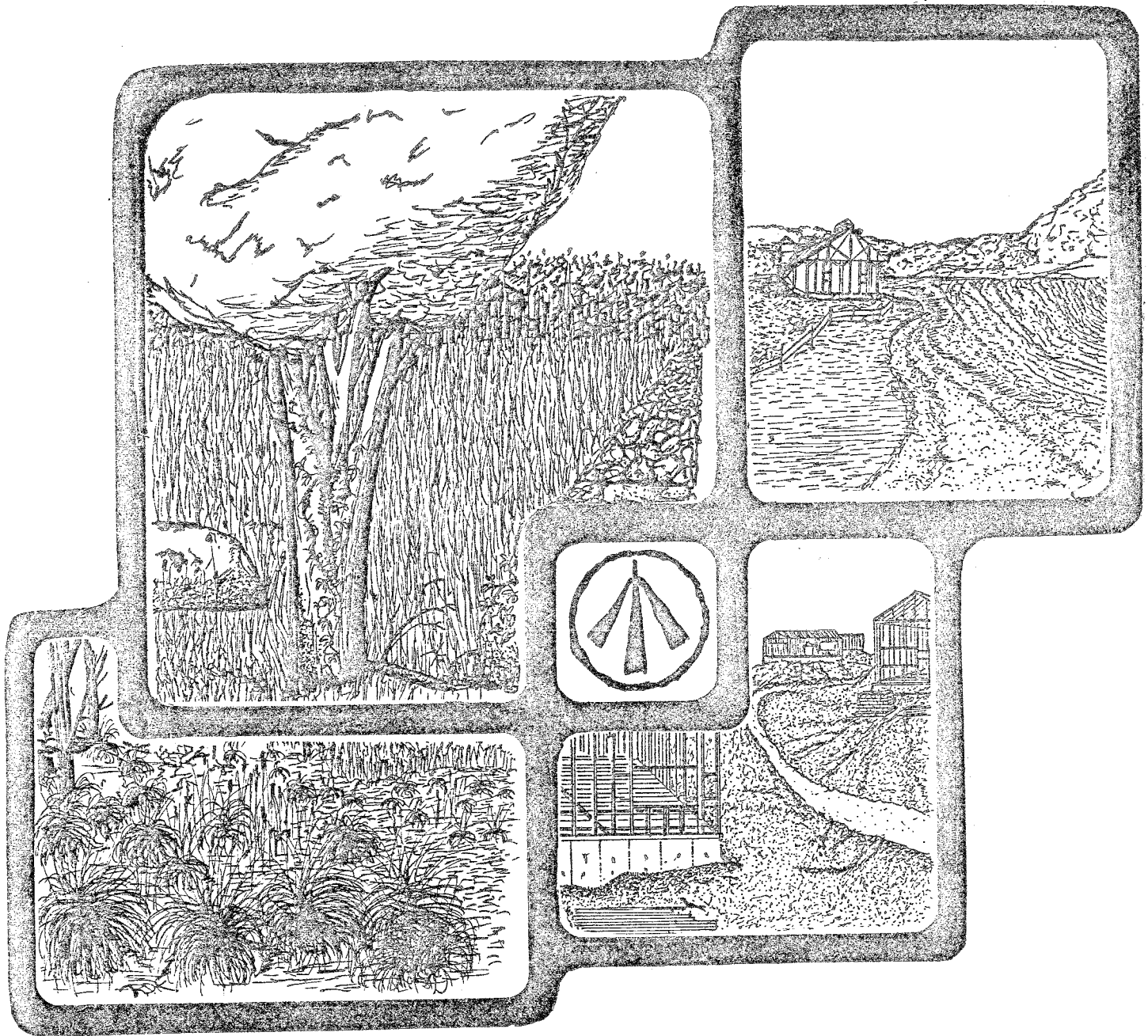


# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT



## SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX and CHATFIELD PARK IMPROVEMENTS SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT

KING'S MARK  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA

KING'S MARK  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT  
SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX  
and  
CHATFIELD PARK IMPROVEMENTS  
SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT



FEBRUARY 1981

Kings Mark Resource Conservation and Development Area

Environmental Review Team

P.O. Box 30

Warren, Connecticut 06754

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

## Federal Agencies

U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

## State Agencies

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

## Local Groups and Agencies

LITCHFIELD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEW HAVEN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HARTFORD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FAIRFIELD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

LITCHFIELD HILLS REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

HOUSATONIC VALLEY COUNCIL OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

AMERICAN INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

x x x x x x

## Funding Provided By

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Stanley J. Pac, Commissioner

## Policy Determined By

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Victor Allan, Chairman, Executive Committee

Stephen Driver, ERT Committee Chairman

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## Staff Administration Provided By

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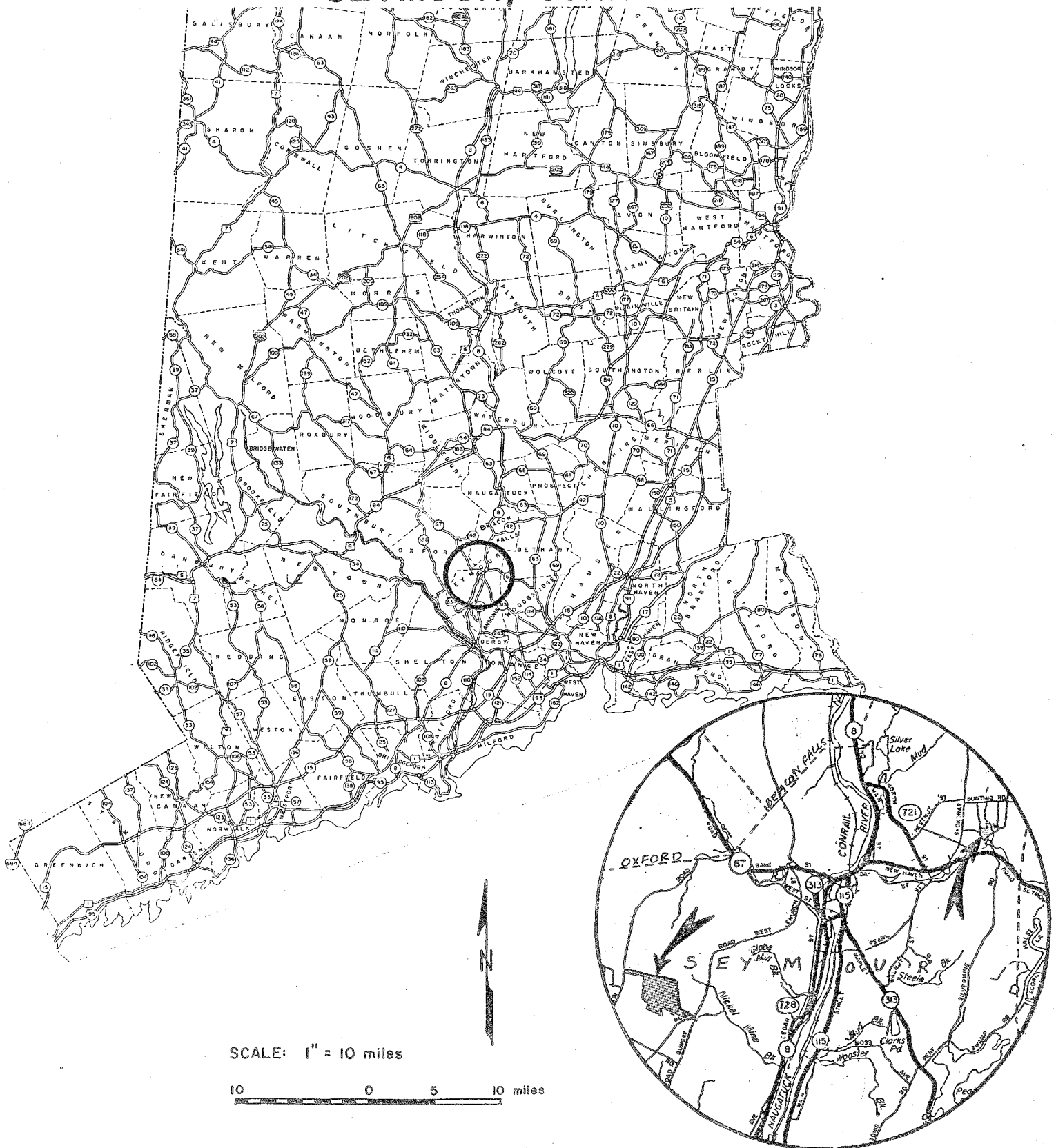
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# LOCATION OF STUDY SITE

## SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX and CHATFIELD PARK IMPROVEMENTS SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT ON  
SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX AND  
CHATFIELD PARK IMPROVEMENTS  
SEYMOUR, CT

I. INTRODUCTION

The Town of Seymour is applying for funds through the U.S.D.I. Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service to implement two recreational improvement projects.

One project calls for improving the Athletic complex at the Seymour High School by adding a softball field, additional tennis courts, basketball courts, a children's playground, a grandstand (for existing football field), lavatories and the construction of an improved drainage system for the affected area. Seymour High School is located in the westcentral portion of town at 2 Botsford Road.

The other project calls for the addition of outdoor lights at an existing town-owned park known as Chatfield Park. Chatfield Park is located in the north-eastern corner of town along Chatfield Street.

The First Selectman from the Town of Seymour requested the assistance of the King's Mark Environmental Review Team to help the town in preparing the grant application. Specifically, the Team was asked to prepare the environmental assessment portion of the application. The King's Mark Executive Committee considered the town's request, and approved the project for review by the Team.

The ERT met and field reviewed the site on December 10, 1980. Team members for this review consisted of the following:

Pamela Goucher .....	Regional Planner.....	Valley Regional Planning Agency
Frank Indorf .....	District Conservationist.....	U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service
Tania Sapko.....	Grant Coordinator.....	Town of Seymour
Mike Zizka .....	Geohydrologist.....	Ct. Dept. of Environmental Protection

Prior to the field review, each team member was provided with a summary of the proposed projects, a checklist of concerns to address, a detailed soil survey map, a soils limitation chart and a topographic map. 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 format for the report follows that suggested by H.C.R.S. guidelines. 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. SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX PROPOSAL

### A. Description of the Proposal

The Town of Seymour is seeking funds from the U.S.D.I. Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection to develop a community Recreation and Athletic Complex. This project will involve improvements and additions to existing athletic facilities at a site which is adjacent to the Seymour High School, 2 Botsford Road, Seymour. At the present time, the predominately landscaped area of rolling hills and broad terraces (See Figure 1) encompasses several athletic fields (football, baseball, soccer) as well as tennis courts, a track, a scoreboard and a refreshment stand (see Figure 2). Existing wooden bleachers are soon to be replaced by 40 ft. of bleachers with specifications including concrete walls, steel beams and wooden seats.

The Town proposes to utilize a portion of the open space available at this site for installing two new tennis courts (or lighting the existing three); developing a picnic area and mini-playground with benches, playground equipment and fencing; the construction of a restroom facility with storage area for recreational and maintenance equipment; and installing two basketball courts and a softball field with fencing. Improvements to the area would include additional loam and grading for the existing baseball and soccer field; as well as the correction of serious drainage problems at the site.

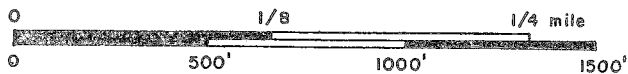
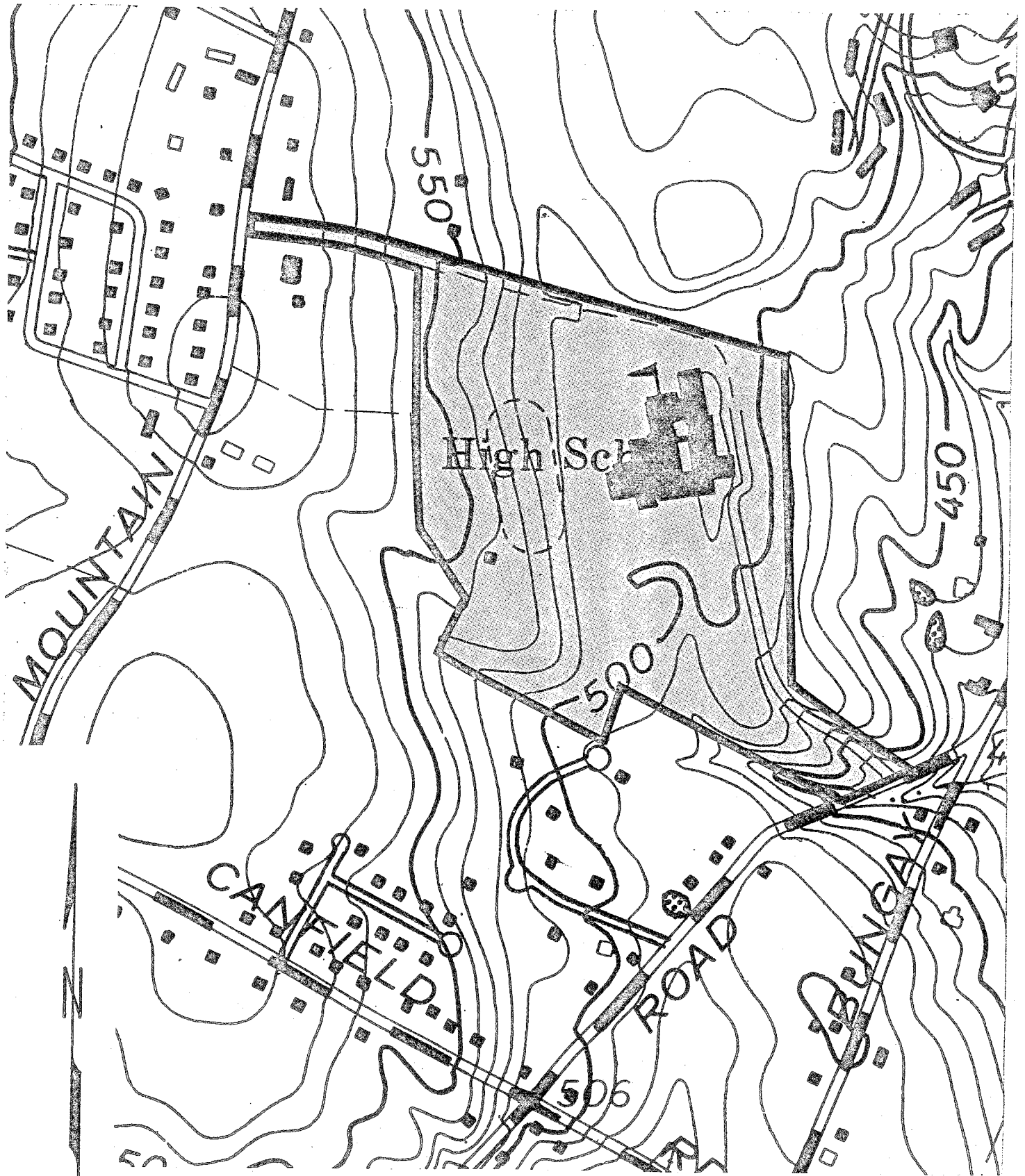
The completion of this Complex will provide citizens of the Town of Seymour as well as those of neighboring communities with a recreational aggregate--one area to meet the physical fitness and recreational needs of almost any organization or individual. All age groups would benefit from the development of a park and picnic area which would provide a pleasant surrounding environment for gathering of families and friends. The Special Olympics have held programs at the High School location on occasion, and there are no restrictions placed on the handicapped or the aged as far as accessibility to this area is concerned.

The Complex will serve the various mens, womens, and boys and girls leagues now operating in the Town as well as spurring the growth of these and new leagues. Organizations from surrounding communities which have utilized the limited facilities at the High School on past occasions for special functions such as antique car shows, the circus, Special Olympics and the like would certainly welcome the addition of such improvements as restrooms and an adequate drainage system.

The Town of Seymour currently funds several boards and commissions which would benefit greatly from this proposal. The Board of Recreation sponsors Bidy and PeeWee basketball leagues for boys and girls which are now restricted to the Winter Recreation Program for lack of outdoor facilities. There is also an extensive Men's Basketball League which would utilize the outdoor courts, and the Board of Recreation is considering the founding of a Women's Basketball Program for this area.

The Board of Recreation has developed a new soccer program for children aged eight and upward. Improvements to the soccer field at the High School would allow for the expansion of this program. A summer playground program which is overseen by the Board of Recreation uses the High School facility as one of its playground sites. The tennis courts and playing fields currently

FIGURE I.  
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



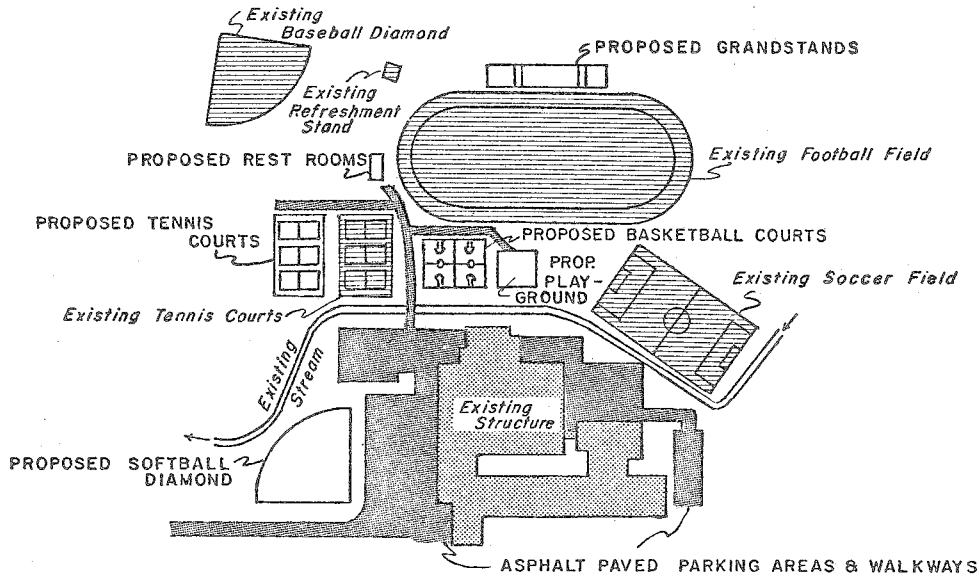
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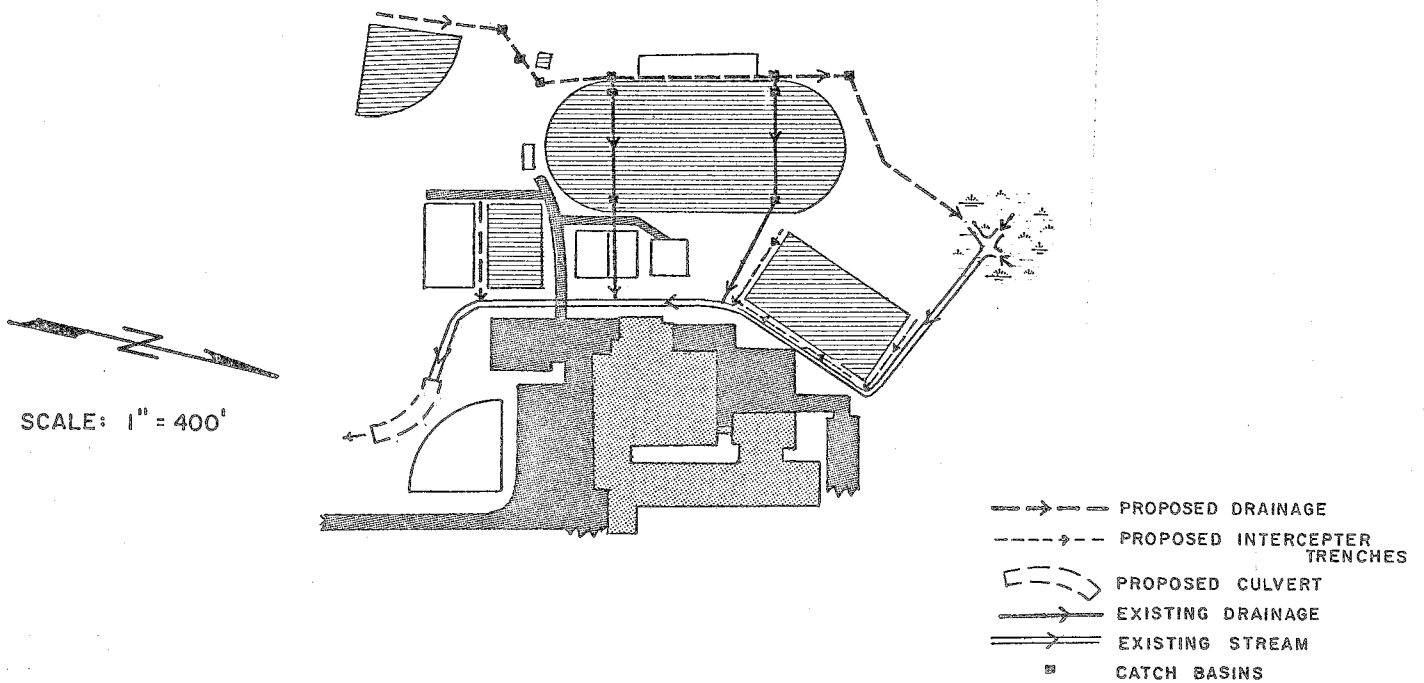
# FIGURE 2. SIMPLIFIED SITE PLAN\*

\*ADAPTED FROM 'PROPOSED RECREATIONAL & ATHLETIC FACILITIES', TOWN OF SEYMOUR JULY 1980.

## Recreation Facilities



## Drainage Plan



on-site provide recreational facilities for several hundred children aged eight to sixteen who register on the playgrounds every summer. The High School baseball field is used as the site for softball games between the various playground teams.

The Board of Recreation also sponsors a ten-week program of tennis instruction at the High School courts. These courts are accessible to the general public without restriction except for a posted time-limit rule. The wide popularity of tennis combined with the scheduling of these instructions has led to mass court tie-ups and long periods of waiting for those who seek court time. Expansion of these facilities is one of high priority.

The Town of Seymour sponsors a Men's Softball League which utilizes the High School area for both games and practice sessions. Additional fields would lessen the conflict for playing fields between Mens League teams and those of the Senior Girls League teams of the Girls Softball League which falls under the jurisdiction of the George J. Hummel Little League. These Senior League teams use the High School facilities for games and practices while the Junior Girls League and Boys Little League teams use the fields for practices. Area-wide organizations such as the Valley Independent League, Firemen's League, Valley Major Softball League and the Women's Independent League also use the facilities for games and practices.

A recent public hearing drew representatives from various town agencies, all of whom voiced their strong support for the proposed recreational facility. The Housing Authority of the Town of Seymour, stating that this complex would provide low and moderate income families who cannot afford the luxuries of private recreational facilities or country clubs with a suitable alternative, spoke in favor of the project. An officer of the Economic Development Commission stated that both families and businesses which are considering locating in Seymour list the quality of nearby recreational facilities as one of their top three priorities. The EDC, along with the Democratic Town Committee and the Town's local state senator and state representative, support this project.

The development of this complex is contingent upon federal and state aid. A tentative timetable for completion of the proposed projects has been drawn up by the Town Engineer.

PHASE I

Drainage  
Install lights at Chatfield Park  
Construct restroom facility

Approximate timetable: 2 months

PHASE II

Grade Soccer and Baseball field  
Basketball courts  
Playground

Approximate timetable: 4 months

PHASE III

Tennis Courts  
Softball field  
Install proposed culverts

Approximate timetable: 8 months

## B. Description of the Environment

### 1. LAND USE AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The Town of Seymour purchased the undeveloped land at 2 Botsford Road upon which the Seymour High School was eventually constructed in 1958. The land to be developed into the Recreational Complex is currently used as a recreational site for both school and community activities.

The Seymour Historical Society was contacted regarding any historical significance or artifacts which may be located at this site. As far as can be determined at this time, the land on which this complex will be developed has no outstanding historical significance.

The Seymour High School has a leaching system to handle the disposal of wastes. A new leaching system will be installed to handle the sewage from the proposed restrooms.

Transportation routes in the immediate area around the Seymour High School are public roads of two-way traffic which are maintained by the Town Public Works Department. The proposed Recreation and Athletic Complex may be reached within ten minutes after exiting from Connecticut Routes 8, 67, 188, 313, 115, 334, or 34. Major town roads (Bungay and Botsford from the east; Mountain from the west) lead to the project area from the highways. The High School driveway approaches the front of the proposed complex site from Botsford Road, while Ross Drive leads into the back from Mountain Road.

Bungay Road, the major town road leading to the project site from the south, is, in sections, in a deteriorating condition. The road was originally part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which would have secured Federal, State and local monies for its improvement. Because of the anticipated late starting date for repairs, the road was removed from the TIP and is presently being repaired, in part, by the town. The lower (southern) section of Bungay Road is narrow, winding, and suffers some drainage problems. It is not presently in a condition to accommodate much increased traffic.

### 2. GEOLOGY

The geology of the high school property consists entirely of glacial till and man-made deposits. Till is a name given to sediments deposited directly from glacier ice. Because of the lack of water action during its deposition, the till contains a non-sorted mixture of rock particles ranging in size from clay to boulders. Commonly, the upper few feet of till are sandy, stony, and relatively loose. At depth, till tends to be siltier, less stony, and tightly compact. This compactness impedes groundwater flow and can cause the upper soil levels to become saturated during heavy rains. The man-made deposits referred to above are mostly till deposits that have been excavated from certain areas and placed in other areas in order to allow creation of the flat-surfaced playing fields, driveway base, etc. Presumably some gravel and other material brought from outside the property is included in the filled areas.

No bedrock was seen on the site and the nature of the subsurface rock is uncertain. Regional data suggest that either a coarse-grained muscovite-biotite schist or a dark gray biotite augen gneiss underlies the site. Neither rock is known to have economic mineralogical significance, but the gneiss is being quarried in other areas for building stone and related uses.

### 3. SOILS

A Soils Map of the Seymour High School site is presented in the Appendix of this report together with a Soil and Water Features Chart which identifies major soil characteristics. The proposed project will involve the disturbance of three soil types; these three soil types are briefly described below.

UD--Udorthents, smoothed. This map unit consists of a well drained to excessively drained soil. It is composed of cut or borrow areas, filled areas, and areas consisting of both cut and fill.

The cut or borrow areas consist of places where the surface layer and the subsoil have been removed. In filled areas, more than 20 inches of soil material has been placed on the surface. In many places, the landscape has been smoothed, and the cut and fill areas occur in an intricate and complex pattern.

The soil in this unit has a wide range of characteristics. Texture ranges mainly from sandy loam to silt loam or the gravelly analogs. Consistence ranges from loose to very firm. Permeability ranges from very rapid to slow. This unit requires onsite investigation and evaluation for most uses because the characteristics of the soil are so variable. Most of the land underlying the proposed or existing Seymour Athletic Complex consists of this soil type. On this site, the UD areas appear to be largely cut areas, cut deep into the underlying hardpan. As a result, this soil area has similar characteristics to hardpan. That is, the soil is very slowly, to slowly permeable and extensive drainage is needed to dry up wet spots and make the area useable for intensive recreation.

As with other soils, these areas are usually very acid and require lime. Grass or other crops grown on this soil respond well to applied nutrients (fertilizer and lime), however annual applications of nutrients are necessary to maintain good growth.

PbB--Paxton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This is a gently sloping, well drained soil with a hardpan at 18-24'. Typically, the surface layer is dark brown fine sandy loam 8 inches thick. The subsoil is dark yellowish brown and olive brown fine sandy loam 18 inches thick. The substratum, to a depth of 60 inches, is olive, very firm gravelly fine sandy loam.

Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and slow in the substratum. The available water capacity is moderate. Runoff is medium. This soil tends to dry out and warm up slowly in spring, it has a low shrink-swell potential. Unless limed, this soil is strongly acid through slightly acid. While these soils are usually low in nutrient content, they respond well to fertilizer treatment.

These soils are fairly easy to excavate, but the substratum is very firm and commonly has stones and boulders. Bank cuts on these soils usually bleed water and serious erosion problems can result if subdrains, or some other means, aren't used to pick up the water which usually flows downslope over the hardpan.

Waste disposal systems, such as septic tank absorption fields, will not function satisfactorily because of the slowly permeable substratum. Very careful design and installation are required to insure a workable system.

These soils are very erosive when left in an exposed or unvegetated condition, and during periods of construction. Conservation measures are needed to control excessive runoff and prevent erosion and siltation and sedimentation from taking place. With Paxton soils the steeper the slope, the greater the erosion hazard.

This soil is well suited to growing trees. Most areas of this soil were cropland at one time, but a few areas are reverting to woodland. Productivity is moderately high. Machine planting is practical in open areas. Trees to favor in existing woodlots are eastern white pine, sugar maple, and northern red oak. Trees to plant in open areas are eastern white pine, European larch, and Norway spruce.

On the Seymour High School site, this soil type underlies the area proposed for the new softball diamond.

RN--Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams. This undifferentiated group consists of nearly level to gently sloping, poorly drained and very poorly drained soils in drainageways and depressions on glacial uplands. Slopes are 0 to 5 percent. Stones and boulders cover 3 to 25 percent of the surface. Approximately 40 percent of the acreage consists of Ridgebury extremely stony fine sandy loam, about 35 percent is Leicester extremely stony fine sandy loam, about 15 percent is Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loam, and about 10 percent is other soils.

The soils of this mapping unit are regulated by P.A. #155, as amended, "The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Act". Any alteration of these soils requires a permit from the local inland wetland agency.

The typical Ridgebury soil has a very dark gray fine sandy loam surface layer 6 inches thick. The subsoil is mottled, grayish brown fine sandy loam 13 inches thick. The substratum, to a depth of 60 inches, is mottled, olive, very firm gravelly sandy loam.

Typically, the Leicester soil has a black fine sandy loam surface layer 6 inches thick. The subsoil is 17 inches thick. It is mottled, grayish brown, light grayish brown, and pale brown fine sandy loam. The substratum, to a depth of 60 inches, is mottled, dark yellowish brown, friable, gravelly fine sandy loam that has discontinuous firm lenses up to 4 inches thick.

The Whitman soil typically has 4 inches of decomposed and undecomposed litter over a black fine sandy loam surface layer, which is 6 inches thick. The subsoil is gray mottled fine sandy loam 16 inches thick. The substratum, to a depth of 60 inches, is olive, mottled, very firm gravelly sandy loam.

The Ridgebury and Leicester soils have a seasonal high water table at a depth of about 8 inches from late fall until mid-spring. The Whitman soils have a water table at the surface from fall through spring and

after heavy rains. In many places, they are ponded for several weeks in winter. In summer, the water table may drop to a depth of 5 feet or more. These soils have moderate or moderately rapid permeability in the surface layer and subsoil. The Ridgebury and Whitman soils have slow or very slow permeability in the substratum, and the Leicester soils have moderate or moderately rapid permeability in the substratum. These soils have a high available water capacity. Runoff is slow or very slow. They have a low shrink-swell potential. Unless limed, the Leicester and Ridgebury soils are very strongly acid through medium acid; the Whitman soils are very strongly acid through slightly acid.

The soils of this unit have poor potential for community development. They are limited mainly by their seasonal high water table and stoniness. The Ridgebury and Whitman soils are also limited by a slowly permeable substratum. These soils are difficult to excavate because of the high water table and stoniness. The steep slopes of excavations tend to slump when saturated. During periods of construction, conservation measures are needed to prevent excessive siltation, runoff, and erosion.

This unit has fair suitability for use as woodland. The Ridgebury and Leicester soils have moderate productivity; the Whitman soils have low productivity. These soils are limited mainly by their wetness and stoniness. Seedling mortality is high and windthrow is common because the high water table restricts the rooting depth for trees during much of the year. Woodland may, however, be one of the best uses of this unit. Trees to favor in existing woodlots are eastern white pine, sugar maple, red maple, and northern red oak. Trees to plant on the Ridgebury and Leicester soils are eastern white pine and white spruce.

While these soils make good pond sites they are not recommended for other types of recreational use.

As shown by the soils map, the Seymour High School site is underlain by this soil type to the north and south of the existing football field. These soil areas will receive additional stormwater run-off under the proposed plan via the drainage improvements. In addition, it appears that the proposed tennis courts may encroach on this wetland area to the south.

#### 4. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

For the most part the area is covered with grass. However, in some of the wet areas Red Maple and Oak are found together with Black Alder and Spicebush. No rare, unique or unusual species were noted during the ERT's field review.

Openland and wetland wildlife habitat are present on the property. Gray squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, mice, and common songbirds are likely to inhabit this area. The intensive use of this area diminishes the potential of this land for supporting a diverse wildlife population.

#### 5. CLIMATE

According to the publication "Rare and Endangered Species of Connecticut and their Habitats" by Dowhan and Craig (the Natural Resources Center, Connecticut DEP, 1976), the Seymour High School site is located in the Southwest Hills

ecoregion. The climatic characteristics of this ecoregion, as described in the Dowhan and Craig report, are as follows:

"The mean annual temperature is 49.5°F. The average winter temperature (December-February) is about 29.5°F., with a monthly mean minimum temperature in the coldest month of about 19°F. Mean annual minimum temperature is about -5°F. Seasonal snowfall accumulation averages 40 inches. The average frost-free season is about 160 days. The average summer temperature (June-August) is about 70°F., with a monthly mean temperature for the warmest month of 85°F., one of the highest in the state. Average annual precipitation is about 45 inches."

## 6. WATER RESOURCES

No significant groundwater resources underlie the high school site. As a till-covered area, the site's most productive aquifer would be the bedrock underneath the till. Bedrock is commonly used as a water source for individual homes in rural and suburban areas. Although generally a reliable source, the rock usually provides only small (10 gallons per minute or less) yields to wells. Bedrock transmits water largely by means of fracture networks; consequently, a yield to any given well depends to a great extent upon the number of water-bearing fractures that are intersected. For this reason, if zones of highly fractured rock can be determined, it is desirable to take particular care in supervising land uses over the zones. However, no such studies have been made for this area and none are presently warranted.

The high school site is traversed by an artificial drainage channel which runs between the high school and the playing fields. Surface water utilizing this channel originates in a small wetland just north of the access road and in a pond at the northeast end of the track. Water flows south through the channel, merging with a natural intermittent stream that runs along the southern border of the site. The natural stream is one of the two headwater courses of Nickel Mine Brook, a very minor tributary of Naugatuck River. Nickel Mine Brook has an attractive channel with cascades, but it is not a fisheries or water supply resource, nor does it overlie a known valuable sand and gravel aquifer.

### C. Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The proposed drainage improvements and additions to recreational facilities are not likely to involve any significant impacts on the environment.

The proposed drainage channels would be generally effective only during wet periods, when the compact till-artificial fill soils are unable to absorb surface moisture. During those times, surface runoff would be partly diverted from the playing fields. The longest new channel, which would run along the western sides of the existing baseball diamond and track, would transmit water into a pond-wetland in the northcentral section of the site. The pond-wetland would serve as a temporary storage area for the water, mitigating whatever minor flow rate increases might otherwise occur. Runoff volume may be increased by a very slight amount from the additional paved surface area (basketball and tennis courts and playground), but the amount would be negligible in relation

to the volume passing through the natural streamcourse at the southern corner of the property.

It is important however that a sound engineering plan and erosion and sediment control plan be developed and implemented both during the construction phase and after construction is completed. Also a sound maintenance plan should be developed and followed. This plan should include annual application of nutrients (lime and fertilizer).

With construction of the proposed tennis courts in the southern portion of the property, care should be taken to carefully analyze the soils in this area. Available mapping indicates that this area could be partially underlain by wetland soils. If so, very careful engineering will be required to overcome the natural limitation of the soil.

During the construction phase, some short term adverse impacts may be noted. These might include localized noise pollution and air pollution due to the use of heavy equipment.

With the anticipated increase of usage at the Seymour High School site, roadside signing should be increased and improved. A directional sign should be posted at the Y-intersection of Bungay and Botsford Roads for traffic approaching the site from the north. In addition, a directional sign should be posted at the Botsford/Canfield intersection for traffic approaching the site from the south off Bungay Road. Additional signs, or maintenance or enlargement of existing signs, might be necessary at other intersections, especially with the anticipated increase of use by residents from neighboring communities. Improvements to the southern section of Bungay Road are encouraged to ensure safe access to the school site.

In conclusion, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated with implementation of this project, providing judicious engineering practices are followed. The benefits to be derived from the project would seem to far outweigh any possible adverse impacts during the construction phase.

#### D. Consultation and Coordination

The Seymour Athletic and Recreation Committee was established in 1979 to deal with recreational development in the town. Membership on this committee is open to the general public and currently consists of 12-15 members who regularly attend S.A.R.C. meetings. Widespread public appeal for donations to aid a fund which would enable the Board of Education to proceed with some improvements have been made.

This proposal has been in the planning stages for well over two years, as various newspaper articles and the minutes from the meetings of the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen will attest. A public hearing was held on November 18, 1980 on this matter. With well over seventy persons in attendance, not a single negative comment was delivered regarding the development of the complex.

The Valley Health Department has conducted porosity and percolation tests at the High School field to determine the size of the needed sewage system. The Town Engineer has drawn up preliminary site plans. The Public Works Department has been consulted concerning work which they may be able to provide as in-kind services.

Based upon the preceding, it appears highly doubtful that any controversies or conflicts regarding the proposed project will arise.



### III. CHATFIELD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### A. Description of the Proposal

The Town of Seymour is seeking funds from the USDI Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection to install lighting at the Chatfield Park softball field. Chatfield Park is located in the northeastern corner of Seymour off Chatfield Street (see Figure 1). At the present time, the 3.3 acre park area consists of the softball field, park benches, and playground equipment. The Town recently completed a project extending the boundaries of the softball field to 270 ft. in right field by digging out the embankment which rises at the outskirts of the playing field. The material removed was then used as fill for the hill which drops from the left field area. The Town proposes to install eight light poles with outdoor lights around the softball field (see Figure 2).

The installation of lights at Chatfield Park will provide the citizens of the Town of Seymour as well as those of neighboring communities with an additional recreational facility which can be utilized after sunset. The Town of Seymour is the only community in this area which does not have lighted facilities for softball and baseball.

The lighting of Chatfield Park will serve the various mens, womens, and boys and girls leagues now operating in the Town. A summer program includes a Playground Softball League which is sponsored by the Board of Recreation. This League utilizes the Chatfield Park softball field as one of its game sites. The Town of Seymour sponsors a Mens Softball League of 24 teams which uses the Chatfield Park field for both games and practices. The addition of lights would lessen the conflict for playing time between Mens League teams and those of the Little League, Girls Softball League, Valley Independent League, Valley Major Softball League, the Fireman's League and the Women's Independent League. All of these leagues seek both playing and practice time at Chatfield Park, for the number of fields in this area is limited.

A recent public hearing drew representatives from various town agencies, all of whom voiced their support for the installation of lights at Chatfield Park. An officer of the Economic Development Commission stated that both families and businesses considering locating in Seymour list the quality of nearby recreational facilities as one of their top three priorities.

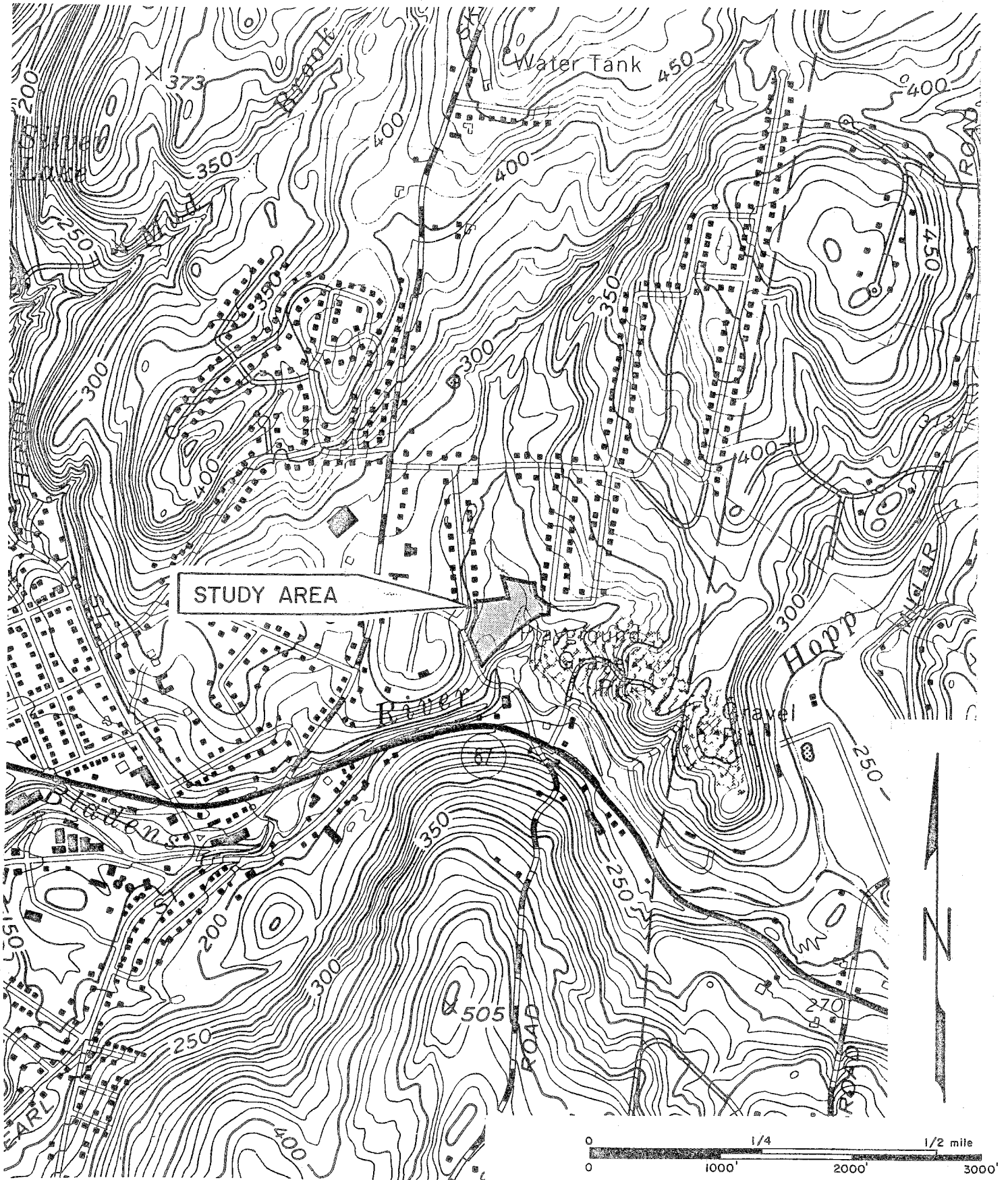
The installation of lights at Chatfield Park is contingent upon federal and state aid. A tentative timetable drawn up by the Town Engineer includes the installation of lights in Phase I of the entire project, with an estimate of the time of completion being placed at two months.

#### B. Description of the Environment

##### 1. LAND USE AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

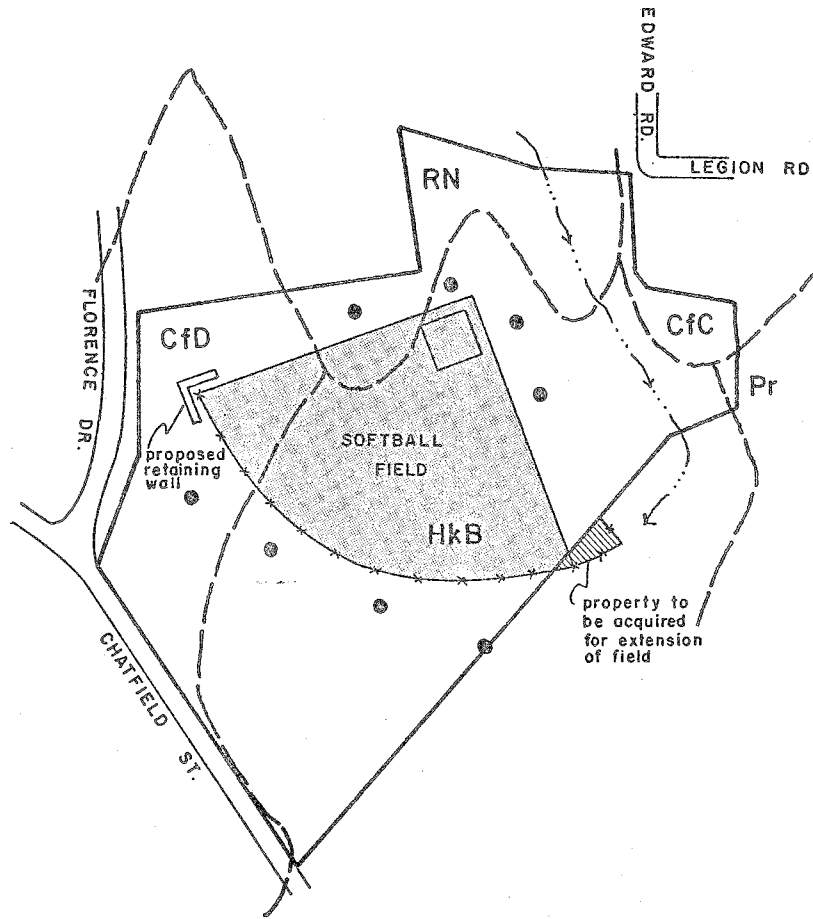
The Town of Seymour purchased the tract of land which encompasses Chatfield Park in 1949. The land, which had been part of a dairy farm, is currently used as a recreational site for softball and other community activities.

FIGURE I.  
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP






SCALE: 1" = 1000'

FIGURE 2.  
SIMPLIFIED SITE PLAN



SCALE: 1" = 200'

EXPLANATION

-  PROPERTY OUTLINE
-  SOIL TYPE BOUNDARY
-  PROPOSED LIGHT

• SOIL INFORMATION ADAPTED FROM NEW HAVEN COUNTY SOILS SURVEY, U.S.D.A. - S.C.S.

• SITE PLAN ADAPTED FROM TOWN OF SEYMOUR, CHATFIELD PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS, 5/7/80.

The Seymour Historical Society was contacted regarding any historical significance or artifacts which may be located at this site. As far as can be determined at this time, this area has no outstanding historical significance.

At the present time, there are no permanent waste facilities attached to the sewer lines which run thru this area. Portable outhouses are used during the summer months, and it is hoped that a permanent facility will be installed in the near future.

Transportation routes in the immediate area around Chatfield Park are public roads of two-way traffic which are maintained by the Town Public Works Department. The park itself is located minutes from Connecticut Route 67, and may also be easily reached from Routes 8, 313, and 115. Town roads (Chatfield St., Skokorat St., Bunting Rd., Edward Rd., and Walter Rd.) lead to the project area.

Parking facilities at Chatfield Park are limited to one small lot for 6-8 cars. On-street parking on the public roads in the area has been the main source of parking space. The Park Commissioners hope to expand parking facilities by installing a lot for 30-40 cars in the park off Chatfield St. The Valley Regional Planning Agency recommends that this lot be gravel to avoid runoff problems.

## 2. GEOLOGY

Chatfield Park's geology is similar in almost all respects to that of the Seymour High School (discussed earlier in this report). A blanket of till covers bedrock in all areas of the park. Cutting and filling has been done to level the playing fields. The fill was observed to be slumping near the edge of the slope to the brook in the eastern section of the park. Further stabilization work in that section seems essential, as the slumping area is not fenced off and may be hazardous. No bedrock outcrops were observed in the park. A rock formation consisting of biotite-muscovite schists and gneisses, diopside-tremolite schists, marbles and amphibolites is interpreted to underlie the site.

## 3. SOILS

Figure 2 of this report shows the soil types on the Chatfield Park property as mapped by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. The three soils affected by this proposal are briefly described below. It should be recognized that the soils on much of the site have been altered by the cutting and filling done to construct the softball field.

CfD--Charlton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes. This moderately steep, well drained soil is on the side of the hill at the northwest corner of the property. The soil has been excavated to improve the softball playing field.

Typically, the surface layer of this soil is dark brown fine sandy loam 8 inches thick. The subsoil is yellowish brown and light olive brown fine sandy loam 15 inches thick. The substratum, to a depth of 60 inches, is grayish brown, gravelly fine sandy loam that has a few firm lenses up to 4 inches thick.

Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid. This soil has a high available water capacity. Runoff is rapid. This soil tends to dry out and warm up fairly early in spring. It has a low shrink-swell potential. Unless limed, the soil is very strongly acid through medium acid.

Because this soil has a severe erosion hazard, a good vegetative cover should be maintained to control runoff and erosion.

This soil is suited to trees. Trees to plant in open areas are eastern white pine, European larch, white spruce, and eastern hemlock.

HkB--Hinckley gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes. This gently sloping, excessively drained soil occupies the majority of Chatfield Park. Typically, the surface layer is dark brown gravelly sandy loam 8 inches thick. The upper part of the subsoil is strong gravelly sandy loam 5 inches thick, and the lower part is brown gravelly loamy sand 3 inches thick. The substratum, to a depth of 60 inches, is yellowish brown stratified sand and gravel.

Permeability is rapid in the surface layer and subsoil and very rapid in the substratum. This soil has a low available water capacity. Runoff is medium. This soil dries out and warms up rapidly in spring. It has a low shrink-swell potential. Unless the soil is limed, the reaction ranges from medium acid through very strongly acid.

This soil has good potential for community development and is easy to excavate. The droughtiness of this soil is a major concern in landscaping. Irrigation or sprinkling is desirable in summer. Fertilizing will be required annually and liming will be needed every 3-5 years to maintain a good grass cover at this site.

Controlling runoff and erosion on this soil type requires simple conservation measures.

This soil is fairly well suited to growing trees. Productivity is low because this soil is droughty. Seedling mortality is severe because the soil lacks sufficient moisture to sustain the seedlings. Trees to plant in open areas are eastern white pine and European larch.

RN--Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams. This soil type is described under the Seymour High School section of this report.

#### 4. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

The area proposed for light installation at Chatfield Park is covered with grass. Gray squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, mice, and common songbirds are likely to visit this area from adjacent woodlands. No rare or endangered flora or fauna are present on this site.

#### 5. CLIMATE

The climatic characteristics described for the Seymour High School site pertain also to Chatfield Park.

#### 6. WATER RESOURCES

As previously mentioned, Chatfield Park is a till-covered bedrock area. Groundwater considerations for the site would be the same as those discussed in regard to the high school property.

Chatfield Park is crossed by a tributary of Bladens River which flows along the eastern portion of the site. The tributary has an overall drainage area of approximately 500 acres; it joins Bladens River at a pond located just south of the park. The pond, known as Legion Pool, formerly was used for swimming, but it has been abandoned since 1955 because of poor water quality. However, much of the Bladens River watershed was sewered subsequent to 1955, hence, the Town of Seymour is considering reacquiring the pond for swimming.

### C. Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

Installation of lights at Chatfield Park will not significantly impact local earth or water resources.

Lighting of the Park will generate more activity and usage and thus will increase noise levels in the area. Littering can also be expected to increase. Littering can be controlled through the provision of trash receptacles and regular park maintenance. If noise levels become a problem to neighboring residents, use of the Park can be restricted during the evening hours by imposing a conservative curfew on the lighting. With installation of lights, efforts should be made to minimize the glare into surrounding houses.

Although a small parking lot for 6-8 cars is present at Chatfield Park, on-street parking at Chatfield Street has been the main source of parking space. With increased use of the site, it may be desirable to install additional parking space. There is room for such a facility on the western edge of the property off Chatfield Street. A gravel parking lot is recommended for this area to avoid run-off problems.

### D. Consultation and Coordination

The Seymour Athletic and Recreation Committee was established in 1979 to deal with recreational development in the town. Membership on this

committee is open to the general public and currently consists of 12 - 15 members who regularly attend SARC meetings.

This proposal has been in the planning stages for well over ten years, as various letters, newspaper articles, and minutes from meetings will attest. A public hearing was held on November 18, 1980 on this matter, and it drew favorable responses.

The Town Engineer has drawn up preliminary plans for the placing and the installation of the lights. The Public Works Department has been consulted regarding work they will be able to do in regard to this project. The Parks Commissioner has met with Connecticut Light and Power to discuss the potential lighting system (220-volt transformer). The Commissioners have discussed the possibility of imposing a 10:30 p.m. curfew on the lighting.

\* \* \* \* \*

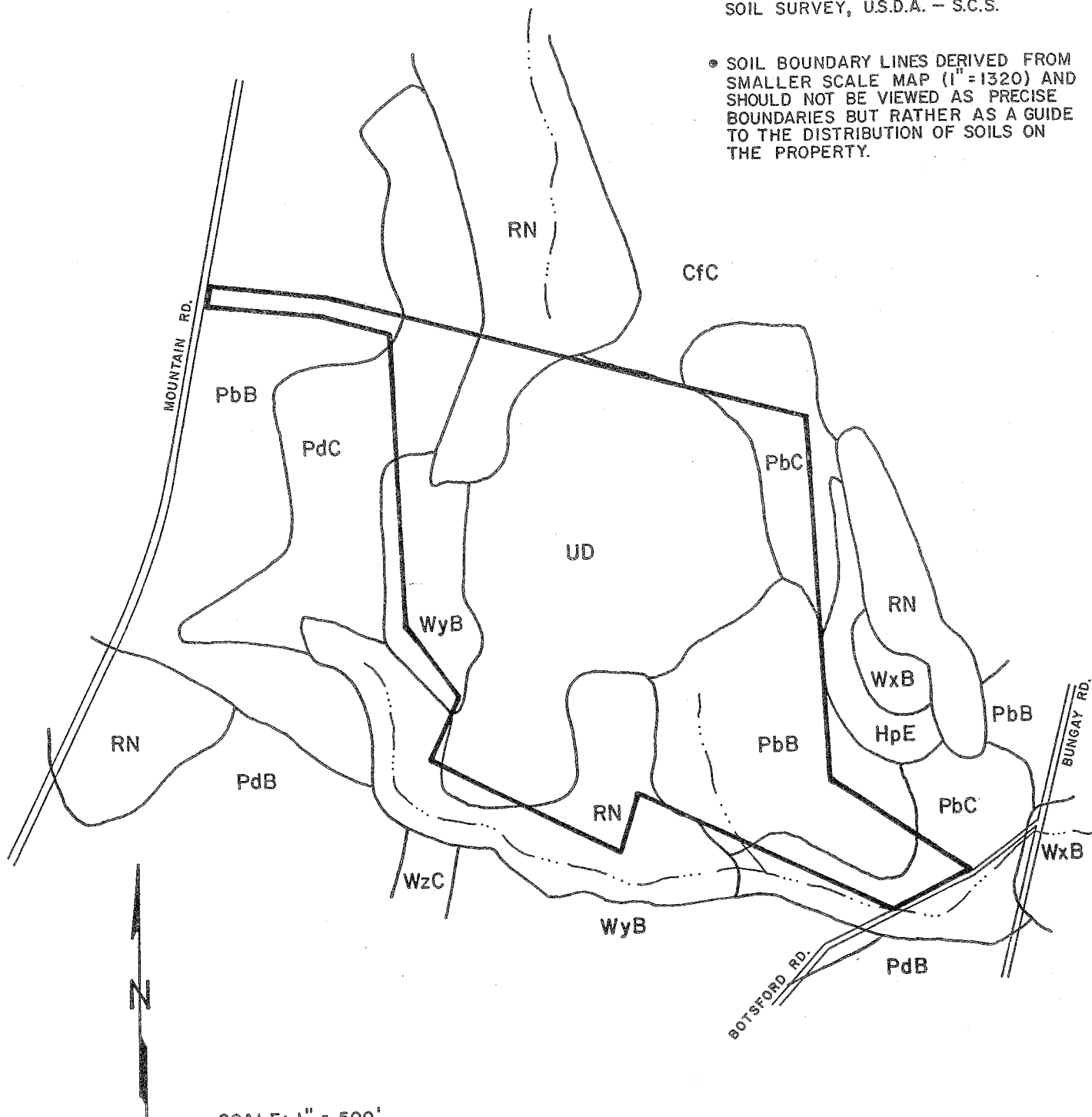
**APPENDIX**



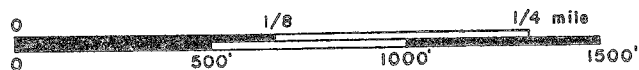
# SOILS MAP

• ADAPTED FROM NEW HAVEN COUNTY SOIL SURVEY, U.S.D.A. - S.C.S.

• SOIL BOUNDARY LINES DERIVED FROM SMALLER SCALE MAP (1" = 1320) AND SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS PRECISE BOUNDARIES BUT RATHER AS A GUIDE TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF SOILS ON THE PROPERTY.



SCALE: 1" = 500'



## SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL SITE

## SOIL AND WATER FEATURES CHART

MAP SYMBOL	SOIL NAME	DEPTH TO HIGH WATER TABLE	DEPTH TO BEDROCK	POTENTIAL FRONT ACTION	SUITABILITY FOR PLAYGROUNDS*
PbB	Paxton fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	> 6 feet	> 5 feet	Moderate	Moderate; Percs slowly, slope
PbC	Paxton fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	> 6 feet	> 5 feet	Moderate	Severe; Slope
PdC	Paxton very stony fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes	> 6 feet	> 5 feet	Moderate	Severe; Slope
RN	Ridgebury, Leicester, and Whitman extremely stony fine sandy loams	0-0.5feet	> 5 feet	High	Severe; Wetness, large stones
UD	Udorthents, smoothed			Soil Characteristics Variable	
WyB	Woodbridge very stony fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes	1.5-3.5 feet	> 5 feet	High	Moderate; Percs slowly, wetness, large stones, slope

## \*EXPLANATION OF RATING SYSTEM:

SLIGHT LIMITATION: indicates that any property of the soil affecting use of the soil is relatively unimportant and can be overcome at little expense.

MODERATE LIMITATION: indicates that any property of the soil affecting use can be overcome at a somewhat higher expense.

SEVERE LIMITATION: indicates that the use of the soil is seriously limited by hazards or restrictions that require extensive and costly measures to overcome.

## 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 industrial 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.