits over compact loamy till. It is on the crests and side slopes of drumlins and on till plains. Bedrock is commonly more than 60 inches below the surface. The soil has a perched, seasonal high water table at 18 to 30 inches in the fall through spring. Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil, and slow or very slow in the dense substratum. Surface runoff is slow and the available water capacity is moderate.</p>

HYDRIC SOILS LIST  
MAPUNITS WITH HYDRIC COMPONENTS  
ERT Report

The "Hydric Soils Criteria" columns indicate the conditions that caused the mapunit component to be classified as "Hydric" or "Non-Hydric". These criteria are defined in "Hydric Soils of the United States" (USDA Miscellaneous Publications No. 1491, June, 1991). The "FSA Criteria" columns contain information needed for the Food Security Act determinations required by Section 512.11(h)(4) of the National Food Security Manual (August, 1991). See the "Criteria for Hydric Soils" endnote to determine the meaning of these columns. Spot symbols are footnoted at the end of the report.

Map Symbol Mapunit Name	Component(C)/ Inclusion(I)	Hydric	Local Landform	Hydric Soils Criteria				FSA Criteria and Information	
				Hydric Criteria Code	Meets Saturation Criteria	Meets Flooding Criteria	Meets Ponding Criteria	Natural Condition of Soil	Needs On-Site
Rn: Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams	Ridgebury (C)	YES	Depression	2B3	YES	NO	NO	Wooded	
	Leicester (C)	YES	Depression	2B3	YES	NO	NO	Wooded	
	Whitman (C)--	YES	Depression	2B3,3	YES	NO	YES	Wooded	
	ADRIAN (I)---	YES	Swamp	1,3	NO	NO	YES		
	RAINBOW (I)--	NO	Swamp						
	PALMS (I)----	YES		1,3	NO	NO	YES		
	WOODBRI (I)-----	NO							

HYDRIC SOILS LIST  
MAPUNITS WITH HYDRIC INCLUSIONS  
ERT Report

The "Hydric Soils Criteria" columns indicate the conditions that caused the mapunit component to be classified as "Hydric" or "Non-Hydric". These criteria are defined in "Hydric Soils of the United States" (USDA Miscellaneous Publications No. 1491, June, 1991). The "FSA Criteria" columns contain information needed for the Food Security Act determinations required by Section 512.11(h)(4) of the National Food Security Manual (August, 1991). See the "Criteria for Hydric Soils" endnote to determine the meaning of these columns. Spot symbols are footnoted at the end of the report.

Map Symbol Mapunit Name	Component(C)/ Inclusion(I)	Hydric	Local Landform	Hydric Soils Criteria				FSA Criteria and Information	
				Hydric Criteria Code	Meets Saturation Criteria	Meets Flooding Criteria	Meets Ponding Criteria	Natural Condition of Soil	Needs On-Site
CcB: Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes-----	Canton (C)--- Charlton (C)- LEICESTER (I) MONTAUK (I)-- NARRAGANSETT (I)----- PAXTON (I)--- SUTTON (I)---	NO NO YES NO NO NO NO	Depression	2B3	YES	NO	NO		
WyB: Woodbridge very stony fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes-----	Woodbridge (C)----- MONTAUK (I)-- PAXTON (I)--- RAINBOW (I)-- RIDGEBURY (I) SUTTON (I)---	NO NO NO NO YES NO	Depression	2B3	YES	NO	NO		
RaA: Rainbow silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes---	Rainbow (C)-- BROADBROOK (I)----- RIDGEBURY (I) WOODBIDGE (I)-----	NO NO YES NO	Depression	2B3	YES	NO	NO		



HYDRIC SOILS LIST  
 NON-HYDRIC MAPUNITS  
 ERT Report

The "Hydric Soils Criteria" columns indicate the conditions that caused the mapunit component to be classified as "Hydric" or "Non-Hydric". These criteria are defined in "Hydric Soils of the United States" (USDA Miscellaneous Publications No. 1491, June, 1991). The "FSA Criteria" columns contain information needed for the Food Security Act determinations required by Section 512.11(h)(4) of the National Food Security Manual (August, 1991). See the "Criteria for Hydric Soils" endnote to determine the meaning of these columns. Spot symbols are footnoted at the end of the report.

Map Symbol Mapunit Name	Component(C)/ Inclusion(I)	Hydric	Local Landform	Hydric Soils Criteria				FSA Criteria and Information	
				Hydric Criteria Code	Meets Saturation Criteria	Meets Flooding Criteria	Meets Ponding Criteria	Natural Condition of Soil	Needs On-Site
CcC: Canton and Charlton very stony fine sandy loams, 8 to 15 percent slopes-----	Canton (C)---	NO							
	Charlton (C)-	NO							
	MONTAUK (I)--	NO							
	PAXTON (I)---	NO							
	SUTTON (I)---	NO							
HkC: Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes-----	Hinckley (C)-	NO							
	AGAWAM (I)---	NO							
	HAVEN (I)----	NO							
	SUDBURY (I)--	NO							
	WINDSOR (I)--	NO							

HYDRIC SOILS CRITERIA CODES AND DEFINITIONS

Endnote -- HYDRIC SOILS LIST

The column 'Natural Condition of the Soil' indicates the following information: 'Wooded' indicates the soil supports woody vegetation under natural condition; 'Farmable' indicates the soil can be farmed under natural conditions without removing woody vegetation or other manipulation; and 'Neither' indicates neither of the above conditions are met.

1. All Histosols, except Folists, or
2. Soils Aquic suborder, Aquic subgroup, Albolls suborder, Salorthids great group, Pell great group of Vertisols, Pachic subgroup, or Cumulic subgroups that are:
  - a. somewhat poorly drained and have a frequently occurring water table less than 0.5 feet from the surface for a significant period (usually 14 consecutive days or more) during the growing season, or
  - b. poorly drained or very poorly drained and have either:
    - (1) a frequently occurring water table less than 0.5 feet from the surface for a significant period (usually 14 consecutive days or more) during the growing season if textures are coarse sand, sand, or fine sand in all layers within 20 inches or for other soils,
    - (2) a frequently occurring water table less than 1.0 feet from the surface for a significant period (usually 14 consecutive days or more) during the growing season if permeability is equal to or greater than 6.0 in/hr in all layers within 20 inches, or
    - (3) a frequently occurring water table less than 1.5 feet from the surface for a significant period (usually 14 consecutive days or more) during the growing season if permeability is less than 6.0 in/hr in any layers within 20 inches, or
3. Soils that are frequently ponded for long or very long duration during the growing season, or
4. Soils that are frequently flooded for long or very long duration during growing season.

RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
ERT Report

(The information in this report indicates the dominant soil condition but does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation)

Map symbol and soil name	Camp areas	Picnic areas	Playgrounds	Paths and trails	Golf fairways
CcC:					
Canton-----	Moderate: slope, large stones	Moderate: slope, large stones	Severe: slope, large stones	Slight	Moderate: large stones, slope
Charlton-----	Moderate: slope, large stones	Moderate: slope, large stones	Severe: large stones, slope	Slight	Moderate: large stones, slope
CcB:					
Canton-----	Moderate: large stones	Moderate: large stones	Severe: large stones	Slight	Moderate: large stones
Charlton-----	Moderate: large stones	Moderate: large stones	Severe: large stones	Slight	Moderate: large stones
HkC:					
Hinckley-----	Moderate: slope, small stones	Moderate: slope, small stones	Severe: slope, small stones	Slight	Severe: droughty
WyB:					
Woodbridge-----	Moderate: large stones, wetness	Moderate: wetness, large stones	Severe: large stones	Moderate: wetness	Moderate: large stones, wetness
Rn:					
Ridgebury-----	Severe: large stones, wetness, percs slowly	Severe: large stones, wetness, percs slowly	Severe: wetness, large stones, small stones	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness
Leicester-----	Severe: large stones, wetness	Severe: wetness, large stones	Severe: large stones, wetness	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness

RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT--Continued  
 ERT Report

Map symbol and soil name	Camp areas	Picnic areas	Playgrounds	Paths and trails	Golf fairways
Whitman-----	Severe: large stones, ponding	Severe: large stones, ponding	Severe: ponding, large stones	Severe: ponding	Severe: large stones, ponding
RaA: Rainbow-----	Moderate: wetness	Moderate: wetness	Moderate: small stones	Moderate: wetness	Moderate: wetness

RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Endnote -- RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The soils of the survey area are rated in this report according to limitations that affect their suitability for recreation. The ratings are based on restrictive soil features, such as wetness, slope, and texture of the surface layer. Susceptibility to flooding is considered. Not considered in the ratings, but important in evaluating a site, are the location and accessibility of the area, the size and shape of the area and its scenic quality, vegetation, access to water, potential water impoundment sites, and access to public sewer lines. The capacity of the soil to absorb septic tank effluent and the ability of the soil to support vegetation are also important. Soils subject to flooding are limited for recreation use by the duration and intensity of flooding and the season when flooding occurs. In planning recreation facilities, onsite assessment of the height, duration, intensity, and frequency of flooding is essential.

In this report the degree of soil limitation is expressed as "Slight," "Moderate," or "Severe." "Slight" means that soil properties are generally favorable and that limitations are minor and easily overcome. "Moderate" means that limitations can be overcome or alleviated by planning, design, or special maintenance. "Severe" means that soil properties are unfavorable and that limitations can be offset only by costly soil reclamation, special design, intensive maintenance, limited use, or by a combination of these measures.

The information in this report can be supplemented by information available in other reports, for example, interpretations for septic tank absorption fields in the Sanitary Facilities report and interpretations for dwellings without basements and for local roads and streets in the Building Site Development report.

CAMP AREAS require site preparation, such as shaping and leveling the tent and parking areas, stabilizing roads and intensively used areas, and installing sanitary facilities and utility lines. Camp areas are subject to heavy foot traffic and some vehicular traffic. The best soils have mild slopes and are not wet or subject to flooding during the period of use. The surface has few or no stones or boulders, absorbs rainfall readily but remains firm, and is not dusty when dry. Strong slopes and stones or boulders can greatly increase the cost of constructing campsites.

PICNIC AREAS are subject to heavy foot traffic. Most vehicular traffic is confined to access roads and parking areas. The best soils for picnic areas are firm when wet, are not dusty when dry, are not subject to flooding during the period of use, and do not have slopes or stones or boulders that increase the cost of shaping sites or of building access roads and parking areas.

PLAYGROUNDS require soils that can withstand intensive foot traffic. The best soils are almost level and are not wet or subject to flooding during the season of use. The surface is free of stones and boulders, is firm after rains, and is not dusty when dry. If grading is needed, the depth of the soil over bedrock or hardpan should be considered.

PATHS AND TRAILS for hiking and horseback riding should require little or no cutting and filling. The best soils are not wet, are firm after rains, and not dusty when dry, and are not subject to flooding more than once a year during the period of use. They have moderate slopes and few or no stones or boulders on the surface.

GOLF FAIRWAYS are subject to heavy foot traffic and some light vehicular traffic. Cutting or filling may be required. The best soils for use as golf fairways are firm when wet, are not dusty when dry, and are not subject to prolonged flooding during the period of use. They have moderate slopes and no stones or boulders on the surface. The suitability of the soil for tees or greens is not considered in rating the soils.

SANITARY FACILITIES  
 ERT Report

(The information in this report indicates the dominant soil condition but does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation)

Map symbol and soil name	Septic tank absorption fields	Sewage lagoon areas	Trench sanitary landfill	Area sanitary landfill	Daily cover for landfill
<b>CcC:</b>					
Canton-----	Moderate: large stones, slope	Severe: slope, seepage	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, small stones
Charlton-----	Moderate: slope	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Fair: small stones, slope
<b>CcB:</b>					
Canton-----	Moderate: large stones	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, small stones
Charlton-----	Slight	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Severe: seepage	Fair: small stones
<b>HkC:</b>					
Hinckley-----	Severe: poor filter	Severe: seepage, slope	Severe: seepage, too sandy	Severe: seepage	Poor: seepage, too sandy, small stones
<b>WyB:</b>					
Woodbridge-----	Severe: wetness, percs slowly	Moderate: slope	Severe: wetness	Moderate: wetness	Fair: small stones, wetness
<b>Rn:</b>					
Ridgebury-----	Severe: percs slowly, wetness	Slight	Severe: wetness	Severe: wetness	Poor: wetness
Leicester-----	Severe: wetness	Severe: seepage, wetness	Severe: seepage, wetness	Severe: seepage, wetness	Poor: wetness

SANITARY FACILITIES--Continued  
 ERT Report

Map symbol and soil name	Septic tank absorption fields	Sewage lagoon areas	Trench sanitary landfill	Area sanitary landfill	Daily cover for landfill
Whitman-----	Severe: percs slowly, ponding	Slight	Severe: ponding	Severe: ponding	Poor: ponding
RaA: Rainbow-----	Severe: wetness, percs slowly	Slight	Severe: wetness	Moderate: wetness	Fair: small stones, wetness

SANITARY FACILITIES

Endnote -- SANITARY FACILITIES

This report shows the degree and kind of soil limitations that affect septic tank absorption fields, sewage lagoons, and sanitary landfills. The limitations are considered "Slight" if soil properties and site features generally are favorable for the indicated use and limitations are minor and easily overcome; "Moderate" if soil properties or site features are not favorable for the indicated use and special planning, design, or maintenance is needed to overcome or minimize the limitations; and "Severe" if soil properties or site features are so unfavorable or so difficult to overcome that special design, significant increases in construction costs, and possibly increased maintenance are required. This report also shows the suitability of the soils for use as daily cover for landfills. A rating of "Good" indicates that soil properties and site features are favorable for the use and good performance and low maintenance can be expected; "Fair" indicates that soil properties and site features are moderately favorable for the use and one or more soil properties or site features make the soil less desirable than the soils rated "Good"; and "Poor" indicates that one or more soil properties or site features are unfavorable for the use and overcoming the unfavorable properties requires special design, extra maintenance, or costly alteration.

SEPTIC TANK ABSORPTION FIELDS are areas in which effluent from a septic tank is distributed into the soil through subsurface tiles or perforated pipe. Only that part of the soil between depths of 24 to 72 inches is evaluated. The ratings are based on soil properties, site features, and observed performance of the soils. Permeability, a high water table, depth to bedrock or to a cemented pan, and flooding affect absorption of the effluent. Large stones and bedrock or a cemented pan interfere with installation. Unsatisfactory performance of septic tank absorption fields, including excessively slow absorption of effluent, surfacing of effluent, and hillside seepage, can affect public health. Groundwater can be polluted if highly permeable sand and gravel or fractured bedrock is less than 4 feet below the base of the absorption field, if slope is excessive, or if the water table is near the surface. There must be unsaturated soil material beneath the absorption field to filter the effluent effectively. Many local ordinances require that this material be of a certain thickness.

SEWAGE LAGOONS are shallow ponds constructed to hold sewage while aerobic bacteria decompose the solid and liquid wastes. Lagoons should have a nearly level floor surrounded by cut slopes or embankments of compacted soil. Lagoons generally are designed to hold the sewage within a depth of 2 to 5 feet. Nearly impervious soil material for the lagoon floor and sides is required to minimize seepage and contamination of ground water. This report gives ratings for the natural soil that makes up the lagoon floor. The surface layer and, generally, 1 or 2 feet of soil material below the surface layer are excavated to provide material for the embankments. The ratings are based on soil properties, site features, and observed performance of the soils. Considered in the ratings are slope, permeability, a high water table, depth to bedrock or to a cemented pan, flooding, large stones, and content of organic matter. Excessive seepage due to rapid permeability of the soil or a water table that is high enough to raise the level of sewage in the lagoon causes a lagoon to function unsatisfactorily. Pollution results if seepage is excessive or if floodwater overtops the lagoon. A high content of organic matter is detrimental to proper functioning of the lagoon because it inhibits aerobic activity. Slope, bedrock, and cemented pans can cause construction problems, and large stones can hinder compaction of the lagoon floor.

SANITARY LANDFILLS are areas where solid waste is disposed of by burying it in soil. There are two types of landfill, trench and area. In a trench landfill, the waste is placed in a trench. It is spread, compacted, and covered daily with a thin layer of soil excavated at the site. In an area landfill, the waste is placed in successive layers on the surface of the soil. The waste is spread, compacted, and covered daily with a thin layer of soil from a source away from the site. Both types of landfill must be able to bear heavy vehicular traffic. Both types involve a risk of groundwater pollution. Ease of excavation and revegetation need to be considered. The ratings in this report are based



SANITARY FACILITIES

Endnote -- SANITARY FACILITIES--Continued

on soil properties, site features, and observed performance of the soils. Permeability, depth to bedrock or to a cemented pan, a high water table, slope, and flooding affect both types of landfill. Texture, stones and boulders, highly organic layers, soil reaction, and content of salts and sodium affect trench type landfills. Unless otherwise stated, the ratings apply only to that part of the soil within a depth of about 6 feet. For deeper trenches, a limitation rate "Slight" or "Moderate" may not be valid. Onsite investigation is needed.

DAILY COVER FOR LANDFILL is the soil material that is used to cover compacted solid waste in an area type sanitary landfill. The soil material is obtained offsite, transported to the landfill, and spread over the waste. Soil texture, wetness, coarse fragments, and slope affect the ease of removing and spreading the material during wet and dry periods. Loamy or silty soils that are free of large stones or excess gravel are the best cover for a landfill. Clayey soils may be sticky or cloddy and are difficult to spread; sandy soils are subject to soil blowing. After soil material has been removed, the soil material remaining in the borrow area must be thick enough over bedrock, a cemented pan, or the water table to permit revegetation. The soil material used as final cover for a landfill should be suitable for plants. The surface layer generally has the best workability, more organic matter than the rest of the profile, and the best potential for plants. Material from the surface layer should be stockpiled for use as the final cover.

## 6. Fisheries Resources

### Site Description

Gardner Lake covers an area of 487 acres. Maximum depth is 43 feet; average depth 13.7 feet (State Board of Fisheries and Game 1959). The lake's watershed is 4.0% urban, 11.4% agricultural, and 84.6% wooded or wet. Surface waters of the lake are classified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as "Class A". Designated uses for this classification are: potential drinking water supply, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational use, agricultural and industrial supply, and other legitimate uses. The lake's littoral zone, that shallow interface between land and open water appears to contain average levels of rooted aquatic vegetation. The potential beach area contains minimal amounts of vegetation. Bottom type is a gravel and rubble mixture with large boulders.

Gardner Lake contains moderate amounts of nutrients and is considered to be in a "mesotrophic" state of eutrophication or lake aging (USGS 1995; CTDEP 1991). During the process of eutrophication, a lake typically passes through three major states of succession; oligotrophy, mesotrophy, and eutrophy. The transition from one state to the next may take thousands of years; however, eutrophication can be rapidly accelerated by manmade inputs of nutrients such as excessive soil erosion, stormwater runoff, and septic tank leachate. A "mesotrophic" state of eutrophication essentially means that moderate levels of nutrient enrichment have occurred. Mesotrophic lakes are susceptible to the development of periodic "algae blooms" that will discolor the water and they support average amounts of aquatic weeds.

### Fish Population

Gardner Lake supports a diverse group of inland freshwater finfish being managed as both a coldwater and warmwater resource. It is annually stocked by the DEP Fisheries Division with more than 7,240 adult brown, rainbow, and brook trout. The lake is only one of the four lakes in Connecticut where a walleye recreational fishery is being created. Since 1993, the Fisheries Division has been annually stocking approximately 7,000 walleye fingerlings into the lake. The lake supports a wide variety of warmwater fish species. DEP Fisheries Division surveys have been recently conducted in the lake. Smallmouth bass are the dominant warmwater gamefish. Large panfish present include yellow perch, black crappie, white catfish, and brown bullhead. Sunfish are

very common and include bluegill, redbreast sunfish, and pumpkinseed. Other species to be found include: chain pickerel, alewife, banded killifish, golden shiner, tessellated darter, common shiner, white sucker, and American eel.

Gardner Lake is a very popular waterbody for regional anglers. Boat anglers gain access to the lake at the state boat launch.

## **Impacts**

The following impacts to Gardner Lake can be expected if proper mitigation measures are not implemented:

- 1. Alteration of inlake shoreline habitat.** The town proposes to construct a beach approximately 250 feet by 150 feet in size of which a portion would encroach into the lake. The beach would be created by laying sand over natural shoreline habitat. This activity represents an alteration and loss of existing inlake habitat for fish. Gravel-rubble substrates that exist in the proposed beach area are currently utilized by resident fish for spawning purposes and as nurseries after eggs are hatched. In addition, numerous large boulders in this littoral zone are used by adult and juvenile fish as cover habitat. These boulders would have to be removed to create the beach resulting in further habitat alteration.
- 2. Sand erosion from the beach can encourage the growth of filamentous algae and nuisance proportions of aquatic weeds.** Beach maintenance requires that sand be periodically placed back into beach areas to recover losses from erosion and wave action. These eroded materials contain nutrients that can accelerate nuisance aquatic plant growth. At present, this area of the lake has minimal amounts of aquatic vegetation.
- 3. Construction site soil erosion and sedimentation through increased runoff from unvegetated areas.** Devegetation of sloped land that drains into the lake presents a situation conducive to the development of soil erosion problems if best management practices are not followed. Lake eutrophication can be accelerated by excessive sedimentation impacting resident fishes, water quality, and overall recreational value.
- 4. Stormwater runoff from the parking lot.** A 40 vehicle parking lot is proposed to be constructed upgradient of the beach area. Stormwater drainage from the parking lot

could introduce nutrients and sediment to the lake if not properly conveyed and controlled.

## **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are offered to help in the town's assessment of this project. *These recommendations are contingent upon DEP Parks Division approval of this project.*

- 1. Fisheries habitat mitigation is requested to offset loss and alteration of inlake shoreline habitat.** The Fisheries Division is willing to work with the town to locate potential mitigation sites. Inlake mitigation is preferable; however, if suitable mitigation could not be found in Gardner Lake, mitigation efforts would next focus within the Gardner Lake watershed.
  
- 2. Provide suitable access and a fishing pier for handicapped anglers.** This should be a facet of the initial project design rather than to phase-in handicapped access within a 5 year period as is currently proposed by the town. Consult the DEP Parks Division for possible designs and ADA requirements.
  
- 3. Beach design and construction should consider the following:**
  - (a) Minimize removal of riparian vegetation along the lake shoreline,
  - (b) Avoid encroachment into wetlands near the southern end of the proposed beach,
  - (c) Sand should be placed on the shoreline under dry conditions when the lake level is lowered. This will help minimize turbidity and water quality problems.
  - (d) Place only clean, washed sand into the lake.
  
- 4. Parking lot design needs to consider conveyance of stormwaters.** Effective management of stormwaters needs to be accomplished to reduce direct runoff into the lake. Stormwaters should be only be outletted into non-wetland habitat; thus, avoiding initial and direct contact with wetlands.
  
- 5. Install and maintain proper erosion and sedimentation controls during beach and parking lot construction to reduce runoff into Gardner Lake.** This includes such mitigative measures as silt fences and staked hay bales. Only small areas of soil should

be exposed at one time and these areas should be reseeded as soon as possible.

## **Bibliography**

- Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game. 1959. A Fisheries Survey of the Lakes and Ponds of Connecticut. Project F-4-R. 395pp.
- CTDEP (Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection). 1991. Trophic Classifications of Forty-Nine Connecticut Lakes. CTDEP. Hartford, CT. 98pp.
- USGS (United States Geological Survey). 1995. Water Quality Characteristics of Selected Public Recreational Lakes and Ponds.

## 7. The Natural Diversity Data Base

The Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files regarding the Hopemead State Recreation Area in Montville have been reviewed. According to our information, there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species that occur at the site in question.

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. Consultations 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.

Please contact the Data Base if you have further questions (424-3592). Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

## 8. Environmental Sanitarian Review

### Observations

For the purposed of this report, the following comments are provided in consideration of developing a proposed public bathing area at the site:

1. The development of the existing access road and the addition of a parking area to accommodate two (2) buses and forty (40) cars will bring at least one hundred (100) bathers to this proposed beach each day, especially when the Town of Montville is operating its municipal recreational camp program.
2. Road access to the proposed swimming area will have to be developed to accommodate emergency vehicles.
3. Bathhouse facilities will have to be provided as stipulated in the Public Health Code Section 19-13-B36.

They should include:

- Adequate number of toilets for both men and women
- Handwashing facilities
- Dressing rooms with showers
- An adequate source of drinking water
- Adequate refuse storage containers and disposal.

These facilities should be in near proximity to the beach for bather access and use.

4. The water quality of Gardner lake has been historically good for bathing purposes. There is development on both sides of the proposed bathing area location. Public water and sewers do not extend into this area. A sanitary survey of those adjacent areas should be performed prior to any development of the beach and each year prior to the start of the bathing season to insure nearby septic systems are properly operating.
5. The rocks in the proposed swimming area will have to be removed. This could be accomplished at the same time the beach is cleared and developed.
6. The swimming area will have to be clearly marked with buoys due to the heavy boating traffic, water skiing and jet skiing activity on Gardner Lake.

## Conclusions

Any plans to continue with development of this site into a public bathing area should also include the local health district. Although the location is state property, personnel resources to perform bathing water sampling each week and to conduct sanitary surveys in the adjacent areas may not be available in the Department of Environmental Protection.

It would appear that the development of the proposed location into a public bathing area would be acceptable with the implementation of plans that address the above listed concerns.



## 9. Archaeological Review

A review of the State of Connecticut Archaeological Site Files and Maps shows no known archaeological site in the project area. However, local informants refer to stone projectile points being recovered from the property in the past. A field review of environmental and topographic factors suggest a high sensitivity for undiscovered archaeological resources within the recreational area. Prehistoric archaeological sites are primarily located on well-drained soils adjacent to wetland systems, offering important settlement areas for early hunter-gatherers utilizing the natural resources in close proximity. Hopemead would have offered an important setting for Indian fishing and gathering activities.

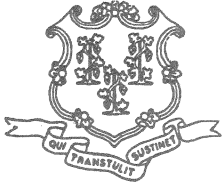
The state park also contains stone structures which have yet to be analyzed for historic significance. However, we recommend that all such stone ruins be maintained intact until historical research and archaeological testing can better determine whether these features are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Office of State Archaeology strongly recommends that no land use activity occurs without an archaeological survey prior to construction activity. In addition, all stone structures should be avoided in the planning process. Should this not be feasible, further recommendations for preservation will need to be implemented, including mapping, photodocumentation and, possibly subsurface testing. The Office of State Archaeology is prepared to offer any technical assistance necessary in conducting the proposed archaeological survey. They look forward to working with the Town of Montville in the preservation and conservation of any cultural resources which might exist in the project area.

In summary, the Office of State Archaeology and Connecticut Historical Commission recommend an archaeological reconnaissance survey for areas within Hopemead State Park proposed for recreational land use activities. This survey would locate and identify all archaeological resources which might exist in the proposed project area. The Office of State Archaeology is prepared to provide any technical assistance to the Town of Montville in accomplishing this archaeological fieldwork. All archaeological testing should be conducted in accordance with the Connecticut Historical Commission's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*. They look forward to working with all concerned parties to protect and preserve any archaeological sites which may be affected by the park improvements.

## 10. Appendices

- A. Letter and supporting documents from Joseph Hickey, State Park Planner, DEP-Division of Outdoor Recreation
- B. Letter from Donald Smith, Director, DEP-Division of Forestry
- C. Letter from Douglas Hoskins, Environmental Analyst II, DEP Inland Water Resources Division



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



RECEIVED OCT 25 1995

October 19, 1995

Elaine Sych  
Eastern Connecticut ERT  
P.O. Box 70  
1066 Saybrook Rd.  
Haddam, Ct. 06438

Dear Elaine:

I have purposely not participated in the Hopemead State Park ERT. However, for your information I am sending you several documents stating the unsuitability of the property for a developed park with beach as well as this agency's position on the appropriate management of Hopemead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Hickey".

Joseph Hickey  
State Park Planner

JH/ph  
Attach.

cc: R. Clifford  
File



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 ELM STREET HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106



Timothy R. E. Keeney  
Commissioner

May 24, 1994

The Honorable Wayne D. Scott  
Mayor, Town of Montville  
310 Norwich-New London Turnpike  
Uncasville, CT 06382-2599

Dear Mayor Scott:

This letter is in response to your inquiry about Hopemead State Park. I am not surprised that one of the Montville residents has suggested the development of a swimming area within the 60 acre state ownership since our department has been approached by a number of people in the past with the same idea. Unfortunately the property is not physically adaptable for this type of public use as verified by an evaluation by state park staff in the early 1980's.

The shoreline topography is steep, both on the upland side and beneath the water. Furthermore, the center of the property contains significant wetlands which would limit the development of facilities such as parking areas and sanitary facilities needed to support swimming.

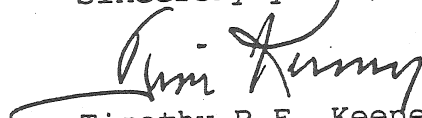
In addition to the physical constraints, the donor of the property had indicated in writing that she intended the property to provide for passive activities: "... concern for reservations of woodland, wildlife and peace and quiet should surely be applied to Hopemead."; "... we hoped to preserve and pass on to the people the valuable, blessed, natural gifts of Hopemead, so that they could find a haven of quiet and a retreat for a few hours." In honoring her request, the only development that has occurred is a small parking area adjacent to the town road to accommodate visitors.

I understand your interest in public ownership and access on Gardner Lake; it is one of the cleanest waterbodies in central eastern Connecticut however, Hopemead is not the appropriate site for a swimming facility. Our department has been keeping a watchful eye on available properties around Gardner Lake for many years with the objective of purchasing land for a swimming park. If you or any residents become aware of any property fronting the

lake that would lend itself to a beach, I would appreciate it if you would contact our department. From staff observations, most shoreline that would be suitable for a beach exists on the west side of the lake.

Thank you for your interest in Hopemead. Perhaps we can work together on a land acquisition initiative at another location on the lake in the future.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy R.E. Keeney  
Commissioner

TREK/rcc

c: File

J. Spencer

R. Clifford

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

★ Thank You for Sharing Your Idea. ★

Please send your ideas to *Employees' Suggestion Awards Program, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, 06106.*

**Interdepartment Message**

SIO-201 REV. 11-81 STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
Stock No. 6938-051-01)

SAVE TIME: *Handwritten messages are acceptable.*  
*Use carbon if you really need a copy. If typewritten, ignore faint lines.*

<i>To</i>	NAME Stanley J. Pac	TITLE Commissioner	DATE May 29, 1984
	AGENCY Department of Environmental Protection		ADDRESS
<i>From</i>	NAME William F. Miller <i>W. Miller</i>	TITLE Director	TELEPHONE 2304
	AGENCY Office of State Parks and Recreation		ADDRESS
SUBJECT Development Potential of Hopemead State Park			

I would like to comment on the development potential of DEP's Hopemead Property on Gardner Lake in Bozrah and Montville. We have reviewed the development proposal of Montville's Town Planner, Michael Murphy, and feel that we must take issue with his opinion that Hopemead can be developed as a recreation area.

Hopemead is indeed a handsome property, but it has serious limitations as a potential park site. First of all, it is limited in size (60 acres). Secondly, much of the center of the property consists of unusable wetland. Thirdly, the lake shore at this point consists of a steep bank with a sharp dropoff into deep water and therefore is not a good place to develop a beach. Finally, we have a moral obligation to honor the intent of the donors, one of whom sent us the attached 1962 letter stating their desire to keep Hopemead as "a reservation of ..... peace and quiet."

Therefore we do not feel that the Hopemead Property should be considered as a lakeside parcel to develop, both because of its physical limitations and the stated intent of the donors. Furthermore, even location of picnic tables in this section of the state where we have no permanent park staff would, based on our historic experience, simply foster an attractive nuisance and gathering place as at Killingly Pond for example. The resulting day and night problems which would result would become an unpleasant problem for neighbors and a management problem for DEP.

Instead we see Hopemead remaining in its present state. Over time we would like to see it used as an outdoor laboratory for environmental education. In this manner it can be used, appreciated, and at the same time preserved.

However, we do see a need for a state park on Gardner Lake, which is one of the best natural lakes in Connecticut, and the acquisition and development of a suitable property elsewhere on this waterbody has long been one of our highest program priorities. Thus any moneys which may become available for investment at Gardner Lake should be earmarked for purchase of a developable property of sufficient size to support a good day use state park. In this way Hopemead could serve as a natural and attractive adjunct to a nearby, developed park facility.

WFM:iw  
cc: Files *(2)*

October 6, 1962

Mr. Stanley J. Bates  
Hartford Turnpike, M.R.  
Rockville, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Bates.

You, doubtless, know that the Lake was the "Big Pond", to the Indians, and only after the Gardners acquired much of the land did the pond become Gardner Lake. I think "Hopemead must have been a favorite spot with them, because the best fishing is off our shore on Solomon's Reef. The small fish come to the shallow, warm water on the top of the reef, and the fish, bass mostly, stay in the deep, cool water on either side. It is quite a trick to be able to anchor here. My brother found a number of arrow heads and an Indian axe right ~~there~~ *right on our shore.*

Motor boats play havoc with fishing, and would destroy this natural hatchery and fish reservation wantonly. Our government spends considerable sums to maintain and build up fish stock and protects them in many ways. It would seem that some consideration in this aspect should be extended Hopemead before the questionable advantages of rash motor boating be inflicted and over-ride all her God-given beauties.

At least, we should be as wise as the Indians! They preserved this area, and surely, we should now, in this era of extinction! The nation-wide concern for reservations of woodland, wild-life, and peace and quiet should surely be applied to Hopemead.

It was never our intention that we should sponsor any questionable recreation with Hopemead, nor be a part of it, but rather, we hoped to preserve and pass on to the people the valuable, blessed, natural gifts of Hopemead, so that they could find a haven of quiet, and a retreat for a few hours.

With our regard,

Yours truly,

*H. Louise Fuller*

H. Louise Fuller

RECEIVED NOV 13 1995



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



November 7, 1995

Ms. Elaine Sych,  
ERT Coordinator  
P.O. Box 70  
Haddam, CT 06438

Re: ERT Request - Hopemead State Park

Dear Ms. Sych:

In response to your inquiry regarding the availability of staff from the Division of Forestry to participate in an environmental review on Hopemead State Park, I must respectfully respond in the negative. Foresters from the Division of Forestry will not participate as a part of the review team.

I have discussed the matter with the Director of Parks and the Director of Land Acquisition & Management. It is my understanding that the local interest in assuming control, if not ownership, of the park has been rebuffed by the state twice before - once in 1984 and again last year. In 1984, the Director of Parks, William Miller, advised local officials that the land was not suitable for the development of a beach and, further, that the proposal was not in keeping with the intent of the gift of the land to the state. I am told that last year the Commissioner of the D.E.P., Timothy Keeney, basically gave the same response to the proposal when it arose again.

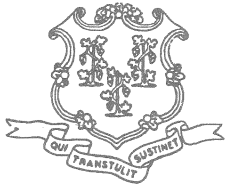
With those official responses in mind, it would not be appropriate for the Division of Forestry to participate in any environmental review pertaining to Hopemead State Park.

Sincerely,

Donald H. Smith, Director  
Division of Forestry

cc: R. Freedman  
R. Clifford  
E. Parker  
E. Beckwith  
D. May  
C. Reed  
R. Hyde





STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF WATER MANAGEMENT



November 20, 1995

RECEIVED NOV 27 1995

Elaine Sych  
Eastern Connecticut ERT P.O. Box 70  
1066 Saybrook Rd.  
Haddam, CT 06438

RE: Environmental Review Team  
Hopemead State Park, Montville, CT

Dear Elaine,

Further involvement by this division in the above referenced matter will not be possible based on a 5/24/94 correspondence (copy of enclosed) from past DEP Commissioner Timothy R. E. Keeney to Mayor Scott of Montville addressing the fact that this site is not appropriate for active recreation.

If you should have further questions, please contact me at 424-3903.

Sincerely,

Douglas Hoskins III  
Environmental Analyst II  
Inland Water Resources Division

cc: Charles Berger

enclosure (1)

file: Watertown GC

# 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: 860-345-3977, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 70, Haddam, Connecticut 06438.