Town of Thompson

North Grosvenordale, Connecticut

December 1994

HERITAGE WAY COMMUNITY PARK

Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team Report

Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

Heritage Way Community Park

North Grosvenordale, Connecticut

Eastern Connecticut
Environmental Review Team Report

Prepared For

The Thompson First Selectman

December 1994

Environmental Review Team Report on

Heritage Way Community Park
Thompson, Connecticut

This request is an outgrowth of a request from the Thompson First Selectman Commission to the Windham County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc. (RC&D). The request was approved and the measure reviewed by the Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT).

The ERT met and field checked the site on Tuesday, September 20, 1994. Team members participating on this review include:

Nicholas Bellantoni	**State Archaeologist** **CT Museum of Natural History**
Nancy Ferlow	**Soil Conservationist** **USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service**
Joe Hickey	**State Park Planner** **DEP - Bureau of Parks and Recreation**
Doug Hoskins	**Environmental Analyst** **DEP - Inland Water Resources Division**
Stacey Kingsbury	**Environmental Analyst** **DEP - Natural Resources Center**
D. Glenn Miller	**District Manager** **Windham County Soil & Water Conservation District**
Brian Murphy	**Fisheries Biologist** **DEP - Eastern District**
Mildred Powell	**Geologist** **UCONN - Department of Geology and Geophysics**
Elaine Sych	**ERT Coordinator** **Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.**

Prior to the review day, each Team member received a summary of the town's concerns, a location map, a soils map and several maps regarding park development. On the review day the Team members were given additional

information. The Team met with, and were accompanied by the Sara Laughlin of the Thompson Community Development Office and Shawn Donohoe of the French River Corporation. Following the review, reports from each Team member were submitted to the ERT Coordinator for compilation and editing into this final report.

This report represents the Team's findings. It is not meant to compete with private consultants by providing site designs or detailed solutions to development problems. The Team does not recommend what final action should be taken on a proposed project -- all final decisions rest with the Town and landowner. This report identifies the existing resource base and evaluates its significance to the proposed development, and also suggests considerations that should be of concern to the developer and the Town. The results of this Team action are oriented toward the development of better environmental quality and the long-term economics of land use.

The Eastern Connecticut RC&D Executive Council hopes you will find this report of value and assistance in making your decisions on this community park.

If you require additional information, please contact:

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Introduction

The Town of Thompson requested Environmental Review Team assistance in the planning and development of the Heritage Way Community Park in North Grosvenordale. Heritage Way is located north of Route 12 and Buckley Hill Road and will be in and around a preserved nineteenth century mill village. The creation of the park is an opportunity to extend the existing Riverside Park north along the French River. The parcels involved include the 56 acre North Grosvenordale Pond and a 50 foot buffer area along the west side of it (Parcel A on the following map), and a 12 acre piece of commercial land (Parcel B on the following map) where a pavilion is planned. An unimproved road exists along the west side of the mill pond, but it is outside of the 50 foot buffer for most of its length.

Heritage Way Community Park will establish the key links in an interconnected park system that will provide direct public access to many parts of the French River, which are now privately held. The park will contain approximately 2 miles of walking trails, two canoe/kayak launches plus a parking lot and picnic area.

Funding for land acquisition is being provided by a Connecticut DEP Municipal Outdoor Recreation Grant and a DOT/ISTEA grant is providing the funding for park development.

The Town's is primarily interested in information on how to best plan for this project in a manner consistent with protecting and enhancing the natural resources and preserving the historical/archaeological significance of the area.

The following sections of the report discuss the natural resource base, highlight areas of concern, and offer recommendations for planning and implementation of the desired features.

Location Map

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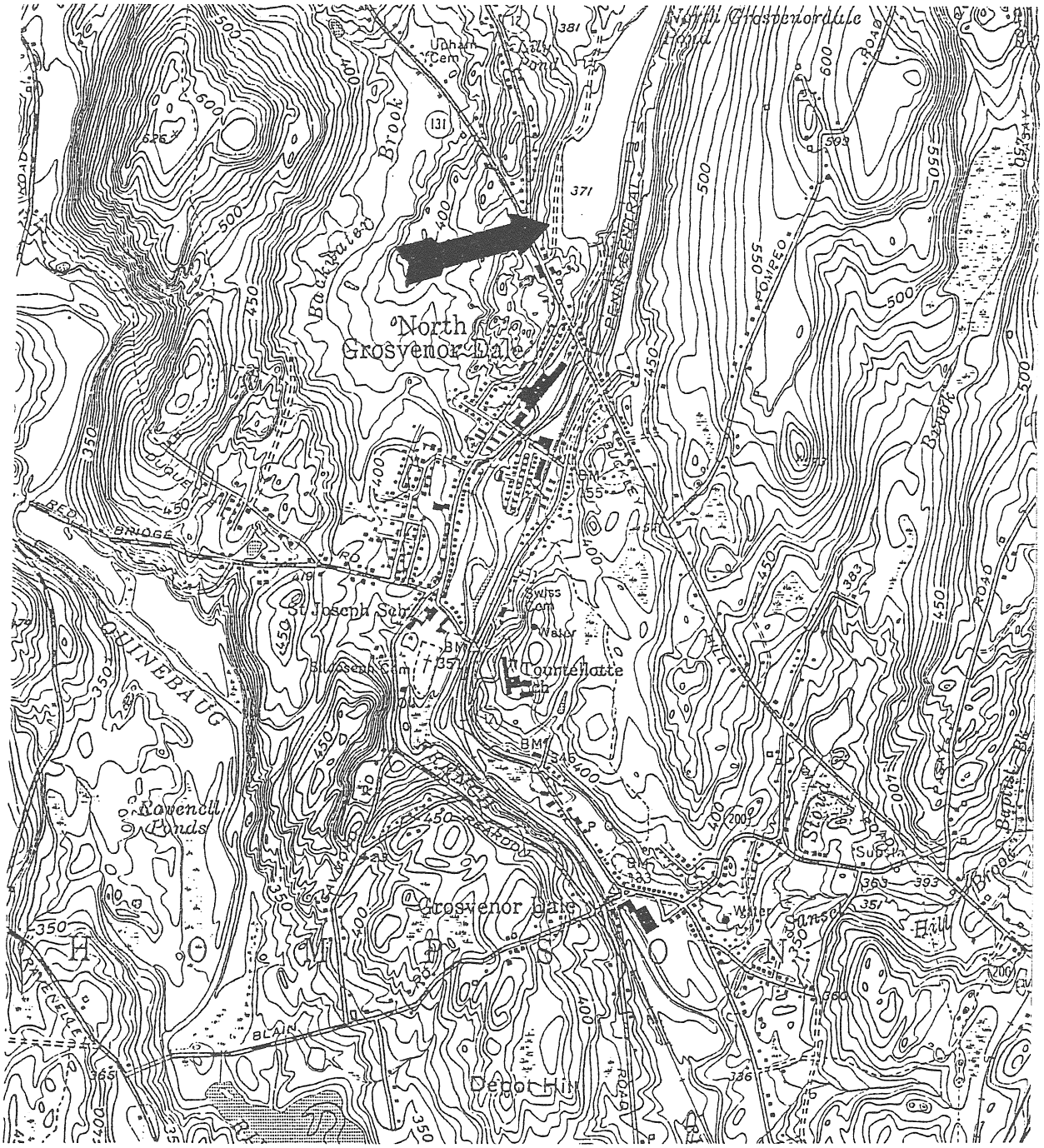
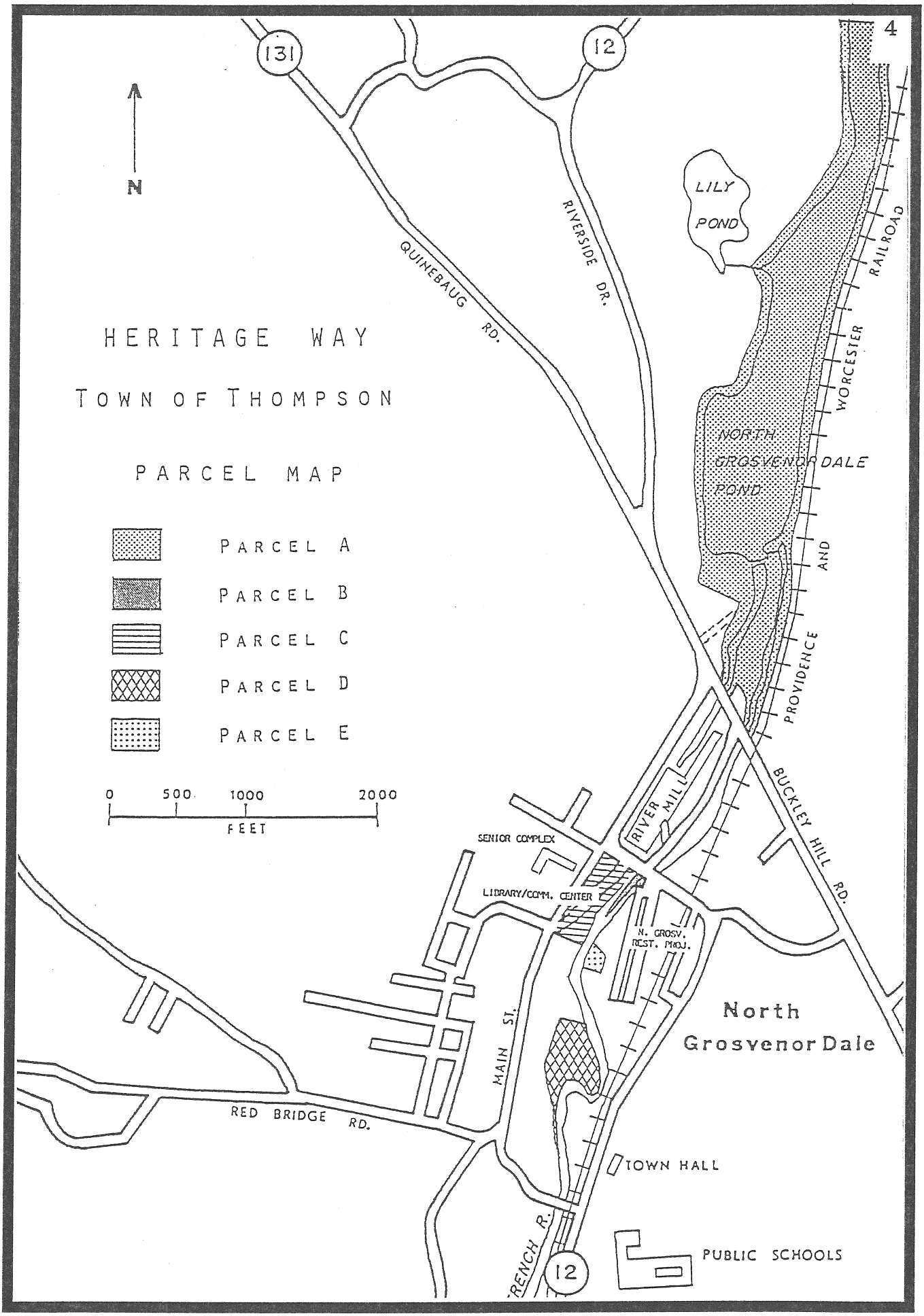
Scale 1" = 2000'

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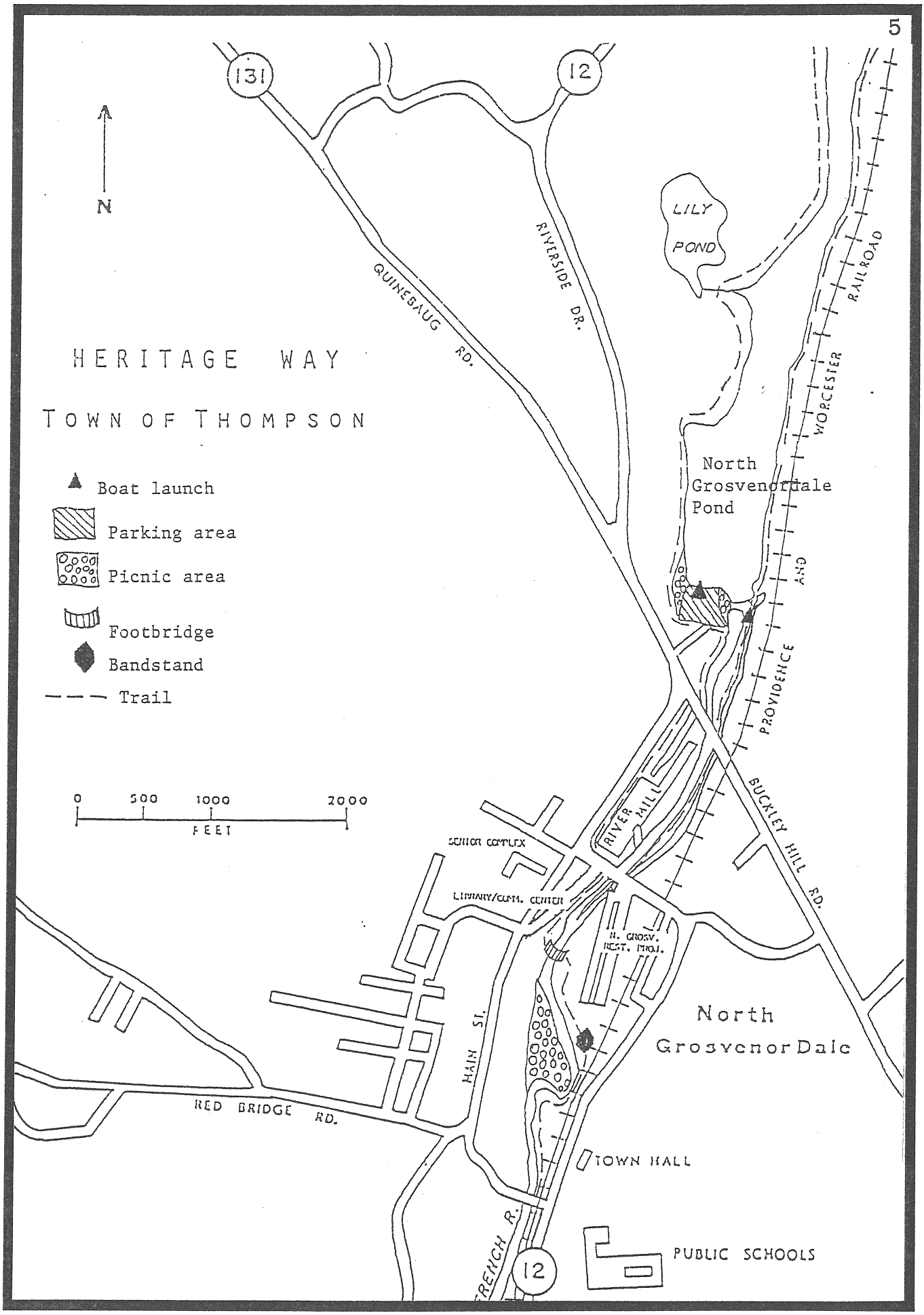
QUINEBAUG RD.
RIVERSIDE DR.
LILY POND
RAILROAD
WORCESTER
AND
PROVIDENCE
NORTH GROSVENOR DALE POND
HERITAGE WAY
TOWN OF THOMPSON
PARCEL MAP
PARCEL A
PARCEL B
PARCEL C
PARCEL D
PARCEL E
0 500 1000 2000
FEET
SENIOR COMPLEX
RIVER MILL
BUCKLEY HILL RD.
LIBRARY/COMM. CENTER
N. GROSV. REST. PROJ.
MAIN ST.
North Grosvenor Dale
RED BRIDGE RD.
TOWN HALL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
12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N
QUINEBAUG RD.
RIVERSIDE DR.
LILY POND
RAILROAD
WORCESTER
AND
PROVIDENCE
HERITAGE WAY
TOWN OF THOMPSON
Boat launch
Parking area
Picnic area
Footbridge
Bandstand
Trail
North Grosvenordale Pond
0 500 1000 2000
FEET
SENIOR COMPLEX
RIVER HILL
BUCKLEY HILL RD.
LIBRARY/COMM. CENTER
N. GROSV. REST. MAS.
MAIN ST.
North Grosvenor Dale
RED BRIDGE RD.
TOWN HALL
FRENCH R.
12
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Topography and Hydrogeology

There is locally steep terrain west of the study area. In some places, the shores of North Grosvenordale Pond are moderately steep. If handicapped access or fishing docks are to be built, erosion controls will have to be implemented. If a new trail is to be built closer to the pond, erosion can be expected to increase due to traffic in the steeper areas. If the amount of paved area for parking (if it is to be paved) remains small, there should be no difficulty with increased runoff.

Geology

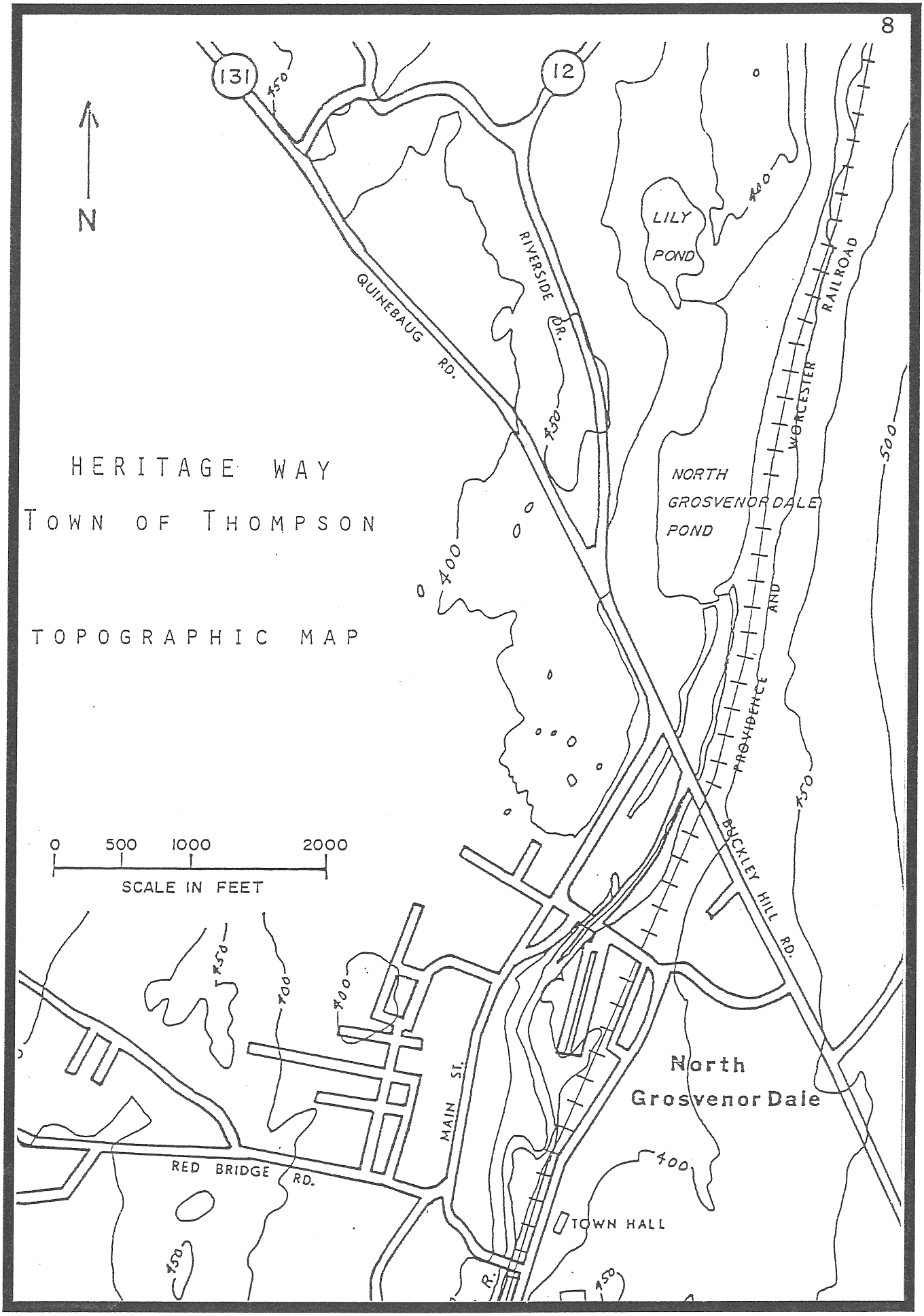
The bedrock of the site is gneiss mid-Ordovician (460 million years) or older in age, called Tatnic Hill formation. A few outcrops occur just west of the study area, south of Lily Pond. The foliation plane, or weakness, of the rock is dipping to the west at a moderately steep angle and runs roughly parallel to the long axis of North Grosvenordale Pond. The geologic map of the Putnam Quadrangle (Dixon, 1982) shows an ancient thrust fault located approximately along the railroad tracks east of the pond. The amount of offset was small, and there is no indications of current activity or seismic hazard along this fault.

The surficial material of the study area is mostly glacial till, generally less than 10-15 ft. thick. Downstream along the French River there are also some sand and gravel deposits in the river valley.

References

Dixon, H. Roberta, 1982. Bedrock Geologic Map of the Putnam Quadrangle, Windham County, Connecticut: USGS Geologic Quadrangle Map GQ-1562.

Stone, Janet, et. al., 1992. Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut, U.S. Geological Survey.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12
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QUINEBAUG RD.
RIVERSIDE DR.
LILY POND
WORCESTER AND PROVIDENCE RAILROAD
NORTH GROSVENORDALE POND
HERITAGE WAY
TOWN OF THOMPSON
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
0 500 1000 2000
SCALE IN FEET
BUCKLEY HILL RD.
MAIN ST.
RED BRIDGE RD.
North Grosvenor Dale
TOWN HALL
450
400
500

Soil Resources

According to the Windham County Soil Survey (1981), soils on the various parcels for the Heritage Way Community Park include the following:

Canton and Charlton extremely stony fine sandy loams, 3-15% slopes (CdC) - gently sloping to sloping well drained soils with moderately rapid permeability and medium to rapid surface runoff. This soil has slight limitations to paths and trails and severe limitations to picnic areas and playgrounds because of large stones and slope.

Charlton-Hollis fine sandy loams, very rocky, 3-15% slopes (CrC) - very deep to shallow gently sloping to sloping, well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils on hills and ridges. The Hollis portion of the soil is shallow to bedrock. Permeability is moderate to moderately rapid and medium to rapid runoff. Limitations for paths and trails are slight and severe for picnic areas and playgrounds because of large stones, depth to bedrock and slope.

Gloucester very stony sandy loam, 3-8% slopes (GbB) - deep, gently sloping and somewhat excessively drained soils on ridges and hills. Runoff is slow to medium and permeability is rapid. Limitations for paths and trails are slight and moderate to severe for picnic areas and playgrounds because of large stones.

Gloucester extremely stony sandy loam, 3-15% slopes (GeC) - deep, gently sloping to sloping and somewhat excessively drained soils on ridges and hills. Runoff is medium and permeability is rapid. Limitations for paths and trails are moderate and severe for picnic areas and playgrounds because of large stones and slope.

Gloucester extremely stony sandy loam, 15-35% slopes (GeD) - deep, moderately steep to steep and somewhat excessively drained soils on ridges and hills. Runoff is rapid and permeability is rapid. Limitations for paths and trails, picnic areas and playgrounds are severe because of large stones and slope.

Hinckley gravely sandy loam, 0-3% slopes (HkA) - a nearly level, excessively drained soil formed in outwash plains. Permeability is rapid and runoff is slow. There are moderate limitations for camp areas and picnic areas, severe limitations for playgrounds and slight limitations for trails due to small stones.

Hinckley gravely sandy loam, 3-15% slopes (HkC) - a rolling, excessively drained soil formed in terraces and outwash plains. Permeability is rapid and runoff is slow. There are moderate limitations for camp areas and picnic areas, severe limitations for playgrounds and slight limitations for trails due to small stones and slope.

Hinckley gravely sandy loam, 15-40% slopes (HkD) - a moderately steep to very steep, excessively drained soil formed in terrace side slopes. Permeability is rapid and runoff is slow to very slow. There are severe limitations for camp areas, picnic areas, playgrounds and trails due to slope and small stones.

Merrimac sandy loam, 0-3% slopes (MyA) - a nearly level, somewhat excessively drained soil formed on terraces and outwash plains. Permeability is rapid and runoff is slow. Limitations are slight for camp areas, picnic areas and trails and moderate for playgrounds due to small stones.

Pootatuck fine sandy loam (Ps) - a nearly level, moderately well drained soil on floodplains. The permeability is moderate or moderately rapid and runoff is slow. Limitations are severe for camp areas and playgrounds and moderate for picnic areas and paths due to flooding and wetness.

Sutton extremely stony fine sandy loam, 3-8% slopes - a nearly level to sloping, moderately well drained soil. Permeability is moderate and runoff is medium to rapid. Limitations are severe for camp areas, playgrounds and picnic areas and moderate for trails.

Udorthents, smoothed - areas used for buildings and pavement. limitations vary due to specific site conditions.

A detailed limitation charts can be found in the Appendix. Definitions of the limitations ratings are as follows:

> **Slight** - The rating given to soils that have properties favorable for the intended use. The degree of limitation is minor and can be overcome easily. Good performance and low maintenance can be expected.
>
> **Moderate** - The rating given to soils that have properties moderately favorable for the use. This degree of limitation can be overcome or modified by special planning, design, or maintenance. During some part of the year, the expected performance is less desirable than for soils rated Slight.
>
> **Severe** - The rating given soils that have one or more properties unfavorable for the intended use, such as steep slopes, bedrock near the surface, flooding, high shrink/swell potential, a seasonally high watertable, of low strength. This degree of limitation generally requires major soil reclamation, special design, or intensive maintenance, which in most situations is difficult and costly.

Recreational Issues

Based on the soils, the topography and visual inspection, these sites are well suited for recreational uses. They have good ties to the existing paths and public areas and are accessible to most of the local people. The existing unimproved road along the North Grosvenordale Pond is an excellent site for the proposed trail. There is little natural erosion. Whatever surface is used, use of the existing road is recommended.

Depending on the desired uses, various surfaces can be considered for the trail system. For the cyclists and inline skaters, a paved surface provides the best traction and smoothest ride. It is also much easier for people with wheelchairs and canes to have a smooth surface. For joggers and walkers, a wood chip or cinder surface is easier on the legs. Mountain bikes will go anywhere. Wood chips or cinders are easier to maintain than pavement. The culvert on the existing road passing the stream from Lily Pond to North Grosvenordale Pond appears adequate to protect the trail. Watch for erosion around the pipe during maintenance periods.

The proposed picnic area is in an accessible spot that is close to the water and to parking. The chosen site is fairly flat and has good views. Take care with roof runoff from the proposed pavilion so that it does not cause erosion. Water and sewer are accessible to the site. Some innovative things could be done with water saving fixtures, if the Town intends to put washrooms at the picnic area. Suggestions include water saving toilets and faucets. Maintenance needs to be a factor in the decisions for facilities.

The parking area for the picnic area provides an excellent opportunity to try various form of storm drainage control. Either a pervious pavement or an infiltration system under the parking area can be used, avoiding the usual pipes into a stream or lake and attendant pollution of the waterbody.

Soils Map

N

Scale 1" = 1320'

Wetland Resources

Included in this section are observations of the wetland resources, the impacts of the proposed park and recommendations to alleviate those impacts.

The primary wetland resources involved with this proposed project include the riverine system of the French River at the proposed footbridge location and the palustrine (marshes, bogs, swamps and small shallow ponds) aquatic bed system(generally permanently flooded areas vegetated by plants growing principally on or below the water surface line) lining the margins of North Grosvenordale Pond. Other secondary systems are the palustrine emergent (vegetation in standing water) and palustrine forested (woody vegetation 20 feet or taller) systems on portions of this pond's shoreline. According to the current owner of the land being considered for municipal recreational land on the west side of the pond, a detailed inland wetland delineation of this area had been completed and a map representing those boundaries reproduced. Although requested for the review, this map was not forwarded. This map would be useful for two reasons: 1) It would show definite wetland boundaries at a scale and accuracy which would aid in wetland impact-avoidance-mitigation procedures and 2) Maps of this sort usually show topography at a scale of 1" = 100' or better which would be more accurate than maps presently available for this site.

The proposed footbridge across the French River, as previously permitted by DEP's Stream Channel Encroachment Line (SCEL) Program, will have minimum long term effect on the riverine system, given that the temporary erosion and sedimentation controls are installed and maintained correctly. The

proposed activities at the pond will need to be more closely reviewed for their potential wetland impacts. These activities, as discussed during the field review include the construction of parking facilities near the southwest shoreline of the pond as well as hiking and picnic facilities along the west shore of the pond. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, with proper erosion and sedimentation controls, the currently proposed parking lot location is recommended due to the stormwater infiltration capacities of the soils in that area. The majority of the hiking trail will most likely be located on excessively well-drained (non-wetland) soils, however the lower third of the land adjacent to the pond is moderately well-drained soil which is, by definition, a non-wetland soil, yet could contain smaller sections of wetland soils. Field investigation revealed vegetative and hydrologic indications that wetlands may exist in this area. The aforementioned wetland delineation map may support this observation.

As mentioned previously in this report, proposed activities at the footbridge and pond locations should involve minimizing vegetation removal in riparian (streamside or pondside) areas. If direct access to the stream or pond is desired, short access trails could be built off the main trail at desired locations.

The Natural Diversity Data Base

The Natural Diversity Data Base maps and files have been reviewed regarding the Heritage Way Community Park area. According to the information, there are no known extant populations of Federal or State Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern Species occurring at the site in question.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biologic resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site specific field investigations. Consultation with the Data Base should not be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact the Data Base if you have any questions regarding this information (566-3540). Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Fish Resources

North Grosvenordale Pond

The fish community of the pond was last sampled in 1984 by the DEP Fisheries Division as part of an overall Baseline Biological Survey of the French River (DEP 1984). The pond supports a warmwater fish community of which eight species were collected. Chain pickerel were found to be the major gamefish that inhabit the pond. Although not sampled, largemouth bass are also expected to inhabit the pond. Panfish present include Yellow perch, white perch, black crappie and brown bullhead. Sunfish are common and include bluegill and pumpkinseed. The primary forage species is golden shiner.

French River

The fish community of French River was recently sampled on July 1994 in the area of the existing town park. The most dominant species were: fallfish, white sucker, and yellow bullhead. Pumpkinseed sunfish and juvenile largemouth bass were also common. Other species documented included: common shiner, bluegill, chain pickerel, yellow perch, brown bullhead, and American eel. Surface water temperature was 25° C and dissolved oxygen averaged 8.0 mg/l.

Recommendations

The following fisheries recommendations are provided to improve angler access and protect resources both in North Grosvenordale Pond and the French River along the proposed Heritage Way Community Park.

1. Install and maintain proper erosion and sedimentation controls during construction of the parking lot and boat launch at the pond. This includes such

mitigative measures as silt fences and staked hay bales. Only small areas of soil should be exposed at one time and these areas should be reseeded as soon as possible.

2. Minimize removal of riparian vegetation along the proposed trail system. Erosion and sediment control best management practices should also pertain to trail construction.

3. Ensure adequate parking areas for boating access to the pond. Approximately 20 parking spaces for vehicles and trailers should be sufficient for a pond of this size.

4. Utilize the existing unimproved road for the main trail system and access to the west side of the pond. Provide pullouts at various locations to obtain direct shoreline access. A recommended spot for an angler pullout is along the first point of land north of the dam where the unimproved road nears the pond.

5. Provide suitable access for handicapped anglers. The best location would be near the proposed launch ramp and picnic area at the dam which provides sufficient water depth for angling.

6. Consider a horsepower or electric trolling motor only restriction. This will help control access and boat traffic on this small pond. The DEP Office of Boating Safety must approve any boating ordinances that are proposed by the town.

Reference

CT DEP (Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection). 1984, *French River Baseline Biological Study.* CTDEP. Hartford, CT. 64pp.

The Health of the Ecosystem

As is true with any such site visit, despite the skills and critical senses of reviewers, what results is a snapshot. Unless we camp out at a site and otherwise explore long-term patterns, important dynamics are left to conjecture. Nonetheless, severe noteworthy features were evident during the visit. Among them were two great blue herons and an osprey who made an appearance over the pond. (Since it is migration season, the osprey may have been not a resident but a migrant passing through.)

These birds are striking, and their presence can stir a sense of what is "right" with the environment. We might suppose that if such impressive and symbolic creatures are making their homes here, there must be a heathy ecosystem supporting them. This probably is the case, but a point of caution may be in order.

Since they are predators, herons and osprey might concentrate in their own bodies toxins present in the tissues of their aquatic prey. Recent and on-going studies of turtles, alligators, and panthers in Florida have disclosed an insidious and alarming condition that has its counterparts in Great Lakes gulls and European fish. Endocrine-disrupting compounds -- residues from past "mitigated" pollution and contaminants from current non-point sources -- are mimicking estrogen and interfering with reproductive systems. Individuals can appear normal and may even reproduce, but all the while be transmitting an eventual systemic failure to near-future generations. In light of these findings, it would not be unreasonable to question whether a similar phenomenon might occur in this region.

Further research is obviously needed in many parts of the country and the world to elucidate conditions in specific areas. But in the interim, one thing is clear -- these are not merely academic exercises in physiology. Real and troublesome problems are being revealed.

How does all this pertain to the Heritage Way Community Park under consideration? Residues in lake- and river-bottom sediments from the past river uses might affected have these bids through accumulation in prey tissues. Until it can be determined that such a problem does <u>not</u> exist here, erecting platforms to attract breeding pairs of ospreys, for instance, probably should be avoided. This is not to say that alternate habitat, in the next town perhaps, doesn't pose similar or other risks. These comments merely point to the need for more critical review of specific actions.

State Park Planner Comments

A remarkable public-private sector partnership is accomplishing the renaissance of North Grosvenordale into an attractive, vibrant community. Public elements in this progress have included the new community center, library, elderly housing, renovation of the formerly rundown "Three Rows" mill housing complex and a riverfront park at the south end of the village. The private sector has demonstrated that a former textile mill, the centerpiece of North Grosvenordale, can successfully and profitably be reused, providing jobs, increased tax base, and a realistic approach to preserving an architecturally and historically significant structure.

The proposed Heritage Way can be considered the spine of the village, linking its major elements and stretching from the aforementioned south end riverfront park to the mill pond (North Grosvenordale Pond) on the French River on the north end of the village. As such, it will further add to the attractiveness of North Grosvenordale and provide a safe, non-vehicular route for residents, and especially children, within the village.

Specific Recommendations and Comments Include:

1. The proposed pedestrian bridge over the French River is absolutely essential if the Heritage Way is to be a success. In addition, trail approaches to the bridge should be paved, as this will be a heavy use section of the trail.

2. Will the trail segment from the community center-library to Route 12 simply

utilize the existing paved parking lot and sidewalk or involve a separate trail along the canal?

3. The River St. section can be handled in several ways, although a paved trail is recommended, again because of expected heavy use. Optimally, the trail should be located within the strip between River St. and the river in a landscaped corridor replacing the ill-defined informal parking now seen. Minimally the trail could consist of use of the existing roadbed, possibly with striping for safety purposes.

4. The trail segment from Buckley Hill Rd. north to the mill pond along the berm between the canal and the river may not need paving because of the existing gravel service road. However, as finances permit, application of stone dust to provide a smoother surface would be desirable. This roadway should be non-vehicular in use except for maintenance, patrol, emergency vehicles as needed.

5. Because of the steep drop from the service road to the river near the dam, a proposed canoe launch will have to be located further south where the slope may be less prohibitive.

6. The proposed small parking lot and picnic area on the mill pond west of the canal is logically located, especially with planned vehicular access to be Off Route 12 behind the Knights of Columbus Hall. The size of the parking lot

initially could be approximately 10 spaces, with provision for expansion to 20-25 spaces as needed.

7. The suggested western boundary of the park on the mill pond is the existing unimproved road north to the outlet brook from Lily Pond, which could serve both as the proposed nature trail plus emergency and patrol vehicle access. As the road veers away from the mill pond north of that point, an arbitrary line roughly parallel to and perhaps 100 feet from the pond shore is suggested as corridor for the nature trail.

8. No trail is recommended on the east side of the mill pond, because of the proximity of an active railroad line to the pond shore and the steep nature of the bank.

9. The town of Thompson is encouraged to continue seeking grants to remove contaminated sediments from the Mill Pond, one of the two remaining actions needed to ensure Class B quality water in the French River (as well as supplemental flow from storage at upstream Corps of Engineers facilities also required).

Archaeological Review

The Connecticut Historic Commission notes that the proposed project limits are located within the North Grosvernordale Mill Historic District which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This mill district is of statewide historic and industrial significance.

All park-related improvements should be carefully consider the historic ambience of this important historic industrial landscape. In particular, the proposed boat launch and parking area should avoid all physical impacts to the historic dam, headgates, and power canal. Similarly, the Town of Thompson should consult with the Connecticut Department of Transportation regarding the feasibility of adaptively using a historic highway bridge which becomes available through on-going bridge replacement projects throughout the state. The Town of Canton has recently "recycled" a historic truss bridge which was previously located in the Town of Farmington.

The historic archaeological sensitivity of the North Grosvernordale area has been preliminarily assessed by Gorman et al (1985) as part of the proposed French River Water Quality Improvement District. In particular, the historic archaeological potential of a late 19th century trash midden located near the dam - headgate area needs to be professionally investigated. All archaeological studies should be undertaken in accordance with CHC's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources.*

In addition, the project area has a high sensitivity for prehistoric Native American occupations. Water drainages like the French River served as natural

highways for travel and the obtaining of natural resources for hunting and gathering subsistence strategies. Any archaeological survey for the project area should include a search for prehistoric encampments and villages.

In summary, the Office of State Archaeology and the Connecticut Historical Commission recommend an archaeological survey for the project area that may be effected by proposed construction or land modifications for trails, pavilions, and boat launching areas. Please be assured that our office is prepared to offer any technical assistance in completing this survey. We look forward to working with the Town of Thompson in the preservation and conservation of its archaeological and historical resources.

Appendix

For Appendix Information please contact
the ERT Office at 860-345-3977

ABOUT THE TEAM

The Eastern Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT) is a group of professionals in environmental fields drawn together from a varety of federal, state and regional agencies. Specialists on the Team include geologists, biologists, foresters, soil specialists, engineers and planners. The ERT operates with state funding under the supervision of the Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area — an 86 town region.

The services of the Team are available as a public service at no cost to Connecticut towns.

PURPOSE OF THE TEAM

The Environmental Review Team is available to help towns and developers in the review of sites proposed for major land use activities. To date, the ERT has been involved in reviewing a wide range of projects including subdivisions, landfills, commercial and industrial developments, sand and gravel excavations, elderly housing, recreation/open space projects, watershed studies and resource inventories.

Reviews are conducted in the interest of providing information and analysis that will assist towns and developers in environmentally sound decision-making. This is done through identifying the natural resource base of the project site and highlighting opportunities and limitations for the proposed land use.

REQUESTING A REVIEW

Environmental reviews may be requested by the chief elected official of a municipality or the chairman of town commissions such as planning and zoning, conservation, inland wetlands, parks and recreation or economic development. Requests should be directed to the chairman of your local Soil and Water Conservation District and the ERT Coordinator. A request form should be completely filled out and should include the required materials. When this request is approved by the local Soil and Water Conservation District and the Eastern Connecticut RC&D Executive Council, the Team will undertake the review on a priority basis.

For additional information and request forms regarding the Environmental Review Team please contact the ERT Coordinator: 203-345-3977, Eastern Connecticut RC&D Area, P.O. Box 70, Haddam, Connecticut 06438.