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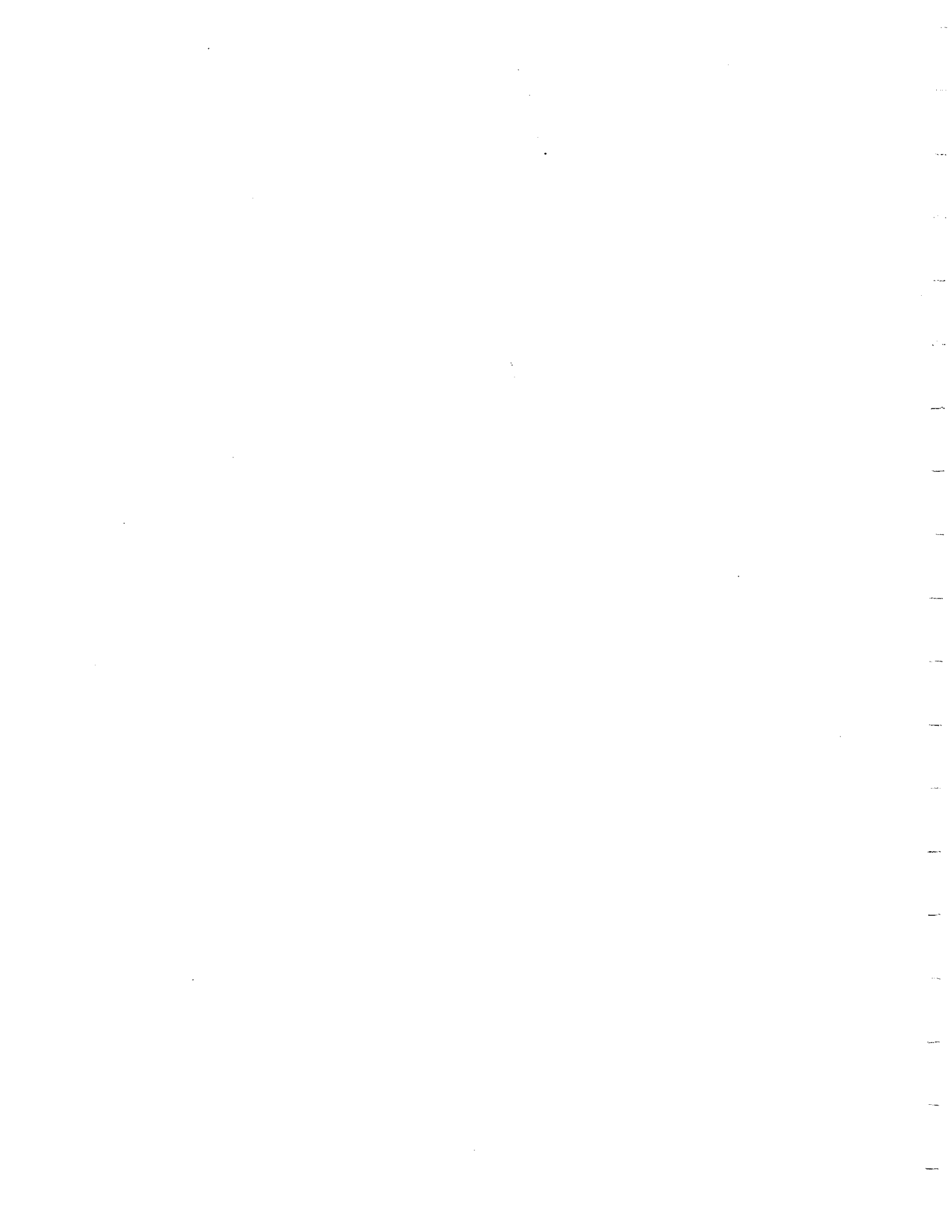
LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut**

Prepared By:

**L.R. Johnston Associates
Westport, Connecticut**

January 1990



PREFACE TO MANAGEMENT PLAN

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS THE *LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN* ADOPTED BY THE FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION ON JANUARY 18, 1990. THE PLAN WAS FORMULATED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION IN FURTHERANCE OF THE COMMISSION'S POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 7-131A OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES AND SECTION III.E.9 OF THE FAIRFIELD MUNICIPAL CHARTER. PUBLIC INPUT WAS SOUGHT AND RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF PLAN FORMULATION AND THE COMMISSION HELD A PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 15, 1989, TO HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE FINAL PLAN. THE PLAN IS ONE OF A SERIES OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION PLANS FOR MANAGING "OPEN SPACE" LAND IN THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD. IT IS INTENDED THAT THESE PLANS WILL ULTIMATELY BE TIED TOGETHER AND INCORPORATED INTO A TOWN-WIDE PLAN FOR THE USE AND CONSERVATION OF FAIRFIELD'S OPEN SPACE RESOURCES.

THE *LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN* CONTAINS GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF THE LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA FOR "RECREATIONAL AND CONSERVATION" PURPOSES DEFINED IN SECTION 7-131C OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES. FUTURE DECISIONS OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION PERTAINING TO MANAGEMENT OF THE LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. THE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS WILL GUIDE ACTIONS OF THE TOWN'S CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE AREA FOR RECREATIONAL USE AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES.

THE PLAN SHOULD BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO MONITOR THE STATUS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND IT SHOULD BE UPDATED AS NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO CHANGING CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA. PREPARATION OF A TOWN-WIDE PLAN FOR MANAGING OPEN SPACE RESOURCES MAY ALSO REQUIRE MODIFICATION OF THIS PLAN. PRIOR TO ANY SUBSTANTIVE PLAN CHANGES, HOWEVER, A PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE HELD BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED PLAN CHANGES. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING USE OF THE LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN MAY BE PRESENTED TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AT ANY TIME.

* * *

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

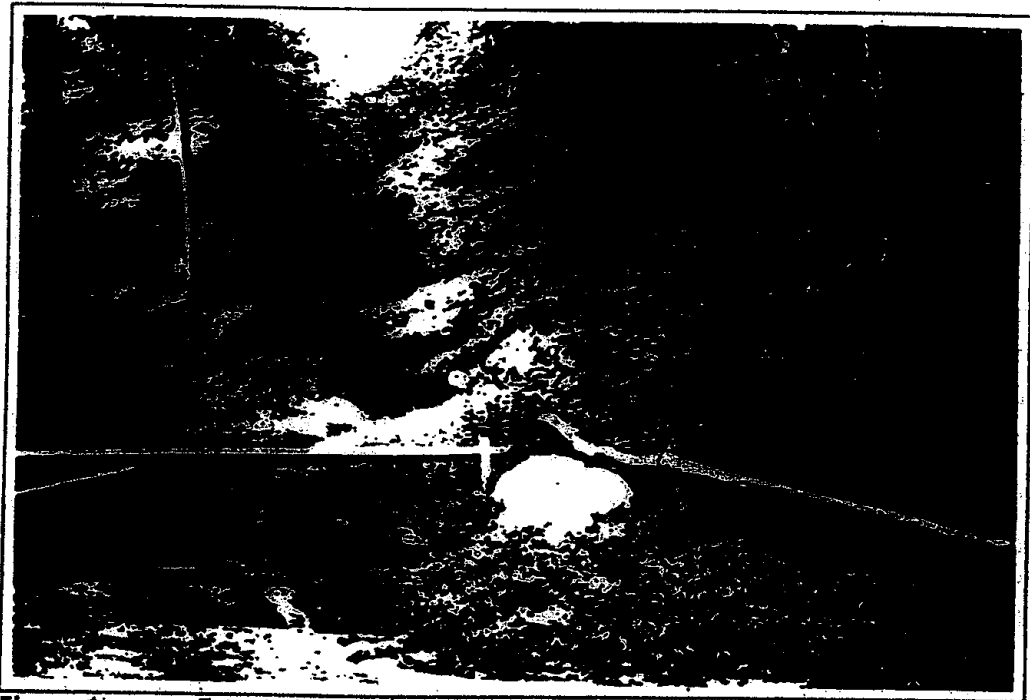


Figure 1: Entry to Lake Mohegan Open Space Area from Old Morehouse Highway, looking north.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This Multiple Use Management Plan for the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area is the second in a series of management plans being prepared for open space parcels in the Town of Fairfield. The intent of the plan is to identify existing and potential resources, uses and problems on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area and to propose a multiple use management program which combines conservation, recreation, education, historic and safety interests.

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area has been managed by the Fairfield Conservation Department since the initial and largest tract of the open space area was acquired by the Town in 1967. The swimming beach has been managed by the Fairfield Park Commission. Until now, management has been performed without an overall, long-range plan to guide management decisions and actions. The development, adoption and use of this long-range, multiple use management plan will enable the Town to better meet the needs of Fairfield residents and to optimize the Town's investment in this property while maintaining, and in some instances improving, the area's natural features.

This management plan utilizes and builds upon two previous reports as well as the knowledge and experience of the Conservation Department's staff. The previous reports that provided much useful information are: (1) a 1971 report by a team of graduate students at the Yale School of Forestry, The Pine Creek and Mill River Watersheds, Fairfield, Connecticut: an Ecological Guide to Open Space Land Use; and (2) a 1987 report by the King's Mark Environmental Review Team, Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The management plan is divided into six major sections. Section I provides a brief introduction to and overview of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area; Section II describes the natural resources and features of the site; and Section III identifies current uses of the site and existing and potential problems that have been identified. Based on the information provided in Sections I through III, management goals and recommendations for meeting those goals were developed and are described in Sections IV through VI. Section IV describes management recommendations for different types of uses that apply generally throughout the site; Section V provides detailed descriptions and management recommendations for each of 12 management units; and Section VI suggests a timetable and cost estimates for implementing plan recommendations.

SITE OVERVIEW AND PLAN SUMMARY

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area consists of approximately 170 acres and is located in the northeast portion of the Town, between Morehouse Highway and the western edge of the North Stratfield section of Fairfield (see Map 1). The open space area includes Lake Mohegan, a small pond, a segment of the Mill River, upland forest, meadow and open field, wetlands, and a developed beach and swimming area.

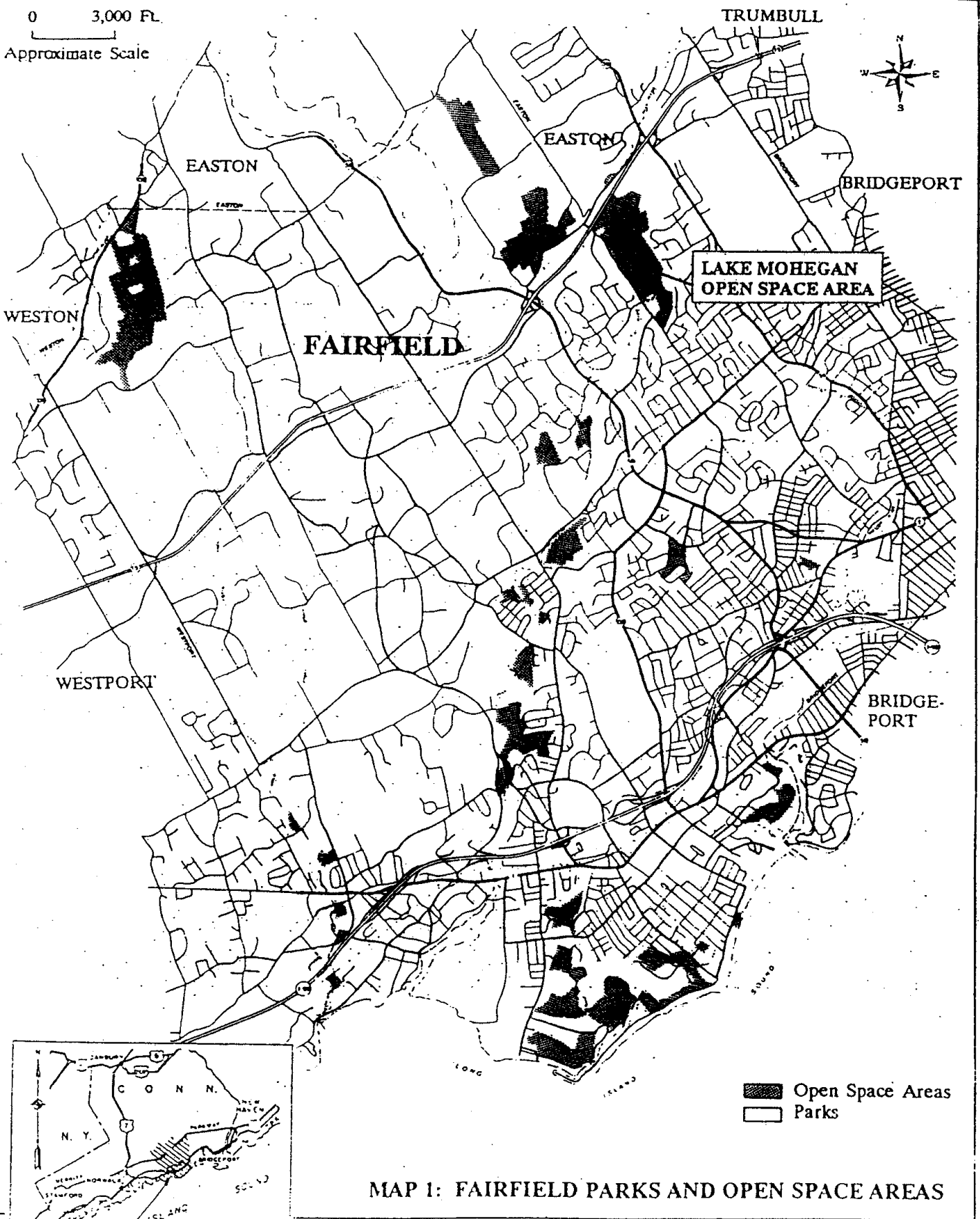
The area currently supports passive, single participant and unorganized recreational activities, including fishing, picnicking, birdwatching and hiking. The beach and swimming area is the only supervised fresh water swimming area in Town and is heavily used. The beach and swimming area and adjacent parking lot (about 5 acres) are operated and maintained by the Park Commission. The remainder of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area is operated and maintained by the Conservation Department.

The Town purchased the first part of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area — a 118.6 acre tract — in 1967. Four additional segments have been added since that time, and the total area is now approximately 170 acres. Deed restrictions and open space agreements with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection impose some use limitations on major portions of the open space area.

Because of its location, size, and natural diversity, the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area offers a great variety of recreational, educational and wildlife habitat uses. Much of the land included in the open space area has been substantially altered by a gravel mining operation that occupied the site for many years. The 17-acre Lake Mohegan and a small pond in the northeast corner of the site were both created as a result of the gravel mining operation. The gradual recovery — both natural and man-induced — from conditions that existed immediately following cessation of gravel mining is a major factor in the development of the present open space area.

An extensive system of trails and roads exists throughout the open space area, and this trail system is the focus of much of the recreational activity which takes place on the site. Trails and roads vary in length, quality, and degree of difficulty. Trails that lead around Lake Mohegan, along the edge of the Mill River and to a short section of rapids in the river (known as the Cascades) receive the greatest use. Other trails that run along the slopes on the east and west sides of the river and lake receive relatively less use.

0 3,000 FL.
Approximate Scale



MAP 1: FAIRFIELD PARKS AND OPEN SPACE AREAS

Major non-trail related activities include picnicking and fishing, as well as swimming at the designated beach area. Although the greatest activity takes place during the summer months, the area is actively used year-round and is one of the most popular of the Town's open space properties.

Only one or two major problems have been identified regarding the use and maintenance of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. Perhaps the most urgent need is to replace the footbridge over the Mill River in the northern portion of the property, just upstream from the Cascades.¹ This footbridge, which was removed during the winter of 1988-89 due to deteriorated support beams, is the only means of crossing the river during most of the year. Absence of the bridge limits use of the area for most visitors. (Those who do not mind wading can safely cross the river at many locations except during periods of very high water).

The second major problem is the spillway at the southwest end of Lake Mohegan, where the Mill River exits the lake. This spillway is composed of rubble, is susceptible to being washed out during a major flood, and provides no means of controlling lake levels. Downstream residents have expressed concern about the safety of this spillway.

Other problems exist on the open space area, but generally do not pose serious safety concerns or excessive use restrictions. Among the most widespread problems are areas of erosion and excess wetness along many of the trails. These trail conditions, particularly the wet areas, limit use of the trails for some visitors, and result in the creation of secondary or bypass trails. Development of additional trails is undesirable since the area already has an excess of trails in some sections. Most trails also have some sections with relatively steep grades, again posing limitations for some users, particularly the handicapped and elderly.

Management activities of the Conservation Department have speeded the natural recovery from the degraded conditions around Lake Mohegan that resulted from gravel mining. Planting of vegetation, especially evergreens, and annual mowing of selected areas to maintain open fields have increased both the visual attractiveness of the area and its value for wildlife habitat. The construction, in 1969, of a short road (Picnic Area Access Road) that allows users easy access from Morehouse Highway to the north end of Lake Mohegan, the western side of the Mill River, and the Cascades, has greatly increased use of the open space area. Picnic tables and grills located beside the river with a view of the lake generate heavy useage, but limited parking causes congestion on the access road and contributes to erosion.

¹ Several recommendations included in this plan, including replacement of the footbridge over the Mill River, have been fully or partially implemented between the time this plan was first drafted and its ultimate completion. Since implementation is an on-going activity, no attempt has been made to identify the actions that have already been carried out.

The Conservation Department performs regular maintenance activities such as trail clearing, debris removal, and vegetation management. The Park Commission supervises activities at the swimming beach between the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends and maintains the concession building and other facilities at the swimming area.

Continuation of recent management practices would serve the open space area reasonably well. However, some improvements and changes are needed to avoid long-term deterioration resulting from the impacts of heavy and increasing user activity as well as changes in natural processes. In addition, the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area offers excellent opportunities for enhanced recreational opportunities and wildlife management.

This plan recommends three principal management objectives:

- enhance opportunities for passive recreation
- protect and enhance existing natural features and resources
- develop educational programs

The main recommendations from achieving these objectives can be grouped in the following categories:

- Provide an upgraded road and trail system, consisting of main trails, paths, and emergency/maintenance roads.
- Replace the bridge over the Mill River and add a second bridge over the Mill River adjacent to the Picnic Area.
- Expand and upgrade selected trails and facilities to provide handicapped access.
- Improve vegetation management to enhance wildlife habitat.
- Enhance fisheries habitat.
- Replace the Mill River spillway with an improved spillway that will permit control over lake water levels.
- Enhance existing wetlands and small watercourses.
- Provide additional parking.
- Develop educational opportunities for studying natural resources on site.
- Improve boundary management.

The plan includes dozens of site specific recommendations that can be implemented over a number of years.

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY AND EVALUATION



Figure 2: Aerial view of Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, looking south.

LAND USE AND CHANGES

In the 1600s, before Fairfield was settled, the area now comprising the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area was covered with a forest of hemlock and northern hardwoods. There was no lake at that time, and the Mill River flowed along the base of the hill that is now the western shore of Lake Mohegan. Since pre-Colonial days, a dam at Easton reservoir has lowered the volume of water in the river.

Following settlement of the area in the 1600s, farming was extensive. A 1934 aerial photo indicates that open farm fields covered the area where Lake Mohegan has since been created. Old stone and wire fence remains are present throughout the site. During the 1800s, this area was famous for spring water. The Mohican Springs Bottling Company bottled spring water and sold it throughout the country. The bottling company and others developed guest houses and hotels for visitors seeking the health effects of the spring water. No known remnants of the bottling company and resort buildings remain within the open space area. One or two spring wells are located on the open space property, but it has not been determined if these were part of the Mohican Springs operation.

During the early and mid-1900s the area to the east of the Mill River was excavated for gravel; much of the material being used in the construction of the Merritt Parkway. Before the Town acquired the land, the gravel dike between the river and the excavation pit was removed, allowing the river to flood the pit, forming the body of water that is now Lake Mohegan. A much smaller pond (designated as North Pond) in the northeast corner of the open space area was also created by gravel excavation. Two other small ponds, located just north of the open space area and south of the Merritt Parkway, are also the result of gravel mining. The main office building used by the gravel mining operation remains. This building — located upslope from the southeast corner of Lake Mohegan — is now owned by the Town and rented to a Town employee.

Farming, gravel mining and other land use practices have eliminated the original forests and created three distinct types of upland vegetation: areas with a continuous forest cover, primarily deciduous trees; non-forested areas of shrubs and herbaceous plants; and open meadows.

Much of the area surrounding the open space land has now been developed for single family homes. The Merritt Parkway is located north of the open space area and the right-of-way for the Merritt Parkway forms the northern boundary. The General Electric Corporation headquarters is located adjacent to the northeast corner of the open space property. As described below, the GE corporation has had a major, beneficial impact on the Lake

Mohegan Open Space Area.

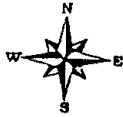
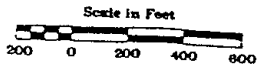
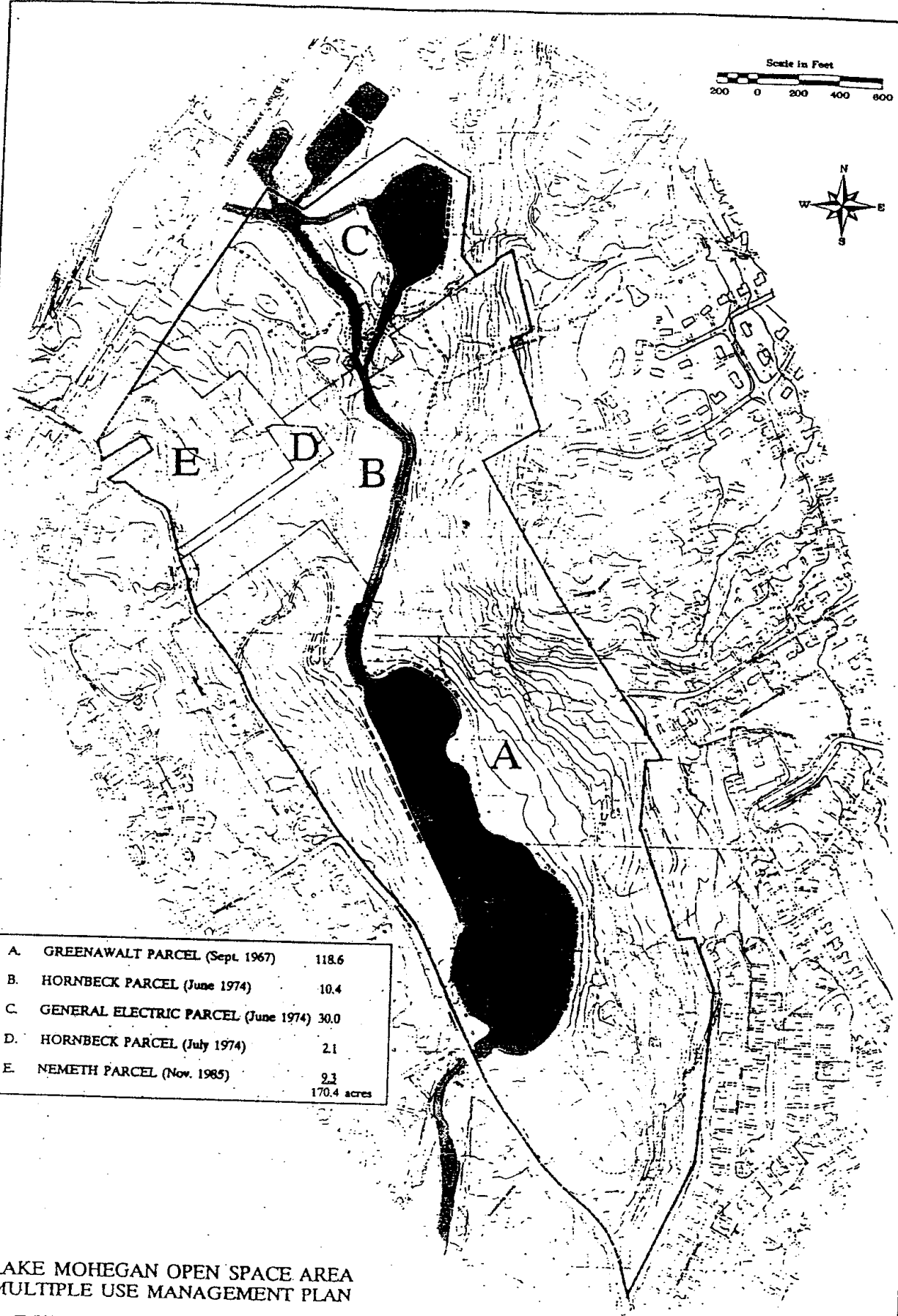
The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area now comprises approximately 170.5 acres, acquired in five separate parcels between 1967 and 1985 (see Map 2). The first and largest acquisition was in September 1967, when 118.6 acres (known as the Greenawalt parcel) were acquired using a combination of Town funds and a grant from the state. This parcel includes Lake Mohegan and all land on both sides of the lake and the Mill River, extending from the southern boundary of the open space area north to just above the road leading to the picnic area. From the center line of the Mill River eastward, the parcel extends further north to just south of North Pond. Because of the state funds used for acquisition, the Town entered into an agreement with the state to maintain the land for recreation and conservation purposes.¹

In 1974, three additional parcels were added to the open space area. The largest of these was 30 acres donated by the General Electric Corporation. This parcel extended the open space area north to the Merritt Parkway right-of-way,² and included North Pond, the Mill River north of the Cascades, and land west of the Mill River. Deed restrictions on this parcel require that the land "be retained in its wild and natural state and ... dedicated to the preservation of the natural beauty and native flora and fauna..." for a period of 50 years. Vehicles, hunting, camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, excavation, and land fill are all prohibited during this 50-year period.

Two additional parcels of 10.4 and 2.1 acres (referred to as the Hornbeck parcels) were also acquired in 1974. The larger parcel includes the western side of the Mill River to just north of the Cascades. Both parcels extend westward to Old Morehouse Highway. The Town received a grant (Land and Water Conservation Fund) from the state to help acquire this land, and consequently entered into an agreement similar to the one on the Greenawalt parcel.

¹ Refer to Appendix A for details on deed and agreement restrictions.

² Two small triangles of land adjacent to the Merritt Parkway right-of-way were retained by the GE Corporation. One parcel of about 15,900 square feet begins about 150 feet from Morehouse Highway. The second parcel is about 2,500 square feet and is immediately west of the main GE property and includes the section of the Mill River south of the Merritt Parkway right-of-way. Refer to Appendix A for details on these parcels.



A.	GREENAWALT PARCEL (Sept. 1967)	118.6
B.	HORNBECK PARCEL (June 1974)	10.4
C.	GENERAL ELECTRIC PARCEL (June 1974)	30.0
D.	HORNBECK PARCEL (July 1974)	2.1
E.	NEMETH PARCEL (Nov. 1985)	2.3
		170.4 acres

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
 MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN
 FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 Fairfield, Connecticut

I.R. Johnston Associates

MAP 2: HISTORY OF OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

The final parcel was added to the open space area in 1985.³ The General Electric Corporation contributed funds that enabled the Town to acquire 9.3 acres (known as the Nemeth parcel) adjacent to Old Morehouse Highway, Morehouse Highway and the Merritt Parkway right-of-way. Although no deed restrictions apply to this property, GE did require as a condition of its gift of the purchase price that the property be restricted to use as part of the open space program of the Town and that hunting, camping, picnicking, excavation, land fill and use of motor vehicles be prohibited for a period of forty years.⁴ Additional restrictions apply within the CL&P right-of-way which crosses this parcel as well as portions of the two Hornbeck parcels and the Greenawalt parcel. A major transmission line extends the length of this 80 foot-wide right-of-way. CL&P requires that the right-of-way be kept clear of any trees or other material that might interfere with the transmission lines. CL&P crews clear vegetation along the right-of-way every five years.



Figure 3: CL&P right-of-way, looking west.

³ In 1971 two parcels of land just west of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area were conveyed to the Town as Open Space by the North Meadow Estates Subdivision under the Town Plan and Zoning regulations. One parcel of 16,184 square feet is located between Nepas Road, Cascade Drive, and Ponuncamo Road. This parcel is essentially landlocked except for a drainage easement. The second parcel is 33,701 square feet and is located between Morehouse Highway, Canterbury Lane and the Mill River, just across Morehouse Highway from the Mill River Spillway. These parcels have not been addressed as part of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.

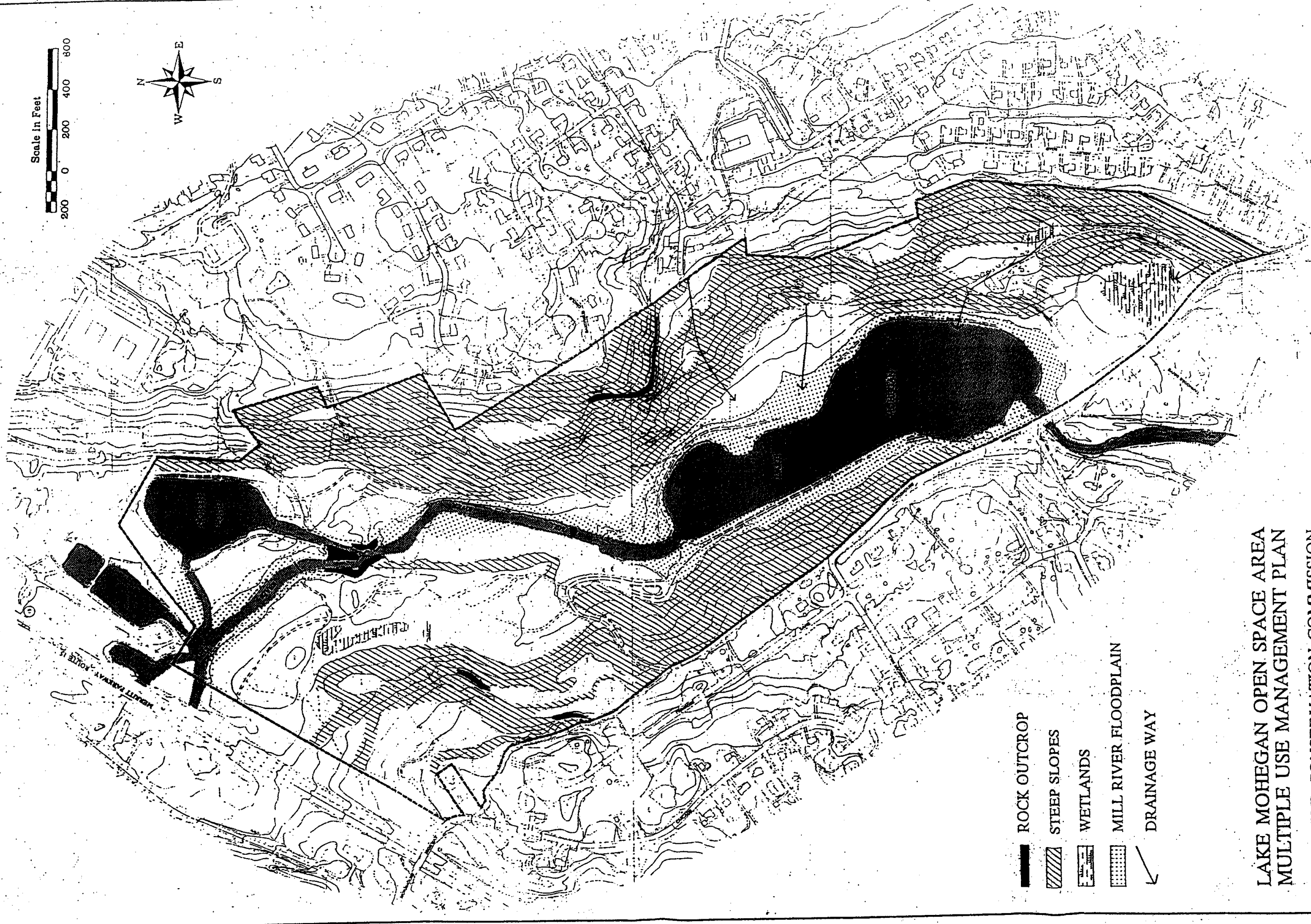
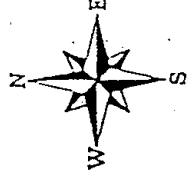
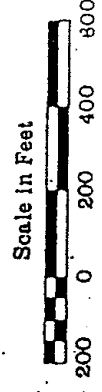
⁴ See correspondence in Appendix A.

TOPOGRAPHY

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area is situated within the Mill River valley and is oriented approximately north-south. The Mill River and Lake Mohegan occupy the valley floor. Land rises relatively steeply from the lake and river so that the floodplain occupies only a narrow strip along the shores of the river and lake (see Map 3). Much of the area has slopes that exceed 15 or 20 percent.

The open space area land includes most of the slope above the valley floor, but does not extend to the top of the ridge. The highest land in the open space area is east of the river and lake. The highest point reached is about 270 feet msl near the mid-point of the eastern boundary (just north of Eastfield Circle). On the western side of the valley, elevation within the open space area reaches 220 feet msl just north of the CL&P right-of-way. The lowest point in the open space area is the outlet of Lake Mohegan at about 80 feet msl.

The gravel mining operations made significant changes in the topography of the area: creating Lake Mohegan, North Pond, and two additional small ponds just off site to the north. Areas south of Lake Mohegan and around North Pond have been substantially altered from their original topography and now provide relatively large areas of mostly level land.



- ROCK OUTCROP
- STEEP SLOPES
- WETLANDS
- MILL RIVER FLOODPLAIN
- DRAINAGE WAY

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut

L.R. Johnston Associates

GEOLOGY

BEDROCK GEOLOGY

Bedrock underlying the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area consists of three different schist formations as shown in Map 4:

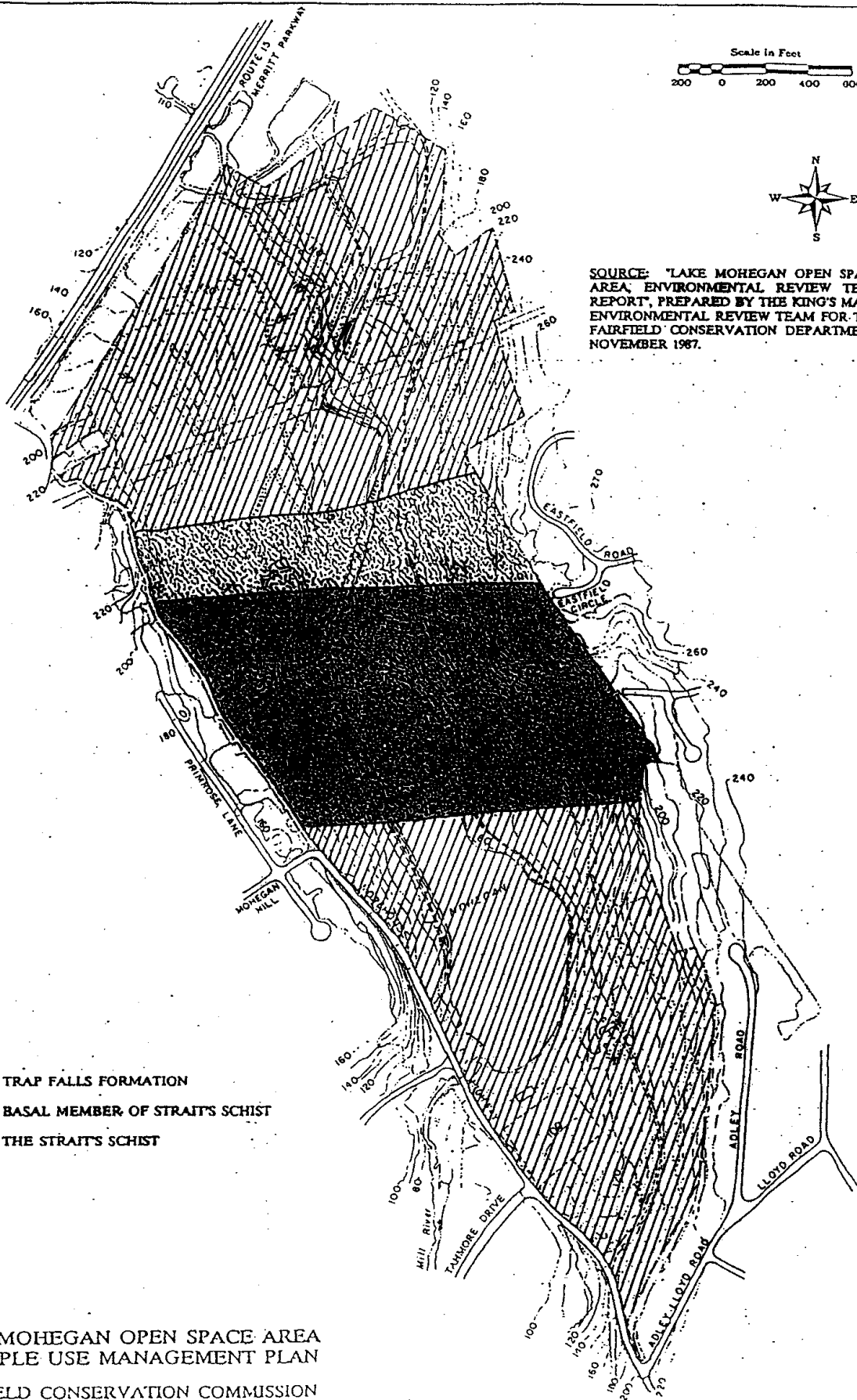
Trap Falls Formation;
Straits Schist; and
basal member of the Straits Schist.

The northern and southern parts of the open space area are underlain by the Trap Falls formation, a gray to silver, rusty weathering, medium-grained schist. The interior sections of the site include two east-west trending belts of rocks named the Straits Schist and its basal member. The Straits Schist, which is located in the central portion of the area, consists of a silvery to gray coarse-grained schist. Its basal member, which consists of a gray schist with layers of amphibolite, marble and quartzite, is located in the north central part. All of the rock types (i.e., schists, amphibolite, marble and quartzite) found in the open space area are metamorphic: that is they have been subjected to great heat and pressures within the earth's crust. The stresses of metamorphism caused the alignment of platy, flaky and elongated minerals into thin sheets or bands. Where the alignment has resulted in a scabby rock (one that parts relatively easily along surfaces of mineral alignment), the rock is termed a "schist."

Bedrock is exposed at several locations within the open space area (see Map 3). The Mill River has exposed bedrock at many areas along the streambed, especially at the area known as the Cascades. Another area of bedrock that has become exposed in recent years as a result of downcutting of the streambed lies just east of the picnic area, about 500 feet upstream from the confluence with Lake Mohegan. A bedrock outcropping is also located on the eastern shore of Lake Mohegan, where the shore juts out into the lake.

Bedrock is also exposed at several locations in the slopes on both sides of the valley. The most prominent exposure is in the eastern slope, immediately southwest of Eastfield Circle. On the west slope, bedrock outcroppings are found at two locations: just south of the CL&P right-of-way, and just east of Old Morehouse Highway.

These bedrock exposures offer excellent opportunities to study the geology of the Mill River valley.



SOURCE: "LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA, ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT", PREPARED BY THE KING'S MARK ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM FOR THE FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT, NOVEMBER 1987.

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut

L.R. Johnston Associates

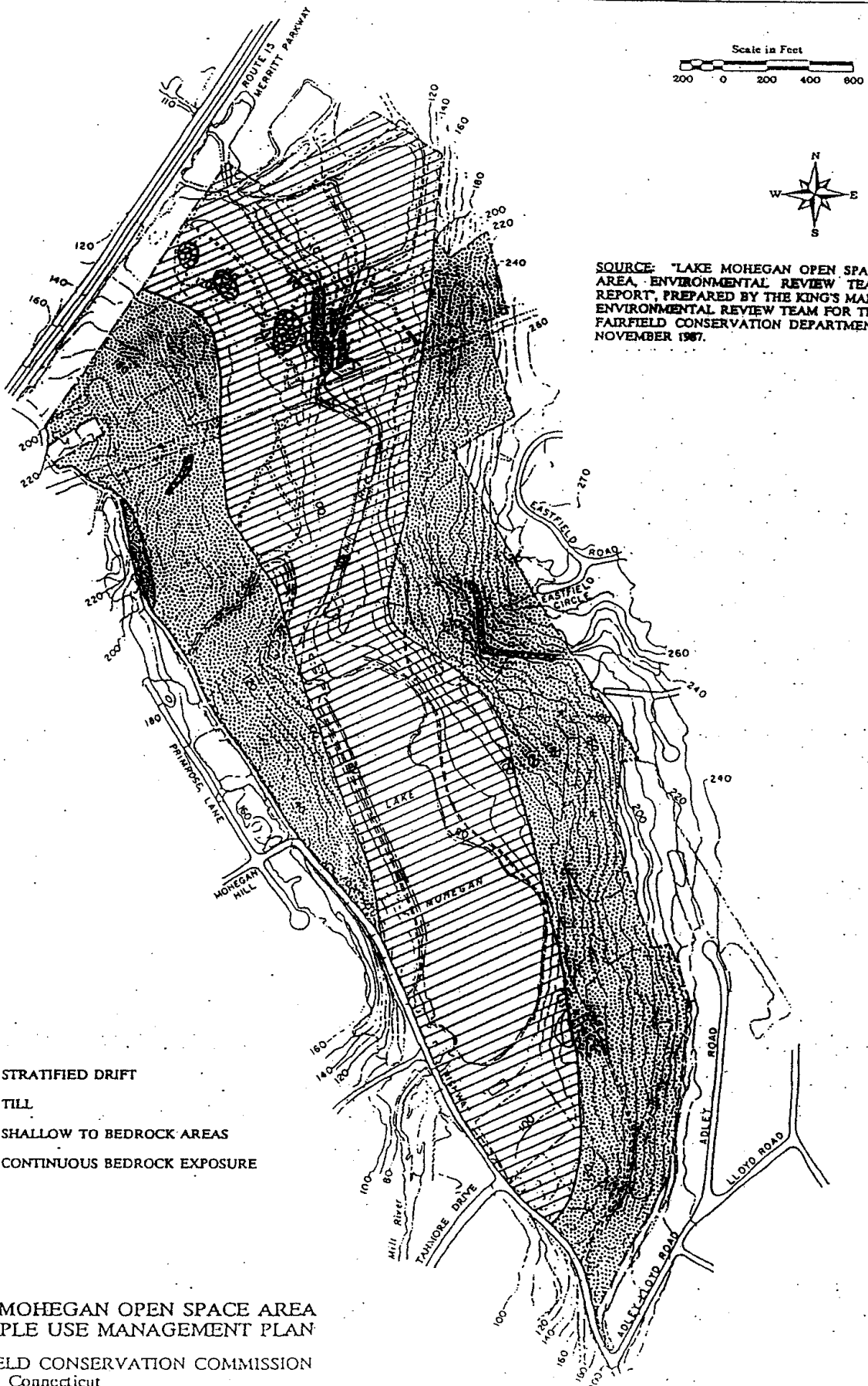
MAP 4: BEDROCK GEOLOGY

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

Map 5 illustrates the surficial geology of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.⁵ Except for the cobble, pebble, gravel and sand that immediately parallels the Mill River, the open space area is dominated by relatively thin till (less than 10 feet thick). Till is a mixture of clay, silt, sand, gravel and boulders that were deposited directly from a mass of glacier ice. Since the textural constituents were not greatly affected by meltwater, there is generally little sorting or stratification in till. Textures may range from coarse, gravelly material to silty, tightly compact material. According to the Soil Survey for Fairfield County, most of the site contains the coarse gravelly variety of till. There is, however, the finer-grained, more compact type of till primarily in the eastern sections of the open space area.

In the area along the Mill River, the predominant surficial geologic material is stratified drift. Stratified drift consists of rock particles that were washed out of wasting ice masses by meltwater and redeposited in a generally sorted and layered sequence. Sand is usually the major component of stratified drift, but clean gravelly layers or lenses are also common, particularly in the upper levels of the deposit. The thickness of stratified drift probably ranges from 30 feet near the Merritt Parkway to perhaps as much as 40 feet at the southern limits of the site.

⁵ The open space area lies within the Westport topographic quadrangle. A surficial geologic map (Map MF-1295 by J.R. Stone and E.H. London, 1981), which includes all those unconsolidated materials overlying bedrock, has been published for the Westport topographic quadrangle.



SOURCE: LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT, PREPARED BY THE KING'S MARK ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM FOR THE FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT, NOVEMBER 1987.

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
 MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN
 FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 Fairfield, Connecticut
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MAP 5: SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

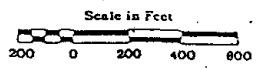
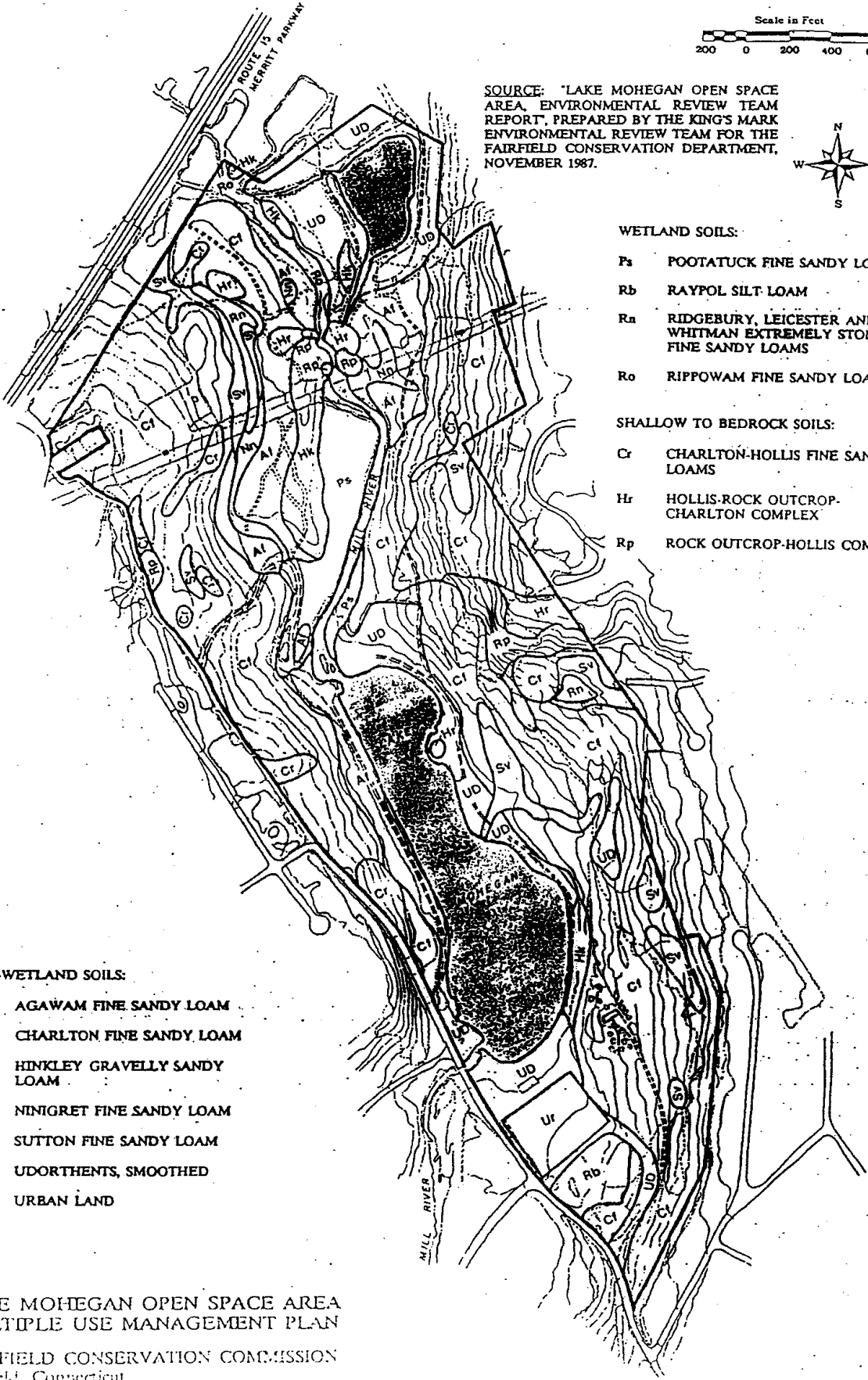
SOILS

Soils on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area have been mapped by the Town⁶ and are shown on Map 6. The areas surrounding North Pond and east of Lake Mohegan are primarily disturbed sites with the natural soil material removed. Several areas of very shallow soils occur along the slopes on both sides of the valley, along with outcroppings of bedrock. Where well developed soils are present, they are primarily sandy loam. The shallow soils that are prevalent on the open space area are prone to erosion. Wetlands and floodplain soils are primarily fine sandy and silt loams. Detailed descriptions of each soil classification shown on Map 6 can be found in the Fairfield County Soil Survey.



Figure 4: Floodplain along the west bank of the Mill River.

⁶ Mapping performed by Soil Science Services.



SOURCE: "LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA, ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM REPORT", PREPARED BY THE KING'S MARK ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TEAM FOR THE FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT, NOVEMBER 1987.



WETLAND SOILS:

- Ps POOTATUCK FINE SANDY LOAM
- Rb RAYPOL SILT LOAM
- Rn RIDGEBURY, LEICESTER AND WHITMAN EXTREMELY STONY FINE SANDY LOAMS
- Ro RIPPOWAM FINE SANDY LOAM

SHALLOW TO BEDROCK SOILS:

- Cr CHARLTON-HOLLIS FINE SANDY LOAMS
- Hr HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP-CHARLTON COMPLEX
- Rp ROCK OUTCROP-HOLLIS COMPLEX

NON-WETLAND SOILS:

- Ae AGAWAM FINE SANDY LOAM
- Cf CHARLTON FINE SANDY LOAM
- Hk HINKLEY GRAVELLY SANDY LOAM
- Na NINIGRET FINE SANDY LOAM
- Sv SUTTON FINE SANDY LOAM
- Ud UDORTHENTS, SMOOTHED
- Ur URBAN LAND

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut

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MAP 6: SOILS

HYDROLOGY

The entire Lake Mohegan Open Space Area lies within the Mill River watershed. The Mill River flows in a southerly direction through the central parts of the site enroute to Long Island Sound. The Mill River drains about 18.4 square miles (11,776 acres) at its intersection at Morehouse Highway south of Lake Mohegan. Storage and diversion of water at the upstream Easton Reservoir by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company (BHC) reduces the volume of flow that would otherwise reach this section of the Mill River and Lake Mohegan. During dry summer months, flow in the Mill River can be reduced to little more than a trickle. At times the Town of Fairfield has purchased water from the BHC in order to provide increased flow in the river (BHC releases water from the Easton Reservoir) and lake and help maintain adequate water quality in Lake Mohegan.

The Cascades, located about 1,000 feet south of the Merritt Parkway, is one of the major attractions of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. Outcroppings of bedrock in the Mill River channel constrict the river at this point, creating a short section of rapids where water cascades down a series of rock ledges. A small pool exists at the base of the cascades and a slightly larger pool exists immediately downstream, directly under the CL&P right-of-way. The first small pool is kept clean of sediment by the scouring action of the water passing over the cascades, but the second pool effectively serves as a settling basin and has gradually filled in with sediment and encroaching vegetation over the years.

The 17 acre Lake Mohegan was created as a result of gravel mining. When the gravel mining operation ceased, the dike separating the Mill River from the excavation pit was breached, creating Lake Mohegan. The lake has a maximum depth of about 36 feet near the south end and is between 30 and 35 feet deep along its centerline. Only a narrow shelf of shallow water exists in most areas, followed by a steep drop off to maximum depths. In addition to the Mill River, several small water courses and surface and subsurface seepage contribute water to Lake Mohegan, primarily from the slope east of the lake. A storm drain that collects and discharges surface flow from a subdivision on the ridge to the east, extends downslope and terminates at a headwall upslope of the Mill River and southeast of the Cascades pool. Substantial runoff is added directly to the Mill River through this storm drain.

The former bed of the Mill River now forms the western shore (and floodplain) of Lake Mohegan. When the dike between the river and excavation pit was breached, the river also changed course for a short distance north of the lake. The former channel can be seen just east of and parallel to the present channel. This former channel provides good evidence of changes that have occurred in the river since the creation of Lake Mohegan. This former

river bed is two to three feet higher than the bottom of the present channel, indicating that the Mill River has been rapidly eroding or downcutting its present channel. Recent exposure of bedrock about 500 feet upstream from the point where the river enters Lake Mohegan provides further evidence of this downcutting. Downcutting of the channel appears to be the direct result of a change in the energy of the Mill River when it was diverted into the excavation pit to create Lake Mohegan. The elevation of the lake surface is lower than the former river bed along the west shore of the lake, resulting in an increase in the energy of the river, which translates into erosion of the river bed. In addition to erosion of the streambed, bank erosion also appears to have increased in this section. Further adjustment in the hydrologic equilibrium of this section of the Mill River is likely in future years. The exact extent of the changes cannot be determined without more detailed investigation into all of the controlling factors, including estimates of the rate of vertical and lateral erosion, extent of bedrock in the river channel, and changes in lake elevation as controlled by the Lake Mohegan spillway.

The downcutting and streambank erosion occur only in the stretch of river between Lake Mohegan and the Cascades. The bedrock outcropping at the cascades effectively prevents streambed erosion upstream from that point.



Figure 5: The upper portion of the Cascades, looking north.

The spillway at the southwest end of Lake Mohegan controls the water level in the lake. This spillway consists of stone rubble atop the natural bedrock and surficial geological formations. The Town has periodically added large stones and boulders to the spillway to replace material that is washed away. This stone rubble spillway provides no means of regulating the water level of the lake.

In the northern part of the open space area a small pond (North Pond) was also created by gravel excavation. This pond is about 1.5 acres and has a maximum depth of about 9 feet. North Pond is connected to the Mill River through two excavated channels. The northernmost of these channels allows water from the Mill River to flow into North Pond. Near the point where this channel connects with the Mill River, it has been partially filled, thus restricting flow into North Pond to times of high water in the Mill River. No information has been located indicating when this fill was placed in the channel. The outlet channel from North Pond connects with the Mill River at the Cascades. North Pond receives its water supply from groundwater, and springs may exist in the pond. Surface runoff and seepage from the slopes to the east and south also contribute some water to the pond.

Just to the north and off the open space area are two additional small ponds also created as a result of gravel mining. These ponds are also connected to the Mill River by excavated channels.

WATER QUALITY

All surface water in the Mill River, from the Easton Reservoir Dam upstream to its head waters in Easton, is designated as Class AA. This means these waters are presently uncontaminated, are used as a public water supply and that treated waste water discharges are not allowed. From the Easton Reservoir Dam downstream to its lowermost tidal section, including Lake Mohegan, the Mill River is designated as Class A. This means these waters are presently uncontaminated, suitable for human consumption and treated waste water discharges are not allowed. All other surface waters flowing to Lake Mohegan are designated as Class A.

Groundwaters in the Mill River basin upstream of Easton Reservoir are designated as Class GAA. This class means all these groundwaters are presently uncontaminated, are tributary to a public water supply source (Easton Reservoir), and are "off limits" to all discharges except from individual house septic tanks. All other groundwaters flowing to the Mill River, including Lake Mohegan, are Class GA: uncontaminated, usable for direct human consumption and the only discharge allowed would be from individual septic tanks.

Lake Mohegan and its tributary surface and groundwaters are free of major human generated pollutants so far as is known. However, given the extensive development of the Lake's watershed, it is virtually certain that nutrients, road deicing salts and eroded earth materials periodically enter the Lake.

VEGETATION

Vegetation on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area can be roughly categorized as forested and non-forested. Forested or woodland areas cover most of the site, but the non-forested areas are important contributors to both wildlife and recreational aspects of the open space area. Map 7 shows the location of major vegetative groupings. Appendix B provides a detailed inventory of plant species identified on the open space area.

FORESTED AREAS

Physiographic variations and differences in land use practices have resulted in the establishment of several different forest communities on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. Several stages of succession are present, ranging from early- to mid-successional stands of young black birch to terminal communities dominated by beech, hickory, oak, and hemlock. The different stages of succession also provide clues to the area's history. Terminal communities are growing on land that either has never been cleared, or was retired from agricultural uses at least 120 years ago. Early-successional communities are growing on land that remained cleared until much more recently.

East of the Mill River and Lake Mohegan, north of the area of bedrock outcroppings, a terminal community makes up most of the forest cover. Predominant species include oak, beech, and hickory; sycamore, tulip poplar, black birch, ash, and red maple are less numerous. Shrubs include flowering dogwood and maple-leaved viburnum on the well-drained sites and spicebush on wet sites. Due to the heavy shade of the high canopy, ground cover of herbaceous plants is generally light. Except for localized wet sites where spicebush growth may be thick, the forest is free of dense undergrowth, so that walking is not restricted.

Vegetation on the ledges above the lake consists of grasses, sedges, and sweetfern growing under a sparse tree cover of oak and hickory and scattered cedar and hemlock. At the base of the ledges, there is a mixture of forest communities, ranging from a pure beech stand to an area of poorly drained soil that supports a cover of young black birch, ash, and red maple. Differences in soil moisture patterns caused by the ledges probably account for the lack of forest cover continuity here.

South of the rock outcroppings the predominant species are black birch and oak, interspersed with sassafras, ash, hickory, and red maple. In some places the walking is difficult due to dense growths of Japanese honeysuckle and greenbriar where the forest

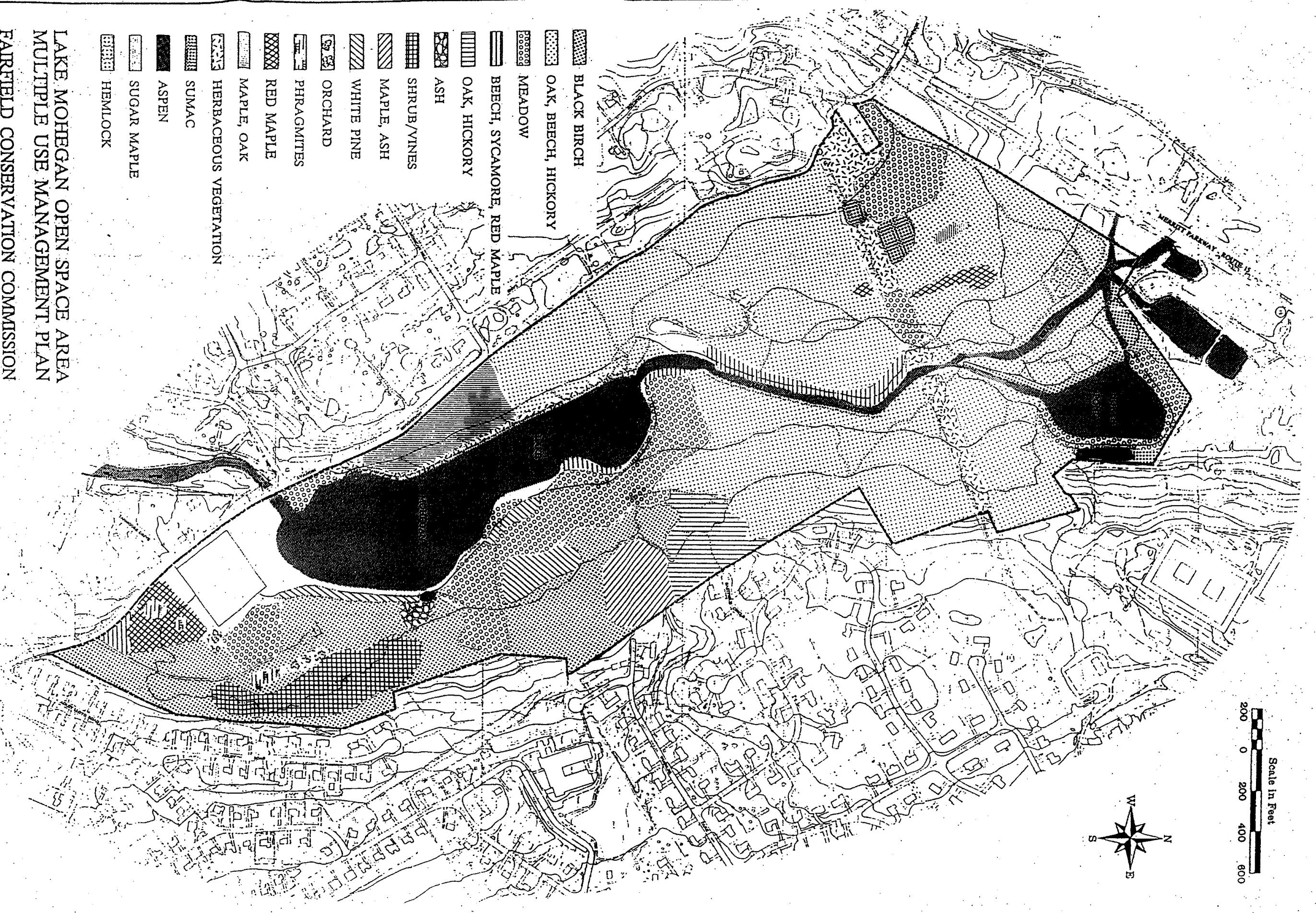
cover is youngest. One large section is almost devoid of mature trees and is a dense tangle of vines and shrubs.

Several white pines have been planted along the eastern shore of the lake, and a small white pine plantation is located between the forested areas and the open field adjacent to the lake.

Remnants of an old fruit orchard (primarily apple) are located southeast of Lake Mohegan, near the lake residence. Individual and small groups of fruit trees are scattered throughout the remainder of the open space area.



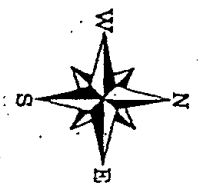
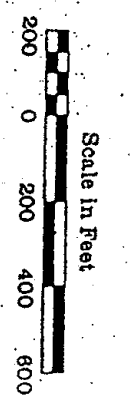
Figure 6: Aerial view of the east side of Lake Mohegan, showing second growth deciduous forest, open meadow, and white pine plantings.



- BLACK BIRCH
- OAK, BEECH, HICKORY
- MEADOW
- BEECH, SYCAMORE, RED MAPLE
- OAK, HICKORY
- ASH
- SHRUB/VINES
- MAPLE, ASH
- WHITE PINE
- ORCHARD
- PHRAGMITES
- RED MAPLE
- MAPLE, OAK
- HERBACEOUS VEGETATION
- SUMAC
- ASPEN
- SUGAR MAPLE
- HEMLOCK

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 FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 Fairfield, Connecticut

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MAP 7: VEGETATION

West of the river and north of Lake Mohegan, the forest cover is composed mainly of terminal stage communities. Near the edge of the river, there are sycamore, hemlock, yellow birch, and beech. Oak, beech, hickory, and black birch predominate on the flat alluvial terraces. The same species, plus some hemlock, sugar maple, and tulip poplar, cover the hillside that climbs up to Old Morehouse Highway. The hillside has a fairly dense undergrowth of viburnum and spicebush, but the lower areas are very open and easy to walk in.

The hillside west of Lake Mohegan supports a terminal-stage forest cover of oak, ash, hickory, black birch, hemlock, and beech. There are many flowering dogwoods in the understory. The entire section of woods is quite open, which makes walking easy and permits a limited view of the lake from Morehouse Highway during the fall and winter.

Damage from insects and disease is evident at many locations throughout the forested areas. In a few areas, several of the larger oaks are dead or dying. These trees were probably defoliated by gypsy moths a few years ago, and then, because they were weakened, were attacked by the shoestring root rot fungus and the two-lined chestnut borer. This is a common occurrence in Connecticut's woodlands. There is no control other than making the forest as healthy as possible by periodic thinning of undesirable trees.

A light infestation of the beech scale, an insect, is also evident. This scale combines with a fungus (called *Nectria*) to kill or injure beech trees. The *Nectria* fungus usually invades 3 to 5 years after the scale insects appear. Some trees are killed within a year after the fungus becomes apparent, others linger for several years, while some are resistant. Again, the only control is to periodically remove undesirable or susceptible trees to make the forest as a whole more vigorous.

NON-FORESTED AREAS

Five principal areas of non-forested vegetation have developed or been deliberately created within the open space area: the slopes adjacent to the east shore of Lake Mohegan; severely disturbed areas around North Pond; the CL&P right-of-way; the area in the northwest corner of the open space area formerly occupied by a residence and dog kennel; and a narrow strip along the western shore of Lake Mohegan.

The slopes east of Lake Mohegan (including areas southeast and north of the lake) were severely disturbed by the gravel mining operation and left with little or no soil cover. These areas have slowly revegetated over the years and are now covered with a mixture of grasses, wildflowers and herbaceous species. In recent years the open field appearance has been maintained by annual mowing to remove tree species that would otherwise begin to invade

The CL&P right-of-way is a mixture of shrubs such as sumac and elderberry, grasses and vines. Trees and tall shrubs are cleared from the area by CL&P crews every five years.

The land surrounding North Pond was also severely disturbed by gravel mining, leaving little or no soil cover. A sparse grass cover is present over most of the area, interspersed with natural growth and planted trees and shrubs.

The area of the former dog kennel has grown into a dense stand of grasses and herbaceous vegetation, including dense stands of sumac, Japanese knotweed and burdock. Annual mowing has kept most of the area in a open field and prevents shrubs and trees from developing.

A narrow strip of floodplain along the western edge of Lake Mohegan is covered by dense herbaceous vegetation, primarily Japanese Knotweed. A small flat area just north of the spillway has been planted to grass.



Figure 7: Open meadow in the northwest portion of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.

WETLANDS

Several small wetlands are located within the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, including those adjacent to Lake Mohegan and North Pond, the riverbanks and associated channel, a small drainageway in the northwest part of the tract, a wooded swamp south of the beach parking lot and a small phragmites stand near the Lake Residence (see Map 3).

The wetlands adjacent to Lake Mohegan and North Pond are mostly fringing emergent marshes with scattered shrubs and trees on the upland edge. Zonation to open water is variable, depending upon the slope and the width of the shoreline area. These marshy areas may expand as the lake margins accrete through siltation from the adjacent upland. Three areas of accretion are evident in Lake Mohegan. Probably the largest area of accretion is at the north end of the lake where the Mill River enters the lake. A delta has been gradually extending into the lake as sediment is deposited when river flows enter the lake. At the southwest corner of the lake, where the lakeshore bends to the west just north of the spillway, a large area of still water exists that collects large amounts of debris during flood flows. This material accumulates along the shore of the lake and is building out the shore in this area.



Figure 8: Emergent wetlands at the southwest corner of Lake Mohegan, north of the spillway.

On the southeast side of the lake, a small watercourse runs steeply downslope and enters the lake. Sediment carried by this watercourse has built a small delta into the lake and wetland plants have become established. This delta is now trapping debris during flood flows, further building up the delta. In North Pond, sediment deposited by a small watercourse which enters the pond at its northeast corner has created a small delta which supports a stand of cattails.

The wetlands of the riverbank and river channel are also narrow, fringing the river much of its length. The vegetation here is variable, depending upon annual flood events.

A small drainageway and wooded wetland (primarily red maple with a dense shrub layer) begins in the northern portion of the open space area west of the Mill River and extends to south of the CL&P right-of-way, approximately parallel with the river. Parts of this wetland have substantial standing water during the spring and after heavy rains.

The wetland south of the beach parking lot is primarily a red maple swamp with a dense stand of red maple saplings. Phragmites are present in many parts of this wetland.

A small wetland dominated by phragmites is located just southeast of the residence on the open space area. This wetland appears to have developed in an old borrow pit.



Figure 9: Walkway through the red maple swamp at the south end of the beach area parking lot.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE

The 170 acre site contains a variety of wildlife habitats including forest, open fields, wooded swamp, and brush/shrub areas. Wildlife habitat also includes and is enhanced by Lake Mohegan, North Pond (and the nearby off-site ponds), the Mill River, smaller watercourses, and wetlands. The great diversity of habitats on the tract provides good to excellent wildlife habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

Wildlife utilizing the area include mammals such as deer, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, and muskrats; a variety of birds such as ducks, egrets, herons, hawks, owls, woodpeckers and songbirds; and various amphibians and reptiles. Appendix C includes a listing of wildlife species that have been observed on the site. In addition to those listed, the Pileated Woodpecker and Bald Eagle have reportedly been observed on the open space area.

FISHERIES

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area contains a wide variety of aquatic habitats supporting a diversity of fish species. The waters of the open space are representative of lotic (moving water) habitats in the Mill River and lentic (standing water) habitats in North Pond and Lake Mohegan.

Mill River

The river is coldwater containing a good ratio of riffle, shallow pool, and deep pool. The substrate is of sand fines, cobble, and small boulder.

In 1987 the Kings Mark Environmental Review Team sampled selected areas of the river from Lake Mohegan to the Merritt Parkway by backpack electroshocker to determine fish species present. Species captured included brook trout, brown trout, blacknose dace, longnose dace, common shiner, tessellated darter, white sucker, and American eel. In addition to these stream species, areas downstream of North Pond also contained largemouth bass, bluegill sunfish, common (pumpkinseed) sunfish, and redbreast sunfish. All of these were the young of the year and had apparently originated from North Pond. As they are not stream dwelling species they will migrate downstream and eventually inhabit Lake Mohegan. DEP annually stocks the Mill River with about 1,365 trout; about 1/2 of

these released above Lake Mohegan and ½ below the Lake.

Throughout most of its length within the open space area, the Mill River has ample streambank vegetation which provides shade and helps to keep water temperatures low and favorable for fish. Areas with little shading from vegetation are the pool under the CL&P right-of-way and the open area where the Mill River enters Lake Mohegan. Several small rock dams have developed or been created in the river to form small pools favorable to fish. A few fallen trees are also present in the stream channel.

The Mill River enters Lake Mohegan as a broad, shallow riffle. The shallow water at this location, particularly during summer months, inhibits the free movement of fish between the river and Lake Mohegan.

All points along the river are accessible for fishing.

North Pond

Like Lake Mohegan, North Pond was created by gravel excavation. The pond volume is from groundwater flow with additional water entering from high flows of the Mill River.

The steepness of the shoreline limits aquatic plant growth to the pond perimeter. The remainder of the pond substrate is void of vegetation and might consist of various sized cobbles. The aquatic vegetation around the pond perimeter provides habitat primarily for juvenile fish. Deeper water areas may lack cover for other age classes of fish.

The pond is inhabited by warmwater fish species, including largemouth bass, sunfish and chain pickerel. The pond may also contain yellow perch, brown bullhead, white sucker, and American eel. Trout may enter from the Mill River with high flows of water.

Anglers are restricted to fishing from the shoreline only. Access to the entire shoreline is available and given the steepness of the shoreline, both deep and shallow water habitats can be fished.

Lake Mohegan

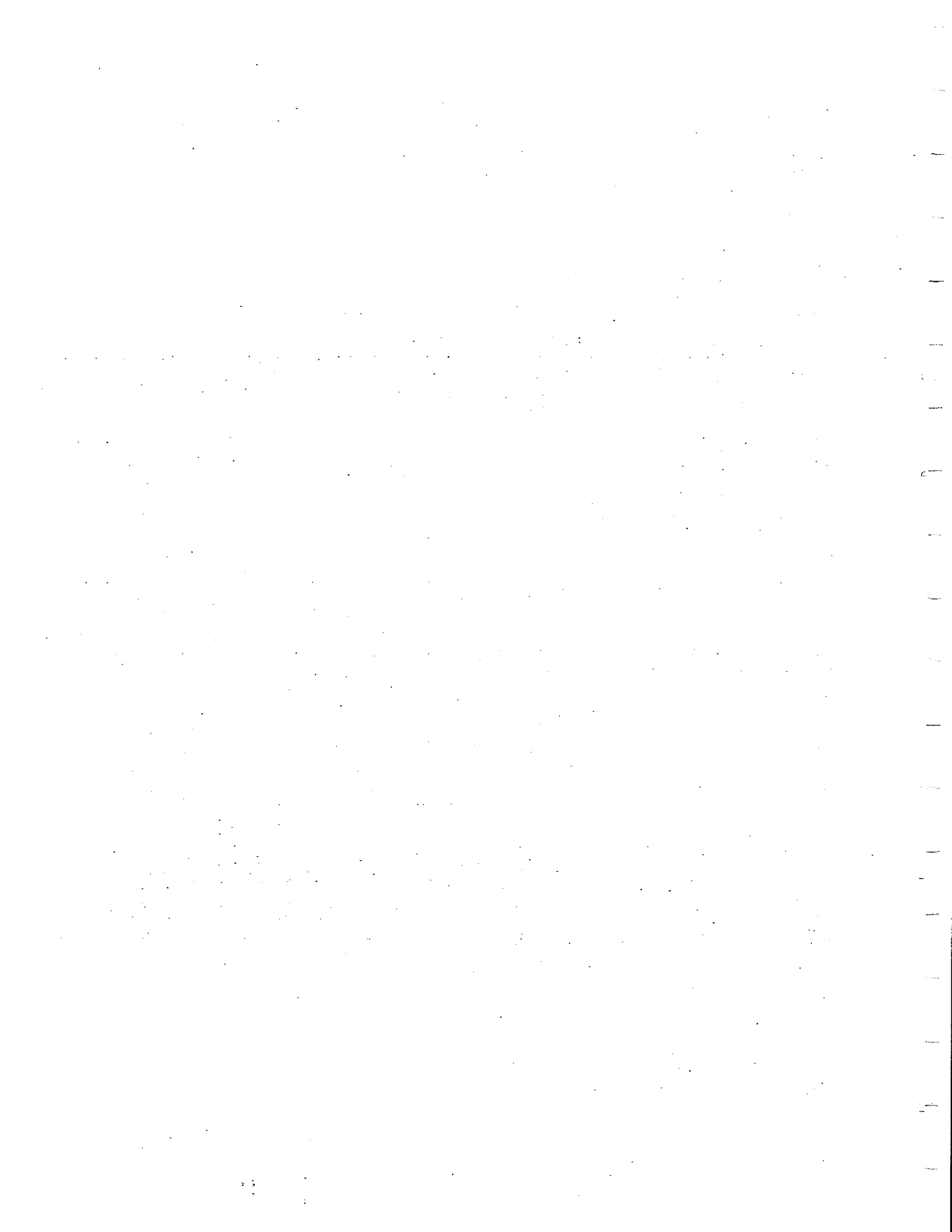
Lake Mohegan is approximately 17 acres in surface area with a maximum depth of about 36 feet. Due to the gravel excavation the shoreline slopes steeply, restricting aquatic plant growth to the lake perimeter. The remainder of the lake substrate is of till, gravel, and various sized boulders.

Fish species reported present include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill sunfish, common (pumpkinseed) sunfish, yellow perch, chain pickerel, brown bullhead, white sucker, and American eel. The Town has entered into an agreement with the Department of Environment Protection whereby the DEP annually stocks the lake with trout at no charge. In return, the Town agrees to permit fishing in the lake by members of the general public. According to DEP, Lake Mohegan is stocked annually with 2,650 trout: 60 Brook, 1,120 Brown and 1,470 Rainbow Trout. Trout surviving from spring stocking to fall have the potential to spawn, but the success of the spawning has not been determined.

The lake has the potential to be managed as both a warmwater and coldwater fishery. Juvenile largemouth bass, sunfish, and chain pickerel were observed in the shallows indicating reproduction of these species. Further investigation is necessary to evaluate the condition of the overall warmwater population. The lake waters are of sufficient quality to allow for the over summer survival of trout species and it is likely that a population of holdover trout do exist, but further investigation is required to substantiate this.

The lake lacks structure in shallow water areas. Aquatic plant growth affords cover to extremely shallow water and primarily for juveniles of the species.

Anglers are restricted to shoreline fishing only. Access is excellent and the steepness of the shoreline allows for a good ratio of shallow and deep water areas to be within the anglers reach.



OPEN SPACE USES AND PROBLEMS

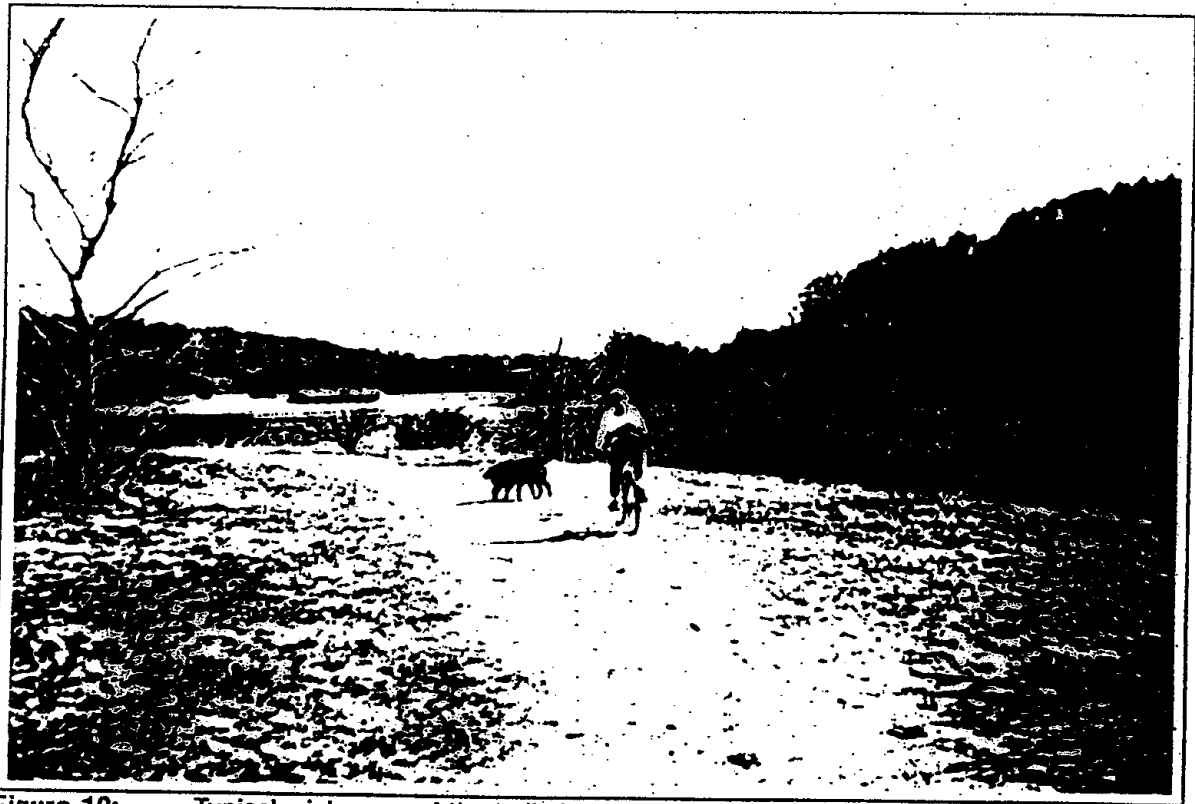


Figure 10: Typical winter use of the trail along the east side of Lake Mohegan.

OVERVIEW

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area serves as a major recreational area; providing opportunities for both active and passive recreation uses. Active recreation uses are concentrated at the beach area where swimming and sunbathing are popular activities, along with a small children's playground. Passive recreation uses occur throughout the open space area, including hiking, picnicking, fishing, birdwatching and other forms of wildlife observation. In addition, the area provides for conservation of plant and animal resources, and limited historic preservation. Map 8 illustrates the location of existing facilities on the open space area.

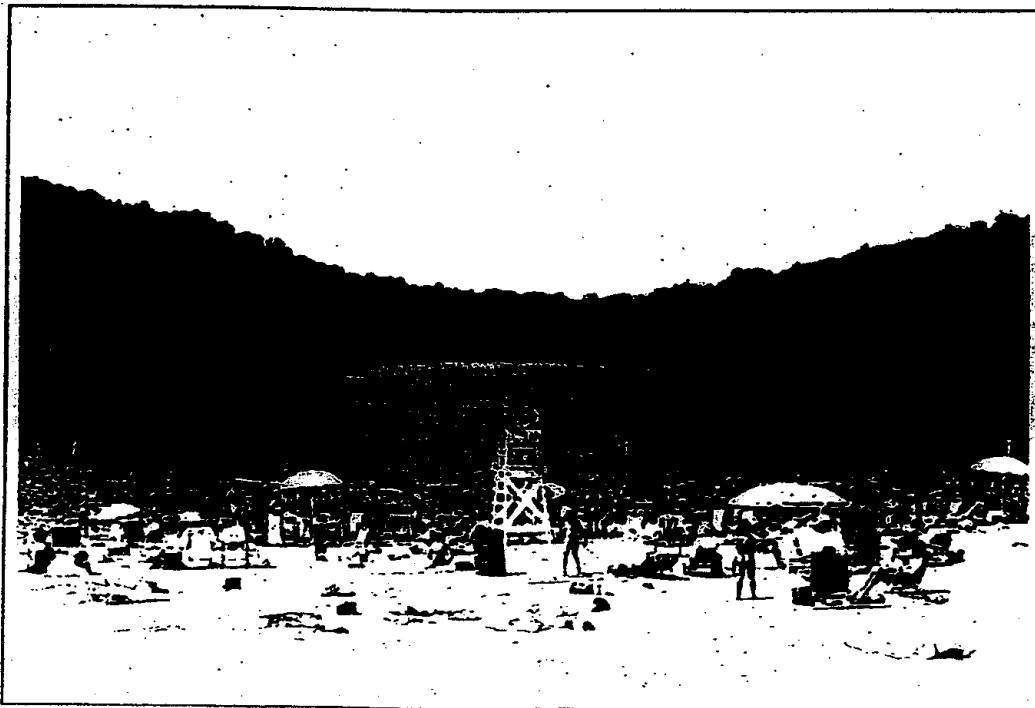
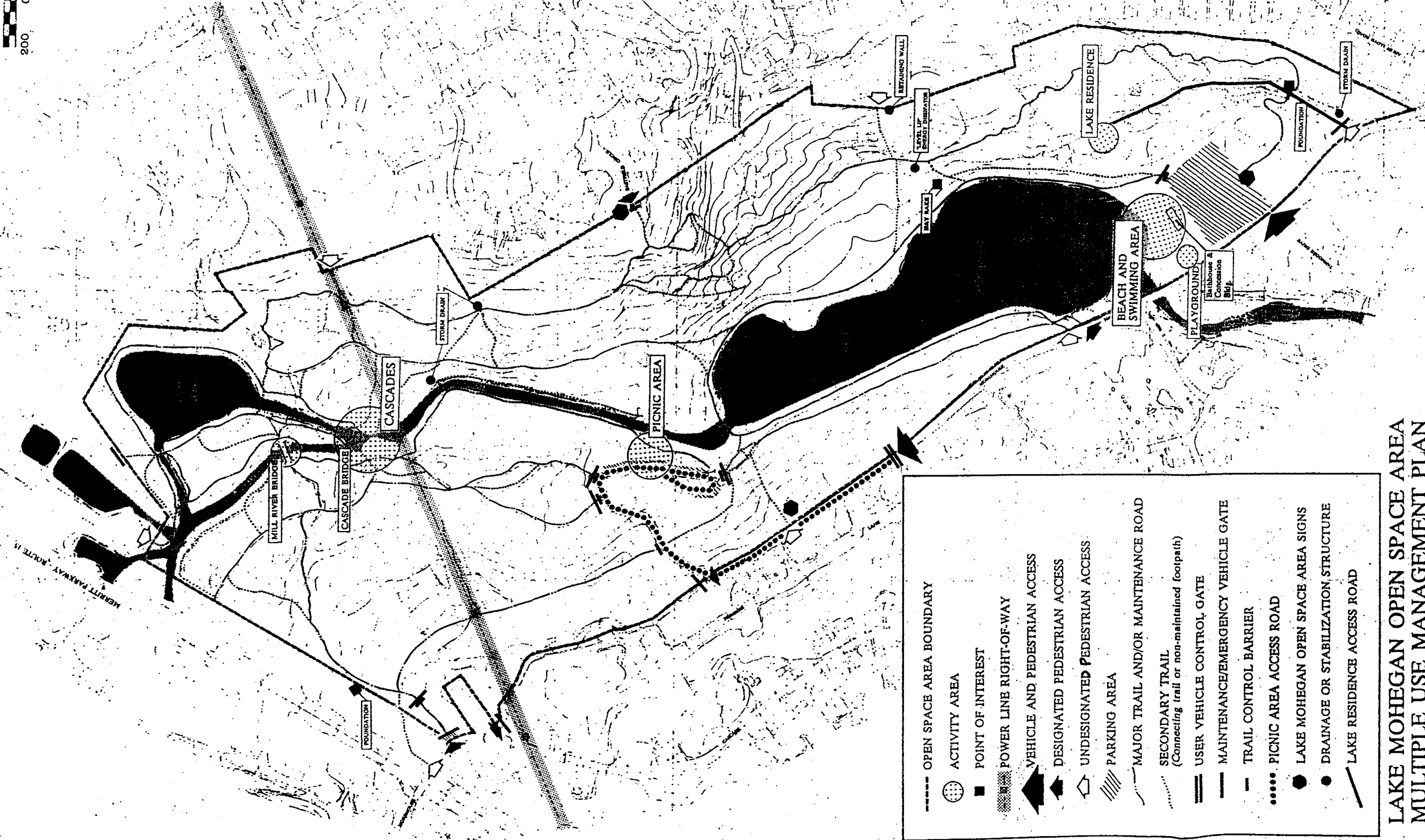
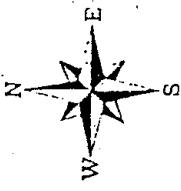
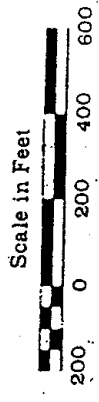


Figure 11: Typical beach and swimming area activity on a hot summer weekend in 1988.



---	OPEN SPACE AREA BOUNDARY
⊙	ACTIVITY AREA
■	POINT OF INTEREST
▨	POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY
➔	VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
➔	DESIGNATED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
◊	UNDESIGNATED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
▨	PARKING AREA
—	MAJOR TRAIL AND/OR MAINTENANCE ROAD
⋯	SECONDARY TRAIL (Connecting trail or non-maintained footpath)
==	USER VEHICLE CONTROL GATE
—	MAINTENANCE/EMERGENCY VEHICLE GATE
- - -	TRAIL CONTROL BARRIER
⋯	PICNIC AREA ACCESS ROAD
●	LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA SIGNS
●	DRAINAGE OR STABILIZATION STRUCTURE
—	LAKE RESIDENCE ACCESS ROAD

**LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut

L.R. Johnston Associates

MAP 8: EXISTING FACILITIES

WILDLIFE AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Activities to protect and enhance natural resources have been primarily related to vegetation management. In the mid-1970s a small white pine plantation was planted on the east side of Lake Mohegan, between the woodland and the open field. Some trees have been thinned from this plantation. Other white pines were planted at two locations along the eastern shore of Lake Mohegan; near the south end and at about the mid-point of the lake. More recently, the Conservation Department has planted white pines and white spruce along the east shore of North Pond and in the field north of North Pond. White pines have been planted along the boundary between the open space property and GE property. Other trees and shrubs have been planted throughout the open space area.

The other major activity related to vegetation management is mowing of fields to keep them from growing into woodland. Fields are mowed on the slope on the east side of Lake Mohegan, north of North Pond, and in the northwest corner of the open space area. In addition, the floodplain along the western shore of Lake Mohegan is mowed annually. CL&P cuts vegetation in the power line right-of-way every five years to prevent trees from growing and interfering with the transmission lines.

At one time, the Conservation Department maintained a woodduck box in the wooded wetland west of the Mill River, but no woodduck box now remains.

WATER RESOURCES

The Town has undertaken several activities related to flood and erosion control and to water quality maintenance.

FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL

The Conservation Department, with the cooperation and assistance of the Department of Public Works, has undertaken two major actions to reduce localized erosion within the open space area. A storm drain from a residential neighborhood east of the open space area previously extended only a short distance downslope into the open space area. From the point where this storm drain terminated, a large gully (up to eight feet deep and over 15 feet wide in places) developed extending down the steep slope to the Mill River. The Town extended the storm drain further downslope to just above the Mill River and below the steep slope. Riprap was placed below the headwall to prevent erosion, and fill placed across the



Figure 12: Large gully created by storm drainage system from adjacent subdivision.

upper section (at existing trail crossing) of the old gully. Erosion of the gully has been halted, but the gully has not yet fully stabilized.

The Town also installed a level lip dissipator in the meadow east of Lake Mohegan to intercept surface and subsurface flow from the slope above the lake. Water collected by the dissipator — in excess of what is actually dissipated — is directed to a small channel dug by the Conservation Department. This dissipator has helped to reduce the amount of water moving across the meadow and the trails crossing the meadow. Currently, however, the dissipator does not appear to be collecting all of the water reaching this point or directing the excess intercepted flow into the dug channel. A significant amount of water is spreading over the trail, creating a serious wet condition at this location.

The Mill River between the Cascades and Lake Mohegan is undergoing bank erosion, but no corrective measures have been taken.

The Town has periodically added boulders and other material to the Lake Mohegan spillway to maintain or raise the level of the lake. This rubble spillway is subject to continuous deterioration as material is broken up and washed away by water flowing over the spillway.

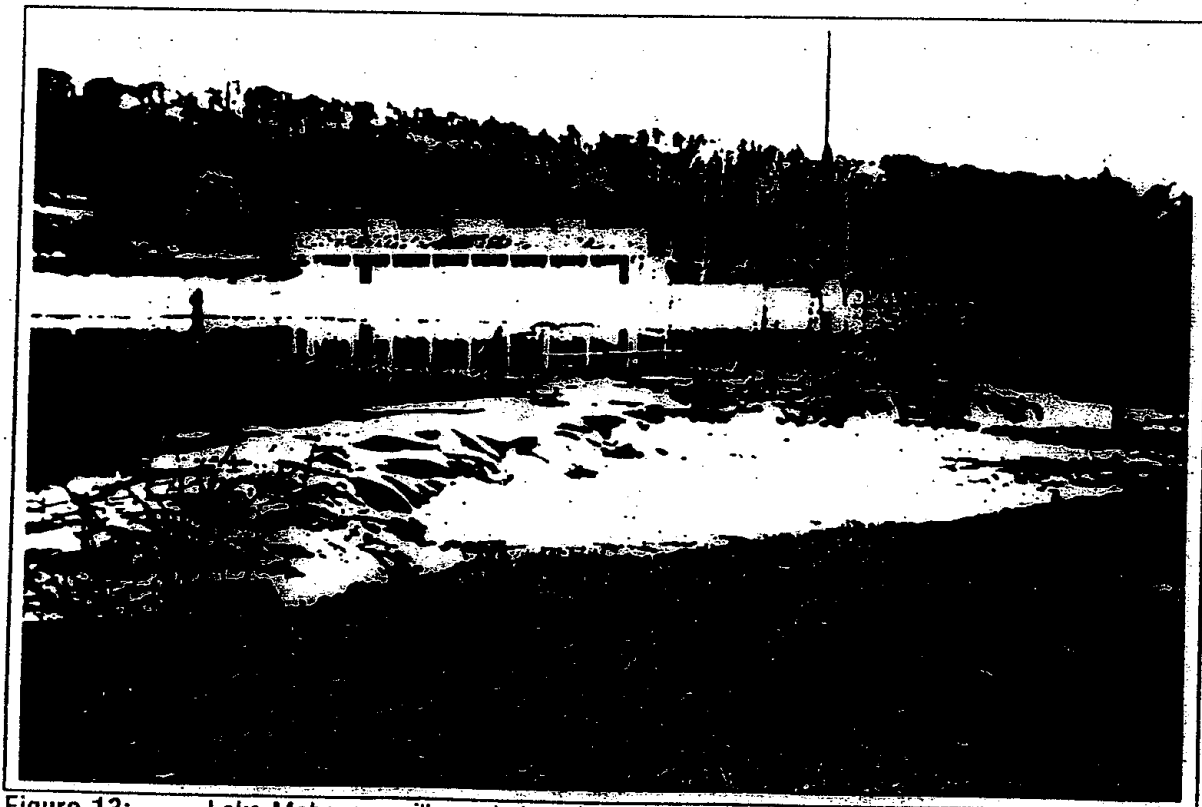


Figure 13: Lake Mohegan spillway during high water conditions in 1989.

The existing spillway provides no means of controlling (raising and lowering) lake levels. Residents of downstream areas have expressed concern about the safety of the existing spillway.

WATER QUALITY MAINTENANCE

Although water quality in the Mill River and Lake Mohegan is classified as suitable for all recreational uses, high coliform levels have occasionally been measured at the swimming beach. The lowered water quality appears to result from limited circulation at this location. To improve water circulation through the swimming area, the Town has installed an underwater pump that is used throughout the swimming season.

Water quality can also be lowered during summer months when flow in the Mill River is minimal, resulting in an increased concentration of organic material and pollutants. The Town has, at times, purchased water from the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company in order to have BHC release additional water from the Easton Reservoir into the Mill River. Purchase of water is expensive, and during drought periods, BHC may be unwilling to release additional water from the reservoir.

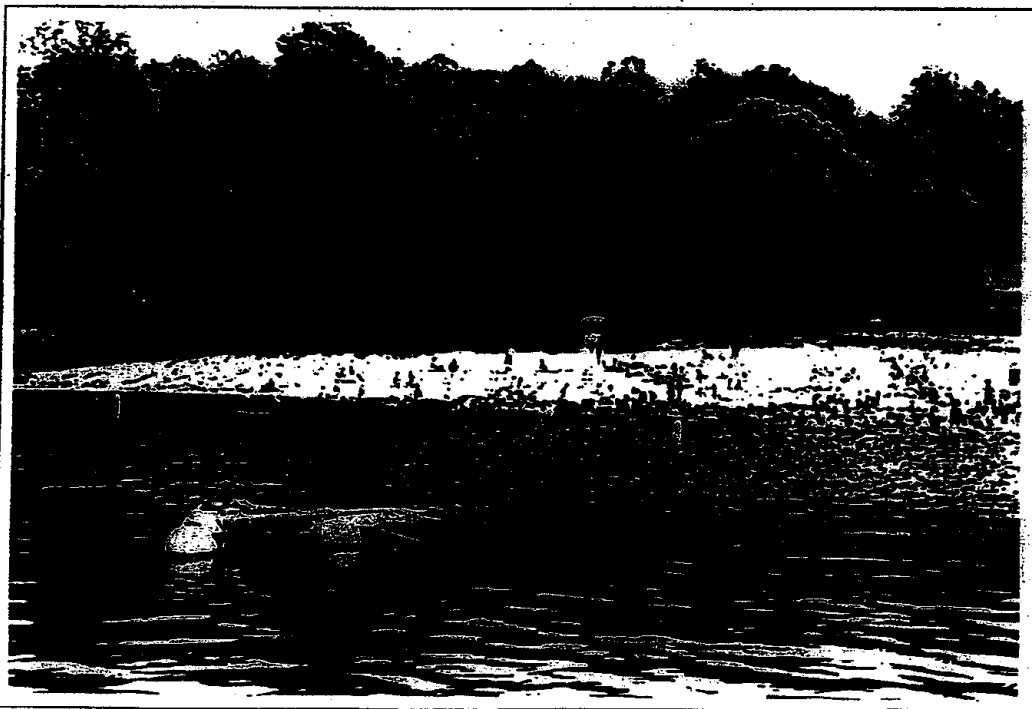


Figure 14: Water circulation pump in Lake Mohegan near the swimming area.

RECREATION

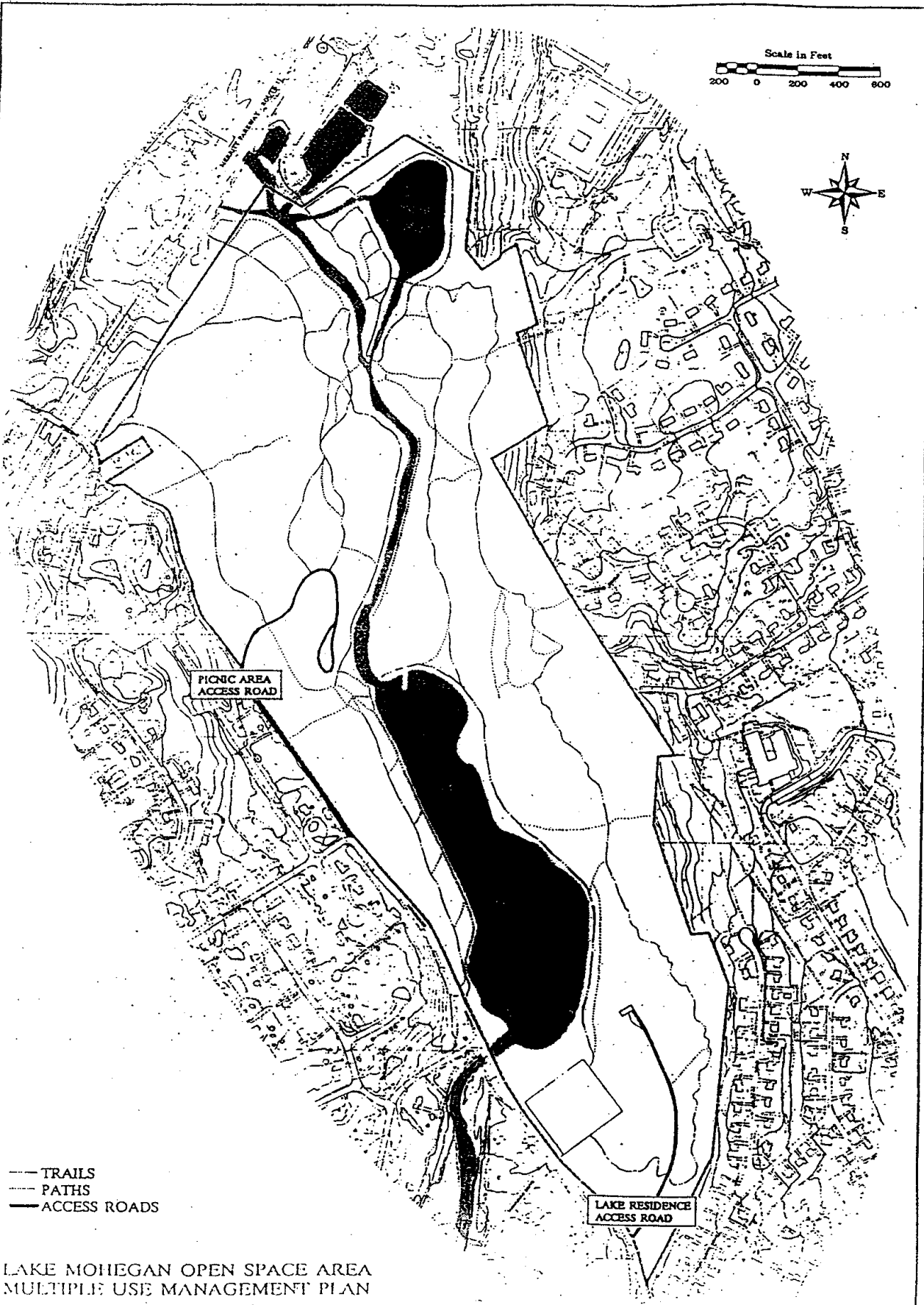
TRAIL-RELATED RECREATION

Much of the recreational activity which takes place on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area is directly or indirectly related to the extensive system of roads and trails that traverse the area. The existing trail and road system is shown in Map 9.

Greatest trail use appears to be along the eastern shore of Lake Mohegan (users parking at and/or using the swimming beach), the trail along the west bank of the Mill River between the Picnic Area and the Cascades, and the trail from the Picnic Area Access Road to the Cascades. Other trails receive varying degrees of use. The least used trails appear to be: the trail that parallels the eastern border of the open space area on the slope above Lake Mohegan; the trail along the western slope from the north end of Lake Mohegan to the northwest corner of the open space area; and the trail from the northwest corner eastward to the Cascades.

Most users appear to use trails for relatively short walks, rather than longer hikes. Young children, with and without adults, heavily utilize the southern portion of the trail along the eastern shore of Lake Mohegan. Fishermen are the principal users of the trail along the western shore of Lake Mohegan. Youths appear most attracted to the Cascades and immediately surrounding areas. Individuals walking their dogs are among the most frequent users, especially during the fall, winter and spring periods. Joggers and individuals on trail bicycles also use the trails. Horseback riding occurs, but appears to be infrequent, or by only a few riders. A limited amount of cross country skiing occurs with appropriate conditions during the winter months. Although prohibited, motorized bikes and off-road vehicles are occasionally used on some trails and roads. Birdwatching and other forms of nature observation are also practiced.

Because the soils on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area are generally shallow, erosion is a problem in many areas. In most areas where surface vegetation has been removed, soil has eroded leaving exposed roots. In some locations, trails and roads have become entrenched one or two feet into the surrounding terrain. Surface runoff and subsurface seepage, particularly on the slopes east of the lake and river, create wet spots on trails at numerous locations. Where maintenance vehicles and/or unauthorized motorized vehicles cross these wet spots, roads and trails have become deeply rutted. On several trails and roads, users have created alternate trails around the wet spots. Railroad tie steps that were installed many years ago have deteriorated in many locations. Paths have developed around many of these steps, sometimes because of the poor condition of the steps and in other



- TRAILS
- PATHS
- ACCESS ROADS

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut

L.R. Johnston Associates

MAP 9: EXISTING ROAD AND TRAIL SYSTEM

locations apparently because of poor spacing of the steps that many users find inconvenient. Numerous secondary trails have developed providing connections between major trails. As a result, in heavily used sections, an excess number of trails exist.

The Conservation Department has undertaken several major projects relating to trails as well as conducting regular trail maintenance. The major trail improvements include the bridge over the Mill River north of the Cascades; a smaller bridge over the North Pond outlet; installation of a wood plank trail across the wetland south of the beach parking lot; construction of wooden stairs to access the steep slope west of the access road to the lake residence; and installation of the level lip dissipator on the slope east of Lake Mohegan to reduce surface flow. The bridge over the Mill River was removed during the winter of 1988-89 due to deterioration of the main supports. This bridge is scheduled to be replaced during 1989. The wood plank trail across the wetland was replaced during the spring of 1989 by a group of Boy Scouts as part of a project undertaken by one Eagle Scout candidate.

Trail maintenance activities include removal of debris, clearing branches and other materials from trails, filling in severe wet spots, and periodic removal of deteriorated railroad ties.



Figure 15: Wooden bridge over the Mill River north of the Cascades, looking west.

NON-TRAIL RELATED RECREATION

Swimming

The Park Commission has developed the major beach and swimming area at the south end of Lake Mohegan. Sand was brought in to form the beach and is regularly replenished. Stone, gravel and other material has been dumped offshore to widen the shallow area suitable for swimming. The authorized swimming area is marked with ropes and buoys. A building containing restrooms, changing rooms and concessions was constructed to meet the needs of users. A large parking lot provides ample parking. Life guards and other Park Commission personnel are on duty from the Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends.

Swimming at the authorized beach and swimming area is the most popular non-trail related recreational activity — at least during the period from Memorial Day through Labor Day when the swimming area is supervised by life guards and other Park Commission personnel. The beach and swimming area is open to both Fairfield residents and non-residents. Non-residents pay a daily fee, while residents may receive an annual permit. Unauthorized swimming takes place at other, unsupervised locations, principally at the Cascades.

Swimming at the beach area is constrained by the limited amount of shallow water. At the beach area as elsewhere, Lake Mohegan drops off steeply to depths of 25-35 feet. Over the years, seven drownings have been recorded in Lake Mohegan — three at the beach and swimming area. In efforts to discourage swimming at the Cascades and other areas, the Conservation Department posts signs at the Picnic Area Access Road indicating that swimming is permitted only at the beach area. Poor water quality (high coliform counts) has from time to time been a problem at the beach area. Natural water circulation in this area is poor, and the Park Commission has installed an underwater pump to help improve water circulation and maintain water quality.

Picnicking

Picnicking is another popular recreational activity that does not rely heavily upon trails. Most picnicking takes place at the beach area and the picnic area north of Lake Mohegan, where picnic tables and grills are located. Most picnicking occurs during the summer months, but less intensive use continues throughout the year. Some individuals have been observed using the picnic area around mid-day, apparently taking their lunch break. Picnicking also takes place at other areas throughout the open space area, particularly at the Cascades and around the lake (mostly fishermen).

Litter from picnicking is a problem. The Conservation Department and Park Commission provide trash barrels at the picnic area and beach area. During the spring fishing season, the Conservation Department also places a few trash barrels around Lake Mohegan. Normally, however, there are no trash barrels around the lake, at the Cascades, or at other locations in the open space area except for the picnic area and beach. Open fires associated with picnicking are also a problem. Fires have burned several portions of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area over the years. During the spring of 1989, a small fire on the southeast side of the lake near the beach burned several of the white pines planted there as well as ground vegetation.

Fishing

Fishing is a major recreational activity at Lake Mohegan, especially on opening day and throughout the spring season. Most fishing occurs around Lake Mohegan, but fishing is also popular in the Mill River just below the Cascades and at North Pond.



Figure 16: Picnic area on the west bank of the Mill River.

The Town has entered into an agreement with the DEP to have Lake Mohegan annually stocked with trout. DEP also stocks the Mill River above and below Lake Mohegan.

As mentioned above, trash generation and unauthorized fires are the major problems associated with fishing.

Camping

Camping is not promoted on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, but has been permitted at times. Most authorized camping has been by groups of scouts.

The heavy use of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area and the lack of remote sites are the primary obstacles to camping.

Boating

Canoeing of the Mill River (during high water conditions) and Lake Mohegan occurs on a limited basis. Small car-top row boats are also used occasionally in Lake Mohegan.

Motorized boating is prohibited at Lake Mohegan. Boating with canoes and other types of vessels without motors is neither authorized nor prohibited on Lake Mohegan. Boating of any type is prohibited on North Pond as a result of deed restrictions. No facilities, such as a launching ramp or dock, have been constructed to encourage boating.

Lake Mohegan is too small to support motorized boating or sailing. Although the lake could support a limited amount of non-motorized boating, if officially authorized or promoted, overcrowding could quickly occur, leading to the need for some type of permit, time limit or other type of use control.

Wildlife Observation

Birdwatching and other forms of wildlife observation are practiced by some users. At one time the Conservation Department had placed a woodduck box in the wooded wetland west of the Mill River, but no woodduck boxes or other types of wildlife enhancement structures or activities are currently maintained.

Other Recreational Uses

The Park Commission has developed a small playground for children at the beach and swimming area. Individuals have been observed flying kites, flying radio controlled model airplanes, and sailing radio controlled model boats at various points around Lake Mohegan. During the winter, sledding on the slope east of the beach parking lot is popular with children.

Another type of activity that has recently developed is war games by small groups using CO₂ propelled paint pellet guns. The groups participating in war games pose two types of problems. First, significant litter is generated — primarily plastic tubes that hold the paint pellets and CO₂ cartridges. Second, these activities involve significant off-trail as well as trail use, with potential destruction of vegetation and disturbance of wildlife.

EDUCATION

Although many opportunities are available, no official educational activities presently are conducted using the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The former Mohican Springs Bottling Company, hotel and resort activities related to the springs, and the gravel mining operation that created Lake Mohegan are all important parts of the history of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. The former office building of the gravel mining operation is the only structure from that use remaining on the open space area, and no remnants of activities related to the springs are known to remain on the area. The history of the two foundations on and adjacent to the open space property and the remaining spring wells is not known. As with education, there is no present use or attention to historic features.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

ACQUISITION

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area has been assembled from several individual parcels acquired by the Town over a period of more than 20 years. The Town has taken advantage of open space grants from the state (including federal funds) and donations from private interests in addition to committing its own funds for open space acquisition. Part I of this plan provides details on the individual parcels of land that have been acquired.

Acquisition of several additional small pieces of adjoining land would enhance the open space area by providing for improved buffers between the open space area and adjacent residential and business uses, and allow improved control of entry points into the open space area.

OTHER PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to the activities described above under recreation and other use categories, the Town — primarily through the Conservation Department — undertakes a number of other property management activities.

Boundary Marking

The Conservation Department marks the boundaries of the open space area in two ways. Small, metal "Open Space Property" signs are posted on trees just inside the boundary line. The signs are posted at a height of about eight feet and face outward, or away from the open space property. The same trees on which the signs are placed are blazed and marked with white paint. The paint marking is placed on the open space property side of the trees.

Not all of the boundaries are adequately marked. The northern boundary, in particular, has an insufficient number of signs and white paint marks to enable users to easily determine when they enter or leave the open space area.

In addition to these boundary markings, the Conservation Department has installed large, wooden Lake Mohegan Open Space Area signs at three entrances to the open space area: beside the wooden plank trail leading across the wetlands south of beach parking area; at the entrance to the picnic area access road; and at the entry from Eastfield Circle. Smaller

open space signs (boundary markers) are located at two other entrances: the lake residence access road, and the entry off Morehouse Highway. Open space signs are not located at all entrances, such as the entry from Adley Road and from the Connecticut DOT right-of-way at the northeast corner of the open space area.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance activities include emptying of trash barrels located at the picnic area and the swimming beach; trail clearing and repairs such as filling in wet spots and removing railroad ties or replacing walkways; debris and litter removal from trail and non-trail areas, especially at the Cascades; and mowing of fields.

Lake Residence

The building that formerly served as the main office of the gravel mining operation is now rented by the Town to a Town employee. Use of this building as a private residence effectively removes the building, immediately surrounding land and additional buffer land from open space use.

Enforcement

The Conservation Department posts rules and regulations signs at most entrances to the open space area and at the beginning of many trails. Unfortunately, these signs are in small print and not easy to read. Their effectiveness in informing open space users of applicable rules and regulations is questionable. The presence of Conservation Department staff on-site helps to reduce rules violations, but staff members actually spend relatively little time at the site because of the large number of other areas that must be maintained. Vandalism — while not a serious problem — does occur, especially on weekends. Illegal dumping of trash occurs periodically, again mainly on weekends. The Park Commission enforces rules and regulations at the beach swimming area, including weekends during the summer season.

OTHER USES AND PROBLEMS

Except for the building at the beach swimming area, there are no restrooms or potable water on the open space area. As use increases over time, the need for sanitary facilities will become more important.

The limited parking at the picnic area forces users to park vehicles wherever they can, including on the small vegetated island inside the loop of the road. The lack of adequate parking has caused erosion and destruction of vegetation along the side of the picnic area road and on the island in the loop.

On at least two occasions during the winter of 1988-89, truck drivers were using the beach parking lot as a practice area for tractor-trailer driving. This type of use is clearly incompatible with the overall goals of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.

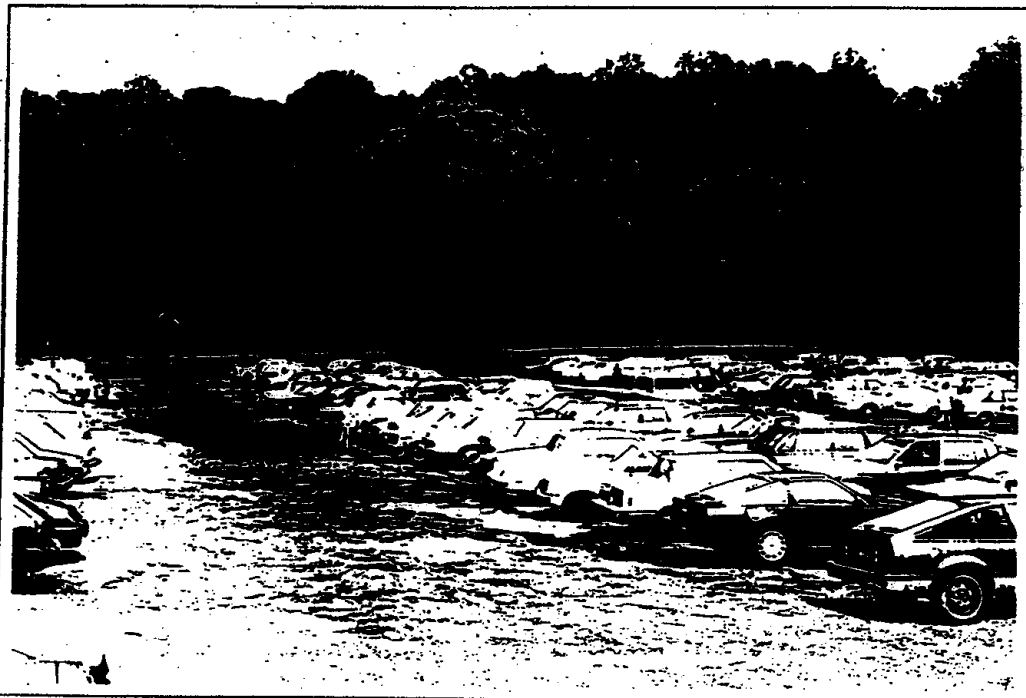
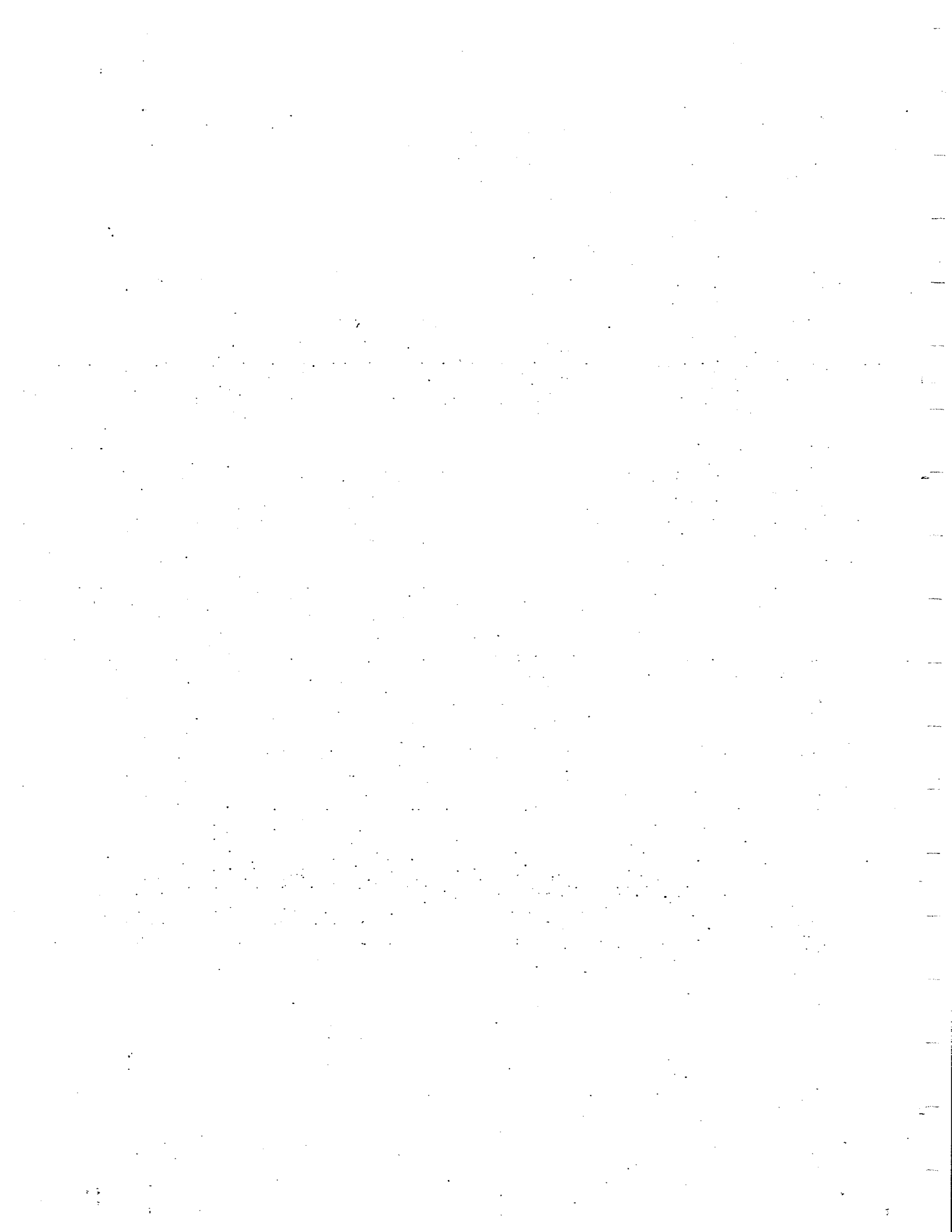


Figure 17: Beach area parking lot during a busy summer weekend.



OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Figure 18: Aerial view of Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, looking north.

SUMMARY

The 170 acre Lake Mohegan Open Space Area is one of about 25 parcels of land totaling slightly less than 1,000 acres owned by the Town of Fairfield and managed by the Conservation Commission and Conservation Department as part of an Open Space Program. Collectively, the parcels of land that comprise the open space system are managed to serve four major purposes:

- Conservation of valuable natural resources
- Education
- Cultural and historic preservation
- Passive recreation

An essential component of the management plan for any individual open space parcel is to determine how that single parcel fits within the Town's total Open Space Program. A single open space parcel need not fulfill all four of the purposes listed above, and may be best managed with emphasis on only one or two of these purposes.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Management of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area must take into account the important factors particular to the parcel, especially those which have resulted in its present condition. The most important of these include:

- History of most of the site, including the lake, as a former gravel mining operation.
- Present use for passive recreation centered around Lake Mohegan, the Mill River, a series of trails, a picnic area, and a popular but unofficial swimming area known as the Cascades.
- Use of the southern portion of the lake as a public beach/swimming area managed by the Park Commission.
- Restrictions on use imposed by deeds and purchase agreements.

Lake Mohegan and the Cascades are the principal natural resource features that draw visitors to this open space area. Other natural resources, such as the Mill River, North Pond, and several rock outcroppings, offer attractive but not spectacular features. Although

most of the site has gradually lost the appearance of a gravel mining operation — through filling of the lake, natural regeneration of vegetation and man-made efforts — several areas retain highly visible scars and a careful inspection reveals the former history of the entire site, evidenced by old roads, excavated hillsides, exposed gravel, and shallow soils. Consequently, the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area offers limited opportunity for preservation of historical sites or for protection of unique natural features.

Nevertheless, since cessation of the gravel mining operation, the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area has developed into a visually attractive open space that combines a variety of vegetative and water environments suitable for passive recreation and wildlife habitat. The natural and man-made changes that have occurred offer good opportunities to observe the restoration of degraded areas and the natural succession of vegetative species with associated changes in wildlife habitat and wildlife species using the area. The hydrologic changes that have occurred and are still taking place also offer important educational opportunities. Therefore, the principal management objectives for the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area should be to:

- Provide opportunities for passive recreation.
- Protect and enhance existing natural features and resources.
- Provide for educational opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

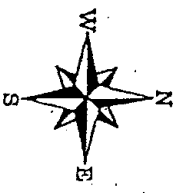
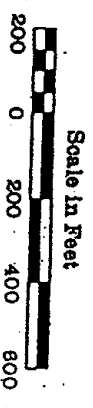
- Provide an upgraded road and trail system, consisting of main trails, paths, and emergency/maintenance roads.
- Add a second bridge over the Mill River adjacent to the Picnic Area.
- Expand and upgrade selected trails and facilities to provide handicapped access.
- Improve vegetation management to enhance wildlife habitat.
- Enhance fisheries habitat.
- Replace the Mill River spillway with an improved spillway that will permit some degree of regulation of lake water levels.
- Enhance existing wetlands and small watercourses.
- Provide additional parking.
- Develop educational opportunities for studying natural resources on site.
- Improve boundary management.

Map 10 illustrates many aspects of the proposed management plan. These and other recommendations are discussed in Parts IV and V. Management recommendations that apply to the overall Lake Mohegan Open Space Area are discussed on the following pages. Part V provides detailed recommendations for each of 12 Management Units.¹



Figure 19: The Cascades, looking south.

¹ Several of the recommendations included in this plan have been fully or partially implemented between the time the first draft was prepared and the plan was completed. No attempt has been made to identify those measures which have already been undertaken.



TRAIL SYSTEM

MAJOR TRAILS:

- LAKE TRAIL
- MOHEGAN TRAIL
- WOODS ROAD
- NORTH POND TRAIL
- MILL RIVER TRAIL
- CASCADES TRAIL
- CASCADES MAINTENANCE ROAD
- MERRITT TRAIL
- NEMETH TRAIL

PATHS

- ▲ TRAIL SIGN
- ◆ TRAIL KIOSK
- TRAIL CONTROL BARRIER
- ◁ TRAILSIDE SCENIC VIEW

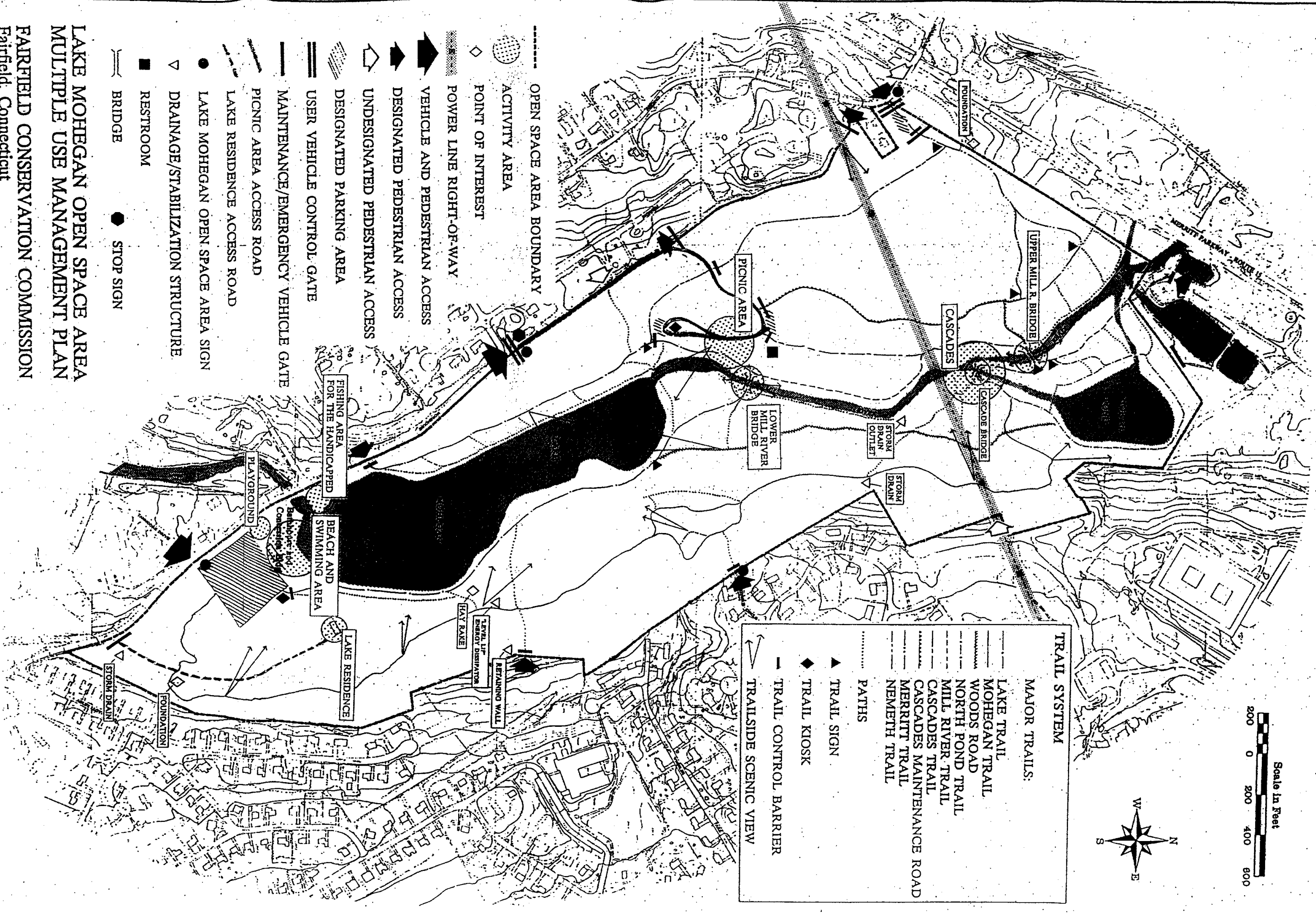
- OPEN SPACE AREA BOUNDARY
- ACTIVITY AREA
- ◇ POINT OF INTEREST
- ▨ POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY
- ➡ VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- ➡ DESIGNATED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- ◁ UNDESIGNATED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- ▨ DESIGNATED PARKING AREA
- == USER VEHICLE CONTROL GATE
- MAINTENANCE/EMERGENCY VEHICLE GATE
- PICNIC AREA ACCESS ROAD
- LAKE RESIDENCE ACCESS ROAD
- LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA SIGN
- ▽ DRAINAGE/STABILIZATION STRUCTURE
- RESTROOM
- BRIDGE
- STOP SIGN

**LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut**

L.R. Johnston Associates

**MAP 10:
PROPOSED OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN**



of the trail. Some of these major trails should be developed so that they are accessible to the handicapped.

3. **Paths or minor trails** that are not marked and receive only limited maintenance, primarily for erosion control.

Providing a distinction between major trails and paths will enable the less adventurous users to confine their movements to the well defined and marked trails. Other users can use the unmarked paths and derive some sense of "exploring," even though some of these paths may be very well defined and heavily used. Another advantage to this three-tiered approach is that it permits maintenance crews to focus their efforts on the access roads and marked trails and to know what level of maintenance is required to meet user needs.

Map 11 shows the proposed road and trail system, identifying 9 major trails and roads, as well as the major access roads and footpaths. Approximate lengths of the major trails and roads are:

Lake Trail	4,700 feet (.89 mile)
Mohegan Trail	10,600 feet (2.01 miles)
Woods Road	850 feet (.16 mile)
North Pond Trail	1,000 feet (.19 mile)
Mill River Trail	2,750 feet (.52 mile)
Cascades Trail	1,150 feet (.22 mile)
Cascades Maintenance Road	700 feet (.13 mile)
Merritt Trail	1,150 feet (.22 mile)
Nemeth Trail	3,500 feet (.66 mile)

● Identify major trails:

- > Install on-site signs to identify the names and directions of trails. Trail posts created from telephone poles could serve instead of a typical sign. These trail posts would be relatively unobtrusive and long-lasting. Posts should be set into the ground about 2 feet with concrete and should extend about 30 inches above ground. The top of the pole should be cut at an angle to create a larger surface. The name of the trail(s) and directional arrow(s) can be either painted or routed and painted on the cut surface.

RECREATION

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area offers tremendous recreational opportunities. Swimming, hiking, picnicking, and birdwatching are among the most popular activities. Because of the size of the area, its configuration, trail system and vegetative cover, the area can provide users with different types of experiences, such as well maintained and highly used trails to relatively difficult and seemingly isolated trails. Presently, the area is relatively inaccessible to handicapped persons, but areas around Lake Mohegan and the Picnic Area could be upgraded to support handicapped access.

TRAIL-RELATED GOALS

- Stabilize trails to reduce erosion and improve currently wet conditions.
- Provide for handicapped access for selected trails.
- Maintain some trails in a largely unimproved condition.
- Provide a map and guide to the trail system.
- Provide adequate river crossings.
- Provide viewpoints from trails at selected locations.

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TRAIL-RELATED RECREATION

The current complex of roads, trails and paths throughout the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area exhibits little distinction between major and minor trails or between trails and roads used for maintenance and emergency vehicles.

- Modify and manage the existing system to provide a road/trail system composed of:
 1. Access roads of suitable width to provide for occasional use by maintenance and emergency vehicles. Access roads should be located so that they provide access to the major areas of the open space parcel.
 2. Major trails that are marked and regularly maintained to provide essentially all-weather use. Trail width, slope, base material and other conditions affecting use will vary depending upon the trail location and major purpose

installation of a sound barrier. The need for and desirability of a sound barrier should be evaluated at the time any expansion may be realized. A living visual and sound barrier could be created now by planting evergreen species along the northern boundary line. Trees planted now would likely be mature by the time any expansion plans are actually realized. These evergreen trees would also help to define the northern boundary of the open space property, which now is not easily determined. If an expansion of the Merritt Parkway does occur, additional evergreen shrubbery could be planted to provide additional low-level sound and visual protection from the highway.

- Manage stone fences to improve wildlife habitat and visual interest. Many stone fences occur throughout the area, but most are in relatively poor condition. Several actions can be taken to improve their value for wildlife and visual appeal.
 - > Repair stone fences where stones have been scattered, particularly adjacent to trail crossings. The stone fences provide natural cavities for small mammals.
 - > Cut trees and shrubs that are growing in stone fences. The trunk and roots of these trees and shrubs will further destroy the stone fences.
 - > Plant shrubs with wildlife food and habitat value along the sides of stone fences. Appropriate shrubs and small trees include bicolor lespedza, elderberry, winterberry, autumn olive, firethorn, American cranberrybush, chokecherry, and American holly. If needed, thin mature trees adjacent to the walls to allow adequate light and growing room for the new plantings.
- Maintain a multistory vegetative layer throughout most areas. If necessary, remove selected over mature, diseased and malformed trees to allow healthy younger trees to develop. Select in favor of oak, maple and aspen to provide greater diversity of vegetation.
- Along roadsides (Old Morehouse Highway, Picnic Area Access Road, Lake Residence Access Road, Woods Road/Trail) consider thinning the mature trees and allowing a thicker understory to develop. In some locations, consider planting small trees and shrubs along the roadside. Thinning of larger trees will allow more light to reach the roads and reduce the number of wet spots.
- Seed open fields with grasses that provide improved food, cover and nesting sites for wildlife. Appropriate species include Blackwell switchgrass and tall fescue.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

The large size of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, combined with the diversity of habitats, offer great opportunities for wildlife management. The existence of several types of water bodies (river, lake, ponds, wetlands, small watercourses) and substantial areas of upland forest and open meadow provide significant habitat diversity that can be further enhanced with only modest management activities.

GOALS

- Increase habitat diversity as a means of conserving and encouraging the growth of a variety of plant and animal species and providing visual interest and educational value.
- Enhance the value of habitats for wildlife through site specific planting, thinning, pruning, mowing and dredging.
 - > Increase wetland areas for waterfowl.
 - > Increase evergreen cover.
 - > Encourage vertical vegetative diversity.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Increase the number of evergreen trees throughout the site. Only a limited number of evergreens occur naturally on the site; mostly hemlock and cedar and a few white pines. The Conservation Department has planted a number of white pine trees and a few hemlock and white spruce. Greater effort should be directed to increasing the number of evergreens throughout the open space area. Naturally occurring hemlock and red cedar seedlings and young trees should be released from surrounding vegetation and permitted to grow, and additional planting may be appropriate in some areas.
- Establish a visual and sound barrier of evergreens along the boundary with the Merritt Parkway. It is certainly possible that at some point in the future the Merritt Parkway may be expanded using the right-of-way between the existing Merritt Parkway and the open space property. If and when this expansion should occur, the noise from the highway will increase and become even more intrusive than it is at present. One option that may be available if the expansion does occur is to seek

Mill River

- Conduct further research regarding the hydrology of the river, particularly the downcutting of the channel since cessation of the gravel mining operations and redirection of the Mill River into the Lake Mohegan basin.
- Dredge the pool below the cascades to remove accumulated sediment and to widen the pool approximately to its former dimensions.
- Riprap the steep eastern streambank of the Mill River just downstream from the sharp bend in the river below the cascades.
- Use gravel and boulders to confine the flow of the Mill River to a single channel (create a low-flow channel) where it enters Lake Mohegan. At present the channel is wide and shallow so that during low flow conditions there is insufficient flow to support movement of fish between the river and lake.
- Work out a long-term agreement with Bridgeport Hydraulic Company to maintain an adequate flow in the Mill River to support fish and wildlife and to help maintain water quality in the lake.
- Keep trails away from the banks of the Mill River to reduce bank erosion.

North Pond

- Conduct further research regarding the hydrology of the pond and the inlet channel from the Mill River. Impacts of any changes in the frequency and volume of water flowing into North Pond from the Mill River should be better understood before any changes to this inlet channel can be made.

Minor Watercourses

- Maintain and enhance each of the several small watercourses (perennial and ephemeral) located throughout the area by creating appropriate trail crossings and allowing natural riparian vegetation to grow adjacent to the watercourses.
- Maintain and enhance the existing wetlands located within the site.

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION

The Mill River, Lake Mohegan, North Pond, wetlands and small watercourses located on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area provide the major attractions for users of this open space area. The continued existence and enhancement of these water bodies is critical to the long-term management of the area.

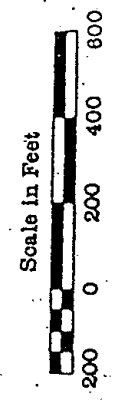
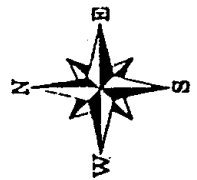
GOALS

- To more fully understand and document changes in hydrology since abandonment of gravel mining operation.
- To maintain and control water levels in Lake Mohegan, North Pond and the Mill River at desirable levels.
- To maintain high levels of water quality in Lake Mohegan, North Pond and the Mill River.
- To reduce erosion along the banks of the Mill River.
- To provide a variety of aquatic habitats for conservation and educational purposes.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Lake Mohegan

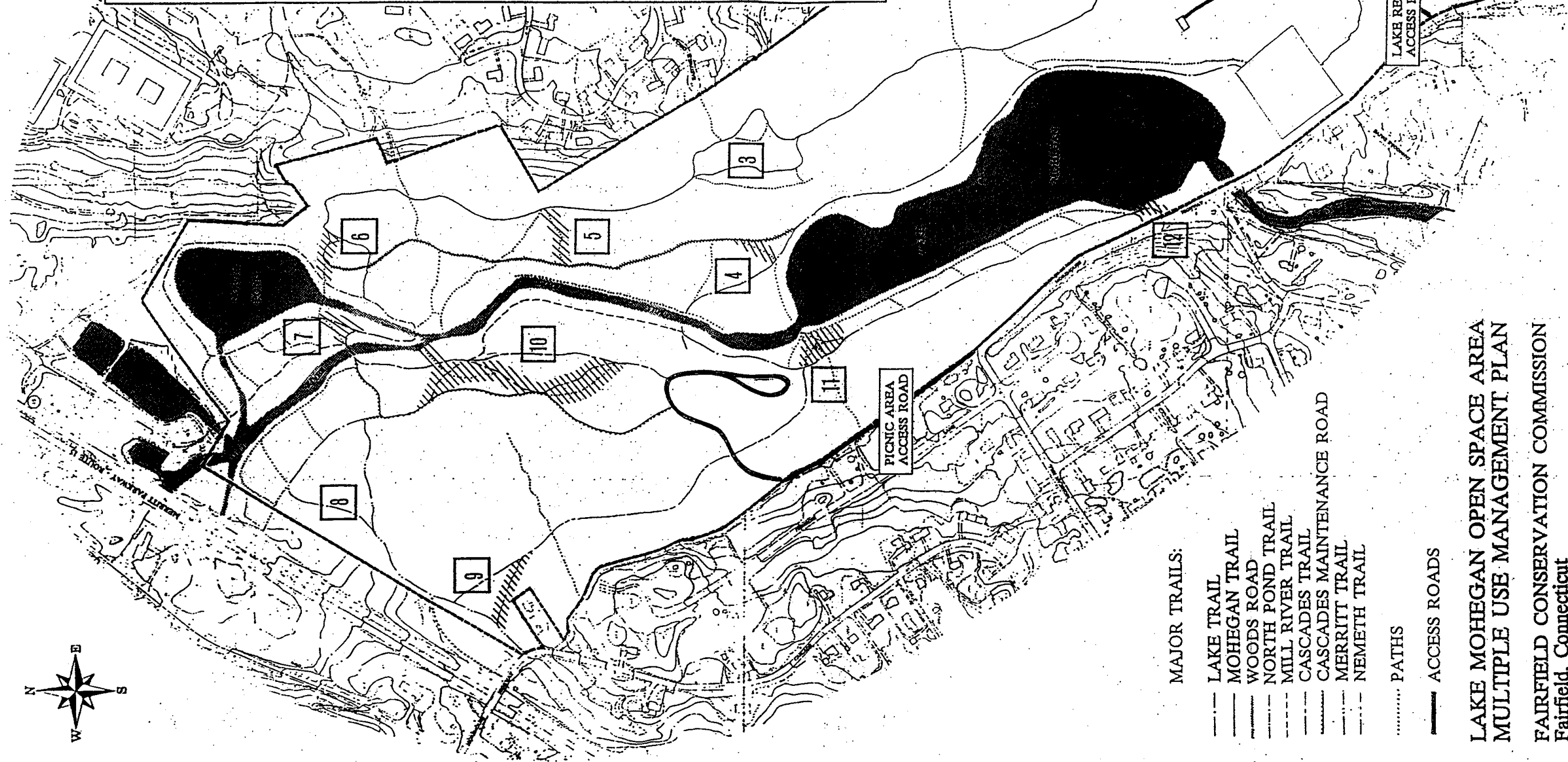
- Reconstruct the existing spillway where the Mill River exits from Lake Mohegan. The existing boulder mound spillway provides no control over the water level in the lake and may not be sufficiently stable to survive a major flood event. Failure of this spillway could cause flooding downstream. This existing spillway should be replaced with a concrete spillway meeting DEP design criteria. The new spillway should include a weir or other means of partially regulating lake levels.
- Maintain circulators in the lake near the swimming area to improve water quality.



PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING TRAILS

SECTION OF TRAIL TO BE ABANDONED

1. ABANDONMENT OF EXISTING PATH
2. RELOCATION OF SECTION OF MOHEGAN TRAIL AWAY FROM BOUNDARY
3. UPGRADING EXISTING PATH TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE, LESS STEEP SECTION OF MOHEGAN TRAIL
4. ABANDONMENT OF EXISTING PATH; ADDITION OF NEW LAKE TRAIL SEGMENT AND PATH LEADING TO NEW MILL RIVER BRIDGE
5. ABANDONMENT OF EXISTING PATH
6. ABANDONMENT OF EXISTING TRAIL SECTION; ADDITION OF NEW MOHEGAN TRAIL SECTION;
7. ABANDONMENT OF EXISTING PATHS
8. UPGRADING EXISTING PATH TO FORM MERRITT TRAIL LOOP
9. RELOCATION OF SECTION OF NEMETH TRAIL
10. RELOCATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF TRAIL; ABANDONMENT OF SEVERAL PATHS
11. ELIMINATION OF SEVERAL PATHS TO CREATE MORE DEFINABLE TRAIL INTERSECTIONS
12. ELIMINATION OF SOUTHERN TRAIL ENTRANCE



MAJOR TRAILS:

- LAKE TRAIL
- MOHEGAN TRAIL
- WOODS ROAD
- NORTH POND TRAIL
- MILL RIVER TRAIL
- CASCADES TRAIL
- CASCADES MAINTENANCE ROAD
- MERRITT TRAIL
- NEMETH TRAIL

PATHS

ACCESS ROADS

LAKE RESIDENCE ACCESS ROAD

PICNIC AREA ACCESS ROAD

**LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut

L.R. Johnston Associates

MAP 11: PROPOSED ROAD AND TRAIL SYSTEM

- > Prepare a trail map of the entire Lake Mohegan Open Space Area that can be posted at one or two locations in the open space area. Installation of a kiosk at two locations is recommended.
- > Develop a brochure (similar to the Ash Creek brochure) describing the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area and showing at least all major trails.
- > Identify trails suitable for cross-country skiing.
- Eliminate some existing trails/paths (see Map 10), particularly where several connecting trails/paths have developed in a small area. Other trails/paths may need to be eliminated or relocated where erosion or wet areas are a problem. In general, trails should be closed by piling brush or boulders across the trail. In some areas a rail fence may be appropriate. Plantings of trees or shrubs may be appropriate as well as grasses to help stabilize wet and eroding areas.
- Provide river crossings at selected points to facilitate user access to both sides of the river and lake within a reasonable hiking distance.
 - > Replace the bridge over the Mill River (Upper Mill River Bridge) that was removed during the winter of 1988-89.
 - > Install a second bridge (Lower Mill River Bridge) over the Mill River adjacent to the picnic area.
- Create or enhance viewpoints at several locations along trails to make the experience more interesting for hikers. Viewpoints are most attractive if they provide a water view. Consider placing benches at selected viewpoints.
- Construct restrooms at the Picnic Area to accommodate the increased usage expected in the open space area.
- Perform periodic trail maintenance and improvement:
 - > Control or eliminate areas of excessive erosion and/or wetness. A variety of techniques may be used, including: placement of small amounts of fill; use of wood planking or stones to provide passage over wet areas; placement of waterbars or drainage channels to divert water from trails; installation of small culverts or dry wells to move water under trails; and relocation of trails or trail segments.
 - > Remove sharp pointed rocks, large protruding roots, and other obviously hazardous conditions from marked trails.
 - > Clear trails of obstacles such as fallen trees and branches and new vegetative growth such as branches and saplings.

- > Periodically replace old railroad ties used for steps along some of the trails. When the old ties are removed, either bury them on site, remove them from the site, or use them to form the base of a wildlife habitat brush pile. If left on-site as currently done, they become unsightly and have been used for firewood. Where feasible, replace the old railroad ties with large stones obtained from on-site. If suitable stones are unavailable or inappropriate, replace with new railroad ties.
- > Periodically remove trash and other debris from and adjacent to trails and paths. Debris removal can be particularly effective during the late winter/early spring period before vegetation begins to cover trash and before heavy usage. This clean-up should include all trash visible from trails, even if it is a considerable distance off the trail. Trash removal should also be frequent during the spring when the area receives heavy use by fishermen. Trails with heaviest use will need trash removal on a regular basis.

WATER-RELATED GOALS

- Continue to provide fishing opportunities in Lake Mohegan, North Pond and the Mill River.
- Maintain the swimming beach at the south end of Lake Mohegan.
- Prohibit swimming at all others areas.
- Prohibit ice skating on Lake Mohegan and North Pond.
- Prohibit motorized boating, and permit, but do not encourage non-motorized boating on Lake Mohegan and the Mill River. Prohibit all boating on North Pond, in accordance with deed restrictions.
- Maintain the water quality of Lake Mohegan suitable for swimming.

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WATER-RELATED RECREATION

- Maintain annual contact with DEP to ensure that it continues to stock the Mill River and Lake Mohegan with trout.
- Explore with DEP the feasibility of stocking North Pond with bass.
- Maintain existing and create additional casting areas for fishermen along the shores of Lake Mohegan and North Pond.
- Create additional shallow-water fish habitat in Lake Mohegan by felling one or two

trees into the edge of the lake.

- Continue to post signs at appropriate locations, particularly the Cascades, indicating that swimming is permitted at the beach area only.
- Post signs during winter months indicating that ice skating is prohibited.
- Monitor boating activities to ensure that boating does not interfere with swimming at the beach area or become overcrowded. If problems develop, post signs indicating no boating.
- Continue use of water circulation pumps adjacent to the swimming beach to increase water movement and dissolved oxygen levels.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area offers excellent opportunities to involve both groups and individuals in studying and understanding changes in the natural environment. Most of the severely disturbed conditions that resulted from the extensive gravel mining operation and affecting large portions of the site have gradually recovered with time. Still, changes continue to occur in both vegetation and wildlife. The hydrology of the area also has changed as a result of the gravel mining operation, and the hydrologic regime has not yet been completely reestablished as evidenced by downcutting of the Mill River channel. In addition, the area offers good opportunities to study local geology as a result of outcropping of three different bedrock formations. The open space area also offers ample parking facilities to support educational site visits by groups.

GOALS

- Encourage increased understanding, appreciation and support of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area among neighbors, Town citizenry at large, and non-resident visitors through formally recognized school and public education programs.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Develop additional information on the changing hydrology of the Mill River, particularly downcutting of the stream channel between Lake Mohegan and the Cascades. It is recommended that a student or summer intern assist in the development of this information.
- Monitor and document changes in vegetation throughout the site, both natural and man-induced changes.
- Develop an informational fact sheet on the bedrock and surficial geology of the area and its relation to the former gravel mining operation and to the hydrology of the area. An intern could help assemble information and prepare the fact sheet.
- Engage an intern to assist with enhancement of the wetland south of the beach area parking lot. Develop a continuing education program to monitor changes in this wetland over time.
- Involve area groups, such as school classes and scouts in special projects and periodic maintenance and enhancement activities, such as trail maintenance. Consider

approaching school classes or scout troops to “adopt” certain trail improvements or other projects that can be carried out at regularly scheduled intervals.

- Encourage teachers from nearby schools (North Stratfield Elementary) to bring students to the area for educational field trips.
- Engage a student or intern to study actual and potential overwintering and reproduction of trout in Lake Mohegan.



Figure 20: Boy scout working to replace the wooden walkway through the wetlands south of the beach area parking lot.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Lake Mohegan Open Space Area offers only limited opportunities for historic preservation. Few valuable historic features remain on the site. However, the history of the area is both interesting and important to the Town of Fairfield, and this historic record should be preserved.

GOALS

- To encourage increased awareness of the history of the Lake Mohegan site.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Research the early history of the site, particularly the development and operation of the Mohican Springs Company.
- Research the history of the gravel mining operation that operated on the site for many years and significantly altered the natural topography and hydrology of the area.
- Determine if the two old foundations on and immediately adjacent to the open space area have historic significance.
- Determine if the existing spring wells on the eastern slope have historical significance related to the Mohican Springs Company.
- Prepare a fact sheet or brochure describing the history of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.

GENERAL OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

GOALS

- To adequately define and increase awareness of open space property limits among users and adjacent landowners in order to reduce instances of illegal dumping, encroachment, and trespassing on private land.
- To provide a quality recreational experience for users without adversely impacting on adjacent landowners and surrounding neighborhoods.
- To provide adequate and safe access and parking for the anticipated increase in the number of open space visitors.
- To encourage responsible use of the open space resources and to reduce instances of property and resource abuse through education and outreach programs.
- To develop a workable enforcement program which encourages community support and participation.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Access and Parking

- Improve the Picnic Area Access Road to eliminate problems of erosion and wet spots.
- Create off-road parking spaces adjacent to the Picnic Area Access Road.
- Limit pedestrian and vehicle access to authorized entry points.

Boundary Delineation, Encroachment and Screening

- Minimize open space activities near the borders of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. These areas can provide a buffer zone between neighboring property owners and the more intensive uses at the interior portions of the site. Where feasible, activities near boundaries should be limited to hiking.

- Improve boundary delineation by placement of additional open space area signs (facing toward neighboring properties) and white markings on trees (facing toward open space area).
- Conduct a major clean-up of all boundaries to remove accumulated debris. Enlist the support of adjacent property owners and groups such as scouts and service clubs. Annually patrol boundaries and remove additional debris.
- Send a letter to all adjacent property owners informing them of the preparation of this management plan for the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area and encouraging them to use the area and to help maintain boundaries in good condition (i.e. no debris disposal or cutting of vegetation on open space property).
- Periodically send a letter to all adjacent property owners (e.g. every two years) informing them of any major changes and improvements in the open space area and soliciting their assistance in maintaining the open space area, including boundaries, in good condition.
- Plant evergreens or other appropriate species along boundaries to provide a visual screen between the open space area and houses and other structures outside the open space area.

Sign Maintenance

- Replace the existing Rules and Regulations signs with another type of sign that is easier to read. The existing signs highlight Section numbers of the regulations. Actual information regarding permissible and prohibited uses is in fine print. The signs should be revised to highlight a summary of what is permitted and prohibited, with the actual text (and section numbers) in fine print.
- Place revised Rules and Regulations signs at all vehicular and authorized pedestrian points of entry into the open space area.
- Place large Lake Mohegan Open Space Signs at all points of vehicular entry into the open space area.
- Develop a new, small Lake Mohegan Open Space sign and install one of these signs at each authorized pedestrian entry into the open space area.
- Place signs at the Picnic Area and the Cascades indicating swimming at beach area only.
- Install trail posts at selected locations on major trails and maintenance roads.
- Construct a kiosk at the two main parking areas (Beach parking lot and picnic area)

to provide information on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, including the trail and road system and history of the area.

- Develop and post signs and/or an informational brochure informing users of protective measures to take against Lyme Disease. The increasing prevalence of this disease warrants special efforts to alert and inform open space users.
- Install a standard highway stop sign on open space property at the intersection of Old Morehouse Highway, Morehouse Highway, and Mohican Hill Road (see Map 10). There is presently no stop sign at this intersection, and cars exiting from the open space area should be required to stop before entering Morehouse Highway or turning onto Mohican Hill Road.

ENFORCEMENT

- Reformat Rules and Regulations sign to encourage more users to read it.
- Post reformatted open space Rules and Regulations at all vehicle and pedestrian entrances.
- Encourage neighborhood watch of open space parcel.
- Seek cooperation with CT DOT to control unauthorized access from Merritt parkway right-of-way.
- Improve weekend enforcement capabilities through special police or additional Conservation Department staff.

POTENTIAL ACQUISITIONS

A few parcels of land adjacent to the existing Lake Mohegan Open Space Area would enhance the open space area if they could be acquired by the Town and added to the open space area.

- **Boundary with Merritt Parkway right-of-way.** The GE corporation has retained two small parcels of land adjacent to the Merritt Parkway right-of-way, one near the western end of the northern open space boundary and the other at the eastern end of the northern open space boundary.² Negotiations should be initiated with GE to explore the possibility of GE donating these small parcels of land to the Town.

² See Appendix A for maps showing the location of these two parcels.

- GE Pond. If, at some point in the future, the GE Pond and sediment basin (and possibly also the helicopter landing area) at the northwest corner of the GE property should no longer be needed by GE or any subsequent owner, the Town of Fairfield should seek to acquire this property and include it as part of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.
- Residence adjacent to Morehouse Highway. The single-family residence adjacent to Morehouse Highway extends into the open space area at the northwest corner of the area. If an opportunity should arise for the Town to acquire this property at a reasonable cost, the property should be acquired. Addition of this parcel would eliminate potential conflicts between open space uses and residential use and offer greater alternatives for uses in the northwest corner of the open space parcel.
- The Town should also consider acquiring the lot or an easement across the lot on Adley Road near the Stratfield School that presently provides school and neighborhood access to the open space area.



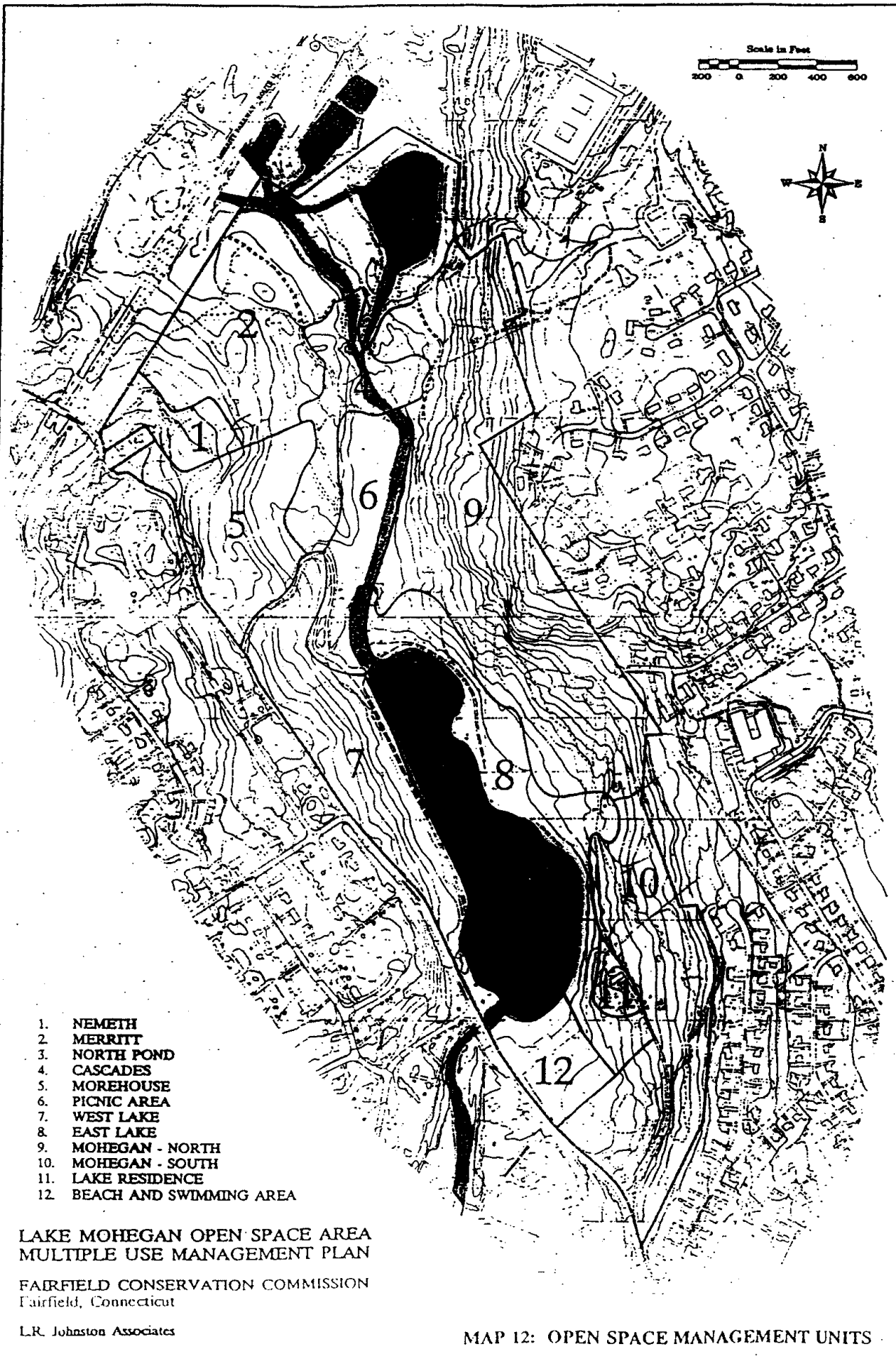
Figure 21: Aerial view of GE headquarters, North Pond (in photo center), GE Pond and GE sediment basin (smallest pond). Merritt Parkway in left foreground and CL&P right-of-way in upper right.

MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR SITE SPECIFIC AREAS

Based on a combination of natural features, present use, and potential uses, 12 distinct management units have been identified, as listed below and show on Map 12:

1. Nemeth
2. Merritt
3. North Pond
4. Cascades
5. Morehouse
6. Picnic Area
7. West Lake
8. East Lake
9. Mohegan-North
10. Mohegan-South
11. Lake Residence
12. Beach and Swimming Area

Detailed recommendations are provided for each of these management units.



**LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

FAIRFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Fairfield, Connecticut

L.R. Johnston Associates

MAP 12: OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT UNITS

NEMETH MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Nemeth Management Unit is a small area of about 5 acres, located in the northwest corner of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. The unit is bounded on the north by the Connecticut DOT right-of-way for the Merritt Parkway and by the Merritt Management Unit; on the east by the Merritt Management Unit; on the south by the southern boundary of the CL&P right-of-way and the Morehouse Management Unit; and on the west by the Morehouse Management Unit; a single family residence, and Morehouse Highway.

Distinctive Features

Most of this management unit is maintained as an open field by annual mowing of the vegetation — mainly grasses and herbaceous species. The entire management unit plus adjacent land were acquired by the Town in 1985 just prior to subdivision development. The General Electric Corporation provided funds for acquisition. Most of the area included in this management unit was formerly the site of a private residence and a dog kennel. All buildings were removed after the property was acquired, but some evidence of the previous use remains. The most prominent remnant is the driveway and parking area for the former dog kennel. Other remnants include some debris in and along the stone fence that divides the Nemeth and Merritt units and an old well or concrete block lined cavity located under the large spruce tree at the corner of the stone fence. This well was covered with soil, but recently has become partially exposed. A transmission tower is located in the CL&P right-of-way.

Vegetation

Most of the Nemeth Unit is covered by grasses and herbaceous vegetation. Much of the area has received an annual fall mowing, maintaining it as an open field. Depending upon the season and the time interval since the last mowing, the area may be quite open, or may be covered by an almost impenetrable growth of dense herbaceous vegetation, particularly burdock. Dense stands of sumac are located along the northern boundary of the CL&P right-of-way. Sumac is also found within the right-of-way, along with grasses and small shrubs.

Trails and Roads

The main entry to the Nemeth Management Unit is the driveway for the old dog kennel. The driveway is located off of Morehouse Highway about 100 feet south of the bridge over the Merritt Parkway and about 50 feet north of the driveway to the private residence. A metal swing gate controls vehicle access into the parking area from the driveway. There is parking space for a maximum of two vehicles outside the gate. The driveway and parking area are now delineated by a wood rail fence. The parking area is large enough to accommodate 15 to 20 cars, or two or three buses in addition to several cars. Use of the parking area is by special arrangement only, since the gate is normally locked. At the eastern end of the parking area are a wooden bar gate, which provides access for maintenance vehicles, and a pedestrian access control gate.



Figure 22: Entrance to the Nemeth Unit from Morehouse Highway.

Two existing trails cross portions of the Nemeth Unit, both originating at the pedestrian control gate. One trail extends south across the mowed field and crosses the CL&P right-of-way about 50 feet west of the transmission tower. In the area of the CL&P right-of-way, this trail is clearly defined with grass. It is much less clearly defined in the open field; only slightly identifiable as a grassy pathway among the herbaceous vegetation and practically impassable during much of the summer season. From the transmission tower, users are afforded a good view along the CL&P right-of-way, including the pool below the Cascades. The second trail that begins at the pedestrian control gate leads east into the Merritt Unit and is more clearly defined. An additional path extends along the CL&P right-of-way, beginning at Old Morehouse Highway on the west (top of slope) and winding downslope to the Mill River.

Signs

The only signs on this management unit are located at the entrance from Morehouse Highway and along the northern property boundary. At the Morehouse Highway entrance a Rules and Regulations sign is posted on a tree. Open Space boundary marker signs and white paint marks are located at intervals along the northern boundary. These boundary markers are infrequent and difficult to see.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for the Nemeth Unit are wildlife enhancement, passive recreation and education.

A previous report suggested that this area might be suitable for development as a group day-use area, especially for picnicking. The availability of parking space seems to be the primary reason for this suggestion. More intensive use of this area would be inconsistent with the overall management of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, particularly maintaining a buffer between intensive use areas and adjacent residential areas. Therefore, it is recommended that the area continue to be used primarily for passive recreation and wildlife enhancement. Nevertheless, the availability of the parking area with its capacity for several vehicles, including two or three buses, does provide special opportunities. The Nemeth unit can serve as a convenient access point for groups (such as schools, scouts, and other organizations) using the northern portion of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area for educational field trips. By using the Nemeth unit, these groups and their vehicles can avoid

the Picnic Area and the greater congestion in that area. The Nemeth parking area provides the only suitable parking for buses other than the beach parking lot.

The Nemeth parking area could also provide parking for a vehicle and horse trailer, thereby providing access to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area for horseback riding by persons who do not live or maintain a horse in the immediate vicinity of the open space area. Use of this parking area for horse trailers should be limited, and horseback riding activity should be monitored to ensure that it does not interfere with other open space uses or cause erosion problems.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

The Nemeth Unit should be carefully managed for wildlife enhancement, particularly birds and small mammals. The site lends itself well to wildlife enhancement: a limited variety of vegetation favored by wildlife is currently available, it receives only moderate use by visitors, and it serves as a node for two wildlife corridors. One corridor extends about .4 mile east to the G.E. property and has a variety of wooded, open space and water environments (wooded wetland, river, ponds). The other corridor extends south for about .6 mile and is primarily wooded. Specific recommendations to enhance wildlife habitat include:

- Continue annual late fall mowing of the herbaceous vegetation in the field. Keep the total mowed area approximately the same as the area that was mowed in the fall of 1988. However, modify somewhat the pattern of mowing to provide a more irregular shape that will create a greater edge effect for both enhanced wildlife value and visual appeal.
- Seed the field with grasses such as tall fescue, Tioga deertongue and Blackwell switch grass that provide good wildlife benefit and will supplement the existing herbaceous vegetation.
- Plant several small trees or small clumps of shrubs at random locations in the field to provide food, cover and nesting habitat for birds. Appropriate species include: chokecherry, crabapple and eastern red cedar. Mark the location of new plantings with stakes to ensure that they are not destroyed during the annual fall mowing.
- Plant hemlocks or other evergreens along the south side of the parking area (between the existing wood rail fence and the property line) to provide visual screening between the parking area and the private residence. The current owner of the residence should be consulted prior to planting.
- Plant hemlocks along the northern boundary of the open space area to provide a future visual and noise barrier between the Merritt Parkway and the open space area, to help delineate the boundary of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, and to

provide additional evergreen vegetation for wildlife.

- Plant shrubs and small trees along the field side of the stone fence separating the Nemeth and Merritt units. Appropriate species include bicolor lespedeza, chokecherry, graystem dogwood, American holly, and crabapple.

Trail and Road Management

Two major trails are recommended to begin in this unit: The Nemeth Trail which extends south across the Nemeth and Morehouse units and connects with the West Lake Trail in the West Lake Unit; and the Merritt Loop Trail.

- Abandon the existing trail that presently leads south across the field. Seed this existing trail with grasses valuable for wildlife (as described above).
- Maintain a trail extending from the pedestrian access control gate east along the northern edge of the field to the tree line leading into the Merritt Unit. (From this point, the Merritt Loop Trail would continue to the east in its present location.) Seed this trail segment with a hearty grass, such as red fescue, for a width of about five feet.
- Create a new trail (Nemeth Trail) extending south through the field, parallel to and about 15 feet west of the existing stone wall that divides the Merritt and Nemeth Units (and mature woodland from open field). Once the trail reaches the point where the stone wall turns east in the vicinity of the large spruce tree, it should trend southwest until it connects with the existing trail just north of the transmission tower.

Sign Maintenance

- Install a large "Lake Mohegan Open Space Area" sign at the entrance from Morehouse Highway. This sign may be located just inside the metal gate or further east, adjacent to the large parking area.
- Install a revised "Rules and Regulations" sign adjacent to the gate at Morehouse Highway.
- Install a trail identification post at the point where the Nemeth and Merritt Trails diverge, indicating the name and direction of each.
- Increase the number of Open Space Area signs and paint markings along the northern property boundary.

Other Management Activities

- Fill and/or cap the old well located under the large spruce tree (and near the relocated Nemeth Trail) to avoid any possibility of injury to users of the site.
- Remove debris from the area in and around the stone fence that separates the Nemeth and Merritt Units.
- If, at some time in the future, an opportunity should arise to acquire the single family residence located between Old Morehouse Highway, Morehouse Highway and the open space area, the Town should seriously consider such acquisition. The addition of this parcel to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area would provide for additional buffer area between the open space parcel and adjacent residential areas and increase use opportunities in this portion of the open space area.

MERRITT MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Merritt Management Unit is located in the north central part of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area and includes about 15 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Connecticut DOT right-of-way for the Merritt Parkway; on the east by the Mill River; on the south by the Cascades and Morehouse Management Units; and on the west by the Nemeth Management Unit.

Distinctive Features

Most of the area included in this management unit was donated to the Town by the General Electric Corporation in 1974 and is subject to certain deed restrictions, including maintaining the natural conditions and prohibitions against camping, picnicking and other active forms of recreation. Although this area is immediately adjacent to the Cascades Unit, it does not receive particularly heavy use.

The foundation of an old building is located just over the property line in the northwest part of the unit and adjacent to a major trail through the area. Several stone fences cross the area. A stone fence that extends northwest-southeast along the base of a slope in the western part of the unit is probably the best preserved stone fence on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. Remnants of an old wire fence are located along a portion of the northern property boundary.

Vegetation

This management unit is completely wooded (except for the area in the CL&P right-of-way) with the dominant species being mature oak, beech, hickory and birch. Young birch and beech saplings dominate the understory. A few large hemlocks are located near the Mill River in the northeast part of the unit. A wooded wetland exists in the southeast part of the unit at the base of the steep slope to the west. This wetland extends to the south under the power line right-of-way and into the Morehouse Unit.

Trails and Roads

Several trails and paths and a maintenance road traverse the unit. The three segments of major trails are:

- An east-west trail beginning at the juncture of the Merritt and Nemeth Management Units and extending eastward until it joins with another major trail (old road) oriented north-south (see below).
- An old road which trends north-south and begins at the Picnic Area Access Road and extends through the Merritt Unit almost to the Merritt Parkway.
- A branch off of the old road which leads to the bridge across the Mill River.

In addition to these major trails, several other paths exist throughout the area. The most notable of these are:

- A reasonably well delineated path extends north from the Upper Mill River Bridge paralleling the Mill River, generally 10 to 30 feet away from the streambank. At times this path becomes ill-defined and different routes are available. The path extends off of the open space property all the way to the small watercourse and wetland running along the south side of the Merritt Parkway where it curves to the west, connecting with the old road. A path also extends across the watercourse and onto the shoulder of the Merritt Parkway.
- Two additional, but not well defined, paths trend east-west and connect the Mill River path with the old road to the west.
- A poorly defined path connects the old road with the main Merritt trail. This path trends southwest-northeast and runs between two small hillocks in the northern part of the Merritt Unit. The trail begins directly across the old road from the middle path connecting with the Mill River path and emerges near the point where two stone walls converge just north of the Merritt Trail.
- A well defined path enters the Merritt Unit from off the open space property. This path begins at Morehouse Highway immediately south of the bridge over the Merritt Parkway and extends southeast until it intersects with the Merritt Trail at the location of the old foundation.
- An east-west path extends across the CL&P right-of-way, beginning at the eastern edge of the Nemeth Management Unit and extending downhill across the wetland and into the flat, grassy open area just west of the pool below the Cascades.

The southwest portion of the Merritt Unit is notable for the absence of trails. This wooded area, which includes the wetland, is the largest block of land in the entire Lake Mohegan Open Space Area without any defined trails. As such it provides important opportunities for wildlife.



Figure 23: View looking north from the bridge over the Mill River.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The principal management objectives for the Merritt Management Unit are passive recreation and wildlife enhancement.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Maintain and enhance the wildlife habitat value of the existing wetland area. Two main actions are recommended:

- > Avoid any further trail development adjacent to the wetland or in the block of woodland currently without any existing trails;
- > Install a Woodduck box within the wetland. The most likely location would be near the northern end of the wetland, where some water is present throughout most of the year.
- Plant hemlocks along the northern boundary of the property line, extending from the eastern edge of the Nemeth Unit to the Mill River. Addition of these evergreens will provide a greater sound and visual barrier between the open space area and the Merritt Parkway, and will help define the northern boundary of the open space area.
- Create several brush piles for wildlife habitat at scattered locations throughout the area. Fallen trees and branches and brush cut for trail maintenance can be used to create these brush piles.
- Release small hemlocks and cedar trees scattered throughout the area. Except for the small group of mature hemlocks near the Mill River, very little evergreen vegetation is found in this area. Several small hemlocks and a few small eastern red cedar trees are located in the understory throughout the site. These young trees should be allowed to mature by periodically cutting any vines that may grow into the trees, and removing nearby branches and poor quality deciduous trees to permit additional light to reach the young evergreens.
- Periodically remove overmature and diseased trees to allow younger, more vigorous trees to mature. Whenever possible, select in favor of young oak and maples.

Trail Maintenance

- Designate a main trail, to be called the Merritt Loop Trail. The Merritt Loop Trail would include the existing trail beginning at the juncture with the Nemeth Management Unit and extending eastward to the old road (Cascades Maintenance Road). From the junction with the road, the trail/road combination would extend northward for about 400 feet. From this point the trail would leave the road, extending westward along an existing poorly defined path that runs between two hillocks until it reconnects with the Merritt Loop Trail.
 - > Upgrade this existing path to full trail status by trimming branches and removing small trees that have grown into the path.
 - > Eliminate an existing wet spot on the Merritt Loop Trail located just northwest of the wooded wetland. This low spot should be filled and a shallow, grassed swale created to permit drainage into the wetland.
- Maintain the Cascades Maintenance Road so that it can serve maintenance and emergency vehicles and serve as a trail.

- > Maintain the road from the point where it enters the Merritt unit from the south until it reaches the Upper Mill River Bridge.
- > Maintain the northern extension (designated as part of the Merritt Loop Trail) of this old road all the way to the north end of the Lake Mohegan Space Property, just south of the Merritt Parkway.
- > Eliminate wet spots in the segment of the road south of the junction with the Merritt Loop Trail and north of the road branch that extends east to the Upper Mill River Bridge. A major wet area exists in this location. The low spot in the road should be filled and one or more shallow, grassed swales created to drain water from the road into the wetland to the west.
- All other trails and paths previously described should receive only minimum maintenance, primarily to minimize erosion.
 - > The path that parallels the west bank of the Mill River should be monitored to ensure that users do not create a trail immediately along the bank of the river.
 - > The section of trail along the CL&P right-of-way should be seeded to grasses and waterbars or rock barriers installed to reduce erosion and discourage use.

Sign Maintenance

- Place additional Open Space signs and white paint along the northern boundary, particularly where trails cross or come near the boundary.
- Install trail posts at the following locations:
 - > Where the Merritt Loop Trail divides, about 150 feet east of the old foundation.
 - > Where the Merritt Loop Trail intersects with the Cascades Maintenance Road.
 - > Where the Merritt Loop Trail turns west off of the old road.

Other Management Activities

- Initiate discussions with the GE corporation to determine if GE would be willing to donate the two small parcels of land they own located between the Merritt Unit and the Merritt Parkway right-of-way.

NORTH POND MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The North Pond Management Unit occupies the northeast corner of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. It includes North Pond and the surrounding land. The unit is bounded on the north and east by property of the General Electric Company; on the south by the Mohegan-North Unit; and on the west by the Cascades Unit and the Mill River. The total management unit consists of about 12 acres.

Distinctive Features

The boundary with the GE property is clearly delineated with a six-foot chain link fence erected and maintained by GE. The fence is placed about five to ten feet on the GE side of the boundary. Concrete and metal boundary markers are located at points along the property boundary. A wide gate is located in the fence along the northern boundary, between North Pond and the GE pond.

North Pond was created as part of the former gravel mining operation. The pond is about 3 acres in surface area, with a north-south length of about 600 feet and a maximum east-west width of about 350 feet. Depths throughout most of the pond range between 4 and 6 feet, with a maximum depth of about 9 feet. Around most of the pond, banks rise steeply to a surrounding flat terrace.

The primary source of water for the pond is groundwater. Some flow enters the pond as surface runoff from the surrounding land, particularly from the steep slopes east of the pond. A very small year-round watercourse enters the pond at the northeast corner, and sediment associated with this watercourse has created a small delta extending into the pond.

During high flow conditions, water from the Mill River can enter the pond through an excavated channel which enters the pond at its northwest corner. An old road crosses over this channel, but an 18 inch culvert allows for flow of water between the river and the pond. At the time that gravel mining was still active, it appears that water from the Mill River may have flowed into the pond regularly. Partial filling of this channel near the Mill River and/or downcutting of the channel of the Mill River now limit inflow to the pond to high water

conditions. The outlet from the pond is an excavated channel located at the southern end of the pond. This channel has a maximum depth of about 15 feet below the surrounding land.

The pond is not stocked with trout, and fishing — while common — is not as intensive as on Lake Mohegan. Warm water species such as pickerel and large-mouth bass are the predominant species.

The GE property north and east of the North Pond Unit exerts a strong influence on this area. The major influences are the visible presence (especially during winter months) of the GE buildings, and the occasional take offs and landings of helicopters from the helipad just north of North Pond. While not prolonged, the noise from the helicopters can significantly alter the open space experience. Also located on the GE property are a small sediment basin about .5 acre in size and a pond (GE Pond) of about one acre, both of which drain to the Mill River through an excavated channel (the sediment basin drains into the GE Pond).

Another important influence on the North Pond Unit is the Connecticut DOT right-of-way for the Merritt Parkway; a strip of land about 200 feet wide between the Merritt Parkway and the GE property. Located within this right-of-way are a small pond and wetland immediately south of the Merritt Parkway and an old roadway which provides unofficial, but essentially unrestricted, access to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area from the north. Many visitors to the area clearly make use of this old roadway. The main entrance to this road is from Easton Turnpike immediately to the north of the GE gatehouse. The road can also be accessed from the Service Area on the Merritt Parkway). This old road extends all the way to the Mill River, but has been closed off about one-third of the distance (behind the Service Area) with an earthen berm across the road¹. The area near the berm has been heavily used for illegal dumping of all types of debris. Entrance to the portion of the road west of the berm can still be gained from the eastbound lane of the Merritt Parkway by traversing the flat, grassy shoulder of the Merritt Parkway and a rock and earth berm between the Parkway and the old road. Motorcycles and off-road vehicles appear to have used this entry point. Motorcycles can gain access to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area along a path leading from the old road into the open space area, but 3- and 4-wheel vehicles are effectively denied entry due to a major constriction in the path caused by a combination of the GE fence, trees and bank of the Mill River.

All of the land in this management unit was donated to the Town by GE in 1974 and is subject to the same deed restrictions that apply to the Merritt Unit.

¹ Sometime during March or April 1989, the top of the berm was partially removed and off-road vehicles can now go over the berm.

Vegetation

Vegetation in this unit is quite varied. The banks of the pond support riparian vegetation, including several small stands of autumn olive. Cattails and other wetland species have developed on the small delta at the northeast corner of the pond.

Immediately surrounding North Pond on the north and south sides, the land is quite flat with little or no soil and limited vegetation. The south side of the pond in particular still maintains the appearance of a gravel mine operation and is almost completely devoid of vegetation. Elsewhere south of the pond, the land slopes steeply upward and is covered with young to mature oak, hickory and particularly beech.

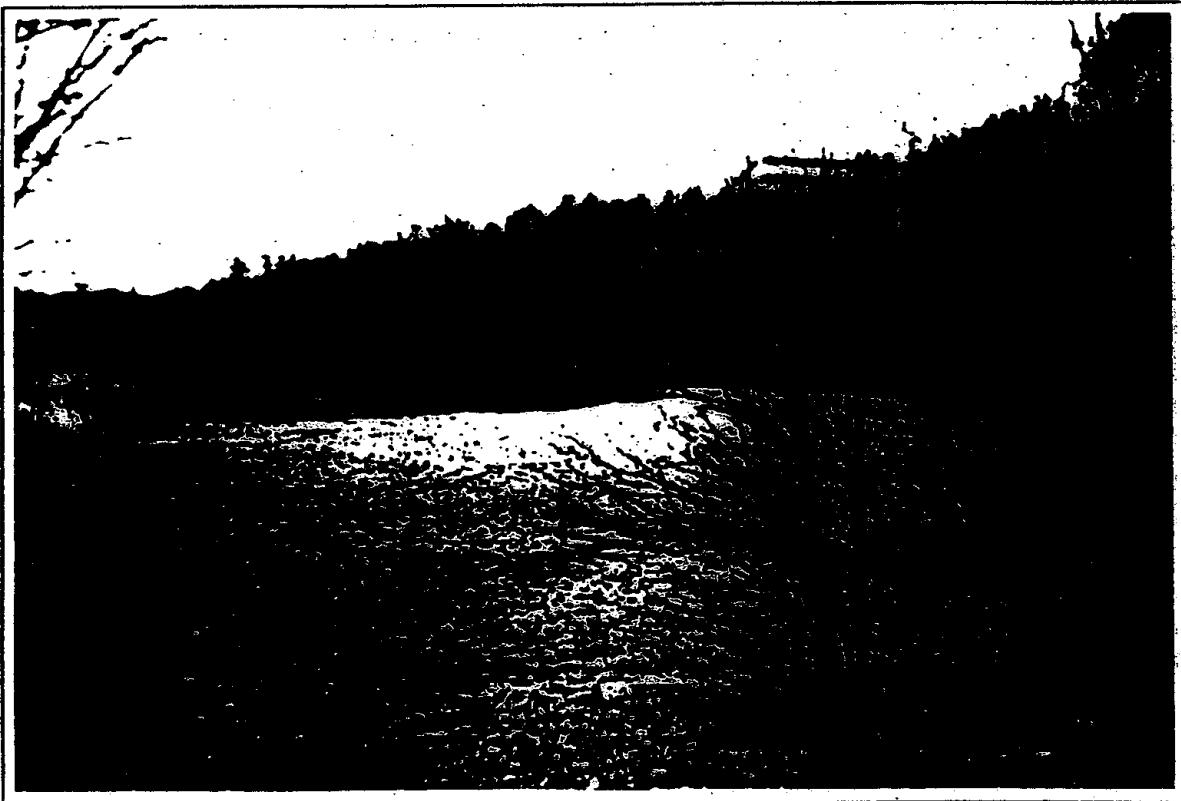


Figure 24: Unvegetated area on the south side of North Pond.

The north side of the pond has a sparse cover of grasses, shrubs and young trees and is mowed annually. Nearer the northern boundary with GE, the vegetation is more dense and includes a variety of species, deciduous and evergreen.

West and northwest of the pond and extending to the Mill River, the topography is gently rolling, and vegetation is mostly young beech trees.

The Conservation Department has planted white pine seedlings along the GE fence line to supplement the natural vegetation. These white pines are only a few years old and generally 3-5 feet tall. In a few years they will form a year-round visual screen between the open space property and the GE property. The Conservation Department has also planted hemlock, white pine and spruce seedlings along the trail on the east side of the pond.

Trails and Roads

Several trails and paths have been established throughout the North Pond Unit, including:

- A trail that circles the pond, including a crossing over the pond outlet. A wooden footbridge previously provided all-weather passage across the outlet, but only remnants of the wooden footings remain. Moderate sized fieldstones in the channel now provide the means of crossing, except during periods of high water.
- The trail along the east bank of the Mill River, extending from the Upper Mill River bridge to the northern property boundary and connecting with the old road in the Merritt Parkway right-of-way. The northern part of this trail crosses the North Pond inlet and the outlet from the GE Pond. Both crossings are wet during much of the year, and the outlet from the GE Pond usually has a small flow. Cobblestones in the channel enable hikers to cross this small watercourse.
- Several east-west trails connecting the trail around North Pond to the trail along the east bank of the Mill River.
 - > A trail that runs along the northern property boundary adjacent to the GE fence.
 - > Three paths located between the North Pond inlet channel and the North Pond outlet channel: one just south of the inlet channel, one just west of the outlet channel, and one approximately half-way between these two. The path just west of the outlet channel rises steeply over a small ridge. Along the slopes of this ridge the trail is eroded and railroad tie steps have deteriorated.
- A trail on the east side of the outlet channel, leading from the flat, gravelly area on the southeast side of the pond to the small bridge across the southern end of the

outlet channel (near the Cascades). The northern end of this trail coincides with an old roadbed and is deeply entrenched.

- A trail leading east from the gravel terrace on the southeast side of the pond and up the steep slope southeast of the pond. This trail is steep, severely eroded and bypasses deteriorated railroad tie steps.

Signs

There are no signs within this unit except for Open Space boundary marker signs and white boundary markings on trees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

Because of the deed restrictions that apply to this area, only limited activities are possible in the short term. However, the unit possesses strong potential for more intensive recreational use, and is a likely candidate for more active management after the deed restrictions have expired. For the immediate future, management objectives include passive recreation and wildlife enhancement.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Maintain white pine plantings along the fence separating the GE property from the Lake Mohegan Open Space area. These plantings are needed to help screen the open space area from the GE buildings and the helicopter landing area. Consult with GE to make sure that the trees planted will not reach a height that will adversely interfere with helicopter take offs and landings.
- After the white pines along the fence have reached a height of about 6-8 feet, plant shrubs such as crabapple or Autumn Olive between the fence and the white pines. Since this area will generally be on GE property, GE should be consulted to obtain permission for the plantings. These shrubs will provide additional visual and noise barriers between the GE property and the open space property. They will also provide additional wildlife habitat and a corridor for wildlife movement. Mark the new plantings with stakes so they can be identified and avoided when the area is mowed.

- Maintain the tree and shrub vegetation along the edges of the pond to provide for bird, small mammal and fish habitat and shading of the edges of the pond.
- Maintain existing openings and create an additional 2-3 small openings in the vegetation along the banks of the pond for fishing access.
- Increase the vegetative cover around the pond to gradually eliminate the gravel mine appearance, particularly the large flat area at the south end of the pond.
 - > Add soil or compost to the gravel areas to provide a soil base suitable for vegetative growth.
 - > Plant the gravel areas with grasses that provide good wildlife habitat, such as tall fescue, Blackwell switchgrass, and Tioga Deertongue.
 - > Plant trees and small shrubs in the area southeast of the pond.
- Consult with the Connecticut DEP Fisheries Unit regarding improved fish habitat in the North Pond. Principal actions to consider are:
 - > Stocking of North Pond with bass.
 - > Adding shallow water habitat by creating a small island in the middle of the pond.
 - > Providing shade and cover by installing one or two small floating islands in the pond.
- Install a Woodduck box in North Pond, GE Pond or the small pond in the Merritt Parkway right-of-way. The GE Pond and Merritt Pond may offer the best opportunities because they receive less disruption from human activity. The Conservation Department should seek cooperation and approval from GE and the Connecticut DOT to place Woodduck boxes in these ponds.
- Remove beech, birch and other saplings from the bed and lower banks of the North Pond outlet channel. (Use the cut trees to help create brush piles to help block the existing trail on the west side of the outlet channel (see below) and to create wildlife habitat).
- Release the hemlock saplings growing along the banks of the North Pond outlet channel by cutting nearby vegetation and some overhead branches to allow additional light and growing space for the hemlocks.

Trail and Road Management

- Designate the trail encircling the pond as the North Pond Trail and maintain as a major trail. The north end of the North Pond Trail begins at the Mill River Trail about 150 feet north of the Upper Mill River Bridge. From this point the trail

extends northeast through the small wooded area to the west side of the pond, around the pond and ending at the small bridge over the North Pond outlet (near the Cascades).

- **Eliminate or minimize wet and eroding areas on the North Pond Trail:**
 - > At the northeast corner of the lake where the small, perennial watercourse crosses the trail, flow should be confined to a pipe installed underneath the trail.
 - > Other ephemeral watercourses coming off the steep slope to the east and crossing the trail should be dispersed with waterbars.
 - > Place two or three large flat-topped boulders in the North Pond outlet which can serve as stepping stones across the outlet during periods of high flow. These boulders should be heavy enough to prevent manual removal or relocation (i.e. larger than the existing stepping stones), but should not block flow from the pond.
 - > Install waterbars on the steep, gravelly banks on the east and west sides of the North Pond outlet to reduce erosion.
- Close off the existing trail leading from the Mill River Bridge east across the ridge to North Pond. This short trail is steep, subject to erosion, and the existing railroad tie steps have deteriorated. Dead logs and branches used in trail clearing should be piled along this existing trail to prevent its use. The railroad ties should be removed and used as the base for a wildlife brush pile. Evergreen trees (hemlocks) should be planted along the trail in between brush piles. A wood rail fence may need to be installed on both the east and west sides of the closed trail to further discourage pedestrian traffic while the planted trees become established.
- Place one or two large, flat-topped boulders in the North Pond inlet channel to facilitate crossing.
- Place one or two large, flat-topped boulders in the GE Pond outlet channel to facilitate crossing.
- Eliminate the trail leading from the flat gravel area at the southeast corner of North Pond up the steep slope to the east. Existing, deteriorating railroad ties should be removed and the ruts and gullies filled with soil, seeded with a hearty, shade tolerant grass such as red fescue, and planted with a few tree seedlings. In addition, a rail fence should be installed at the base of the slope to direct traffic away from this closed-off trail.
- Create a control point at the unofficial entrance to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area from the northern boundary on the east side of the Mill River. The primary purpose should be to prevent motorcycles and ATVs from entering the open space area from this location. The best location to establish a control point would be at the

point where the GE fence comes within about 10 feet of the east bank of the Mill River. Placement of two properly spaced stanchions (concrete filled metal or PVC poles or segments of telephone poles) should serve to prevent entry by motorized vehicles while not impeding pedestrian entry. This location is on GE property and permission from GE would be needed before carrying out this recommendation.

- Do not allow trees or large shrubs to grow into the emergency access way south of the gate in the GE fence.

Sign Maintenance

- Install a small Lake Mohegan Open Space Area sign and a Rules and Regulations sign at the northern entrance to the site, just south of the GE fence at the location of the stanchions.
- Install a trail post on the Mill River Trail at the junction with the North Pond Trail. The trail post should identify the Mill River Trail and the North Pond Trail.

Other Management Activities

- Annually, and following major storms, remove debris that may clog the culvert in the North Pond inlet channel.
- Work with the Connecticut DOT to improve traffic barriers along the old road south of the Merritt Parkway. This access point is currently being used for illegal dumping of material behind the Service Area on the Merritt Parkway and occasional access to the Mill River. Improved or new traffic barriers are needed in four locations:
 - > Install a metal swing gate at the eastern entrance of the road, near the GE gatehouse. This location would be most effective because of its nearness to the GE gatehouse.
 - > Install a berm and/or guard rail behind the service area on the Merritt Parkway to prevent vehicles from entering through the service area.
 - > Improve the existing earthen berm across the old road behind the service area. The height of this berm has been reduced (in March or April, 1989) enabling access by some 4-wheel drive vehicles as well as ATVs.
 - > Improve the rock and stone berms in the right-of-way south of and parallel with the Merritt Parkway. Vehicles have been crossing these berms. In addition to raising the height of the berms, installation of a guard rail along the highway may be necessary.
- Maintain an agreement with GE for emergency access through the gate in the GE

fence along the northern property boundary between North Pond and the GE Pond.

- After the time frame for deed restrictions has expired (or earlier if GE will permit or the Town has been able to acquire part of the GE land), the Town should consider developing the area around North Pond for more intensive use. Because the area is flat with large areas of open space, and is well removed from residential neighborhoods, it provides a good location for more intensive uses such as picnicking.
- If, at some point in the future, GE or a subsequent owner of the GE property should no longer desire to retain the area that includes the GE Pond, sediment basin and helipad, the Town should consider acquiring all or part of this area.

CASCADES MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Cascades Management Unit is located in the north-central portion of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. It is bounded on the north by the Merritt, North Pond and Mohegan-North units; on the east by the Mohegan-North unit; on the south by the Picnic Area unit; and on the west by the Morehouse and Merritt units. The Cascades Unit totals about 8 acres.

Distinctive Features

The most distinctive feature of the Cascades Unit is the bedrock outcropping in the Mill River that creates the section of short rapids known as the Cascades. The Cascades draw more people to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area than any other area except for the swimming beach. Swimming is also a popular — but unauthorized — activity in the pool just below the cascades.

Climbing on and among the exposed bedrock on both the east and west banks of the Mill River is popular. People often picnic in this area and litter is a major problem, particularly broken glass. The small pool just below the cascades is reportedly heavily littered with broken glass.

Because of the high use this area receives, trails exist throughout the area, and the west bank of the Mill River adjacent to the cascades is almost completely devoid of vegetation.

Vegetation

Vegetation in the Cascades Unit is of three major types: mature oak, beech and hickory; a thick tangle of thick herbaceous vegetation immediately around the pool under the CL&P right-of-way; and a small meadow or grassy area on the west bank under the CL&P right-of-way.

Trails and Roads

Several roads and trails occur in the unit. Two main trails/roads originate at the Picnic Area Access Road and lead to the Mill River at the cascades and to the Upper Mill River Bridge. Both of these roads/trails have pedestrian access and maintenance vehicle control gates in the wood rail fence beside the Picnic Area Access Road. The easternmost road/trail that begins at the Picnic Area Access Road is heavily used and in places is deeply rutted and often wet. Secondary trails have developed to bypass the wet areas. Just south of the CL&P right-of-way the two roads/trails merge and extend across the right-of-way to the northern part of the Cascades Unit. One branch of the road continues off the Cascades Unit into the Merritt Unit (where it has been designated as part of the Merritt Loop Trail), and another branch turns east to the Upper Mill River Bridge.

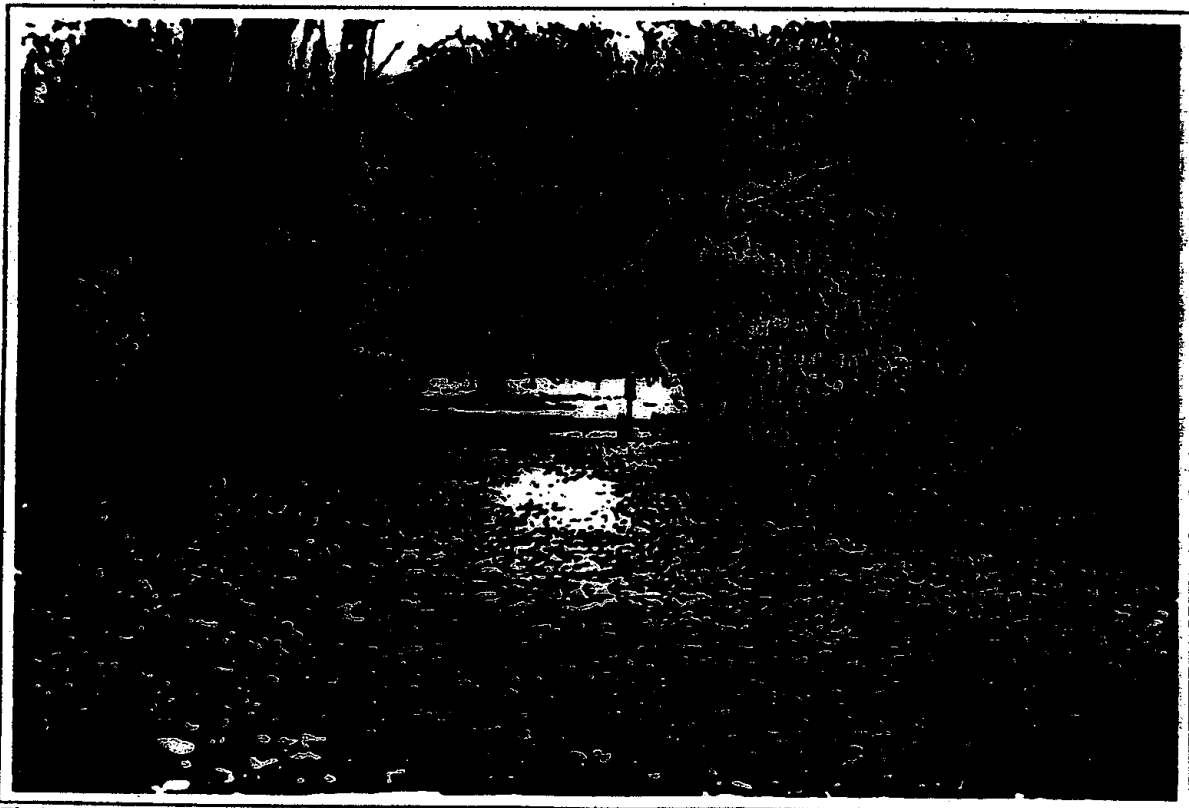


Figure 25: Trail/road leading from the Picnic Area Access Road to the Cascades. Looking south toward the Picnic Area Access Road.

In the area of the CL&P right-of-way and the cascades, trails are so numerous as to be almost indistinguishable from one another. The banks of the river around the cascades are eroded and practically devoid of ground vegetation. A main trail does follow the top of the bank along the river and connects with the road/trail at the Upper Mill River Bridge. An attractive view exists from the bridge, both upstream and downstream.

On the east side of the Mill River a trail leads from the Upper Mill River Bridge south along the eastern bank of the Mill River to a small bridge across the North Pond outlet. The bridge provides an attractive view up the North Pond outlet channel to North Pond. From the footbridge the trail divides: one segment (North Pond Trail) leads north to North Pond; and another segment extends across the rock outcroppings, through the thick herbaceous vegetation under the CL&P right-of-way and connects with the Woods Road. Most users simply wander around the rock outcroppings along the eastern bank of the river adjacent to the cascades.

Signs

The only signs located in the Cascades Unit are at the beginning of the roads and trails at the Picnic Area Access Road. A rules and regulations sign and a sign stating "Swimming at Beach Area Only" are located at the beginning of both roads/trails.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for the Cascades Management Unit are passive recreation and education. Some measures can be taken to enhance wildlife, particularly birds, but this area receives too much human activity to provide great wildlife value.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

West Side of the Mill River

- Remove some of the herbaceous vegetation along the bank of the pool in the CL&P right-of-way and replace with shrubs or small trees such as purpleosier willow. The small willow trees will provide a more attractive shoreline than the existing vegetation.

- Cease mowing the vegetation near the wetland that crosses under the CL&P right-of-way. Plant shrubs such as elderberry along the edge of the wetland underneath the right-of-way to help serve as a barrier to pedestrian traffic and to provide wildlife habitat. Crossing of this wetland and use of the path along the right-of-way should be discouraged.
- Remove snags along roads/trails and in the vicinity of the Cascades. Several snags exist in this area, and because of the heavy usage this area receives, only the most sturdy should remain. Others should be removed to reduce the potential for injury by falling limbs or trees.
- Seed the entire western bank adjacent to the cascades with a hearty grass such as Blackwell switchgrass. Annual seeding may be necessary to establish a good vegetative cover.
- Seed the flat, open area under the CL&P right-of-way with a hearty grass such as tall fescue. Heavily rutted areas should be filled and graded before seeding.

East Side of the River

- Clear vegetation from areas of exposed ledge on the east side of the Cascades. Removal of vines and shrubs now covering portions of the exposed ledge will provide a greater area for user activity and improve visual attractiveness of the area.
- Remove some of the vegetation from the edge of the pool under the CL&P right-of-way and plant purpleosier willow or other appropriate shrubs or small trees along this bank. The willow will provide a more attractive streambank than the existing vegetation.

Trail Management

West Side of the River

- Designate the easternmost road/trail beginning at the Picnic Area Access Road as the Cascades Trail, and make the following changes:
 - > At the point where the road/trail forks to form two main trails/roads and still a third trail loops to the east, close off and eliminate the two western segments. These sections of the road/trail are deeply rutted and often wet. They should be filled in with soil or compost, seeded to shade tolerant grasses such as red fescue, and planted with a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs. Wood rail fencing, boulders or brush piles may be needed to help keep users off these areas while vegetation becomes established.

- > Create a new trail extending northward to the CL&P right-of-way. This new section of trail should follow 20-30 feet west of the steep slope down to the Mill River floodplain. The trail should be at least six feet wide to accommodate the heavy usage this area receives. The trail should be surfaced with gravel to reduce erosion and development of wet spots. This trail should not be used by maintenance vehicles.
- Designate the westernmost road/trail beginning at the Picnic Area Access Road as the Cascades Maintenance Road. All maintenance vehicles should use this road which is in better condition than the Cascades Trail and does not have as many wet or eroded areas.
- Install stone steps in the major access point leading from the top of the bank down to the cascades. Use of stone will provide a natural appearance and be less susceptible to vandalism and wear than wooden railroad ties. The steps should be about six feet wide, or as wide as can be placed in the bank without major disturbance of the site. By installing stone steps, most users will be drawn to this access point and use of other areas will be reduced, thereby, helping to reduce erosion of the bank.
- At such time as the bridge over the outlet channel needs replacement, install a slighter wider bridge with a built-in bench(s).

West Side of the River

- Replace the Upper Mill River Bridge with a similar bridge.

Sign Management

- Install a trail post on the Mill River Trail just east of the Upper Mill River Bridge. The trail post should indicate the Mill River Trail to the north and the Cascades Trail to the south.
- Install a trail post just east of the bridge across the outlet channel from North Pond at the junction with the trail leading to North Pond. This trail post should indicate the North Pond Trail and the Woods Road Trail.
- Install a trail post at the southern end of the Cascades Trail, where it leads from the Picnic Area Access Road. This trail post should indicate only the Cascades Trail.

Other Management Activities

- Dredge the pool below the Cascades (within the CL&P right-of-way) to approximately its original depth and area. On the east side of the pool dredging should extend to existing firm ground. On the west side of the pool dredging should extend to ledge outcroppings or to firm ground.
- Remove broken glass and other debris from the bottom of the Mill River and the rock outcroppings along both sides of the river. Because of the heavy usage this area receives, frequent removal of broken glass and other debris is needed.
- Create a parking area immediately north of the Picnic Area Access Road and between the Cascades Maintenance Road and the Cascades Trail. By relocating the existing wood rail fence northward approximately 5 to 10 feet, grading the site, and adding crushed stone, this area could accommodate approximately 10 vehicles. No existing trees would need to be removed in order to create this parking area.

MOREHOUSE MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Morehouse Management Unit is located in the western part of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. It is bounded on the north by the Nemeth and Merritt units, on the east by the Cascades unit, on the south by the Picnic Area Access Road, and on the west by Old Morehouse Highway and the Primrose Lane residential area. The total area is about 11 acres.

Distinctive Features

Probably the most distinctive features located in the Morehouse Unit are two outcroppings of bedrock. The most prominent of these is located just east of Old Morehouse Highway, about halfway between the Picnic Area Access Road and Morehouse Highway. This outcropping exhibits very interesting and distinctive geologic formations. Mosses and ferns growing on and around the outcropping add to the visual interest of this area. The second bedrock outcropping is located east of the trail crossing the unit and just south of the CL&P right-of-way.

Charred stumps and other evidence of a former fire can be seen in the eastern portion of the unit. A high number of snags (primarily oak) are located through this unit, probably a result of gypsy moth damage. Although this area has high visual quality and an easy trail, it appears to receive relatively light use; probably because it does not provide direct access to activity centers. The limited use increases its value for wildlife.

Vegetation

Almost the entire Morehouse Management Unit is heavily wooded with mature oak, beech and hickory. The small wooded wetland that originates in the Merritt Unit extends across the CL&P right-of-way and into the Morehouse Unit for a small distance. In the northwestern part of the unit, between the CL&P right-of-way, the private residence and Old Morehouse Highway, a mixture of deciduous trees, vines and shrubs create a dense tangle of vegetation.

Trails and Roads

Old Morehouse Highway forms the western boundary of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area in this unit and extends from the Picnic Area Access Road north to Morehouse Highway just west of the CL&P right-of-way. Where Old Morehouse Highway crosses the right-of-way, users have a view along the right-of-way to the top of the ridge on the east side of the Mill River. The river itself is not visible from this point. A metal swing gate is located at each end of Old Morehouse Highway. A single trail crosses this unit, entering the unit at the CL&P right-of-way and extending south to the Picnic Area Access Road. This trail has a low gradient except immediately south of the CL&P right-of-way and is in good condition with very limited erosion and few wet spots.



Figure 26: Looking north along Old Morehouse Highway, with the open space area to the right and a residential neighborhood to the left.

Signs

A large Cascades/Lake Mohegan Open Space Area sign is located just to the right of the southern entry to Old Morehouse Highway. Open Space boundary signs and white paint markings are located along the east side of Old Morehouse Highway. A faded "No Dumping" sign remains posted along Old Morehouse Highway — originally placed before vehicle access control gates were placed at both ends of Old Morehouse Highway and dumping in the area was a problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Management Objectives

Principle management objectives for the Old Morehouse Highway Management Unit are passive recreation, wildlife enhancement and education.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

A large number of dead trees (snags) are located just east of the Nemeth Trail and south of the CL&P right-of-way. A small 3-4 foot deep depression is also located in this area. Several of the snags should be removed, cut into short lengths and piled in the depression to provide habitat for small mammals. The largest snags and any snags clearly being used for nesting should remain standing.

Trail and Road Maintenance

- Designate the single trail running north-south through this area as part of the Nemeth Trail. This trail is in good condition, and only general maintenance is required to keep the trail clear of overhanging branches and fallen trees and branches.
 - > The steep segment of trail leading up to the CL&P right-of-way should be monitored to make sure that erosion does not develop, and appropriate maintenance measures taken if needed.
- Maintain Old Morehouse Highway so that it can continue to serve as both a hiking trail and a maintenance/emergency road.
 - > Maintain the metal swing gates at each end of Old Morehouse Highway.

- > As the asphalt surface of the roadway gradually deteriorates, it should be replaced with a gravel surface.
- > Periodically remove fallen trees and limbs.
- Prevent development of additional trails in this unit.

Sign Maintenance

- Move the large Cascades/Lake Mohegan Open Space Area sign that is located adjacent to the southern end of Old Morehouse Highway to the intersection of Old Morehouse Highway with Mohican Hill Road, and install a reformatted rules and regulations sign at this location.
- Install a stop sign at the intersection of Old Morehouse Highway with Mohican Hill Road and Morehouse Highway.
- Install a reformatted rules and regulations sign at the north end of Old Morehouse Highway.
- Do not install any signs along Morehouse Highway indicating the north entrance to Old Morehouse Highway. Since this entrance also serves as a driveway for a private residence, vehicle access and parking should be discouraged.
- Install a trail post where the Nemeth Trail crosses the Picnic Area Access Road identifying it as the Nemeth Trail, and indicating that it extends on both sides of the Picnic Area Access Road.
- Cut back some of the vines growing in the trees located between the private residence and the CL&P right-of-way.

Other Maintenance Activities

- Remove trash that has been dumped from Old Morehouse Highway, particularly on and around the major ledge outcrop just east of Old Morehouse Highway.

PICNIC AREA MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Picnic Area Management Unit is located along the west bank of the Mill River between Lake Mohegan and the Cascades. It is bounded on the north by the Cascades Unit; on the east by the Mohegan-North and East Lake Units, on the south by Lake Mohegan; and on the west by the West Lake and Cascades Units. This unit includes approximately 9 acres.

Distinctive Features

Two features are particularly important: (1) this area provides the only opportunity for user vehicle access and parking to the interior of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area; and (2) located between the Picnic Area Access Road and the west bank of the Mill River are five picnic tables and grills. Visitors park along the sides of the Picnic Area Access Road and visit practically all parts of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area from this point.

Vegetation

Vegetation in the area is primarily mature oak, beech and hickory. Some sycamore, red maple and riparian vegetation occurs along the banks of the river.

Trails and Roads

The Picnic Area Access Road has an asphalt surface. The upper portion of the road (outside the Picnic Area Unit) is in reasonably good condition, although settling of the base has left the surface very uneven. As the road emerges onto the flat area, most of the asphalt has deteriorated and a gravel and dirt surface remains. No drainage system was constructed for the road, and during periods of heavy rain, water accumulates from the upper reaches of the road and flows along the road until it drains into Lake Mohegan at the same point where the Mill River enters the lake. This surface runoff has caused eroded and wet areas at many points along the road. No off-road parking is provided, so visitors park their vehicles along the shoulders of the road adjacent to the wood rail fence that lines the

road. Vehicles are also parked in the small island inside the loop at the end of the road. This island is heavily eroded and rutted.

Four pedestrian control gates and vehicle maintenance gates are located in the wood rail fence along the east side of the Picnic Area Access Road. These gates provide access to the picnic tables between the road and the river. Another pedestrian and vehicle gate are located in the fence at the south end of the loop. From this point, a trail leads south to the Lake Trail, and an old roadbed leads down to the lake at the point where the Mill River enters the lake.

Another trail runs along the west bank of the Mill River, from near the inlet to the lake, northward to the CL&P right-of-way. This trail generally follows close to the river bank, but in some areas moves 10-15 feet inland from the bank. Secondary trails occur throughout the floodplain of the river. Where the trail emerges from the wooded floodplain onto the grassy area under the right-of-way, it slopes sharply upward, and has been severely eroded. At this point the trail is cut into the ground as much as two feet.



Figure 27: Picnic Area Access Road looking north, with the picnic area and the Mill River to the right.

Signs

The only signs in the unit are Rules and Regulations signs posted at each of the pedestrian access control gates.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for the Picnic Area Management Unit are passive recreation and education. This area provides limited opportunity for wildlife enhancement because of the high level of human activity.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Seed the picnic area with a hearty, shade tolerant grass such as red fescue.
- Plant appropriate shrubs, such as purpleosier willows along selected sections of the riverbank.
- Remove all but the most sturdy snags to reduce the potential for visitors being injured by falling limbs or trees.
- Create a low-flow channel in the Mill River where it enters Lake Mohegan. The existing channel is shallow and poorly defined; the main channel divides into at least three separate channels. During periods of low flow the unconfined water is not deep enough to support movement of fish between the river and lake. Instream gravel and boulders should be used to create a distinct main channel (westernmost of existing channels) through which all water would flow during periods of low water levels.

Trail and Road Maintenance

- Maintain and improve the Picnic Area Access Road to accommodate the relative heavy traffic it receives.
 - > The upper portion of the access road should be periodically resurfaced with asphalt.
 - > The lower (flat) portion of the access road should be repaved and speed

- bumps installed.
- > Drainage ditches and leakoffs should be constructed along the sides of the road to prevent surface runoff from accumulating and continuing to erode the road surface and create wet areas.
- > The edges of the roadway should be covered with a light layer of gravel to reduce erosion and rutting caused by vehicle parking. A hearty grass should be planted within the gravel cover to provide additional stabilization.
- Improve the island in the middle of the access road loop:
 - > A rail fence should be erected around the island to prevent vehicle crossing and parking that has led to erosion.
 - > Pedestrian access control gates should be installed in the rail fence around the island.
 - > The island should be seeded to a hearty grass and other small evergreen shrubs or ground cover should be planted. Wood chips should be placed around the plantings.
- Create off-road parking spaces at the south end of the access road loop by relocating the wood rail fence, pedestrian control gate and maintenance control gate about 10-15 feet further south. Approximately 4 off-road parking spaces could be created at this location.
- Construct a new bridge (Lower Mill River Bridge) over the Mill River to provide all weather crossing. The bridge should be located at the point where major ledge outcroppings are found in the river. The bridge should be constructed with an access ramp instead of stairs to permit handicapped access. This location offers several advantages:
 - > Good views of the Mill River from the bridge (both upstream and downstream), similar to those that exist at the Upper Mill River bridge.
 - > All weather crossing of the Mill River for those who wish to hike the Lake Trail.
 - > Access to the Mohegan Trail on the east side of the river.
 - > Would not be visible from the beach area or most other viewpoints around the lake.
- Relocate existing trails to connect with the new bridge:
 - > The western segment of the Lake Trail would extend to the new bridge, but the existing trail along the west side of the river should be relocated further away from the riverbank (ramps to the bridge will facilitate relocation of the trail away from the river bank). The existing trail in this area is undercut and will collapse in the near future. A rail fence should be erected to keep users off this dangerous segment of the trail.

- > The beginning of the Mill River Trail, as it heads north from the new bridge, should be redirected away from the riverbank. A split rail fence along the riverbank may be needed to help with trail relocation.
- Install railroad tie steps in the steep section of trail leading from the Mill River floodplain to the CL&P right-of-way.

Other Management Activities

- Install a kiosk at the southern end of the vegetation island in the access road loop, among the existing small trees. This kiosk should include a trail map, information about the history of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, and a set of rules and regulations.
- Install restrooms in the area just north of the picnic tables. The restrooms can be located about 200 feet away from the nearest picnic table, among the trees and against the small hill that exists in this location. This site can be reached by a backhoe and other equipment needed for installation without removing any major vegetation. In this location the restroom would be easily accessible, yet well screened by existing vegetation. Evergreens should be planted around the facility to provide additional screening. A pit type toilet is recommended with a concrete chamber that would be pumped out as needed. Separate restrooms for men and women are recommended. Restroom facilities should be designed for handicapped use.
- Periodically relocate the picnic tables and grills to avoid areas becoming so compacted that no vegetation will grow around the tables.
- All major improvements to the picnic area should provide access for the handicapped. Handicapped access could include:
 - > Making sure that pedestrian access control gates are wide enough to allow passage by a person in a wheel-chair.
 - > Installing at least one picnic table that is suitable for use by handicapped.
 - > Providing one handicapped parking space.
 - > Providing ramps to the new Lower Mill River Bridge.
 - > Upgrading the southern portion of the Mill River Trail and all of the East Lake Trail to provide a width, gradient and surface suitable for use by the handicapped.
- If, at some point in the future, the demand for picnic tables increases, install additional picnic tables in the northern portion of this unit (between the Mill River and the steep slope to the west).

WEST LAKE MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The West Lake Management Unit is located along the western boundary of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. It is bounded on the north by the Picnic Area Access Road; on the east by Lake Mohegan; on the south by the Mill River (outlet from Lake Mohegan); and on the west by Morehouse Highway and Old Morehouse Highway. The unit includes approximately 16 acres.

Distinctive Features

The most distinctive features of the West Lake Management Unit are the west shore of Lake Mohegan and the spillway for the outlet of the Mill River at the southwest corner of the lake. This area is heavily used by fishermen during the spring and early summer. Where the Mill River enters Lake Mohegan, a wide, flat delta has built out into the lake for a short distance. This delta helps to provide shallow-water habitat for fish and wading birds. Along most of the west shore of the lake, only a small shelf of shallow water exists before the bottom drops off sharply to depths of 30-60 feet. Consequently there is limited shallow-water habitat. The flat floodplain along the western shore of the lake is actually the former bed of the Mill River. When gravel excavation ceased, the river was diverted into the excavation to create Lake Mohegan.

The spillway is composed of large boulders dumped on the natural geologic material separating the excavated lake from the channel of the Mill River. This spillway offers no opportunity for regulating lake levels, requires periodic addition of boulders to keep the lake level stable, and is subject to full or partial destruction during a major flood.

North of the spillway is a flat grassy area that provides good access to the spillway and the southwest corner of the lake. This area is used for fishing, general recreation, and appears to be heavily used for walking dogs.



Figure 28: Lake Mohegan spillway.

Vegetation

The northern portion of the unit is mature oak, beech and hickory forest. The southern portion is mostly maple and oak forest. A narrow strip of herbaceous vegetation (largely Japanese knotweed) is located between the woodland and the lake, and immediately on the shore of the lake are small stands of alder and other riparian vegetation.

Trails and Roads

Old Morehouse Highway extends from the intersection of Morehouse Highway with Mohican Hill Road, north to the beginning of the Picnic Area Access Road and the closed off section of Old Morehouse Highway. This road is paved and in good condition. A double metal swing gate is located at the southern end of Old Morehouse Highway. This gate is normally kept open to provide vehicle access into the picnic area. It may be closed in anticipation of or during a major snowfall or flood. The Picnic Area Access Road extends downhill to the picnic area. This road is paved but has a rough, bumpy surface due to subsurface

compaction. No drainage controls have been installed along the road and runoff accumulates along the sides of the road and flows down into the picnic area.

Three major trails cross this unit:

- One trail begins as the southwest corner of Lake Mohegan (just north of the grassy area by the spillway), and extends northward through the woodland, parallel to the lake, until it emerges from the woods at the south end of the loop in the picnic area access road. Two entry points exist at the south end of this trail. The southernmost of these entry points is designated with a Rules and Regulations sign. This entry has a very steep and rocky downslope initial section. A secondary entry, with a somewhat less steep slope, has developed just north of this official entry point.
- Another trail follows the shore of the lake in the old riverbed, merging with the wooded trail to the west at both the north and south ends of the lake. During the summer this trail can be almost impassable due to thick growth of Japanese knotweed.
- A third trail begins just south of the point where the wooded trail exits from the woods. This trail extends upslope to the west and crosses the Picnic Area Access Road into the Morehouse Unit.

Several paths connect the two trails that parallel the lake. Near the north end of the lake numerous paths exist leading down to the lakeshore. Another path leads from Old Morehouse Highway straight downslope to the wooded trail west of the lake. This trail is apparently used only by neighboring residents.

Signs

The only signs in the unit are the Open Space boundary marker signs along the eastern side of Old Morehouse Highway and the Rules and Regulation sign at the southern entry to the wooded trail west of Lake Mohegan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for this unit are passive recreation and wildlife enhancement. The western portions of this unit provide an important buffer between the residential area west of Morehouse Highway and the areas of intense use around the lake.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Reduce the amount of Japanese Knotweed along the western shore of the lake.
- Fell one or two trees along the western shore so that they fall into the lake. There are at least two trees which would be suitable for this purpose. The upper portion of the tree that will be in the lake will improve fish habitat by providing hiding places for small fish. (A segment of the tree trunk should be cut to allow for continuation of the path along the lake.) The portion of the tree trunk between the path and the wooded area should remain. Vegetation will grow up around the tree trunk and provide a travel corridor for birds and small mammals.
 - > One tree recommended for felling is located south of the tree that already lies in the lake.
 - > A second tree is located near the south end of the lake, near the point where the path along the edge of the lake begins to disappear. Felling a tree at this point will further reduce foot traffic along the southern portion of the lake and provide a small area of more isolated wildlife habitat.
- Annually mow the vegetation between the wooded area and the edge of the lake. Mow only the knotweed and other herbaceous vegetation. Do not mow the alder and other woody vegetation immediately along the shore of the lake. Leave wide corridors of vegetation unmowed, including the areas around the fallen tree trunks. These areas will provide corridors for wildlife movement.
- Create three or four clear casting areas for fishermen along the shore.
- Create several brush piles for wildlife habitat at random locations (removed from trails) throughout the wooded area west of the lake.

Trail Management

- Designate the existing trail within the wooded area west of Lake Mohegan as a major trail (Lake Trail), and upgrade this trail so that it is suitable for handicapped use.
 - > Close off the existing (official) trail entry leading from Morehouse Highway into the wooded area. This entry point is too steep in relation to the rest of this trail.
 - > Change the official entry point to the existing trail just north of the official trail. This entry point has a more gentle slope, and limited additional grading will create a slope suitable for handicapped use.
 - > Maintain several footpaths connecting the West Lake Trail with the path along the shore of the lake. These paths provide opportunities for fishermen and others to reach the lake shore.
 - > Eliminate some of the existing paths located near the northwest corner of the lake.
 - > Upgrade the surface of the entire trail so that it is suitable for handicapped access.
- Mow the path along the shore of the lake at least twice during the year. Once in the fall when other lakeshore vegetation is mowed, and again during the summer to keep the path from becoming completely overgrown.
- Designate the trail between the Picnic Area Access Road and the Lake Trail as a continuation of the Nemeth Trail.

Sign Management

- Place a trail post and a rules and regulations sign at the newly designated official entry point to the Lake Trail from Morehouse Highway. The trail post should indicate the Lake Trail.
- Remove the existing rules and regulations sign from the current (southern) entry point to the Lake Trail.
- Place a trail post at the junction of the Lake Trail with the Nemeth Trail. This trail post should identify the Lake Trail and the Nemeth Trail.

Other Management Activities

- Replace the existing riprap spillway at the Lake Mohegan outlet with a concrete spillway. The replacement spillway should be fully engineered to meet DEP

construction standards. The spillway should be of a design that can permit regulation of lake levels.

- Maintain a permanent cap over the well located just north of the spillway.
- Develop a handicapped fishing access area in the existing flat, grassy area just north of the spillway. The handicapped access should include:
 - > An entry driveway immediately across from Canterbury Lane.
 - > Two handicapped parking spaces. (Parking should be restricted to handicapped — no other parking spaces).
 - > A paved or other firm surface pathway leading from the driveway and extending along the bank of the lake from the spillway north for about 100 feet. This path should include at least two wide sections suitable for fishing access.
 - > A railing (appropriate height) between the path and the lake.
 - > Continue a trail from the shore of the lake north to connect with the entrance with the West Lake Trail.



Figure 29: Lake Trail on west side of Lake Mohegan, looking north.

EAST LAKE MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The East Lake Management Unit is a relatively long and narrow strip, located along the eastern shore of Lake Mohegan. It is bounded on the north by the Mohegan-North Unit; on the east by the Mohegan-North and South Units and the Lake Residence Unit; on the south by the Beach and Swimming Area and the Mohegan-South Unit; and on the west by Lake Mohegan. Total area of this unit is about 13 acres.

Distinctive Features

This unit is characterized by its moderate slope and extensive areas of meadow and white pine. Most of this area was left as barren gravel after the gravel mining operation closed. In the years since, it has slowly revegetated, with natural processes assisted in areas by plantings of white pine and other tree species by the Conservation Department. Today, the combination of open meadow and evergreen trees sloping upward from the lakeshore provides visual relief from the deciduous woodland that occupies most of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.

In addition to the slope east of the lake, this unit contains small areas north and south of the lake. The area north of the lake has recently been cleared of most tall vegetation, creating a good view of the lake from the picnic area. South of the lake, the unit includes the slope east of the beach parking lot and near the Lake Residence.

Surface and subsurface drainage from the steep slopes to the east have created several small swales or watercourses across the large meadow east of the lake. Drainage is interrupted by the trails around the lake and wet spots are frequent along the trails and at locations in the meadow. A level lip dissipator has been installed in the upper part of the meadow (where the Mohegan Trail crosses the meadow) to intercept surface and subsurface drainage from the slope to the east and redirect the flow across the slope and into a small watercourse across the meadow.

The trails throughout this area are heavily used, primarily by visitors who park at the beach parking lot. Many young children, often accompanied by parents, use the trail adjacent to

the east shore of the lake to explore the shore environment. The Conservation Department has placed an old hay rake in the large meadow, and this antique farm implement draws interested visitors into the meadow.

Vegetation

Most of the area is covered with a mixture of grasses, wildflowers and herbaceous vegetation. Annual mowing keeps an open meadow appearance. A row of white pines line the southeast shore, just upslope from the trail immediately along the lakeshore. Another group of about 6 white pines is located along the shore at about the midpoint of the lake. Immediately along the shore of the lake a mixture of aspen, sycamore, red maple, alder and other riparian vegetation is found. The area north of the lake has very little topsoil and is vegetated largely with grasses and herbaceous vegetation. South of the lake, the slope east of the beach parking lot is grassy and periodically mowed by the Conservation Department. The Conservation Department has also planted evergreens, dogwoods and other tree species at selected sites in the meadows, in addition to the white pines around the shore of the lake.



Figure 30: Mill River as it enters Lake Mohegan.

Trails and Roads

The major trail in the East Lake Unit follows immediately along the eastern shore of the lake. This trail begins at the south end of the lake, at the beach parking lot where a pedestrian control gate is located in the wood rail fence near the northeast corner of the parking lot. The trail then generally follows the lake shore all the way around the lake to the point where the Mill River enters the lake. During periods of low water (most of the summer months), the Mill River may be crossed by using stones and boulders in the streambed. At other times of the year and following heavy rains, a dry crossing of the river is not feasible. While this trail has a low grade and is generally easy to traverse, numerous wet areas along the trail make passage difficult due to both surface flow and subsurface seepage. The trail is of variable width, only about 2 feet wide in areas near the south end of the lake and turning into a roadbed near the north end of the lake. (An extension of this old roadbed extends into the lake, and exists as a submerged roadbed from the beach area to approximately the mid-point of the east shore of the lake.)

At the south end of the lake, a second trail or path branches to the east of the lakeshore trail and extends northward into the large meadow near the hay rake. Several paths cross the meadow, leading to the lakeshore trail to the west and to another major trail (Mohegan Trail) which runs north-south across the upper portion of the meadow.

Near the north end of the lake, an old dirt road leads steeply upslope to the north (into the Mohegan-North unit).

Signs

The only sign in this management unit is a Rules and Regulations sign located at the pedestrian control gate adjacent to the beach parking lot.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for this unit are passive recreation, wildlife enhancement and education.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Maintain the meadow on the slope above the eastern shore of the lake with annual fall mowings. These annual mowings should cover the same area that was mowed in the fall of 1988 with the following exceptions:
 - > Do not mow in and immediately adjacent to the two watercourses that drain to the lake. Vegetation should be allowed to develop around these watercourses to provide wildlife habitat corridors and visual diversity.
- Continue aggressive mechanical removal of Chinese Knotweed from the meadow.
- Maintain young evergreens planted on the upper slope of the meadow by a combination of mowing and hand cutting of vegetation (especially vines) immediately around the trees.
- Plant a few small trees such as crabapple that will provide additional food sources for wildlife.
- Seed the meadow with native wildflower seeds. Several annual early spring seedings may be necessary in order for a good stand of wildflowers to become established. Both annual and perennial wildflowers should be used.
- Remove all but two of the large white pine trees located on the shore of the lake. The existing line of trees is inappropriate for this location because they shield the view of the meadow from the western side of the lake and block a view of the lake from the eastern side of the lake. Lower limbs of the remaining white pines should be trimmed.
- Remove a few of the white pine trees from the stand located in the northeast corner of this unit. This small plantation has been thinned previously, but is in need of additional thinning. Remove trees which have broken tops or a fork in the main trunk less than 10 feet above the ground. Trim the lower branches from the remaining trees. Trimming should be done over several years.
- Maintain and improve the view from the Woods Road near the north end of the management unit by trimming and cutting trees on the slope between the Woods Road and Lake Mohegan.
- Maintain the view from the picnic area by periodically mowing ground vegetation and trimming or cutting trees along the northern edge of the lake and east bank of the Mill River. However, riparian vegetation immediately along the shore of the lake and river should be maintained.
- Release the fruit trees that exist at several locations in this unit. Most are located near the white pine plantation.
- Plant one or two willows along the northeast shore of the lake and along the

southeast shore of the lake.

- Manage the small stand of aspens located south of the hay rake to increase the total number of stems.

Trail Management

- Designate the existing trail along the east side of the lake as a major trail known as the Lake Trail. Along with the Cascades Trail, this trail receives the highest usage of all trails in the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. The trail should be upgraded to provide for all weather usage by all classes of pedestrians.
 - > Provide a uniform trail width of about five feet for the entire length of the trail from the southern entry point at the beach parking lot to the northern end of the trail at the proposed Lower Mill River Bridge.
 - > Provide a firm trail surface of well-packed fine gravel or other suitable material.
 - > Regrade the trail at the southern end between the entry point and the point where the trail comes to the lake shore. This section is too steep for some elderly or handicapped users and the grade should be reduced.
 - > Eliminate the wet areas that exist at several points along this trail. A variety of techniques will be needed to eliminate these wet spots. In some areas, waterbars or other means of diverting water above the trail will be sufficient. In other areas existing small watercourses will need to be channeled under the trail.
 - > Extend the trail at the northern end of the lake to the proposed Lower Mill River Bridge.
- Designate the old road leading north from the Lake Trail as the Woods Road and maintain this road suitable for use by emergency and maintenance vehicles.
 - > Install waterbars across the road at its southern end where it moves steeply upslope across an exposed gravel bank.
- Close off the old trail that leads from the Woods Road southwest to the north shore of the lake. This old trail is steep and easily eroded. The trail should be seeded to grass and brush piles placed on the trail to discourage use.
- Maintain the trail/path that begins near the southern end of the Lake Trail and extends northward to the meadow. This path provides a useful alternative to users who wish to avoid the Lake Trail, which at times can be crowded.

Sign Management

- Install a trail post at the southern end of the Lake Trail at the existing entry point by the parking lot. The trail post should indicate the Lake Trail.
- Install a trail post at the junction of the Lake Trail with the Woods Road. This trail post should indicate the Lake Trail and the Woods Road.

Other Management Recommendations

- Discontinue use of the underwater road that parallels the shore of the lake. The lake has limited shallow areas for fish spawning habitat, and vehicular traffic over these shallow areas will disrupt and perhaps destroy this habitat.



Figure 31: Lake Trail along east side of Lake Mohegan, looking north.

MOHEGAN-NORTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Mohegan-North Management Unit includes the northern half of the steep slope that rises above the eastern shore of Lake Mohegan and the Mill River. It is bounded on the north by the North Pond Unit and GE property; on the east by residential neighborhoods; on the south by the Mohegan-South Unit and the East Lake Unit; and on the west by the Picnic Area and Cascades Units. The Mohegan-North Management Unit totals about 38 acres.

Distinctive Features

This unit is characterized by steep slopes, mature woodland, and rocky outcroppings. It includes the highest land in the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, reaching an elevation of about 270 feet at the boundary just north of the entry at Eastfield Circle. Just southwest and downslope of this point are extensive areas of bedrock outcroppings that add visual interest to the area. A portion of this rock outcropping is seasonally visible from the west side of Lake Mohegan.

A large storm sewer that drains surface runoff from the residential area to the east crosses this unit and discharges into the Mill River just below the Cascades pool. This storm sewer used to terminate part way down the slope and a large, deep gully developed. While no longer eroding, this gully is now a prominent topographical feature.

Vegetation

The northern portion of this unit (except under the CL&P right-of-way) is covered with a mature stand of oak, hickory and beech, with beech the predominant species. The right-of-way is covered with herbaceous vegetation. In the southern part of the unit, vegetation is somewhat more varied. The area above the major rock outcropping and west of Eastfield Circle is primarily oak and hickory. South of the rock outcropping is primarily maple and ash, and southwest of the outcropping black birch is dominant. Scattered cedar and hemlock are located northwest of the rock outcropping. A small white pine plantation is located in

the southwest corner of the unit adjacent to the meadow.

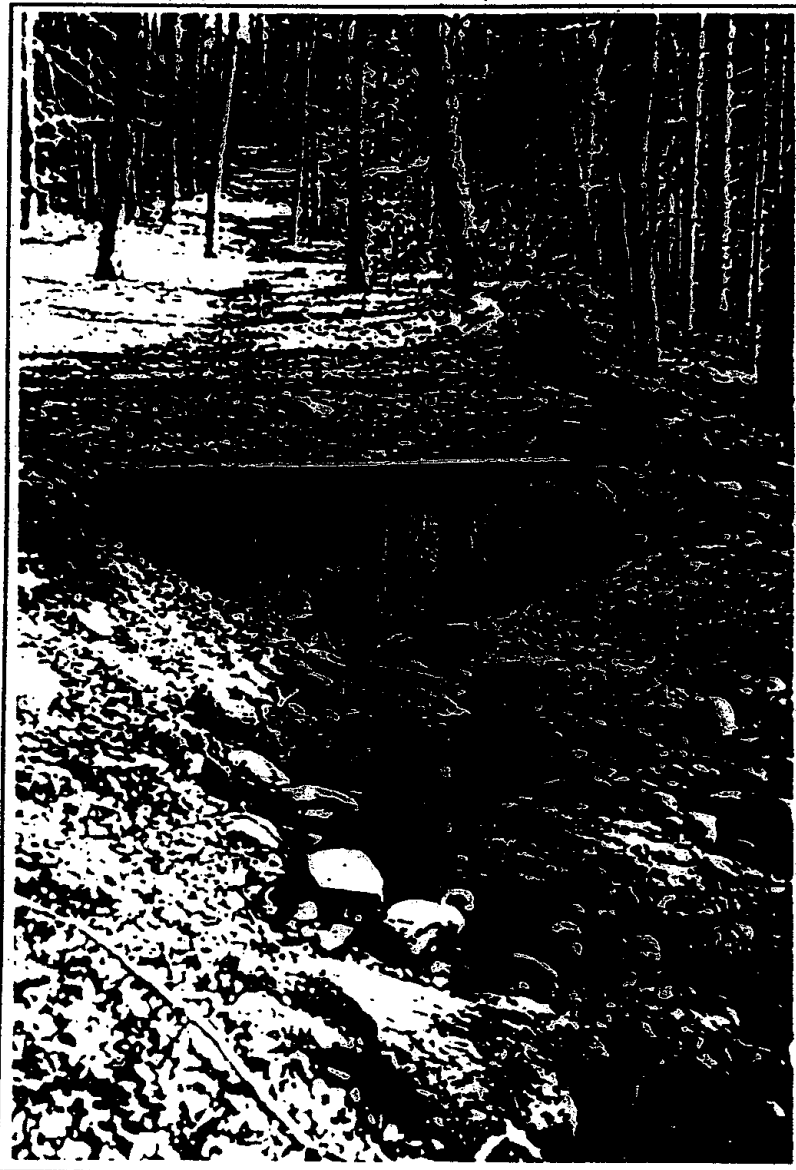


Figure 32: Headwall of storm sewer serving residential area east of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.

Trails and Roads

One major trail and one road cross this unit from north to south, with several additional trails and paths providing connections between the two.

The major trail enters the southern end of this unit at the level lip dissipator and continues northward to North Pond. Just north of the dissipator, the trail is very wet and rutted, and paths have developed around the main trail. North of this point, the trail is in good condition with little erosion and few wet spots of any significance. Just south of the large rock outcroppings, a small watercourse crosses the trail. Large boulders in the trail provide adequate crossing of this watercourse. As the trail reaches the large rock outcropping in this unit, the trail divides with branches extending above (east) and below (west) the outcropping. Several paths exist on top of the outcropping. During the months when vegetation is off the trees, a very limited view of Long Island Sound is available from selected areas around the rock outcroppings. From the higher (eastern) branch, a trail moves further upslope (east) to the Eastfield Circle cul de sac.

After these branches of the trail converge north of the rock outcroppings, the trail continues north and crosses the large gully created by the storm drain. At this location the storm drain and manhole cover are visible just to the east of the trail. Secondary paths extend downslope from the intersection of the trail with the gully: one path runs along the south side of the gully down to the Woods Road to the west, and a second path extends northwest along the line of the buried storm drain, crossing the Woods Road and continuing across the CL&P right-of-way to the Cascades Unit. From the gully and storm drain, the main trail continues northward and crosses the CL&P right-of-way just east of the transmission tower. From this point users can view the pool below the cascades and the other side of the valley along the right-of-way. From the right-of-way the trail continues northward to the steep slope above North Pond. The trail then moves steeply downslope with a couple of switchbacks to reach the flat gravel area at the southeast side of North Pond. This section of trail is badly eroded and the railroad tie steps have deteriorated.

The road through this unit begins at the Lake Trail and extends approximately parallel to and downslope from the trail just described. This road is generally in very good condition, with little erosion or wet spots until it approaches North Pond. Just before the road reaches North Pond it is deeply rutted and frequently wet.

A path extends the length of the CL&P right-of-way. This path was severely eroded in years past, but has since been largely stabilized. Although it is still deeply cut into the surrounding land, it is no longer actively eroding.

Signs

The only signs located in this unit, other than boundary signs, are situated at the beginning of the trail that leads from Eastfield Circle to the major trail at the rock outcroppings. A large Lake Mohegan Open Space sign and a Rules and Regulations sign are located at this point.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for this unit are passive recreation, wildlife enhancement and education.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Release cedars and hemlocks on and around the rock outcropping.
- Thin black birch saplings west of the rock outcropping to maintain and enhance the view of the rock outcropping from the west side of Lake Mohegan.
- Remove selected trees and trim branches from others to provide an improved winter view of Long Island Sound from the top of the rock outcropping.
- Create brush piles for wildlife habitat at several locations away from trails throughout the site.
- Remove trees and shrubs that are growing in stone walls/fences to prevent further deterioration.

Trail and Road Management

- Designate the main trail through the unit as the Mohegan Trail.
 - > Eliminate the large wet area on the trail just north of the level lip dissipator through a combination of actions, including improvements to the dissipator, creation of small drainage swales along the trail, and placement of large stones or wood planks along the trail.
 - > Replace the deteriorated wooden railroad ties in the vicinity of the rock outcropping and to the north of the rock outcropping. Where feasible, use

- nearby large fieldstones to create steps. Where adequate fieldstones are not available, install new railroad ties or eliminate steps if feasible.
- > Remove or bury a wire/cable on the ground adjacent to the trail within the CL&P right-of-way. Check with CL&P before attempting to remove this cable.
 - > Create a view of North Pond at the north end of the Mohegan Trail where it approaches the cut bank just south of North Pond. Remove selective trees and trim branches from additional trees to create a view from the trail to and across North Pond.
 - > Relocate the northern section of trail that currently leads down the steep bank to North Pond. The existing trail should be closed off by installing a short section of rail fencing, seeded with grass and planted with shrubs or trees. A new trail should be created extending southwest along a more gentle slope until it connects with the Woods Road.
- Close off the path that runs parallel to and south of the large erosional gully. Brush piles suitable for wildlife habitat should be used to close off the trail, and the trail should be seeded to grass and planted with shrubs or trees.
 - Designate the existing road as the Woods Road and maintain so that it is suitable for maintenance and emergency vehicles as well as for trail use.
 - > Correct minor wet spots near the southern end of the road through the use of drainage swales and waterbars.
 - > Stabilize the road at its northern end where it moves downslope to North Pond. The segment of the trail that is wet and badly eroded should be filled and seeded to a hearty, shade tolerant grass.
 - Install waterbars or stone diversions on the path that runs steeply up and down slope along the CL&P right-of-way.

Sign Management

- Install trail posts at selected points on the Mohegan Trail:
 - > Where the trail enters the wooded area from the meadow above the lake (at the level lip dissipator);
 - > South of the rock outcroppings where the trail branches above and below the outcropping; indicate upper and lower trail branches;
 - > North of the rock outcroppings where the trail branches above and below the outcropping; indicate upper and lower trail branches;

- Install a trail post at the intersection of the Mohegan Trail with the Woods Road. Indicate the Mohegan Trail and Woods Road.
- Install a reformatted Rules and Regulations sign at the entry from Eastfield Circle.
- Consider replacing the large Lake Mohegan Open Space sign now located at the entry from Eastfield Circle with a smaller open space sign. This entry point has very limited parking and should serve only local residents. A less prominent sign would be more appropriate at this location. The existing sign could be moved to the entry drive at the Nemeth Unit.

Other Management Activities

- Stabilize the storm sewer headwall at its point of discharge. Surface flow is eroding around each end of this headwall.
- Consider constructing an observation tower on top of the rock outcropping that would provide a year-round view of the Mill River Valley, Long Island Sound and Long Island. A tower, if constructed, would need to be about 30 feet tall. The advantages of such a tower would be the addition of a significant view from the existing trail. Disadvantages would be cost, potential liability, possible visibility of the tower from other locations, and possible increase in activity from Eastfield Circle with adverse impacts on this residential neighborhood.
- Restore stone fences for short sections adjacent to trails.

MOHEGAN-SOUTH MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Mohegan-South Management Unit occupies the southeast section of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. It is bounded on the north by the Mohegan-North Unit; on the east and south by the Adley Road residential area; and on the west by the Beach and Swimming Area, Lake Residence and East Lake Units. The unit totals approximately 20 acres.

Distinctive Features

The most distinctive features of this unit are a large wetland (about 4 acres) just south of the beach parking lot, a trail that crosses this wetland and then moves onto the steep slope south and east of the lake, the access road to the lake residence, and areas of poor vegetative growth. Several areas of seepage occur throughout the unit, and at least one old spring well is located in the unit. An old foundation is located adjacent to the main trail through the unit, just east of the access road to the lake residence.

Vegetation

The wetland immediately south of and adjacent to the beach parking area is primarily a red maple swamp. Pockets of phragmites are located within the wetland. Another small wetland, consisting primarily of phragmites is located just east of the lake residence access road in an old borrow pit.

Most of the slope is dominated by young to mature black birch. But a large area exists where mature trees are almost completely absent and a mixture of shrubs and vines dominate. Vine species such as grape, poison ivy, and green briar are present throughout the area, choking out many of the trees and shrubs.

Also east of the lake residence are the remnants of an old orchard. Several fruit trees (primarily apple) are located here, many overgrown by vines. Additional fruit trees are scattered throughout this unit. Along the access road near the lake residence are several young and mature Chinese chestnut trees.

Trails and Roads

A single major trail traverses this unit. The trail begins at the southern side of the beach parking lot and extends southeast through the red maple wetland, where wood planks have been installed over the wetland. This wood plank trail was replaced in the early spring of 1989 by a group of boy scouts. From the wetland the trail extends east to the lake residence access road. A wooden staircase provides access up the steep slope to the road. The trail crosses the lake residence access road and moves upslope with a switchback and wooden railroad tie steps. This section of the trail is eroded and the railroad ties deteriorated. An old foundation exists adjacent to the trail at this point. From the foundation, the trail extends northward, more or less paralleling the eastern boundary of the open space area. In some areas the trail comes within about 50 feet of the boundary. The trail continues to the north until it emerges from the woods into the meadow east of the lake. Wood chips have recently been placed on the trail at this point. An attractive view of Lake Mohegan exists from this point on the trail. The trail continues across the meadow and into the woods (Mohegan-North Unit) to the north. Wet spots occur at numerous places along the trail. One or two small watercourses extend downslope and cross the trail, but most of the wet spots are created by seepage in the slopes above the trail. A level lip energy dissipator has been installed along the trail in the meadow. This dissipator intercepts surface and subsurface flow coming downslope. The intercepted flow is directed into an excavated channel that extends westerly across the meadow (East Lake Unit).



Figure 33: Wooden staircase providing access to the Lake Residence Access Road.

A short trail extends from the meadow eastward (upslope) and off the open space property to Adley Road. This trail is used by local residents and students from North Stratfield Elementary School. Access from Adley Road is through a vacant lot.

The access road to the lake residence enters the unit from Morehouse Highway. A metal swing gate is located at the entrance. The road has a gravel surface and is in good condition.

A short trail extends from the Lake Residence Access Road upslope and just south of the phragmites east of the lake residence to join with the main trail in this unit. This trail appears to be a short-cut used primarily by youths from nearby residential areas.

Signs

Signs are located at two areas in this management unit. A large Lake Mohegan Open Space sign and a Rules and Regulations sign are located at the entry to the main trail at the south side of the parking lot. The only other signs are open space boundary signs at the entrance to the lake residence access road and along the open space boundary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for this unit are passive recreation, wildlife management and education.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- **Expand and enhance the wetland located south of the beach area parking lot.**
 - > **Thin the red maple saplings in the portion northeast of the trail.**
 - > **Expand and improve the section of the wetland southwest of the trail.**
 - **Remove the large mound of soil and debris that has been dumped just south of the parking lot.**
 - **Excavate the middle portion of this area to provide a greater depth, but leave the small area of high ground in the middle.**
 - **Regulate drainage into and out of the wetland to provide desired water levels.**

- Trim branches to keep the power line to the Lake Residence clear. This power line right of way was trimmed in the spring of 1989, but cut branches and trees were left lying where they were cut or were discarded over the access road embankment. Cut material should be used to create brush piles for wildlife.
- Thin trees and trim branches to create and maintain views of the lake (as described below under trail maintenance).
- Release the fruit trees in the old orchard east of the Lake Residence and at other scattered locations throughout this unit. These fruit trees will provide good food for wildlife.
- Cut many of the grape, Virginia Creeper, and other vines that are presently choking out many of the trees in this management unit. Not all of these vines should be cut because they provide good wildlife habitat.

Trail and Road Management

- The Lake Residence Access Road should be maintained in good condition.
 - > The metal swing gate located at the entry from Morehouse Highway should be maintained and kept closed.
- Designate as a major trail (Mohegan Trail) the existing trail that begins at the south edge of the beach parking lot, runs southeast to the Lake Residence Access Road, then more or less parallels the eastern border of the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area all the way to North Pond. Several improvements and changes to this trail are needed:
 - > Maintain in good condition the wooden walkway through the wetland south of the parking lot. Replace wooden planks and cross supports as needed, and make certain that the walkway is stable.
 - > Repair or replace the wooden stairs on the Mohegan Trail just west of the Lake Residence Access Road. The stairway is presently in poor condition.
 - > Install new railroad ties in the segment of the trail just east of the Lake Residence Access Road and adjacent to the old foundation.
 - > Relocate a short section of trail (about 200 feet). The trail segment proposed for relocation is in the area east of the Lake Residence. The current trail comes very close to the boundary and to the residences adjacent to the boundary. Therefore, it is proposed to move the trail about 50 feet further away (downslope) from the open space boundary. The limited vegetation in this area makes the houses very visible from the trail. Relocation further downslope will provide an improved buffer between the trail and the nearby

residences.

- > Reduce wet spots that exist at several locations along the trail. Waterbars and/or shallow diversion ditches should be installed upslope from the wet areas to reduce the amount of overland flow and seepage. Small boulders may be placed in the trails to provide passage over minor wet spots. Wooden planks may need to be used for larger wet areas.
- > Replace the simple wooden plank across a small ditch in the trail with a more permanent and safer short section of boardwalk or stones.
- Eliminate the short trail that connects the Mohegan Trail with the Lake Residence Access Road. This trail brings users too close to the lake residence. This trail can be closed off by the use of several brush piles.

Sign Maintenance

- Install a trail post on the northwest side of the Lake Residence Access Road at the top of the wooden stairs. This trail post should indicate the Mohegan Trail, and it should be visible from the trail on the east side of the road.
- Install a sign beside the Lake Residence Access Road indicating that the road leads to a private residence. This sign should be placed on a tree at least eight feet above ground level and should be located just north of the trail crossing.
- Install a trail post at the point where the Mohegan Trail emerges from the woodland into the meadow east of the lake. This trail post should indicate the Mohegan Trail extending across the meadow into the woods to the north.
- Move the large Lake Mohegan Open Space sign from the beginning of the Mohegan Trail at the south edge of the parking lot to the main entrance to the parking lot.
- Install a new Rules and Regulations sign at the beginning of the Mohegan Trail at the south edge of the parking lot.

Other Management Activities

- Place a concrete cap on all spring boxes and wells located in this unit. One existing well with a plywood top is located just east of the Mohegan Trail.
- Create or maintain view points at three locations along the Mohegan Trail. Each of the recommended locations provide views across Lake Mohegan.
 - > The first, or southernmost view point would be located about 400 feet along the trail from the Lake Residence Access Road. The view at this point would

be towards the northwest, over the lake and between the Lake Residence and the Beach Bathhouse/Concession. Only a few trees and branches from other trees would need to be removed in order to create this view. The overall view is enhanced because of the presence of an old fence immediately north (downslope) of the trail at this point.

- > A second view point would be located about 900 feet along the trail at the point where the trail takes a sharp bend to the west (toward the lake). The vegetation in this area is sparse and very little vegetation (primarily vines) removal would be needed to create this view.
- > The third view point already exists and should be maintained and enhanced. This view point is located where the Mohegan Trail emerges from the woodland into the meadow.

- Repair sections of stone fences near trail crossings to increase their attractiveness.
- Remove debris along the property line and at other locations between the Mohegan Trail and the open space property line.
- Seek to acquire a public right-of-way easement across the vacant lot on Adley Road (or acquire the lot in fee simple) that presently provides school and neighborhood access to the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area. This access point should be for neighborhood use only. Therefore, only an open space boundary sign should be erected. In addition, the Conservation Commission should work with neighborhood residents and the Police Department to restrict parking along this section of Adley Road to residents only.
- Develop a college or high school educational field laboratory program associated with the proposed wetlands enhancement. An intern working in cooperation with the Conservation Department could develop and help implement detailed plans for the wetlands enhancement, including removal of debris and spoil material, planting of wetland species, regulating water levels, and monitoring and documenting changes over time.

LAKE RESIDENCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Lake Residence Management Unit is located just east of and upslope from the beach parking area. The 1.5 acres included in this unit are surrounded by the East Lake and Mohegan-South Units.

Distinctive Features

The Town-owned lake residence consists of a house and attached three-bay garage. This structure was originally used as part of the gravel mining operation and is the only structure remaining from that operation on the open space area. The residence is currently rented to a Town employee. A small lawn area is maintained on the north, south and west sides of the building. Deciduous and evergreen vegetation around the building largely shield it from view from other locations on the open space area. Although the residence and immediately surrounding area are off-limits to open space users, no signs or fencing clearly delineate the area intended to be reserved for residential use. A short section of fence was recently erected along the southwestern edge of the lawn area to prevent open space area users from entering the residence area from the slope east of the parking area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objectives for this unit are education and wildlife enhancement.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Avoid expansion of the lawn area beyond the area already converted to lawn.
- Keep limbs trimmed away from the utility lines leading to the residence.

Trail and Road Management

- The Lake Residence Access Road should be maintained in its present condition.

Sign Management

(See Eastern High Ground south unit for sign affecting the Lake Residence.)

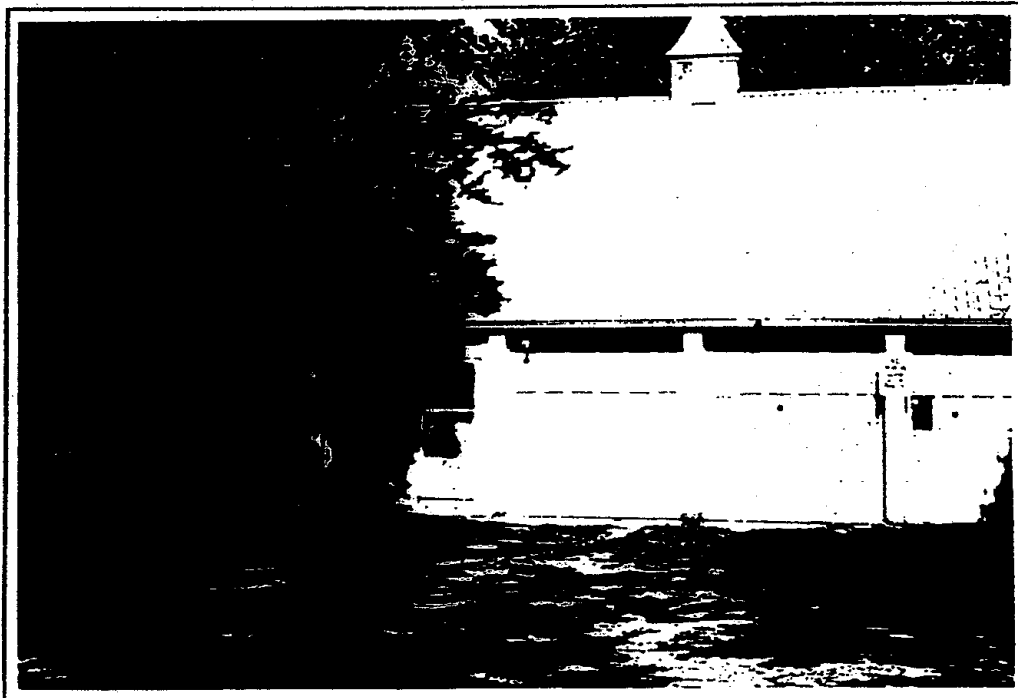


Figure 34: Lake residence garage. Attached living quarters at left (not shown).

Other Management Activities

- Remove accumulated debris and litter from woods just north and east of the residence.
- Consider converting the current use of the lake residence. Two options appear to be more appropriate for this site than the present rental arrangement.
 - > One option is to keep the building as a residence, but make it available to a Town employee responsible for maintenance and/or enforcement of open space areas, including the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area.
 - > A second option is to convert the building for use as a maintenance and/or educational facility associated with Lake Mohegan and other open space areas.

A decision on the most appropriate use of the lake residence will require consideration of factors outside the scope of a management plan for a single open space parcel. Among the factors to be considered are the structural condition of the building and repair/improvement costs required to continue the building as a residence; the continued demand for and Town policies regarding rental of Town-owned residences to Town employees; need for a maintenance building by the Conservation Department; and need for an educational facility associated with open space areas.

Use of the building as a combination maintenance and educational facility would appear to be in the long-term interests of the Conservation Department.

BEACH AND SWIMMING AREA MANAGEMENT UNIT

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Location

The Beach and Swimming Area Management Unit is located at the southern end of Lake Mohegan. It is bounded on the north by Lake Mohegan; on the east by the East Lake Unit; on the South by the Mohegan-South Unit; and on the west by Morehouse Highway. The parking lot and beach area that comprise this unit total about 5 acres.

Distinctive Features

The large parking lot, sandy beach, children's recreation area and the building containing restrooms, bathhouse and concessions are the prominent features of this unit. The parking lot has capacity for approximately 300 cars. One handicapped parking space is marked. The beach, building and children's play area are all located within an area surrounded by a chain-link fence. The gate into this area is normally locked at sunset. A Town water line provides water to the building, and a large 2,500 gallon septic tank and galleries are located under the parking lot. A concrete ramp leads from the gate across the beach and into the water. Three or four grills and a couple of picnic tables are located in the grassy area between the beach and fence.

Sand has been trucked in to create the sandy beach. Gravel and other materials have been deposited in the southern portion of the lake to widen the available swimming area and create a more gradual slope. Still, the swimming area is a narrow crescent extending only about 25-30 feet into the lake. Life guards are on duty at prescribed hours during the summer season, and a small boat is kept in the water for emergency use. The area where the swimming area is located — at the south end of the lake, below the main current and lake outlet — receives poor water circulation and has occasionally been affected by poor water quality. Consequently, an underwater circulating pump has been attached to buoys and installed outside the swimming area to direct moving water into the swimming area.

Fishing from the beach is popular during the non-swimming season.

This entire area is managed by the Park Commission instead of the Conservation Commission.

Vegetation

Hemlocks planted along the chain-link fence provide a visual screen between the parking lot and the beach area. Another row of hemlocks has been planted on top of a small berm between the parking lot and Morehouse Highway. The children's play area and part of the area inside the fence are seeded with lawn grass.

Trails and Roads

The only road in this unit is the entry to the parking lot from Morehouse Highway (directly across from Tahmore Drive). The only trail is the footpath leading across the berm and between the hemlocks separating the parking lot from Morehouse Highway. A path then follows the shoulder of the road to the bridge over the Mill River (below the spillway) and into the grassy area on the north side of the spillway.

Signs

A sign on the fence identifies this area as "Lake Mohegan" and provides information on fees for residents and non-residents. A handicapped parking sign is located just east of the gate into the beach. During the winter a sign is posted indicating that ice skating is prohibited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Objectives

The primary management objective for this unit is active recreation. This area has been developed and used for active recreation and should continue in this use.

Vegetation and Wildlife Management

- Create islands of vegetation in the southern portion of the parking lot. This parking lot (approximately 300 spaces) is large enough to accommodate existing usage at the beach as well as open space users. The appearance of the lot could be greatly enhanced by creating two rows of vegetation islands in the lot. Each row could contain about four vegetation islands. These islands should be planted with a fast growing ornamental tree such as sugar maple.

- Control viny/herbaceous growth between the south side of the spillway and the fence on the northwest side of the beach area.

Trail Maintenance

- An existing trail has developed from the parking lot to Morehouse Highway between the hemlocks planted between the road and the parking lot. The use of this trail should be recognized and managed since it provides access to the area north of the spillway and to the western segment of the Lake Trail. Wood chips should be placed on this path to encourage use of this one area and avoid development of additional berm crossings at other areas.

Sign Maintenance

- Relocate the large Lake Mohegan Open Space Area sign from the south edge of the parking lot to the entrance facing Tahmore Drive.
- Install a Kiosk at the northeast corner of the parking area adjacent to the existing entry point for the eastern segment of the Lake Trail. This Kiosk should be similar to the one at the Picnic Area and include a trail map, information on the Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, and rules and regulations.

Other Management Activities

- Prohibit use of the parking lot for activities such as training for truck drivers (as occurred during the winter of 1988-89). These types of activities are inconsistent with management of the area for open space, passive recreation and wildlife enhancement.
- Expand the swimming area by adding additional stone, gravel or other clean fill to the area off of the current swimming beach.
- Upgrade existing facilities to provide improved access for the handicapped. Among the changes that could be made are:
 - > Create a ramp extending into the water to provide for handicapped bathing. The existing concrete ramp which leads to the water from the entry gate is inappropriately located to serve this purpose, because it bisects the beach area. Eliminate the portion of the existing concrete ramp leading from the concession building down to the waters edge. Replace this ramp with a similar ramp extending from the western side of the concession building

- (bathhouse area) down into the water. The ramp should extend into the water to a depth of about 3 feet and a stop rail should be installed at the base of the ramp.
- > Retrofit restrooms with handicapped fixtures.
- > Modify the height of the counters at the concession area to make them more accessible to the handicapped.
- > Improve the surface on the south side of the building leading to the restrooms.
- > Provide additional handicapped parking spaces.
- Improve drainage control from the concession building to eliminate or reduce beach erosion presently caused by runoff from the roof of the concession building.

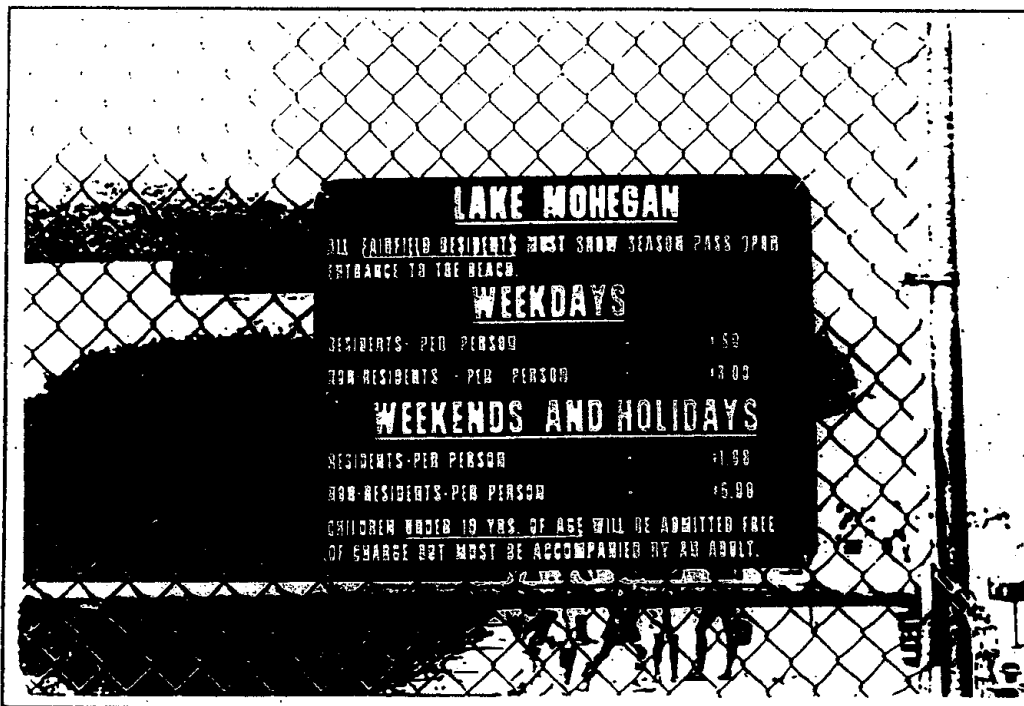


Figure 35: Sign indicating operating hours and fee schedule for the beach and swimming area at Lake Mohegan.

PART VI

TIMETABLE AND COSTS

TIMETABLE FOR MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	FREQUENCY
Send information/cooperation letter to adjacent landowners	Every 2 Years
Clear and maintain trails	Annual
Stock trout in Lake Mohegan and Mill River (DEP)	Annual
Remove debris and trash from boundaries	Annual
Mowing to maintain open fields	Annual
Remove debris and trash from trails	Quarterly
Upgrade selected trails to consistent width and surface	As Needed
Place wood chips on trails for erosion control	"
Install water bars for erosion/wetness control	"
Place stepping stones over wet areas	"
Fill in ruts/depressions	"
Install/replace railroad tie steps where needed	"
Install/replace/repair signs (trail name/symbol, intersection, distance, other)	"
Clear view areas	"
Block existing trails to minimize use	"
Install/repair boardwalk over wet areas	"
Install drains under selected trails to permit watercourses to pass under trail	"
Clear/maintain casting areas around Lake Mohegan and North Pond	"
Create fish habitat by felling two trees on western shore of Lake Mohegan	"
Stock warmwater fish in North Pond	"
Mark boundaries with paint and Open Space signs	"
Install/maintain Rules and Regulations signs	"
Install/maintain Lake Mohegan Open Space signs	"
Install/maintain gates for vehicle entry	"
Install/maintain measures (trench, stanchion) to prevent vehicle entry	"
Create new clearings by mowing	"
Plant species desirable for food/habitat	"
Install woodduck boxes	"
Avoid mowing adjacent to small watercourses	"
Create brush piles for wildlife habitat	"
Release fruit trees and coniferous trees	"
Repair stone fences	"

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST
Replace wooden bridge over Mill River north of Cascades	\$10,000 - \$15,000
Repair/replace spillway	\$100,000
Dredge lower part of Cascades (within CL&P right-of-way)	\$25,000
Construct wooden bridge over Mill River at Picnic Area	\$25,000
Construct handicapped fishing access point north of spillway	\$10,000
Deposit gravel fill in lake off of beach area to widen area of beach and create a more gradual dropoff	\$10,000
Develop vegetation islands in beach parking lot	\$10,000
Upgrade facilities at beach area to provide handicapped access	\$15,000-\$30,000

SUUGGESTED CHECKLIST AND TIMETABLE FOR CARRYING OUT RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

YEAR 1

CONDUCTED BY:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Information/cooperation letter to adjacent property owners | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Replace bridge over Mill River north of Cascades | C/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Create off-road parking at Picnic Area | C/B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Improve drainage on Picnic Area Access Road | B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Make changes to Cascades Trail (close off parts of existing trail and create new trail further east | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Relocate northern section of Nemeth Trail | C/D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Relocate section of Mohegan Trail downslope away from boundary | C/D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Close off section of trail connecting Mohegan Trail to Lake Residence Access Road | C/D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Relocate section of Mohegan Trail leading downslope to North Pond | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fell trees along western shore of Lake Mohegan to create fish habitat | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Install one picnic table suitable for handicapped at picnic area and provide access from parking area ... | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Install woodduck box in wetland in Merritt Unit | C/D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Initiate discussions with DOT for improving access controls along DOT right-of-way at northeast end of open space area | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Initiate discussions with GE for installing access controls at northeast corner of open space property (on GE property) | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Initiate discussions with GE regarding Town acquisition of two remaining small parcels of land at north end of open space area | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Relocate large open space sign from beginning of Mohegan Trail at south edge of beach parking lot to entry into parking lot opposite Tahmore Drive | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Relocate large open space sign from location at intersection of Old Morehouse Highway and Picnic Area Access Road to south end of Old Morehouse Highway (vehicle entry into open space area) | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Improve operation of level lip dissipator to reduce wet areas on Mohegan Trail | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Create one or two view points along Mohegan Trail | C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Relocate large sign at Eastfield Circle to Nemeth entrance | C |

A = Outside Contract
C = Conservation Department

B = Other Town Department
D = Volunteers

YEAR 2

CONDUCTED BY¹

- Initiate engineering study to repair/replace spillway C/A
- Close off section of trail running south of and parallel to large gully east of Mill River C
- Upgrade section of Merritt Trail to create a loop C
- Upgrade eastern section of Lake Trail to provide for handicapped access C
- Replace wooden steps on Mohegan Trail leading to Lake Residence Access Road C
- Initiate study/project to enhance wetland south of beach parking area C/D
- Consult with DOT and GE regarding placement of woodduck boxes in ponds on their property and adjacent to Lake Mohegan Open Space Area C/D
- Initiate discussions with property owner regarding access easement across property between open space area and Adley Road C/B
- Create additional view points along Mohegan Trail C

YEAR 3

- Install new bridge over Mill River adjacent to Picnic Area C
- Create extension of Lake Trail to the new bridge (suitable for handicapped use); create connection from new bridge to Woods Road; and close off eroded section of trail between Woods Road and Lake Trail . C
- Close off section of trail traversing ridge between Upper Mill River Bridge and North Pond C
- Install kiosks at Picnic Area and Beach Area C
- Repair/Replace spillway A
- Upgrade facilities at beach area to provide handicapped access A/B
- Install trail posts on designated trails C
- Develop brochure for Lake Mohegan Open Space Area C/D

YEAR 4

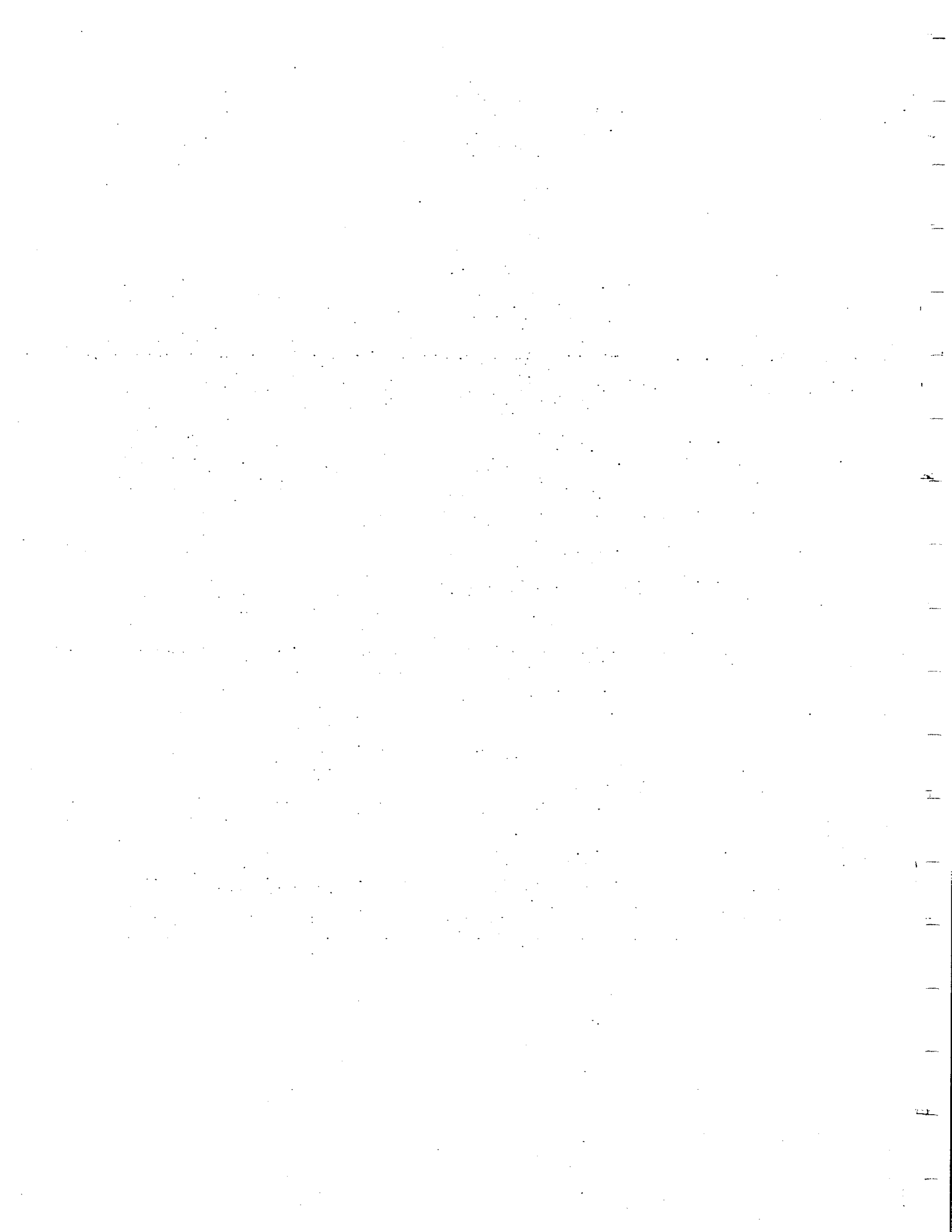
- Develop fishing access for handicapped north of spillway C/B
- Upgrade western segment of Lake Trail to provide for handicapped access C/B

YEAR 5

- Install restrooms at Picnic Area B/A
- Dredge pool below Cascades under CL&P right-of-way A

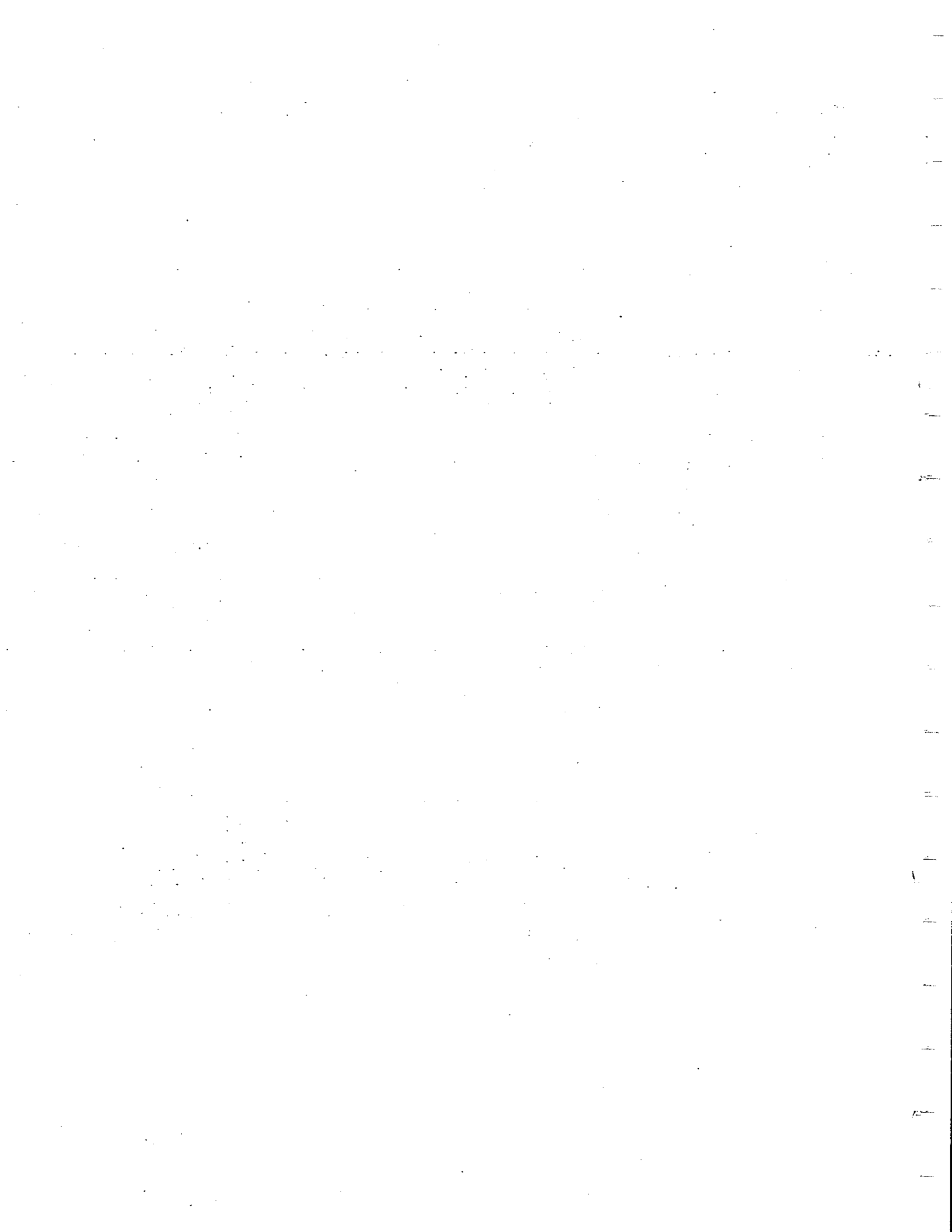
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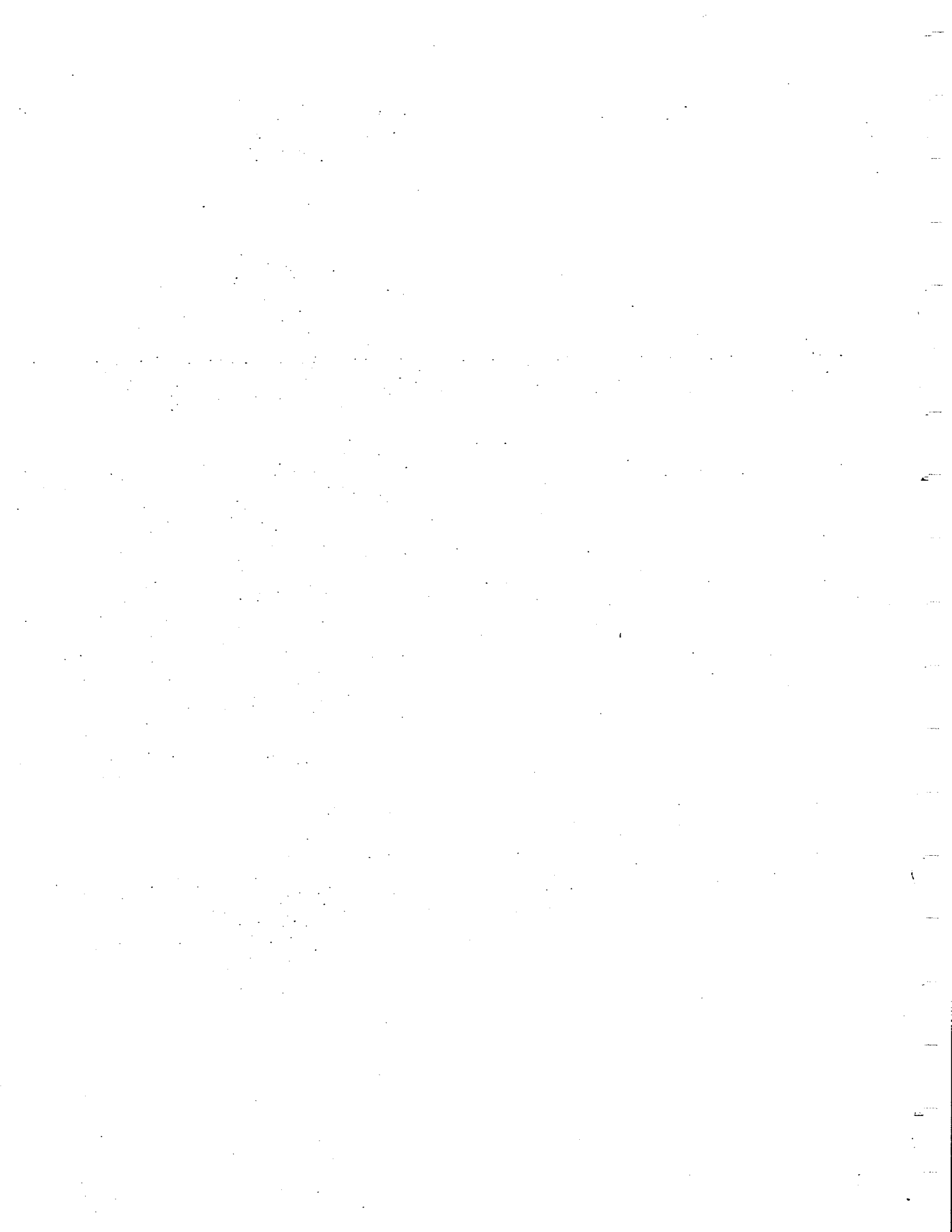
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- Town of Fairfield, Conservation Department. Multiple Use Management Plan For Perry's Mill Pond Open Space Fairfield, Connecticut 1987, Draft Concept Plan. March 1987.
- Town of Fairfield, Town Plan and Zoning Commission. Public Lands Map. March 1989.
- U.S. Geological Survey. Surficial Geological Map of the Westport and Sherwood Point Quadrangles, Connecticut, MAP MF-1295. 1981.
- U.S. Geological Survey. Topographic Map (7.5 Minute Series), Westport Quadrangle. 1949, Photorevised 1971, Photoinspected 1975.



PART VIII

APPENDICES

- **APPENDIX A: Deeds and Other Land Use Restrictions**
 - **APPENDIX B: Inventory of Plant Species**
 - **APPENDIX C: Inventory of Wildlife Species**



APPENDIX A:
DEEDS AND OTHER LAND USE RESTRICTIONS

- GREENAWALT PARCEL (September 1967) - 118.6 acres A-2
 - Dedication Agreement: CT DEP and Town of Fairfield A-6
- GENERAL ELECTRIC PARCEL (June 1974) - 30.0 acres A-11
 - Map Showing Parcels Reserved by General Electric A-15
- HORNBECK PARCEL (June 1974) - 10.4 acres A-16
- HORNBECK PARCEL (July 1974) - 2.1 acres A-18
 - Dedication Agreement: CT DEP and Town of Fairfield A-20
- NEMETH PARCEL (November 1985) - 9.3 acres A-23
 - Documents Concerning Use Restrictions on Nemeth Parcel A-25
- NORTH MEADOW ESTATES OPEN SPACE CONVEYANCE
(June 1971) A-33
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TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

KNOW YE, that we, JOSEPHINE T. GREENAWALT, THOMAS PETER GREENAWALT, and S. DUANE GREENAWALT all of the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield, State of Connecticut; PAUL GREENAWALT of the Town of Trumbull, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut and THOMAS P. GREENAWALT, TRUSTEE for the consideration of One (\$1.00) Dollar and other valuable considerations received to our full satisfaction of THE TOWN



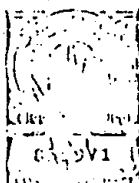
OF FAIRFIELD, a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, in the County of Fairfield do give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, and unto its successors and assigns forever, all that certain piece or parcel of land, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated in the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, described on Schedule A annexed hereto and hereby made a part hereof.



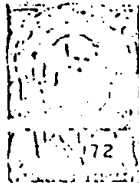
Said premises are subject to building lines, if established, all laws, ordinances and governmental regulations, including building and zoning ordinances affecting said premises; easements in favor of The Town of Fairfield recorded in Volume 507 at Page 674 of the Fairfield Land Records and easements set forth in an instrument dated May 9, 1967 and recorded in Volume 512 at Page 264 of the Fairfield Land Records.



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted and bargained premises, with the appurtenances thereof, unto it, the said grantee, its successors and assigns forever, to its and their own proper use and behoof.



AND ALSO, we, the said grantors do for ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the said grantee, its successors and assigns, that at and until the encoding of these presents, we are well



Vol 518 12653

SCHEDULE A

All that certain piece or parcel of land, with improvements thereon, situated in the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, being two portions of the premises known and designated as Parcel 157 as shown on Assessor's Map 49, Town of Fairfield, consisting of 118.6 acres, more or less, and being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a monument marking the point of intersection of the northeasterly right-of-way line of Morchouse Highway and the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck, said southeasterly line of Hornbeck also being the northwesterly line of Lot #6 shown on map entitled, "Subdivision for Josephine T. Greenawalt, Fairfield, Conn." dated September 25, 1965, prepared by The Huntington Company, Engineers & Surveyors, and on file in the Office of the Fairfield Town Clerk:

THENCE northeasterly a distance of 716.43 feet, more or less, along the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck, said line also being the northwesterly line of Lot #6 on said map, to a point of intersection with the southwesterly line of said Paul H. Hornbeck;

THENCE southeasterly a distance of 403.02 feet, more or less, along the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck to a point of intersection with the centerline of Mill River;

THENCE in a generally northerly direction along the centerline of Mill River, as it twists and turns, a distance of 1500 feet, more or less, to a point of intersection with the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Dorsey Wier Dillman, et al, said southeasterly line of Dillman also being the northwesterly line of Lot #5 on said map;

THENCE northeasterly a distance of 275 feet, more or less, along the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with the northeasterly line of said Dillman;

THENCE northerly a distance of 121.21 feet, more or less along the easterly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with the southerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman;

THENCE easterly a distance of 663.05 feet, more or less, along the southerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with the westerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman;

THENCE southerly a distance of 420.97 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt;

THENCE running South $66^{\circ} 59' 10''$ west, a distance of 110.6 feet, more or less, along the land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt, to a point;

518-681

THENCE running South 23° 36' 40" East, a distance of 470.28 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt, to a point of intersection with the northerly line of land now or formerly of Richard P. and Yolanda Landy;

THENCE westerly a distance of 363.87 feet, more or less, along the northerly line of land now or formerly of Richard P. and Yolanda A. Landy, Donald A., Jr. and Marilyn C. McEachren and Andrew S. and Aline C. Bertola to a point of intersection with the easterly line of Lot #5 also being the westerly line of land now or formerly of Andrew S. and Aline C. Bertola;

THENCE southeasterly a distance of 1672.16 feet, more or less along the north-easterly line of Lots #5 and #4 on said map to a point of intersection with the northwesterly line of land of the Town of Fairfield known as North Stratfield School, said northeasterly line of Lots #5 and #4 also being the southwestery line of land now or formerly of Andrew S. and Aline C. Bertola, Sigmund and Laura C. Levin, John P. and Claire Fray, Joseph and Angeline Spiak, Harold W. and Mary Remillard, John C. and Ethel D. Thomas and the southwestery line of land now or formerly of Joseph J. and Blanche O. Browning and of Eastfield Estates and of the southwestery right-of-way line of Wheeler Park Avenue and the southwestery line of land now or formerly of Alexander and Ethel Molnar and Lester C. and Charlotte M. Letton;

THENCE running North 87° 13' 10" West a distance of 82.05 feet, more or less, along the northerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt to a point of intersection with the westerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt;

THENCE running South 2° 46' 50" West a distance of 321.08 feet more or less to a point;

THENCE running South 19° 46' 15" East a distance of 561.97 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt to a point of intersection with the southerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt;

THENCE easterly a distance of 80.0 feet, more or less, along the southerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt to a point of intersection with the northerly terminus of the westerly line of land now or formerly of Thomas P. Greenawalt, et al;

THENCE in a general southerly direction a distance of 1,795.31 feet along the easterly line of Lot #1 as shown on said map, to a point of intersection with the northeasterly right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway, said easterly line of Lot #1 also being the westerly line of lands now or formerly of T. P. Greenawalt, et al, of S. D. Greenawalt, et al, of Josephine T. Greenawalt, of Joseph P. and Rose A. Kamen, of Elias S. and Elizabeth Tyler, of Floyd L. Kershaw, of Thomas F. and Julia G. Brown, of Sidney and Silvia Kronick, of Russell N. and Joyce S. Martin, of Dominic and Irene R. Correnti, of Sidney and Basnye Leichtman, of Donald E. and Barbara Gauding, of Joseph R. and Victoria Benedetto, of Jerome B. and Claire B. Schiller, of Raymond F. and Robert H. Rasmussen and of Don Voet and Sue Chin; and

THENCE northwesterly along the northeasterly right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway, a distance of 4844.28 feet, more or less, to a monument marking the point of intersection of said right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway and the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Herbeck, the point of beginning.

Reference is made to a map entitled "subdivision for Josephine T. Greenawalt, Fairfield, Conn. dated September 25, 1965, Rev. Jan. 31, 1967" prepared by The Huntington Company, Engineers and Surveyors, Fairfield, Connecticut, Scale 1 inch = 200 feet.

Received for record September 20, 1967 at 12:36 P.M.

Attest E. D. Brown Asst. Town Clerk

VOL 343 PAGE 331
DEDICATION AGREEMENT

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

KNOW YE, THAT the TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, a municipal corporation specially chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and located within Fairfield County in said State, hereinafter called "TOWN", has purchased certain land within said Town, which land is more fully described as follows:

Beginning at a monument marking the point of intersection of the northeasterly right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway and the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck;

THENCE northeasterly a distance of 716.43 feet, more or less, along the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck for the following courses and distances:

N57°09'10"E	239.36'
N58°21'40"E	215.14'
N56°43'30"E	261.93'

to a point of intersection with the southwesterly line of said Paul H. Hornbeck;

THENCE southeasterly for a course of South 32°45'50" East for a distance of 403.02 feet, more or less, along the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck to a point of intersection with the centerline of Mill River;

THENCE in a generally northerly direction along the centerline of Mill River, as it twists and turns, a distance of 1167 feet, more or less, to a point of intersection with the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Dorsey Wier Dillman, et al, said point located by the Tie Line running North 7°39'50" East, for a distance of 1205.69';

THENCE northeasterly North 51°23'40" East for a distance of 275 feet, more or less, along the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with the northeasterly line of said Dillman;

THENCE northerly North 34°21'10" West for a distance of 121.21 feet, more or less, along the easterly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with the southerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman;

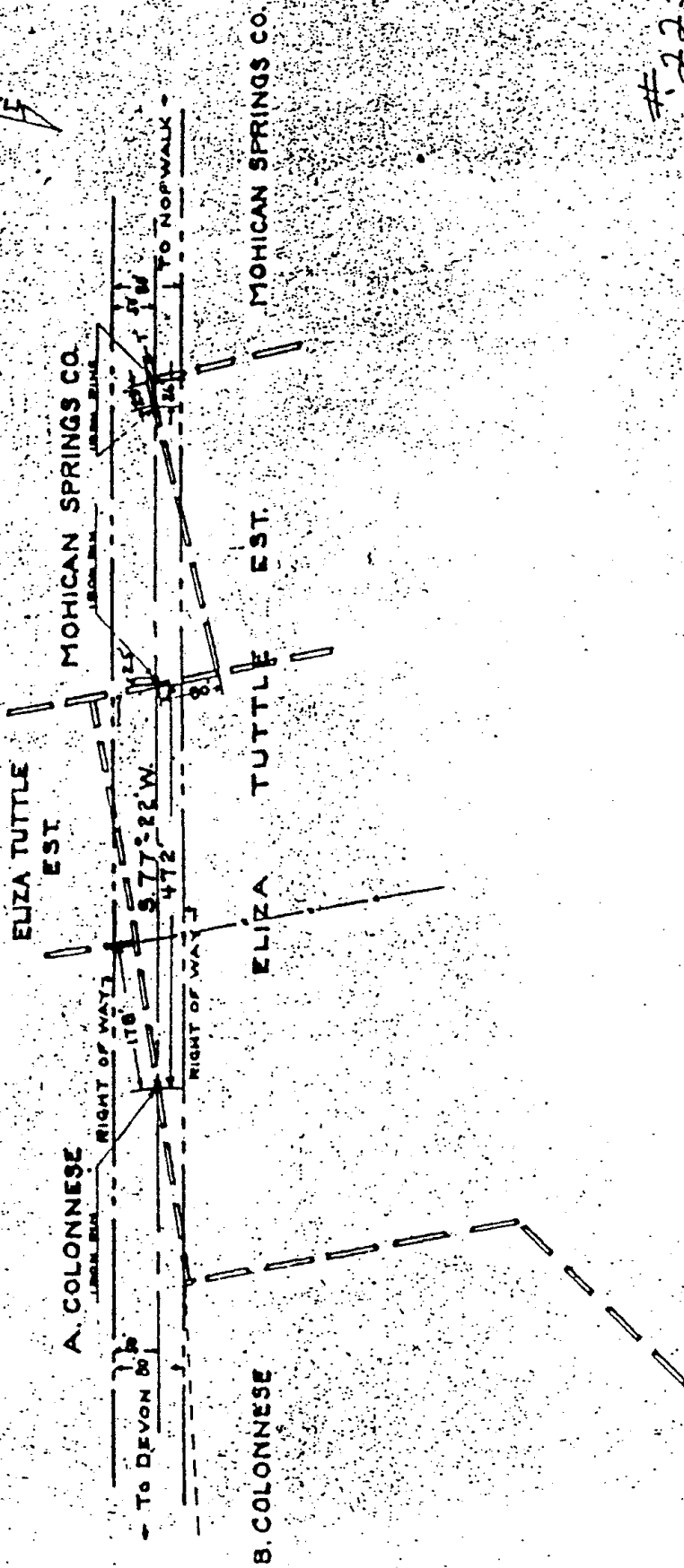
THENCE easterly for a course of North 52°04'10" East for a distance of 663.05 feet, more or less, along the southerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with the westerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman;

THENCE southerly for a course of South 15°33'00" East for a distance of 420.97 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of land now or formerly of said Dillman to a point of intersection with land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt;

LOCATION
 OF RIGHT OF WAY OF
 THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
 ACROSS THE PROPERTY OF
ELIZA TUTTLE EST.

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD : COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD : STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 SCALE 1" = 200'
 MAY 1923

MAGNETIC MERIDIAN
 1923



#225 1/2

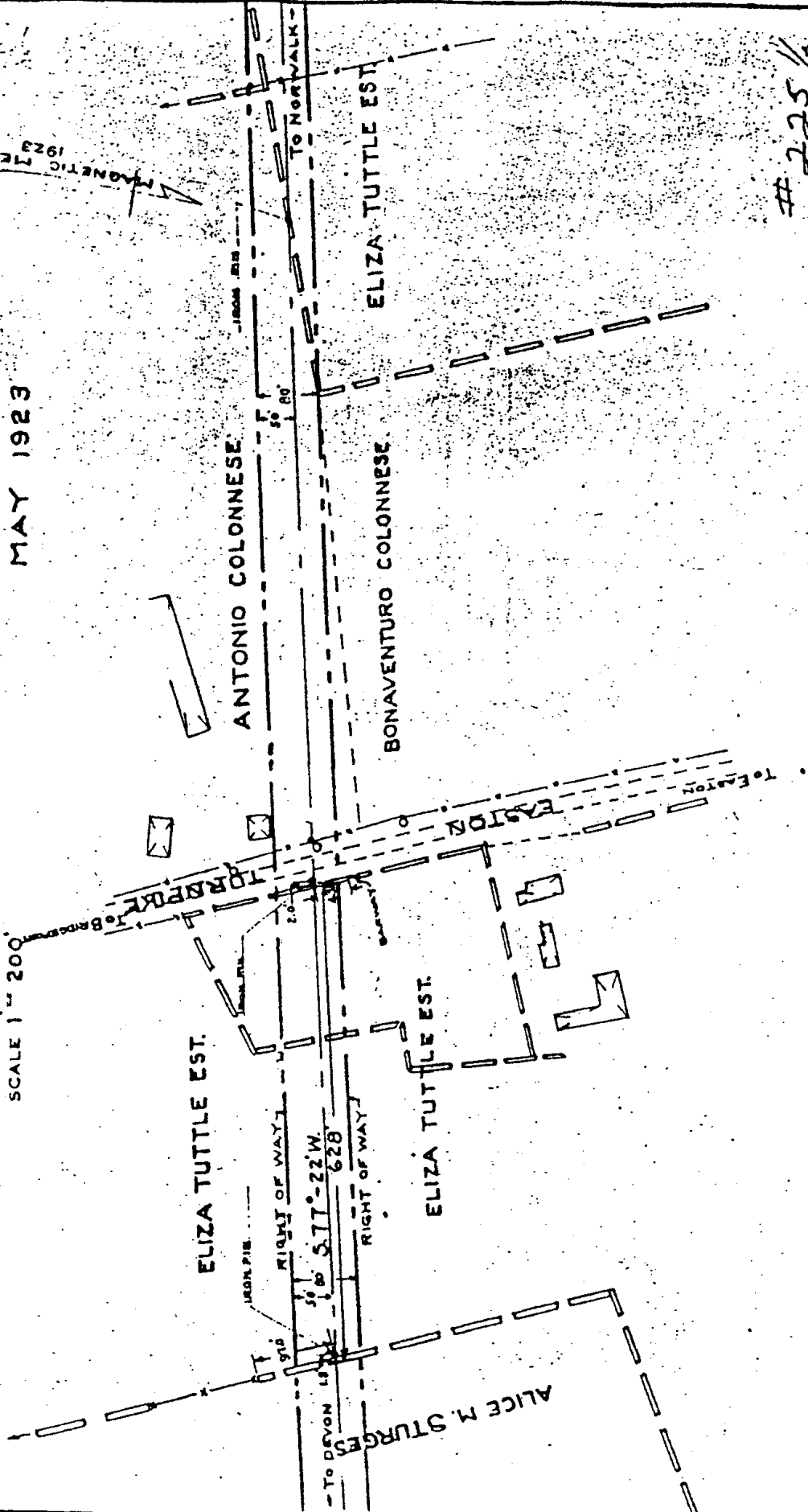
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THIS MAP IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

ATTEST *Oliver McDowell*
 SURVEYOR

DRAWN BY J.S.L.
 DATE 5-12-1923
 CHECKED
 APPROVED *Ces*
 REVISION:
 TRACED BY J.S.L.
 DATE 5-14-23
 LINE DEVON - NORWALK

OF RIGHT OF WAY OF
 THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
 ACROSS THE PROPERTY OF
ELIZA TUTTLE EST.

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD : COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD : STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 SCALE 1" = 200'
 MAY 1923



225 1/2

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THIS MAP IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

ATTEST *William Mc Carver* SURVEYOR

DRAWN BY J.S.L. TRACED BY J.S.L.
 DATE 5-12-1923
 CHECKED APPROVED *C.S.* DATE 5-14-23
 REVISION LINE DEVON - NORWALK

SHEET 1 OF 2 SHEETS

THENCE running South $66^{\circ}59'30''$ West, a distance of 110.0 feet, more or less, along the land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt, to a point;

THENCE running South $23^{\circ}36'40''$ West, a distance of 470.28 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt, to a point of intersection with the northerly line of land now or formerly of Richard P. and Yolanda A. Landy;

THENCE westerly a distance of 363.87 feet, more or less, along the northerly line of land now or formerly of Richard P. and Yolanda A. Landy, Donald A., Jr. and Marilyn C. McEachren and Andrew S. and Aline C. Bertola for the following courses and distances:

S $56^{\circ}38'10''$ W	42.48'
S $55^{\circ}03'40''$ W	150.66'
S $53^{\circ}54'20''$ W	170.73'

to a point of intersection with the westerly line of land now or formerly of Andrew S. and Aline C. Bertola;

THENCE southeasterly a distance of 1675.20 feet, more or less, along the southwesterly line of land now or formerly of Andrew S. and Aline C. Bertola, Sigmund and Laura G. Levin, John P. and Claire Fray, Joseph and Eva Marie Spiak, Harold W. and Mary Remillard, John C. and Ethel D. Thomas, Eastfield Circle, Joseph J. Browning, Arlene Norling, the southwesterly right-of-way line of Wheeler Park Avenue and the southwesterly line of land now or formerly of Alexander and Ethel Molnar, Anthony P. and Celeste Rodrigues for the following courses and distances:

S $31^{\circ}34'$ E	114.84'
S $32^{\circ}40'00''$ E	194.24'
S $37^{\circ}45'30''$ E	85.55'
S $33^{\circ}23'40''$ E	160.24'
S $33^{\circ}07'40''$ E	463.70'
S $42^{\circ}31'30''$ E	91.40'
S $17^{\circ}58'10''$ E	44.74'
S $30^{\circ}34'10''$ E	124.03'
S $34^{\circ}22'30''$ E	135.71'
S $33^{\circ}19'40''$ E	155.95'
S $31^{\circ}02'10''$ E	104.70'

to a point of intersection with the northwesterly line of land of the Town of Fairfield known as North Stratfield School;

THENCE running North $87^{\circ}13'10''$ West a distance of 82.05 feet, more or less, along the northerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt to a point of intersection with the westerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt;

THENCE running South $2^{\circ}46'50''$ West a distance of 321.08 feet, more or less, to a point;

THENCE running South $18^{\circ}46'15''$ East a distance of 581.97 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt to a point of intersection with the southerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt;

THENCE easterly for a course of North 80°00' East for a distance of 80.0 feet, more or less, along the southerly line of land now or formerly of Josephine T. Greenawalt to a point of intersection with the westerly line of land now or formerly of Gilio and Eleanor Ventresca;

THENCE in a general southerly direction for a distance of 1785.30 feet, more or less, along the westerly line of lands now or formerly of Gilio & Eleanor Ventresca, of Seba D. & Marian C. Greenawalt, Josephine T. Greenawalt, of John B. and Dorothy J. Whitmore, Elias S. and Elizabeth Tyler, Aladar G. and Fayo Marok, Thomas F. and Julia G. Browne, Sidney and Sylvia Kronek, Russell N. and Joyce S. Martin, Domenic and Irene R. Correnti, Sidney and Bessye Leitchman, Arlene F. Strom and Jacqueline B. Latham, Joseph R. and Victoria Benedetto, William J., Jr. and Caroline I. Soracin, Raymond E., Jr. and Joan L. Rasmussen and Don Y. Chin, et al, for the following courses and distances:

S21°15'10"E	263.32'
S 2°50'00"W	286.29'
S 6°58'30"W	138.06'
S 2°50'00"W	416.76'
S25°52'40"W	680.87'

to a point of intersection with the northeasterly right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway;

THENCE northwesterly along the northeasterly right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway for a distance of 1621.36 feet, more or less, following the following courses and distances:

Radius 961.318	Arc 72.48'
Radius 711.60	Arc 456.90'
N48°35'W	89.34'
Radius 1050.67	Arc 193.90'
N38°14'10"W	289.06'
Radius 993.71	Arc 193.52'
N17°40'40"E	78.74'
N24°31'10"W	158.73'
S86°15'50"W	88.69'

THENCE running along the northeasterly right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway following a stone wall for a distance of 2430 feet, more or less, to a monument marking the point of intersection of said right-of-way line of Morehouse Highway and the southeasterly line of land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck, the point of beginning.

Said premises are more properly described on a map entitled "South Section, Map Showing 118.6± Acres of Land to be Acquired by the Town of Fairfield, from Josephine T. Greenawalt, Fairfield, Connecticut, June 20, 1967, Scale 1" = 100', Sheet 1 of 2" and on a map entitled "North Section, Map Showing 118.6± Acres of Land to be Acquired by the Town of Fairfield, from Josephine T. Greenawalt, Fairfield, Connecticut, June 20, 1967, Scale 1" = 100', Sheet 2 of 2." Said maps are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, Town of Fairfield.

WHEREAS, the Town intends to use said land for recreational and conservation purposes as defined in Section 7-131c of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, Revised to 1966; and

E VOL 543 PAGE 394

WHEREAS, the Town has received a State grant-in-aid for the acquisition of said land for conservation, recreational and open space purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration for said grant-in-aid, the Town covenants and agrees with the State of Connecticut that said land shall not be conveyed or converted to any use other than recreational or conservation purposes (as defined in said Section 7-131c), except with the approval of the State Council on Agriculture and Natural Resources as provided in Section 7-131i of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, Revised to 1966.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of this contract he will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religion or national origin in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and further agrees to provide the civil rights commission with such information requested by the commission concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor as relate to the provisions of this section.

Said covenants and agreements shall run with the land in favor of the State of Connecticut and shall be binding upon the TOWN of FAIRFIELD, its successors and assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the TOWN OF FAIRFIELD has caused these presents to be executed and its seal to be hereunto affixed by Maurice A. Katona, its Town Clerk, hereunto duly authorized, this 15th day of August, 1969

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of:

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

Edward Boman
Edward Boman
Virginia M. Smith
Virginia M. Smith

By John J. Sullivan (LS)
John J. Sullivan
Its First Selectman
Duly Authorized

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
) ss. Fairfield
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD)

On this the 15th day of August, 1969, before me, Edna M. Mortimer, the undersigned officer, personally appeared John J. Sullivan First Selectman (Name and Title) of the TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person described in the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same in the capacity therein stated and for the purposes therein contained.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand.

Edna M. Mortimer (LS)
Edna M. Mortimer
Commissioner of the Superior Court
Notary Public My Commission Expires April 1, 1972

Received for Record August 15, 1969 at 12:51 P.M.
Attest Eva D. Browne Asst. Town Clerk

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TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

KNOW YE, that GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, hereinafter referred to as the Releasor, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal place of business in the City of New York and State of New York, acting herein by E. S. Weaver, its Manager-Real Estate and Construction Operation, hereunto duly authorized without valuable consideration and as a gift, does remise, release, and forever QUIT CLAIM unto the TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, hereinafter referred to as the Releasee, a municipal corporation located in the State of Connecticut, its successors and assigns forever, all the right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever as it the said Releasor has or ought to have in or to all that certain parcel of land, except as stated herein, located in the Town of Fairfield shown on a map entitled ^{Map #4345} "Map of Survey/of Property in Fairfield, Conn., to be conveyed to Town of Fairfield by General Electric Company, Scale 1" =100' October 20, 1971" prepared by Fuller & Co. and to be filed in the Fairfield Town Clerk's Office, said parcel of land being bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the south Connecticut Highway Department taking line of the Merritt Parkway where it is intersected by the northwest property line of Joseph Nemeth; thence running the following courses and distances: N30° 39' 27"E, 1351.00 feet; S59° 20' 33"E, 209.97 feet; N53° 22' 50"E, 603.56 feet; S59° 05' 07"E, 367.07 feet; S02° 06' 53"W, 380.37 feet; S37° 55' 50"E, 127.25 feet; S52° 04' 10"W, 478.05 feet; S 34° 21' 10"E, 121.21 feet; S51° 23' 40"W, 275.00 feet; N18° 29' 14"W, 62.64 feet; S61° 35' 17"W, 295.00 feet; S59° 27' 22"W, 233.70 feet; N34° 21' 20"W, 20.04 feet; N30° 37' 04"W, 71.30 feet; N34° 06' 13"W, 31.43 feet; N36° 37' 09"W, 65.16 feet; N59° 59' 31"W, 3.28 feet; N36° 27' 19"W,

"No Conveyance Tax collected"

Ernest H. C...
Town Clerk of Fairfield

EYOL 587 PAGE 1163

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13.97 feet; S62° 07' 11"W, 30.78 feet; S57° 14' 27"W, 211.31 feet; S56° 59' 37"W, 105.69 feet; N37° 36' 29"W, 216.00 feet; S52° 17' 01"W, 148.53 feet; S57° 28' 27"W, 66.25 feet; S60° 46' 27"W, 16.99 feet to the point and place of beginning, containing in all 30.00 acres and bounded as follows:

NORTHERLY: in part by land now or formerly of General Electric Company and in part by land now or formerly of the Town of Fairfield;

EASTERLY: in part by land now or formerly of the Town of Fairfield, in part by land, now or formerly of Paul Hornbeck, in part by land now or formerly of Joseph Nemeth, and in part by land now or formerly of General Electric Company;

SOUTHERLY: in part by land now or formerly of Paul H. Hornbeck and in part by land now or formerly of Joseph Nemeth;

WESTERLY: by the Merritt Parkway (Route 15).

EXCEPTING, the following two parcels which are not a part of this conveyance:

Parcel A

Beginning at the first point described above and running the following courses and distances: N30° 39' 27"E, 530.00 feet along the South Connecticut Highway Department Taking Line of the Merritt Parkway; thence S22° 08' 30"W, 396.67 feet along property granted herein to the Town of Fairfield; thence S52° 17' 01"W, 48.53 feet; thence S57° 28' 27"W, 66.25 feet; thence S60° 46' 27"W, 16.99 feet, the last three courses all along property now or formerly of Joseph Nemeth, to the point of beginning. Parcel A contains approximately 0.348 acres.

Parcel B

Beginning at a point on the South Connecticut Highway Department Taking Line of the Merritt Parkway where the said taking line, the property granted herein and other property of General Electric Company meet and running the following courses and distances: S59° 20' 33"E, 50.00 feet along other property of General Electric Company, thence S57° 13' 21"W, 111.80 feet along property granted herein; thence N30° 39' 27"E, 100.00 feet along the said taking line of the Merritt Parkway to the point of beginning. Parcel B contains approximately 0.057 acre.

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TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the premises, with all the appurtenances, unto the said Releasee and its successors and assigns forever; so that neither the Releasor nor its successor or assigns nor any other person under it or them shall hereafter have any claim, right or title in or to the premises, or any part thereof, but therefrom it and they are by these presents forever barred and excluded.

The purpose of this grant is to assure to the citizens of the Town of Fairfield that the demised premises will be preserved in its wild and natural state. In furtherance of this purpose, the conveyance is expressly subject to the following restrictions and covenants which shall run with the land and be enforced by the Releasor and its successors and assigns and be binding upon the Releasee and any successor in title of the Releasee for a period of fifty (50) years from the date hereof.

1. The premises shall be retained in its natural and wild state and shall be dedicated to the preservation of the natural beauty and native flora and fauna of the premises.
2. No hunting, camping, picnicing, swimming, boating, excavation, land fill or use of motor or other vehicles shall be permitted on the premises.
3. It is not intended that failure of the Releasee to comply with any of the foregoing restrictions or covenants shall cause a reversion of this grant, but it is agreed that said restrictions and covenants may be enforced by injunctive relief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, has
executed this instrument this 30th day of January, A.D.,
1974 by E. S. Weaver, its Manager-Real Estate and Con-
struction Operation, who hereunto duly sets his hand and the seal
of the corporation.

Signed, sealed and delivered GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
in the presence of:

R. I. Parkes, Jr.
R. I. Parkes, Jr.

By E. S. Weaver (L.S.)
Its Manager-Real Estate and
Construction Operation

V. E. Kope
V. E. Kope

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY) ss. Schenectady

On this the 30th day of January, 1974, before
me, Kenneth R. Picotte the undersigned officer, personally
appeared E. S. WEAVER, who acknowledged himself to
be the Manager-Real Estate and Construction Operation of
General Electric Company, a corporation, and that he as such
Manager-Real Estate and Construction Operation, being authorized
so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purpose
therein contained, by signing the name of the corporation by
himself as Manager-Real Estate and Construction Operation

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand.

Kenneth R. Picotte
Notary Public

My commission expires MARCH 30, 1975

Received for Record May 10, 1974 at 3:55 P.M.

Attest Conita J. Carver
Asst. Town Clerk

KENNETH R. PICOTTE
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Schenectady County
My Commission Expires March 30, 1975

To all People to Whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

Know Ye, That PAUL H. HORNBECK, of the City of Norwalk, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut,

for the consideration of ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$115,000.00), received to his full satisfaction of TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, a municipal corporation of the State of Connecticut,

do hereby remise, release, and forever QUIT CLAIM unto the said TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, its successors and assigns,

for ever, all the right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever as

he, the said releasor have or ought to have in or to

ALL THAT CERTAIN piece or parcel of land situated in the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, bounded and described as follows:

- NORTHERLY: by other land of Paul H. Hornbeck for a distance of 981 feet more or less; and by land, now or formerly, of the Town of Fairfield for a distance of 332 feet more or less;
- EASTERLY: by land, now or formerly, of the Town of Fairfield (Mill River) for a distance of 1,167 feet more or less;
- SOUTHERLY: by land, now or formerly, of the Town of Fairfield (Lake Mohegan) for a distance of 1,119 feet more or less; and
- WESTERLY: by Morehouse Highway for a distance of 204 feet more or less.

Comprising an area of 10.4 acres more or less.

SAID PREMISES are conveyed subject to the following:

1. Any and all provisions of any ordinance, municipal regulation, or public or private law;
2. Taxes of the Town of Fairfield hereafter becoming due and payable which the Grantee assumes and agrees to pay.
3. Easement 80 feet in width in favor of The Connecticut Light and Power Company given by George A. Sturges et als, by instrument dated September 8, 1923 and recorded in Volume 114, Page 208 of the Fairfield Land Records and shown on Map No. 225 and 1/2 as on file in the Fairfield Town Clerk's Office and followed by a Grant in favor of said Company given by Baker and Sturges dated December 20, 1923 and recorded in Volume 140, Page 249 of said Land Records.
4. such rights as may exist in favor of adjoining owners and others in and to the waters of Mill River.

VOL 600 PAGE 341

- 5. Any assessment or pending assessments for which a lien or liens have not as yet been filed in the Town Clerk's Office.
- 6. Such facts as an accurate survey and/or inspection of said premises might disclose.

To Have and to Hold the premises, with all the appurtenances, unto the said Releasee, its successors ~~he~~ and assigns forever, so that neither he, the Releasee nor his heirs nor any other person under him or them shall hereafter have any claim, right or title in or to the premises, or any part thereof, but therefrom he is and they are by these presents forever barred and excluded.

In Witness Whereof, he has hereunto set his hand and seal

this 1st day of June, A. D. 1974.

Witnessed and Delivered in presence of

Richard S. Weinstein
Richard S. Weinstein

Paul H. Hornbeck
Paul H. Hornbeck

Olea Hornbeck
Olea Hornbeck

State of Connecticut,
County of FAIRFIELD

88. Norwalk, June 1, A. D. 1974

Personally Appeared, PAUL H. HORNBECK,

Signer and Sealer of the foregoing Instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed before me.

Richard S. Weinstein
Richard S. Weinstein
Commissioner of the Superior Court

Received for Record July 17, 1974 at 9:50 A.M.

Attest *[Signature]* A. Town Clerk



To all People to Whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

Know ~~of~~ That PAUL H. HORNBECK, of the City of Norwalk, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut,

for the consideration of ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00) (a consideration of less than \$100.00), received to his full satisfaction of TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, a municipal corporation of the State of Connecticut,

does remise, release, and forever QUIT CLAIM unto the said TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, its successors and assigns

~~hereunto~~ forever, all the right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever as he, the said releasor have or ought to have in or to

ALL THAT CERTAIN piece or parcel of land situated in the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, bounded and described as follows:

- NORTHERLY: by land, now or formerly, of Joseph Nemeth for a distance of 981 feet more or less and by land, now or formerly, of the Town of Fairfield for a distance of 196 feet more or less;
- EASTERLY and SOUTHERLY: by other land of Paul H. Hornbeck for a distance of 1,256 feet more or less; and
- WESTERLY: by Morehouse Highway for a distance of 50 feet more or less.

Comprising an area of 2.1 acres more or less.

SAID PREMISES are conveyed subject to the following:

1. Any and all provisions of any ordinance, municipal regulation, or public or private law.
2. Taxes of the Town of Fairfield hereafter becoming due and payable which the Grantee assumes and agrees to pay.
3. Easement 80 feet in width in favor of The Connecticut Light and Power Company given by George A. Sturges et al, by instrument dated September 8, 1923 and recorded in Volume 114, Page 208 of the Fairfield Land Records and shown on Map No. 225 and 1/2 as on file in the Fairfield Town Clerk's Office and followed by a Grant in favor of said Company given by Baker and Sturges dated December 20, 1923 and recorded in Volume 140, Page 249 of said Land Records.
4. Such rights as may exist in favor of adjoining owners and others in and to the waters of Mill River.

EXH 601 PAGE 439

- 5. Any assessment or pending assessments for which a lien or liens have not as yet been filed in the Town Clerk's Office.
- 6. Such facts as an accurate survey and/or inspection of said premises might disclose.

THE GRANTEE covenants and agrees that the property herein donated shall remain open space.

To Have and to Hold the premises, with all the appurtenances, unto the said Releasee, its successors and assigns forever, so that neither he, the Releasee nor his heirs nor any other person under him or them shall hereafter have any claim, right or title in or to the premises, or any part thereof, but therefrom he is and they are by these presents forever barred and excluded.

In Witness Whereof, he has hereunto set his hand and seal

this 15th day of July, A. D. 1974.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of

Richard S. Weinstein Paul H. Hornbeck
Richard S. Weinstein Paul H. Hornbeck

Olga Hornbeck

State of Connecticut,
County of FAIRFIELD

Norwalk, July 15, A. D. 1974

Personally Appeared: PAUL H. HORNBECK,

Signer and Sealer of the foregoing Instrument, and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed before me.

Richard S. Weinstein
Commissioner of the Superior Court

Received for Record August 23, 1974 at 9:04 A.M.

Attest [Signature] Asst. Town Clerk

DEDICATION AGREEMENT

CONNECTICUT OPEN SPACE PROJECT NUMBER 281

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD - THE CASCADES

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

KNOW YE, THAT the TOWN OF Fairfield, a municipal corporation, specially chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and located within Fairfield County in said State, hereinafter called "TOWN", has purchased certain land within said Town, which land is more fully described as follows:

Parcel A:

Beginning at a point of intersection of the easterly street line of Morehouse Highway and the southerly property line of Joseph Nemeth; thence in the following courses and distances to the point of beginning:

N 57° 31' 30" E, 660.90 feet,
 N 31° 42' 30" W, 139.82 feet,
 N 33° 29' 30" W, 182.08 feet,
 N 58° 29' 30" E, 50 feet;
 S 74° 20' 00" E, 229.61 feet;
 S 32° 28' 20" E, 200 feet;
 S 57° 31' 30" W, 872.69 feet,
 N 21° 14' 20" W, 50.97 feet.

Parcel B:

Beginning at a point of intersection of the easterly street line of Morehouse Highway and the northerly property line of land now or formerly of the Town of Fairfield, known as Lake Mohegan, thence in the following courses and distances to the point of beginning:

N 21° 14' 20" W, 203.25 feet,
 S 57° 31' 30" W, 872.69 feet,
 S 32° 28' 30" E, 200 feet;
 S 74° 20' 00" E, 229.61 feet;
 N 58° 29' 30" E, 187.88 feet,
 N 60° 37' 30" E, 176.4 feet,
 N 60° 37' 30" E, 119.4 feet,

Thence southerly along the center of the Mill River for a distance of 1,231 feet, more or less,

N 32° 45' 50" W, 403 feet, more or less,
 S 56° 43' 30" W, 261.93 feet,
 S 58° 21' 40" W, 215.14 feet,
 S 57° 09' 10" W, 239.36 feet.

Said parcels contain 12.48 acres, more or less, and are more fully shown on map entitled "Map of Property for The Town of Fairfield, Conn.", dated Feb. 24, 1975, Scale 1"=100' and prepared by The Huntington Company, Engineers and Surveyors, and filed in the Land Records of the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, filed as map number 4428.

WHEREAS, the Town intends to use said land for recreation and conservation purposes as defined in Section 7-13ic of the General Statutes of Connecticut,

Revision of 1958, Revised to 1975, as amended.

LVA 656 ml 766

WHEREAS, the Town has received a State grant-in-aid for the acquisition of said land for conservation, recreation and open space purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration for said grant-in-aid, the Town covenants and agrees with the State of Connecticut that said land shall not be conveyed or converted to any use other than recreation or conservation purposes (as defined in said Section 7-131c, as amended), except with the approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection as provided in Section 7-131i of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, Revised to 1975, as amended;

THAT the municipality will erect a plaque or sign permanent in nature on the subject property which acknowledges Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Assistance.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of this contract he will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, sex, mental retardation, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and further agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor as relate to the provisions of this section.

This contract is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. Three of Governor Thomas J. Meskill promulgated June 16, 1971, and, as such, this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended by the State Labor Commissioner for violation of or noncompliance with said Executive Order No. Three, or any State or Federal law concerning nondiscrimination, notwithstanding that the Labor Commissioner is not a party to this contract. The parties to this contract as part of the consideration hereof, agree that said Executive Order No. Three is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof. The parties agree to abide by said Executive Order and agree that the State Labor Commissioner shall have continuing jurisdiction in respect to contract performance in regard to nondiscrimination, until the contract is completed or terminated prior to completion.

The contractor agrees, as part consideration hereof, that this contract is subject to the Guidelines and Rules issued by the State Labor Commissioner to implement Executive Order No. Three, and that he will not discriminate in his employment practices or policies, will file all reports as required, and will fully cooperate with the State of Connecticut and the State Labor Commissioner.

This contract is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. Seventeen of Governor Thomas J. Meskill promulgated February 15, 1973, and, as such, this contract may be cancelled, terminated or suspended by the contracting agency or the State Labor Commissioner for violation of or noncompliance with said Executive Order No. Seventeen, notwithstanding that the Labor Commissioner may not be a party to this contract. The parties to this contract, as part of the consideration hereof, agree that Executive Order No. Seventeen is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof. The parties agree to abide by said Executive Order and agree that the contracting agency and the State Labor Commissioner shall have joint and several continuing jurisdiction in respect to contract performance in regard to listing all employment openings with the Connecticut State Employment Service.

Said covenants and agreements shall run with the land in favor of the State of Connecticut and shall be binding upon the TOWN OF Fairfield, its successors and assigns.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the TOWN OF Fairfield has caused these presents to be executed and its seal to be hereunto affixed by John J. Sullivan, its First Selectman, hereunto duly authorized, this 19th day of March, 1977.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered:

In the presence of:
Virginia M. Smith
Edward B. Brown

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
By John J. Sullivan,
its First Selectman,
Duly Authorized

STATE OF CONNECTICUT: ss: Town of Fairfield
COUNTY OF Fairfield:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 19th day of March, 1977, by John J. Sullivan, its First Selectman of the Town of Fairfield, on behalf of the Town of Fairfield

Mildred P. [Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires April 1, 1982

Received for Record April 11, 1979 at 3:30 P.M.
Attest: Pantal J. [Signature] Asst. Town Clerk

757 301

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Know Ye, that we, ALAN MCKEON and JOHN G. KROZER, of the Town of Fairfield, in the County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, (herein referred to as the Grantors) for the consideration of Five Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$550,000.00) Dollars received to Grantors's full satisfaction of the TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, in the County Fairfield and the State of Connecticut, (herein referred to as the Grantee) do give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Town of Fairfield:

All that certain piece or parcel of land containing 9.3008 acres or 405,143 square feet, together with the buildings and improvements thereon located in the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut shown and designated as Lot #1 on that certain map entitled "Partition Map of Property in Fairfield, Conn. prepared for Alan McKeon and John G. Krozer August 13, 1985" made by Harry Pidluski of Fuller & Co., land surveyors, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of said Town of Fairfield as Map #5376, reference being had thereto for a more particular description of said premises bounded and described as follows:

Being the same premises conveyed to the grantors herein by Jospheh Nemeth in a deed executed by Virginia N. Smith, his attorney-in-fact, on December 29, 1984 and recorded on December 31, 1984 in Volume 735 at Page 1115 of the Fairfield Land Records, excepting therefrom Lot 2 shown on said map.

Said Premises are conveyed subject to:

1. Taxes on the Grand Lists of 1984 and 1985 as they become due and payable.
2. Any and all provisions of any ordinance, municipal regulation or public law.
3. Reservations and easements in deed to the State of Connecticut recorded February 5, 1940 in Volume 172, Page 487.
4. Notice of Variance, Fairfield Zoning Board of Appeals, as set forth in Volume 638, Page 338.
5. Such state of facts as an accurate survey and an up-to-date inspection may disclose.
6. Any assessments or pending assessments for which a lien or liens have not as yet been filed or recorded in the Town Clerk's Office.

"No Conveyance Tax collected"

Charles J. Fuller
Town Clerk of Fairfield

- 7. Subject to the provisions, if applicable, of any inland/wetlands or coastal wetlands or historical district statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations.
- 8. Unrecorded easements and/or grants, if any.
- 9. Utility easements from Mary Erdley to Connecticut Light and Power Company dated September 25, 1923, recorded in Volume 114, Page 280.

To Have and to Hold the above granted and bargained premises, with the privileges and appurtenances thereof, unto the Grantee and unto Grantee's heirs, successors and assigns forever to Grantee and Grantee's own use and behoof. And also, Grantors do for themselves and for their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, covenant with Grantee and Grantee's heirs, successors and assigns, that at and until the ensembling of these presents, Grantors are well seized of the premises, as a good indefeasible estate in FEE SIMPLE; and have good right to bargain and sell the same in manner and form as above written; and that the same is free from all encumbrances whatsoever, except as above Stated.

AND FURTHERMORE, Grantors do by these presents bind Grantors and their heirs, successors and assigns forever to warrant and defend the above granted and bargained premises to Grantee and Grantee's heirs, successors and assigns against all claims and demands whatsoever, except as above Stated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantors have hereunto set their hands and seals this 16th day of November, 1985.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of:

Richard H. Seal
Richard H. Seal
Frank F. Ober
Frank F. Ober
Richard H. Seal
Richard H. Seal
Frank F. Ober
Frank F. Ober

Alan McKeon (Seal)
Alan McKeon

John G. Krozer (Seal)
John G. Krozer

STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
) ss:
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD)

November 16, 1985

Personally appeared ALAN MCKEON and JOHN G. KROZER, signers and sealers of the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed before me.

Richard H. Seal
Notary Public Richard H. Seal
Commissioner of Superior Court

MAILING ADDRESS OF Grantee:

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

Town of Fairfield
Town Hall
Fairfield, Ct

NOV 18 1985 AT 7:43 P.M.

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

A-25

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06431

(203) 373-3180

JOYCE HERGENHAN

VICE PRESIDENT

CORPORATE PUBLIC RELATIONS

October 16, 1985

Honorable Jacquelyn C. Durrell
First Selectman
Town of Fairfield
Independence Hall
Fairfield, CT 06430

Dear Mrs. Durrell:

A short time ago the town informed us that the former Nemeth property adjacent to the Cascades was being subdivided, and you indicated there was a possibility that the town could acquire at least a part of the property. The question arose as to whether we would be interested in participating in such an acquisition.

This letter will confirm that the General Electric Company is most willing to provide the \$550,000 purchase price for the Town of Fairfield's proposed acquisition of an additional 8.5 acres of land adjacent to the Cascades area for the purpose of protecting this land from commercial development. The funding for this acquisition complements the GE donation to the town, approximately a decade ago, of some 30 acres of Cascades property which the Company purchased at the time that its corporate headquarters was built adjacent to the Cascades area.

This gift will be available to you prior to closing of title. The only condition of this gift is that the town accept a deed from the owners of the property restricting its use to the open space program of the Town of Fairfield and incorporating provisions prohibiting hunting, camping, picnicking, excavation, land fill and the use of motor vehicles for a period of forty years. These provisions shall not prevent initial improvements and filling that may be necessary to return the property to a more natural state.

We understand that, in connection with its purchase of this property, the town has agreed to remove existing dog runs and to fill in an open well, and General Electric would be agreeable to making an additional gift to the Town of Fairfield for this purpose.

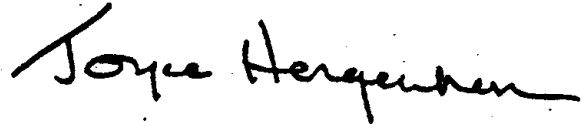
Honorable Jacquelyn C. Durrell

October 16, 1985

Page 2

General Electric is extremely pleased to be able to participate in the securing by the Town of Fairfield of an area long designated in the town's Open Space Plan as a "critical area" to be added to its open space and wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Hergenhan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joyce Hergenhan

/sg

GENERAL ELECTRIC

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06430

(203) 373-3400

A-27

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1985

L. F. KINDINGER

JOYCE HERGENHAN
VICE PRESIDENT
CORPORATE PUBLIC RELATIONS

November 18, 1985

The Honorable Jacquelyn C. Durrell
First Selectman
Town of Fairfield
Independence Hall
Fairfield, CT 06430

Dear Jacky:

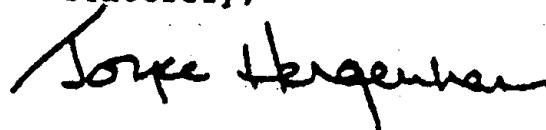
On behalf of General Electric Company, I'm pleased to transmit the enclosed check for \$550,000 to enable the Town of Fairfield to acquire the remaining 8.5 acres of undeveloped land in the Mill River Cascades area.

This contribution is subject to those conditions contained in my October 16, 1985 letter.

The preservation of this last remaining parcel of land in its natural state is a mutually beneficial undertaking for General Electric and the citizens of Fairfield, now and in the future. It's also in furtherance of the Fairfield Master Plan and is the natural complement to the 30 acres of Cascades land and waterways donated to the Town by GE on May 4, 1974.

The men and women of General Electric are proud of our association with Fairfield, and we are happy to assist the Town in this unique way.

Sincerely,



Joyce Hergenhan

JH:dma
Enclosure

CC: F. V. Donovan

MINUTES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

In accordance with the foregoing Warning, the regular meeting of the Town of Fairfield was held on Monday, October 28, 1985 at Osborn Hill School, Stillson Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by the Moderator, Mr. Joseph McGee.

The roll was called by the Clerk.

PRESENT: 46 ABSENT: 6 VACANCY: 0

PRESENT: Bateson, Smakal, McMaster, Toal, Van Der Aue, Kelly, Kueffner, Milici, Lovejoy, Shannon, Witten, Golger, Acuna, Broadhead, Ceccarelli, Marconi, Stankey, Carter, Hall, Oderwald, Hanson, Rifkin, Blank, Mastronardi, Gruss, McGee, Caruso, Strauss, Adams, Usher, Osborne, Mazzeo, Morrissey, Niadermeier, Slane, Howard, Macoy, Metsopoulos, Anderson, Popkins, Ericsson, Turoczi, Clark, Lazinger, Phillips, Skroly

ABSENT: Conway, McNally, Newman, Rasmussen, Supan, Angelo

ITEM NO. 2 ON CALL: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1985, SEPTEMBER 30, 1985, AND OCTOBER 2, 1985

Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes of the September 23, 1985 meeting were approved as distributed.

Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes of the September 30, 1985 meeting were approved as distributed.

Upon motion made, duly seconded and carried unanimously, the minutes of the October 2, 1985 meeting were approved as amended as follows: Attendance corrections: Newman, Blank and Van Der Aue were present. Page 3, paragraph 3, after Slane should read Dickman. Page 5, paragraph 7 is incomplete. The second sentence should read "She found that there is a significant difference in the percentage of electors within each state assembly district population (they were 62.5%, 63% and 53.7% respectively). The last sentence should read"... difference whether population or electors was used." Also, page 7, paragraph 11, it was Pauline Stankey suggested, not Jean Sturges.

ITEM NO. 3 ON CALL: RESOLUTION PROPOSING RATIFICATION, APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN TOWN OF FAIRFIELD AND LOCAL 1426 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, AFL-CIO FOR JULY 1, 1985 TO JULY 1, 1987

Atty. Donal Collimore, duly seconded, moved this item as distributed with the Call. He explained the contract charges which were underlined in the distributed contract copies.

* See Committee Reports, attached herewith

After committee reports and a brief discussion, the item was put to a vote.

VOTE: The Resolution to ratify, approve and adopt the Contract between the Town of Fairfield and Local 1426 International Association of Firefighters AFL-CIO for July 1, 1985 to July 1, 1987 was approved unanimously by voice vote.

ITEM NO. 4 ON CALL: RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT G.E. CHECK FOR \$550,000 FOR TOWN TO PURCHASE MCKEON AND KROZIER PROPERTY OF 8.5 ACRES OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE "CASCADES AREA" TO PROTECT THIS OPEN SPACE LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT

First Selectman Jacquelyn C. Durrell, duly seconded, moved this item as distributed with the Call.

First Selectman Durrell explained that G.E. initially tried to buy this property. No one thought the land was buildable. G.E. and the Town wanted the entire piece. There is a caveat: to remove dog kennels and open well be capped. The bid was \$20,000.00 to do this work. G.E. will pay this money. They want this open space land given to the Town with the Nemeth name on it since it was in that family for years. The cost to the Town in lost taxes will be minimal. Current taxes are about \$3,000.00 per year. It would be \$35,000 if developed.

*See Committee Reports attached herewith

Mr. Lovejoy offered an amendment "for the purpose of protecting forever this open space..."

Mr. Ober spoke against the problem of restrictions and "infinity" and questions of enforcement after 50 or 60 years. He said G.E. had no reversion under any circumstances.

Mr. Witten cautioned against tying up property "forever." He wants to amend to a condition of 40 years--concurrent with the other Cascades lease.

MOTION: Mr. Laurence Witten moved to amend "...development, for a period of 40 years." The amendment, duly seconded, passed unanimously. The Lovejoy amendment was defeated by this amendment passing.

VOTE: The main motion as amended was carried unanimously by voice vote.

ITEM NO. 5 ON CALL: ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION BY GEORGE H. WARD OF LAND ON MELVILLE DRIVE FOR PARK, RECREATIONAL OR OPEN SPACE PURPOSES

First Selectman Jacquelyn C. Durrell, duly seconded, moved this item as distributed with the Call.

First Selectman Durrell reported that the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to accept this gift at their September 18th meeting. The Town Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve this gift at their August meeting. Mr. Leffert suggested the Town pursue this. Mr. Thomas Browne, Tax Assessor, has estimated loss revenue of taxes at current rate, to be only \$14.00. The legal fees will be about \$200.00.

*See Committee Reports attached herewith

Mr. Lovejoy, duly seconded, moved to amend the resolution "...purposes, park or open space, and provided that no structure be built thereon." Ms. Pauline Stankey wondered if structure might prohibit playground equipment. By unanimous consent "structure" was changed to "building." Ms. Oderwald wanted to be sure it remains Town-owned property and not school-owned. Mrs. Durrell assured her it will belong to and be maintained by the Town. Mr. Slane suggested allowing "educational or recreational purposes as an allowable use."

VOTE: Mr. Lovejoy's amendment was carried by majority voice vote.

MOTION: Mr. Slane, duly seconded, moved to amend the 6th line to say "used for educational or recreational purposes." Mr. Witten felt this tangles the issues between Town Departments and that the motion should stand as is. Mr. Slane said that we have restricted other things for the future and he wants educational purposes to be considered for the future.

VOTE: Mr. Slane's amendment failed by a 29 nay-10 aye voice vote.

VOTE: The main motion as amended was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Report of the Finance Committee
to the Meeting of the Fairfield RTM
28 October 1985

Moderator
Mr. Chairman, the Finance Committee met on October 24th in Independence Hall with members Bateson, Clark, Ericsson, McGee, Metsopoulos, Osborne, Rifkin, Smakal, Toal, and Witten present; member Lazinger was absent. Also attending were Selectman Carl Dickman throughout, and for part of the meeting, First Selectman Jacquelyn Durrell and Assistant Town Attorney Donal Collimore.

Item 3. Attorney Collimore, the Town Labor Negotiator, presented the two-year Firefighters' contract. Of the \$327,000 estimated first-year increased cost, the line-items which will have the most significant impact are in payroll (\$111,000), Pension (\$39,000), and Overtime (\$153,000). In the second year there are slightly larger amounts estimated for Payroll (\$117,000) and Pension (\$41,000), while overtime will show an additional increase of some \$26,000, resulting in an estimated total increase of \$194,000. The total impact in the first year is nearly 10%, but is slightly over 5% in the second year. After hearing the presentation, the ten committee members voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

Item 4. Mr. Dickman presented this item to the Committee, and it evoked a mainly very favorable response. However, one member, who lives near another Fairfield open-space property, felt that the Town does not adequately supervise such properties, leading in some cases to their use by groups who litter them with refuse and may sometimes illegally use alcohol and drugs on them. After discussion, the Committee voted nine in favor of the resolution, with one abstention.

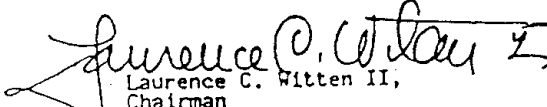
Item 5. Mrs. Durrell presented this resolution, and during our discussion of it Mr. and Mrs. George H. Ward were present. The ten Committee-members present voted unanimously in favor of the resolution and expressed their gratitude to the Wards for their generous offer of this space to the Town.

Item 6. Mr. Dickman recalled the history of the Town's unsuccessful efforts to find a suitable use for the existing Beachside building during more than a decade of ownership. The Committee also received a letter from Selectman Eunice S. Postol emphasizing her opinion that the proposed demolition, and all expenditures connected with it and proposed future use of the land for public parking, should come before appropriate Town Boards and Committees before being voted on by the RTM. After discussion, the Committee voted nine in favor of the resolution, none opposed, and one abstaining, with the strong recommendation that Recreation Superintendent Leffert be present tonight to explain the steps taken to find a use for the building, and to provide assurances that no appropriate use can be found for it.

Item 7. Although copies of the Final Revision of the proposed Charter didn't reach most Committee Members until the day of our meeting, most Members had read it and were familiar with its contents. At our meeting, Member Joseph McGee the RTM Moderator discussed a letter from the Secretary of the Charter Commission, dated October 22nd, and which he had only just received, which

included the Commission's recommendations of six revisions in the Charter which might be specifically voted on by Fairfield Electors. There followed a discussion of the pros and cons of calling a special election to vote on the Charter, as an alternative to placing it on the ballot for the election of November, 1986 which, it is anticipated, will be a very crowded one with State of Connecticut items on it in addition to candidates for office. There was agreement that timing of the ballot is a difficult issue, and the Committee decided to leave further discussion of it to the full RTM, rather than present any specific motion on timing. Mr. McGee also informed the Committee that Charter Commission members Hiller, Ober, Saxl and Sturges have volunteered to serve on a committee to develop final language for the proposed revisions. After consideration, the Committee voted nine in favor of the resolution, none opposed, and one abstaining due to inability to study the final revision before our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Laurence C. Witten II,
Chairman

L&A Committee Report

Present: 5

Absent: 7

Vacancy: 0

Present: Anderson, Golger, Kueffner, Macoy and Popkins

Absent: Blank, Conway, Hall, Hanson, Milici, Skroly, & Strauss

Item No. 3

The Legislation and Administration Committee met with Assistant Town Attorney Donald Collimore and the Public Health and Safety Committee on October 23, 1985.

Mr. Collimore went through the revisions or changes for the pending contract with Local 1426, AFL-CIO. Both parties should be pleased with this new contract. Payroll benefits are 6% per year for each of 2 years. About 70% of the changes fall within the new Federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

With 3 members present for the presentation the Committee voted three (3) in favor, none (0) opposed with two (2) abstentions.

Item No. 4

Concerning the acceptance and expenditure of \$550,000 for the purchase of the McKean and Krozier property, the L&A Committee met with First Selectman Darrell on October 23, 1985

location and

as distributed,

The various covenants of the agreement were briefly discussed. It was further learned that in accordance with State statute for the conveyance of property to a municipality no conveyance tax will be charged.

The Committee voted three (3) in favor, none (0) opposed for the acceptance of this gift from General Electric on the purchase of the McKean-Krozier property.

PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

349

The Public Works and Planning Committee met on October 22, 1985 in Independence Hall first floor conference room with four (4) members present.

The members present were McMasters, Usher, Kelly and Lovejoy.

Members absent were Gross, Hall, Marconi, ^{Sp} Mazio, Phillips, Neidermier, Morrissey, Supan.

Item 4.

Mrs. Durrell reviewed this item and advised that she had negotiated the purchase of the property with General Electric and the present owners. General Electric had tried unsuccessfully ten years ago to purchase this property from the Nemeths. General Electric wishes it to remain as open space and, therefore, wishes the town to own it with General Electric paying the full purchase fee of \$550,000 plus additional monies for the removal of the dogruns and to fill in the well. The town plans to take title on November 18. The town will restrict the use of the property to the open space program and prohibit hunting, camping, picnicing, excavation, landfill and the use of motor vehicles. It was moved and seconded that the word "forever" be inserted in the resolution following the word protecting. The reason for this amendment was to forever keep this property as open space.

The Committee voted four (4) in favor, none (0) opposed for the amended resolution.

Item 5.

Mrs. Durrell advised that Mr. & Mrs. Ward had come to the Board of Selectman and wished to donate the rear portion of their property to the town as it was not needed by them. The selectman voted to send the item to the RTM and that the property would be used for recreational purposes, park or open space. Mr. Michaelson of the TP&Z, Mr. Leffert of Recreation and Mr. Brown, Assessor were all in favor of acquiring this property which amounts to approximately 35,700 square feet. The Wards have requested that the town pay the legal fees and survey fees. The resolution was amended with the word "forever" being placed before the phrase "used for recreational purposes" and the phrase "and that no structure be built thereon" being inserted following the words "open space." The

Public Works and Planning Committee Report

Committee felt that the property should remain open space forever and that no structure ever be built on the property. The Committee voted four (4) in favor and none (0) opposed for the amended resolution.

Item 6.

Mrs. Durrell discussed the proposed demolition of the Beachside building. Mr. Michaelson had advised the Selectman that no permit was required from TP&Z for the Beachside demolition. The Park Commission and Recreation Board both voted to demolish the building and Mr. Daniels said the bulldozer.

The neighbors wish the building to be demolished and the area not be paved. The site will provide additional unpaved parking in the Beach area. It was brought to the Committee's attention that in 1975-1976, when the town acquired the property, it was originally intended to demolish the building; however, the building was retained for recreational related uses (i.e.: recreational equipment storage).

The Committee voted for, none (0) opposed for the resolution.

WARRANTY DEED—Long Form

VOL 565 PAGE 691

Executive Sales Co., Ft. Mill, S.C.

Know All Men, That We, SAMUEL ROBERTS, LAWRENCE J. ROBERTS and JEROME S. SIEBERT, all of the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut,

for the consideration of One (\$1.00) Dollar and other valuable considerations received to our full satisfaction of TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, a municipal corporation located in the State of Connecticut,

do give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said TOWN OF FAIRFIELD Those certain two parcels of land located in the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, shown and designated as "Open Space" on a certain map entitled "North Meadow Estates" subdivision of property in Fairfield, Conn. for Samuel Roberts, Jerome S. Siebert and Lawrence Roberts dated February 13, 1969, on file in the Fairfield Town Clerk's Office as Map No. 3947, to which map reference is hereby made, both parcels being bounded and described as follows:

FIRST PARCEL:

- Southerly: by Lot No. 35 as shown on said map, 138.06 feet;
- Northwesterly: by Canterbury Lane as shown on said map, 240 feet;
- Easterly : by land now or formerly of Lake Hills Assoc. Inc., 250 feet.

Said first parcel is triangular in shape and is subject to a fifteen foot drainage easement as shown on said map.

SECOND PARCEL:

- Northwesterly: by land now or formerly of Lake Hills Assoc. Inc. as shown on said map, 349.03 feet;
- Easterly : by Lot No. 7 as shown on said map, 77.04 feet;
- Southeasterly: by Lots Nos. 8, 9 and 10 as shown on said map, 364.70 feet; and
- Southwesterly: by land now or formerly of Michael and Gertrude Eurn and Donald and Marian Lake, as shown on said map, 134 feet.

Said premises are subject to:

1. Any and all provisions of any ordinance, municipal regulation, public or private law.
2. Taxes on the List of October 1, 1968 and October 1, 1970.

"No Conveyance Tax collected"

John Clark
Town Clerk of Fairfield

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted and bargained premises, with the privileges and appurtenances thereto, unto the said grantees their heirs, assigns and assigns forever, to them and their own private use and behoof. And also, we the said grantors do give, sell, bargain, sell, confirm and assign for our selves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, consent with said grantees their heirs, assigns and assigns, that at and until the expiration of these premises, we will sell of the premises, as a good and lawful estate in FEE SIMPLE, and have and hold the same unto them and their heirs, assigns and assigns in the same manner and form as above written and that the same is free from all encumbrances whatsoever, except as above stated.

EXH 565 VOL 692

And Furthermore, we the said grantors do by these presents bind our selves, our heirs, successors and assigns forever to warrant and defend the above granted and bargained premises to it the said grantee its ~~XXXX~~ successors and assigns against all claims and demands whatsoever, except as above stated.

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 21st day of June, A. D., 1971.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of

Robert K. Lesser

Robert K. Lesser

Lia Faye

Lia Faye

Samuel Roberts [SEAL]
Samuel Roberts

Lawrence J. Roberts [SEAL]
Lawrence J. Roberts

Jerome S. Siebert [SEAL]
Jerome S. Siebert

State of Connecticut)
County of Fairfield) ss. Bridgeport, June 21, A. D. 1971

Personally Appeared Samuel Roberts, Lawrence J. Roberts and

Jerome S. Siebert
Signers and Sealers of the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed before me.

Robert K. Lesser
Commissioner of the Superior Court
for Fairfield County

Received for Record July 1, 1971 at 9:05 A.M.

Attest Ray A. Katon Town Clerk

A G R E E M E N T

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 7th day of MARCH, 1968, by and between the TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, a municipal corporation having its territorial limits within the County of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, acting herein by JOHN J. SULLIVAN, its First Selectman, duly authorized, hereinafter referred to as "TOWN", and the STATE OF CONNECTICUT, acting herein by THEODORE B. BAMPTON, Director of its BOARD OF FISHERIES AND GAME, under authority of Sections 26-3 and 26-16 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, hereinafter referred to as "STATE", W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the State is prepared to stock MOHIGAN LAKE which is owned by the Town and located in the Town of Fairfield, with game fish without charge; and

WHEREAS, the Town shall permit members of the general public to fish in said lake and to otherwise use said area wherein said lake is located.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises hereinafter contained, it is hereby mutually agreed that:

1. The State shall stock Mohigan Lake with game fish.
2. The Town shall permit members of the general public to fish in said lake and to use the area where said lake is located.
3. The Town shall not discriminate against non-residents with regard to any rules and/or regulations which it has heretofore promulgated or may hereafter promulgate.
4. The Town may promulgate rules and regulations with respect to the use of said lake and area. However, the State does

not relinquish any rights and powers which it may have by statute and any rules and regulations promulgated by the Town are subject to said rights and powers of the State.

5. This agreement shall continue in full force and effect unless otherwise terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days written notice.

6. The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of this contract he will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religion or national origin in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut, and further agrees to provide the civil rights commission with such information requested by the commission concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor as relate to the provisions of this section.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and seals and have caused this instrument to be executed and their seals to be hereto affixed on the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of:

Virginia M. Smith
Virginia M. Smith

Irene Hartman
Irene Hartman

George C. Hancock
George C. Hancock

Helen B. Neumayer
Helen B. Neumayer

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

By: John J. Sullivan (LS)
John J. Sullivan
its First Selectman
Duly Authorized

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF FISHERIES AND GAME

By: Theodore B. Hampton
Theodore B. Hampton
its Director

LIST OF PROPERTY MAPS RELEVANT TO LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE AREA

- **GREENAWALT PARCEL:**

South Section - Map showing 118.6± acres of land to be acquired by the Town of Fairfield from Josephine T. Greenawalt. Fairfield, Connecticut, June 20, 1967. Sheet 1 of 2.

North Section - Map showing 118.6± acres of land to be acquired by the Town of Fairfield from Josephine T. Greenawalt. Fairfield, Connecticut, June 20, 1967. Sheet 2 of 2.

- **GENERAL ELECTRIC PARCEL:**

Survey of property in Fairfield, Conn., to be purchased by: General Electric Company. June 21, 1971. (Map No. 4345, Town Clerk's Office)

- **HORNBECK PARCEL:**

Map of property for Town of Fairfield, Fairfield, Conn., Feb. 24, 1975. (Map No. 4428, Town Clerk's Office)

- **NEMETH PARCEL:**

Partition map of property in Fairfield, Conn. prepared for: Alan McKeon and John G. Krozer, August 13, 1985. (Map No. 5376, Town Clerk's Office)

- **NORTH MEADOW ESTATES:**

Subdivision of property in Fairfield, Conn. for: Samuel Roberts, Jerome S. Siebert, & Lawrence Roberts. Feb. 13, 1969. (Map No. 3947, Town Clerk's Office)

.....

Vol 114/Pg 208

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: THAT WE, GEORGE A. and MILDRED STURGES, husband and wife and ALBERT and CATHERINE BAKER, husband and wife, of the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, in consideration of a valuable sum in dollars, received to my, our, full satisfaction of THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT a corporation chartered by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut,* AND POWER COMPANY, an easement, privilege, and right of way of the width of Eighty (80) feet for poles, towers and wires for the transmission of electric current, upon, over and across the lands of the grantor situate in the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, which easement, right, privilege and right of way is described as follows:-

Across all of the land of the grantors lying within thirty (30) feet northwesterly and fifty (50) feet southeasterly of a line described as follows:

The said line runs S 67° 12' W across the property now or formerly of the Eliza Tuttle Estate to an iron pin one and six tenths (1.6) feet west of a wall forming a boundary between said property now or formerly of the Eliza Tuttle Estate and property now or formerly of the Mohican Springs Company, said iron pin being eighty (80) feet measured southeasterly along said wall from its intersection with another wall between said properties. From said iron pin said line continues S 67° 12' W across said property now or formerly of the Mohican Springs Company across property now or formerly of the Eliza Tuttle Estate and again across property now or formerly of the Mohican Springs Company, a total distance of one thousand two hundred two and five tenths (1202.5) feet to a point in the center line of Mill River; and entering the land of the Grantors said line continues S 67° 12' W 482.8 feet to an iron pin in a stone wall forming the boundary between the property of the Grantors and property now or formerly of Joe Nemeth, said iron pin being one hundred twenty-eight (128) feet measured northwesterly along said wall from the end of the wall; and leaving the land of the Grantors said line continues S 67° 12' W across said property now or formerly of Joe Nemeth.

The above bearings are referred to the true meridian.

The easement, privilege and right of way herein granted, covers any land, or interest therein, owned by us, within thirty (30) feet northwesterly and fifty (50) feet southeasterly of the above described line, whether such line is, at the point opposite such land, on my land, on the highway, or on land of some other party.

* and having its principal place of business in Waterbury, in the State of Connecticut, do give, grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said The Connecticut Light and Power Company,

Said rights of way are more clearly designated and defined by a map hereunto attached and made a part hereof and marked "Location of Right of Way of The Connecticut Light and Power Company Across the Property of George A. and Mildred Sturges, and Albert and Catherine Baker, Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield, State of Connecticut, Scale: 1 inch= 200 feet August, 1923."

Together with the right to enter upon said land and erect, inspect, operate, replace, repair and patrol, and permanently maintain on said right of way, poles and towers, with necessary conductors, wires, cross arms, guy wires and other usual fixtures and appurtenances used or adapted for the transmission of electric current for light, heat, power or any other purpose, and used or adapted for telephone purposes;

Together also with the right to trim, cut and remove at any and all times such trees, parts of trees, limbs, branches and underbrush within or projecting into the above described right of way as in the judgment of the grantee may interfere with or endanger said poles, towers and wires, or their operation, or with any of their appurtenances when erected;

Reserving, however, to ourselves and to our, heirs and assigns, the right to cultivate the ground between said poles and towers and beneath said wires, provided that such use shall not interfere with or obstruct the rights herein granted.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said granted and bargained easement, privilege and right of way and its appurtenances to said grantee and to its successors and assigns forever, to its and their own proper use and behoof.

And we, the grantors, do hereby covenant and agree for ourselves and our heirs executors, and administrators, with the grantee and its successors and assigns, that, at and until the ensembling of these presents, we are, lawfully seized of the above bargained premises in fee simple, that we, have full right, title and authority to grant and convey the foregoing rights and privileges, and we further, by these presents, bind ourselves and our heirs forever to warrant and defend the same to the said grantee and to its successors and assigns forever against all claims and demands whatsoever.

The grantee covenants and agrees to pay all taxes that may be assessed or imposed on the poles, towers, wires or other fixtures and appurtenances erected or installed hereunder on the premises of the grantors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set my, our, hands and seals, at Fairfield, Conn. this 8th day of September, 1923.

In the presence of
 Florence W. Page

George A. Sturges	(Seal)
Mildred Sturges	(Seal)
Albert Baker	(Seal)
Catherine Baker	(Seal)

Personally appeared before me George A. and Mildred Sturges and Albert & Catherine Baker, signers and sealers of the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed.

(Seal)

Donald Page Notary Public.

Description approved,
C.A. Bush
J.McG. Engineer.

*Copies of maps attached to this deed is filed in Book of Maps of Locations of
Rights of Way of The Conclusive Right Power Co. page no.
Class m. Sheet
Town Clark.*

A-42

The time limited for redemption in said judgment of foreclosure has passed and title to said premises became absolute in the said The Fields Mortgage and Realty Company on the 18th day of October, 1929.

Dated at Bridgeport, this 13th day of November, 1929.

The Fields Mortgage and Realty Company

by Edward H. Nussenfeld
Its Attorney

A true copy of the original
Recorded Nov. 15, 1929.
2:07 PM

Attest.....*[Signature]*.....
Asst. Town Clerk

.....

ight
of
ay

WHEREAS I, Geo. A. Sturges and A. C. Baker of the Town of Fairfield, County of Fairfield, and State of Connecticut, have heretofore conveyed to The Connecticut Light & Power Company, a right of way over certain land owned by me in said Fairfield, and

Whereas certain trees and shrubbery on my land and adjoining said right of way, are apt to be a danger and a menace to the use of said right of way by The Connecticut Light & Power Company.

Now, Therefore, in consideration of a valuable sum in dollars received to my full satisfaction of the said The Connecticut Light & Power Company, I authorize and empower said The Connecticut Light & Power Company to trim, cut and remove at any and all times such trees, parts of trees, limbs, branches, underbrush or shrubbery so contiguous to said right of way, that in the judgment of said The Connecticut Light & Power Company, may be dangerous to the operation of the poles, towers or wires, or any of their appurtenances, on said right of way.

Dated at Fairfield this 20th day of December 1923.

Baker & Sturges by

A.T.Baker (L.S.)

State of Connecticut,
County of Fairfield ss. Fairfield, Dec. 20th, 1923.

Personally appeared A.T.Baker, signer and sealer of the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed, before me,

Donald Page
Notary Public

A true copy of the original
Recorded Nov. 15, 1929.
2:08 PM

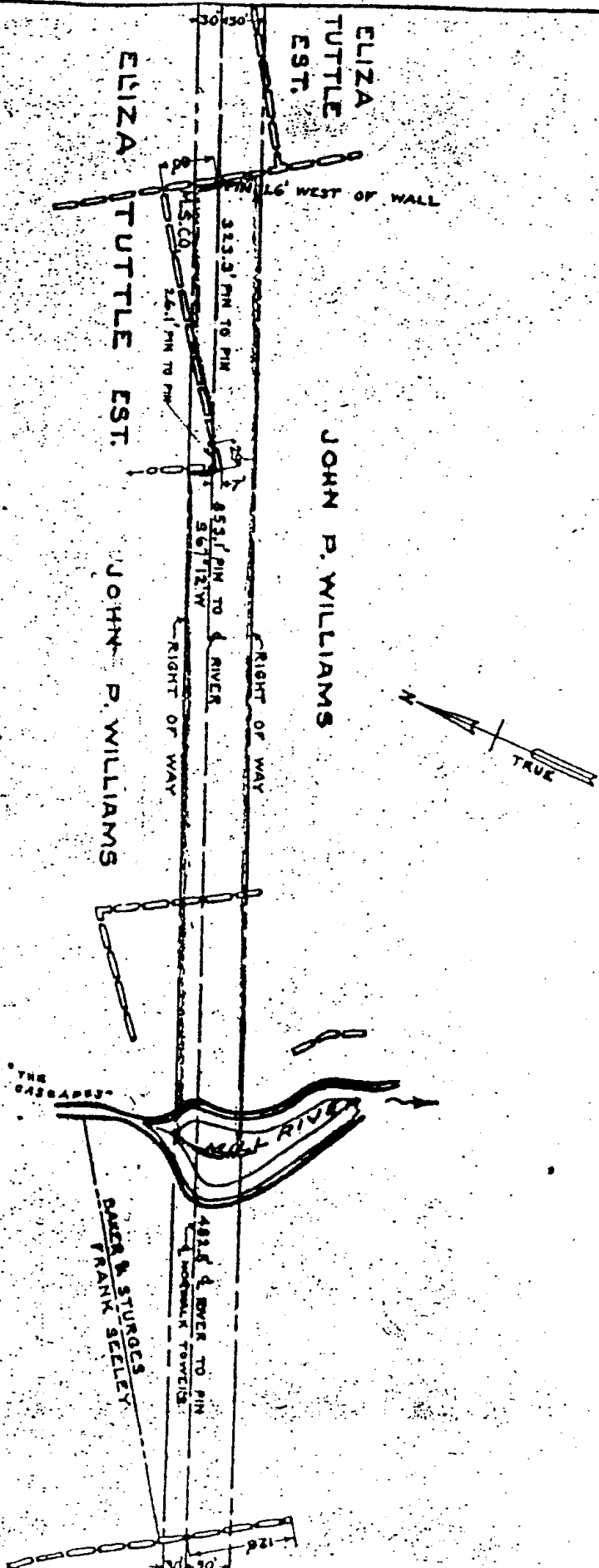
Attest.....*[Signature]*.....
Asst. Town Clerk

.....

LOCATION
OF RIGHT OF WAY OF
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
ACROSS THE PROPERTY OF

JOHN P. WILLIAMS

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD : COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD : STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SCALE 1"=200'
JULY 1923



225 1/2

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THIS MAP IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

ATTEST *Edmund J. Deane*

SU OR

DRAWN BY A.M.C.D. TRACED BY A.M.C.D. & L.C.
 DATE JULY 18, 1923. DATE 7/19/23
 CHECKED G.V.P.D. APPROVED S.R.S. DATE 7/16/23
 REVISION 11-10-23

LOCATION
OF RIGHT OF WAY OF
THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY
ACROSS THE PROPERTY OF
GEORGE A. AND MILDRED STURGES & ALBERT AND CATHERINE BAKER
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD : COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD: STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SCALE 1" = 200'
AUG. 1923

JOSEPH P. FORMERLY MOHICAN
WILLIAMS SPRINGS CO.

GEORGE A. & MILDRED STURGES
AND
ALBERT & CATHERINE BAKER

FRANK SEELEY

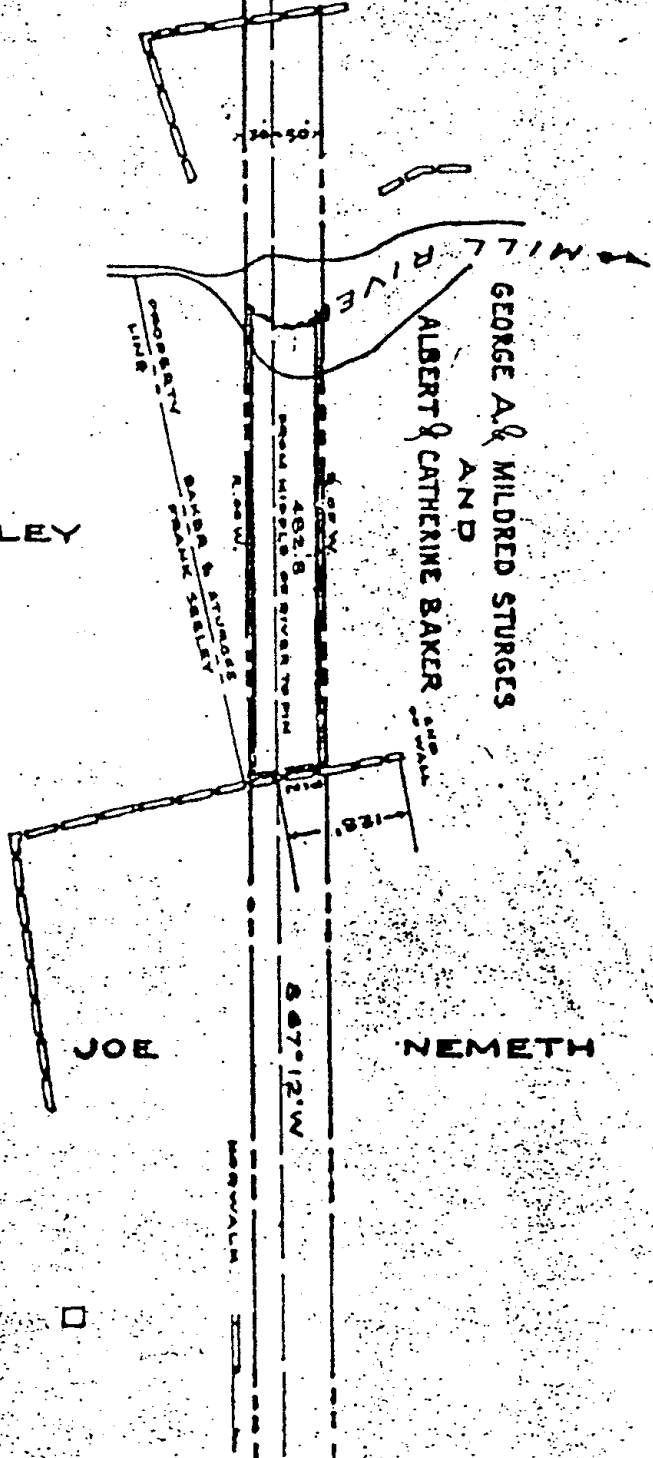
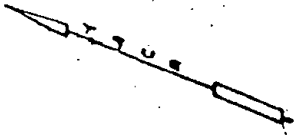
JOE

NEMETH

225 1/2

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THIS MAP IS SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT.

ATTEST *Dean W. D...*



DRAWN BY A. MCD. TRACED BY A. MCD.
DATE AUG. 3RD 1923
CHECKED R.E.C.
APPROVED *[Signature]*
REVISION
DATE 8-31-1923
DATE 6/11/23

APPENDIX B: INVENTORY OF PLANT SPECIES

- TREES B-2
- VINES AND SHRUBS B-3
- WILD FLOWERS B-3
- AQUATIC PLANTS B-5

This plant inventory was prepared by the King's Mark Environmental Review Team and is taken from:

King's Mark Environmental Review Team. Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, Fairfield, CT,
Appendix C: Plant Inventory. November 1987.

Common Buttercup
 Creeping Buttercup
 Common Cattail
 Aster, Arrow Leaved
 Aster, Late Purple
 Aster, Large Leaf
 Aster, New England
 Aster, Small Whitewood
 Aster, White Wood
 Aster, Health
 Black-eyed Susan
 Burdock
 Dandelion, Common
 Fleabane, Common
 Goldenrod
 Thistle, Field
 Yarrow
 Common Evening Primrose
 Bur-cucumber
 Mountain Laurel
 Wintergreen
 Japanese Honeysuckle
 Common Milkweed
 Ground Ivy
 Common Morning Glory
 Queen Anne's Lace
 Clover, Red
 Clover, White
 Clover White Sweet
 Partridge Pea
 Pickerelweed
 Chickweed
 Pokeweed
 Cinquefoil, Common
 Cinquefoil, Silver
 Meadow Sweet
 Butter and Egg
 Mullen, Common
 St. John's-wort, Common
 Horsenettle
 Nightshade, Bittersweet
 Nightshade, Common
 Spotted Touch-me-not
 Wood Sorel, Creeping
 Wood Sorel, Yellow

Ranunculus acris
Ranunculus repens
Typha latifolia
Aster sagittifolius
A. patens
A. macrophyllus
A. novae-angliae
A. vimineus
A. divaricatus
A. ericoides
Rudbeckia hirta
Arctium minus
Taraxacum officinale
Erigeron annuus
Solidago sp.
Cirsium discolor
Achillea millefolium
Oenothera biennis
Sicyos angulatus
Kalmia latifolia
Gaultheria procumbens
Lonicera japonica
Asclepias syriaca
Glecoma hederacea
Ipomoea purpurea
Daucus carota
Trifolium pratense
Melilotus alba
Trifolium repens
Cassia fasciculata
Pontederia cordata
Stellaria media
Phytolacca americana
Potentilla simplex
Potentilla argentea
Spirea latifolia
Linaria vulgaris
Verbascum thapsus
Hypericum perforatum
Solanum carolinense
Solanum dulcamara
Solanum nigrum
Impatiens capensis
Oxalis corniculata
Oxalis stricta

VINES AND SHRUBS

Speckled Alder
 Indigo Bush
 Ironwood
 Bittersweet
 Button Bush
 Sweet Fern
 Silky Dogwood
 St. John's-wort
 Mountain Laurel
 Common Spice Bush
 Honeysuckle
 Virginia Creeper
 Boston Ivy
 Common Buckhorn
 Poison Ivy
 Stag Horn Sumac
 Multiflora Rose
 Red Raspberry
 Black Raspberry
 Pussy Willow
 Common Green Brier
 Bitter Nightshade
 Meadow Sweet
 Lowbush Blueberry
 Highbush Blueberry
 Mapleleaf Viburnum
 Northern Arrow Wood
 Wild Grape

Alnus rugosa
Amorpha fruticosa
Carpinus caroliniana
Celastrus scandens
Cephalanthus occidentalis
Comptonia peregrina
Cornus amomum
Hypericum sp.
Kalmia latifolia
Lindera benzion
Lonicera sp.
Parthenocissus quinquefolia
Parthenocissus tricuspidata
Rhamnus cathartica
Rhus radicans
Rhus typhina
Rosa multiflora
Rubus idaeua
Rubus occidentalis
Salix discolor
Smilax rotundifolia
Solanum dulcamara
Spiraea sp.
Vaccinium angustifolium
Vaccinium corymbosum
Viburnum acerifolium
Viburnum recognitum
Vitis aestivalis

WILD FLOWERS

Broad-Leaved Arrowhead
 Jack-in-the-Pulpit
 Arrow Arum
 Skunk Cabbage
 Fragrant Bedstraw
 Partridge Berry
 Rough Bedstraw
 Venus Looking Glass
 Climbing False Buckwheat
 Common Smart Weed
 Curled Dock
 Long-Bristled Smartweed
 Pale Smartweed
 Sheep Sorrel

Sagittaria latifolia
Arisaema atrorubens triphyllum
Peltandra virginica
Symplocarpus foetidus
Galium triflorum
Mitchella repens
Galium asprellum
Specularia perfoliata
Polygonum scandens
Polygonum hydropiper
Rumex crispus
Polygonum cespitosum
Polygonum lapathifolium
Rumex acetosella

TREES

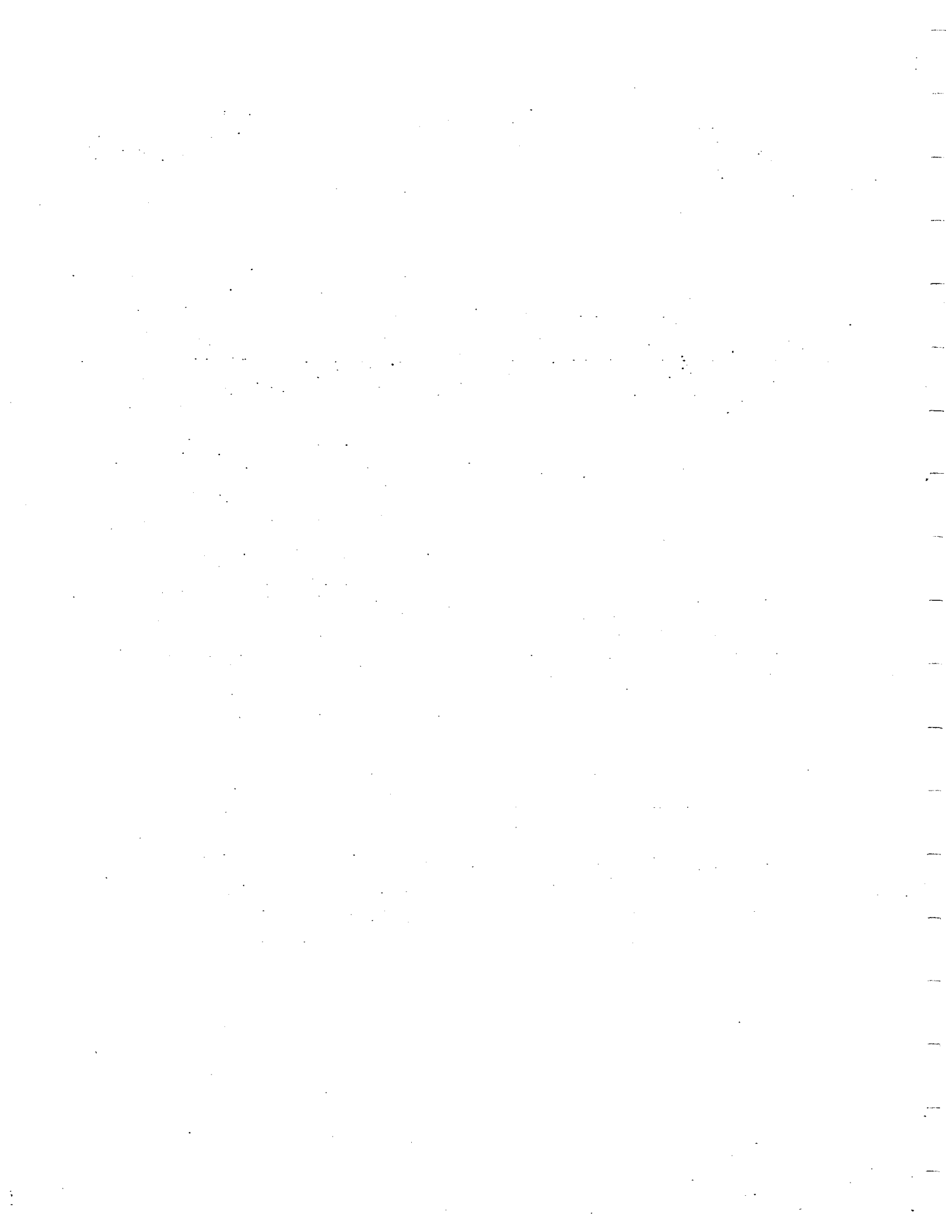
Sugar Maple
 Japanese Maple
 Silver Maple
 Red Maple
 Striped Maple
 Tree of Heaven
 Speckled Alder
 Black Birch
 Yellow Birch
 Gray Birch
 Bitternut Hickory
 Shagbark Hickory
 Mockernut Hickory
 Northern Catalpa
 Flowering Dogwood
 Persimmon
 American Beech
 White Ash
 Common Witch Hazel
 Red Cedar
 Tulip Tree
 Hornbeam
 Norway Spruce
 White Pine
 Sycamore
 Cotton Wood
 Quaking Aspen
 Black Cherry
 Choke Cherry
 White Oak
 Red Oak
 Scarlet Oak
 Chestnut Oak
 Pin Oak
 Black Oak
 Bristly Locust
 Black Locust
 Yellowstem Willow
 Weeping Willow
 Sassafras
 American Yew
 Arbor Vitae
 Eastern Hemlock
 American Elm

Acer saccharum
Acer palmatum
Acer saccharinum
Acer rubrum
Acer pensylvanicum
Ailanthus altissima
Alnus rugosa
Betula lenta
Betula lutea
Betula populifolia
Carya cordiformis
Carya ovata
Carya tomentosa
Catalpa speciosa
Cornus florida
Diospyros virginiana
Fagus grandifolia
Fraxinus americana
Hamamelis virginiana
Juniperus virginiana
Liriodendron tulipifera
Ostrya virginiana
Picea abies
Pinus strobus
Platanus occidentalis
Populus deltoides
Populus tremuloides
Prunus serotina
Prunus virginiana
Quercus alba
Quercus borealis
Quercus coccinea
Quercus montana
Quercus palustris
Quercus velutina
Robinia hispida
Robinia pseudoacacia
Salix alba vitellina
Salix babylonica
Sassafras albidum
Taxus canadensis
Thuja occidentalis
Tsuga canadensis
Ulmus americana

AQUATIC PLANTS

Arrow Arum
Cattail, Broadleaf
Duckweed, Lesser
Pickerelweed
Waterlily, Yellow

Peltandra virginica
Typha latifolia
Lemna minor
Pontederia cordata
Nuphar advena



APPENDIX C: INVENTORY OF WILDLIFE SPECIES

- FISH C-2
- AMPHIBIANS C-2
- REPTILES C-2
- BIRDS C-3
- MAMMALS C-4

This wildlife inventory was prepared by the King's Mark Environmental Review Team and is taken from:

King's Mark Environmental Review Team. Lake Mohegan Open Space Area, Fairfield, CT,
Appendix D: Wildlife Inventories. November 1987.

FISH

Blacknose Dace
 Carp
 Minnow, Cutlip
 Minnow, Bluntnose
 Minnow, Fathead
 Shiner, Bridled
 Shiner, Common
 Shiner, Golden
 Stickleback, Ninespine
 Stickleback, Threespine
 Bass, Largemouth
 Bass Smallmouth
 Black Crappie
 Blue Gill Sunfish
 Pumpkinseed
 Red-Breasted Sunfish
 White Sucker
 Brown Bullhead
 Chain Pickerel
 Tesselated Darter
 Yellow Perch
 Trout, Brook
 Trout, Brown
 Trout, Rainbow

Rhinichthys atratulus
Cyprinus carpio
Exoglossum maxillingua
Pimephales notatus
Pimephales promelas
Notropis bifrenatus
Notropis cornutus
Notemigonus crysoleucas
Pungitius pungitius
Gasterosteus aculeatus
Micropterus salmoides
Micropterus dolomieu
Pomoxis maculatus
Lepomis macrochirus
Lepomis gibbosus
Lepomis auritus
Catostomus commersoni
Ictalurus nebulosus
Esox niger
Etheostoma olmstedii
Perca flavescens
Salvelinus fontinalis
Salmo trutta
Salmo gairdneri

AMPHIBIANS

Frog, Bull
 Frog, Green
 Frog, Pickerel
 Frog, Leopard
 Frog, Tree
 Salamander, Two Lined
 Salamander, Redbacked
 Toad, American

Rana catesbeiana
R. clamitans
R. palustris
R. pipiens
Hyla sp.
Eurycea bislineata
Plethodon cinereus
Bufo americanus

REPTILES

Turtle, Painted
 Turtle, Snapping
 Turtle, Spotted
 Snake, Garter
 Snake, Water

Chrysemys picta
Chelydra serpentina
Clemmys guttata
Thamnophis sirtalis
Natrix sipedon

BIRDS

Belted Kingfisher	<u>Megaceryle alcyon</u>
Blackbird, Redwing	<u>Agelaius phoeniceus</u>
Cardinal	<u>Richmondia cardinalis</u>
Catbird	<u>Dumetella carolinensis</u>
Chickadee, Black-capped	<u>Parus atricapillus</u>
Cowbird, Brown Headed	<u>Molothrus ater</u>
Creeper, Brown	<u>Certhia familiaris</u>
Crow, Common	<u>Corvus brachyrhynchos</u>
Dove, Morning	<u>Zenaidura macroura</u>
Dove, Rock	<u>Columba livia</u>
Finch, House	<u>Carpodacus mexicanus</u>
Flicker, Common	<u>Colaptes auratus</u>
Gnatcatcher, Blue Gray	<u>Poliophtila caerulea</u>
Goldfinch, American	<u>Spinus tristis</u>
Grackle, Common	<u>Quiscalus quisculus</u>
Grouse, Ruffed	<u>Bonasa umbellus</u>
Goose, Canada	<u>Branta canadensis</u>
Gull, Great Blackback	<u>Larus marinus</u>
Hawk, Broadwing	<u>Buteo platypterus</u>
Hawk, Redtailed	<u>Buteo jamaicensis</u>
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	<u>Accipiter striatus</u>
Heron, Great Blue	<u>Ardea herodias</u>
Jay, Blue	<u>Cyanocitta cristata</u>
Junco, Dark-eyed	<u>Junco hyemalis</u>
Kestrel	<u>Falco sparveris</u>
Mockingbird	<u>Mimus polyglottos</u>
Nuthatch, White Breasted	<u>Sitta carolinensis</u>
Osprey	<u>Pandion haliaetus</u>
Oven Bird	<u>Seiurus aurocapillus</u>
Owl, Screech	<u>Otus asio</u>
Phoebe, Eastern	<u>Sayornis phoebe</u>
Redstart, American	<u>Setophaga ruticilla</u>
Robin	<u>Turdus migratorius</u>
Rufous-side Towhee	<u>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</u>
Scaup, Greater	<u>Aythya marila</u>
Scaup, Lesser	<u>Aythya affinis</u>
Sparrow, Chipping	<u>Spizella passerina</u>
Sparrow, Field	<u>Spizella pusilla</u>
Sparrow, House	<u>Passer domesticus</u>
Sparrow, Savannah	<u>Passerculus sandwichensis</u>
Sparrow, Song	<u>Melospiza melodia</u>
Sparrow, Swamp	<u>Melospiza georgiana</u>
Starling	<u>Sturnus vulgaris</u>
Swallow, Barn	<u>Hirundo rustica</u>
Swallow, Tree	<u>Iridoprocne bicolor</u>
Thrasher, Brown	<u>Toxostoma rufum</u>
Titmouse, Tufted	<u>Parus bicolor</u>
Veery	<u>Catharus fuscescens</u>
Vireo, Red-eyed	<u>Vireo olivaceus</u>
Vireo, White-eyed	<u>Vireo griseus</u>
Warbler, Black-headed	<u>Mniotilta varia</u>

Warbler, Blue Winged
 Warbler, Hooded
 Warbler, Yellow
 Woodpecker, Downy
 Woodpecker, Hairy
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied
 Wren, House
 Yellowthroat

Vermivora pinus
Wilsonia citrina
Dendroica petchia
Dendrocopos pubescens
Dendrocopos villosus
Centurus carolinus
Troglodytes aedon
Geothlypis trichas

MAMMALS

Chipmunk
 Cottontail, Eastern
 Deer, Whitetail
 Mole, Eastern
 Mole, Star-nose
 Mouse, Deer
 Mouse, White-footed
 Myotis, little or small brown bat
 Opossum
 Pipstrel, Eastern Bat
 Raccoon
 Skunk, Striped
 Squirrel, Eastern Gray
 Woodchuck

Tamias striatus
Sylvilagus floridanus
Odocoileus virginiana
Scalopus aquaticus
Cordylura cristata
Peromyscus maniculatus
Peromyscus leucopus
Myotis sp.
Didelphis marsupialis
Pipstrellus subfauvus
Procyon lotor
Mephitis mephitis
Sciurus carolinensis
Marmota monax