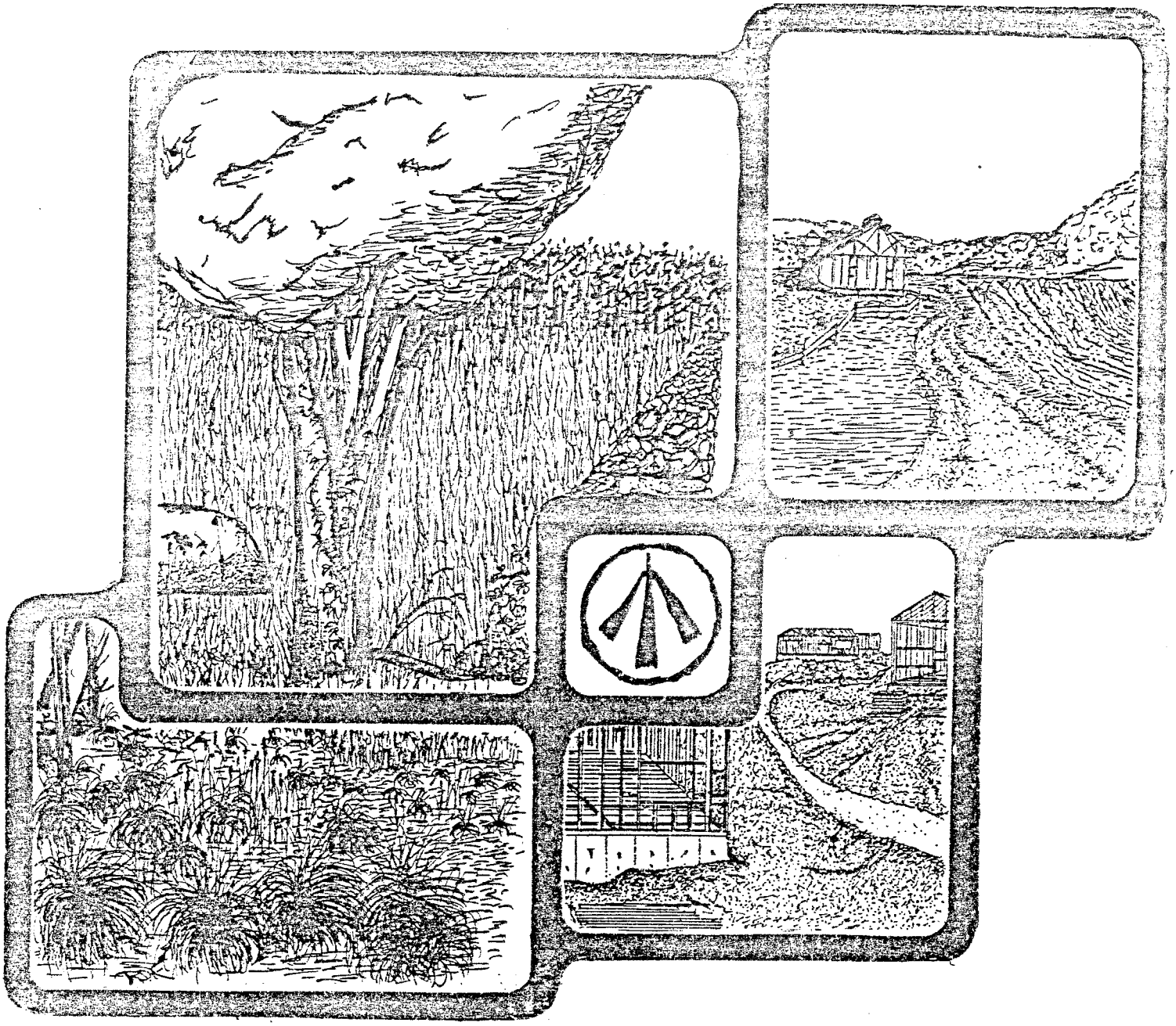
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

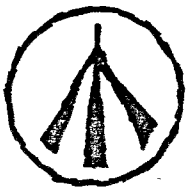


CAMP ANSEOX
OXFORD, CT

KING'S MARK
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA

KING'S MARK
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

CAMP ANSEOX
OXFORD, CT
DECEMBER 1984



King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area
Environmental Review Team
Sackett Hill Road
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
University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service
Department of Transportation

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
Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials
Southwestern Regional Planning Agency
Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency
Regional Planning Agency of South Central Connecticut
Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency
American Indian Archaeological Institute
Housatonic Valley Association

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FUNDING PROVIDED BY
State of Connecticut

POLICY DETERMINED BY
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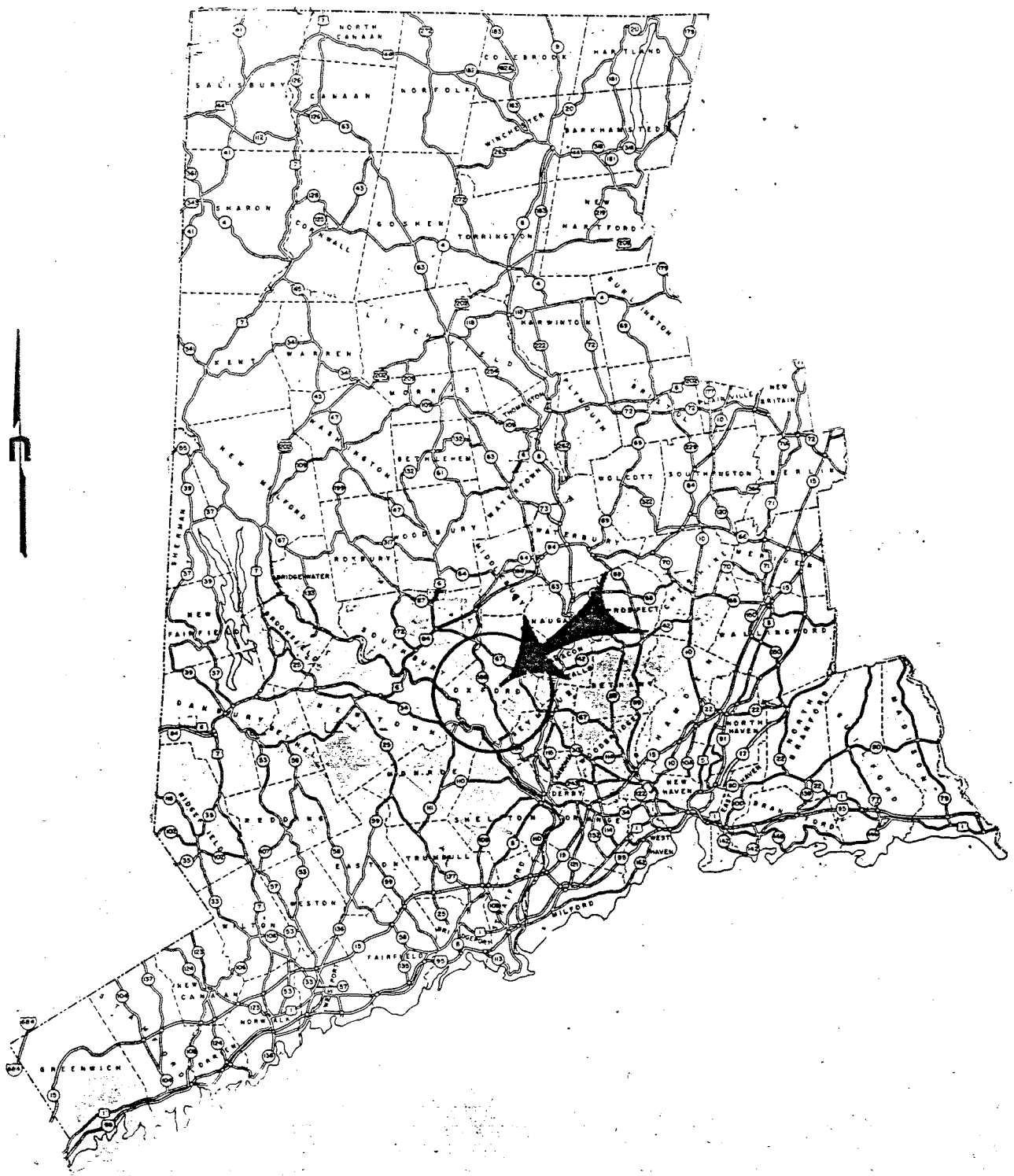
Richard Lynn, ERT Coordinator
Jamie Whitman, ERT Cartographer.
Jamie Whitman, Secretary

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LOCATION OF STUDY SITE



Scale 1" = 10 miles

10 0 5 10 miles

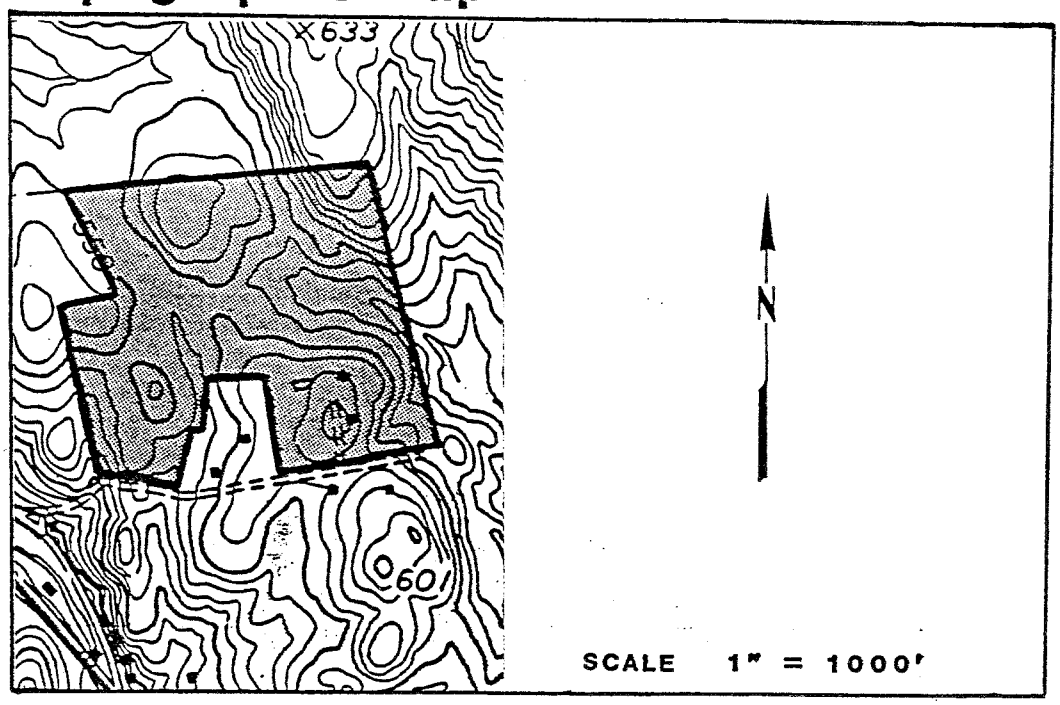
CAMP ANSEOX

I. Introduction

The preparation of this report on Camp Anseox was requested by the First Selectman of Oxford and initiated by the Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc.

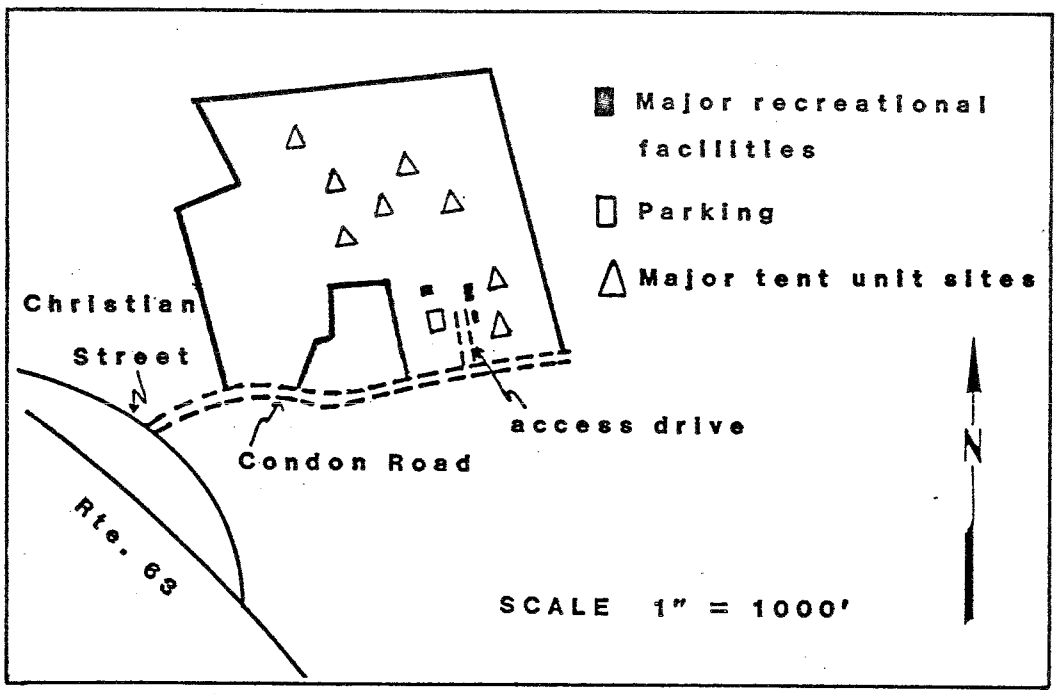
As shown in Figure 1, Camp Anseox is a ± 55 acre camp located just north of Route 63 on Condon Road. The site is mostly wooded and consists of predominantly slight to moderate slopes. Recreational facilities at the site include an access road, central lodge, picnic tables, an open field, swimming pool, and numerous tent platforms and hiking trails scattered throughout the site (see Figure 2). The majority of the recreational facilities are clustered in the southeastern corner of the property.

Figure 1 **Topographic Map**



The Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. is interested in preparing a long range management plan for this camp. To assist them in this effort, this enviornmental review was requested. Specifically, the ERT was requested to identify the natural resource base of the camp and to discuss opportunities for forest management, wildlife management, additional camp facility development, and nature study programs.

Figure 2 Site Facilities



The King's Mark Executive Committee considered the town of Oxford's request, and approved the project for review by the Team.

The ERT met and field reviewed the site on August 15, 1984. Team members participating on this project included: Irene Winkler, Soil Conversationist, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service; Bill Warzecha, Geohydrologist, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; Don Smith, Forester, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; Paul Rothbart, Wildlife Biologist, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; and Richard Lynn, ERT Coordinator, King's Mark RC&D Area.

Prior to the field review day, each team member was provided with a summary of the proposed study, a checklist of concerns to address, a topographic map, a soils map, and a soils limitation chart. During the ERT's field review, team members met with representatives from the Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. and walked the property. 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. The report identifies the natural resource base of the site and discusses opportunities and limitations for land management. All conclusions and final decisions with regard to future land use rest with the Girl Scouts Council. It is hoped

the information contained in this report will assist the Council in making environmentally sound decisions.

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

* * * * *

II. Topography and Geology

As shown in Figure 1, Camp Anseox is characterized by slopes which range from generally flat to steep. The steepest slopes are concentrated in the northeast corner of camp and are associated mainly with areas where bedrock is at or near the ground surface. Flat areas are found in the southern, western and northern portions of the camp. Elevations on the site range from a high of ± 610 feet above mean sea level in the northeast corner of the parcel to a low of about 520 feet above mean sea level in a topographic swale in the eastern limits.

At least two small streams are visible on the site: one in the eastern limits of the site and the other in the west central part of the property.

Camp Anseox is located in the Southbury topographic quadrangle. The Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey has published a bedrock map for the quadrangle (QR-30 by R. B. Scott and William Raymond). An open-file 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.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock is visible in the northeast corner and western limits of the Camp. The rock type underlying or cropping out within the Camp has been classified as a banded member of the Hartland Unit I Formation. It consists of a non-rusty, weathering, banded, schistose gneiss composed of the minerals quartz, biotite, plagioclase, microcline and kyanite.

A "gneiss" is a crystalline, metamorphic (geologically altered by great heat and pressure) rock in which thin bands of elongate or flaky minerals alternate with layers of granular minerals.

The rocks on the site were formed during the Cambrian-Ordivician geologic periods approximately 465-575 million years ago. These rocks have been subjected to metamorphism at least two times since the time they were formed.

Surficial Geology

Overlying bedrock on most of the site is a relatively thin blanket of unconsolidated sediments of glacial origin. As the ice sheet advanced over Connecticut one or more times, it scraped, scoured and chipped rock outcrops and abraded pre-existing soils, incorporating the rock particles and fragments into the ice sheet. The rock particles and fragments were later plastered against bedrock hills and knobs as it began to advance, or were let down gently from the ice as it began to melt. The non-sorted accumulation of rock fragments and particles that resulted contains a wide range of sizes and shapes. These sediments are known collectively as till. The upper few feet of till is commonly sandy, stony, and loose but at depth becomes siltier, less stony and more compact. Thicknesses of the till range from zero in areas where bedrock is exposed to probably not much more than ten feet at various points in between outcrops.

It is shallowest in areas designated as HpE (Hollis-Charlton) and HSE (Hollis-Rock outcrop complex) on the accompanying soils map (see Figure 4).

Overlying till in the westcentral and northeast corner of the camp are seasonally wet areas which contain regulated wetland soils. They are delineated by the symbol RN (Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman soils) on the soils map. These areas experience high ground water tables mainly during the spring and/or during periods of heavy precipitation. Because wetland areas provide valuable hydrologic and ecologic functions, their disturbance should be avoided where possible. Some important natural wetland functions include 1) flood storage, 2) sediment control, 3) pollution control, and 4) providing habitat for wildlife, including rare and endangered species. Hiking trails which are constructed over wetland areas and/or watercourses should be done with the least amount of disturbance to the wetland. If additional hiking trails are being considered for the camp, Girl Scout officials are encouraged to contact the District Conservationist for New Haven County (269-7509) for technical assistance. In addition, there are several publications available on hiking trail construction, which should be referenced (e.g., Appalachian Mountain Clubs' "Field Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance", available from the AMC at 5 Joy Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108, for $6.95).

On the review day a Girl Scout representative indicated that the Council is considering the construction of another Troop Unit for the Camp. If a Troop Unit was constructed, it is likely there would be a need for a dry vault privy or privies in the immediate area for disposal of excretion. Based on soil mapping, visual inspection and the topography, it appears that a Troop Unit might be feasible in an area east of the existing Troop Unit near Maple Hollow in the northeastern corner of the Camp. There also appears to be suitable soils available in the westernmost portion of the property.

In terms of locating a suitable site for a dry vault privy to serve a new Troop Unit, soil testing, which includes deep test pits and percolation tests will be required. The testing should be conducted by or observed by the local health official.

Portions of the Camp have severe limitations for on-site sewage disposal due to hardpans, seasonal high water tables and shallowness. It appears the areas underlain by the Charlton soils have the best potential for locating Troop Unit sites and privies (see Figure 4 and the Soils Section of this report).

Dry vault privies should be constructed with adequate storage space for excreta, a fly-tight vault with a screened vent to the outside air, and self-closing seat covers. Also, they should be constructed so as to permit ready cleaning; therefore access to a potential privy site by heavy equipment should be kept in mind.

In terms of passive recreational use of the site (i.e., hiking trails, etc.) the geology of the site should pose

no major problems. If there is a desire for active recreational uses, such as playing fields they should be located in the flatter areas of the Camp so that cuts and/or fills will be minimal.

III. Hydrology and Water Resources

Groundwater and surface runoff are interconnected. Surface water can become groundwater as it percolates down through the soil. Groundwater, in turn, can become surface water when it discharges into a stream, wetland, pond, etc.

Surface runoff from most of the site flows from the higher portions of the camp to the lower portions where the water is intercepted by small streams and/or intermittent drainage channels in the westcentral and eastern limits of the camp. The water is then routed to Little River, which ultimately empties into the Naugatuck River.

Surface runoff in the northwest corner of camp, however, flows north or west where it is intercepted by an intermittent drainage channel. The water is then routed to an unnamed stream north of the camp which is tributary to Little River (see Figure 3). Groundwater flow generally parallels surface runoff flow.

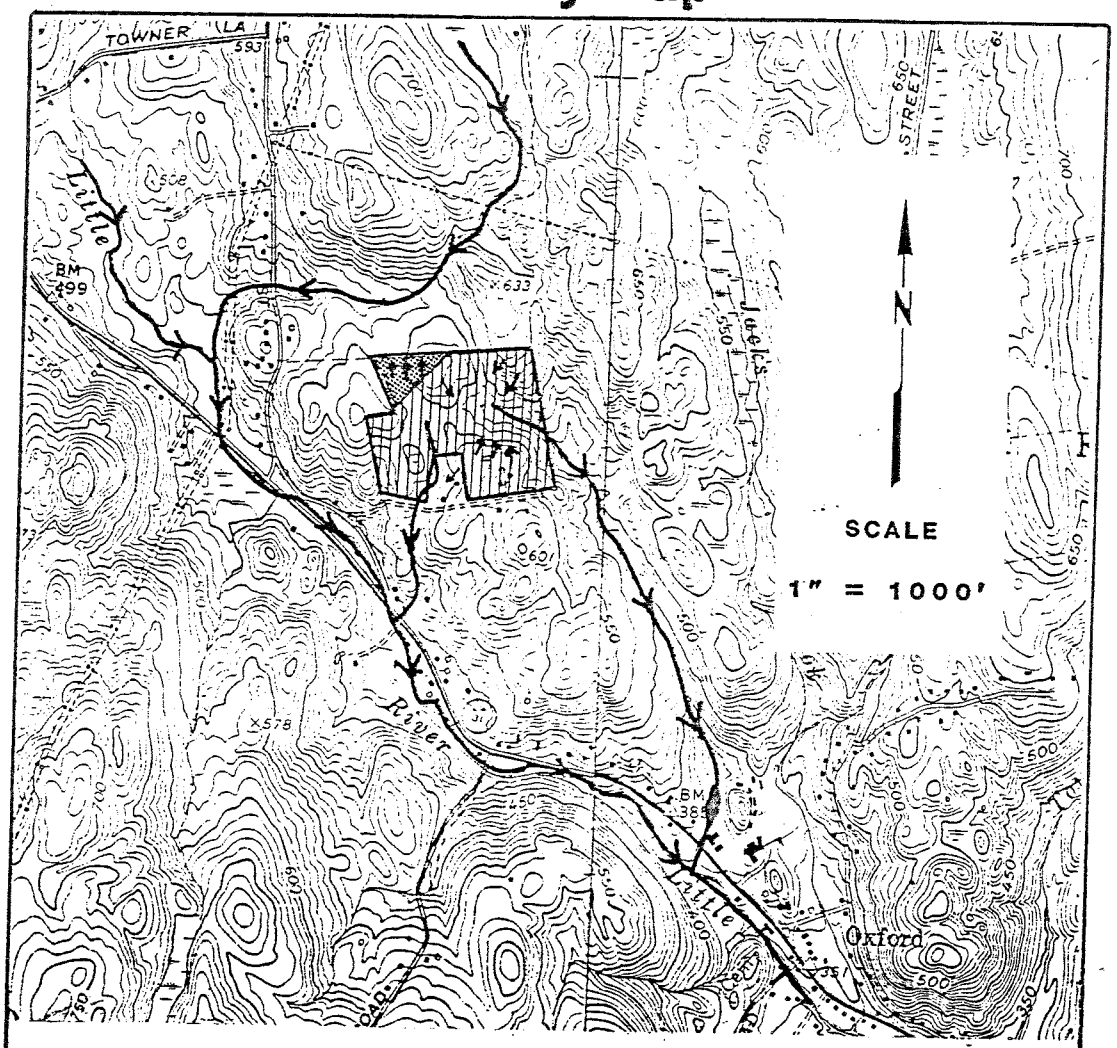
WATER SUPPLY

According to Camp officials, Camp Anseox is served by a drilled well, which is ± 200 feet deep. The yield of the well is not known, but at the present time it is adequately serving the Camp. If there is a desire for another well, bedrock appears to be the site's principal groundwater supply resource. Bedrock transmits water by means of an interconnected system of fractures. The amount and natural quality of water withdrawn from a bedrock well depends upon the number and size of water-bearing fractures that the well intersects, and on the minerology of the rock formations through which the fractures pass. Most wells drilled in bedrock can achieve sustainable yields of 3 gallons per minute (gpm) or more without penetrating more than 300 feet of rock.

Based on a survey of 294 bedrock-based wells in Connecticut Resource Bulletin #19 (Lower Housatonic River Basin), the probability of obtaining a yield of 3 gallons per minute (gpm) or more is approximately 78 percent. On the other hand, the probability of obtaining a yield of 20 gpm (a comparatively high yield) is only about 8 percent.

The natural quality of groundwater extracted from bedrock-based wells should be satisfactory. If elevated iron and manganese levels are present in the water, however, it may be necessary to treat the water with filtration devices.

Figure 3 Watershed Boundary Map



LEGEND

Direction of surface flow

Watercourses showing direction of flow

Approximate boundary line

Portion of property which drains to unnamed tributary of Little River north of the site

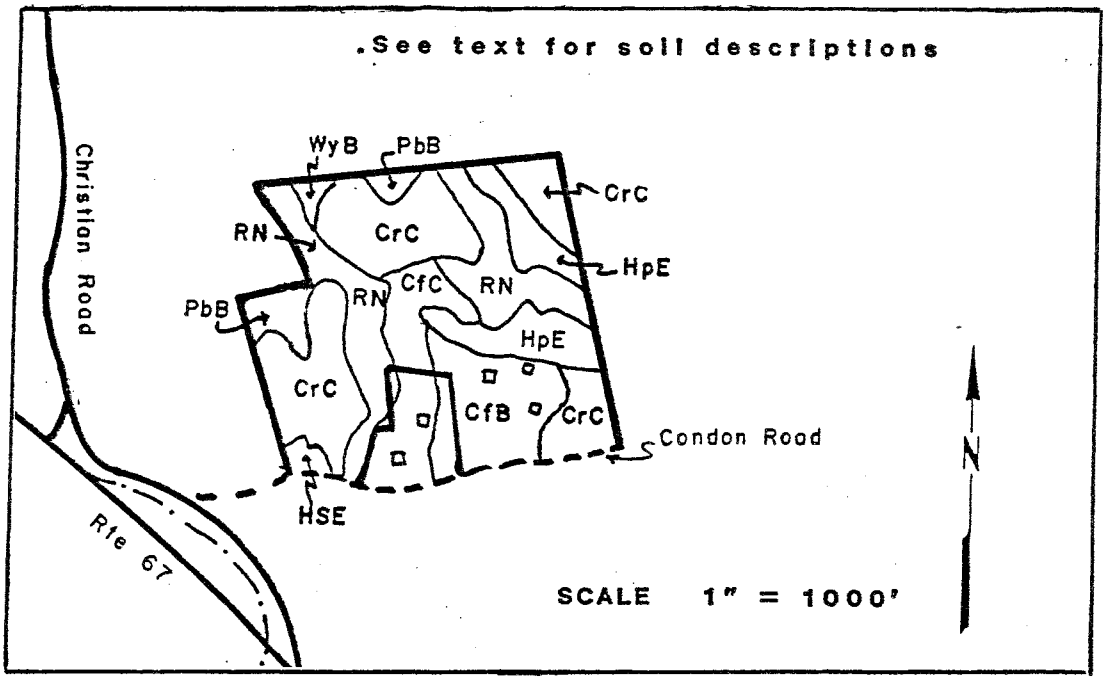
Portion of property which drains to tributary of Little River south of the site

IV. Soils

SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

As shown in Figure 4, a variety of soil types are present on the site. Each of these is described below.

Figure 4 Soils Map



Map Units CfB, CfC

Charlton Soils - The Charlton soils are deep and well drained. The surface layer is a dark brown fine sandy loam. The subsoil is dark brown to light olive brown sandy loam over a grayish brown gravelly fine sandy loam substratum. Permeability is moderate and runoff is rapid. Slopes are generally 3 to 15 percent.

These soils have good to fair potential for paths and trails. Slopes greater than 15% may be more erosive; steps or water bars may be necessary to help prevent against erosion. The potential for woodland wildlife habitat management is good and openland wildlife habitat management is good. These soils have the potential to create a good wildlife habitat or to improve the vegetation that exists.

Map Units HpE, HSE

Hollis Soils - Hollis soils are shallow and somewhat excessively drained. The surface layer is a very dark brown fine sandy loam resting on unweathered bedrock. Hollis soils are on hilltops, ridges and knolls of bedrock-controlled glacial till plains. Hollis soils are on the same type of landscape as the Charlton soils. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid above the bedrock. Runoff is rapid. Slopes range from 15 to 35%.

Although the slopes are steep in areas, these soils have fair potential for footpaths. Short steep paths leading to knolls and ridges can be protected from erosion by using steps or water bars. Once upon a ridge or knoll, the area would serve well as an overlook to the lowlands.

Potential for wildlife management on Hollis soils ranges from fair to very poor. A rating of very poor would be in areas of exposed bedrock. A poor rating is given based on the shallow depth to bedrock.

Map Unit CrC

Charlton-Hollis Soils - This soil complex occupies about 15 acres of the site and is a combination of the above described Charlton and Hollis soils. These two soil types are so intermingled on the ground that they cannot be separated at the mapping scale used. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent. Potential for trail use is good to fair on these soils. Opportunities also exist for woodland and wildlife habitat management.

Map Unit PbB

Paxton Soils - The Paxton soils are deep and well drained. The surface layer is dark brown fine sandy loam. The subsurface layer is a dark yellowish brown and olive brown fine sandy loam over a very firm olive gravelly fine sandy loam. Paxton soils formed in compact glacial till. Paxton soils are on drumloidal shaped hills, ridges and side slopes.

Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and very slow in the substratum. Available water capacity is moderate and runoff is medium. Slopes range from 3 to 8%.

These soils have a good to moderate potential for troop unit camp areas and good potential for paths and trails. The potential for woodland wildlife and openland wildlife habitat management is good. The potential for producing grain and seed crops, grasses, legumes, wild herbaceous plants and maintaining hardwood trees is also good.

Map Unit Rn

Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman Soils - Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman soils are on undifferentiated group that consists of nearly level to gently sloping poorly and very poorly drained soils. These soils are found in drainageways and depressions on glacial uplands and are considered inland wetlands.

The soils of this group were not separated in mapping because they react similarly to most uses and to management.

The surface layer is a very dark brown, very dark gray or black fine sandy loam. The subsoil is mottled gray or grayish brown fine sandy loam. The substratum may be friable or very firm mottled olive or dark yellowish grown gravelly sandy loam.

The water table remains close to the surface or at the surface in the fall and spring and after heavy rains. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid in the surface layer and subsoil. Ridgebury and Whitman soils have slow or very slow permeability in the substratum due to its firmness. Leicester soils have moderate or moderately rapid permeability in the substratum. Runoff is slow or very slow.

Ridgebury, Leicester and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams have good potential as habitat for wetland wildlife and wetland plants and fair potential for the following habitat elements: wild herbaceous plants, hardwood trees and coniferous plants. Approximately 15 acres of the site is occupied by this soil type.

Map Unit WxB

Woodbridge Soils - A small finger of Woodbridge soil occupies the northern section of the Camp Anseox property.

Woodbridge soils are deep and moderately well drained. They are located on the top of drumlins, in slight depressions and at the base of drumlins on glacial uplands. Slope ranges from 3 to 8 percent.

The surface layer is a dark brown fine sandy loam. The subsoil is a dark yellowish brown and olive brown mottled, compact gravelly fine sandy loam.

From late fall until mid-spring, this soil has a water table at a depth of about 20 inches. Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and slow in the substratum. Runoff is medium.

These soils have good to fair potential for paths and trails. The fair rating is given due to the seasonally high water table. The same rating applies for camp areas.

Woodbridge soils have good potential as habitat for openland and woodland wildlife habitat management. Potential for managing habitat elements such as grasses, legumes, wild herbaceous plants, hardwood trees and coniferous trees is good.

TRAIL SYSTEM EROSION CONTROL

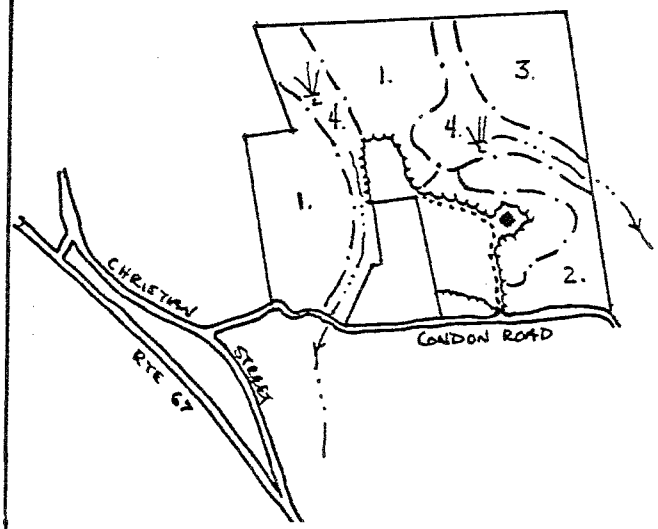
The soils located within Camp Anseox generally have stable surface layers with a slight to moderate hazard of erosion. Surface water can be diverted off of the trails to avoid water scoured channels. Channels that presently exist should be filled, steps or water breaks installed, and then chipped or seeded.

Exposed soil around tent platforms or unit camp sites can be protected from erosion by spreading wood chips. Leaf litter or pine needles have also served effectively to protect the soil surfaces around tent platforms, fire rings and troop unit camp sites.

V. Vegetation

Camp Anseox totals 55 acres in size. Aerial photo interpretation shows that 10 acres are non-forested. The remaining 45 acres may be divided into 4 different vegetative types. The location of these vegetative types is shown in Figure 5 and they are discussed in the following pages.

Figure 5 Vegetation Types



SCALE

1" = 1000'

ACREAGE BREAKDOWN

STAND	ACRES	DESCRIPTION
1.	19	Overgrown field
2.	6	Mixed hardwood poles*
3.	8	Oak-mixed hardwood
4.	12	Wetland
	45	acres manageable forest
	+10	acres open field/camp property
	55	TOTAL ACRES

*seedling size - less than 1" in diameter at breast height (d.b.h.)
sapling size - 1—5" in d.b.h.
pole size - 5—11" in d.b.h.
sawlog size - 11" and larger in d.b.h.

STAND DESCRIPTIONS AND MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Stand #1. Overgrown Field, 19 acres - This understocked old field is composed of medium quality, sapling to pole-sized black cherry, red oak, hickory, red maple, ash, gray birch, and red cedar. These trees are growing at a good rate on a medium quality growing site and are approximately 20-40 years old.

The understory species encountered include smooth and staghorn sumac, maple leave viburnum, sassafras, multiflora rose, barberry, and grey-stemmed dogwood.

The ground cover here includes low bush blueberry, huckleberry, dewberry, lily-of-the-valley, virginia creeper, lady fern, princess pine, grape, and goldenrod.

No forest management is suggested in this stand at this time. It would be desirable to wait 10 years and then re-examine the stand from a forestry standpoint. There is a "wolf" tree in the western most area. This exceptionally large white oak tree should have all diseased and dead limbs removed together with all undergrowth which is physically interfering with its growth.

Stand #2. Mixed Hardwood, pole-size, 6 acres - This well stocked stand is composed of medium quality, pole to small sawtimber-sized red maple, red oak, black birch, hickory and scattered ash. These trees are growing at a medium rate on a good quality growing site and are approximately 30-50 years old.

The understory species encountered include scattered dogwood, spicebush, ironwood, witch hazel, and hardwood saplings.

The ground cover here includes various ferns, princess pine, wild geranium, cinquefoil, and scattered grasses.

A light thinning for firewood here, aimed at releasing the best quality stems, would increase the overall vigor and health of the stand.

Stand #3. Oak/Mixed Hardwoods, 8 acres - This variably stocked stand is composed of good quality, small sawtimber-sized red oak, black oak, red maple, hickory, black birch and scattered ash. These trees are growing at a moderate rate on a medium quality growing site and are approximately 70-90 years old.

The understory species encountered include mountain laurel, maple leave viburnum, sassafras, scattered spicebush, and some oak, red maple, and black birch saplings.

The ground cover here includes low bush blueberry, Christmas fern, princess pine, solomon's seal, partridge berry, wild geranium, wood nettle, and poison ivy.

Of all of the area contained in Camp Anseox, this stand is the one stand in need of an improvement cut. Unfortunately, as it is located across a wetland and is small in size, the wood to be removed may not be saleable.

If a sale is possible, the topwood should also be sold as firewood and the sale should be conducted by a professional forester.

Stand #4. Wetland, 12 acres - This variably stocked stand is composed of medium quality, pole to sawlog-sized red maple, black birch, red oak, ash and yellow poplar. These trees are growing at a fair rate on a moderate quality growing site and are approximately 40-60 years old.

The understory species encountered include high bush blueberry, spicebush, sweet pepperbush, elderberry, and several species of viburnum.

The ground cover here includes skunk cabbage, sedge, various ferns, and moss.

As the sensitive nature of the soils found here limits the use of heavy, wheeled equipment, it is suggested that poor quality, or over mature stems be removed only from the area which can be reached from the margins.

VI. Wildlife Habitat

MAJOR HABITAT TYPES

The Camp Anseox property may be divided into three major wildlife habitat types. These are mixed hardwood forest, wetlands, and openland.

Mixed Hardwoods

This habitat type is dominated by a red oak-maple composition with white oak, hickory, black birch, cherry, beech, and witchhazel present. Several small scattered pockets of cedar and aspen are distributed within this type. Understory vegetation consists of mountain laurel, blueberry, viburnum, sassafras, Virginia creeper, dewberry, club moss, and various ferns.

Wildlife typically utilizing such sites include deer, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, fox, raccoon, ruffed grouse, and numerous non-game species.

Wetlands

The wetland habitat consists of two seasonally flooded hardwood sites. No perennial streams are associated with this type. The hardwood composition is dominated by red maple along with white oak. The understory is diverse with skunk cabbage, spicebush, sweet pepperbush, ferns, and grasses being abundant.

Wildlife frequenting such areas include woodcock, deer, raccoon, woodpeckers, songbirds, and numerous amphibians and reptiles. When flooded, waterfowl (particularly wood ducks) utilize such sites.

Openland

This habitat type consists of several fields used for athletics or maintained as passive sites. Vegetation consists of grass on the athletic fields with some shrub encroachment, while the passive fields consist of cedar, oak, cherry, birch, sumac, ferns, goldenrod, and grasses. Due to extensive human presence, the athletic fields have limited value to wildlife. However, because of their proximity to

forest cover, vegetative diversity, and pockets of shrubs they do benefit some wildlife, particularly birds such as mourning doves, robbins, sparrows, and rufous-sided towhees. The passive fields provide habitat diversity essential to numerous wildlife species such as deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, raccoon, and various birds.

DISCUSSION AND MANAGEMENT SUGGESTIONS

In a small but heavily developed and highly populated state like Connecticut where available habitat continues to decline on a daily basis, it is critical to maintain and enhance existing wildlife habitat. The following practices will help to improve conditions within the various habitat types.

Forestland Guidelines

1. Create a diversity of habitat by making small irregularly shaped openings (½ to 1 acre) in an east to west direction (to obtain maximum sunlight). This will encourage fruit producing shrubs valuable to many types of wildlife. Edges of openings should be feathered (gradually blended into the forest type).

2. Pile brush along edges of openings for small mammals and birds.

3. Maintain 5 to 7 snag trees per acre as they provide nesting and escape cover.

4. Encourage the release and expansion of aspen clumps. The buds are a preferred food of ruffed grouse.

5. Conifer cover is lacking. Plant several small (¼ acre) sites to conifer species.

6. If a timber harvest is planned these practices should be followed:

   a. Encourage mast producing species (oak, hickory, beech).

   b. Leave 5 to 7 snags per acre.

   c. Exceptionally tall trees are utilized by raptors for nesting and perching and should be encouraged.

   d. Trees with vines (berry producers) should be encouraged.

   e. Create small openings with feathered edges.

   f. Construct small brush piles.

   g. Release aspen clumps.

Wetland Guidelines

1. Leave buffer strips (100 feet) of natural vegetation along wetland areas to help filter and trap silt and sediments which might otherwise reach the site.

2. The wetland site could have potholes developed by blasting or mechanical means. This would create permanent waterfowl habitat and benefit numerous non-game species.

Openland Guidelines

1. Maintain some shrub component within the grass recreation fields.

2. A fifteen foot uncut border should be left where grass fields abut forest. This border should be mowed every three to five years (after August 1). These uncut borders are valuable to many wildlife species.

3. Passive fields should be cleared every three to five years to maintain an early vegetative successional stage.

4. Bluebird boxes should be erected at field edges.

It should be recognized that for optimum wildlife habitat potential a variety of successional stage vegetation should be encouraged. Proper maintenance of openings, field borders, aspen releases, etc. needs to be conducted on a regular basis to maintain established habitat.

Trail System

The trailguide pamphlet prepared for Camp Anseox by Dr. Karl Tolonen is very well done. If any of the above suggested management recommendations are carried out, they could be added to the guide (i.e., small openings, brush piles, aspen releases, bluebird boxes). Discussion should center around vegetation succession and its value in wildlife management. The trail could also use brushing back ten to twenty feet to create a feathered edge. Herbicides may have to be considered for brush control if manpower is limited. Krenite is a bud inhibitor which is applied to foliage approximately one to two months prior to leaf fall, with control of vegetation occurring the following growing season. This will eliminate any unpleasant brown appearance along the trails.

Habitat development projects could also be used to provide excellent educational benefits for youth groups. Examples include:

1. Install bluebird boxes along with cataloging yearly nest box results.

2. Numerous before and after studies to document wildlife diversity and abundance:

   a. Bird transects

b. Small mammal trapping

c. Amphibian and reptile sampling

d. Vegetation transects and photographic plots

3. Have youth groups do some aspen releases, trail clearing, construction of brush piles, etc.

For any further wildlife related assistance, the Girl Scout Council is encouraged to contact Paul Rothbart at the DEP Western District Headquarters (485-0226).

VII. Land Use Potential

Camp Anseox is an attractive and secluded natural area characterized by a diverse landscape. Access to the site is generally good although some steep slopes and rutting were observed on Condon Road. As discussed previously in this report, the site offers opportunities for both forestland and wildlife management. Consideration should be given to taking advantage of these management opportunities and using them as a focus for educational activities.

Approximately half of the land at Camp Anseox has already been "fully" developed with carefully placed unit sites, camp facilities, open fields, and nature trails. Another ± 25% of the Camp consists of wetland soils which have limited recreational use potential except for nature study. The remaining ± 25% of the Camp, which consists of ± 12 acres of land located in the northeastern and southwestern quarter of the Camp, has good potential for supporting additional camp unit sites and/or hiking trails. The soils here are generally deep and well-drained and are located on slight to moderate slopes.

In constructing additional trails or tent unit sites, efforts should be taken to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Assistance in erosion and sediment control planning is available from the New Haven County Conservation District (269-7509).

Guidelines to be followed in constructing new trails include:

1. Trails should follow the existing contours as much as possible to minimize grades. This will keep trail erosion to a minimum and reduce trail requirements for erosion and sediment control.

2. All trees, shrubs and fallen timber should be removed for a distance of 2 feet each side of the trail centerline. Stumps should be cut close to the ground. All protruding limbs should also be removed for a distance of 2 feet each side of the trail centerline. Where other than foot traffic is planned, protruding limbs should be removed to a height

of 10 feet. Limbs removed should be cut off as close to the trunk as possible.

3. All undesirable material such as soil high in organic matter, stumps and large stones should be removed from the tread area of the trail.

4. The trail surface should be finished to a uniform firm surface and be free of loose material.

Consideration should be given to marking the boundaries of the camp to help prevent trespassing and also to help keep campers from unknowingly leaving the camp.

The trail guide prepared by Dr. Karl Tolonen for Camp Anseox is an excellent educational tool and can help campers to better understand the natural history and ecology of the area. The continued use of the trail guide at the camp is highly recommended.

In conclusion, Camp Anseox is a well designed and well maintained camp in a pleasant environmental setting. Opportunities exist for a limited amount of "growth" in the form of additional tent unit sites and hiking trails. Opportunities also exist for better forest management, wildlife management, and expanded nature education activities. The Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. is encouraged to consider these additional opportunities in formulating a long-range management plan for the camp.

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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.