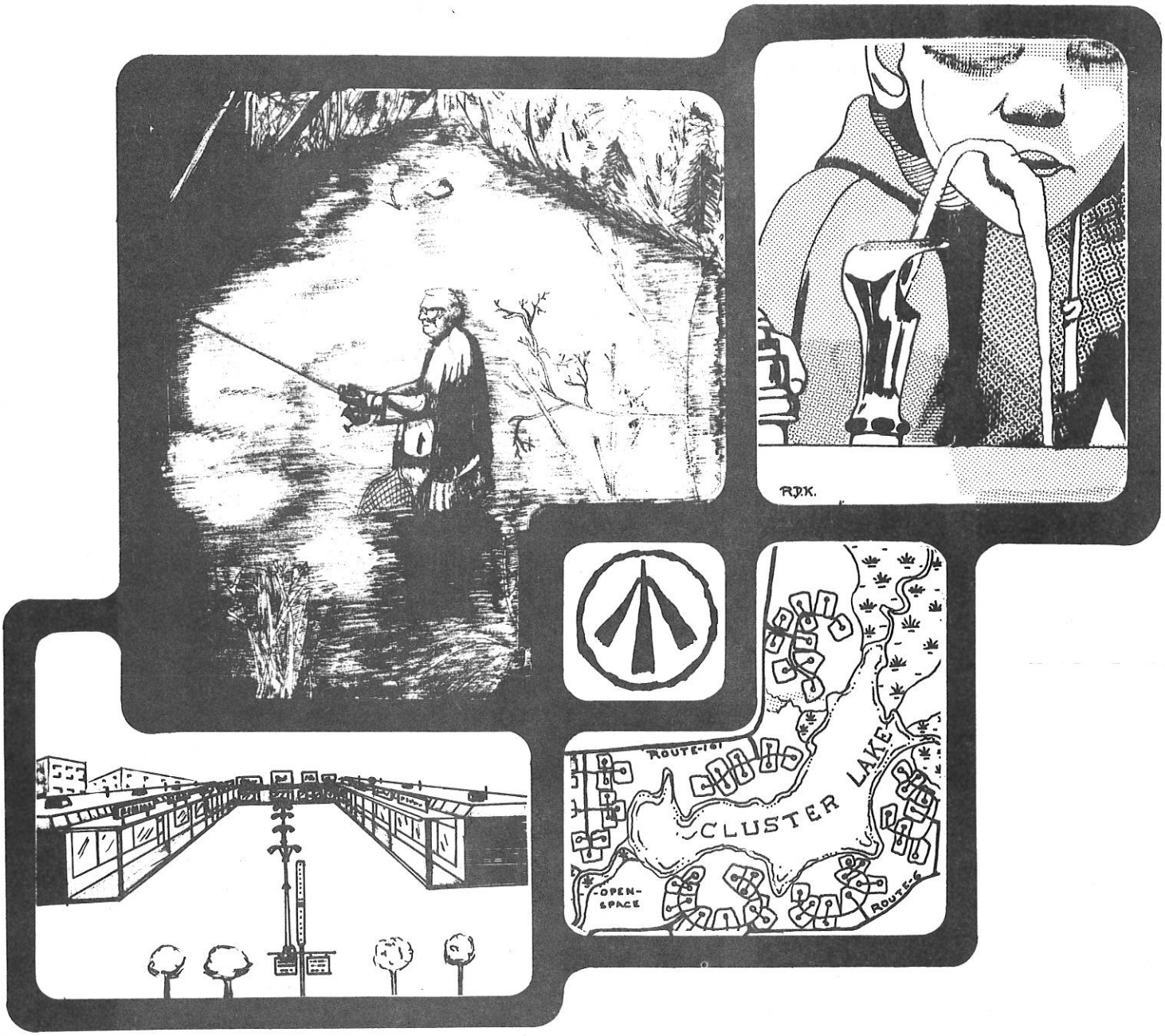
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT



NEW HAVEN WATER COMPANY LAND ACQUISITION

PROSPECT, CONNECTICUT

KING'S MARK
RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

KING'S MARK
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT

On

NEW HAVEN WATER COMPANY LAND ACQUISITION
PROSPECT, CONNECTICUT

JULY, 1978

King's Mark Resource Conservation & Development Area

Environmental Review Team

P.O. Box 30

Warren, Connecticut 06754

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

Federal Agencies

U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

State Agencies

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

Local Groups and Agencies

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

x x x x x x

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Stanley J. Pac, Commissioner

Policy Determined By

KING'S MARK RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

Victor Allan, Chairman, Executive Committee
Stephen Driver, ERT Committee Chairman
George Sweeney, Coordinator

Staff Administration Provided By

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Bruce M. Ridgway, Chairman
Thomas A. J. McGowan, Director
Richard Lynn, ERT Coordinator
Robert D. Kaplan, ERT Draftsman
Irene Nadig, ERT Secretary

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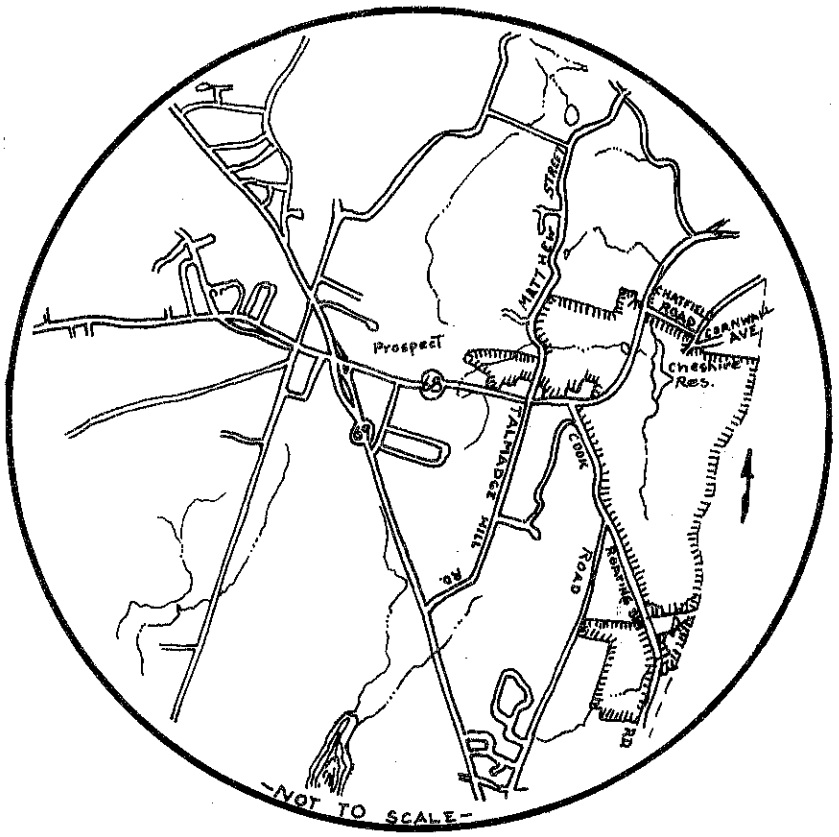
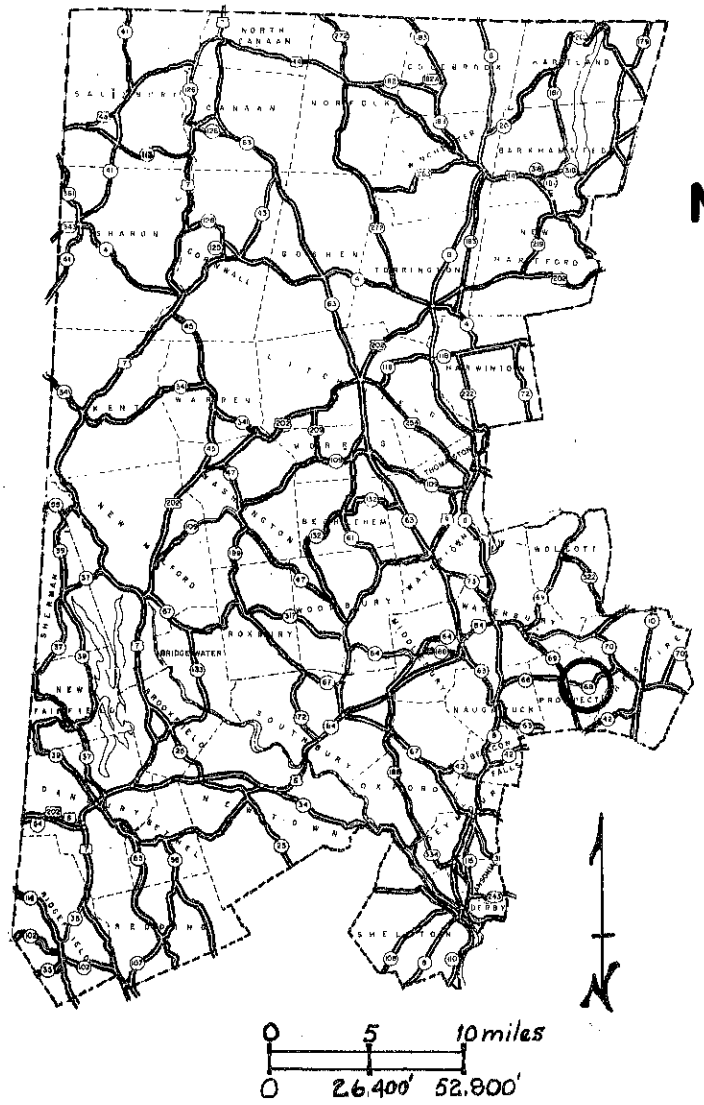




NEW HAVEN WATER COMPANY

LAND ACQUISITION

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT
ON
NEW HAVEN WATER COMPANY LAND ACQUISITION
PROSPECT, CONNECTICUT

I. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Prospect, Connecticut is considering the purchase of 741 acres of New Haven Water Company land for open space and recreation purposes. Currently, the extent and variety of publicly owned recreation facilities in Prospect is very limited. The Town is looking towards the purchase of the New Haven Water Company land as a means to relieve pressure on existing recreational facilities and to expand recreational and open space opportunities within the Town.

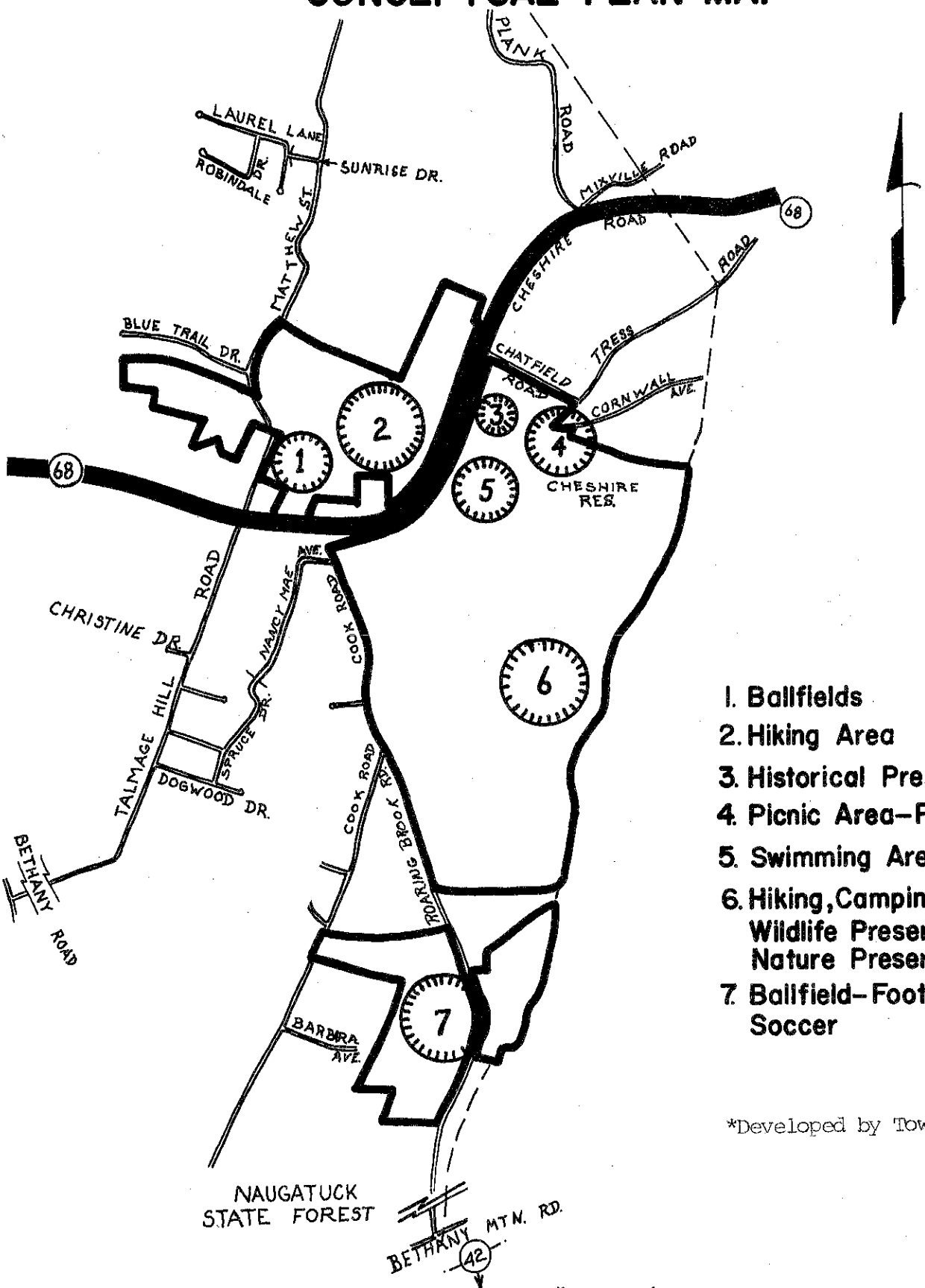
The Mayor from the Town of Prospect requested the assistance of the King's Mark Environmental Review Team (ERT) to help the Town in analyzing the proposed acquisition site. Specifically, the ERT was asked to undertake a land capability study to: 1. identify the physical, biological and cultural resources of the site, 2. assess the suitability of the site for open space and recreation development, 3. discuss the feasibility of converting the Cheshire Reservoir into a recreational facility, and 4. discuss any natural resource management/maintenance measures needed to protect and enhance the land.

The conceptual plan developed by the Town calls for the majority of the land to be used for passive recreation with the northern and southern portions of the property used for active recreation (ballfields, hard-surface courts, swimming, etc.) and parking lots (see Figure 1).

The ERT met and field reviewed the site on Wednesday, March 8, 1978. The Team members for the review consisted of the following:

Frank Indorf	District Conservationist...	U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service
Dwight Southwick..	Civil Engineer	U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service
Martin Drobney....	Hydrologist.....	U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service
Mike Zizka.....	Geologist.....	State Department of Environmental Protection
Don Smith	Forester.....	State Department of Environmental Protection
Jeff Schmaltz.....	Wildlife Biologist.....	State Department of Environmental Protection
Bob Orciari.....	Fishery Biologist.....	State Department of Environmental Protection
Ed Rizzotto	Recreation Resource Specialist.....	State Department of Environmental Protection
Charles Motes.....	Water Quality Specialist...	Chesprocott Regional Health District, Cheshire
Russell Handsman..	Archaeologist.....	American Indian Archaeological Institute

CONCEPTUAL PLAN MAP *



1. Ballfields
2. Hiking Area
3. Historical Preservation
4. Picnic Area–Playground
5. Swimming Area
6. Hiking, Camping, Wildlife Preservation, Nature Preservation
7. Ballfield–Football, Soccer

*Developed by Town of Prospect

SCALE 1"= 2000'

0 1/2 1ml.

0 2000' 4000'

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

This report presents the Team's findings and recommendations. It identifies the natural and cultural resource base of the site and highlights opportunities and limitations for recreational development. This report was designed to supplement an existing report on this tract of land prepared by the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency (CNVRPA) entitled "Application For Purchase of 741 Acres of New Haven Water Company Land In Prospect, Connecticut", (July 15, 1977). Planning considerations are largely omitted from this ERT report as they are discussed in detail in the CNVRPA report. It is hoped the information presented in this report will assist the Town of Prospect in making decisions regarding the proposed acquisition, development and management of this site.

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

* * * * * * *

II. NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

A. SETTING, TOPOGRAPHY, LAND USE

The 741 acres of New Haven Water Company land being considered for acquisition by the Town is located in the southeastern portion of Town and consists of four separate parcels of ± 502 acres, 131 acres, 76 acres, and 32 acres (see Figure 2). The four tracts are undeveloped, mostly wooded and characterized by gently rolling to steep terrain with minimum-maximum elevations of 320 feet and 760 feet. The northern portion of the property contains the Cheshire Reservoir and the Westbrook Reservoir; the southern portion contains one small unnamed pond. In addition, three brooks traverse the property--Westbrook in the northwest, Roaring Brook in the south, and Mixville in the central portion, south of Cheshire Reservoir.

Access to the land is provided by Route 68, Cook Road, Roaring Brook Road, Chatfield Road, and Talmadge Hill Road. A number of dirt roads are present within the largest parcel and facilitate interior access.

In recent years, the land has been kept largely in its natural state in order to protect the water quality of the Cheshire Reservoir. This Reservoir, which is rated AA according to DEP Water Quality standards, has been used as a source of water supply by the New Haven Water Company. Portions of the land have been used recently however for activities considered compatible with maintaining the purity of the water supply. These uses include lumbering, sand and gravel extraction , and rental of pastures and a barn for horse riding. Prior to the water company's purchase of the land during the period 1905 to 1930, the property had been used for farming and also supported a variety of mills.

The proposed land acquisition is consistent with both regional and Town plans. The 1973 Comprehensive Plan of Development for the Town of Prospect proposes that all four parcels of New Haven Water Company land be maintained for open space, conservation and recreation. The Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency's revised Regional Plan of Development also proposes that these four parcels be maintained as open space.

B. SOILS

A detailed soils map depicting all soils identified on the property is presented in the Appendix of this report. The Appendix also includes a "Soils Limitation Chart" which identifies limiting factors for various land uses on soil types.

Basically there are 32 soil types on the property (excluding a limited amount of alluvial land and cut and fill land) which fall into five natural soil groups. These five natural soil groups include:

Group A. Terrace Soils - Over Sand and Gravels (34% of site)
The terrace soils occur above flood plains in river and stream valleys. They are underlain by water-deposited beds of sand or sand and gravel. In most places a few inches to 3 feet of loamy or fine sandy material cover the older, coarser water deposits. Nearly all sources of sand and gravel, and many of the important sources of water supply, are in areas associated with the terrace soils.

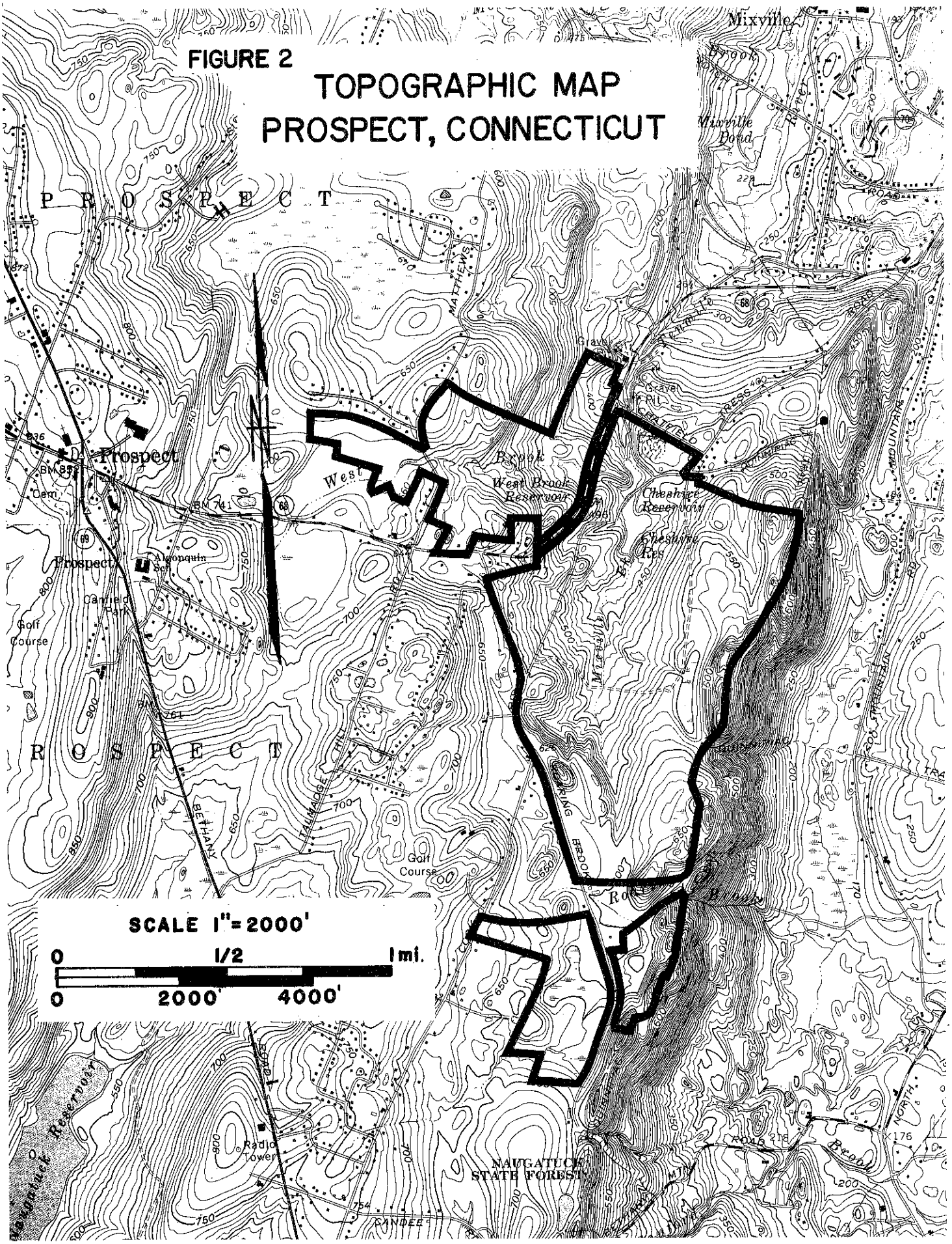


FIGURE 2
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
PROSPECT, CONNECTICUT
P R O S P E C T
Prospect
Mixville
Brook
Mixville Pond
West Brook Reservoir
Cheshire Reservoir
Cheshire Res
Gravel Pit
Golf Course
Canfield Park
Algonquin Sch
Cem
BM 852
BM 741
BM 761
MATTHEWS
BETHANY
TALMADGE HILL
SPRING BROOK
MOUNTAIN
NORTH
ROAD
Radio Tower
NAUGATUCK STATE FOREST
Naugatuck Reservoir
SCALE 1"= 2000'
0 1/2 1 mi.
0 2000' 4000'

Group B. Upland Soils - Friable to Firm Glacial Till (41% of site)
The soils in this group are formed in the thicker, unconsolidated deposits of till usually occurring on hillsides. The capacity of these soils to hold water for plant growth is good where the till is loamy, but is fair to poor on the sandy till. Stones and large boulders are common in these glacial deposits and add difficulty when excavating or earth moving operations are needed.

Group C. Upland Soils - Over Compact Glacial Till (hardpan) (3% of site)
These soils occur mostly on the tops and slopes of drumlins-hills that were smoothed and elongated north to south by the movement of glaciers. The soils are underlain by compact glacial till and have a hardpan 16 to 36 inches below the soil surface. Permeability above the hardpan is moderate but the pan drastically reduces percolation. During wet seasons, excess water in the soil moves downslope above the hardpan. The till commonly contains stones and boulders which add difficulty when excavating or earth moving operations are needed. These soils have good moisture-holding capacity for plant growth. Exceptional panoramic views are afforded from the higher areas.

Group D. Upland Soils - Rocky and Shallow to Bedrock (16% of site)
The soils of this group occur mostly in the rougher areas of the uplands. They may occupy narrow ridge tops but most often are on steep side slopes. The soils are underlain by hard bedrock and the areas contain barren rock outcrops. In most places, hard rock is less than 20 inches below the soil surface. These areas provide contrast in the landscape and scenic overlooks.

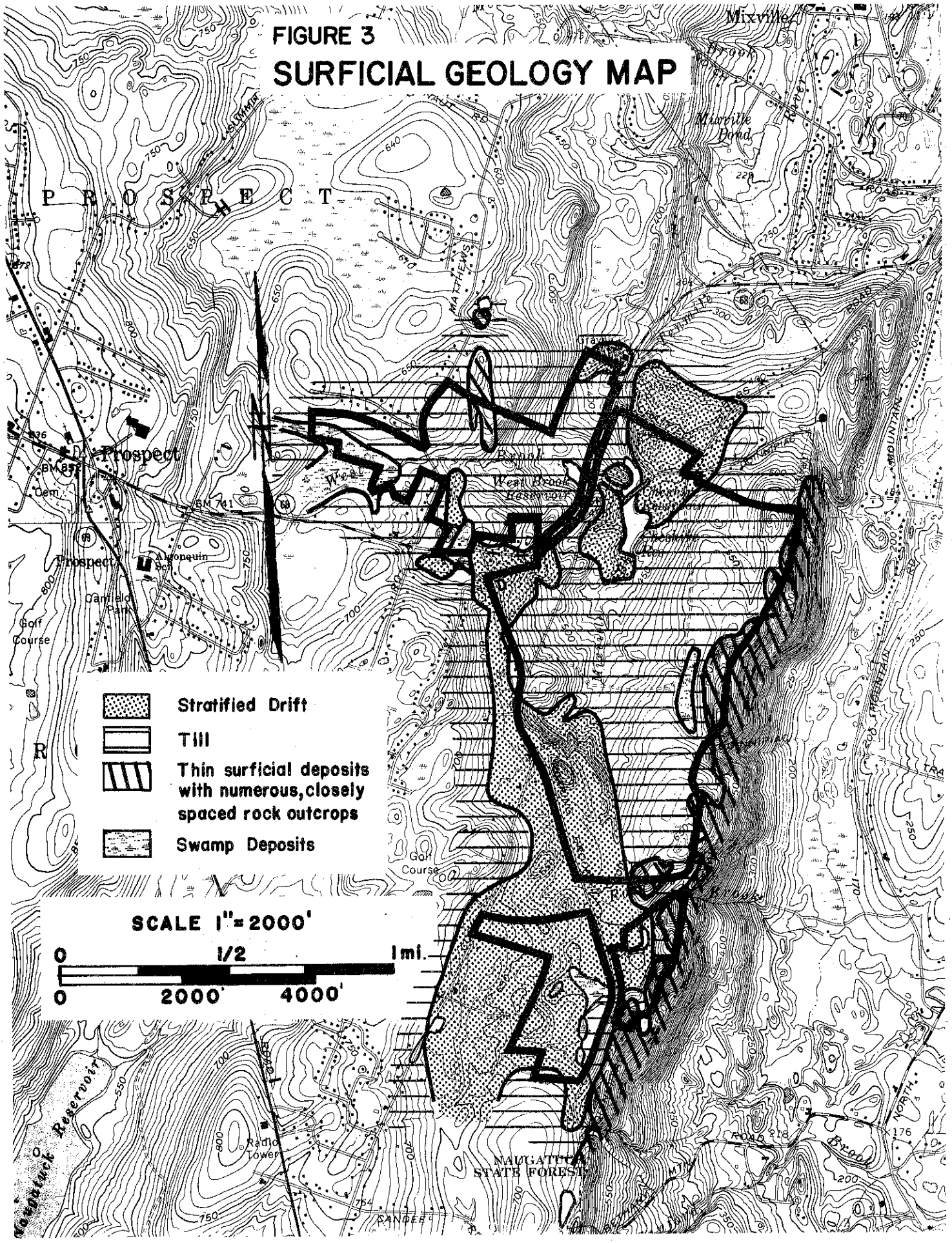
Group F. Marsh and Swampy Soils (2% of site)
The soils in this group occur in depressional areas where surface organic deposits are usually 5 or more feet deep. They are saturated most of the time and water ponds on the surface in winter and spring.

A discussion of how soils will affect proposed recreational use of the site is presented in a later section of this report. It should be pointed out that the following soil types have a seasonally high water table which will restrict use: 91, 92, 28M, and 43M. Any work done on these soils will require a wetlands permit under Public Act 155 - Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Act.

C. GEOLOGY

Two glacially-derived materials constitute most of the surficial geology of the property, which is mapped on Figure 3 (slightly modified from two sources: The Surficial Geology of the Mount Carmel Quadrangle, Quadrangle Report No. 12 of the Conn. Geological and Natural History Survey, by R. F. Flint, 1962; and Surficial Geology of the Southington Quadrangle, Connecticut, U. S. Geological Survey Publication GQ-146, by A. M. LaSala, Jr., 1961).

FIGURE 3
SURFICIAL GEOLOGY MAP



Till, the more extensive of the two materials, is a collection of rock particles ranging in size from clay to boulders. Till was produced by the bulldozing effect of flowing glacial ice, which stripped away preexisting soils and weathered rock, and chipped and abraded exposed bedrock surfaces. Till is commonly called hardpan because of its resistance to penetration by hand tools. Relatively little use is made of till in construction aggregate, as it is usually too poorly sorted by grain size to be of any value. Because of its widespread distribution, however, till has often been used in artificial fill.

Stratified drift, the other prominent geologic unit, is also a product of glacial processes. Unlike till, however, stratified drift was transported and deposited away from the main ice mass or adjacent to wasting ice by meltwater. Because most of the flow of this meltwater was relatively rapid, stratified drift deposits tend to consist primarily of sand and gravel, which is used extensively as construction aggregate. However, the grain size and overall sorting of any particular stratified drift deposit is a result of the specific flow regimen that produced it; because frequent, rapid changes in flow rates were common during glacial recession, abrupt changes in grain size are also typical. Hence, the suitability of any particular deposit for construction or other purposes can be determined only by on-site inspection. Interpretation of the morphology of the stratified drift on the property suggests that the probability of discovering coarse aggregate is greatest in the deposits east of Roaring Brook Road and those surrounding Cheshire Reservoir. These same areas may also prove to be important aquifers for future water supply to the property.

Immediately southeast of the intersection of Cook and Roaring Brook Roads, a deep depression in the stratified drift marks the location of a vanished block of glacial ice. During the wastage of the main glacial mass, many such blocks were calved off and buried in sediment. Upon melting of the blocks, the sediments collapsed to form basins similar to that mentioned above. These features are called kettles. The kettle on the property is particularly well preserved and may be considered worthy of preservation for scientific or historical interest.

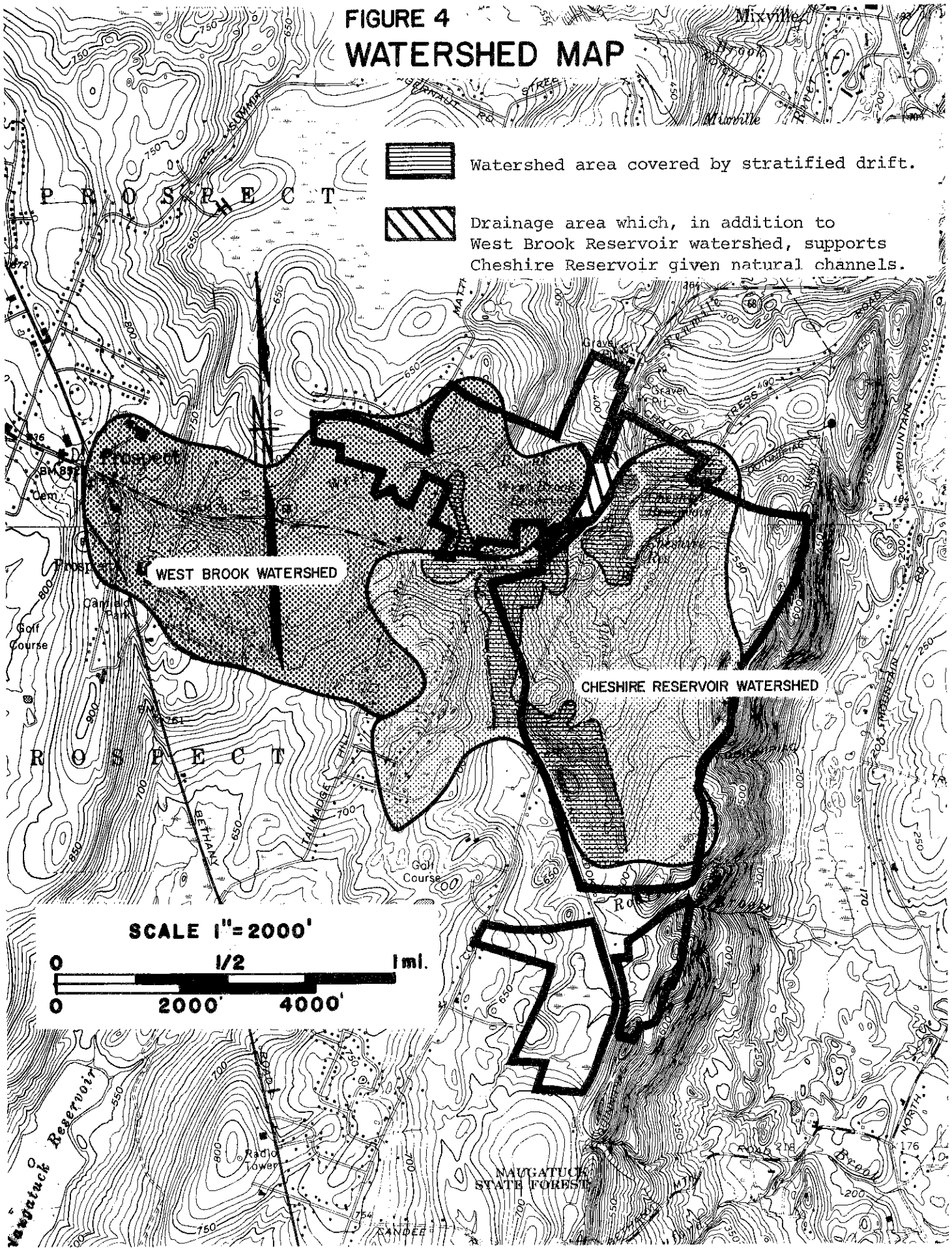
D. HYDROLOGY

The drainage area (watershed) of the Cheshire Reservoir presently comprises about 550 acres, or approximately 0.86 square miles. The watershed is primarily in woodland cover which appears to be in good hydrologic condition with the major portion of the drainage area being on moderate to steep slopes. Surface water inflow to the Reservoir is provided by Mixville Brook.

The drainage area of West Brook Reservoir comprises about 500 acres, or approximately 0.80 square miles. Terrain is moderate within the watershed with West Brook contributing surface water inflow to the Reservoir.

West Brook Reservoir's outflow is now being diverted through an artificial channel to a point below the spillway of the Cheshire Reservoir. In its natural channel, this outflow would be directed into the Cheshire Reservoir. The effect of the artificial channel, then, has been to reduce the

FIGURE 4
WATERSHED MAP



contributing watershed for the Cheshire Reservoir by almost half. This has not however reduced the inflow to the reservoir by half on critical dry days. This seeming paradox is explained in a later section of this report.

A very small drainage area, about 9 acres in size, lies between the watersheds of the two reservoirs and presently makes no contribution to either. Figure 4 shows all drainage areas mentioned above.

Outflow from the reservoirs and runoff from the northernmost part of the property enters Ten Mile River, which ultimately joins Quinnipiac River near the village of Milldale. The remainder of the property drains via Roaring and Willow Brooks into Mill River in the Town of Hamden.

The dam on Cheshire Reservoir, although showing some signs of aging due to weathering, appears to be in good condition. At the present time there is no safety hazard. Spillway dimensions of the dam appear adequate for the passage of major storms. In fact, maintenance records indicate that this structure passed the 1955 storm without overtopping.

The suitability of the two reservoirs for water-based recreation is discussed in a later section of this report.

E. FORESTRY

The property proposed for acquisition is basically composed of four forest types: 1) Open areas with very little or no vegetative cover; 2) Wetlands; 3) Softwood areas; and 4) Hardwood Forest. The location of these forest types is presented in Figure 5.

Stand descriptions and recommendations for management are presented below (refer to Figure 5).

STAND 1. Open areas - 75 acres

1a. Open field and pasture - 20 acres. Medium site stocked with occasional 16-20" oak and maple around existing buildings.

Recommendations - Existing buildings could be developed into park offices and utilized for equipment storage. Proposed development of areas for picnic and playground use should include plantings for shade, utilizing sugar and Norway maple, red and white oak, ash and white pine.

1b. Open clearcut areas (sloping) 38 acres. Medium site with primarily herbaceous cover.

Recommendations - Steep terrain and proximity to public roads limit development potential of this area for active recreation. The area may be planted with a random mixture of white pine, larch, spruce, hemlock, and Douglas fir at a rate of 700 trees per acre (spacing 8' x 8'). An alternative is to leave the area open and let it seed in naturally to hardwoods. A combination of these two alternatives could also be implemented by planting blocks of 5 acres and leaving alternative blocks open.

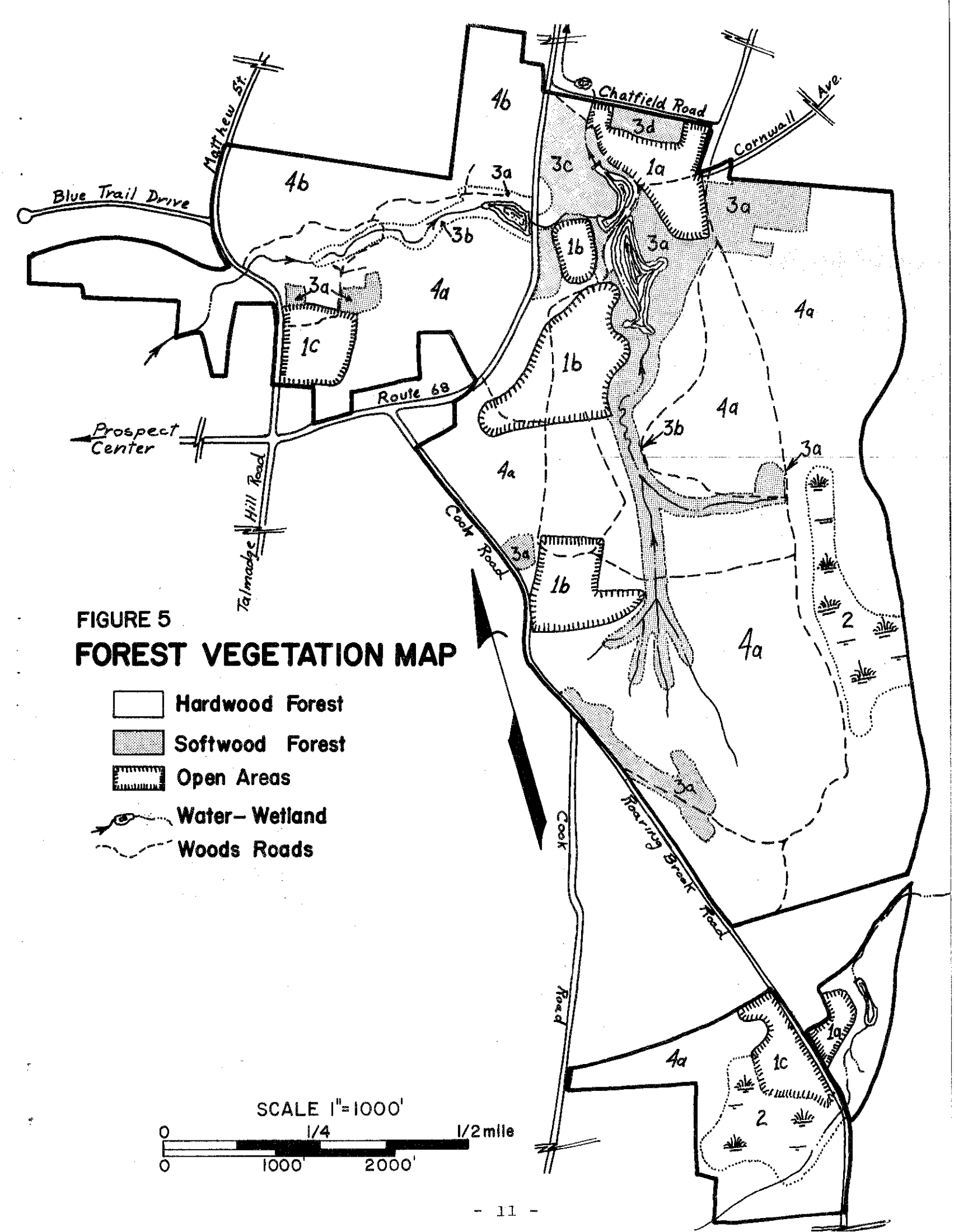


FIGURE 5

FOREST VEGETATION MAP

- Hardwood Forest
- Softwood Forest
- Open Areas
- Water– Wetland
- Woods Roads

1c. Open clearcut areas (near level) - 17 acres. Medium site occupied by occasional red maple and oak of pole to to sawlog size.

Recommendations - Any development plans should consider retaining sound hardwoods in selected areas for shade trees. (See recommendations for 1a.) If planting is desired, a mixture of white pine, larch, and hemlock (700 trees per acre, 8' x 8' spacing) is recommended.

STAND 2. Wetlands - 50 acres. Poor site fully occupied by red maple, some oak, with yellow birch and ash on drier portions. Pole to sawlog size material predominates. Understory is characterized by wetland brush (i.e. spicebush, witch hazel, etc.).

Recommendations - Soils and moisture level on these areas may preclude development. Wetland in east central portion of property may have potential for development as wildlife pond or marsh. The U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service should be consulted on this matter. Development of wildlife food and cover types may be encouraged by limited cordwood harvests in winter when surface is frozen. Potential yields of cordwood may approximate one cord per acre.

STAND 3. Softwood areas - 90 acres.
3a. General softwood plantations - 45 acres. Medium to poor site overstocked with pole to sawlog size softwoods planted in blocks of pure white pine, hemlock, and norway spruce.

Recommendations - Without attention these areas will become unhealthy and open to disease. Consideration should be given to a harvest of the poorest quality 1/4 of the volume as cabin logs or for pulpwood and a similar harvest 5 to 10 years later. Spacing harvests will minimize the potential for windthrow of the remaining trees while increasing the vigor and overall health of the stand. All hardwoods growing within the plantations and affecting the growth of the trees on the outer edges of the plantation should be removed.

3b. Streambank plantings 31 acres. Medium to poor site fully stocked with sapling to pole size softwood (primarily white pine).

Recommendations - All hardwoods overhanging the streams and competing with softwoods should be removed, possibly in a cordwood operation. Thinning of softwoods by 1/3 should take place in 10 - 15 years.

3c. Historic area - 11 acres. Medium site fully utilized by white pine and white and norway spruce in plantations.

Recommendations - The plantations should be treated as in 3a, with special care taken to avoid disturbing extant historic resources.

3d. Christmas tree plantation - 3 acres. Medium to poor site under stocked with white spruce. Some larch and white pine have also been planted and some pasture cedar still remains.

Recommendations - One alternative for the site is to maintain the area for Christmas tree production. This will require approximately 12 man days for maintenance per year in order to produce salable trees. Proximity to the public road and intense recreational usage by the public may result in pilferage. Another alternative for management of this site is to allow the area to grow to maturity. Removal of hardwood brush and periodic thinnings will produce a mature stand of spruce, larch, and white pine which will act as a visual barrier from the public road.

STAND 4. Hardwood forest - 530 acres.

4a. Hardwood forest - 470 acres. Good to medium site fully stocked with hardwood species (sugar and red maple, red and white oak, yellow poplar, ash, black and white birch) of pole to sawlog size.

Recommendations - Prior to transfer of ownership, an intermediate harvest is planned by the New Haven Water Company to increase the health and growth rate on the area. Further forest improvement harvests should not be necessary for 15-20 years. Income and improvement of the aesthetic appearance of the area may be realized from the sale of the top material remaining from the intermediate harvest. For ease of control the sale should be made to no more than 3 individuals. Potential yield may approximate 3 cords/acre or 1400 cords. During this cordwood harvest, hazardous situations such as dead and dying trees, broken tops, and trees with excessive lean could be removed.

Several large (34"+ dbh) field growth oaks on the area are aesthetically pleasing, however these trees are in a state of decay and the large dead limbs represent a serious hazard. These trees should be cleaned up or removed altogether.

4b. Hardwood forest (Blue Trail Area) - 60 acres. Stand composition and site are essentially identical to 4a. However, special consideration of this area should be made due to the Blue Trail which passes through here.

Recommendations - The Blue Trail is a major regional recreational resource and care should be exercised in the management of the surrounding area. All hazardous situations such as dead trees or large limbs should be removed. Maintenance of the trail will be necessary (i.e. reblazing, trash removal, etc.).

Concluding Statement

With sound forest management, this property can be of great educational and recreational value as well as productive in forest products. Forest management could and should be continued by employing a consultant for a short period each year, and then following his suggestions.

It should be pointed out that proper maintenance of access roads, woodlands, wetlands, and park facilities on a parcel this size is an expensive proposition. Town administration should study this expense closely prior to commitment to purchase.

F. WILDLIFE

The 741 acres of New Haven Water Company land proposed for purchase by the Town of Prospect can be classified into seven major types of wildlife habitat. The location of these types is shown on Figure 6.

The majority of the parcel consists of hardwood forest. Tree species present include maples, oaks, birch, tulip, and ash. The understory density ranges from sparse to moderate. Food-bearing shrubs such as dogwood and virburnam are present. White-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, grey squirrel, wood turtle, scarlet tanager, and northern oriole are examples of wildlife species which inhabitat this type.

Softwood plantations containing white pine, hemlock, and Norway spruce have been planted on the property. Softwood plantations provide cover for such wildlife as field sparrow, ruffed grouse, and cottontail rabbit when the trees are young. However, more mature softwood plantations are avoided by most species of wildlife due to the lack of cover near the ground. There are some exceptions, such as the purple grackle and mourning dove, which will nest in these older plantations.

Some of these softwood plantations have been clearcut and are regenerating naturally with many species of plants, becoming another type of wildlife habitat. Young hardwood saplings include maples and tulip. These areas contain lush growth of many grasses and sedges. Blackberries and other food-producing herbaceous plants are present. This habitat type provides feeding areas for deer, grouse, deer mice, garter snakes, and other wildlife as well as nesting areas for numerous species of songbirds.

Some of the prominant plant species in the wetland habitat type are red maple, skunk cabbage, and spicebush. This habitat type is important as a breeding area for many species of frog, toad, and salamander. Raccoons frequent this type and rufous-sided towhees nest here.

About thirteen years ago areas along some of the streams were cleared and planted with rows of softwoods. The softwoods were set back from the stream and an area of shrubs and saplings grew up in these streambelts. These include ash, maples, dogwood, alder and willows. Examples of wildlife species found in this habitat include yellowthroat, cardinal, mink, and wood frog.

The water bodies on this parcel consist of two reservoirs and one small pond. There is little aquatic vegetation on the reservoirs but there are some cattails and water lilies on the pond. Wildlife species found here include green frogs and bullfrogs, painted and snapping turtles, muskrats and waterfowl such as mallard ducks and Canadian geese.

The open fields are maintained in grasses with some small shrubs coming in. Cottontail rabbits, meadow voles, and red-winged blackbirds will be found here. Foxes, hawks, and owls will hunt for food in these areas.

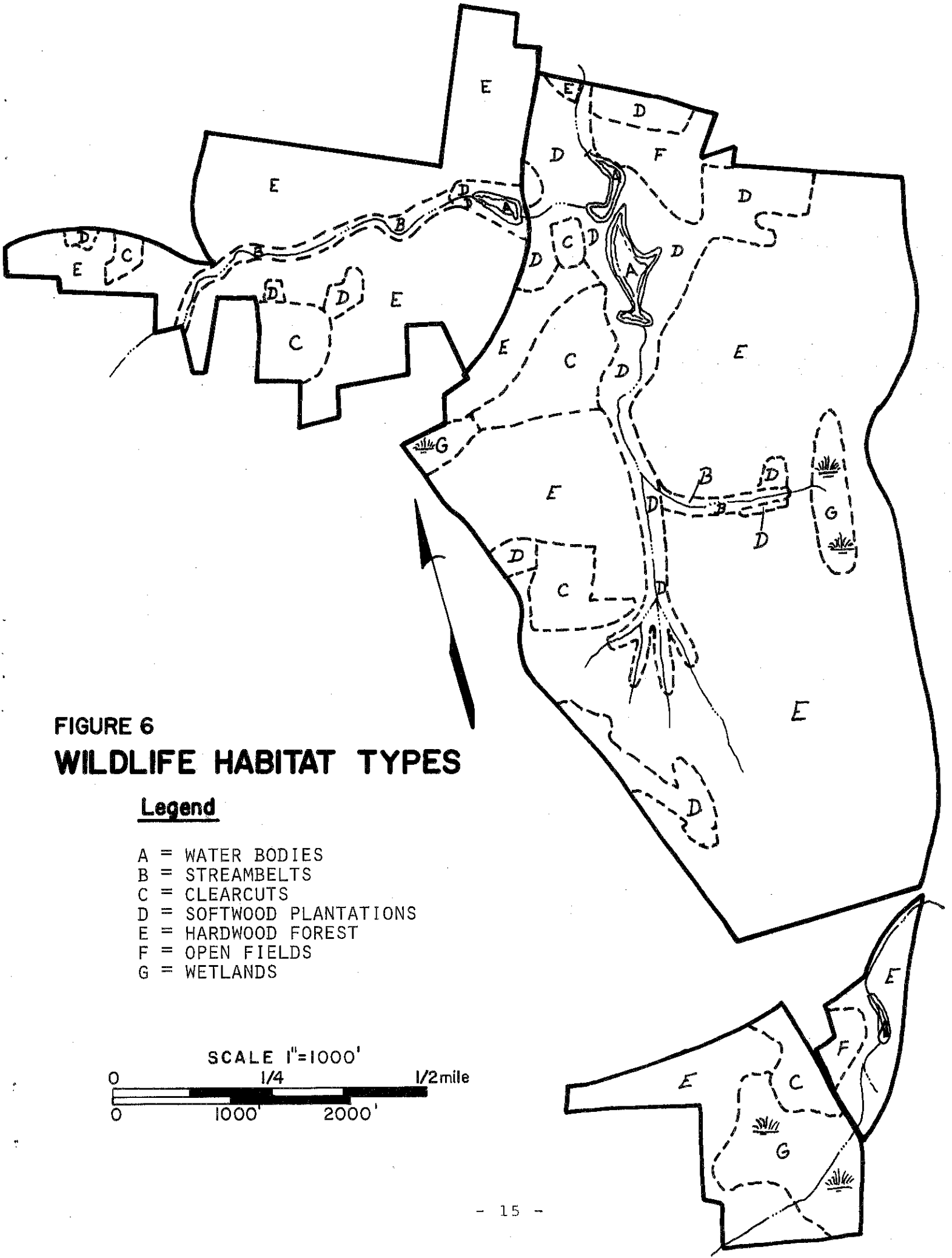


FIGURE 6

WILDLIFE HABITAT TYPES

Legend

A = WATER BODIES
B = STREAMBELTS
C = CLEARCUTS
D = SOFTWOOD PLANTATIONS
E = HARDWOOD FOREST
F = OPEN FIELDS
G = WETLANDS

SCALE 1"=1000'

0 1/4 1/2mile

0 1000' 2000'

Wildlife management of a parcel of open space such as this one should be aimed at creating and maintaining different habitat types. In addition, these different types should be in small patches, surrounded by several different other habitat types, not in large, uniform areas. This will increase both the number of different wildlife species as well as the total number of individuals present. This parcel already has a good diversity of habitat types present but steps can be taken to maintain and improve this diversity.

The open areas not used for active recreation can be maintained by mowing. Harvesting and planting of softwood plantations should be rotated to maintain plantations of different size classes. Openings in the hardwood forest can be created through the use of timber and/or cordwood sales. By letting these areas grow back naturally and rotating openings throughout the parcel, a diversity of size classes, and therefore wildlife use, can be maintained in the hardwood forest.

Development for active recreation such as ball fields, beaches, campgrounds, etc. should be concentrated in one or two areas on the parcel, as planned, to minimize the disturbance of wildlife by human activity. Passive uses of the remaining area, such as hiking and cross-country skiing, would be in harmony with maintaining the quality of the habitat for wildlife.

G. FISHERIES

Depth soundings were made on West Brook and Cheshire Reservoirs, several days after the March 8, 1978 King's Mark Team Review, in order to determine their capability of supporting trout. West Brook Reservoir was found to be shallow, with less than 1/5 acre being at or below seven feet in depth. Because of its shallowness, West Brook Reservoir should not be stocked with trout. Cheshire Reservoir was found to be somewhat deeper, with approximately 1/4 acre at or below thirteen feet in depth. Bottom water within this small area may remain sufficiently cool to support trout through the summer. However, to make certain that trout can hold over in Cheshire Reservoir, temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements should be made in the summer, if and when the Town of Prospect purchases the New Haven Water Company property. If Cheshire Reservoir is found to be suitable for trout, approximately 500 brown and rainbow trout should support moderately high fishing pressure. At least one stocking of trout (all 500 individuals or major portion thereof) should be made prior to opening day (third Saturday in April) on an annual basis.

Even if not stocked with trout, both Reservoirs should sustain a good sport fishery for largemouth bass, provided that fishing pressure does not become too high. Bluegill sunfish and brown bullheads could provide additional recreation, especially for youngsters. Golden shiners would best be suited for forage for largemouth bass. After the Town purchases the property, a survey should be made to determine if these species are already present. If already present, there will be no need to stock additional individuals, since each of these species will maintain their population through natural reproduction. Only an initial stocking would be required should one of these species not be found.

III. CULTURAL RESOURCES

A cultural resource study of the New Haven Water Company tract indicates that the tract has been used by both prehistoric and historic populations. Discussion here focuses upon findings from both archival research and preliminary field studies.

A. ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Information on the location and research potential of historic structures and/or deposits was gathered from one mid-nineteenth century atlas of New Haven County (Beers et al. 1868: 43-44) and one late-nineteenth century regional history (Rockey 1892). Both of these sources indicated that Tenmile River had been an important center for mill industries during the nineteenth century (Rockey 1892:734).

Sometime between 1820 and 1830, William Mix moved to this locality and began to build mill sites at the upper end of Tenmile River, just below a 24 foot vertical drop. Today, the lower end of the Cheshire Reservoir represents this site. Mix manufactured Britannia ware (a tin alloy), silver spoons and metal buttons. It is not known for how long Mix stayed in business but the 1868 Beers' atlas does not list him as a manufacturer.

Immediately below Mix's factory, a second mill complex was developed in 1839 by Harris Smith and Sherman Blakeslee, manufacturers of metal spoons and wares. This business site changed hands several times and eventually was taken over by S. E. Jeralds who manufactured hoes and sewing machine needles. Evidently, Jeralds became the owner of this second mill site sometime between 1850 and the mid-1860's; his name, occupation, and factory are all located and listed in the Beers' 1868 Atlas of New Haven County.

This same atlas shows a structure belonging to a William Mix (not identified as a factory) upstream from Jeralds' factory. This would be in approximately the same position as Mix's earlier mill site but it is not labeled as to use.

In addition to these mill sites along Tenmile River, Beers' Atlas locates several others further downstream, north of the northern boundary of the Water Company property. There are no house structures depicted in Beers' Atlas in the interior of the tract and none which would match with either of the house foundations located during field surveys (see discussion below).

To summarize, archival research established the nineteenth century use of the tract's water system to power a variety of mills along Tenmile River. At least two of these, a button and Britannia ware factory and a hoe and needles industrial site were located along the river, at the northern end of the property. Apparently, there was little habitation and use of the tract outside of these mills, during the 19th century. William Mix's button factory which made metal buttons is situated along Tenmile River in both documentary sources. It evidently is not the same site which was identified during field research (see discussion below). In any event, archival research demonstrated that several historic mill sites could exist within the survey area and could be impacted by the proposed development plan.

It should be noted that data from archaeological site files of the Connecticut Archaeological Survey, Central Connecticut State College, indicate that one prehistoric site (CAS #5121) is known from the locality north of the West Brook Reservoir (see Figure 7). The collection from this site consists of several non-diagnostic projectile points; however, no other information about this site is known.

It should also be pointed out that the historic Quinnipiac trail runs along the entire length of the eastern edge of the property tract. This trail is supposed to connect the coastal settlements of the Quinnipiac around New Haven with the inland camps and villages of the Tunxis, in the valley of the Farmington River. Evidently this trail was used frequently in the 17th and 18th centuries and probably predates 1600 AD. Its proximity to the New Haven Water Company tract implies that protohistoric sites could exist within the tract's boundries.

To conclude, the land surrounding the Cheshire and West Brook reservoirs was probably used by both prehistoric and historic Native American populations. The existence of one site (CAS #5121) and the trail implies that other sites are to be found along West Brook, Roaring Brook, and Mixville Brook. The relative lack of ground disturbance also suggests that if unknown sites are discovered, their deposits would be intact and available for research and preservation.

B. FIELD STUDIES

Given time constraints, field research efforts were focused on historic sites reported from the land surrounding Cheshire Reservoir.

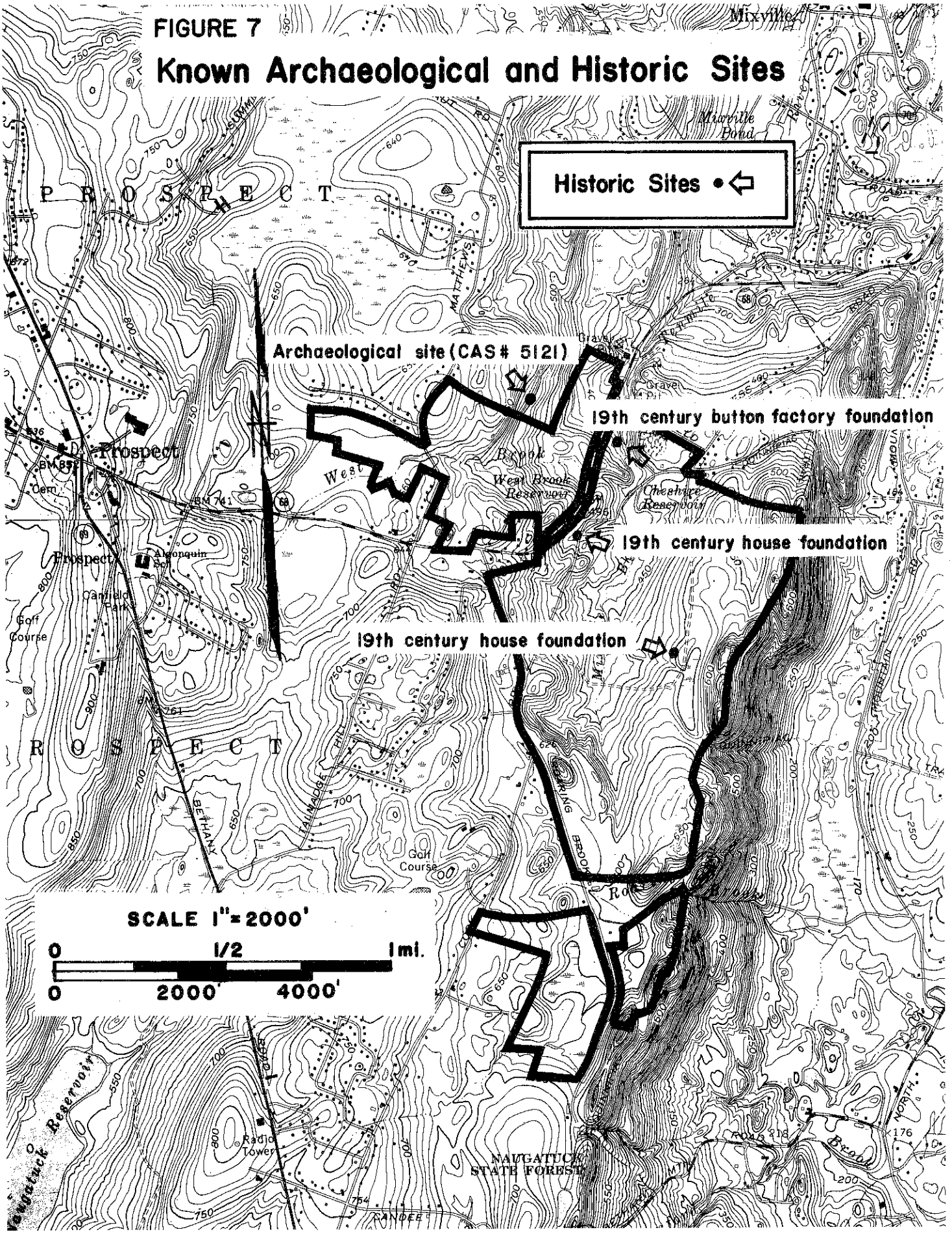
A total of three historic sites were examined in the area; two of these were represented by house foundations and partially filled cellar holes. The third site was a smaller foundation (approximately 10 feet by 15 feet) which had been partially eroded by a nearby stream (see Figure 7). This third site is located along an unnamed tributary of Tenmile River and is known to local avocational archaeologists as an historic button factory. Parts of the east and west foundation walls are intact but the cellar hole is filled with debris from the surrounding pine forest. The southern end of the site is directly adjacent to the stream and it is obvious that erosion and flooding have taken place during periods of heavy rainfall.

Although several individuals have stated that they have excavated this site, there were few signs of prior disturbance. Ceramic buttons lay on the ground surface around the foundation lines; a sample of 12 fragments and 5 whole specimens was collected. Overall the site is relatively intact and as of now it is threatened only by fluvial erosion and non-professional excavations.

It is difficult to believe that this site is that of William Mix. First it is clearly not built along the Tenmile River; second, no metal buttons were found during reconnaissance. Although it is suspected that this button factory is not that of Mix, there is no way of supporting this suggestion, short of intensive field and archival research.

FIGURE 7

Known Archaeological and Historic Sites



A masonry dam was found directly upstream from this site. It may represent one component of the power system used to drive machinery in the button factory but appears to post-date the factory itself. Two other stone features were also encountered in this locality, both along Tenmile River below the northern end of the Reservoir. Each of these is characterized by a wall of cut and uncut stone blocks which runs parallel to the river. The second is especially reminiscent of a foundation wall but there was no additional evidence to support this conclusion. Each of these walls could represent one of the 19th century mill sites owned by Mix or Jeralds which was subsequently dismantled. Excavations are needed in each of these areas to determine their function and age.

The second previously known historic site is located east of Route 68 and south of the West Brook Reservoir. This site is adjacent to an old roadway (Roaring Brook Road) and represents a late 19th century farmstead. Structural components include a house foundation (15 feet by 30 feet) and partially filled cellar hole and a stone-lined well. A midden deposit is visible on the ground surface between the foundation and well and includes glass bottle fragments and historic ceramics. Most of the ceramics are late nineteenth and twentieth century white ware sherds. A few brown glazed redware sherds were also seen.

This site has not been disturbed, although close to Route 68, and is clearly a significant archaeological and historical resource of the period. A second and probably similar site was also discovered, south and east of Cheshire Reservoir. However this foundation and cellar hole has served as a garbage dump in the recent past so that any additional reconnaissance was precluded. Other than this secondary function, the site seems to be intact and isolated from disturbances.

C. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A cultural resource reconnaissance of the New Haven Water Company tract revealed several historic cultural resources which could be adversely impacted by the proposed land purchase and plans for subsequent development for recreational purposes. These historic resources included two nineteenth century house foundations, probably associated with farmsteads, and one mid-nineteenth century (?) foundation and filled cellar hole associated with a button factory. Each of these sites has only suffered minimal disturbance and can be considered to be a significant historic archaeological resource, worthy of being preserved.

On the surface, it would appear that plans which sponsor open-space preservation could only benefit the in situ conservation of archaeological sites. However, such benefits may be countered by negative effects which are the result of an increase in public knowledge of and access to extant sites. This is especially true in those situations where development plans include passive and active recreation. Increased visitation, vandalism, and "pot-hunting" activities could lead to eventual destruction of identified archaeological sites. In the absence of state statutes and park regulations, there is little chance of controlling site disturbance and/or destruction. Thus, some attempt at developing a mitigation plan should be made by the involved federal, state, regional, and local authorities

(assuming federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service funding is used in purchasing or developing the property).

Three alternative plans have been developed by the American Indian Archaeological Institute to aid in mitigating the adverse effects that the proposed action will have on the three historic sites:

1. Each site can be subjected to an intensive phase of archaeological research which would gather a sample of representative artifacts, excavate and map major architectural features, and determine the age and historical context of each site. While such salvage excercises will aid in preserving the data that each site possesses the unclear legal status of this project regarding preservation responsibility means that no single party will want to pay the research costs. In fact, the cost itself implies that this plan is not viable.

2. Each site can be preserved and protected by filling and covering them with sterile sediments. Such actions could be implemented as long as some sort of minimal excavations, mapping activities and photography had already taken place. The positive aspect to this plan is that the costs would prove to be much lower than those associated with the first scenario. However, a decision would still have to be made as to which party or parties would pay the research costs and those stemming from fill activities.

3. The third plan is the "no-action" alternative which suggests that no further action need be taken to preserve and protect the extant cultural resource base. This scenario is clearly the least expensive but is also in violation of federal preservation law (i.e. if federal funds are used in purchasing this property an archaeological preservation study is required by the relevant statutes and procedures of the Advisory Council or Historic Preservation, 36 CRF-8:800). This alternative could become viable if there was some guarantee that the public would not have access to these and other undiscovered sites, however such a situation does not appear to be possible.

In summary, it is recommended that the involved local, regional, state, and federal agencies attempt to reach a decision on mitigating the adverse effects that will result from this project. Such plans must also include provisions for unknown sites since field research was not intensive enough to cover the entire tract. It is also recommended that the Connecticut Historical Commission and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service draw up a series of procedures to use when similar situations arise. It should be clear that the preservation of open space and cultural resources may not be as intimately connected as most would like to believe.

IV. OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. RESERVOIR USE

The feasibility of establishing a swimming area on Cheshire Reservoir was investigated by the ERT. The Team considered the following factors: space for swimming and sunning, access, support services, quality of the water resource, and quantity of the water resource (swimmer capacity).

Most of the shoreline around the Cheshire Reservoir is too steep to be easily converted to a swimming beach. There is one spot, however, on the southeastern edge of the reservoir that appears to have a gentle enough slope to create a suitable beach. This area, with approximately 250 feet of shoreline, could support about 250 bathers without overcrowding (assuming a State Department of Health guideline of at least one foot of beachfront for each of the average number of bathers).

Access to the area, off Chatfield Road and Route 68, is good; and there is suitable land available for the development of parking lots.

With the development of this area for public bathing, a number of support services would be necessary. These include potable water supply, sanitary facilities, showers, and changing space. In general, land conditions should not restrict the development of these facilities although careful design will be required to ensure sanitary facilities do not adversely impact the water quality of the Reservoir.

With development of this area, consideration should be given to converting the existing barn in the area to a concession type operation. This barn could be developed as a snack bar, rental shop for sports equipment, equipment storage point, or possibly a bath house.

Water Quality

Based on results of water quality testing performed by the New Haven Water Company Laboratory, and from on-site evaluations of the property, Cheshire Reservoir should have no problems meeting Public Health standards for swimming water (note: testing was not performed for bacterial quality). Although the actual sanitary survey and approval of the area for use as a public bathing area would be conducted by the Connecticut Health Department, after request by the local Director of Health on behalf of the Town, it is felt the area will be satisfactory from the points of sanitation and safety.

Although West Brook Reservoir would also likely have acceptable water quality from a Public Health standpoint, development of the Cheshire Reservoir for swimming is more highly recommended for the following reasons:

a. Cheshire Reservoir is larger in size (± 9 acres) than West Brook Reservoir (± 3 acres) and has a greater factor of dilution of pollutants resulting from the activity (see discussion below).

b. Cheshire Reservoir is located further from the road (Route 68) and has large cleared areas nearby for parking, sanitary facilities and the like. Facilities serving other activities such as picnicking, hiking and the like could be combined with those serving the swimming area.

c. Less destruction of cover and woodland would be necessary in the development of the Cheshire Reservoir for swimming purposes. Access by equipment for the development of this area is very good.

Swimmer Capacity

The Department of Health formula for estimating swimmer capacity in an impoundment is $N = ((V/180) + F)/1000$, where N is the number of allowable swimmers per day, V is the volume of water in the impoundment (in gallons), and F is the minimum inflow (in gallons per day, or gpd). Cheshire Reservoir, when holding 10 million gallons, about 53% of its total potential storage capacity, would be able to support 56 swimmers per day on this basis alone. West Brook Reservoir at half capacity could support only 8 swimmers on volume alone. Additional support would be provided by the watersheds. Calculations for the 7-day, 10-year low flow amounts into the reservoirs can be made on the basis of data supplied in several Connecticut Water Resources Bulletins (published by the U. S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection). Those estimates indicate that flow to the Cheshire Reservoir would not drop below 65,000 gallons per day during such a low-flow period. Hence, an additional 65 swimmers could be supported by inflow alone in the Cheshire Reservoir. The 7-day, 10-year low flow to the West Brook Reservoir is estimated to be no less than 4000 gpd, allowing an additional 4 swimmers each day. To sum, then, Cheshire Reservoir at half its basin capacity during a period of very low inflow could be expected to support at least 121 swimmers per day, while West Brook Reservoir under the same conditions could be expected to support no more than 12 swimmers per day.

The reason that the watershed of Cheshire Reservoir, which is approximately the same size as that of West Brook Reservoir, is likely to yield a much higher volume of runoff during dry periods is that the former contains stratified drift over approximately 26% of its area while the latter contains only about 2% stratified drift. The sands and gravels that are characteristic of this glacial deposit provide a much greater infiltration and storage capacity for groundwater than does till. Hence, streamflow is much more likely to be bolstered by groundwater discharge from stratified drift than from till.

The numbers mentioned above are merely estimates; they may not be in agreement with measured inflow amounts, which the New Haven Water Company may have available. However, the estimates clearly point out the disparity between the two reservoirs, and the distinct advantage that the Cheshire Reservoir has for recreational development. The numbers also suggest that rediverting the flow from West Brook Reservoir into its natural channel may not be necessary or even desirable for maintaing recreation at Cheshire Reservoir.

B. GENERAL RECREATIONAL USE

The ERT also evaluated the suitability of the New Haven Water Company site for open space and general recreational development. The Team focused its attention on the proposed activities identified on the conceptual development plan map (Figure 1) supplied by the Town. The comments below correspond to the proposed uses as portrayed in Figure 1.

Area #1 Ballfields According to the Soils Map (see Appendix) this area contains three soil types:

- 60C Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 8 - 15% slopes.
  Leveling this land for ballfields and parking lots will require considerable excavation. It is recommended that a grading plan be worked up for the area so that cuts and fills can be evaluated before any dozers are allowed to start work. It is particularly important that proper distance be maintained between the stream and the grading area to prevent erosion and sedimentation problems. Care must also be taken when grading the area so that proper slope is attained to support permanent vegetative cover. These soils are droughty and present severe limitations for landscaping. Establishing grass on the area will be difficult and hard to maintain unless irrigation and good management is practiced including the application of lime and fertilizer at least twice annually.

- 17LD Hollis-Charlton fine sandy loam, 15 - 35% slope.
  These soils are a complex mixture of shallow to bedrock Hollis and deep Charlton soils. They will present severe limitations due to the frequency of bedrock outcrops and steepness of slope. Land leveling will be very costly in this area as blasting will be necessary.

- 32MC Charlton extremely stony fine sandy loam.
  These are well drained extremely stony soils and may cause problems in grading and grass establishment due to presence of stones and boulders. Topsoil will be needed in order to establish a good stand of grass.

It is evident that the soils in this area will present problems in developing the land for ballfields and parking lots. These problems are not severe enough however to preclude development of the site for these purposes. All problems can be mitigated by the use of good engineering and the implementation of sound conservation measures.

Concern was expressed at the ERT's pre-review meeting regarding the flooding potential of the small brook that flows through Area #1. The change in land usage at this site, particularly the creation of a parking lot, would undoubtedly increase the runoff to the brook. However, the brook's flow, to the point where it joins West Brook, originates in a very small watershed. During the summer months, when most active recreation on the playing fields would take place, very little potential for flooding is likely to exist. Of course, during normal times of heavy

runoff, such as spring and late fall, there would be somewhat more chance for flooding. Nevertheless, the affected zone is likely to be relatively narrow, hindering the use of only a small part of the playing fields.

Area #2 Hiking Area Hiking in this area is generally compatible with existing resources. The only potential problem area is the erodibility of steep slopes with excessive use. Erosion and sediment control measures such as waterbars should be installed on sensitive areas.

The variety of landscape vistas/views and forest types present make this an excellent hiking area. Although existing trails will suffice, the Town should consider expanding the existing trail network to provide additional scenic diversity and to accommodate more people. A recently published reference that may prove helpful in additional trail development is the "AMC Field Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance", (Appalachian Mountain Club, 1977). Area #2 also lends itself to the development of a nature education trail which could include trees marked for identification, soil profiles, and geologic interpretation points.

Area #3 Historic Preservation As discussed in the "Cultural Resources" portion of this report, care must be taken to protect the integrity of this site together with other identified historic sites on the property.

Area #4 Picnic Area and Playground Four soil types have been identified for this area.

- 37XC Cheshire very stony fine sandy loam, 8 - 15% slopes.
  These soils are underlain by till. Stones and large boulders are common and add difficulty when excavating or earth-moving operations are needed. These soils are favorable for picnic areas, but steepness of slope limits playground development potential.

- 62C Manchester gravelly sandy loam, 8 - 15% slopes.
  These soils are underlain by sands and gravels and permeability is rapid. These soils are favorable for picnic areas, however low water-holding capacity and low natural fertility makes it difficult to establish and maintain vegetation for play areas. Areas of steep and irregular slope have severe limitations for play areas.

- 37B, 37C Cheshire fine sandy loam, 3 - 15% slopes.
  These soils are favorable for picnic areas. Level areas have few limitations for play areas, but limitations are more severe on areas of steeper terrain.

This area has outstanding aesthetic appeal due to its varied topography, diversity of vegetation, and its location near the Cheshire Reservoir. As discussed, the area offers high potential for picnicking and a limited amount of playground development. The area also holds promise for fishing, swimming (see discussion above) and as a park headquarters.

Area #5 Swimming Area The feasibility of developing Cheshire Reservoir for swimming was discussed in the preceeding section of this report.

Area #6 Hiking, Camping, Preservation Area Opportunities for passive recreational development are good throughout this area. The area is scenic and contains a variety of forest plant communities. Recommended uses of the area include hiking, ski-touring, nature study, picnicking, and backpack camping. These uses involve little development cost and require low resource and maintenance demands.

There are a number of existing trails transecting this area, but additional trails could be built to take advantage of scenic and resource diverse areas. Any additional trail development should avoid fragile and sensitive lands such as wetlands, easily erodible slopes, etc. In some areas, however, boardwalks could be used to make wetlands crossable and accessible. Again, a helpful reference is the "AMC Field Guide to Trail Building and Maintenance", (Appalachian Mountain Club, 1977).

Use of trails by equestrians, snowmobilers and trail bike riders will present additional development and maintenance problems. These can be overcome or accommodated in many situations, but careful study of this option is warranted to insure such use does not interfere with other recreational activities or create excessive noise for nearby residents.

It is unlikely that Town demand would justify the cost of developing or maintaining a formal family/vehicle campground, however informal camping sites can be easily developed for use by small groups. By screening and educating prospective users (regarding sound camping practices and principles such as carry in, carry out; minimal disturbance; fires out and obliterated; etc.) camping may be permitted which requires little maintenance. One area with particularly high potential for development of a primitive camping area is the high ground in the northeastern section of the area, north of the wetland.

Area #7 Ballfields With slopes averaging about 5 percent in this area, a substantial amount of earth moving will be required for ballfield development. Since the fields proposed for development are in close proximity to the stream transversing this area, care must be taken to prevent soil erosion and siltation into the water. Mulching, haybale checks or temporary seeding are recommended with land development. A 2:1 slope grade from the streambanks is desirable but space limitations may prevent this. Another problem of this area is the excessively drained nature of the soils. This will present difficulty when establishing or maintaining vegetation for play areas.

Concluding Remarks

It is evident that there are many environmental and engineering problems concerned with the development of this tract as a complete recreation area. However, they are not insurmountable and the proposed recreation plan can be implemented with the use of conservation measures and sound engineering techniques.

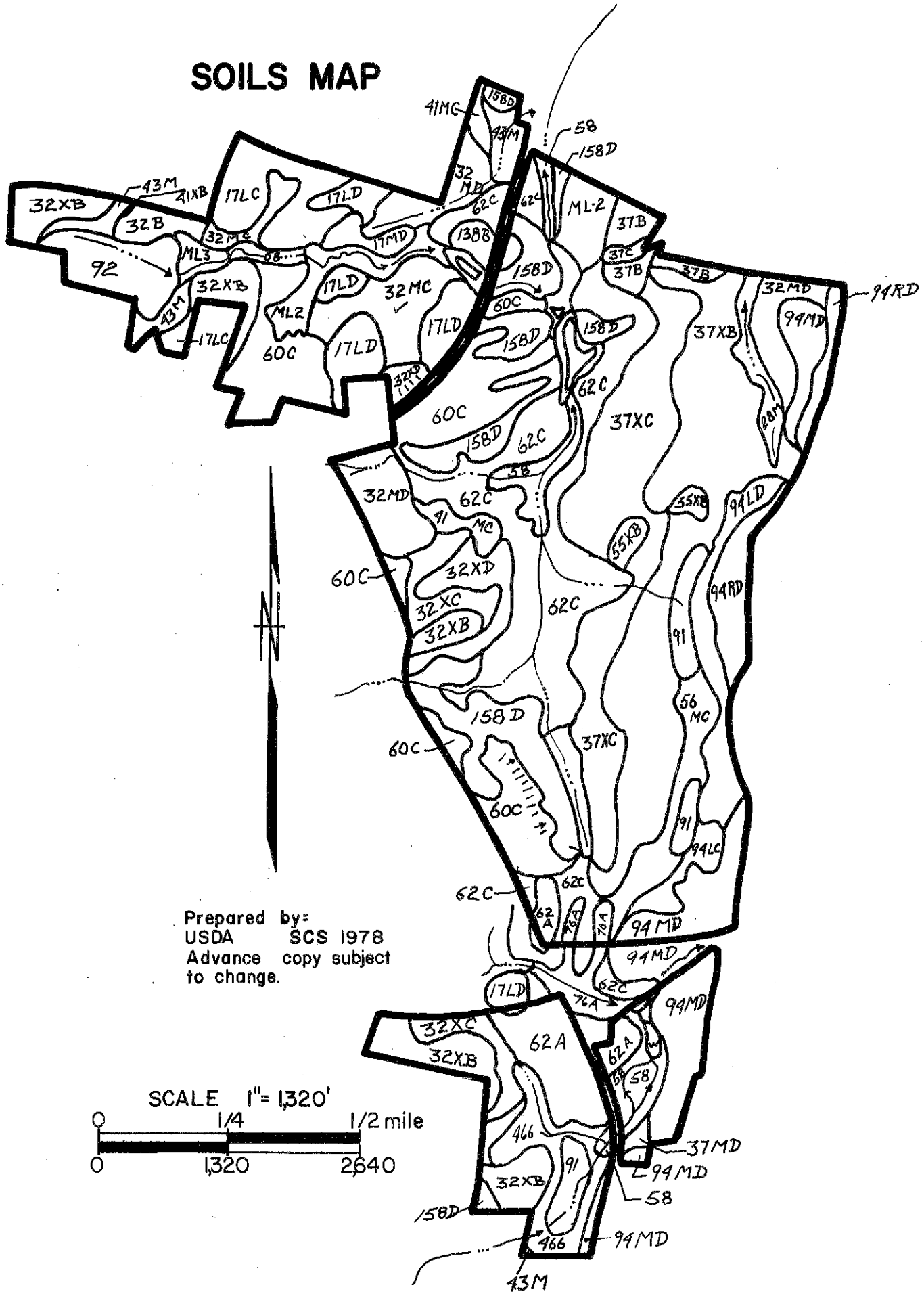
One other area the Town might consider for possible recreational development is the zone of stratified drift east of Roaring Brook Road (see Figure 3). This area lends itself to a variety of possible uses including picnic sites and camping areas.

It is recommended that a comprehensive recreational and resource management plan for the entire area be made prior to any actual development. This should include a resource conservation plan identifying necessary erosion and sediment control measures, seeding recommendations and overall management of the area both during and after construction is completed. Assistance in preparing conservation plans is available from the New Haven Soil and Water Conservation District.

Final plans and projected costs of all proposed development should be reviewed by the Town so that priorities for the development of the area can be established. In this way, a course of action will be taken that will hopefully, best serve the needs and desires of the Town. Financial assistance to complete the necessary facilities may be available through the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Program.

APPENDIX

SOILS MAP



Prepared by:
USDA SCS 1978
Advance copy subject to change.

SCALE 1" = 1,320'

0 1/4 1/2 mile

0 1,320 2640

SOILS LIMITATIONS CHART
New Haven Water Company Land Acquisition
Prospect, Connecticut

Natural Soil Group	Mapping Symbol	Slope %	Approx. Acres	% of Total Acres	Limitations Ratings For: Camp Area	Buildings	Picnic Area	Intensive Play Area	Paths And Trails
D-1	17LC	3-15	20	2.7	3	3	3	3	2
D-2	17LD	15-35	30	4.0	3	3	3	3	2
D-2	17MD	15-35	5	0.7	3	3	3	3	2
C-3b	28M	--	10	1.3	3	3	3	3	3
B-1a	32B	3-8	6	0.8	1	1	1	2	1
B-1c	32MC	3-15	20	2.7	2	2	2	3	1
B-1e	32MD	15-35	30	4.0	3	3	3	3	3
B-1a	32XB	3-8	30	4.0	1	1	1	2	1
B-1b	32XC	8-15	15	2.0	2	2	2	3	1
B-1a	32XD	3-8	15	2.0	1	1	1	2	1
B-1a	37B	3-8	4	0.5	1	1	1	2	1
B-1b	37C	8-15	2	0.3	2	2	2	3	1
B-1a	37XB	3-8	83	11.2	1	1	1	2	1
B-1b	37XC	8-15	71	9.6	2	2	2	3	1
B-1e	37MD	15-35	2	0.3	3	3	3	3	3
B-2b	41MC	3-15	8	1.1	2	2	3	3	2
B-3b	43M	--	15	2.0	3	3	3	3	3
B-2a	55XB	3-8	5	0.7	2	2	1	2	1
C-2b	56MC	3-15	15	2.0	3	3	2	3	2
Alluv.	58	--	12	1.6	-	-	-	-	-
A-1b	60C	8-15	48	6.5	2	2	2	3	1
A-1a	62A	0-3	19	2.6	1	1	1	1	1
A-1b	62C	8-15	88	11.9	2	2	2	3	1
A-2	76A	0-3	5	0.7	2	2	2	2	2
A-3b	91	--	15	2.0	3	3	3	3	3
F-1	92	--	14	1.9	3	3	3	3	3
D-1	94LC	3-15	8	1.1	3	3	3	3	2
D-2	94LD	15-35	8	1.1	3	3	3	3	2
D-2	94MD	15-35	33	4.5	3	3	3	3	3
D-2	94RD	--	14	1.9	3	3	3	3	2
Cut & Fill	ML2	--	12	1.6	-	-	-	-	-
Cut & Fill	ML-3	--	2	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
A-1d	138B	3-8	3	0.4	1	1	1	1	1
A-1c	158D	15-35	57	7.7	3	3	3	3	2
A-3a	466	--	17	2.3	3	3	3	3	3

* Limitations: 1 - slight; 2 - moderate; 3 - severe

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.