

Town of New Canaan

# Townwide Assessment of Park and Recreation Facilities



*Waveny Lawn*

**March 28, 2007**

Landscape Architects  
Urban Designers  
Land Planners

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## **Acknowledgments**

*The process of developing this Townwide Assessment of Parks and Recreation Facilities was an intensive one that occurred over a six month period.*

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*This report also includes significant contributions from the town staff and the many community members and sports league officials who provide recreational services to New Canaan residents and who were consulted for their input.*

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# Town of New Canaan Townwide Assessment of Parks and Recreation Facilities

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## Foreword

In November 2005 the citizens of New Canaan voted to approve significant revisions to our Town Charter. The Park & Recreation Commission strongly supported several revisions that would enable it to better serve the needs of our community. Foremost among these were:

- 1) An expansion of the Commission from seven to eleven members, which gave us additional volunteer resources to manage an ever increasing workload, and
- 2) A provision that gives the Commission budgetary oversight, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, over the activities of the Parks Department staff resident in Public Works.

The latter change gives the Commission, for the first time in decades, meaningful accountability for the maintenance of our extensive park system. The Charter revisions became effective January 1, 2006.

The Commission welcomed the added responsibilities. We decided at the outset to undertake a town-wide assessment of the current and future needs of the community and the suitability of our current assets, such as parkland and playing fields, to address those needs. By mid-year 2006 we had secured the approvals of the various Town bodies to engage an urban planning firm, Richter & Cegan (R & C) of Avon, CT, to guide and assist the Commission in the development of a strategic plan.

Together with the consultants from R & C we set out to gain an understanding of both the active and passive recreation needs of the broadest possible range of park users. To that end we:

- Reviewed existing studies and surveys, including:
  - The 2004 Open Space and Conservation Study,
  - The 2006 Senior Survey, and
  - The 1996 League of Women Voters Recreation Survey.
- Surveyed the various youth sports groups
- Sought input from the schools Athletic Director with whom we share so many facilities, and
- Held, in October 2006, two public meetings to invite comments from individual citizens.

In addition we sought to get a clear picture of the current inventory of park facilities and the condition of each. R & C assisted us in putting together a complete catalogue of parks, including some maps where none before existed. While there are buildings on many of these sites, these were beyond the scope of our inquiry and we have left the issues of their use and maintenance for future consideration.

The buildings currently under the jurisdiction of the Commission but not included in the scope of this effort are:

Waveny House	The Irwin House
The Carriage Barn at Waveny	The Gores Pavilion at Irwin
The Power House at Waveny	The Irwin Barn
The Waveny Lodge (paddle hut)	Irwin Caretaker Apartment
The Pool at Waveny	The Kiwanis Pavilion
The Lapham Community Center	The Kiwanis Bathhouse
The Mead Lodge	
The Tennis Hut at Mead Park	The Animal Shelter

New Canaan is fortunate to have great parks and facilities, but we feel we can be even better. The pages that follow provide a clear picture of where we stand at present, and also a roadmap for making informed decisions that will enable us to reach our future goals.

## Executive Summary

Consider these two snapshots of park use:

The trails at Waveny Park, originally designed for horses, are busy today with people, and lots of them. Families, dog owners, walkers old and young, and joggers populate the trails dawn to dusk, seven days a week. It's a wonderful place to be, but the constant use has left us with trails badly in need of repair.

Backyard baseball is becoming a thing of the past. Today's kids, starting at a young age, play on teams organized into leagues and with coaches. In spring 2007, for example, there will be some 86 baseball and softball teams, comprised of over 1,100 young players and more than 260 coaches. And that's just baseball – New Canaan also supports active youth programs in soccer, lacrosse, and football. The explosive growth in team sports along with a dramatic increase in girls' participation has challenged us to find space and time to accommodate all who wish to play. Not to mention putting stress on our playing fields.

The examples above give an idea of the kind of challenges we face as times change and the needs of our community evolve; yesterday's priorities give way to new patterns of use. We must understand the changes and to the extent possible, anticipate the needs they generate.

Some of the key challenges we have identified as we consider framing a plan to meet these diverse needs are:

- **Maintenance**

The demands of our various constituencies put great stress on our facilities. It is vital that we plan and implement maintenance programs that will protect and extend the useful lives of these resources.

- **Balance**

We need to find and maintain an appropriate balance between youth and adult activities, and between active and passive recreation.

- **Flexibility**

We need to be able to identify and predict the ever-evolving community priorities, in order to keep up with change.

- **Conservation**

We must remain mindful of the desire of our community to preserve open space. As stewards of the land we must take responsibility for protecting the aesthetics of our parks, and their natural resources in terms of flora and fauna.

- Cost

We have four major parks, fields and playgrounds on sites all over New Canaan, over 400 acres of land to maintain, and responsibility for 15 heavily used buildings. Our challenge is to develop a cost effective budget to get the most out of what we have while maintaining the health of the entire system.

The broad conclusions of the Commission as we consider these challenges are that we must:

- Diligently and wisely maintain the assets we have;
- Deploy new and innovative approaches and technologies, such as outdoor lighting and synthetic playing surfaces in order to maximize the use of what we have;
- Revisit old patterns of use and physical arrangement of facility space in order to more efficiently and safely use our current assets to meet the demands of increased activity;.
- Broaden the communication and cooperation among staff groups, Town bodies, private associations and the public to insure a coherent, yet diverse recreation program for all of the community, as well as the park facilities to support such a program.

We believe that one way to set the stage for changes in use and priorities is to organize our system into general designation areas, or themes: the area around the high school playing fields and Mead Park, for example, are areas of dense activity, and must be balanced by the quieter areas of Waveny Park, Irwin Park and the Kiwanis Park trails.

The pages of the Strategic Report that follow provide a clear picture of where we stand today. They give us a solid foundation on which to base sensible long term planning, and provide numerous suggestions for improvements. While we hope to address as many of these as possible, the Commission has identified eleven immediate action priorities. They are:

- Restoration of the trails at Waveny Park
- Restroom facilities at Waveny and Irwin Parks
- A second artificial surface field at the water tower site
- Ball fields and parking at Irwin Park
- Water tower field and Lapham Center parking
- Mead Park master renovation plan
- An ice skating facility
- A sledding hill at Kiwanis Park
- A skateboarding site
- Upgrade and renovation of the track & field area at Farm Road
- Lighted outdoor basketball courts

We are most fortunate in New Canaan to have wonderful parks and recreational facilities. Our dedicated staff and hard-working volunteers collaborate to develop and maintain a wide range of programs. In addition we have benefited greatly from private financial support for many public projects. We are doing well, but we feel we can be even better.

Your Park and Recreation Commission cannot achieve our goal to provide the best possible programs and facilities for the recreation and enrichment of all our citizens without the support of the entire community. We welcome and encourage the incredible energy and contributions of the organized youth leagues, our Lapham Community Center volunteers, the Garden Club, the schools athletics department, our Town's numerous service organizations, the New Canaan Community Foundation and the contributions of each individual. Most especially, we are grateful for the financial support of so many who have made our public/private successes of the past year possible:

The Mead Park Lodge,  
Spencer's Run at Waveny Park,  
The artificial surface field at the water tower, and, recently  
The renovation of the Waveny Lodge

We are all the better for your efforts.

# Section 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

This document is a townwide assessment of New Canaan's Park & Recreation Facilities. Richter & Cegan worked closely with New Canaan's Park and Recreation Commission and town staff to produce this study and its recommendations. The study focuses on outdoor recreation facilities located in town parks and school sites. The town's goal should be a recreation system that encompasses all forms of recreation with linkages that maximize available and future opportunities.

The approach used to perform this study involved several data gathering and analysis techniques. All available mapping and survey information was collected and on-site existing conditions surveys were made. Base maps for all the important recreational sites were created. A photographic inventory of the sites was made. User needs were established by reviewing past studies and reports and by conducting meetings with town staff and the New Canaan Park and Recreation Commission. The various sport clubs and leagues were surveyed for their needs. Meetings were held to evaluate the preliminary findings and receive feedback. Finally, recommendations were made based on evaluations of user needs and comparison of staff and survey input.

There are numerous types of recreation interests in New Canaan. The schools, sports leagues and community members all have different needs and desires. This study attempts to address all of the needs and to help the Park and Recreation Commission with its work of recommending improvements and prioritizing.

This townwide assessment of park and recreation facilities is a working document to aid the town of New Canaan and the Park and Recreation Commission in setting goals and policies in addition to making proposals for future development of the town's facilities. The study incorporates the town's park and recreational facilities located on public school properties and in town owned park sites. Richter & Cegan began by conducting an existing facility inventory and analysis, a needs assessment, recommendations for improvement to existing facilities and finally a prioritization of future improvements.

### Study Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives incorporated into this report as defined by the New Canaan Park and Recreation Commission are intended to provide future direction for the town in meeting recreation facility needs. Open spaces, parks, sports fields and recreation programs are considered essential community resources in the town of New Canaan. They enhance the social, psychological and physical well being of residents of New Canaan by providing them with enjoyable leisure-time activities in pleasant settings. Other benefits derived from the preservation of open space and park areas include conservation of land as a visual resource, protection of water quality and wetlands and preservation of wildlife habitats. While these broader benefits are important and have been identified in previous studies as desirable, the mandate of the Park and Recreation Commission is to meet New Canaan residents' needs for active and passive

recreation. Therefore, this townwide assessment will examine how the following goals can be met.

**Goal One:** Provide ample and varied recreational opportunities to meet current and future needs of residents of New Canaan.

**Goal Two:** Develop a planning document to guide the development of town parks, sports and recreation facilities and ensure the town is able to secure enough of the right kind of land to provide for residents' future recreational needs.

**Goal Three:** Involve a wide range of residents and citizen groups reflecting a cross section of the New Canaan population in the planning and design of park and recreation facilities. The schools, sports leagues and members of the community all have different needs and desires.

**Goal Four:** Maintain all Park and Recreation facilities to be attractive, safe, fully functional and accessible for the citizens of New Canaan.

**Goal Five:** Balance the need for active Park and Recreation development with the preservation of open space and natural resource management.

This study builds upon past studies and reports that have shown the town's desire to closely examine its existing recreation facilities. The initiative for this study is contained in the 2004 New Canaan Land Use, Conservation and Open Space Committee Report. The committee recommended that the town retain Richter & Cegan Inc. (R&C) Landscape Architects and Urban Designers of Avon, CT to prepare a town wide assessment of Park and Recreation facilities.

The focus of this study is on gaining a first hand understanding of the perceived recreation needs and wants of the community as they pertain to New Canaan's existing and future outdoor recreation facilities. Rehabilitation, expansion and development of outdoor recreation facilities should be performed in conjunction with the goals of related local and state programs. Open space, conservation land, and public works projects should all be considered, and opportunities to support or enhance these programs by recreational development should be evaluated. Developing projects that encompass these programs will create a more complete recreation system for the Town of New Canaan.

## 1.2 Scope of Services

The intent of this project is to prepare an assessment of its facilities and build on previous work and studies.

Richter & Cegan's (R&C) work includes:

- Review of major planning documents, studies, and other available information.
- Photo inventory of park and town owned recreation sites.
- Preparing a base map of each site.
- Data collection and review of existing information for the town's existing major outdoor recreation facilities.
- Existing conditions analysis of key recreation facility sites, including a site plan of each property with an inventory list of recreation facilities on the parcel.
- Assistance in identifying the town's demand-based recreation facility needs, the focus will be on existing needs.

- Recommendations for recreation facilities improvements.
- Public, league, and town staff input throughout the planning process.

All of the town-owned outdoor recreation facilities have been included in the initial site inventory to permit a comprehensive evaluation of opportunities and limitations of the existing resources and identification of use potentials of these resources to meet the Town's recreation needs. The public recreation facilities include the following sites:

### **Park and Recreation Facilities**

Waveny Park  
 Mead Memorial Park  
 Kiwanis Park  
 Irwin Park  
 Conner Field  
 Ed Dixon Memorial Park  
 Mill Pond Park

In addition, the study considered recreation facilities located at New Canaan's public schools including:

### **School Facilities**

New Canaan High School  
 Saxe Middle School  
 South School  
 West School  
 East School

Other sites were identified as contributing to New Canaan's recreation resources but were beyond the scope of the current study and thus not given a detailed evaluation.

### **Other Sites**

The Bristow Bird Sanctuary  
 New Canaan Country School  
 Clark Parcel  
 Landfill Parcel  
 New Canaan Nature Center

## **1.3 Approach**

The process for developing New Canaan's townwide assessment of park and recreational facilities needs study involved several phases. The initial phase was data collection and review. Key sites were identified and a list of recreational facilities was created. Base maps were created for each site showing general layout and as much information as necessary to provide an idea of the site conditions and opportunities for improvement. The intent of this phase was to develop a thorough understanding of existing information so duplication of work could be avoided.

The second phase of this study was the facility inventory and existing conditions overview. An inventory was conducted of the recreational facilities at the above key recreation facility sites through a combination of field inspection, review of existing information, and site mapping. The sole purpose of the existing conditions summary will

be to note observations made during the site inventory visit and from review of the existing information.

The next phase was the identification of town-wide recreational facility needs. A demand-based approach was used in conjunction with the existing plan to determine the recreational needs of the town. Public meetings were held to familiarize the public with the needs assessment process and to seek input regarding the public's needs. Specific user groups were also targeted and a survey was circulated to the various athletic leagues to determine their requirements and preferences.

The following subtasks were completed for these sites:

- Facility base plan development using New Canaan's geographic information system (GIS) mapping, available digital maps and surveys, photographs and field measurement.
- Review of state GIS digital wetlands and soils data.
- Existing conditions inventory and site analysis illustrating each site's opportunities and constraints (existing uses, topography and slopes, approximate wetland resources, adjacent land uses and buffer needs, off-site visual and aesthetic consideration, site access and security, safety issues, unique vegetation, etc.
- Evaluation of specific existing site improvements considering such factors as compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements, sports field orientation, availability of on-site parking, lighting and use conflicts.
- Design program recommendations for each site.

Following completion of the recreational needs evaluation and detailed analysis of the key recreation facilities, an analysis was conducted to determine whether additional recreation facilities are necessary and which sites have potential to accommodate these facilities.

Community participation has played a critical role in this study. The Park and Recreation Commission held several public meetings and several workshop sessions to identify and record the perceived needs of the community. R & C and the Park and Recreation Commission surveyed the town sports leagues to assess their use of facilities and field requirements. R & C met with the Recreation Director, the Parks Superintendent and the School Athletic Director, who together constitute the "Fields Committee" to assess field use and needs. R&C also conducted workshop meetings with the Park and Recreation Commission for input. This report is the result of a synthesis of the above described process as well as the ideas and efforts of New Canaan citizens.

## Section 2

### Recreation Needs Assessment

One of the primary components of this planning process is to gather information and receive feedback from the community on what recreational opportunities and facilities they desire or feel they need in a town. R&C has accumulated existing reports, studies, and plans that pertain to recreational uses and opportunities in the Town of New Canaan. R&C has obtained input from the community, whose members have varied wants and needs, the leagues that use New Canaan's recreational facilities and town staff who are responsible for scheduling and maintaining the facilities. It is through the process of understanding and evaluating this data that the Town of New Canaan will be able to make informed decisions that will begin to address the needs of its citizens.

#### 2.1 Data Collection

At the beginning of the study R&C received plans, reports, memos, hardcopy maps, and several digital maps from the Town of New Canaan. The information is the result of previous work performed by citizens, town staff and consultants. R&C has obtained this information in order to understand the recreational needs, desires, and ideas that members of the community have expressed since 1971, and to avoid duplication of previous work. The information was integrated into the recreation facilities development process for this report and for future projects. The list of information received is summarized in Appendix A.

#### 2.2 Review of Key Previous Studies

Six previous studies were used to help frame an understanding of New Canaan's Park and Recreation needs: Land Use, Conservation & Open Space Committee Report-2004; The 2003 Plan of Conservation and Development; the 2001 New Canaan League of Women Voters Open Space survey; New Canaan's Ten Year Plan (1998); and the 1995 New Canaan League of Women Voters Recreation Survey. The 1974 Waveny Park Master Plan was also consulted.

**2.2.1** The 2004 Land Use, Conservation & Open Space Committee Report was an effort to respond to and expand upon the open space issues raised in the latest Plan of Conservation and Development. Its key findings were:

- New Canaan's open space is under increasing development pressure for public uses – 93% of the town is already developed.
- The town should pursue acquisition of available undeveloped properties, the Irwin property and Windsome farms.
- The Committee recommends that the town retain Richter & Cegan Inc. of Avon, CT to:
  - Analyze the current use of New Canaan's lands & recommend actions to maximize efficiencies of current lands, properties and parks.
  - Provide alternatives for uses of all proposed large parcels of land.
  - Issue recommendations for the use of open space including primarily active open space.

- The town should apply for any appropriate Federal and State grants.
- Acquire strategic parcels of land adjacent to existing parks.
- Create an open space fund.
- The town should actively educate New Canaan's residents as to the benefits of conservation easements, sale of development rights and land donations.
- Assign responsibility of advocating for open space to a person or committee and empower them with a voice to advocate for open space through education, philanthropy, donations, fundraising, grants, and procure federal/state funding. Invest in the studies to develop an open space master plan for New Canaan and support the process to protect New Canaan's character and charm.

**2.2.2** The 2003 Plan of Conservation and Development (by the New Canaan Planning & Zoning Commission), is a state-mandated, once every 10 year process for all towns which sets forth the growth, land use and management issues facing the town and adopts long-term strategies to deal with them.

- Open Space Strategies:
  - Implement an Overall Open Space Strategy
  - Continue work on establishing a Greenway/trail network.
  - Modify subdivision regulations to require open space or a fee be provided as part of every application.
  - Ensure that the open space provided contributes to an overall system.
  - Allow the dedication of off site open space or trails if the location is desirable.
  - Require the identification and consideration of trails as part of any subdivision or special permit application.
  - Encourage the use of conservation easements.
- Recreation strategies noted in this report included enhancement of recreation facilities, enhancement of pedestrian & bicycle circulation (sidewalks/sidewalk repair/greenways).
- Community Facilities planning strategies included: Pond remediation at Mead Park and Mill Pond.
- Recreation Facilities strategies include: Fields and Facilities utilization – 'Maintain, enhance, expand existing recreation fields, facilities, and programs. – 'Investigate ways to promote/provide greenways with trails.

**2.2.3** The 2001 Open Space Survey (By the New Canaan League of Women Voters) was a 22 question survey on the town's attitude towards the preservation and acquisition of open space. It included these points of agreement by the respondents:

- 66% of residents are concerned about open space and New Canaan's changing character.
- 66% disagree that there is adequate open space at present.
- The survey found that open space is an issue which ranks as high as education in importance.
- More than half the respondents want additional open space to be preserved as is or improved for passive recreation.
- 51% of residents are somewhat willing to pay higher taxes for more open space.

**2.2.4 New Canaan's Ten Year Plan 1998-2008** (by the Long Range Planning Task Force in June of 1998.) The following items were noted:

- Open Space: Explore additional low impact trails/recreation activity in existing open space areas
- Recreation:
  - Construct 50 meter pool
  - Construct full size outdoor basketball court (private funding)
  - Create parks & fields section as part of the Public Works Department which would control and maintain all athletic fields, scheduling games and practice.
  - Seek help of consulting agronomist to assist in determining maintenance and play scheduling.

**2.2.5 The 1995 Recreation Survey** (By the New Canaan League of Women Voters) was proposed to update a previous study as the town's demographics had changed significantly from the previous one, it was done to address two major concerns:

1. Documenting current requirements, identifying resources, assessing the suitability of existing resources to meet local requirements.
2. Identifying, developing and evaluating conceptual and long term solutions to satisfy local needs.

The study consisted of a 10 question survey of the town's perception of its recreational needs and assets circa 1995

The top items of concern to the town were:

- The need to upgrade facilities at Kiwanis, the Athletic Fields & Park at Waveny.
- Additional facilities: Beach Access, Swimming Pool & Teen Center.
- Residents would pay more for: Beach Access, Swimming Pool & Teen Center.
- 69% of respondents to survey were for judicious use of Waveny Park for new athletic facilities.

**2.2.6 A Waveny Park Development Plan** (1974, by Peter G. Rolland Associates.) The plan looked at the physical characteristics of the recently acquired Waveny Park and proposed development of a variety of facilities that the community had expressed needs for. The facilities proposed included:

- Ice Rink
- Community swimming pool
- 18 hole golf course, driving range and clubhouse
- Equestrian facility and riding trails
- Tennis Courts
- Paddle Tennis Courts

- Playing Fields
- Amphitheatre
- Bowling Green
- Picnic areas and hiking trails

**2.2.7 Summary:** It is clear from the history of studies that the people of New Canaan have a continuing interest in community open space and townwide recreational opportunities. There has also been recent progress on meeting the studies recommendations.

Recent additions and upgrades to New Canaan's recreation facilities:

- Waveny Pool
- Acquisition of the Irwin Property
- Watertown Field #1, synthetic turf field
- Lapham Community Center Reconstruction
- Waveny Park Softball Field
- Paddle Tennis courts and house
- Spencer's Run Dog Park
- Mead Park Lodge
- Acquisition of additional parcels at Kiwanis Park.
- The Kiwanis Park Pavilion
- Art Lane Tennis Court resurfacing

Previous plan items so far un-built:

- Bike Trails and Greenways
- Ice Rink
- Outdoor Basketball Courts

## 2.3 Sports League Needs

In an attempt to identify town-wide recreational facility needs, R&C solicited input by sending a survey on field usage to each sports league. The surveys were returned and follow up calls/emails were made to get a better understanding of league needs.

In communicating with the leagues, it was discovered that each league has sports association or conference guidelines and schedules that require facilities of a certain number, size, location, and condition to support their league to be sanctioned. The focus of this study is on the existing needs. Projection of future league participation developed from statistical analysis of demographic trends is beyond the scope of this study.

### **New Canaan Football League:**

The New Canaan Football League is a part of the Fairfield County Football Association. The association consists of leagues from New Canaan, Wilton, Westport, Fairfield and Darien. They play full contact youth football limited in weight and for grades 3-8 only. This year the league has 279 players in 5 divisions; numbers which appear to be growing over the past 4 years. 2005 had 11 teams.

The league season lasts from August 21st – November 19<sup>th</sup> (2006). Teams have practice 3 days per week from 5-7 pm (either M-W-F or T-Th-F) and games on Saturday morning & evening or Sunday afternoon. 6 or 7 'home' games are played each weekend in New Canaan.

The football league plays and practices at the Watertower field complex. The 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 4th grade teams play on a 80 x 53 yard field, while the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams use a 100 x 53 yard field.

#### **NC Football League**

- Players: 279 (Fall 2006)
- Ages:9-14, Grades 5-8
- Schedule: August 21-November 19th
- Needs/Desires: 1 More field

*Needs/Desires from surveys: "3 fields are used now. Practice times have up to 279 players on the 3 fields plus 35 coaches simultaneously"*

### **New Canaan Soccer Association Inc.:**

The New Canaan Soccer Association Inc.(NCSA) is a member of the Southwest District in the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) and participates in the "Classic Travel" division and the "Recreation Plus" program. It is a travel soccer program that competes against neighboring towns on a weekly basis. These programs run in the fall and spring

The teams range in age from U9 to U14; however, in the spring there are also U15-U18 aged kids from the High School who wish to play spring soccer. The fall season runs from the week before Labor Day to mid November, and the spring season runs from April (whenever the fields open) thru mid- late June.

The NCSA supports two levels of play; Classic Travel which competes on Sundays and travels further afar; and Recreation Plus soccer which is a modified travel program; competing on Saturdays for kids not quite ready for Classic Travel but wishing more comprehensive program than most town Recreation Departments provide. Both groups receive professional coaching for two practices a week and for games.

The NCSA has had on average close to 500 players registered for each season since the fall of 2000. The U9/U10 teams average 13-14 players with a maximum of 14. The U11/U14 teams average 17 players with a maximum of 25 allowed.

Playing field size is 50 x 80 yds for the U9/U10 age group and 65 x 120 yds for the U11/U14 age group.

Depending on the season, the teams use some combination of the fields at Saxe, Conner, Farm Road and Waveny for play and practice.

### **NC Soccer Association**

- Players: 494 (Fall 2006)
- Ages: U9/U10, U11/U14
- Schedule: Fall (Late August-Mid November)  
Spring April-Late June
- Needs/Desires: Need 2 more fields U9 & U11, Synthetic turf fields, temporary lighting

*Needs/Desires from surveys: "It's crowded at practice times on the available fields; there is a need to have back to back practices (4-5:30 & 5:30-7) for efficiency. Lack of lighting makes this scheme impossible during October. (Maybe some temporary lighting could solve this.) Need more Synthetic turf fields to allow sports to continue and avoid bad weather cancellations. Consider switching 2 Waveny fields (U9 & U11 size) from the recreational league to the soccer association on Mon. Tues. & Wed."*

### **New Canaan Baseball/Softball Inc.:**

The New Canaan Baseball/Softball program consists of three main divisions:

- Cal Ripken Baseball is for boys and girls ages 7 through 12.
- Babe Ruth Baseball is for boys and girls ages 13 through 18
- Babe Ruth Softball is for girls in grades 2 through 8

The spring season is usually from mid April to mid June. There are also summer and fall baseball and softball programs.

Players 12 years-old and under use a 60' or 70' diamond while those 13 and older use the 90' diamond.

### **Cal Ripken Baseball**

**Bantam 7 League and Bantam 8 League (ages 7&8)** - This league is divided into separate leagues for players who are 7 years old and players who are 8 years old. The schedule is usually 8 to 10 games played on Saturday mornings. There is usually one practice session a week held at the discretion of the coach. Games are played primarily at New Canaan Country School, South school and at the field located in the northeast corner of Conner field at Saxe Middle school. Parent coaches pitch to the players.

**The Cub-9 League (age 9)** – Teams play 8 to 10 games on Thursday and Saturday nights at Mellick and Gamble fields in Mead Park. The parent coaches pitch for the first part of the season and then players begin pitching.

**The Cub-10 League (age 10)** - Teams play 10 to 12 games on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. Games are played at Mellick and Gamble fields in Mead Park. The teams compete for a league championship at the end of the season. A tournament team plays in district and other tournaments in June and July.

**Majors- 60 League (ages 11&12)** - Teams play 10 to 12 games on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday nights. Games are played at Mellick and Gamble fields in Mead Park. The

teams compete for a league championship at the end of the season. Tournament teams play in the Majors 60 (11s) and the Majors 60 (12s) district and other tournaments in June and July.

**Majors- 70 League (ages 11&12)** - Teams play 10 to 12 games on the weekend at the Saxe Middle School field close to the YMCA. Championship tournaments are held at the end of the regular season with all teams participating. A tournament team plays in district and other tournaments in June and July. The tournament team also plays in a week-long tournament in Cooperstown, New York in late July, early August.

**Summer and Fall Baseball** – programs are offered for players who are 9 through 12 years-old.

### **Babe Ruth Baseball:**

**Prep League** – is for 13 year-olds only. New Canaan teams plays in the Norwalk Babe Ruth league competing against teams from Darien, Monroe, Norwalk, Weston and Westport. The schedule runs from mid April to late May and includes about 14 games played on Saturdays and Sundays as well as one weekday night. A league championship tournament is held at the end of the season. A tournament team competes in a district tournament after the league tournament. The league is competitive and players are expected to make a commitment to their teams attend all games and practices. Home games are usually played at Coppo field in Waveny Park.

**Babe Ruth League** - is for 14 and 15 year olds. New Canaan teams play in the Norwalk Babe Ruth league competing against teams from Darien, Monroe, Norwalk, Weston, Westport and Wilton. The schedule runs from late May (after the high school season ends) through late June and includes about 12 games played on Saturdays, Sundays as well as one weekday night. A league championship tournament is held at the end of the season. A tournament team competes in a district tournament after the league tournament. The league is competitive and players are expected to make a commitment to their teams and attend all games and practices. Home games are played at Mead field in Mead Park and Coppo field in Waveny Park.

**Senior Babe Ruth League** - is for 16 to 18 year-olds. The New Canaan team plays in the Fairfield County Senior Babe Ruth league competing against teams from Bridgeport, Fairfield, Monroe, Norwalk, Stratford and Trumbull. The schedule runs from early June to early July and includes about 18 games played on Tuesday and Thursday nights and a doubleheader each Sunday. A league championship tournament is held at the end of the season. Two tournament teams are formed; one each from the East and West divisions of the County league, to play in the Senior Babe Ruth state tournament in July. The league is very competitive and players are expected to make a commitment to their teams and attend all games and practices. Home games are played at Mead field in Mead Park.

A summer and Fall Program is also offered for players who are 13 through 15 years-old. The summer program starts the last week of June and runs through the first week of August. There is usually one game during the week and a game on Saturday and a game on Sunday. The fall program starts in mid September and runs through late October.

## Babe Ruth Softball

**Bambino Division** - This division covers 2nd and 3rd graders. Teams have one practice and one game a week. Bambinos have clinics for the first half of season run by NCHS varsity softball players and then play abridged games on Saturday mornings. For the second half of the season, Bambinos play regular 90 minute games.

**Minors Division** - This division covers 4th and 5th graders. Minors have one practice a week and up to 12 games. Games are played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons with the possibility of one night game during the season.

**Majors Division** - This division covers 6th through 8th grades. Majors have one practice a week and 10 games. Most games are on Saturday afternoons. An 8th grade travel team, where try-outs are required, plays in a Norwalk league. No experience is necessary at any grade group, except 8th grade travel team. NCHS girl's softball varsity players umpire all games. Based on try-outs, there are U 10, U12, U14 and U18 post-season teams that compete in a Fairfield County league and attend tournaments.

### New Canaan Baseball/ Softball Inc.

- Players: 1,097
- Ages: 12 and under; Bantams, Cubs, Majors, 13 and over Babe Ruth, Sr., Babe Ruth,
- Schedule: (Fall 9/9-11/1) (Spring 4/1-6/15) Summer (6/15-8/1)
- Needs/Desires: Need 2 more fields especially in fall when soccer conflicts at Conner and Coppo
- Need 2 new Cal Ripken Majors 60 fields, 2 new Cal Ripken Majors 70 fields, 1 new 90' Babe Ruth Baseball field.

*Needs/Desires from surveys: Baseball - "Fields are under extremely heavy use! 3 more fields at Irwin would be very helpful. (In the spring,) 84 teams play approximately 10 games each which equals around 430 games total. Each week there are 84 practices. This adds up to constant use of the existing facilities. There are maintenance issues because of the overuse of the facilities. Lights are planned for Orchard and maybe Watertower fields. In the fall, soccer takes out Coppo & Conner fields leaving Mead as the only one available." Softball - "20 town league teams and the HS JV & Varsity use Orchard and Watertower fields - extreme use."*

## The New Canaan Lacrosse Association:

The New Canaan Lacrosse Association runs programs for boys and girls from grades 1-8. Over the past 5 years the programs have grown from 496 to 733 children (Over 53% growth.), with most of the growth occurring in the Bantam age group (Grades 1-4, no travel) the league runs in the spring (March 1 – June 20) only with a limited 6 week fall ball program at East School 2 afternoons a week.

The league's divisions are:

Bantam Boys Grades 1-4, Bantam Girls Grades 1-4

Bantam Boys U10,

Boys Jr. 5/6 U12, Bantam Girls 5/6

Boys Sr. 7/8 U14, Bantam Girls 7/8

3 different sizes of field are used:

Bantam Boys/Girls 1-4      40 x 80yds

Boy's 5-8                      57 x 110yds  
 Girl's 5-8                      60 x 110yds

Most of the teams use the fields at Saxe for play and practice, Bantam girls use Watertower field.

### **New Canaan Lacrosse Association**

- Players: 733
- Ages: Bantams; Boys 5th-8<sup>th</sup> grades, Girls 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades
- Schedule: Spring March 1-June 20
- Needs/Desires: Girls need 1 more field @ NCHS, Boys need 1-2 fields;
- Restrooms and storage facilities needed at Saxe.

*Needs/Desires from surveys: "Program is expanding by 4 more teams, right now it's at 720 boys & girls (up from 300 5 years ago.) Girls need 1 more field at NCHS; Boys need 1-2 fields. Snack, restroom and storage facilities needed at Saxe."*

## **2.4 Staff Meetings**

R & C met with the Town's departments which have a vested interest in the project including the Park and Recreation Department, the New Canaan Public Works department and New Canaan Public Schools. Representing these departments were John Howe, Superintendent of Parks, Steve Benko, Director of Recreation and Jay Egan, New Canaan High School Athletic Director. In addition, these three individuals make up the "Fields Committee," which establishes the scheduling and maintenance for all the recreational fields in town.

### **2.4.1 Schools Needs:**

There is one high school, one middle school and three elementary schools in New Canaan. These facilities serve multiple purposes for the town. The facilities are used for physical education classes, scholastic sports, league sports, recess for the elementary schools and public use during non-school hours. Frequently the schools, especially the elementary schools with playscapes, function as neighborhood parks on off hours, vacations and weekends.

New Canaan High School is the only school currently fielding scholastic sports teams, the games and practices are held at the High School, Saxe Middle School, Conner Field, and also at Waveny and Mead Parks.

The high school runs competitive outdoor sports programs in Football, Soccer, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Track, Cross Country and Golf. Most of these sports field teams of freshmen, JV and Varsity. No middle school teams are fielded; to compete at the middle school level a student must be on a sports club team. The schools use facilities at Waveny, the New Canaan High School, Saxe Middle School, Conner Field and Mead Park for their programs (Golf uses facilities not on Town property.).

### **New Canaan High School:**

- The running track, Track Field and Farm Road fields are major concerns right now. The Farm Road Field area is not wide enough for two good fields together, so some thought should be put into redesign of this area.
- The jumping and throwing events are held just north of the track. The existing area is probably not suitable for competition and the layout of the field events needs to be evaluated.
- The track is a six (6) lane synthetic surface on an asphalt base. The sprinting section is 8 lanes. Because of the track's general life cycle, it is coming due for some major repairs soon.
- Access to the track is problematic because the newly constructed High School parking lots push farther out towards the track, creating access and grading problems.
- Dunning Field is receiving runoff from the roadway directly to its north. The field is becoming stained and damaged from the silt carried down the hill.
- The number of tennis courts is an issue; New Canaan High School has only 6 courts for both the girls and boys teams. A common standard for a school of this size is 12 with a minimum of 8.
- Farm Road is a heavily used road at pick up times. Traffic safety is compromised by parents stopping at various points along the road and encouraging children to run across to their cars.

### **Middle School:**

- The Saxe Middle School parking lot is used heavily during league and school sports activities. Parent drop off and parking for field access is from South Avenue, a heavily trafficked and at times, parked roadway. Circulation at peak times in the parking lot near the fields is problematic.
- The School Athletic Director has pointed out the need for a 'Project Adventure' type ropes course at the Saxe Middle School.

### **2.4.2 Recreation Department needs:**

The Recreation Department manages a comprehensive outdoor recreation and leisure program year round for the residents of New Canaan. Most recreation facilities are a seasonal operation including the Waveny Pool; Kiwanis Park Swimming; Mead Park Tennis Courts; Baseball, Softball, Flag Football and Soccer Fields; Platform Tennis Courts; and Batting cages. Other facilities remain open for year round enjoyment including all public parks; Spencer's Run Dog Socialization Area; Golf Driving Area; Waveny Trails; all-weather tennis court at Mead Park; and the play structures at Mead Park, Kiwanis Park, and Ed Dixon Park. The Lapham Community Center programs utilize a seasonal on-site croquet court and year-round access to the Waveny Park walking trails, roads and fields.

The Recreation Department programs utilize Park and Recreation facilities along with Board of Education outdoor facilities including the South Elementary School field and

the High School Track and fields. Waveny Park plays host year-round to community and regional events, races, festivals, fund-raisers, tournaments, competitions, school field-days and holiday celebrations. The Waveny Park trails maintain major usage year-round for walking, jogging, mountain biking, and horse riding. A popular Recreation Department summer cross country race program on Tuesday evenings presents 14 weeks of special competitive races for the public. The Waveny Park Golf Driving area is utilized year-round and is necessary to maintain for its users.

Program participation on the fields generates seasonal totals of spring- 1060, summer- 1600 (+concerts attendance of 13,000), and fall- 1600 representing the largest user group. The largest core program to populate the playing fields are the spring and fall Recreation Soccer programs that attract each season over 900 children and over 150 volunteer coaches spread out on over 80 teams. Waveny Park, as the program's host, has 11 soccer fields scheduled on the hour for 6 consecutive hours each Saturday. Additional core programs include three day camps (500 participants) at Waveny, Kiwanis and South School; Tee-Ball Baseball (140), Men's Slow Pitch Softball (225), Golf Instruction (50) and the Waveny Concerts all held at Waveny; Summer Baseball (198), and Adult and Youth Tennis Instruction (300+) held at Mead Park. The Recreation Department shares its fields and facilities with local sport groups like the New Canaan Soccer Association, New Canaan Football, New Canaan Baseball/Softball, YMCA and The New Canaan Board of Education.

The Recreation Department is maintaining its current level of recreation and leisure programs for town residents without expansion. The Recreation Department has a need to meet current recreation and leisure interests of Town residents and expand where needed. Problems exist with the expansion of sport groups creating a squeeze on existing facilities and maximizing utilization. Until additional fields are created, utilization cannot tolerate additional or expanding programs.

### **2.4.3 Parks Department and Maintenance needs:**

Maintenance of New Canaan's Park and Recreation assets is a high priority for community residents. The Parks Department maintains all Town parks and school grounds throughout the Town as well as maintaining all the town sidewalks. This includes athletic field maintenance, leaf pickup and snow removal. There is a full time staff of 13, along with additional seasonal personnel. The need for maintenance and resting time for the fields is constant with the use that they are subjected to; there is little time to do the amount that is necessary. In the fall, after the fields close, the department has contracted out the sodding of areas to address wear problems.

- The fields are under a lot of stress especially in the mid summer, during the dry season. Resting fields would be much easier if there were more synthetic turf fields available to distribute the demand for fields.
- A general need has been stated for more storage space for field equipment, league sports equipment and town maintenance equipment.
- There is a need for bathrooms near the fields; no place has convenient, open

facilities after the schools close. Leased portable facilities can meet the need but they can be costly.

- To ease maintenance issues, high maintenance fields could be rebuilt to minimize problems. Grading and drainage modifications can eliminate some (such as on Gamble Field).
- The Parks Department staffing needs and organization should be assessed for more efficient operation.
- It has been decided to demolish the Richmond Hill building at Mead Park. Loss of this space will require alternate storage locations.

## **2.4.4 The Parks Departments Maintenance Responsibilities:**

### **Town Parks:**

**Mead Memorial Park:** Mead Park includes 1 full sized baseball field, 2 little league fields, playscape facilities, 9 Har-Tru tennis courts with lights. There is also passive recreation around the 4.75 acre pond. Mead Park borders Bristow Bird Sanctuary, which has passive recreation by way of walking trails. Ice skating is allowed when conditions permit. When appropriate, skating is allowed (under the lights) until 10:00 p.m.

**Waveny Park:** Waveny Park has 285 acres of active and passive recreation including 1 full sized baseball field, 4 softball fields, pool facilities, paddle tennis courts, multiple soccer fields and extensive walking trails.

**Dixon Memorial Park:** Hoyt Street – This is a small community park with a playscape & a very small lawn area suitable for picnicking.

**Kiwanis Park:** Old Norwalk Road - including swimming, playscape and walking trails.

**Conner Field:** Farm Road - Full sized baseball field and soccer field.

### **School Grounds and Athletic Fields:**

**New Canaan High School:** Athletic fields including three main sections used for soccer, football, lacrosse and track and field events. Also at the high school there is a synthetic surface running and walking track. The high school's main event stadium is Dunning Field, which has an synthetic surface and is used for all sports.

**Saxe Middle School:** Athletic fields including four fields used for soccer, football, lacrosse and two baseball backstops.

**South School:** Very small athletic field with baseball backstop.

**East School:** Athletic field used for baseball and lacrosse.

**West School:** Athletic field used for baseball and soccer.

**Miscellaneous Parks and Areas:** Richmond Hill Parking Lot: Maintain small grass area, shrubs and snow removal on walks only.

**Center School Parking Lot:** Maintain grass areas, shrubs and snow removal on walks only.

**Mill Pond Park:** Maintain small grassed area and shrubs. Used for skating when ice conditions permit.

**God's Acre:** Maintain grass

**New Canaan Nature Center:** Mow and trim grass areas.

**Winter Activities – Snow Removal:**

School Parking lots - Plowing and sanding (not sidewalks).

Sidewalks in Town - Help remove snow and sanding.

Town Buildings - Shovel and sand walks and stairs.

Train Stations - Shovel and sand platforms and walks

**2.5 Community Meetings**

Another source of input resulted from New Canaan community involvement. The Park & Recreation Commission hosted two public meetings to address the concerns of the people of New Canaan. The meetings were held October 10 and 24, 2006 at the New Canaan Town Hall. The purpose of these meetings was to promote community involvement in an attempt to understand user needs for recreational facilities.

Items that were brought up:

- There is a town wide need for storage facilities for league and sports field equipment at many of the recreation sites.
- Kiwanis trails system should be finished. Make the toilet facilities year round; playground equipment repairs are necessary; dog waste bags needed.
- Parking is a problem at Mead and Waveny Parks
- Irwin Park needs signage repairs; trails, barn and fields were discussed.
- Ice skating facility location discussed.
- There is a need to have some completely undeveloped parkland for passive enjoyment. The Clark property could serve this purpose and the cost to the town should be minimal.
- The dog park is a significant success.
  - There is a need for a children's playground nearby.
  - Some users have asked for a 'small dog' area (designed for small/older/timid dogs.).
- There is a need for a policy for funding public/private partnerships
- There was a general satisfaction with Waveny Concerts.

## 2.6 Park and Recreation Commissions' Workshop Sessions

The Park & Recreation Commission held a number of workshop sessions to assess the Park and Recreation needs, to digest input received from the public meetings and to review and respond to progress drafts of this study. Each park was reviewed and current needs discussed.

**Irwin Park:** This park is still under development with an approved master plan and awaiting the commencement of a construction project. The first phase is the multi-use trail system. The master plan envisions 2 or 3 baseball fields which could be a viable solution for the Bantam League needs. The barn is a facility that may be useful and the Commission should plan for basic building renovations.

**Kiwanis Park:** This park has had an approved master plan that envisions a trail system and a sledding hill. These items should remain a priority to complete.

**Mead Park:** There is a need to plan for safety and traffic congestion problems. Alternate solutions should be sought for storage on site, disposition of the Richmond Hill buildings and alternate park uses.

**Waveny Park:** The parking plans at Lapham center should be implemented now that the first Watertown synthetic surfaced field is nearing completion. The second synthetic surface field should be implemented as soon as funds become available.

The area immediately around the Waveny House should be addressed; grounds maintenance, repair of pathways, walks, walls and addition of plantings should be undertaken to enhance the general appearance of the site.

Other items discussed: A trail rehabilitation program, Korean War memorial, Golf driving range; Bubble over town pool to create a year round facility.

### General

Discussion on fields needs: the consensus (based on league surveys and staff comments) is that each major sport requires at least two additional fields. Long term planning is to install synthetic surfaces at Saxe.

The Commission needs an updated and comprehensive "Mission Statement" that reflects the current (revised) Town Charter and the changing needs of New Canaan.

The ice rink plan requires a credible needs analysis focusing upon New Canaan. Need to find out how to examine a seasonal facility. Are bubble options viable? The rink is not a new idea; the first rink proposal was put forth in 1971 and a concept plan was developed as part of the 1974 Waveny Park Master Plan. The ice rink would be built on public land with largely private money. Discussions are in process on the facilities location, most probably around the High School/Dunning Field area. Access and parking is a major consideration. It may be possible to combine this proposal with other improvements to the high school athletic facilities (Install new track surface, new more appropriate competition areas for field events.).

The quality and level of maintenance of recreational facilities is of high importance to New Canaan residents. To keep up with maintenance demands, an assessment of the

Parks Department staffing and organization needs was suggested.

It is desirable for specific sports to be centrally located (Soccer, tennis, and baseball, for example) to allow for families with multiple children participating to eliminate travel times and participate more in their children's activities.

Maintaining a specific theme or uniqueness that is inherent in certain park sites was an important objective. Any changes to existing parks should be sensitive to this issue and reinforce what has been established at various park sites.

## Section 3

# Recreational Facilities Existing Conditions Analysis

### 3.1 General

New Canaan is a community dedicated to providing recreational opportunities for its citizens. Currently the town has several different types of facilities to meet its needs. Some of these facilities are located at schools; while others are located in Town Parks. In assessing the needs of the town, an existing conditions analysis was conducted for each of these outdoor recreational facilities.

### 3.2 Distribution of Facilities

As figure 3-1 shows, New Canaan's parks and schools are located in the south central part of town. This creates a somewhat uneven distribution of recreation facilities on a townwide basis. However, the south central part of the town is the area most densely populated, making the facilities more convenient and adjacent to other community facilities.

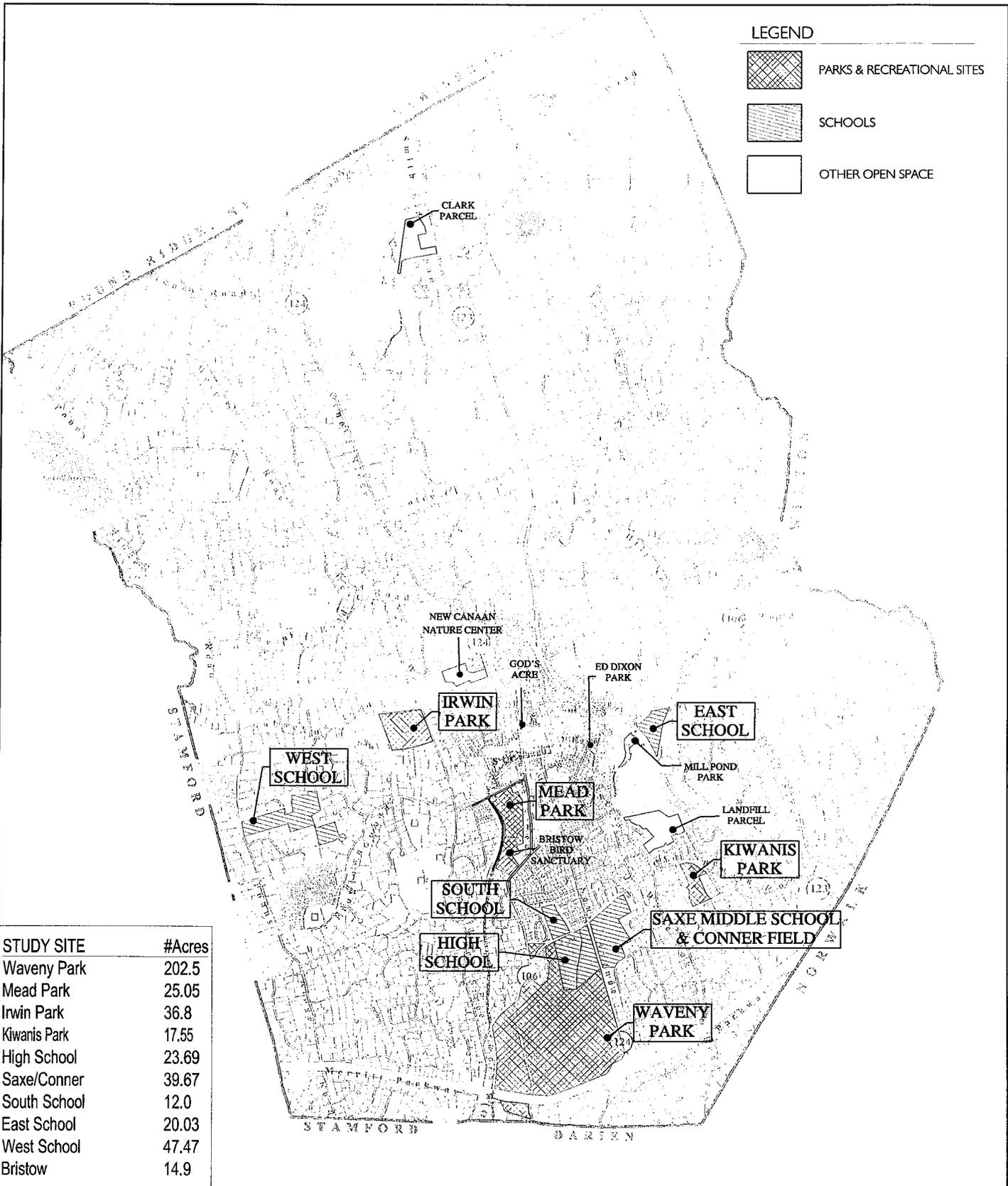
### 3.3 Existing Conditions Overview

The following is a detailed site analysis of each of the existing recreational facilities in the town of New Canaan. The existing conditions overview is based on information obtained during site visits and analysis of existing information available for each site. The first part is an analysis the town's parks followed by an analysis of the recreational facilities at the public schools.

### 3.4 Detailed Existing Conditions Analysis of Facilities

Please see the following sections (*with pull out maps*) that are focused on each recreational facility.

Town Location Map:	(Figure 3-1)
Waveny Park:	(Figure 3-2)
Mead Memorial Park:	(Figure 3-3)
Irwin Park:	(Figure 3-4)
Kiwanis Park:	(Figure 3-5)
New Canaan High School:	(Figure 3-6)



STUDY SITE	#Acres
Waveny Park	202.5
Mead Park	25.05
Irwin Park	36.8
Kiwanis Park	17.55
High School	23.69
Saxe/Conner	39.67
South School	12.0
East School	20.03
West School	47.47
Bristow	14.9

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
**TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF  
 PARKS and RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

Landscape Architects  
 Urban Designers  
 Land Planners

**Richter & Cegan Inc.**  
 Avon Park North Box 567 Avon, Connecticut 06001  
 (860) 678-0669

**LOCATION  
 MAP of  
 Recreational  
 Facilities**

Date: 12-20-06

Figure:  
**3-1**

Saxe Middle School/Conner Field	(Figure 3-7)
South School:	(Figure 3-8)
East School:	(Figure 3-9)
West School:	(Figure 3-10)

**Other Sites:** These other Parks and areas were identified as contributing to New Canaan's recreation resources but were beyond the scope of the current study and thus not given a detailed evaluation.

### **Miscellaneous Parks and Areas:**

#### **Dixon Memorial Park: Hoyt Street**

Ed Dixon Memorial Park is on Hoyt Street. Parcel area is about ¼ acre. This is a small community park with a playscape & a very small level lawn area suitable for picnicking.

#### **Mill Pond Park: Millport Avenue**

This is a small roadside park with an area of about 5 acres. Most of the area is actually water and the narrow stream sides of the upper Five Mile River. A portion of the stream widens out into a former millpond. There is a small area suitable for picnicking leading down to the water near the bridge. This park is mostly used for skating when ice conditions permit.

#### **God's Acre: Main Street/Park Street**

The area is actually only about ½ acre. This is the green in a triangle formed by Main, Park and St. John's Streets near the churches. It is a small sloping, grassed area with trees.

#### **New Canaan Nature Center: Oenoke Ridge Road**

The Nature Center is in Bliss Park on Oenoke Ridge Road. There are hiking trails, an arboretum, a visitors' center and greenhouse. The New Canaan Nature Center is an environmental education center and sanctuary dedicated to helping people of all ages better understand, appreciate and care for the world of nature.

#### **Clark Parcel: Smith Ridge Road**

This is an area of about 20.5 acres with frontage on both Michigan Road and Smith Ridge Road. It is predominantly a wooded parcel, including both areas of inland wetlands and uplands, with no developed facilities and protected by deed restrictions.

### 3.5 Site Inventory

Table one provides a summary list of the existing recreational facilities on a townwide basis. Table two provides a detailed list of the recreation facilities found at each park and school site along with sports league, scholastic and recreation department usage at each of the sites.

**Table One: Summary of Town Recreation Facilities**

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Number Provided</u>
<b>Football Fields</b>	<b>3</b> (Watertown fields, Dunning Stadium)
<b>Baseball Fields</b> (90' base Path)	<b>3</b> (Coppo, Mead, Conner)
<b>Softball Fields</b>	<b>2</b> (60' base path, Orchard fields) <b>2</b> (65' base path, Waveny fields))
<b>Little League Fields</b> (60' base Path)	<b>3</b> (Gamble, Mellick, Saxe)
<b>Multipurpose Fields</b> Full Size (75 x 120 yds) Partial	<b>14</b> 4 (Saxe, Conner) 10 (Waveny, Saxe, Farm Road, Track)
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	<b>15</b> (9 Mead, 6 NCHS)
<b>Basketball Courts</b> (Outdoor)	<b>1</b> (Kiwanis)
<b>400 M Running Track</b>	<b>1</b> (NCHS)
<b>Playgrounds</b>	<b>6</b> (Elementary Schools, Mead, Saxe)
<b>Picnic Areas</b>	<b>4</b> (Kiwanis, Waveny, Irwin, Dixon)
<b>Outdoor Ice Skating Areas</b> (Ponds)	<b>2</b> (Mead, Millpond)
<b>Volleyball Courts</b>	<b>1</b> (Kiwanis)
<b>Outdoor Swimming Pool</b>	<b>1</b> (Waveny)
<b>Ponds/Lakes/Beaches</b> (Swimming)	<b>1</b> (Kiwanis)

**Table Two: Detailed Site Inventory**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Recreation/League Use</b>
<b>Waveny Park</b>	<p><u>"Waveny Fields"</u> 7-Playing fields (varying sizes 40x55 yds - 50x75 yds) 2-65' Softball fields - 200'+ to CF,</p> <p><u>"Coppo Field"</u> 1-90' Baseball field – 330'+ to CF, (batter facing southwest)</p> <p><u>"Orchard Fields"</u> 2-60' Softball fields – 220'+ to CF ("Girls Field" batter facing northeast, ("New Field" batter facing southwest) 1-Playing field 50 x 80 yds</p> <p>Waveny House &amp; Gardens, Waveny Pool 'Spencer's Run' Dog Social Area 4- Paddle Tennis Courts, Powerhouse Theatre Carriage Barn Art Gallery, Lapham Center Hiking Trails, Picnicking</p>	<p>Recreation Soccer(Spring &amp; Fall) U9-U10 Soccer (Fall &amp; Spring) Men's Softball (Spring &amp;Summer)</p> <p>Sr. Babe Ruth BB, Jr. &amp; Sr. Legion BB Babe Ruth 13-15 BB (Spring &amp; Summer) HS Frosh BB (Spring)</p> <p>U10, U12, U14, &amp; U16 BR Softball (Fall, Spring &amp; Summer) HS Girls SB (Spring) Women's Softball</p>
<b>Mead Park</b>	<p>1-90' Baseball Field - 330' to Center Field, (('Mead Field' - batter facing south)</p> <p>2-60' Baseball Fields- 185' to Center Field, with lights (('Mellick Field' - batter facing south) (('Gamble Field', batter facing north) Batting cage, Practice backstop 9-Tennis Courts, Har-Tru w/lights 12 Horse shoe pits Children's Playscape Concession/Restroom Facility Ice Skating, Fishing, Picnicking</p>	<p>HS Varsity BB BR 13-15 BB Sr. BR BB, Jr. &amp; Sr. Legion BB (Fall, Spring &amp; Summer) Majors Div BB, CUB BB, (Fall, Spring &amp; Summer)</p>
<b>Kiwanis Park</b>	<p>Outdoor Basketball Court Beach Volleyball Court Playscape Snack Bar/Restroom Pavilion &amp; Parking Picnic Shelter Swimming Pond and beach area</p>	None
<b>Irwin Park</b>	<p>Open Meadows with mown paths for walking Picnic tables, lawn furniture and sitting areas Barn Seasonal Outdoor Theatre</p>	None

Section 3

<p><b>NC High School</b></p>	<p><u>Farm Road Fields</u> Multipurpose field area 110x150 yds</p> <p>Track Field (Football) 115x60 yds. Running Track 6-Tennis Courts (Bituminous)</p> <p><u>Watertower Fields</u> 1- Multipurpose field 55x120 yds (synthetic turf, under construction) 1-Playing field 55x120 yds (natural turf, proposed for synthetic turf) 1- Playing field 70 x 50 yds.</p> <p><u>Dunning Stadium</u> 1-Football Field (synthetic turf)</p>	<p>Soccer U9-U11 (Spring) TOPS Soccer (Spring) Recreation Soccer (Spring) Recreation Field Hockey(Fall)</p> <p>Girls Lacrosse (Spring) Bantam Lacrosse, 5-6,7-8 Football (Fall) 3-4, 5, 6, 7, 8</p>
<p><b>Saxe Middle School &amp; Conner Field</b></p>	<p><u>Saxe</u> 5-Playing fields (Varying sizes 55x80 yds -80x130 yds)</p> <p>1-60' Baseball field - 330' to CF</p> <p><u>Conner Field</u> 1-Playing field 75x120 yds</p> <p>1-90' Baseball field – 330'+ to CF</p> <p>Paved Play Area, Playscape</p>	<p>Boys Lacrosse (Spring) Soccer U11-U14, (Fall &amp; Spring)</p> <p>Soccer U9-U10 (Fall &amp; Spring) Boys Lacrosse Jr. &amp; Sr. (Spring) MS BB (Spring), CUB BB</p> <p>Varsity Soccer (Fall) U11-U14 Soccer Recreation Soccer(Fall) JV BB (Spring), Babe Ruth 13-15 BB, Sr. Babe Ruth BB, Jr. &amp; Sr. Legion BB</p>
<p><b>South School</b></p>	<p>1-Playing Field 33 x 70 yds, overlapping with: 1-60' Baseball Field- 190' to Center Field (batter faces southwest) Paved Play Area, Playscape</p>	<p>Flag Football League Bantam Baseball (Spring)</p>
<p><b>West School</b></p>	<p>1-Playing Field 55 x 100 yds 1-60' Baseball Field- 200' to Center Field (Batter faces east) Paved Play Area, Playscape</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>East School</b></p>	<p>1- Playing field 80 x 55 yds max. 2-60' Baseball Fields- 185' to Center Field (Currently Unused) Paved Play Area, Playscape</p>	<p>Lacrosse Practice (Fall)</p>
<p><b>New Canaan Country School</b></p>		<p>Bantam Baseball (Spring)</p>

## Waveny Park



### General

Waveny Park is New Canaan's largest park at 285 acres in size. The former Lapham estate "Waveny", has been a town park since 1967 and has been a primary resource for New Canaan's many different recreational uses ever since. There are active and passive recreation areas and cultural sections of the park. The park includes "Waveny", the historic manor house. Waveny House was constructed in 1912 for the Lewis Lapham family. The House was designed by W. B. Tubbs of Greenwich. The gardens and grounds were laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Mrs. Lapham named Waveny House after Waveny River in England where Lapham ancestors had once lived. Waveny House is surrounded by hundreds of acres of lawns, forest and nature trails. The area around the house is a designed landscape with a walled garden, tea house and view lines to the larger landscape elements. Waveny House and its lawns and gardens are a unique community resource. Public events and concert programs are held here year round. Weddings and private parties lease the facility and continue to produce income for the town. The town's Recreation Department is also located in the Waveny House.

The Town runs many of its recreational, league and High School sports programs on the large open field areas on the central and northern portions of the site. Baseball & Softball fields are located here as well as many multipurpose playing fields. Other community uses in this area are Lapham Community Center, Spencer's Run Dog Social Area, Paddle Tennis

Courts and the Waveny Pool; near Waveny House are the Powerhouse Theater and Carriage House Gallery. In the past several proposals focused on the feasibility of adding an ice rink to the Waveny property. There has been renewed interest in this facility in the area adjacent to Watertown field and Dunbar Stadium.

Waveny is situated on a long gentle hilltop/ridge; it is bordered by South Avenue, the Merritt Parkway & Town of Darien, the railroad, Waveny Care Center and the New Canaan High School. The surrounding areas are primarily major roadway corridors (South Ave. & Merritt Parkway) and institutional (New Canaan High School and the Waveny Care Center.) Large areas of woods along South Avenue, south of Waveny House and the woods west of Lapham Avenue remain undeveloped. Much of the wetlands on the site are located within the perimeter areas along South Avenue and the Merritt Parkway.

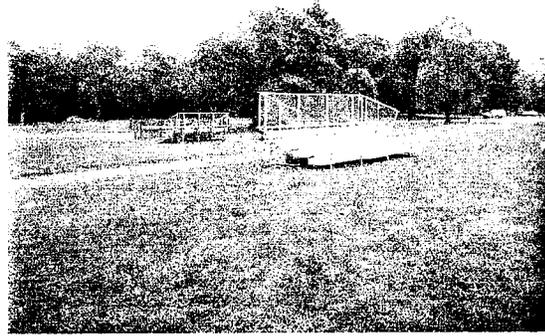
## Waveny Use Zones

- Waveny is big enough to serve many uses for residents of New Canaan
- The park can be described as having four major use 'zones' of use or development. These zones only describe current use but might be used to guide future use, development and conservation of the park.
  1. Waveny House, Gardens & Lawn
  2. Active Recreation Area
  3. Woodlands & Trails Network
  4. Non Programmed/Mulch Processing areas

See Figure 3-2 which locates these 4 zones and the photographs here which illustrate the type of development and activity in these areas.



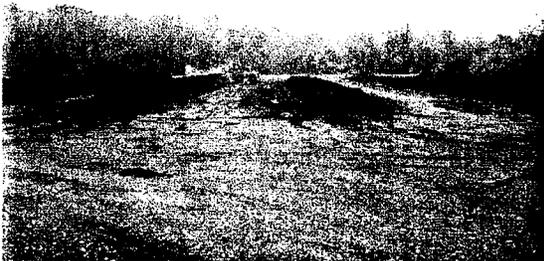
*Designed Landscape at Waveny House (Zone 1)*



*Central Fields Area, Waveny Park (Zone 2)*



*Carriage Path and Pond- East Side of Park (Zone 3)*



*Mulch Processing (Zone 4)*



*Open Lawn/Wildflowers (Zone 1)*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues
  1. Major vehicular access to all park facilities from South Avenue. No traffic lights or bypass lane exist on South Avenue.
  2. The access road enters through the eastern wetland corridor and threads its way past 100' tall Tulip trees and the forest buffer to South Avenue.
  3. Can existing entrance road support additional loads without upgrade or rebuild?

4. Pool can be accessed directly from Lapham Road as well as from the park.
  5. During practice and games there is a parking and traffic congestion problem particularly along the west side of the park road.
  6. There are no streetlights or parking lot lights in roadways along the field area or field parking lots.
- Parking:
    1. Waveny Pool and Lapham Center as newer facilities have their own parking lots which conform to the latest accessibility standards. Other park uses are not designed for accessibility.
    2. Playing and ball fields have adjacent gravel parking with poorly defined spaces .
    3. The existing Lapham Center parking area requires an expansion due to increased usage.
    4. The informal layout of parking at the Dog Park area and West side of Waveny fields make it hard to control parking rules and enforce behavior. Temporary parking controls are needed in places along the roads to discourage parking.
    5. The central parking lot at Waveny has an awkward inefficient, layout.
  - Pedestrian & trail circulation
    1. A major trail system connects all areas of the park; these consist of carriage roads and hiking/running trails. The trails are heavily used by runners, walkers and the high school cross country team .
    2. Trail maintenance/rehabilitation is necessary on much of the system.
  - Pedestrian connection with the rest of town
    1. There are no sidewalks along South Avenue south of Farm Road (But a trail goes through natural area to the Farm Road sidewalk.)
    2. At the Watertower fields a new sidewalk now connects Lapham Community Center through to the High School and South Avenue sidewalks.
  - Spectator Facilities
    1. All Baseball & Softball fields have stands.
    2. Portable toilets are located adjacent to several fields.

## Visual Aspects

- Waveny is a large and varied park with a number of different areas. We have mapped its 4 major use zones. At a minimum these areas should be treated as discrete character areas (See the use zones on map 3-2).
  1. Waveny House, Outbuildings, Gardens and lawn.
  2. Active recreation
  3. Woodlands and Trails Network
  4. Outlying woods areas across Lapham Road
- Signs have been added over the years without having a general signage standard for the park.
- Visual defining features such as lights, benches, site fixtures, additional major plantings and infrastructure improvements should only be chosen as part of a master plan for the park's improvement and development.
- The south lawn and areas within the viewshed of Waveny House are a valuable resource which should be weighed against any development plans in that area.

## Topography/Drainage

1. Most of the playing fields are located on a broad flattened hilltop & ridge which is approximately 525' x 1030'. Slopes are at 1-2% or less to the north. Fields are marked out according to the league's needs. Other fields are benched into the broad side slopes of the hilltop
  2. There are undeveloped portions of the site to the south and west of Waveny House where the slopes are generally in the 3-15% range.
- Environmental Issues: water, wetlands & drainage:
    1. The land slopes generally to the south from Waveny House and divides into drainage corridors before passing under the Meritt Parkway in two streams.
    2. North of Waveny, the hill slopes towards Farm Road and the High School with drainage going into the area along South Avenue opposite Saxe school or to the west along Old Stamford Road.
    3. Wetland soils issues on site: large wetland areas exist along South Avenue and along the southern portion of the site. These soils have been identified from GIS mapping but have not been accurately located in the field by a soil scientist.
    4. There is a small pond directly east of Waveny House in the wetland corridor.
    5. Areas which may be looked at for possible future development should be marked by a soil scientist and survey located as soon as possible in the planning process.

## Vegetation

- Waveny House sits at the top of a 35 acre lawn and wildflower meadow looking to the south. The canopy trees around the house are specimen quality Oaks, Maples and Beech; some are reaching maturity.
- On the east and south sides of the park, in the woodlands and trails areas are Oak-Maple woods of approximately 50-100 years age. Previously farmed areas are vegetated with much younger trees and invasives.
- In the wetland corridors on the eastern portion of the site there are mixed Red Maple, Beech & Tulip Tree woods some of which are reaching maturity.
- To the north there are playing fields which extend towards the High School property. There are several specimen quality oaks located adjacent to the playing fields.
- There is no program to replace the trees in Waveny. Age, maturity and environmental stress are problems affecting many of the park trees.
- The playing fields have good turf conditions and look well-maintained.

## Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- Multiple entries, exits, facilities and dead ends in park make for time-consuming security patrols.
- Pedestrian & trail circulation: Not all trails are ADA accessible.
- HC Parking & Access
  1. Total HC count is on the low side
  2. Paths to Baseball fields appear barrier free but the parking spaces are not marked and there are no paths to accessible viewing areas.

3. Waveny Pool and Lapham Center have ADA compliant parking; the older facilities do not.
4. Spencer's Run Dog Park has no direct accessible path from parking lots.
5. Waveny fields lack marked HC accessible parking & paths.

## Site Opportunities/Limitations

- Zone #1
  1. Waveny House has an elegant, designed landscape with a walled garden, tea house and pathways designed for views of the lawns, meadows and forest edges. Consider strategies to maintain and enhance this asset.
  2. Development which impacts Waveny House or its immediate landscape should be discouraged.
  3. Consider a general upgrading of appearance around house: repair of walls, plantings etc.
  4. Site improvements in Zone 1 should be highly restricted.
  5. Consider the preparation of a Cultural Landscape Report for Zone 1 which would be able to assess the site for conservation/interpretation of the Olmsted landscape.
- Zones #1 & 2
  1. Consider an overall parking plan for the park which will address adequate parking for all demand areas and provide handicapped parking & accessible routes to all event areas.
  2. Consider ornamental streetlights in at least the most heavily trafficked areas of the park roadway; make sure that the poles and fixtures are appropriate ornamental style and scale to fit the general character of the park.
  3. Consider a uniform signage program with plan/guidelines for the park to avoid visual clutter.
  4. The Dog Park has been a success but improvements have been suggested such as an area for small dogs and an adjacent plays cape for younger children. ( This may also benefit paddle tennis court users.)
- Zone #2
  1. This area has no room for field expansion. Make the area work better by design of more efficient parking, circulation improvements and site details.
  2. The parking on the east side of the fields (Central Parking Area) should be redesigned for safer, more efficient operation.
  3. Circulation improvements should be considered to alleviate traffic congestion on the west side of the fields.
  4. Potential for storage facility adjacent to the Watertower fields
  5. Prepare a feasibility study to confirm that an ice rink can be located on the site, near the High School and if so, evaluate the impact on other existing facilities.

- Zone #3
  1. Possible areas for site improvements involve the former corn fields but access to this area may be problematic.
  2. Hiking/walking trails dominate this area. They are heavily used and are in need of maintenance or upgrading to current usage requirements.
  3. Areas considered for development should have more detailed topographic and resource mapping completed.
- Zone #4
  1. The area across Lapham Road, part of which is now used as a mulch processing and transfer area should be explored for possible additional uses.
  2. Consider trail expansion potential in zone #4.
  3. Areas considered for development should have more detailed topographic and resource mapping completed.
- All Zones
  1. Consider an overall tree master plan and a tree donation program which anticipates tree replacement and creates opportunities for tree donation.
- A natural gas transmission line traverses the site from South Avenue to the Lapham Road on the west. Buildings or extensive grading are prohibited and any work in the easement will be regulated.

## Mead Memorial Park



*Mead Pond*

### General

Mead Park, approximately 25 ac., is an old Park that was created from a former industrial and swamp area about 75 years ago. There are some interesting site features that make it special such as the pergola, the entrance arch and the stone walls along the pond. A principal feature of the park is a 4.5 acre pond with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre island in the middle. Walking trails go around the pond area and there is an old building used for storage at the northern end of the park along Richmond Hill Road. The flatter areas to the south have been mostly developed as baseball fields. Tennis courts are benched into the slopes along the railroad tracks. Mead is the location for the High School Varsity Baseball home field. Major facilities include three baseball fields & 9 lighted tennis courts, 8 of the courts are Har-Tru surfaced and 1 is asphalt with a premier cushion overlay. The courts are in generally excellent condition. There is an extensive children's playground and a newly renovated park concession building. The cubs and majors little league baseball teams play here through the summer and it's an active place during the early evenings. This is a good area for baseball because of its sheltered location and tall trees around the fields which help shield the setting sun from player's eyes. Passive activities include areas for picnicking and pond viewing. There is a pathway to enter the Bristow Bird Sanctuary behind Mellick and Gamble fields (see Bristow Sanctuary as shown on Location map.). In the winter, there can be ice skating on the pond if the ice is thick enough. The north and east sides of the park are bordered by residential development, both single and multi family.



*Mead Field*



*Park Entrance*



*Trees in Parking Lot*



*'Intimate' Spectator Facilities at Mead Field*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues:
  - One way circulation from Park Street (In only) – to Richmond Hill (Exit only) simplifies traffic flow.
  - Parking is on right side of roadway as you go in all field activities are on the left, requiring traffic to stop as pedestrians walk across to the game. Parking is not lined out, making mistakes common and frequently difficult to park here.
  - Parking and circulation around the snack bar and back fields is congested and poorly defined. There are many vehicular backing and turning motions required in an area of pedestrian circulation. On early summer evenings there is a lot of activity here.
  - There is frequent overflow parking in unmarked areas along the exit road going north.
- Parking count: 56+ Car Parking (not all marked out.)
- Pedestrian & trail circulation
  - Pedestrian connection to Bristow Sanctuary goes around Gamble field. Trail signing and surfacing could be improved.
  - Crosswalks and accessible pathways are not marked.
  - Tennis court access walkways are in poor condition.
  - There are no sidewalks in areas of heavy traffic.
  - There are trails in several areas around pond, but it's an incomplete system.

- Pedestrian connection with the rest of town:
  - Sidewalks exist along Park Street & Richmond Hill Road but no walkways lead into the park.
  - Internal pedestrian circulation is poor, conflicts with roadways, unmarked crosswalks, etc.
- Restrooms, snack bar, and playscape are situated in a central location.
- Mellick & Gamble have spectator seating and lighting. Mead Field has poor spectator facilities.

## Topography/Drainage

- The Park is in a bowl; Park Street and the railroad are generally higher and look down into the park from the sides. Most of the park is the pond and the flat areas south of the pond where the baseball fields are.
- Gamble Field has poor drainage. Offsite water from across the railroad tracks collects on the field.
- All parking lots and the northern two thirds of the park drain into Mead Pond and the drainage course running along the eastern edge of the park
- Environmental Issues: water, wetlands & drainage
  - Drainage from most paved areas on site goes into Mead Pond.
  - Mead & Gamble fields are on areas of poor drainage.
  - Mead Pond also receives much offsite drainage from development to the east and north.
  - The farther south you go in the park the worse the drainage problems are.
- The steep slopes around the tennis courts are eroding in places; site retaining walls are in need of repair/replacement.

## Visual Aspects

- Mead Park is a bowl with mostly internal views of the pond and internal workings of the park.

## Vegetation

- Mead Park has a collection of Mature Canopy trees, mostly Oaks 60-80 feet tall, Red Cedars and White Pines.
- Many of the park's trees are under stress and have difficult living conditions. One example is the trees along the wall at the main parking area have been paved up to their trunks.
- The woods to the south have a dense cover of wetland/floodplain canopy understory species with invasive species taking hold at the edges.
- Orientation of field, sun angles, wind direction, tree edges
  - Field orientation is generally acceptable, enhanced by topography and tree foliage.
  - Bristow Sanctuary to South contains large trees which block low angle sun
  - Hillside to west blocks low angle sun.
- The turf at Mead is in good condition (Partly because of the wetness of the area.).

## Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- All facilities are close by and visible from internal roadway system.
- ADA Accessibility

- HC parking is marked at concession building.
- No accessible paths to tennis courts or spectator areas.
- There are no accessible spectator areas within the park.
- Spectator stands lack required safety railings.
- Playscape is within range of foul balls from Mellick Field. Consider the conflict when working on the new Master Plan.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.
- The entrance drive is within range of foul balls from Mead Field.

### Site Opportunities/Limitations

- This park has been developed for some time and it is clear that some of its former uses have changed; legacy elements should be evaluated to determine their current utility and maintenance requirements.
- Consider a new Master Plan for better organization, safety and enjoyment of the park.
- Consider circulation and parking improvements to alleviate parking problems & safety concerns. Include pedestrian walk connections to surrounding streets and the town center.
- Consider improvement (renovation and enhancements) to the existing walk system which creates an accessible system that provides better experiences of all the Park's attractions.
- Mead field has a large Oak tree at limit of play, assess for pruning.
- Gamble Field requires grading and drainage work.
- Hillsides and retaining walls at tennis courts require maintenance.
- Consider strengthening the natural buffers at the park edges, particularly in the northern section.
- Consider an overall tree master plan which anticipates tree replacement and creates opportunities for tree donation.
- Consider working with an arborist to enhance the health of the park's trees; maintain the park's landscape plantings & enhance where necessary.
- Consider park maintenance, storage requirements and the utility of Richmond Hill buildings.

## Irwin Park



### General

Irwin Park is New Canaan's newest park and has an area of 36 acres. The town of New Canaan purchased the property from the Irwin family in 2005. It is currently an undeveloped former estate but the grounds are used often by townspeople. A Master Plan was completed in 2006; construction documents on phase 1, a multi-use trail system have been completed and construction is scheduled to begin spring 2007. In addition to the former estate's landscaped grounds and open front lawn, most of the park consists of open meadows and succession growth areas with mown paths. Picnicking areas, sitting areas and strolling at the former Irwin home are currently the primary uses for this property. It is very popular with dog walkers and owners during the day. There are also a two story Barn and a 'New Canaan Modern' architect designed Pool house on the property. These structures may be useful for the town or community groups and should be evaluated for suitability for such use. A seasonal outdoor theatre has held a successful summer engagement, using the western hillside behind the house as an amphitheatre.

The theme for the development of Irwin Park is the emphasis on more passive activities such as the walking trails, children's play area, performance venue, pleasure gardens picnicking and sitting areas. Active recreation would be restricted to the open meadow area on the north side of the property.



*Meadows*



*Summer Outdoor Theatre*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues
  - One entrance/two exits for traffic on Weed Street.
  - Narrow drive limits accessibility for high traffic events.
  - Larger emergency vehicles may have a hard time getting into the site, especially from the north, because of the narrow entrance.
- Parking and HC parking count
  - 6 spaces +possible meadow overflow spaces, no marked accessible spaces.
- Pedestrian & trail circulation
  - There are mown paths but no formal trails yet.
- Pedestrian connection with the rest of town
  - No sidewalk access along Weed Street to town system.
- There are no permanent restrooms on site.
- There is no permanent signage system in place to direct park visitors.

## Topographic/Drainage

- The property is essentially a hill with fairly gentle side slopes to the east, the house sits atop the middle section of the hill and the ridge slopes gently up to the north. To the west the hillside slopes off more steeply to a small wetland
- It is very wet at the base of the west slope requiring drainage to make this area accessible in the wet season.
- Most drainage leaves the site to the south and east along Weed Street or to the west into several watercourses and wetlands at the western property boundary.

## Vegetation

- Existing ornamental landscape elements are arranged around the house and in the great lawn at the front of the park facing Weed Street. There are numerous specimen trees in and around the lawn areas. These specimen trees should be preserved and

protected as park improvements move forward. Contemplate an arboricultural assessment providing detailed recommendations for tree care.

- The great lawn area is protected by an easement restricting the kind of improvements that can be located here. The grass is in good condition.
- On the western and northern sides of the park there is an old meadow with red cedars and bluestem grasses. If this is not maintained by periodic mowing, the area will succeed to larger brush and woodlands.
- A large (60") Cucumber Magnolia is located on the northeast side of the property.
- There are many Ash trees on site, almost all of which are exhibiting signs of serious decline, many appear dead. The town arborist should be consulted on the proper measures to take with these trees.

### Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- Traffic pattern is simple and transects the developed areas on site.
- Park is not accessible per ADA guidelines. Primary concerns are accessible path surfacing, and marked accessible parking spaces.

### Site Opportunities/Limitations

- Developable areas on site are shown on the proposed February 2006 Master Plan
  - Proposal reflects developing unencumbered areas on site.
- The development of playing fields would require cut/fill on the hillside along Wahackme Road.
- The west side of site includes wetlands and watercourses. The master plan minimizes any impact on these existing resources.
- The southern and western sides of the park are adjacent to residential backyards. The approved master plan provides buffers to the neighborhood.
- Emergency access may be restricted by the size of the entrance drive at the front wall; consider redesign for new park use and emergency access.
- Consider an overall signage plan to direct visitors around site.
- Consider adding handicapped accessible parking and paths where necessary.
- An overall tree care plan by a certified arborist should be implemented to minimize hazards from dead and diseased trees.
- **Proposed Improvements on the 2006 Master Plan: (See Figure 3-4a)**
  - Accessible multi use trail system – Loops through park with neighborhood entrances
  - 1 - Multi purpose field 65x110 yds
  - 3-60' Baseball/Softball fields
  - Seasonal outdoor theatre/music space with HC access
  - 124 Parking spaces
  - Outdoor Basketball court

- Barn with Visitor's Center/Restrooms
- Improvements to driveways and handicapped accessible parking
- Children's play area
- Possible Modifications to the 2006 Master Plan
  - Eliminate proposed basketball courts.
  - Redesign Children's area
  - Reposition one Baseball Field.
  - Assess Cal Ripken field layouts with new diamond size.

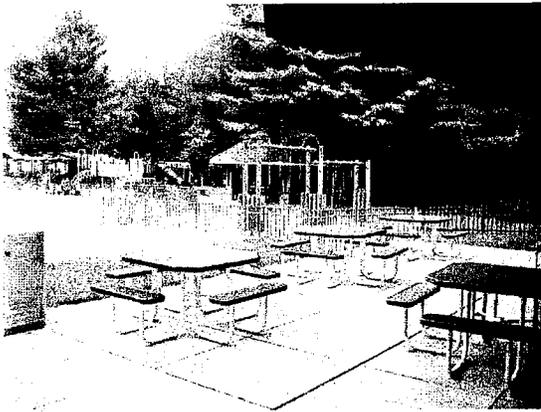
## Kiwanis Park



*The Kiwanis Pavilion*

### General

Kiwanis Park is 17.5 acres. This is an historic summer camp and there still are day camp activities here every summer. The Park's facilities include a swimming pond, beach, playground, a changing/restr oom/concession facility, covered picnic shelter, beach volleyball area, lawns and a paved outdoor basketball court (not lighted) Adjacent residential parcels with an area of about 5 ac on the sloping hills ide up to Marvin Ridge Road have been acquired. A Master plan and working drawings have been c ompleted but limited construction has taken place so far. The Master Plan calls for trails, a sledding hill and picnic area development on the hillside overlooking the pond. The picnic shelter is scheduled to be replaced next spring. T rail development is underway on the hillside along Old Norwalk Road. Currently undeveloped land at this site incl udes the southern portion of the site and the areas on t he slopes leading up to Marvi n Ridge and Old Norwalk Roads.



*Pavilion & Playground*



*Beach Volleyball*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues
  - Poor visibility of the entrance drive and sign from Old Norwalk Road
  - Single drive in & out from Old Norwalk Road
  - Traffic conflicts with New Canaan Community Nursery School during peak periods.
    - Parents line up in the park waiting in cars for nursery dismissal
- Circulation problems occur at this facility especially when nursery school and day camp are operating. Better signage may help alleviate this.
- Parking
  - 22 spaces + 60 unlined, overflow spaces (open lawn parking lot).
  - 2 spaces HC marked
- Pedestrian & trail circulation
  - A trail system is on the master plan but has not yet been fully constructed.
  - Changing/concession/restroom facility and playscape area appear HC compliant
  - Access to Basketball court appears barrier free but has no accessible walk.
- Pedestrian connection with the rest of town
  - No sidewalk access along Old Norwalk Road.
- Restrooms, Concession, and playscape location
  - Centralized and accessible
  - HC marked parking close by.
- No spectator facilities for basketball court

## Topography/Drainage

- Around the pond and adjacent to the (Five Mile River) brook flowing along the west side the site is virtually flat.
- The eastern portion of the site slopes steeply up to Old Norwalk/Marvin Ridge Roads
- Environmental Issues: water, wetlands & drainage:

- South side of site is an area of very poor drainage, there is extensive ponding after rainfall.
- Wetland and Flood issues must be addressed in developing any new facilities on the southern portion of the property.

## Vegetation

- Existing vegetation is deciduous woods. Oak, Maples and Pines 30-50'.
- The south end of the park is flat wetland/floodplain with dense understory growth, major trees include Swamp Red Maples and riparian species.
- The hillside up to Marvin Ridge Road is mixed Oaks, Maples, and Pines.
- Along all woods edges there are well established invasive pest species consisting of Oriental Bittersweet, Sumac, Tree of Heaven and Multiflora Rose.

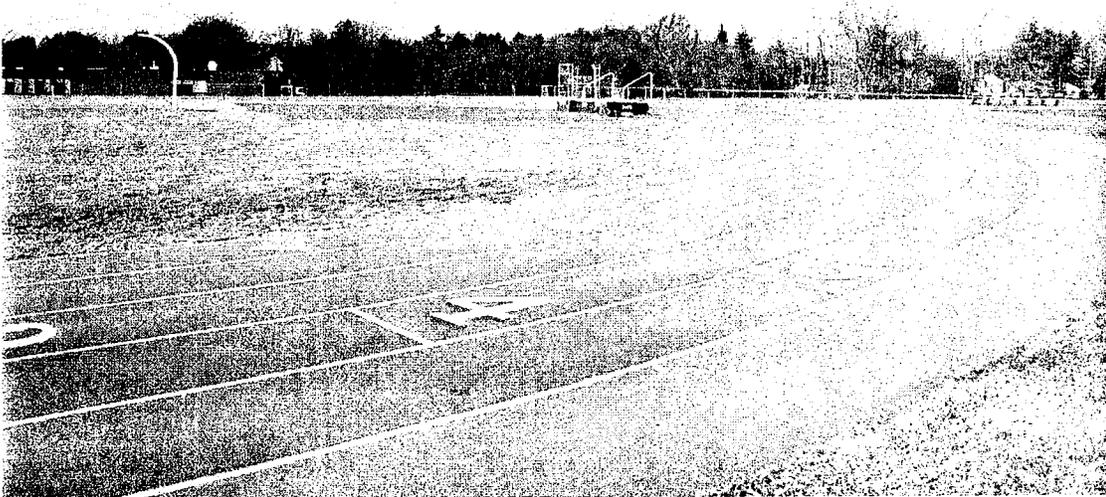
## Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- Single access drive makes patrolling efficient, quick
- Parking and ADA access
  - 2 spaces HC marked at concession area
  - Site and facilities pose no barriers- no grade changes required for access.
  - Playground surface not accessible
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

## Site Opportunities/Limitations

- Obstructions to play, field layout: Wetlands, property lines and optimal field orientation issues make it virtually impossible to locate any large playing fields at Kiwanis.
- The basketball court was constructed primarily for use by the summer day camp program. Its remote location makes it uninviting for general public use.
- The master plan shows how several trails, a sledding hill and new picnic areas could be developed. Development according to the approved master plan should be encouraged.
- Consider a signage plan to help direct and control parental pick up activity.
- A portion of the open lawn area north of the pavilion parking lot is used for day camp parent pick-up parking and loading. Consider parking/circulation modifications for this area.
- Maintain lawn area for deceleration area at bottom of sledding hill.

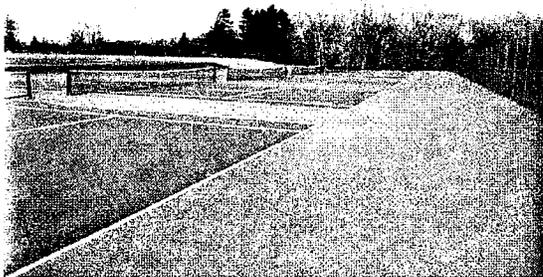
# New Canaan High School



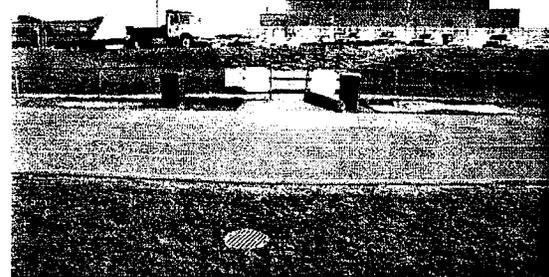
*High School running track and Track Field*

## General

The New Canaan High School property was once a part of the Waveny estate; it was donated to the town in the 1960's as were the adjacent parcels including the Waveny Care Center. It is bordered by Farm Road, the undeveloped woods along South Avenue, the gas transmission line, Waveny Park and Waveny Care Center. Most of the High School athletic facilities are technically part of Waveny Park (See Map). However, for the purposes of this study we included this area with the High School site since these facilities are heavily used by High School programs. The High School is currently under renovation, scheduled to be done in 2008. The site will be renovated as new and is required to be brought into compliance with ADA standards. High School Athletic facilities include: Dunning Field (a new synthetic turf Football/Soccer stadium); Track Field, Farm Road fields, Watertower Field #1, a new synthetic turf field, Watertower Field #2; Short Field (a ½ size practice football field), 6 tennis courts and a 400 meter running track. Most fields are oriented roughly North - South in alignment with the general slope of the land down from the Watertower area towards Farm Road. Almost all the property in these parcels appears to be uplands but there are unmarked wetland soils areas off the property on the east and west sides. Most of the property is developed as fields, buildings or circulation, only a small area near the gas transmission line and Waveny Park is currently vacant. The High School site has been mentioned as a possible location for the proposed New Canaan Ice Rink.



*Tennis Courts*



*Track Entrance*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues
  - Single entrance controls access to all facilities including High School from Farm Road.
  - Parking lots are tight with compact radii and have curvilinear layout which contributes to difficult parking and turning movements.
  - There is severe traffic congestion at peak times of practice and end of school times.
- Parking and HC parking count: HC parking marked, adequate.
- Pedestrian & trail circulation
  - No HC access to Farm Road fields from parking lot
  - Access to Farm road and track fields from school is awkward because of slope, grades and available space.
- Pedestrian connection with the rest of town
  - A new Sidewalk connects to Waverly Park from the high school tennis courts to Lapham Community Center.
  - Sidewalk along Farm Road connects to South Avenue and Town center.
- Spectator Facilities:
  - Dunning field has accessible stands for viewing sports.
  - There are no viewing areas for spectators at the track, Track Field or Farm Road field.

## Topography/Drainage

- Environmental Issues: water, wetlands & drainage
  - There are marked and unmarked wetlands to West of tennis courts
  - Unmarked wetlands between High School and South Avenue and south to transmission line area.
  - Most high school site drainage on east side goes to the east into the natural area along South Avenue.
  - Tennis courts force water into track area where it is difficult to drain off.

- Drainage problems around field need to be addressed.
- The driveway around the south end of the school carries water into Dunning Field because of drainage/grading problems.
- South end of Farm Road fields is wet because of poor grading.
- Around the north side of the track where jumping and throwing events are held, the ground is not level enough to meet standards for scholastic athletic competition.
- Farm Road fields are currently only used for practice.
- Major Fields are all N/S with appropriate orientation.

### Vegetation/Turf Conditions

- The only large vegetated area on the high school property is to the east of the school along South Avenue extending south to the gas transmission line. This area is comprised of large (60-80') Red and White Oaks, Tulip Trees and Red Maples.
- Much of the undeveloped area south of Dunning stadium is possible wetlands, if any development (field expansion/relocation) is considered outside areas presently developed, the wetlands should be marked.
- Each year, after the fields are closed, sod is laid down to repair worn areas. The fields remain in good condition.
- The existing natural turf fields are used heavily, they need to be rested and maintained periodically. If additional synthetic turf fields are constructed there will be greater opportunity to reduce wear and extend play on the remaining natural turf fields.

### Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- Single entry & exit makes for good security design.
- Guardhouse at site entry.
- The High School is under renovation with a goal of correcting accessibility problems..

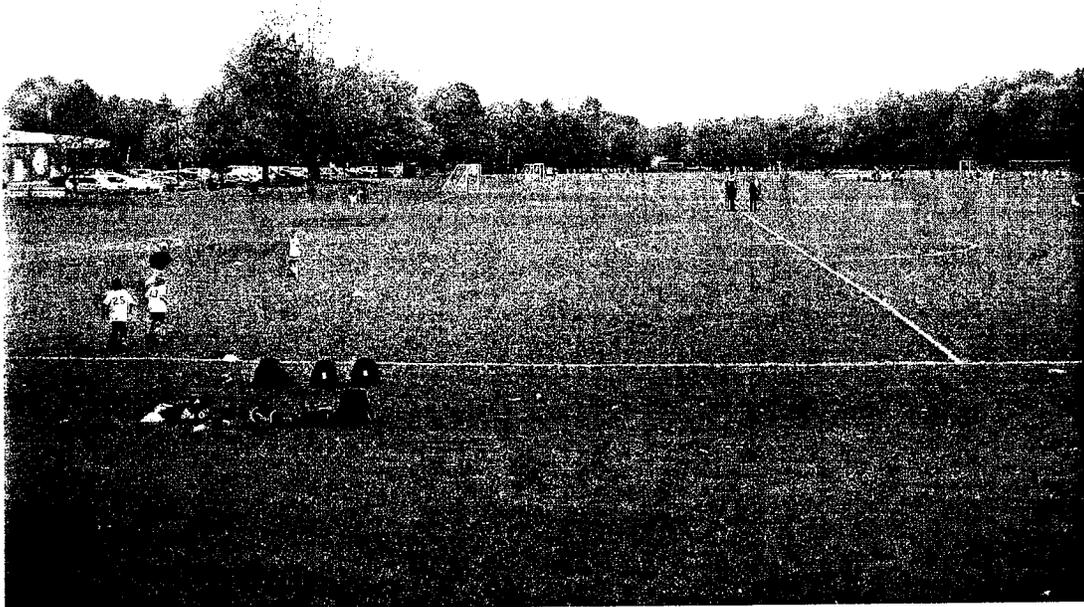
### Site Opportunities/Limitations

- Consider an athletic facility Master Plan to integrate needs/desires onto the available areas for development.
- Consider redevelopment of underused areas. Consider revising the Farm Road fields into one large multipurpose field and a baseball field.
- Consider adding 2 tennis courts to meet standards for schools of this size.
- Regrade track and field competition areas that do not meet standards for interscholastic athletic competition.
- One of Watertown fields was converted to synthetic turf. Consider doing a 2<sup>nd</sup> one to reduce maintenance and extend playability of fields.
- Consider adding needed parking at Lapham Center and provide better circulation.
- Consider modifying location of track when it's time to replace surface.
- Consider changes in accessing the track for both spectators and athletes.
- Consider changes to parking and pick up for the Farm Road field.

## New Canaan High School

- The gas transmission line cuts through the site and Waveny Park, limiting construction/grading in its vicinity.
- Prepare a feasibility study to confirm that an ice rink can be located on the site, and if so, evaluate the impact on other existing facilities.

## Saxe Middle School & Conner Field

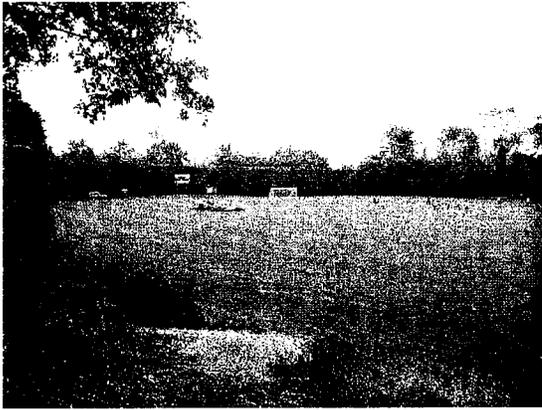


*The Saxe Fields*

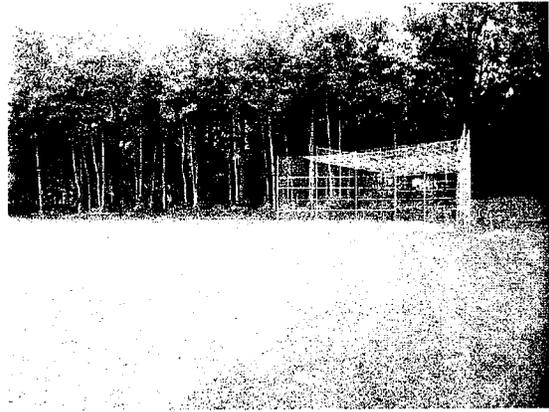
### General

The area of Saxe Middle School and Conner field is approximately 35 ac. Saxe Middle School was formerly the town's high school until the new high school was built close by on Farm Road. The school underwent a major renovation about 10 years ago which added educational space and updated most site circulation and accessibility elements. The property is bounded by South Avenue, Farm Road, residential backyards to the east and south, and the New Canaan Y MCA. Athletic facilities include Conner Field, a 90' baseball field (HS Varsity Soccer and JV Baseball use this as their home field); at Saxe there are 5 or 6 multi purpose playing fields and one (60') baseball field. The baseball field nearest the school is not currently used because it conflicts with a needed multi-purpose field. The Saxe fields are equipped with an irrigation system. Saxe is the main sports complex serving league soccer in the fall and lacrosse in the spring. A newly installed playscape is located at the eastern side of the property. Adjacent to this are two youth size outdoor basketball courts. There has been a proposal to make these courts full size outdoor courts, properly graded for competitive play.

## Saxe Middle School & Conner Field



*Soccer Field at Conner (fall)*



*Baseball at Conner Field*

### Circulation

- The Saxe Middle School parking lot is used heavily during league and school sports activities. Parent drop off and parking for field access is from South Avenue, a heavily trafficked and at times, parked roadway. Circulation at peak times in the parking lot near the fields is problematic. Assess for changes that can be made to improve safety and ease congestion.
- Three major town uses are all adjacent here. The YMCA, Saxe School and the New Canaan High School are all at this corner. The parking lots are consistently full and South Avenue has cars parked along it frequently as well.
- Parking and HC parking count: 192 car parking, 15 buses; HC parking marked.
- Pedestrian & trail circulation: all fields are at a lower level than the sidewalks, there is no accessible pathway down to the fields.
- Pedestrian connection: Sidewalk connect with the rest of town along South Avenue.
- There are some spectator facilities on Conner Field: There is no accessible path to get to them; No convenient parking is dedicated to Conner Field.

### Topography/Drainage

- Both the Saxe field area and Conner Field are nearly flat, Conner is at a lower level than Saxe, requiring a walkway and steps to make it down to field level.
- Drainage flows to the south and east from Saxe fields; Conner Field flows overland to the east.
- Orientation of field, sun angles, wind direction, tree edges: Buffer to Southwest has large trees blocking low angle sun (especially at Conner).

### Vegetation

- The adjacent woods at the site are mostly residential backyards and border trees which buffer the fields with a mix of 40-50' Oaks, Maples and a healthy crop of invasive trees and vines.
- Conner Field is buffered from Farm Road by a high hedge of Arborvitae which do a good job of screening off views into the site.

## Saxe Middle School & Conner Field

- The Saxe fields get a lot of use. This is the site of constant league and recreational sports practice; the turf is worn and thin on several of the fields.
- The turf at Conner field is in excellent condition.

### Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis
- Security can cruise through the Saxe site with ease since it is open and visibility from both South Avenue and Farm Road is good. Conner Field is hidden behind a tall hedge of evergreens and a wooded edge and is not easily observed.
- The existing wood steps down to Conner Field are at the end of their functional lifespan. Assess for improvements to access way.
- Conner is on lower level than parking requiring an accessible walkway to get to the field level from adjacent parking. There is no marked ADA compliant accessible path from the parking to the field
- There are no accessible viewing areas at Conner field.
- Saxe fields lack ADA accessible paths and viewing areas

### Site Opportunities/Limitations

- Resolve circulation problems in the Saxe parking lots .
- Consider adding accessible restroom facilities for use during times when the school facilities are not available.
- Expansion is unlikely; all fields are already located close to property lines and there is minimal area that has not been developed.
- The YMCA facility is just south of the main playing fields. They propose a sidewalk connection to Farm Road along the east side of South Avenue. This could help control circulation in this area and also discourage cars from parking along the roadsides.
- Consider adding 'Project Adventure' elements to enhance existing physical education program.
- Consider a barrier or guard rail along South Avenue to control parking problems.
- Consider accessible paths to spectator areas at all fields.
- Consider abandonment of the unused baseball backstop if it does not figure into the athletic master plan.

## South Elementary School



*Looking at the field from the North*

### General

The school property is approximately 12 acres. Access is from both the north off of Gower Road (bus loop) and from Farm Road (parent drop-off). The building is in the middle, splitting the circulation on each side. This school was renovated a few years ago with accessible site features. The recreational facilities include playgrounds, paved play area, a small practice backstop and a small playing field, all on the lower level down from the school building and parking areas.



*South School's Playing Field*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues:
  - Parent/Visitor/Staff parking/Student drop-off route has a single entrance/exit from Farm Road
  - Bus loop is separate from Gower Road
  - No bypass/turning lane on Farm Road.
- Parking and HC parking count
  - 104 car parking
  - HC parking marked (in front only)
- Pedestrian & trail circulation
  - Pedestrian connection with the rest of town: Sidewalks exist along North side of Farm Road to West and down Gower road to West. Sidewalks lead north and east into the neighborhoods adjacent to the school.
- There are two playscapes: One is down the hill on the West side of the site, adjacent to the field and near the paved play area. The other is near the front door on the East side of the building with a paved play area nearby. The playscapes should be reviewed on a periodic basis to ensure that it meets the current standards of accessibility and safety.
- There are no spectator facilities

## Topography/Drainage

- The site is on a hillside with the building above and the field and playground on the lower level, approximately 20' below the building.
- Size & Layout of fields
  - 1 small baseball field. Batters face Southwest
  - 1 multi purpose playing Field is oriented North/South.
- Obstructions to play, field layout
  - Property line and slope on West side of field limits width.

## Vegetation

RC

- The adjacent woods at the site are mostly residential backyards which have a buffer of 40-50' Oaks and maples.
- On site there is a good stand of Oaks and Maples on the North side of the playing fields; these trees are 60-80 feet tall.
- The playing field turf is worn and thin.

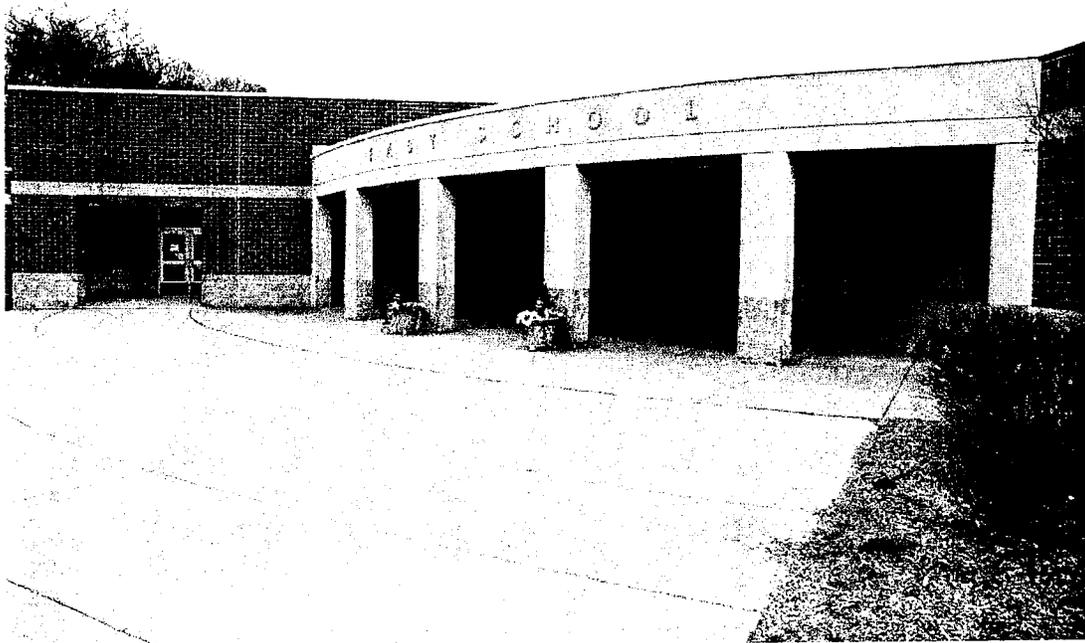
### Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- School has two approaches, disconnected and open to drivers at all times.
- ADA Accessibility: School is on a hill separated from the playground and playing field by about 20' in height. Accessible ramps lead down from the school to the play areas.

### Site Opportunities/Limitations

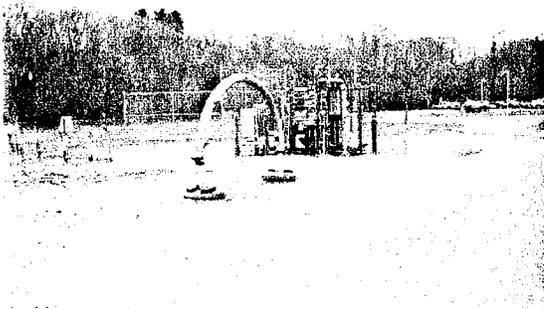
- Site is bounded by residential properties. This is a limited property that is already developed in an efficient manner. Changes are limited by the property configuration; the neighborhood is densely developed close to the property lines.
- Consider adding accessible restroom facilities for use during times when the school facilities are not available.
- Slope issues: Slope on West side of fields limits size, no opportunity to cut towards building (see photos).
- Wetland soils are identified on the northern tip of the property; they do not pose an environmental issue to any proposed or potential use of the property.

## East Elementary School



### General

East School is on a site of approximately 20 acres. Access is from Little Brook Road, bus loop and parent/visitor/staff/parking areas. Property is located on the triangle of Little Brook Road and New Norwalk Road (Non Access from New Norwalk Road) and bounded on the north by a watercourse. Facilities include two small baseball fields with backstops, a small multiuse playing field, paved play areas and two playscapes. The school was included in New Canaan's latest round of school renovations (8 years ago.). The playing fields are problematic. Previous uncontrolled fill and existing groundwater levels combine to make these fields difficult to play on and potential improvements expensive.



*Play Area*



*Playing Fields*

## Circulation

- All traffic enters from Little Brook Road, including Parent drop-off, school bus and staff. Bus and parent drop off traffic have been separated.
- Parking and HC parking count
  - 108+ Car Parking
  - Handicapped accessible parking marked
- Pedestrian connection with the rest of town; no.
  - There is a sidewalk extending eastwards along Little Brook Road, away from town center.
- There are two play scapes. One is on the south side and the other on the north side near the paved play area.
- There are no spectator facilities for fields.
- Size & Layout of fields
  - Playing field is east-west
  - 2 Baseball fields; batters face north.

## Topography/Drainage

- From the apex of the triangle the property slopes down to a small floodplain along the watercourse. The school is built into the hillside and comes down in levels.
- All water either stays on site or is directed into the watercourse

## Vegetation

- Floodplain/wetland species along watercourse
- Invasive/second growth trees are along new Norwalk Road
- Turf/soil conditions are marginal for playability of these fields because of rocks and compaction.

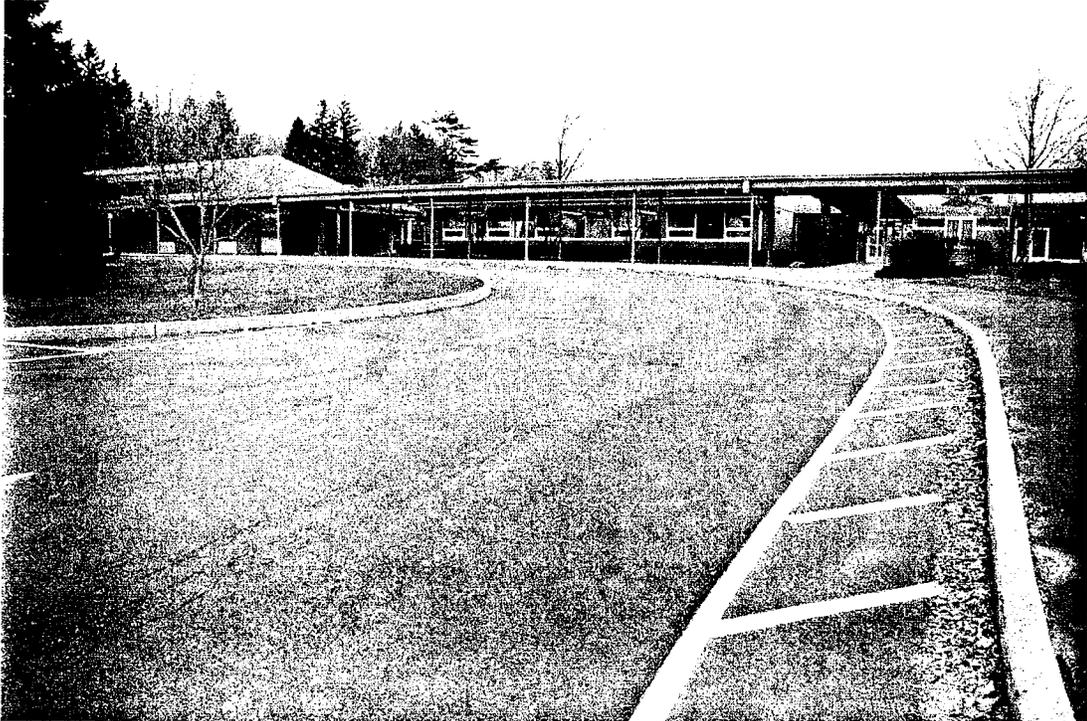
## Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- The school site is easily viewed from Little Brook Road in a drive-by.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis
- Baseball diamonds/playing fields are without accessible path and viewing areas.

## Site Opportunities/Limitations

- Field expansion is limited by brook (inland wetlands), property boundary, topography and parking lots.
- Soil conditions on the fields are not adequate for competitive playing (stones, debris, and high water table). The school has sought cost estimates for work to correct this problem.

## West Elementary School



### General

West School is an elementary school on a site of approximately 46 acres. The school was renovated in 1998 along with the other elementary schools in town. The school occupies a high point on the ridge; there is a water company tower nearby on site. The school building is right off of Ponus Ridge Road on a narrow lot. The balance of the property extends beyond the school to the east and down the hill. Much of the undeveloped parcel to the back of the school may be limited for possible future use based on previous litigation. The property is bordered by residential land uses (back yards) on all sides. Facilities include: a multipurpose field, a small baseball field (backstop), a paved play area and 2 playscapes.



### *Playing fields at West School*

The use of the athletic facilities at West School beyond school hours is severely limited by a filed legal agreement.



*Playscapes at West School*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues
  - Parent/Visitor/Staff parking/Student drop-off route has a single entrance/exit from Ponus Ridge Road. There is a separate bus loop.
  - No bypass/turning lane on Ponus Ridge Road.
- Parking and HC parking count
  - 102+ car parking
  - HC parking marked
- Pedestrian connection with the rest of town
  - There are no sidewalks along Ponus Ridge.
  - There is potential for trails to undeveloped portions of property to the East.
- The two playscapes are located at rear of school south of the playing field & at the front side of the building.
- There are no spectator facilities for fields.

## Topography/Drainage

- West school is on the top of a North South ridgeline; the hillsides slope away from the back of the school and expansion of fields will require more fill the farther they go to the east.
  - Playing Field is N/S
- Slope on east side of fields limits fields to about 200' width.

## Vegetation

- The adjacent woods at the site are mostly residential backyards which include 40-50' Oaks, Maples and invasives.
- The playing field appears to be in good condition

## Safety and Security/ADA/Accessibility

- Single entry/exit drive to facility.

- The 1998 renovation of the school addresses most ADA accessibility concerns. All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis
- **Site Opportunities/Limitations**
- There is a large undeveloped area of school property down the hill to east beyond the water tower. However, the developability of this area is affected by wetlands, slopes, access considerations and legal issues.
- Legal issues: an agreement with adjacent owners limits times for practices or games. The development of the balance of the property, for any additional playing fields is questionable.
- Slope issues: the slope on east side of fields limits size
- A wetland corridor is located down the hill to the east, no current impacts.
- Consider low impact trails for undeveloped area east of school.

## Other Sites



*The Millpond*

### Miscellaneous Parks and Areas:

#### Mill Pond Park: Millport Avenue

This is a small roadside park along Millport Avenue with an area of about 5 acres. The north end of this park is bordered by East Avenue and New Norwalk Road. Most of the area is actually water and the narrow stream sides of the upper Five Mile River. North of the dam, a portion of the stream widens out into a former millpond. There is a small area suitable for picnicking leading down to the water near the bridge. This park is mostly used for skating when ice conditions permit. Limited parking is available along Millport Avenue.



*Ed Dixon Park Hoyt Street*



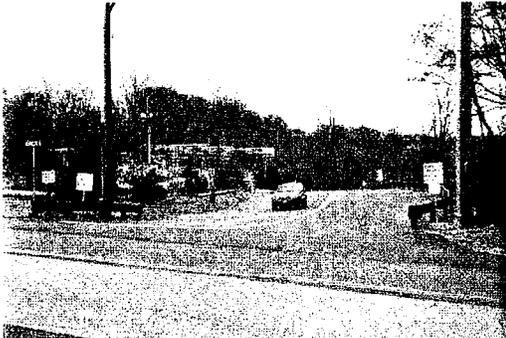
*Millpond Park Millport Avenue*

### Dixon Memorial Park: Hoyt Street

Ed Dixon Memorial Park is on Hoyt Street. Parcel area is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre. This is a neighborhood community park with a small playscape & a very small level lawn area suitable for picnicking.

### God's acre: Main Street/Park Street

The area is actually only about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre. This is the green in a triangle formed by St. John Place, Main Street and Park Street near the churches. It is a small sloping, grassed area with trees. No public parking is available for this park.



*Entrance to Landfill Parcel*



*God's Acre*

### New Canaan Nature Center: Oenoke Ridge Road

The nature center is located within 40 acre Bliss Park on Oenoke Ridge Road. There are two miles of hiking trails, an arboretum, a visitor's center and greenhouse. The New Canaan Nature Center is an environmental education center and sanctuary dedicated to helping people of all ages better understand, appreciate and care for the world of nature

### Landfill Parcel: Lakeview Avenue

This is an area of about 27 acres just south of Lakeview Cemetery and contains New Canaan's former landfill. It is currently used as the town refuse transfer station, waste treatment facility and as headquarters/maintenance center for the highway department. The landfill area is capped and now is covered by grass. There has been discussion on possible future uses for this area such as becoming a golf driving range.

### Clark Parcel

This is an area of about 20.5 acres with frontage on both Michigan Road and Smith Ridge Road. It is now a predominantly a wooded parcel, including both areas of inland wetlands and uplands, with no developed facilities and protected by deed restrictions.

## Waveny Park



### General

Waveny Park is New Canaan's largest park at 285 acres in size. The former Lapham estate "Waveny", has been a town park since 1967 and has been a primary resource for New Canaan's many different recreational uses ever since. There are active and passive recreation areas and cultural sections of the park. The park includes "Waveny", the historic manor house. Waveny House was constructed in 1912 for the Lewis Lapham family. The House was designed by W. B. Tubbs of Greenwich. The gardens and grounds were laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Mrs. Lapham named Waveny House after Waveny River in England where Lapham ancestors had once lived. Waveny House is surrounded by hundreds of acres of lawns, forest and nature trails. The area around the house is a designed landscape with a walled garden, tea house and view lines to the larger landscape elements. Waveny House and its lawns and gardens are a unique community resource. Public events and concert programs are held here year round. Weddings and private parties lease the facility and continue to produce income for the town. The town's Recreation Department is also located in the Waveny House.

The Town runs many of its recreational, league and High School sports programs on the large open field areas on the central and northern portions of the site. Baseball & Softball fields are located here as well as many multipurpose playing fields. Other community uses in this area are Lapham Community Center, Spencer's Run Dog Social Area, Paddle Tennis

Courts and the Waveny Pool; near Waveny House are the Powerhouse Theater and Carriage House Gallery. In the past several proposals focused on the feasibility of adding an ice rink to the Waveny property. There has been renewed interest in this facility in the area adjacent to Watertown field and Dunbar Stadium.

Waveny is situated on a long gentle hilltop/ridge; it is bordered by South Avenue, the Merritt Parkway & Town of Darien, the railroad, Waveny Care Center and the New Canaan High School. The surrounding areas are primarily major roadway corridors (South Ave. & Merritt Parkway) and institutional (New Canaan High School and the Waveny Care Center.) Large areas of woods along South Avenue, south of Waveny House and the woods west of Lapham Avenue remain undeveloped. Much of the wetlands on the site are located within the perimeter areas along South Avenue and the Merritt Parkway.

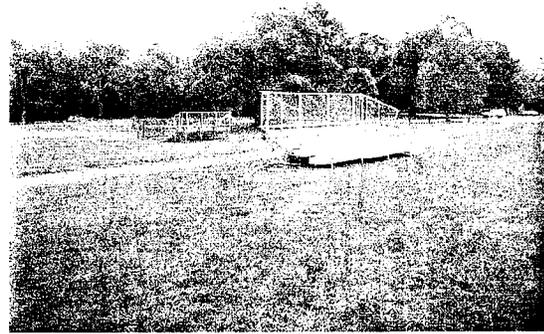
## Waveny Use Zones

- Waveny is big enough to serve many uses for residents of New Canaan
- The park can be described as having four major use 'zones' of use or development. These zones only describe current use but might be used to guide future use, development and conservation of the park.
  1. Waveny House, Gardens & Lawn
  2. Active Recreation Area
  3. Woodlands & Trails Network
  4. Non Programmed/Mulch Processing areas

See Figure 3-2 which locates these 4 zones and the photographs here which illustrate the type of development and activity in these areas.



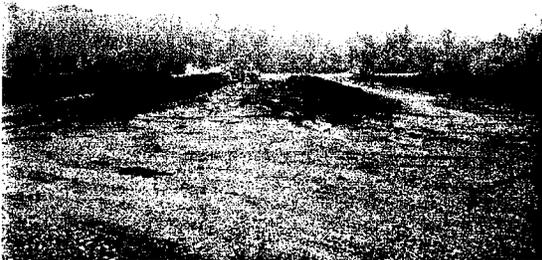
*Designed Landscape at Waveny House (Zone 1)*



*Central Fields Area, Waveny Park (Zone 2)*



*Carriage Path and Pond- East Side of Park (Zone 3)*



*Mulch Processing (Zone 4)*

*Open Lawn/Wildflowers (Zone 1)*

## Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation, safety issues
  1. Major vehicular access to all park facilities from South Avenue. No traffic lights or bypass lane exist on South Avenue.
  2. The access road enters through the eastern wetland corridor and threads its way past 100' tall Tulip trees and the forest buffer to South Avenue.
  3. Can existing entrance road support additional loads without upgrade or rebuild?

4. Pool can be accessed directly from Lapham Road as well as from the park.
  5. During practice and games there is a parking and traffic congestion problem particularly along the west side of the park road.
  6. There are no streetlights or parking lot lights in roadways along the field area or field parking lots.
- Parking:
    1. Waveny Pool and Lapham Center as newer facilities have their own parking lots which conform to the latest accessibility standards. Other park uses are not designed for accessibility.
    2. Playing and ball fields have adjacent gravel parking with poorly defined spaces .
    3. The existing Lapham Center parking area requires an expansion due to increased usage.
    4. The informal layout of parking at the Dog Park area and West side of Waveny fields make it hard to control parking rules and enforce behavior. Temporary parking controls are needed in places along the roads to discourage parking.
    5. The central parking lot at Waveny has an awkward inefficient, layout.
  - Pedestrian & trail circulation
    1. A major trail system connects all areas of the park; these consist of carriage roads and hiking/running trails. The trails are heavily used by runners, walkers and the high school cross country team .
    2. Trail maintenance/rehabilitation is necessary on much of the system.
  - Pedestrian connection with the rest of town
    1. There are no sidewalks along South Avenue south of Farm Road (But a trail goes through natural area to the Farm Road sidewalk.)
    2. At the Watertower fields a new sidewalk now connects Lapham Community Center through to the High School and South Avenue sidewalks.
  - Spectator Facilities
    1. All Baseball & Softball fields have stands.
    2. Portable toilets are located adjacent to several fields.

## Visual Aspects

- Waveny is a large and varied park with a number of different areas. We have mapped its 4 major use zones. At a minimum these areas should be treated as discrete character areas (See the use zones on map 3-2).
  1. Waveny House, Outbuildings, Gardens and lawn.
  2. Active recreation
  3. Woodlands and Trails Network
  4. Outlying woods areas across Lapham Road
- Signs have been added over the years without having a general signage standard for the park.
- Visual defining features such as lights, benches, site fixtures, additional major plantings and infrastructure improvements should only be chosen as part of a master plan for the park's improvement and development.
- The south lawn and areas within the viewshed of Waveny House are a valuable resource which should be weighed against any development plans in that area.

## Topography/Drainage

1. Most of the playing fields are located on a broad flattened hilltop & ridge which is approximately 525' x 1030'. Slopes are at 1-2% or less to the north. Fields are marked out according to the league's needs. Other fields are benched into the broad side slopes of the hilltop
  2. There are undeveloped portions of the site to the south and west of Waveny House where the slopes are generally in the 3-15% range.
- Environmental Issues: water, wetlands & drainage:
    1. The land slopes generally to the south from Waveny House and divides into drainage corridors before passing under the Meritt Parkway in two streams.
    2. North of Waveny, the hill slopes towards Farm Road and the High School with drainage going into the area along South Avenue opposite Saxe school or to the west along Old Stamford Road.
    3. Wetland soils issues on site: large wetland areas exist along South Avenue and along the southern portion of the site. These soils have been identified from GIS mapping but have not been accurately located in the field by a soil scientist.
    4. There is a small pond directly east of Waveny House in the wetland corridor.
    5. Areas which may be looked at for possible future development should be marked by a soil scientist and survey located as soon as possible in the planning process.

## Vegetation

- Waveny House sits at the top of a 35 acre lawn and wildflower meadow looking to the south. The canopy trees around the house are specimen quality Oaks, Maples and Beech; some are reaching maturity.
- On the east and south sides of the park, in the woodlands and trails areas are Oak-Maple woods of approximately 50-100 years age. Previously farmed areas are vegetated with much younger trees and invasives.
- In the wetland corridors on the eastern portion of the site there are mixed Red Maple, Beech & Tulip Tree woods some of which are reaching maturity.
- To the north there are playing fields which extend towards the High School property. There are several specimen quality oaks located adjacent to the playing fields.
- There is no program to replace the trees in Waveny. Age, maturity and environmental stress are problems affecting many of the park trees.
- The playing fields have good turf conditions and look well-maintained.

## Safety and Security/ADA Accessibility

- Multiple entries, exits, facilities and dead ends in park make for time-consuming security patrols.
- Pedestrian & trail circulation: Not all trails are ADA accessible.
- HC Parking & Access
  1. Total HC count is on the low side
  2. Paths to Baseball fields appear barrier free but the parking spaces are not marked and there are no paths to accessible viewing areas.

3. Waveny Pool and Lapham Center have ADA compliant parking; the older facilities do not.
4. Spencer's Run Dog Park has no direct accessible path from parking lots.
5. Waveny fields lack marked HC accessible parking & paths.

## Site Opportunities/Limitations

- Zone #1
  1. Waveny House has an elegant, designed landscape with a walled garden, tea house and pathways designed for views of the lawns, meadows and forest edges. Consider strategies to maintain and enhance this asset.
  2. Development which impacts Waveny House or its immediate landscape should be discouraged.
  3. Consider a general upgrading of appearance around house: repair of walls, plantings etc.
  4. Site improvements in Zone 1 should be highly restricted.
  5. Consider the preparation of a Cultural Landscape Report for Zone 1 which would be able to assess the site for conservation/interpretation of the Olmsted landscape.
- Zones #1 & 2
  1. Consider an overall parking plan for the park which will address adequate parking for all demand areas and provide handicapped parking & accessible routes to all event areas.
  2. Consider ornamental streetlights in at least the most heavily trafficked areas of the park roadway; make sure that the poles and fixtures are appropriate ornamental style and scale to fit the general character of the park.
  3. Consider a uniform signage program with plan/guidelines for the park to avoid visual clutter.
  4. The Dog Park has been a success but improvements have been suggested such as an area for small dogs and an adjacent plays cape for younger children. ( This may also benefit paddle tennis court users.)
- Zone #2
  1. This area has no room for field expansion. Make the area work better by design of more efficient parking, circulation improvements and site details.
  2. The parking on the east side of the fields (Central Parking Area) should be redesigned for safer, more efficient operation.
  3. Circulation improvements should be considered to alleviate traffic congestion on the west side of the fields.
  4. Potential for storage facility adjacent to the Watertown fields
  5. Prepare a feasibility study to confirm that an ice rink can be located on the site, near the High School and if so, evaluate the impact on other existing facilities.

- Zone #3
  1. Possible areas for site improvements involve the former corn fields but access to this area may be problematic.
  2. Hiking/walking trails dominate this area. They are heavily used and are in need of maintenance or upgrading to current usage requirements.
  3. Areas considered for development should have more detailed topographic and resource mapping completed.
- Zone #4
  1. The area across Lapham Road, part of which is now used as a mulch processing and transfer area should be explored for possible additional uses.
  2. Consider trail expansion potential in zone #4.
  3. Areas considered for development should have more detailed topographic and resource mapping completed.
- All Zones
  1. Consider an overall tree master plan and a tree donation program which anticipates tree replacement and creates opportunities for tree donation.
- A natural gas transmission line traverses the site from South Avenue to the Lapham Road on the west. Buildings or extensive grading are prohibited and any work in the easement will be regulated.

# Remote User

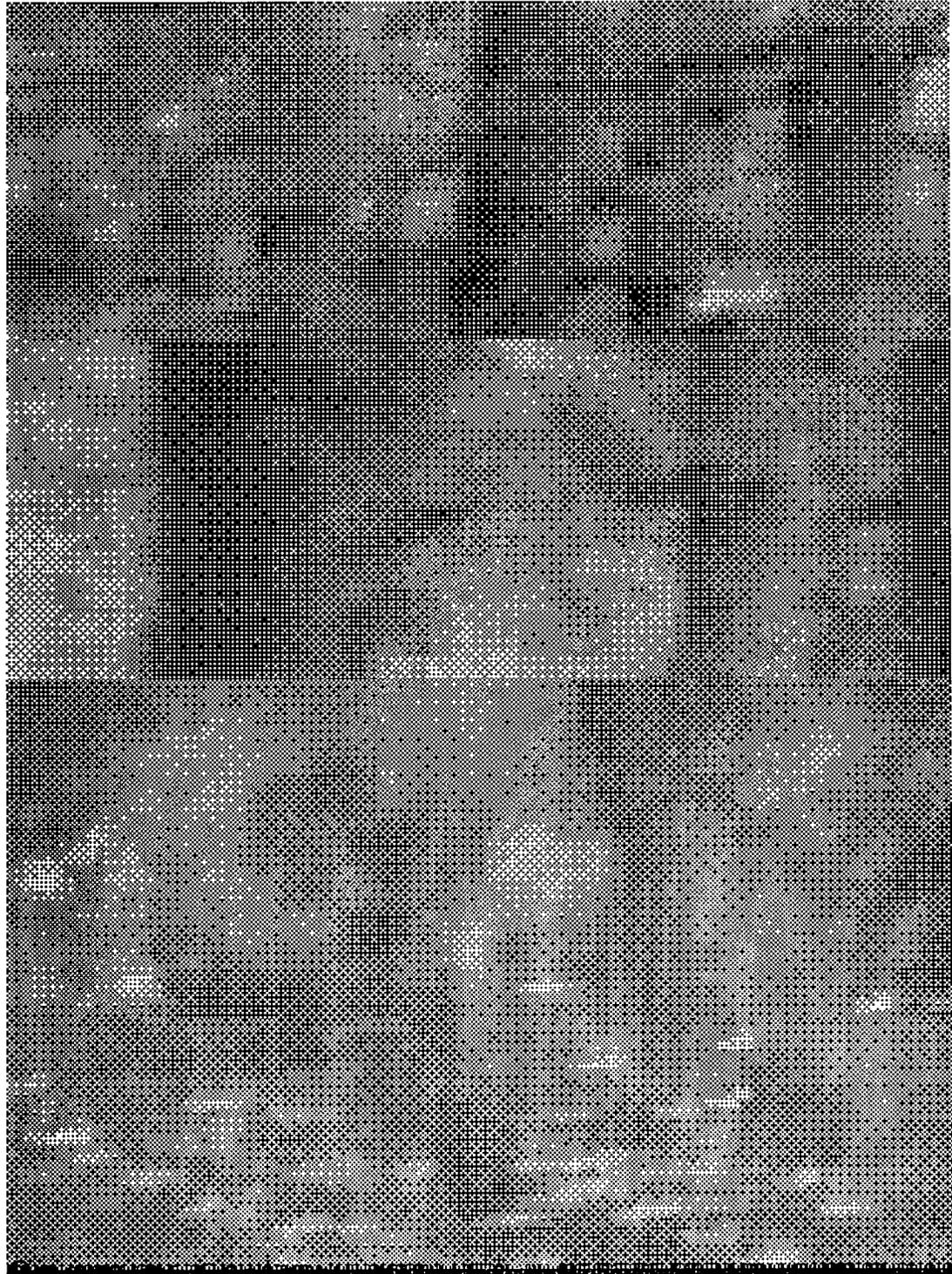
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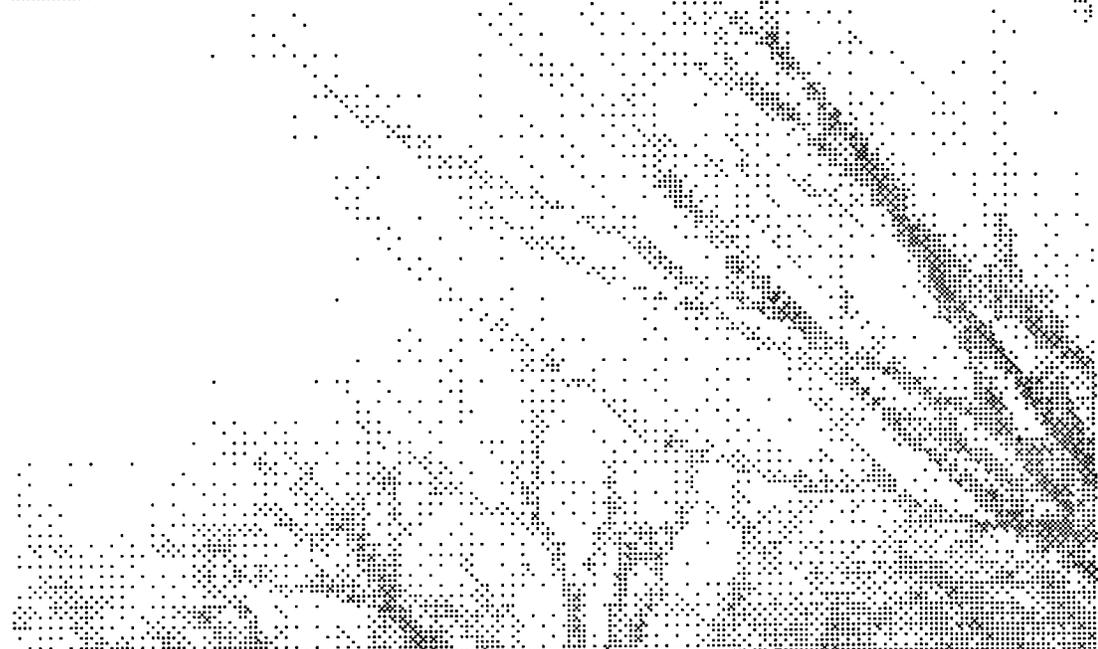
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M e a d M e m o r i a l P a r k





▪  
▪  
▪ Pedestrian connection with the rest of town:

o Sidewalks exist along Park Street & R park.

o Internal pedestrian circulation is poor, etc.

Restrooms, snack bar, and playscape are situated in a central location.

Mellick & Gamble have spectator seating and facilities.

## T o p o g r a p h y / D r a i n a g e

▪  
▪ The Park is in a bowl; Park Street and the rail the park from the sides. Most of the park is where the baseball fields are.

▪  
▪ Gamble Field has poor drainage. Offsite water field.

▪  
▪ All parking lots and the northern two thirds drainage courses run along the eastern edge

Environmental Issues: water, wetlands &

- o Drainage from most paved areas on
- o Mead & Gamble fields are on areas of poor
- o Mead Pond also receives much offsite drainage

8 The farther south you go in the park, the

▪

▪

- H C parking is m arked at conces sion b
- N o accessi b le paths to t enni s court s or
- T here are no accessibl e spec tator areas
- S pectator stands lack required safet y r

▪

Play scape is wi thin ra nge of foul balls from  
on the new M aster Plan.

▪

▪

▪

All play equipm ent and play surfaces should be i  
and accessibil ity standar ds and replaced or upg  
repeated on a periodic basis.

▪

▪

▪

▪

The entrance drive is w ithin range of foul bal

▪

## S i t e O p p o r t u n i t i e s / L i m i t a t i o

▪

▪

Thi s par k ha s been devel oped f or som e tim  
have changed; legacy elem ents should be evaluated t  
m aintenance requirements

Consider a new M aster P lan for better organizatio

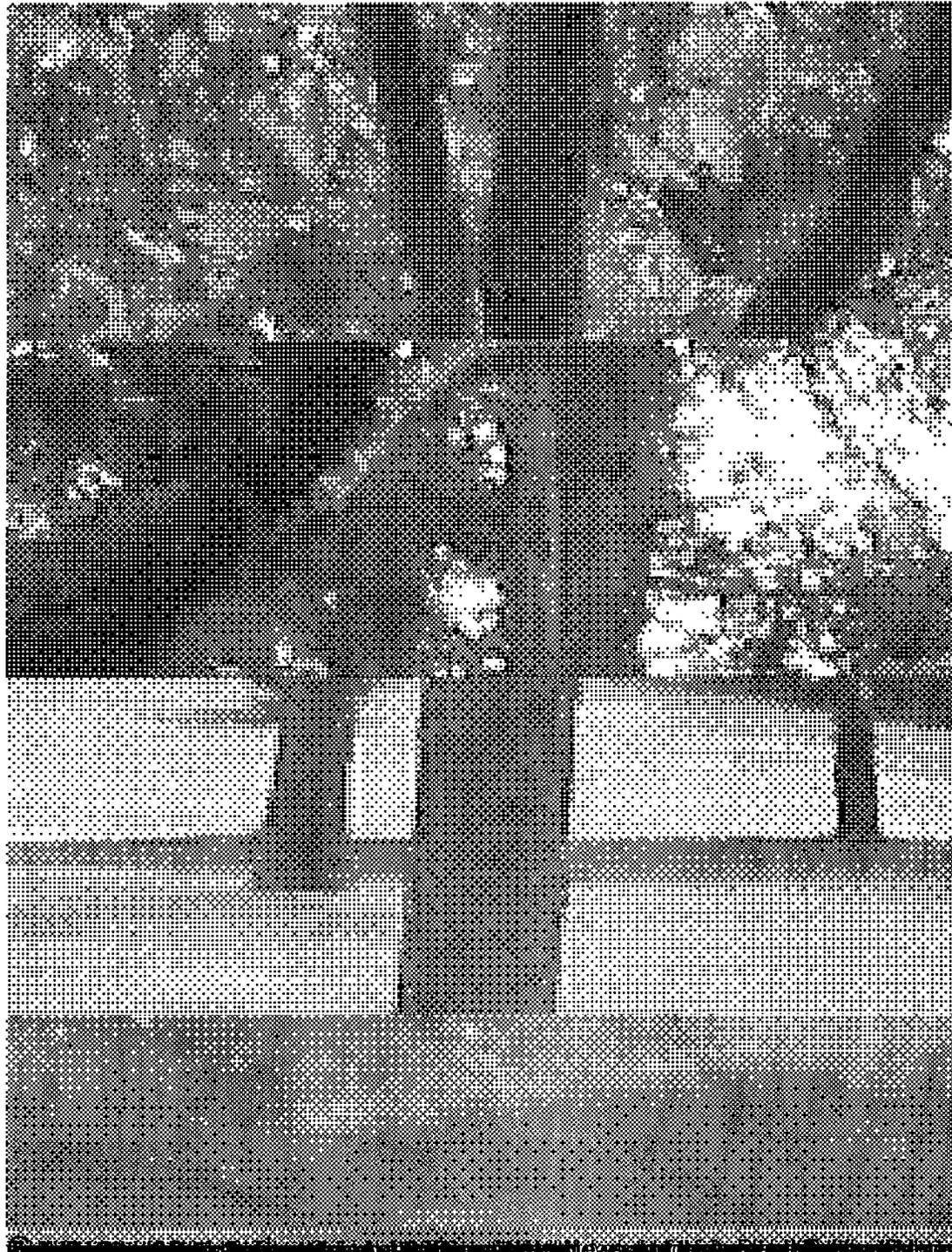
Consider circulation and par king im prov em  
concerns. Include pedestrian w alk connections t

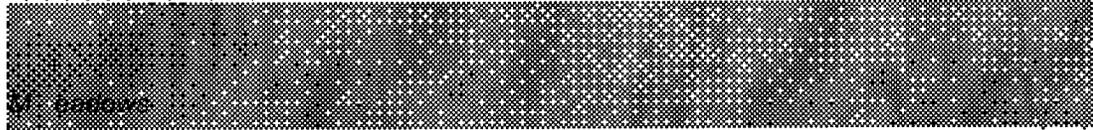
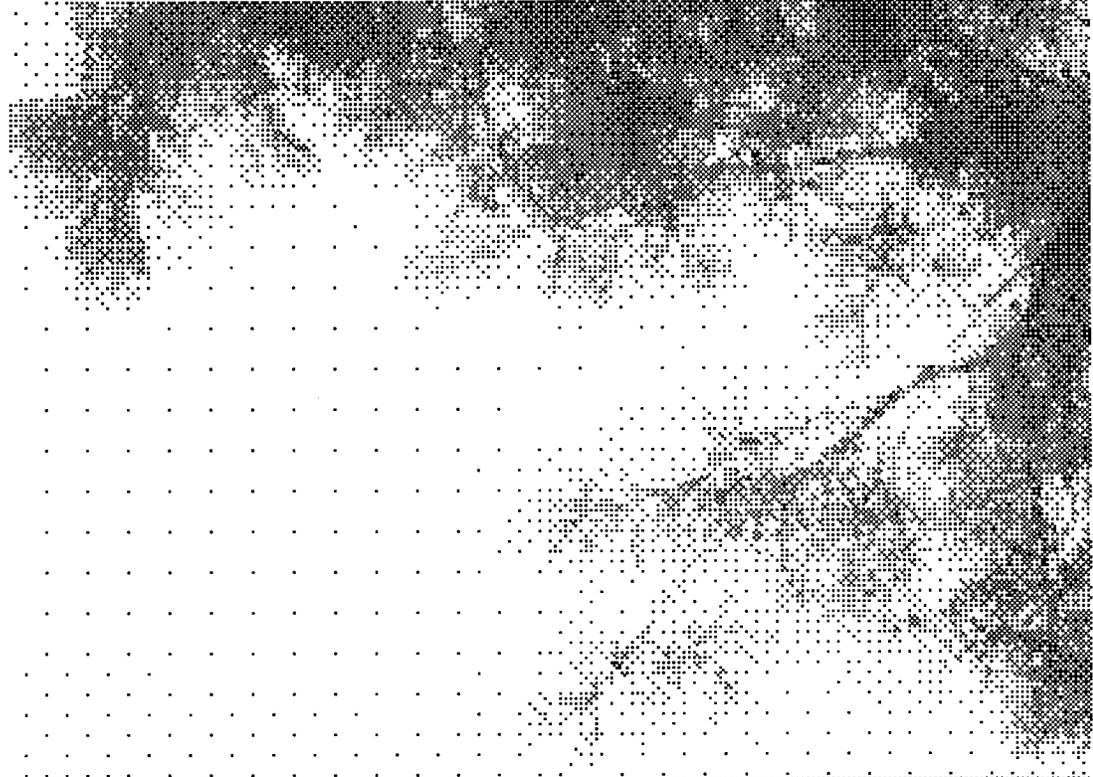
Consider im provem ent ( renovation and enhancements  
creates an accessi ble sy stem that provi de

M ea d f ield has a large Oak tree at lim it of p



Irwin Park





## C i r c u l a t i o n

Vehicle Circulation, safety issues

- One entrance/two exits for traffic on
- Narrow driveway eliminates accessibility for high traffic
- Larger emergency vehicle less may have a barrier from the north side because of the narrow driveway

Parking and HC parking count



- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Barn with Visitor's Center /Restroom

Improvements to driveway and handic

Children's play area

Possible Modifications to the 2006 M a

Eliminate proposed basketball court

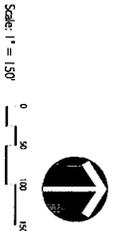
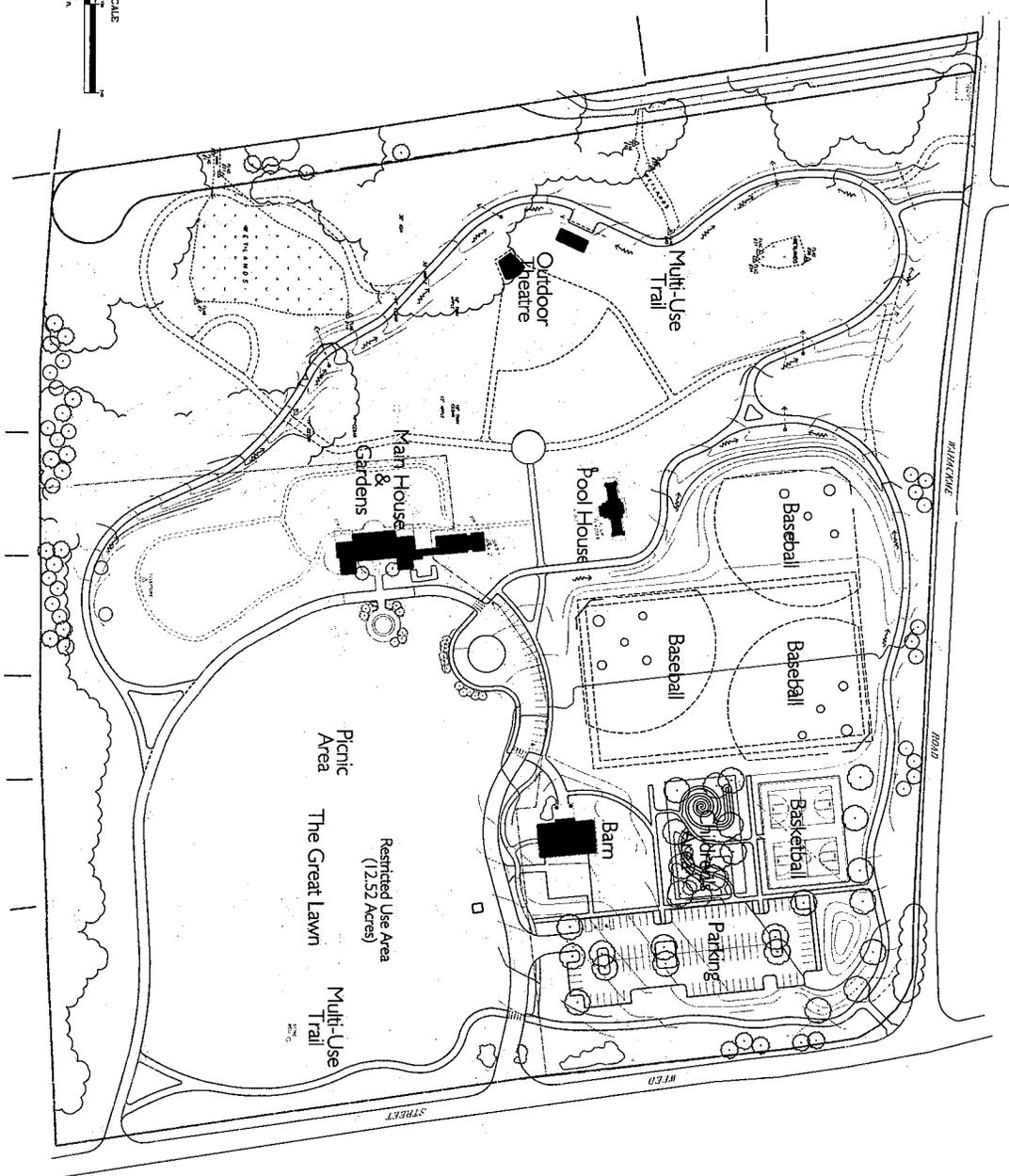
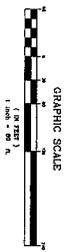
Redesign Children's area

Reposition Baseball Field.

Assess Cal Ripken field layouts wi



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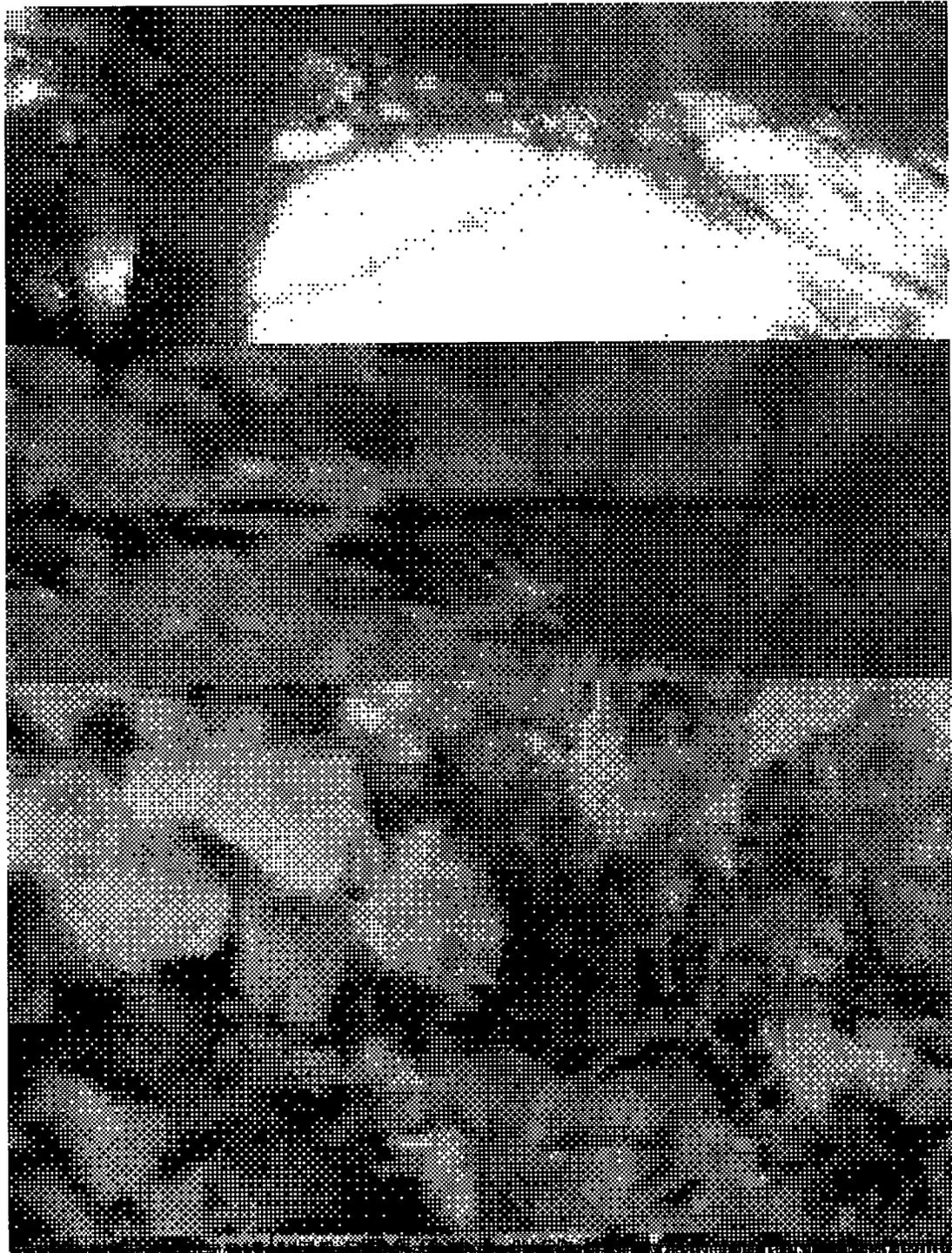


IRWIN PARK  
 2006 Master Plan  
 Figure: 3-4  
 Date:

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
 TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF

Landscape Architects  
 Urban Designers  
 Land Planners  
 Richter & Cannon Inc.

K i w a n i s P a r k



Pavilion & Playground

### Circulation

Vehicle traffic circulation safety issues

Parent visibility of the entrance drive and sign from

Single driver in & out from Old Norwalk

Traffic conflicts with New Canaan Community

periods

Parents line up in the park walk

Circulation problems occur at this facility types

Cameras are operating Better signage may help

- 
- 
- South side of site is an area of very poor soil after rainfall.
- 
- Wetland and Flood issues must be addressed on the southern portion of the property.

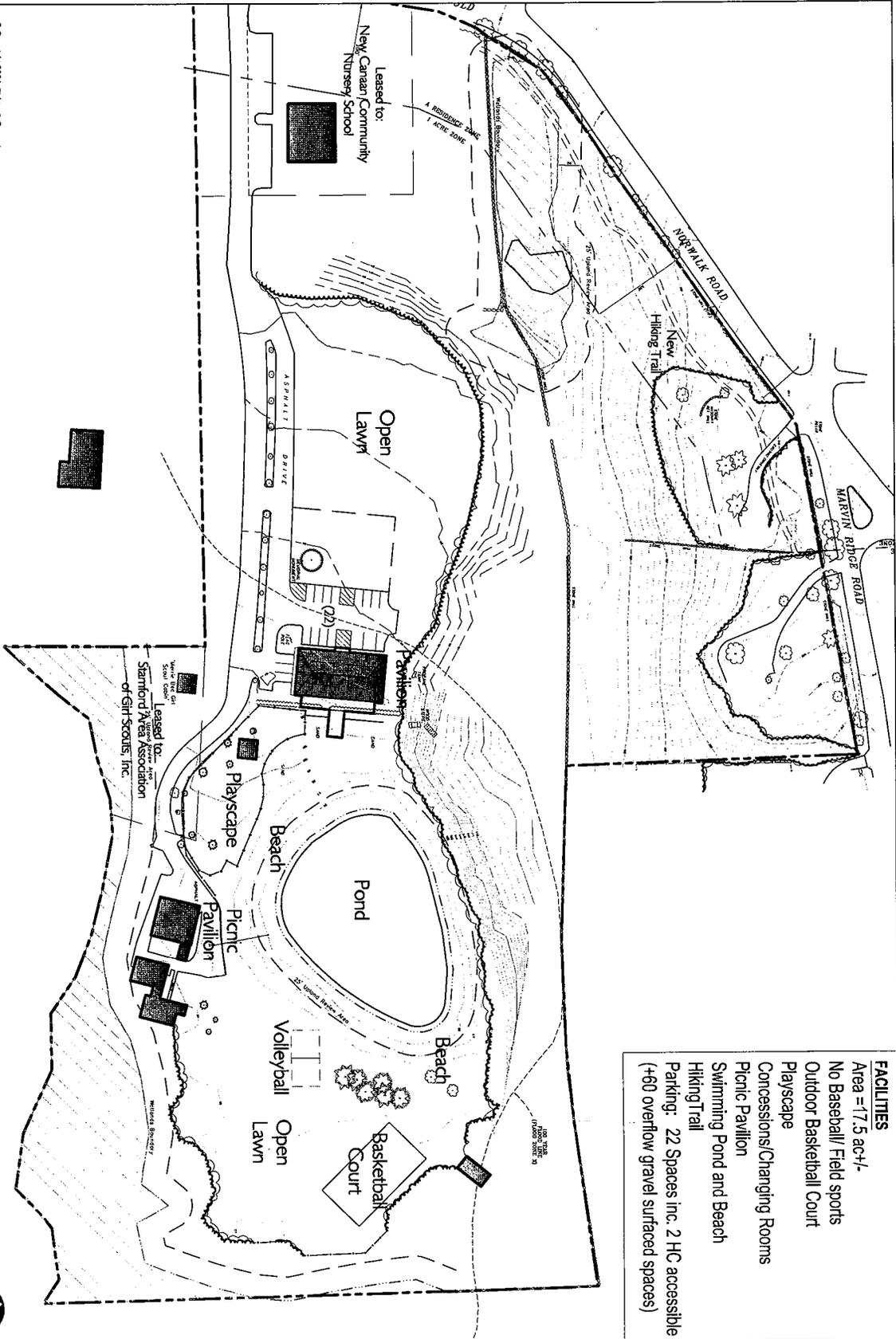
## V e g e t a t i o n

- Existing vegetation is deciduous woods.
- The south end of the park is flat wetland/flood major trees include Swamp Red Maple and...
- The hillside up to Marvin Ridge Road is...
- Along all woods edges there are well established Oriental Bittersweet, Sumac, Tree of Heaven...

## S a f e t y a n d S e c u r i t y / A D A A

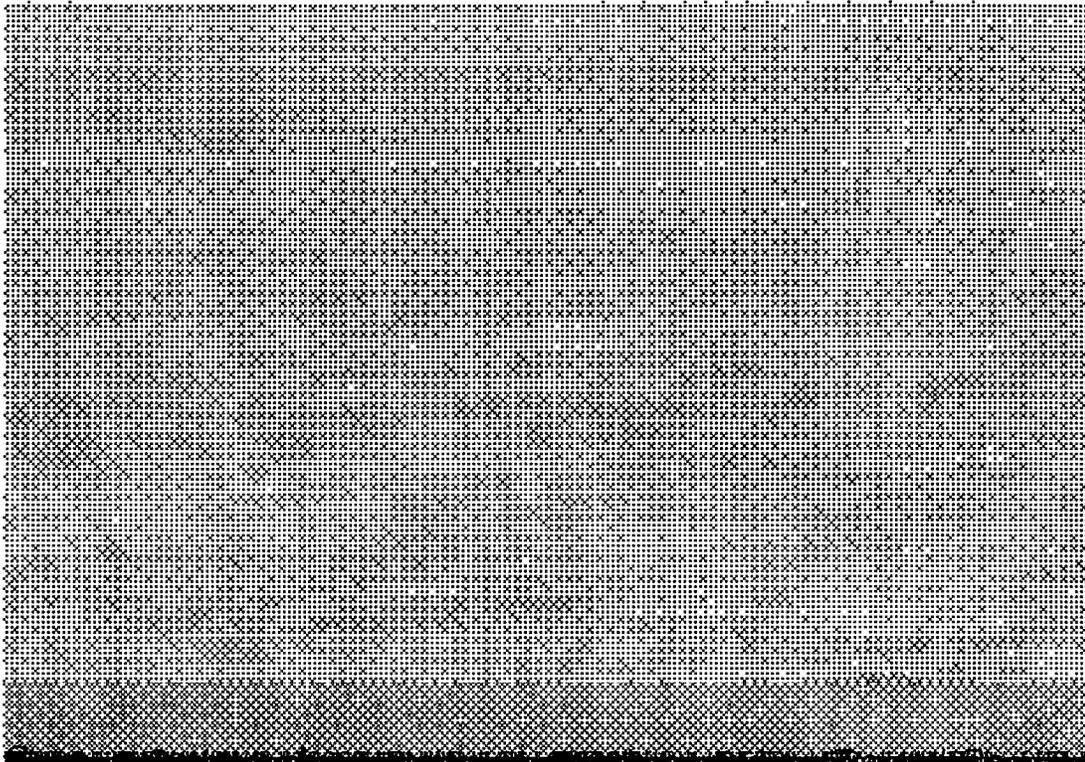
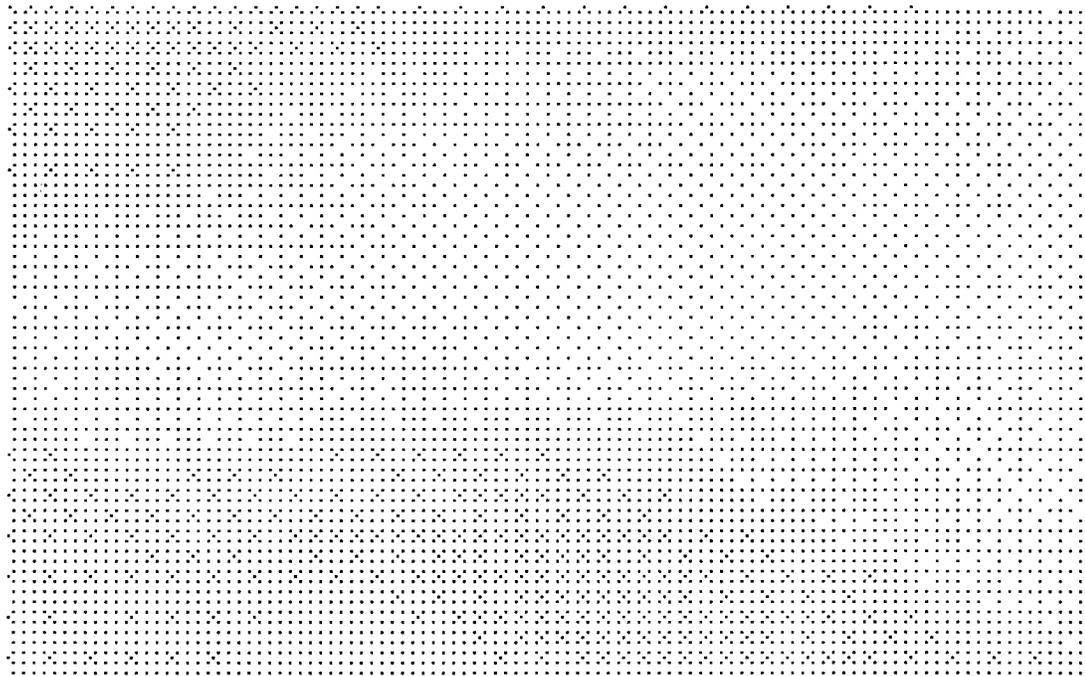
- Single access driveway makes parking efficient, quiet.
- Parking and ADA Access
  - 2 spaces Handicapped marked at concession area
  - Site and facilities pose no barriers - none
  - Playground surface not accessible
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be in current safety and accessibility standards.
- This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

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- FACILITIES**
- Area = 17.5 ac +/-
  - No Baseball/ Field sports
  - Outdoor Basketball Court
  - Playscape
  - Concessions/Changing Rooms
  - Picnic Pavilion
  - Swimming Pond and Beach
  - Hiking Trail
  - Parking: 22 Spaces inc. 2 HC accessible (+60 overflow gravel surfaced spaces)

N e w C a n a a n H i g h S c



Tennis Courts

## Circulation

Vehicle traffic: Circulation: safety issues

Single entrance: entrance and exit: access of the

Road

Parking lots are tight with compact cars and

contributes to difficult parking and turning m

there is severe traffic congestion at peak tim

issues

Parking and HC parking count: H

C parking m

Pedestrian & traffic: circulation: safety issues

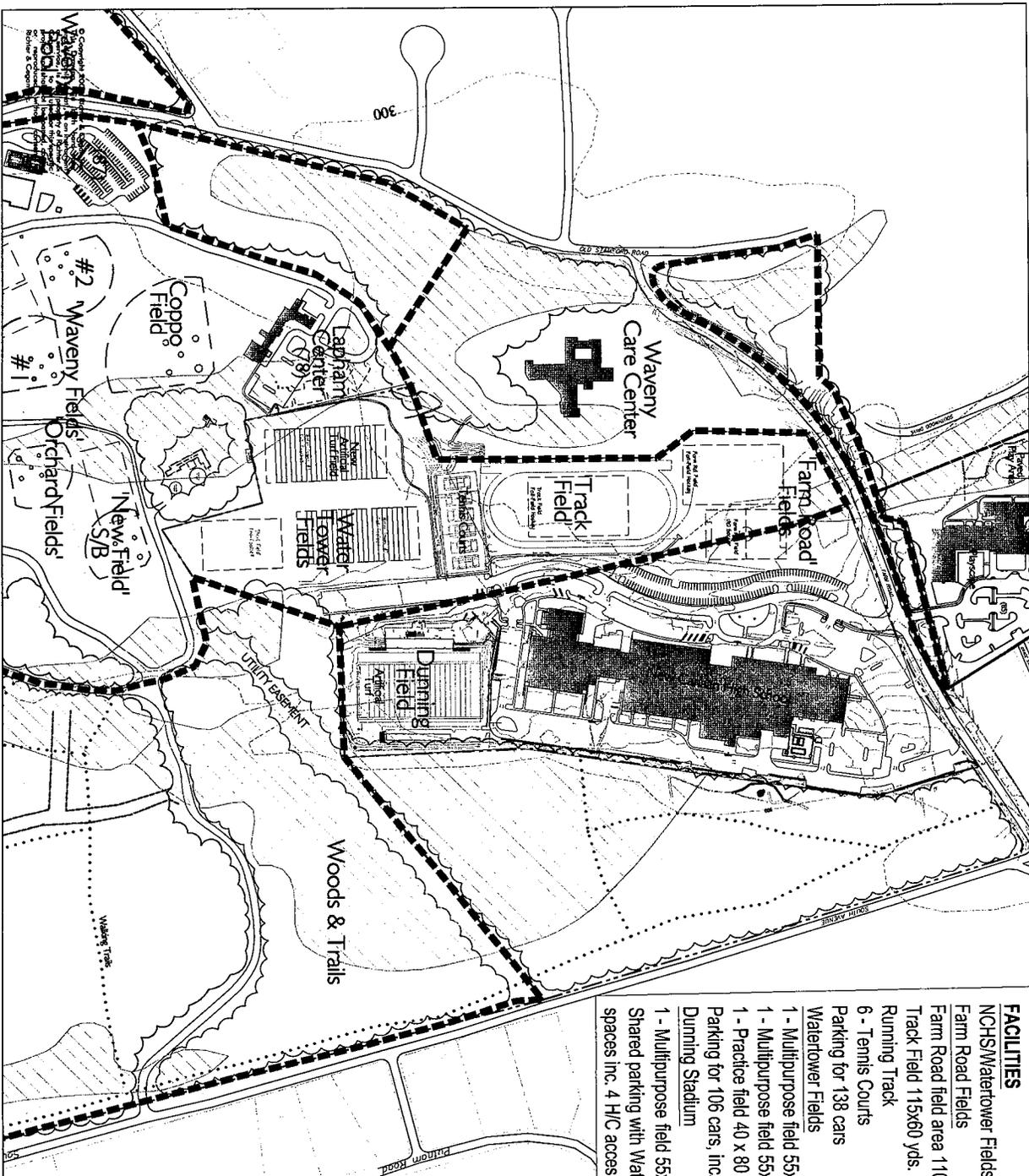


▪

▪

The gas transmission line cuts through the site  
construction/grading in its vicinity.

Prepare a feasibility study to confirm that an  
so, evaluate the impact on other existing faci



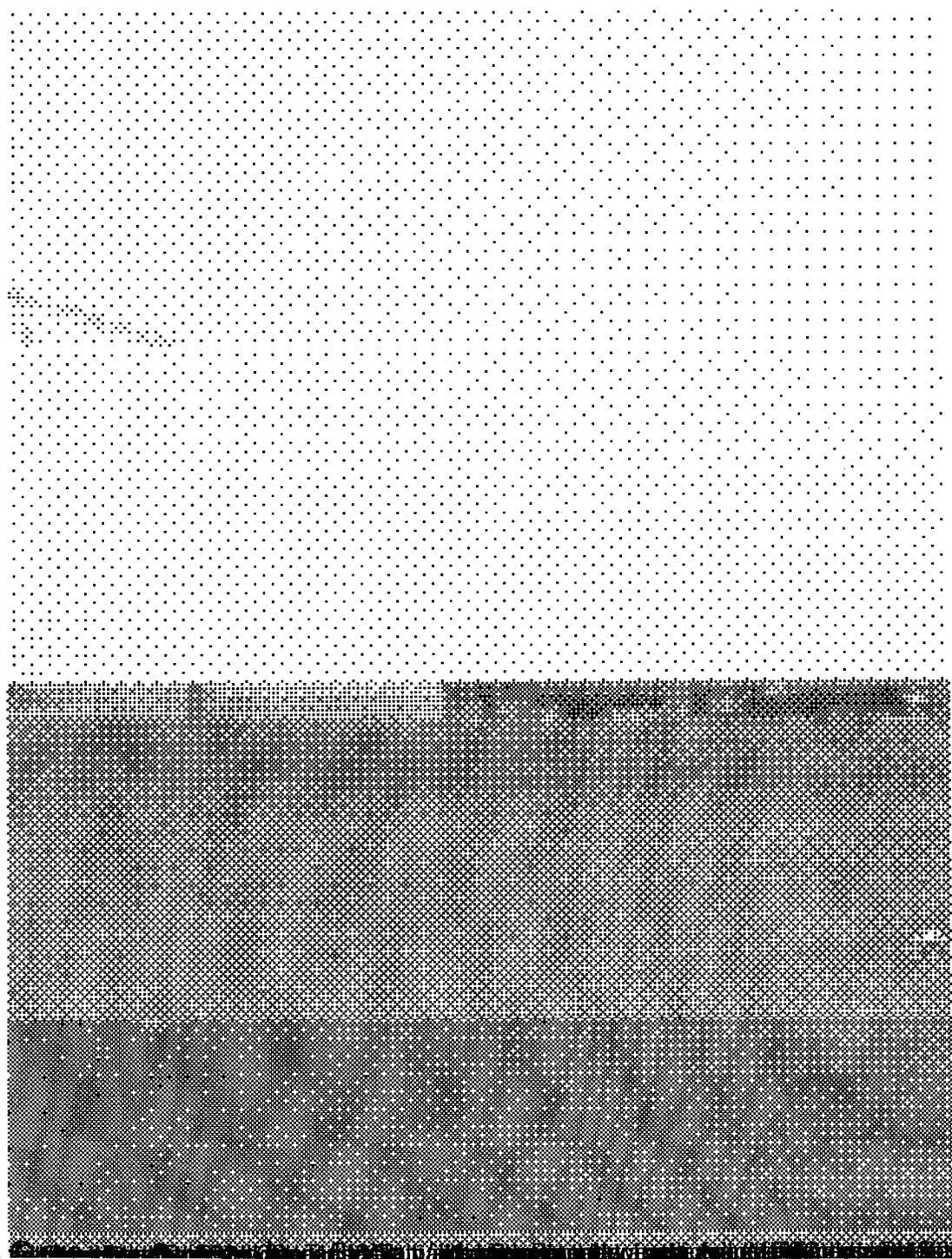
- FACILITIES**
- NCHS/Watertown Fields Area = 42 ac +/-
  - Farm Road Fields
  - Farm Road field area 110x150 yds
  - Track Field 115x60 yds.
  - Running Track
  - 6 - Tennis Courts
  - Parking for 138 cars
  - Watertown Fields
  - 1 - Multipurpose field 55x120 yds (Synthetic turf)
  - 1 - Multipurpose field 55x120 yds
  - 1 - Practice field 40 x 80 yds
  - Parking for 106 cars, inc. 2 HC accessible
  - Dunning Stadium
  - 1 - Multipurpose field 55x120yds (Synthetic Turf)
  - Shared parking with Watertown fields, + 83 additional spaces inc. 4 HC accessible

**LEGEND**

- POSSIBLE WETLAND SOILS
- PER SPS MAPPING

Scale: 1" = 300'

S a x e M i d d l e S c h o o l





S

The Saxe fields get a lot of use. This is the site of sports practice; the turf is worn and thin on

The turf at Conner field is in excellent condition

### S a f e t y a n d S e c u r i t y / A D A A

All play equipment and play surfaces should be in current safety and accessibility standards. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis

Security camera surveillance through the Saxe site w both South Avenue and Farm Road is good. Conner hedge of evergreens and a wooded edge and is not easily

The existing wood steps down to Conner Field. Lifespan Assessment for improvements to access w

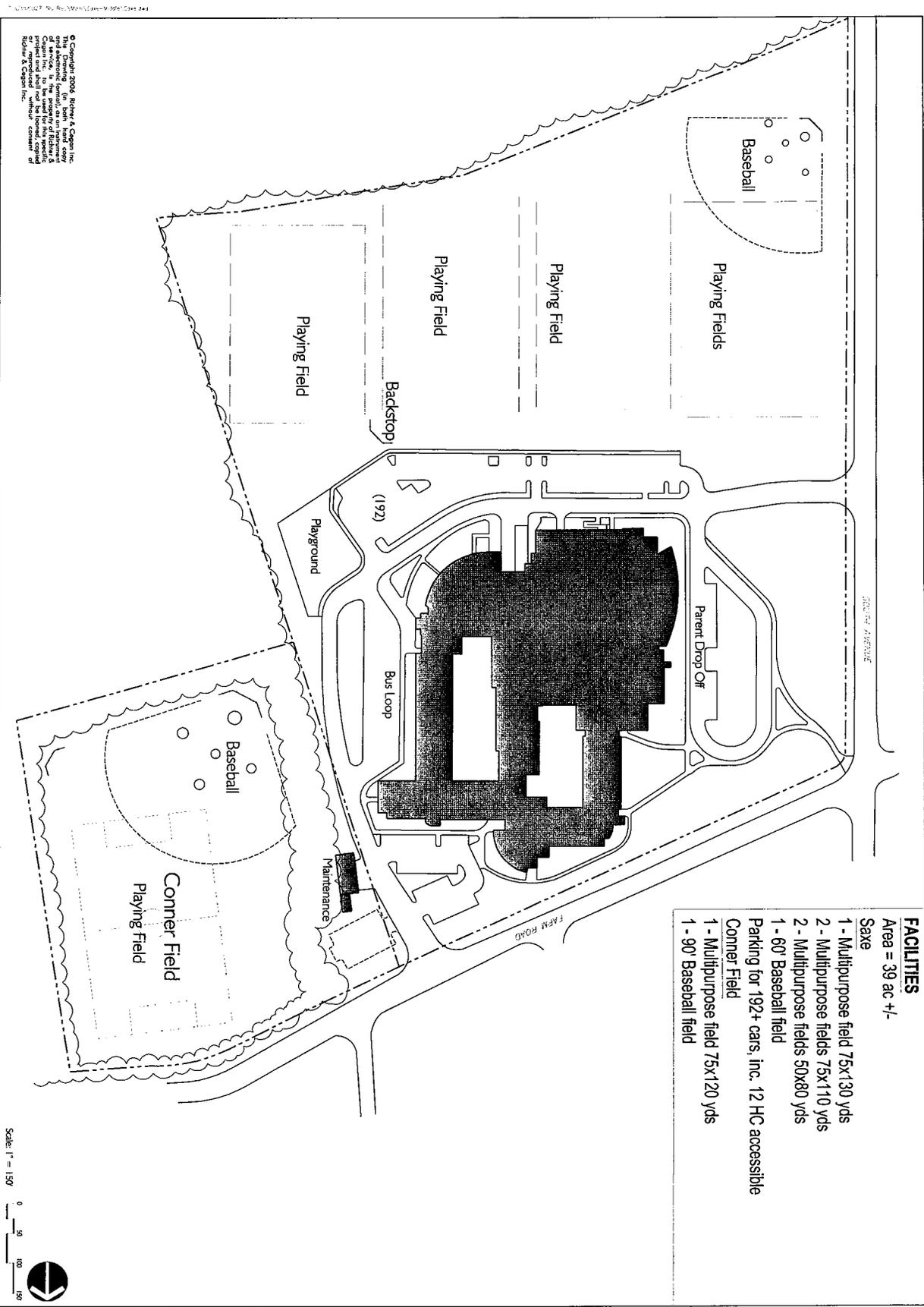
Conner is on a lower level than parking equipment field level from adjacent parking. There is no m from the parking to the field

There are no accessible viewing areas at Conner field.

Saxe fields lack ADA accessible paths and view

### S i t e O p p o r t u n i t i e s / L i m i t a t i o

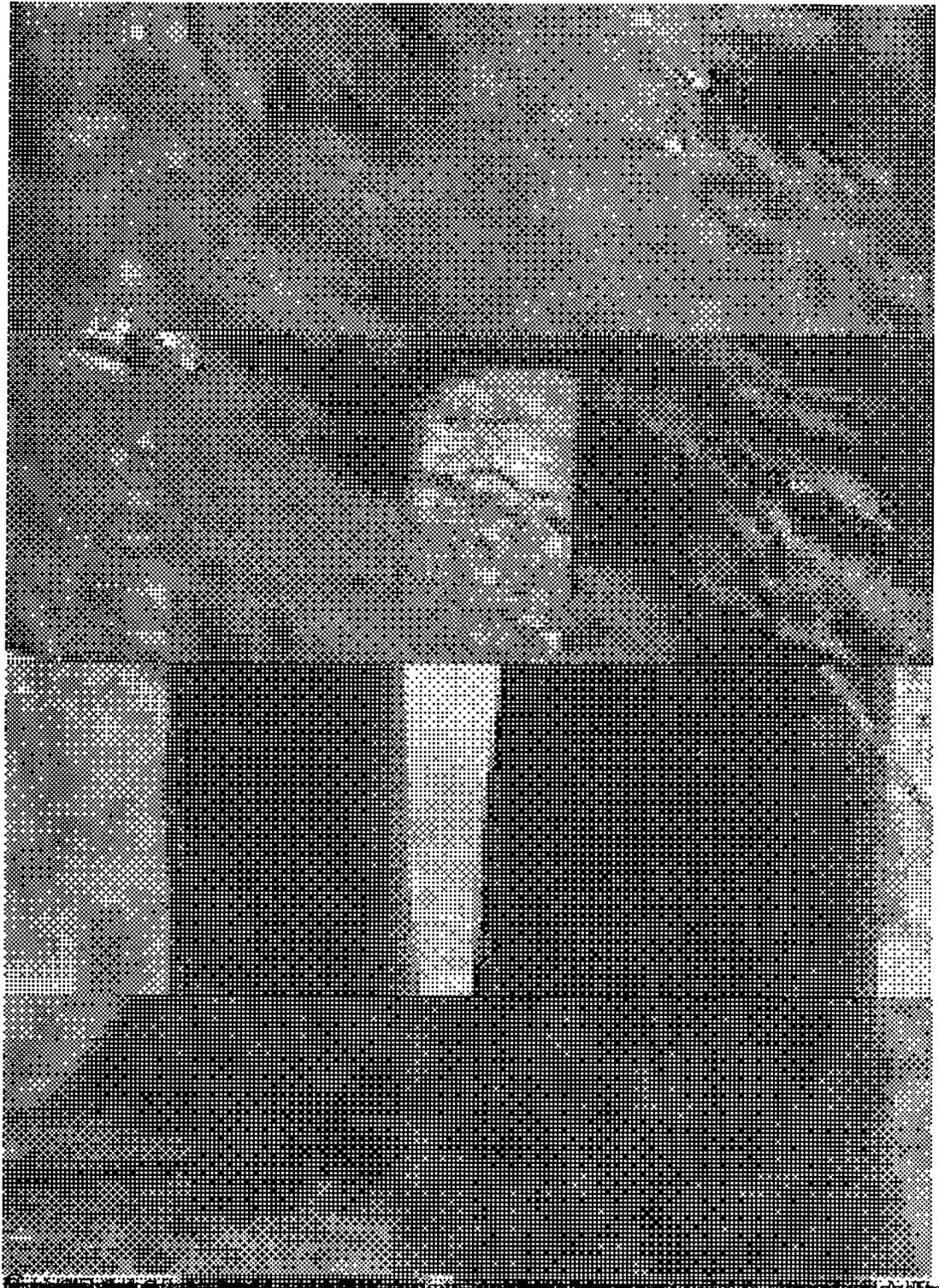
Resolve circulation problems in the Saxe parking lots



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- FACILITIES**  
 Area = 39 ac +/-  
**Saxe**
- 1 - Multipurpose field 75x130 yds
  - 2 - Multipurpose fields 75x110 yds
  - 2 - Multipurpose fields 50x80 yds
  - 1 - 60' Baseball field
  - Parking for 192+ cars, inc. 12 HC accessible
  - Conner Field
  - 1 - Multipurpose field 75x120 yds
  - 1 - 90' Baseball field

S o u t h E l e m e n t a r y S c





South School      P      Farm Road

## Circulation

Vehicle User      Circulation safety issues

Parent/Visitor      School/Student

Farm Road

Bus loop is separate from Gowanus Express Road

No bypass/turning lane on Farm Road

Parking and HC parking count

The adjacent woods at the site are mostly of 40-50' Oaks and maples.

On site there is a good stand of Oaks and Maple fields; the trees are 60-80 feet tall.

The playing field turf is worn and thin.

## S a f e t y a n d S e c u r i t y / A D A A

School has two approaches, disconnected.

ADA Accessibility: School is on a hill separated from by about 20' in height. Accessible ramps are in areas.

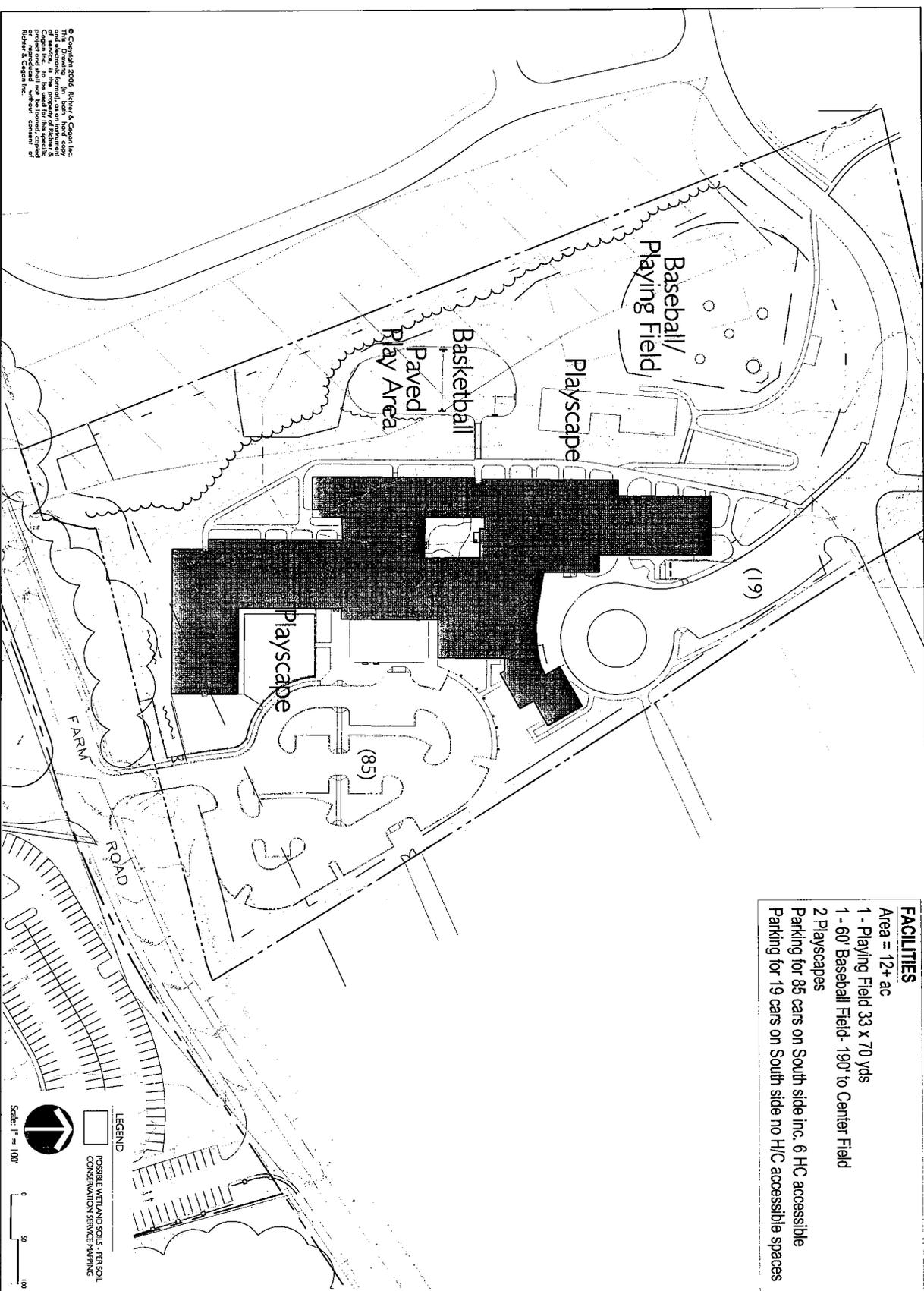
## S i t e O p p o r t u n i t i e s / L i m i t a t i o n s

Site is bounded by residential properties developed in an efficient manner. Changes are limited as the neighborhood is densely developed close to the site.

Consider adding accessible restroom facilities as none are available.

Slope issues: Slope on West side of fields limit building (see photos).

Wetland soils are identified on the northern environmental issue to any proposed or potential use of the site.



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- FACILITIES**  
 Area = 12+ ac  
 1 - Playing Field 33 x 70 yds  
 1 - 60' Baseball Field - 190' to Center Field  
 2 Playscapes  
 Parking for 85 cars on South side inc. 6 HC accessible  
 Parking for 19 cars on South side no H/C accessible spaces

**LEGEND**  
 [Symbol] POSSIBLE PLANTING COUL. AREA  
 [Symbol] CONSERVATION SERVICE SWIPING

Scale: 1" = 100'

0 50 100

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
 TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF

**SOUTH SCHOOL**  
 Figure: 3-8  
 Date:

Landscape Architects  
 Urban Designers  
 Land Planners  
 Richter & Capon Inc.

E a s t E l e m e n t a r y S c h



## C i r c u l a t i o n

All traffic enters from Little Brook Road, including staff. Bus and parent drop off traffic have been separated.

Parking and HC parking count

- o 108+ Car Parking
- o Handicapped accessible parking marked

Pedestrian connection with the rest of town;

- o There is a sidewalk extending eastwards along Little Brook Road town center.

There are two playgrounds. One is on the south side of the paved playground area.

There are no spectator facilities for fields

Size & Layout of fields

- o Playing field is east-west
- o 2 Baseball fields; batters face north.

## T o p o g r a p h y / D r a i n a g e

From the apex of the triangle the property slopes down to the watercourse. The school is built into the hillside.

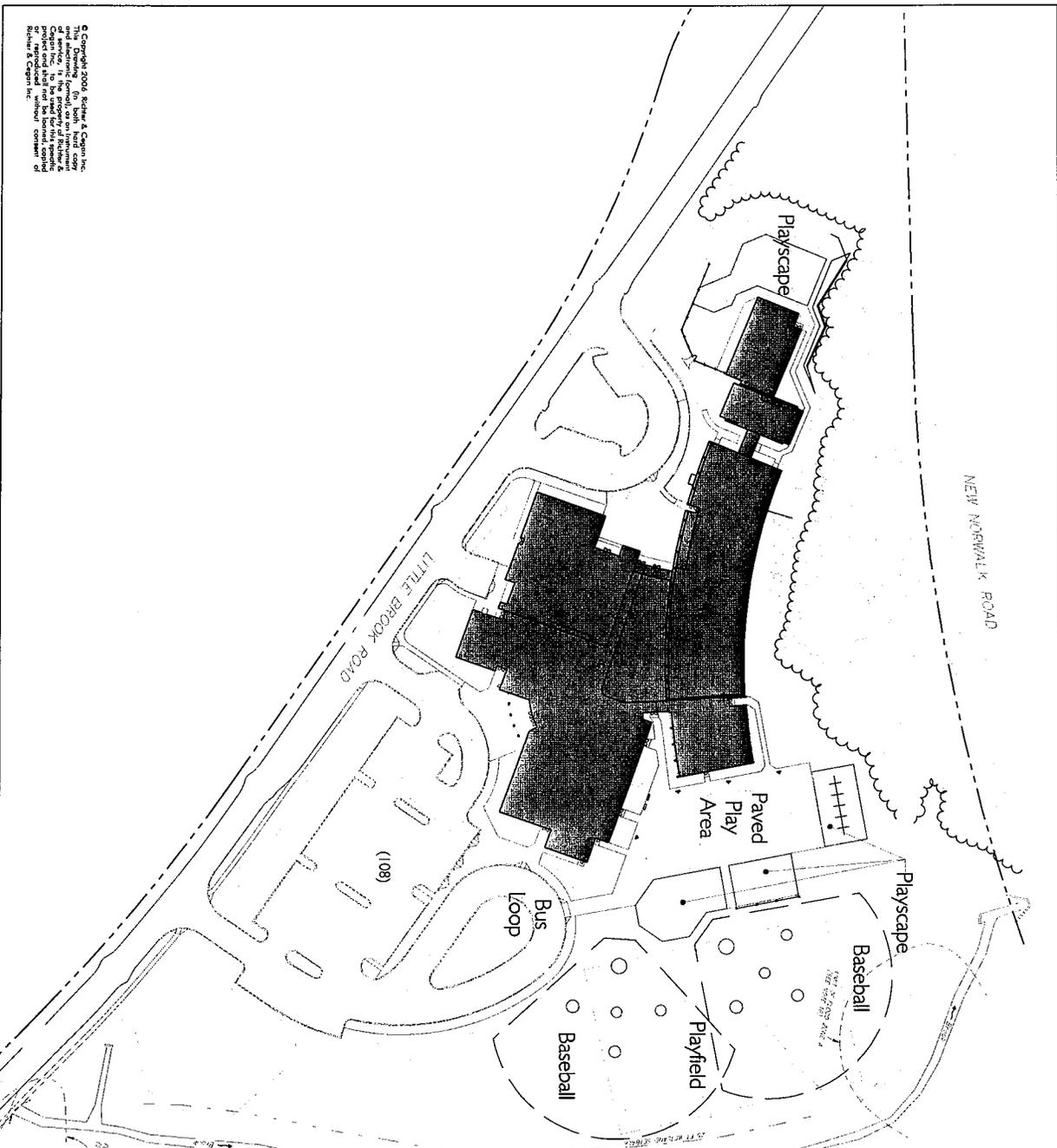
All water either stays on site or is directed into the watercourse.

- 
- 

S i t e O p p o r t u n i t i e s / L i m i t a t i o

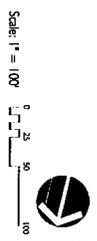
Field expansion is limited by brook (inland wetland) and parking lots.

Soil conditions on the fields are not adequate for (and high water table). The school has a drainage problem.

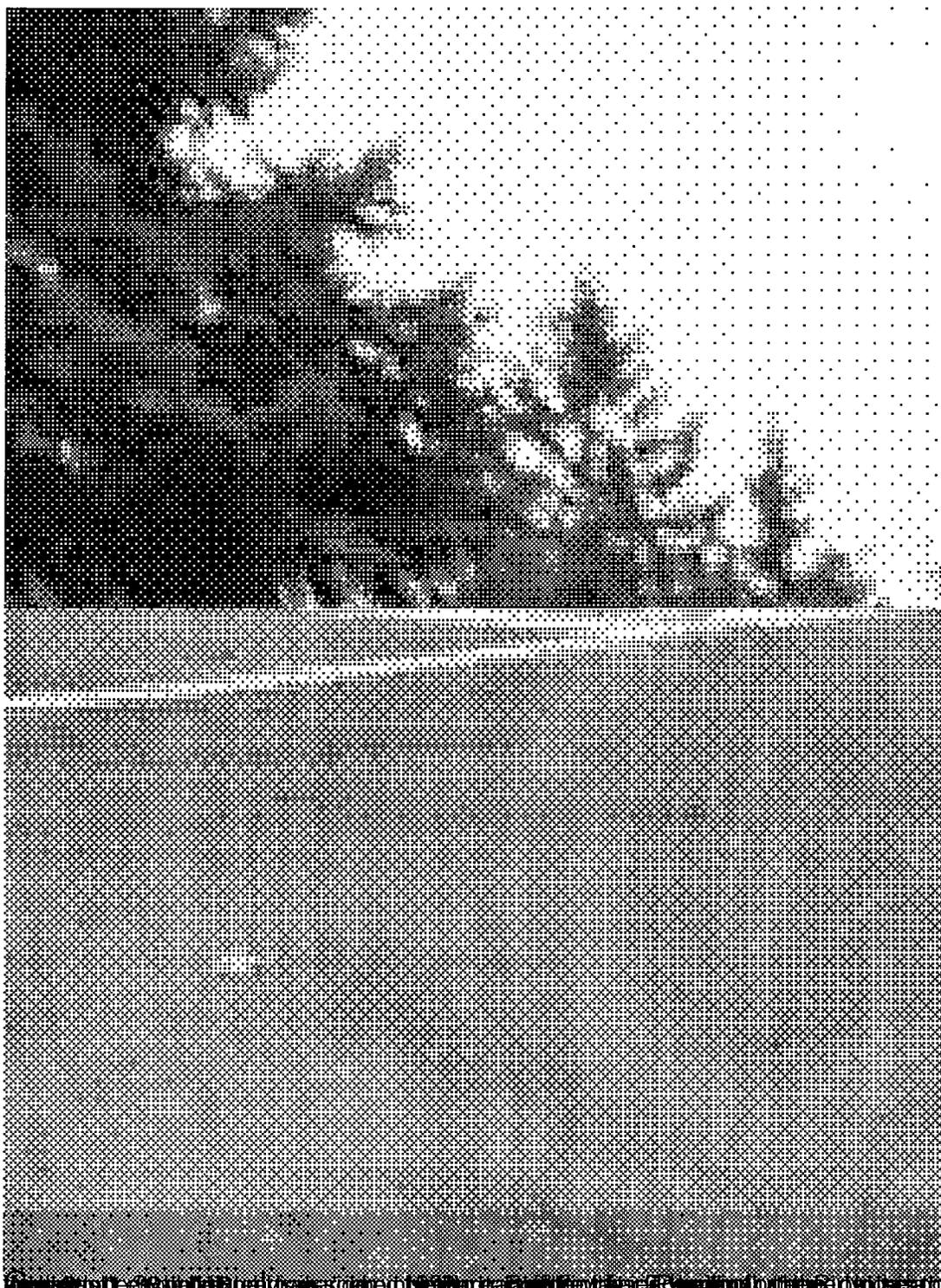


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- FACILITIES**  
 Area = 20 ac  
 1 - 80 x 55 yds max. Playing field  
 2 - 60' Baseball Fields- 185' to Center Field  
 (Currently Unused)  
 Playscapes  
 Parking for 108+ cars inc. 6 HC accessible

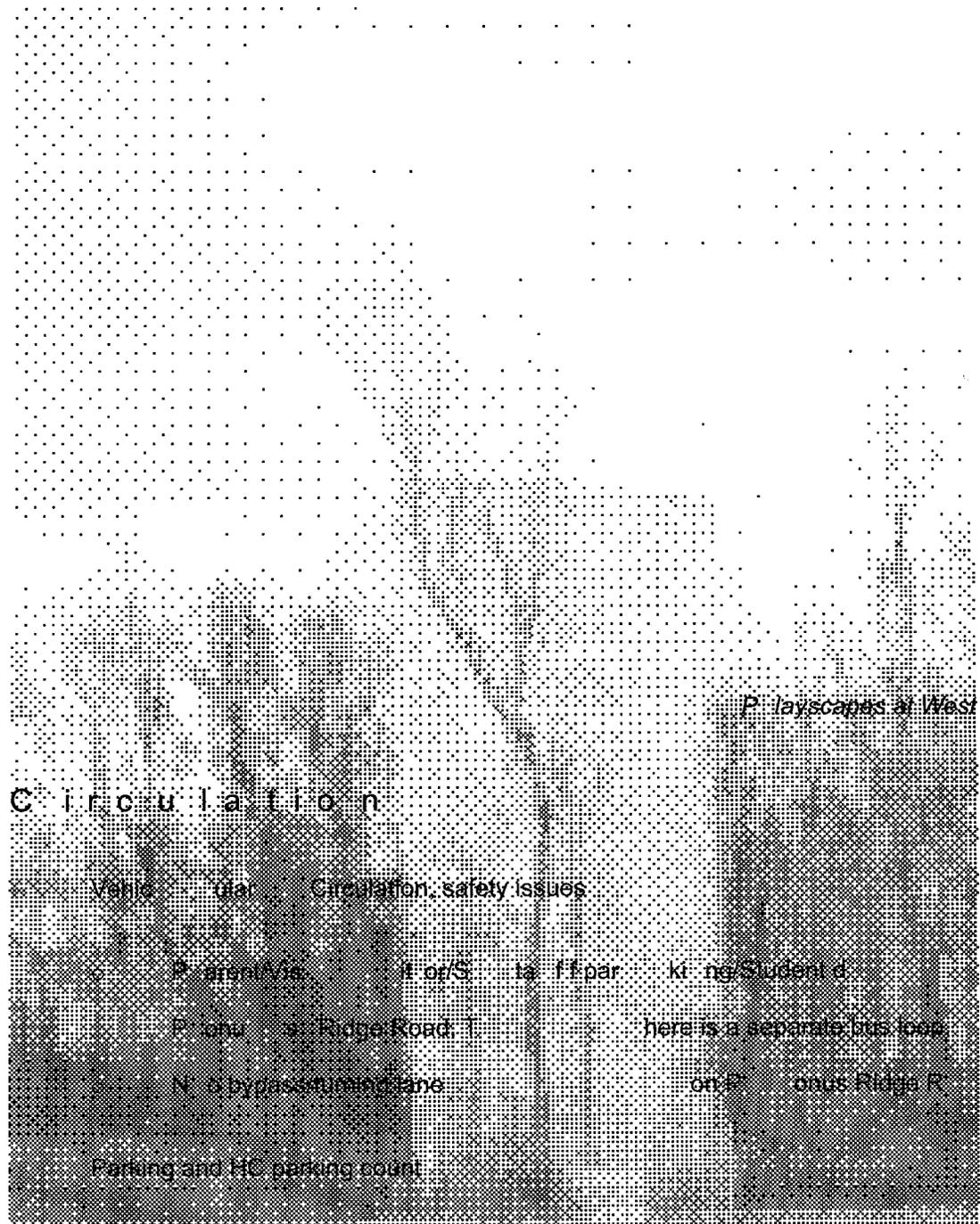


W e s t E l e m e n t a r y S c



P laying fiel d s at

The use of the athletic facilities at West School by a filed legal agreement.



P-layscapis at West

### Circulation

Vehicle traffic circulation, safety issues

Provision of staff parking/Student drop-off

Provision of Ridge Road Traffic here is a separate bus lane

North bypass/turning lane on Ridge Road

Parking and HC parking count

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

The 1998 renovation of the school addresses play equipment and play surfaces should be safety and accessibility standards and replacement process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

### S i t e O p p o r t u n i t i e s / L i m i t a

There is a large undeveloped area of slope near the water tower. However, the development of the slopes, access considerations and legal issues.

Legal issues: an agreement with adjacent owner. The development of the balance of the property is questionable.

Slope issues: the slope on east side of field.

A wheel and corridor is located down the hill to the

Consider low impact trails for undeveloped area



O t h e r S i t e s

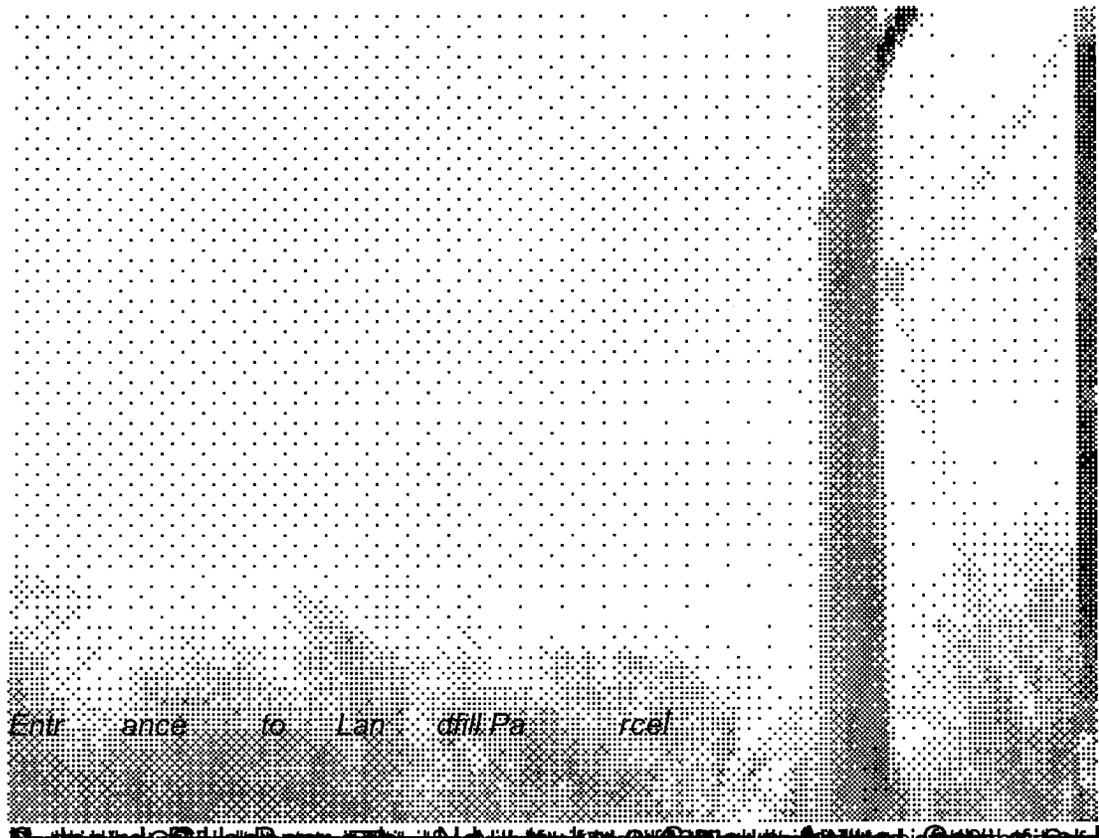


D i x o n M e m o r i a l P a r k : H o y t S t r e e t

Ed Dixon Memorial Park is on Hoyt Street  
neighborhood community park with a small  
area suitable for picnicking.

G o d ' s a c r e : M a i n S t r e e t / P a r k S t r e e t

This area is actually only about 1/2 acre. It  
St. John Place, Main Street and Park Street  
sloping, grassed area with trees. No public



Entrance to Landfill Park

# Remote User

 Job 13339

 05/23/07 09:41 AM



@PJL EOJ

## Section 4

### Conclusions and Recommendations

#### 4.1 General

The approach used to perform this study involved several data gathering and analysis techniques. Information on outdoor recreational activities in town was obtained by collecting available mapping information and conducting on-site existing conditions surveys. User needs were established by reviewing past studies and reports and by listening to the public. Meetings were held with the commission, town staff and input was solicited from the sports leagues in order to gain a thorough understanding of their perceived recreation needs and desires.

There are many types of recreation demands in New Canaan. The schools, sports leagues, community recreation leagues and members of the community have different needs and desires. They can frequently have demands for the same facilities at the same times. This study attempts to address all of them.

This section contains the results from the analysis of the data. A needs analysis comparing specific user needs versus general and targeted facilities was performed in order to make recommendations for improvements, expectations and additions to current and future recreation facilities.

These conclusions and recommendations attempt to address all of the needs and to help the Commission with its work of recommending and prioritizing improvements.

#### 4.2 Recreational User Needs

For the purposes of this study a recreational user is any person who engages in active or passive, organized or spontaneous recreational activity at facilities designed and constructed to support that activity. The following recommendations attempt to address the specific needs voiced by the general community, sports leagues, and public schools.

##### 4.2.1 Community Needs

###### A. Maintenance:

The quality and level of maintenance of all recreational facilities were key issues. With the level of use that they receive, the facilities, ball fields and trails are in constant need of maintenance and upgrades

- The Waveny trails continue to receive an extraordinary amount of use. It is a priority to upgrade and maintain the Waveny trail system.
- It is important that the recreational facility assets be maintained and the

community's investment protected.

- Recent public construction projects such as the Mead Park Lodge, Spencer's Run, and Watertower Field Conversion have exhibited a high level of quality that should be continued.
- Construct a maintenance and storage facility convenient to the major athletic fields.
- Replace maintenance equipment on a regular schedule.
- Assess Parks Department staffing needs and organization for more efficient operations.

### **B. Open Space:**

There is a continuing concern over diminishing open space. (2004 -Land use, Conservation & Open Space Committee Report; 2003-Plan of Conservation & Development; 2001-Open Space Survey)

- Consider continued acquisition of open space including strategic parcels of land adjacent to existing parks. Follow recommendations in the 2004 Land – use, Conservation and Open Space Committee Report.
- Provide more undeveloped parkland for passive enjoyment, the Clark property is one option.

### **C. Greenway/Trail Network:**

- Pedestrian/Bike trails were identified as an important recreation amenity.
- Continue work on establishing a greenway/trail network.
- All public parks and town owned land with suitable area should be considered as sites for perimeter pathways with connections to larger pathway systems.

### **D. Congregating Specific Activities:**

It is important to have recreation facilities for specific uses such as tennis, soccer and baseball. Having a central location for a specific activity would allow families with multiple children participating to eliminate travel time and participate more in their children's activities.

- Wherever possible congregate certain activities or organized sports. Unless there is an over-riding reason, avoid re-distributing existing recreational activities that are congregated.

### **E. Park Themes:**

There is a desire to maintain a specific theme or uniqueness that is inherent in certain park sites.

- Continue to reinforce the uniqueness and themes that have been established at various park sites: Waveny as the town's large central park

with a diversity of both active and passive recreation uses and the unique Waveny House and grounds; and Irwin Park, a smaller park with a neighborhood orientation and focus on the performing arts venue and passive recreation.

## **F. Proposed Improvement projects**

- 1) There has been a long expressed a need for an indoor ice skating facility for High School, league and general public use.
  - *Consider construction of an indoor ice skating facility around the High School/Dunning Field area or a more appropriate location to be determined.*
- 2) Citizens identified a need and a private funding source for two outdoor lighted basketball courts.
  - *Consider adding outdoor lighted basketball courts at a location to be determined.*
- 3) There is some interest in providing a "bubble" cover over a part of the Watertower field (the 'short' field area). This would provide an area to conduct practices in inclement weather especially in springtime.
  - *Consider the feasibility of installation of an all weather "bubble" over a portion of the Watertower Fields to increase usability of the fields.*

### **4.2.2 League Needs and Facilities**

There are many different sports leagues that have been formed in New Canaan. These leagues are frequently part of larger area, state and national organizations which dictate uniform field standards and rules of play. We analyzed the leagues membership, seasons, field size requirements and practice/game schedule requirements (See Appendix B for the survey results.).

As a result of input from sports league officials and members of the community we have determined that additional fields are needed to meet the current demand generated by the league sports programs. The specific requirements are as follows:

- (1) Football field
- (2) Soccer fields (75 x 120 yds)
- (2) Cal Ripken, Jr., Baseball fields (70 ft. diamonds)
- (2) Cal Ripken, Jr., Baseball fields (60 ft. diamonds)
- (1) Babe Ruth Baseball field (90 ft. diamond)
- (1) Girls Lacrosse field
- (1) Boys Lacrosse field

These needs do not include facilities to meet future demands from population growth (no significant changes are anticipated) nor do they include backup

facilities to allow for field resting or reconditioning by the town's maintenance crews.

These needs also do not include unforeseen changes in demographics or the changes in popularity of certain sports such as the recent changes in participation in lacrosse, tennis, softball and 'off season' sports.

Additional baseball facilities may be required if the town loses it's current use of private facilities at St. Luke's School or New Canaan Country School.

Providing additional synthetic turf fields at the Watertown/High School site will increase usability of fields, reduce maintenance efforts and ease the burden on existing natural turf fields. The addition of sports lighting will also extend usability of synthetic turf fields and reduce some of the need for additional fields.

Responding to the need for additional fields could involve several options.

- 1) The current available recreational space may be re-designed to accommodate more fields.
  - *This is not an option in most areas currently used for active recreation because the current layouts are already maximized*
  - *Current park land and with potential for active recreation use exists at Irwin Park (Athletic field area in the proposed Master Plan) and, (at underused areas at Waveny Park.)).*
- 2) The town may purchase additional recreational property in order to construct more athletic fields.
  - *The town may decide to go this route if other options are not available. Irwin Park and additional parcels at Kiwanis Park are examples.*
- 3) Intensify use on the current fields.
  - *The current intensity of use is such that scheduling fields is problematic; natural turf fields need rest and maintenance which limits play.*
  - *Additional synthetic turf fields would maximize field use while minimizing additional field needs. Additional field lighting would help also.*

#### **4.2.3 Public School Needs and Facilities**

The basis for our school needs analysis is information that we obtained from meetings with New Canaan's School Athletic Director, Director of Recreation and Superintendent of Parks.

Children's play areas at public schools and public parks have varying degrees of accessibility and updated equipment. All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility

standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

A single manufacturer/vendor to provide children's play equipment would insure quality, consistency and reliability. This approach could also facilitate equipment maintenance, repair or replacement.

### **Physical Education Program**

#### **Elementary Schools**

The quantity and quality of recreation facilities and opportunity at the three elementary schools in New Canaan are generally evenly distributed.

Facilities at each school include play equipment with outdoor paved play areas and additional supporting facilities that vary from site to site.

#### **Saxe Middle School**

No additional physical education outdoor needs have been identified at this time.

#### **New Canaan High School**

No additional physical education outdoor needs have been identified at this time.

### **P. E. and Scholastic Sports Programs at NC High School**

The outdoor athletic facilities at New Canaan High School are in varying conditions depending on the sport and type of field. Some of the natural turf fields are being used for both practices and games. In some cases this has led to over use and fields of lesser quality.

A number of high school sporting events (baseball, soccer and lacrosse) take place in adjacent Waveny Park or at Saxe Middle School and Mead Park.

The synthetic turf at Dunning Field was recently replaced and is in very good condition; however drainage changed by the revised parking lot nearby is damaging the northeast corner of the field.

Pedestrian access and maintenance access to the track and field has been negatively impacted by high school renovations and the parking lot redesign.

The 400 meter track's synthetic surface is approaching its lifespan. There are also a number of inadequacies with field events and some drainage problems.

Consider adding two tennis courts at the High School. There are only 6 tennis courts at the high school now. 12 are optimum for high school competitions with 8 as a desirable minimum.

Redesign Farm Road fields for increased efficiency and playability.

Install a second synthetic turf surface at Watertower Fields to increase usability of this area for multiple sports teams.

Continue to investigate feasibility of an all weather “bubble” over a portion of the Watertower Fields in order to increase usability of the fields.

#### **4.2.4 Field Maintenance**

- Consider scheduling some resting time for the fields so that they can recover or reduce intensity of play. In this regard, continue to close grass turf fields in the summer. Make the best use of the new synthetic turf fields.
- Consider adding more synthetic turf fields in order to have more flexibility in scheduling play time and rest time on natural turf fields. This would allow adequate fields for use during summer operations.
- Consider renovations to high maintenance fields to eliminate problems (drainage or grading issues.).
- Make sure that convenient restroom facilities exist at all fields. Where a permanent facility is not feasible, portable units will be acceptable.

### **4.3 Specific Recreation Facility Recommendations**

#### **4.3.1 Parks**

##### **Waveny Park**

- Zone #1 (Waveny house gardens & lawn)
  - Develop a specific plan to maintain and improve the condition of Waveny House its grounds, landscaping and site infrastructure.
  - Discourage development which impacts Waveny House or its landscape.
- Zones #1 &2 (Waveny house gardens & lawn; Active Recreation Areas)
  - Consider an overall parking plan for the park which will address adequate parking for all demand areas and provide handicapped parking & accessible routes to all event areas.
- Zone #2 (Active Recreation Areas)
  - Redesign the parking on the east side of the fields for safer, more efficient operation.
  - Improve road access and parking to softball fields and Watertower fields.
  - Parking improvements should be considered to alleviate traffic congestion on the west side of the fields.
  - Consider adding parking and revising circulation at Lapham Center to better serve the community center and service the new Watertower field.

- Consider upgrades to the dog park. (Small dog area, Children's playground)
- Construct a public bathroom facility doubling as a storage facility to serve the fields complex.
- Consider new construction of a play structure within Waveny Park. Tie in trails and walkways.
- Zone #3 (Woodlands & Trails Network)
  - Conduct an environmental assessment of Waveny Park. Include inland wetlands determination by a soil scientist and accurate mapping.
  - Continue with trail system repairs and upgrades.
- Zone #4 (Non-Programmed & Mulch Processing Areas)
  - Explore additional uses for the area across Lapham Road.
  - Consider trail expansion potential in zone #4.
- All Zones
  - Consider an overall tree master plan which anticipates tree replacement and creates opportunities for tree donation.
  - Provide a uniform site amenities program (lighting, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, etc.)
  - Consider suitable lighting options for safety along the roadways; Make sure that the poles and fixtures are appropriate for the general design of the park and avoid light trespass or glare onto other properties.
  - Provide a uniform signage program.
  - Improve internal pedestrian connections and off site linkages (Goal: Keep walkers off roads for safety.).
  - Initiate data collection requirements and design development study for selected high priority projects.

### **Mead Park**

- Evaluate historic elements to determine current utility and maintenance requirements.
- Demolish Richmond Hill building and find alternative storage and maintenance facility.
- Create a master plan to improve vehicular and pedestrian circulation.
- Consider an overall parking plan for the park which will address adequate parking for all demand areas and provide handicapped parking & accessible routes to all event areas.

- Correct grading and drainage problems at Gamble Field
- Rebuild and maintain infrastructure of walks and walls around tennis courts.
- Consider strengthening the natural buffers at the park edges, particularly in the northern section.
- Consider an overall tree master plan which anticipates tree replacement and creates opportunities for tree donation.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.
- Consider a new Master Plan for better organization, safety and enjoyment of the park. The Master Plan should address:
  - Park's ability to sustain its programmed uses
  - Parking and Circulation
  - Park maintenance
  - Playscape safety
- Initiate data collection requirements and design development study for selected high priority projects.

### **Irwin Park**

- Complete phase one project: the Multi use trail.
- Consider construction of recreation fields to balance cuts and fills and utilize excess material from field construction.
- Consider next phase of Master Plan improvement, including vehicular circulation and additional parking.
- Consider architectural study for barn upgrade.
- Modify master plan based on recommendations of Townwide study.
- Consider enlarging the entrance drive at the front wall. Emergency access may be restricted by its current size.
- Consider an overall signage plan to direct visitors around site.
- Consider adding handicapped accessible parking and paths where necessary.
- Complete an arboricultural assessment providing detailed recommendations for tree care.
- Revise design development study for selected high priority areas that have been modified.

### **Kiwanis Park**

- Continue implementation of the approved Master Plan including sledding hill, hiking trails and picnic areas.
- Consider a signage plan to help direct and control parental pick up activity at nursery school/ day camp.
- Evaluate and improve circulation and parking especially as it relates to parental pick up at day camp and nursery school.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

#### **4.3.2 Schools**

##### **New Canaan High School**

- Consider an athletic facility Master Plan to integrate needs/desires onto the available areas for development.
- Consider adding two tennis courts.
- Consider redesign and renovation of the track and field area including modification to pedestrian and vehicular access, address needed improvements in accessing the track for both spectators and athletes.
- Correct drainage problem adjacent to Dunning field.
- Redesign Farm Road field area for maximum utilization and to eliminate existing grading/drainage problems.
- Consider relocation of track when it's time to replace the surface.
- Re-grade and improve areas that do not meet standards for scholastic athletic competition.
- Construct a 2nd synthetic turf field at the Watertown Fields complex to facilitate maximum use of field area and to alleviate pressure on existing turf fields.
- Consider changes to parking and pick up for the Farm Road Fields.
- Prepare feasibility study for installation of a seasonal all weather "bubble" over a portion of the Watertown Fields to increase usability of the fields.
- Prepare feasibility study for locating ice rink at high school, including understanding potential impact on the tennis courts, parking and track and field.
- Initiate data collection requirements and design development study for selected high priority projects.

##### **Saxe Middle School**

- Consider accessible paths to spectator areas.

- Prepare feasibility study for adding 2 basketball courts
- Address parking/circulation and safety issues in existing parking lot and along South Avenue.
- Consider changing the Saxe 60 ft baseball field to 70 ft for compliance with the latest Cal Ripken Baseball field standards.
- Consider removal of backstop for abandoned baseball field.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

### **South Elementary School**

- Upgrade playability of field and field surface
- Rehabilitate existing baseball field and backstop.
- Address parking issues with field access and Gower Road.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

### **West Elementary School**

- No significant improvements anticipated.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

### **East Elementary School**

- Evaluate feasibility of upgrading the playability and address drainage concerns at existing fields.
- Explore realignment of existing baseball field and backstop.
- All play equipment and play surfaces should be inspected for compliance with current safety and accessibility standards and replaced or upgraded as necessary. This process should be repeated on a periodic basis.

## 4.4 Implementation

A successful long-term plan is obligated to prioritize and phase the recommended improvement as needs and funding dictate. This study recommends fifteen individual improvement projects will help the town implement recommendations over time through stand alone construction projects and offers potential public/private partnerships to fund projects of varying size and scope.

Projects should be implemented as the town's priorities are refined. Following is a general sequence of implementation identified by the Park and Recreation Commission and is intended to guide the town in phasing recommended improvements.

Priority Improvements:

1. Waveny Trail System Restoration Plan.
2. Design and Construction of Restrooms at Waveny and Irwin Parks.
3. Install Watertown Synthetic Turf Field #2.
4. Development of ball fields and parking at Irwin Park.
5. Expansion of parking lots at Watertown site and Lapham Center.
6. Master Renovation Plan for Mead Park.
7. Ice Skating Facility for scholastic, league, and general community use.
8. A sledding hill at Kiwanis Park.
9. A Skateboarding site.
10. Upgrade and Renovation of the Track and Field areas at the Farm Road site.
11. Construct lighted outdoor basketball courts.

**Appendix A**  
Reference Data

R C

## Appendix A: Reference Data

### Reports:

1. New Canaan Land use, Conservation & Open Space Committee Report, September 2004.
2. New Canaan Ten Year Plan 1998-2008, New Canaan Long Range Planning Task Force, June 10, 1998
3. New Canaan Development Plan, Including the Business Center Plan; Raymond Parish, Pine & Weiner Inc., Planning Consultants February 15, 1986.
4. Park & Recreation Study 1995, The League of Women Voters New Canaan Branch
5. New Canaan Land Trust Properties Report, King's Mark Environmental Review Team, November 1982
6. Waveny Park Development Plan, Peter G. Rolland Associates, Rye November 1974
7. Selectman's Advisory Committee on Open Space Report 1963
8. Copy of Deed: (Waveny) Vol.224 Pg 988-992

### Maps:

1. Map of Waveny Park, 1967 (Deed and Park and Recreation Commission minutes attached)
2. Topographical Plan, surveyed for Antoinette D. Lapham, Albert B. Tracy, Surveyor, Oct. 22, 1938
3. New Canaan Athletic Facilities, Waveny Park Phase 1, Vollmer Associates 6/08/89 Sheets 1, 2 & 3.
4. Kiwanis Park, Site Plan, Wesley Stout Associates, January 31, 2005, Sheets L-1 & L-2
5. Kiwanis Park, Preliminary Master Plan, Wesley Stout Associates, October 28, 2002, Sheet MP-1
6. Map of Property surveyed for Town of New Canaan, New Canaan Connecticut, Richard Bromfield, January 14, 1974
7. Town Of New Canaan, Connecticut (Tax Map #39), Aerial 1"=200' Waveny Park
8. West, East and South School site plans: CAD Drawings by Blades & Goven
9. Saxe Middle School Site Plan by TPA Associates
10. Site Grading Plan New Canaan High School, Kaestle Boos Associates Inc. 2005

### Websites:

1. [www.fairfieldcountyfootball.org](http://www.fairfieldcountyfootball.org)
2. [www.newcanaansoccer.org](http://www.newcanaansoccer.org)
3. [www.eteamz.active.com/newcanaanbbsb.com](http://www.eteamz.active.com/newcanaanbbsb.com)
4. [www.nclax.org](http://www.nclax.org)

**Appendix B**  
League Data Surveys

R C

# Richter Cegan Inc.

Landscape Architects and Urban Designers  
Avon Park North Box 567  
Avon, Connecticut 06001  
tel 860/678-0669  
Fax 860/678-8934

## LEAGUE DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

### NEW CANAAN RECREATION STUDY NEW CANAAN, CT

Your name, telephone & email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Sport \_\_\_\_\_

2. Type of League (Travel, League, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

a. Season (Dates) \_\_\_\_\_

b. Number of teams & divisions. \_\_\_\_\_

c. Games & Practice Schedule: (number of practices per week, games per season)

d. Facilities/Fields Currently Used by League (by Division)

ie. (Division U11/U16 Facility Sax Middle School #fields )

- Division \_\_\_\_\_ Facility \_\_\_\_\_ #Fields \_\_\_\_\_

e. Field Sizes: Give dimensions for each league/division

# Richter Cegan Inc.

Landscape Architects and Urban Designers

Avon Park North Box 567

Avon, Connecticut 06001

tel 860/678-0669

Fax 860/678-8934

f. Field Demand (fall) \_\_\_\_\_

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g. Field Demand (spring) \_\_\_\_\_

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h. Are additional fields needed? (Describe need)

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i. Any other needs/desires or comments? \_\_\_\_\_

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i. General description of League \_\_\_\_\_

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(League profile, number of participants, type of divisions, affiliations, etc.)

# Richter Cegan Inc.

Landscape Architects and Urban Designers  
 Avon Park North Box 567  
 Avon, Connecticut 06001  
 tel 860/678-0669  
 Fax 860/678-8934

## LEAGUE DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

### NEW CANAAN RECREATION STUDY NEW CANAAN, CT

Your name, telephone & email: Kim Persky 203-966-7053  
mbpkrrp@aol.com

1. Sport SOCCER

2. Type of League (Travel, League, etc.) TRAVEL

a. Season (Dates) Fall (late Aug - mid Nov); Spring (April - late June)

b. Number of teams & divisions.  
See the attached spreadsheet

c. Games & Practice Schedule: (number of practices per week, games per season)  
2 practices/week (1.5 hours each)

U9/U10 = 1 game/weekend Sunday afternoons

U11-U14 = 1-2 games/weekend Saturday & Sunday

d. Facilities/Fields Currently Used by League (by Division)

Fall  
2006

	Division U11/U16	Facility Sax Middle School	#Fields
Practices	• Division U9/U10	Facility Sax	#Fields 1A, 1B = 2 fields
	• Division U11-U14	Facility Sax	#Fields 3 fields
Games	• Division U9/U10	Facility Sax, Waveny	#Fields Sax (2), Waveny (1)
	• Division U11-U14	Facility Sax, Connor	#Fields Sax (3), Connor (1)

e. Field Sizes: Give dimensions for each league/division

U9/U10 = 50 x 80

U11-U14 = 65 x 110 (minimum)

75 x 120 (larger field - subject to site and # of fields)

# Richter Cegan Inc.

Landscape Architects and Urban Designers  
Avon Park North Box 567  
Avon, Connecticut 06001  
tel 860/678-0669  
Fax 860/678-8934

f. Field Demand (fall)

U9/U10 - Ideally we need 3 practice fields available at 4pm and 3 game fields.

U11-U14 - Ideally 3 practice fields available at 4pm and a 4<sup>th</sup> field available at 5 or 5:30 pm. we need 4 game fields

g. Field Demand (spring)

U9/U10 - 3 practice fields available at 4 pm and 3 game fields

U11-U14 - could work with 2 practice fields available at 4 and 2 practice fields available by 5 or 5:30 (we need 4 game fields).

h. Are additional fields needed? (Describe need)

Yes.

i. Any other needs/desires or comments?

i. General description of League

(League profile, number of participants, type of divisions, affiliations, etc.)

See  
Attached

## **Richter & Cegan Field Survey – New Canaan Soccer Association**

### **H. Are additional fields needed (Describe need)**

Yes. Some issues relate to just the fall season, while others effect both the fall and spring seasons. Our issues revolve around 3 factors;

- 1) Insufficient fields that we can get on by 4 PM in order to allow us to run back-to-back practices (4-5:30 and 5:30-7). This is a particular problem for the u11-u14 teams where we have no field available at 4 necessitating that they practice on the small field;
- 2) The lack of lights on our fields means by the beginning of October we can't practice on the fields that are only available starting at 5 or 5:30; and
- 3) Until we have more GURF fields, we have limited to no ability to hold make up games through the week for any age group. No league standings are kept for u9 and u10; however, they are kept for u11-u14 and games not played impact your standing and therefore placement for the following season.

Many of our coaches commute from places more than an hour away. Most are coaching 2 teams for us. It is neither cost effective nor time efficient for them to have to make the trip 4 times a week in order to fulfill their coaching commitment of 2 practice sessions/team/week. They are looking for back-to-back practices with their 2 teams so they make the trip only twice a week. Having this ability allows us to attract the best coaches.

There are other constraints when assigning fields for practices, i.e., trying to avoid religious education days (CCD), coaches who are only able to coach on specific days due to their own school or job requirements, or the need to share the fields with the high school teams whose games may run into the NCSA practice time slots. We have worked together to overcome these issues but there is very little room in the schedule.

#### **I) Any other needs/desires or comments?**

Generally speaking we would like to be able to have temporary lighting for 5 weeks (Oct/Nov) to allow us to practice 2x/week for the duration of the season. I realize this is likely a neighbor issue but without them, kids are practicing for less than an hour 1x/week from Mid October to Mid November.

I would strongly propose that the soccer association get access to a u9/u10 and a u11 size field in Waveny Park on Mondays Tuesdays and Wednesdays. I have coached for the recreation league since 1998 and I believe taking 2 fields out of their pool for those nights would not negatively impact their program. Waveny is crowded with soccer on Thursdays and Fridays but my experience is there is ample space at the beginning of the week.

We would definitely like more GURF fields to allow sports to continue in spite of the weather!

## J) General Description of the League

New Canaan Soccer Association (NCSA) is a member of the Southwest District in the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association (CJSA) and participates in the "Classic Travel" division, as well as the "Recreation Plus" program. It is a travel soccer program that competes against neighboring towns on a weekly basis. For the most part our teams range in age from u9 to u14; however, in the spring we also support u15-u18 aged kids from the high school that wish to play spring soccer. The fall season runs from the week before Labor Day to mid November, and the spring season runs from April (whenever the fields open) through mid to late June.

The NCSA supports 2 levels of play, Classic Travel which competes on Sundays and travels further afar, and Recreation Plus soccer which is a modified travel program competing on Saturdays for kids not quite ready for Classic Travel but wishing a more comprehensive program than most Town Recreation Department provide. Both groups receive professional coaches for 2 practices a week and for games.

The NCSA has had on average close to 500 players registered for each season since the Fall of 2000. The u9/u10 team's average 13-14 players per team with a maximum allowed of 14. The U11-U14 team's average 17 players per team with a maximum of 25 allowed, however we try to have no more than 18 to allow for more playing time.

Our field requirements are driven by the number of teams, more so than the actual number of kids, although the two are obviously related.

# NEW CANAAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Season	U9/U10				U11-U14				Total	
	# teams	# players	Practice Flds	Game Flds	# teams	# players	Practice Flds	Game Flds	Players	Teams
Fall '06	14	180	2	3	19	314	3	4	494	33
Spring '06	13	177	2	3	18	312	3	3	488	31
Fall '05	14	168	3	4	14	271	4	4	439	28
Spring '05	14	175	2	3	16	233	4	4	408	30
Fall '04	14	188	2	3	18	395	4	4	584	32
Spring '04	17	204	2	3	23	307	5	5	511	40
Fall '03	17	220	2	3	20	324	5	5	544	37
Spring '03	15	200	2	3	17	301	4	4	501	32
Fall '02	18	230	2	2	21	330	5	5	560	39
Spring '02	12	165	2	2	17	303	4	4	468	29
Fall '01	16	212	2	3	16	291	5	5	503	32
Spring '01	12	215	2	3	15	239	4	4	454	27
Fall '00	12	220	2	3	17	269	5	5	489	29
Spring '00	11	150	2	2	12	229	4	4	379	23
Fall '99	11	152	2	2	12	222	5	5	374	23
Avg All Seasons	14	190			17	288			480	31
Avg Fall '00-Fall '06	14	197			18	299			496	32

# New Canaan Field Sports Leagues

<b>Grades</b> (Ages for Baseball & Soccer)	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Football</b>									
3	24	25	29	10					
4	38	45	28	46					
5	54	45	60	47					
6	52	60	51	40					
7	63	59	45	41					
8	54	47	54	45					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>229</b>					
<b>Lacrosse</b>									
<b>Boys</b>									
1	60	25	36	22	16	20			
2	44	43	22	35	40	14			
3	56	30	43	40	24	29			
4	53	50	41	41	29	31			
<b>Bantam Totals</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>94</b>			
5	64	51	42	48	44	59			
6	51	46	60	52	72	55			
7	52	58	50	75	51	48			
8	55	53	68	55	57	48			
<b>Travel Totals</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>210</b>			
<b>Boys Total</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>304</b>			
<b>Girls</b>									
1	34	28	15	9	8	6			
2	39	22	23	12	5	9			
3	30	24	26	14	22	18			
4	37	32	37	32	17	35			
<b>Bantam Totals</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>68</b>			
5	41	42	33	22	30	19			
6	42	49	35	46	32	26			
7	44	33	38	39	27	31			
8	30	30	29	30	28	48			
<b>Travel Totals</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>124</b>			
<b>Girls Totals</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>192</b>			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>496</b>			

# New Canaan Field Sports Leagues

Grades (Ages for Baseball & Soccer)	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
<b>Baseball</b> (ages)									
6	27	19	11	9	7	5	7	4	0
7	110	115	105	79	98	106	103	80	19
8	113	133	118	130	117	131	108	125	123
9	117	124	147	134	140	132	138	145	91
10	117	138	128	133	136	137	134	108	95
11	111	105	112	95	125	112	95	85	75
12	85	104	73	108	102	82	78	80	33
13	72	64	85	68	55	62	71	30	35
14	33	59	40	33	42	52	23	23	25
15	34	26	16	30	25	18	14	19	15
16-18	19	19	28	19	18	24	19	20	15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>906</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>Softball</b>									
2 & 3	89	95	73	77					
4 & 5	92	93	75	65					
6 through 8	72	70	70	68					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Soccer</b> (ages)									
<b>Spring</b>									
U9/U10	177	175	204	200	165	215	150	13	4/ten
U11 - U14	312	233	307	301	303	239	229	17	1/ten
<b>Spring Totals</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>379</b>		
<b>Fall</b>									
U9/U10	180	168	189	220	230	212	220	152	
U11 - U14	314	271	395	324	330	291	269	222	
<b>Fall Totals</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>374</b>	
<b>Total Soccer</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>1028</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>374</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,091</b>	<b>2,908</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>622</b>

13/4  
17/4



**New Canaan Baseball/Softball, Inc.  
c/o 126 Butler Lane  
New Canaan, CT 06840**

**September 3, 2006**

**League Data Questionnaire**

**New Canaan Recreation Study**

**2 b. Number of teams and divisions:**

**Spring season (4/1 thru 6/15):**

**84 teams in 6 divisions.**

**6 Divisions:**

**6,7 and 8 year olds.....Bantams Baseball  
9-10.....Cubs Baseball  
11-12.....Majors Baseball  
13-15.....Babe Ruth Baseball  
16-18.....Sr. Babe Ruth/Jr. and Sr. Legion Baseball  
10u, 12u, 14u and 16u.....Babe Ruth Softball**

**Summer and all star season (6/15 thru 8/1):**

**Appx. 20 teams in 6 divisions.**

**Fall League (9/5 thru 11/1):**

**Appx. 20 teams in 6 divisions.**

**2 c. Games & Practice Schedule: (# of practices per week, games per season)**

**Spring....84 teams play appx. 10 games each.....430 games.  
84 teams practice at least once per week.....84 practices  
per week.**

**Summer and all star teams:**

20 teams play appx. 10 games each.....100 games  
20 teams practice at least once per week.....20 practices per week.

**Fall League:**

20 teams play appx. 10 games each.....100 games  
20 teams practice at least once per week.....20 practices per week.

**2 d. Facilities/Fields Currently used by League (by Division):**

- Bantam Division.....NC Country School fields.....2 fields
- Cub Division.....YMCA, Mellick, Gamble, Saxe.....4 fields
- Majors Div.....Mellick and Gamble.....2 fields
- Babe Ruth 13-15.....Mead, Coppo, Conner.....3 fields
- Sr Babe/Jr and Sr Legion 16-18.....  
Mead, Coppo and Conner.....3 fields
- Softball - all ages.....Orchard, Water Tower.....2 fields

**2 e. Field Sizes:**

12 and under baseball divisions play on 60 foot diamonds

13 and over baseball divisions play on 90 foot diamonds.

All girls softball games are played on Orchard and Water tower softball fields in Waveny Park.

**2 f. Field Demand (fall)**

12 and under.....appx. 12 teams play on Mellick and Gamble Fields, they play at least 10 games each from 9/9 till 11/1.....60 games and practice at least once a week...12 practices per week.

13 and over.....appx. 3 teams (14u, 16u and 18u and one clinic for 13's).

Clinic for 13's for two hours on every Saturday from 9/9 till 10/15.

3 teams play appx. 18 - 22 games from 9/9 till 11/1.....only Mead Field is available since Coppo and Conner are used for soccer. We therefore never get to do any maintenance in the fall on Mead field.

Softball....4 teams and an all star team play appx. 10 games each on Orchard and Water Tower Field in Waveny Park.

**2 g. Field Demand (spring):**

**Extremely heavy use!**

**12 and under.....appx. 84 teams play on Saxe field near YMCA, Back corner of Conner field, South School, Mellick, Gamble Fields, NC Country day school fields, they play at least 10 games each from 4/15 till 6/15.....**

**84 teams play appx. 10 games each.....430 games.**

**84 teams practice at least once per week.....84 practices per week.**

*teams*  
**13-18's.....Babe Ruth, Sr. Babe, Jr Legion and Sr Legion New Canaan High School Freshman, JV and Varsity, New Canaan Cannons.**

**Mead, Coppo and Conner fields.....between practice and games all three 90 foot diamonds are used all the time.....extremely heavy use!**

**Softball.....with 20 town league teams and the high school JV and Varsity teams the two fields, Orchard and Water Tower fields up at Waveny Park get extreme use! Practice and game times are always booked.....we are hoping to install lights on at least Orchard field for next spring.....maybe Water Tower field if we are able to raise the funds.**

**2 h. Are additional fields needed?**

**YES! PLEASE HELP! Our program needs more fields in order to run a successful program for all ages of baseball and softball. The town has purchased property at Irwin Park and at least two fields have been planned for in studies performed to date at this new town park. This would be extremely helpful to us.**

**The Board of Ed in town has also proposed taking away the field at Saxe near the YMCA that our 9 year olds use in order to accommodate the towns school bus parking issues. This would be devastating to our 9 year old program.**

**2 i. Any other needs/desires or comments:**

**YES. New Canaan Baseball/Softball, Inc. has provided the private funds to help update and maintain the town's baseball/softball fields, batting cages, etc.... We would like to see better maintenance of our privately funded projects on these baseball/softball fields and facilities as we move forward.**

**2 j. General description of League:**

**Our Baseball and Softball program continues to grow in the spring, summer and fall seasons. We need to update our fields, create new fields, new batting cages, update our current batting cages, install new warm-up mounds, etc... along with the required maintenance. Our baseball and softball families continue to help us with generous donations hoping that we will update and maintain our fields, cages, etc... as best as possible. We are currently not achieving the goals that are families are expecting regarding new fields, upgrades and maintenance. Hopefully, together with the town we can work towards a better maintenance and field upgrade program that benefits everyone.**

# NEW CANAAN LACROSSE

**Richter Cegan Inc.**

Landscape Architects and Urban Designers  
 Avon Park North Box 567  
 Avon, Connecticut 06001  
 tel 860/678-0669  
 Fax 860/678-8934

## LEAGUE DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

### NEW CANAAN RECREATION STUDY NEW CANAAN, CT

Your name, telephone & email: TOM ALBERTSON, 203-972-7074  
TOMALBERTSON757@aol.com

1. Sport LACROSSE - NEW CANAAN LACROSSE ASSN

2. Type of League (Travel, League, etc.) TRAVEL, HOUSE

a. Season (Dates) MARCH 1 - JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>

b. Number of teams & divisions. BOYS - GRADES 1-4 200 BOYS.  
6 TEAMS, BOYS GRADES 5-8 725 BOYS - 10 TEAMS -  
2-5<sup>th</sup> 2-6<sup>th</sup> 2-7 2-8<sup>th</sup>, 1 5/6, 1 7/8 Teams  
GIRLS BANTAM - GRADES 1-4, 120 GIRLS - 4 TRAVEL, 4 HOUSE  
GIRLS GRADES 5-8 4 HOUSE, 5 TRAVEL 153 GIRLS

c. Games & Practice Schedule: (number of practices per week, games per season)  
BOYS & GIRLS GRADES 1-4 2 PRACTICES, 1 Game / week  
BOYS & GIRLS GRADES 5-8 2-3 PRACTICES 1-2 Games / week  
BOYS & GIRLS " 7-8 3-4 PRACTICES 2 Games / week

d. Facilities/Fields Currently Used by League (by Division)

Division	Facility	#Fields
BANTAM BOYS-1/4	Sax Middle School	3
BOYS - JR - 5/6/8	Sax Middle School	5
BOYS SR 7/8/14	Sax Middle School	5
GIRLS BANTAM	WATER TOWN	3

e. Field Sizes: Give dimensions for each league/division

GIRLS 5/6	"	3
GIRLS 7/8	"	3

BANTAM BOYS/GIRLS GR. 1-4 40 yds x 80 yds.  
BOYS 5-8 57 yds x 110 yds  
GIRLS 5-8 60 yds x 110 yds.

We need more fields & the board of ed. proposes to take away 3 fields for Bases 1

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f. Field Demand (fall) 2-Fields - 3x/week-

g. Field Demand (spring)  
Boys - 6 Fields (3 Boston, 3 Regular)  
7 Days/week 3-5 Hours/DAY-  
Girls - 3 Fields - 7 Days/week-  
3-5 Hours/DAY

h. Are additional fields needed? (Describe need)  
Need 1 more GIRLS Field at NCHS since  
we are expanding by 2 more teams

Boys 1-2 more fields - adding 2 teams + demand for

i. Any other needs, desires or comments? more time for Younger Boy  
2 Artificial Fields AT WATER TOWER FIELD  
RESTROOM, LOCKER ROOM, SNACK BAR, STORAGE FACILITY  
AT SAGE

i. General description of League 770 Participants, Boys'  
GIRLS GRADES 1-8. (UP FROM 300 5 YRS AGO)

No ONE is CUT FROM PROGRAM. Average 25 Girl  
and 40 Boys going into High School who have  
played the games for 2-7 YRS.

(League profile, number of participants, type of divisions, affiliations, etc.)  
Boys 3 Div, 6 House 13 Travel Teams  
GIRLS 13 Div, 6 TRAVEL, 6 House Teams.

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## LEAGUE DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

### NEW CANAAN RECREATION STUDY NEW CANAAN, CT

Your name, telephone & email: STEVE MILANO W 212 528 1061  
N 209 968 3833 SMILANO@LEHMAN.COM

1. Sport FOOTBALL
2. Type of League (Travel, League, etc.) LEAGUE, FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOOTBALL
  - a. Season (Dates) 8/21 - 11/19
  - b. Number of years & divisions. 5 "DIVISIONS" 3RD + 4TH GRADE,

5TH, 6TH, 7TH & 8TH. 2005 11 TEAMS; 2006  
11 OR 12.

- c. Games & Practice Schedule: (number of practices per week, games per season)

3 PRACTICES / WEEK 5-7 PM. EITHER M-W-F OR T-TH-F  
GAMES SAT MORN. / EVENING / SUNDAY AFTERNOON. MIN 8 GAMES,  
MAX 10 (PLAYOFF)

- d. Facilities/Fields Currently Used by League (by Division)

Division	Facility	#Fields
• Division <u>ALL</u>	Facility <u>WATER BUCK</u>	#Fields <u>3</u>
• Division _____	Facility _____	#Fields _____
• Division _____	Facility _____	#Fields _____
• Division _____	Facility _____	#Fields _____

- e. Field Sizes: Give dimensions for each league/division

3-4 GRADE 80 YDS + 10 YD END ZONES X 53 WIDE  
5-8 GRADE 100 YDS + 10 YD END ZONES X 53 WIDE

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f. Field Demand (fall) 2-2 1/2 HAS, 5-5:30 AM - 7:30 -  
8:00 AM WEEKDAYS 8/21 - 11/19.  
6-7 "HOME" GAMES EACH WEEKEND

g. Field Demand (spring) N/A

h. Are additional fields needed? (Describe need)  
FIELD DENSITY IS A PROBLEM AT TIMES. 2006 223 279  
PLAYERS + 25 COACHES OFTEN ON 3 FIELDS SIMULTAN-  
EOUSLY. COULD USE 1 MORE MINIMUM.

i. Any other needs/desires or comments? THE PLAN TO TURN SOME  
FIELDS INTO PARKING FOR BUSES IS  
ABSURD & MUST BE STOPPED

i. General description of League FAIRFIELD COUNTY FOOTBALL  
LEAGUE. NEW CANAN, DANIEL, WILTON, WESTPORT  
FAIRFIELD. YOUTH FOOTBALL, ALL COUNTY,  
LIMITED WEISAT, GRADES 3-8.

(League profile, number of participants, type of divisions, affiliations, etc.)

**LEGEND**



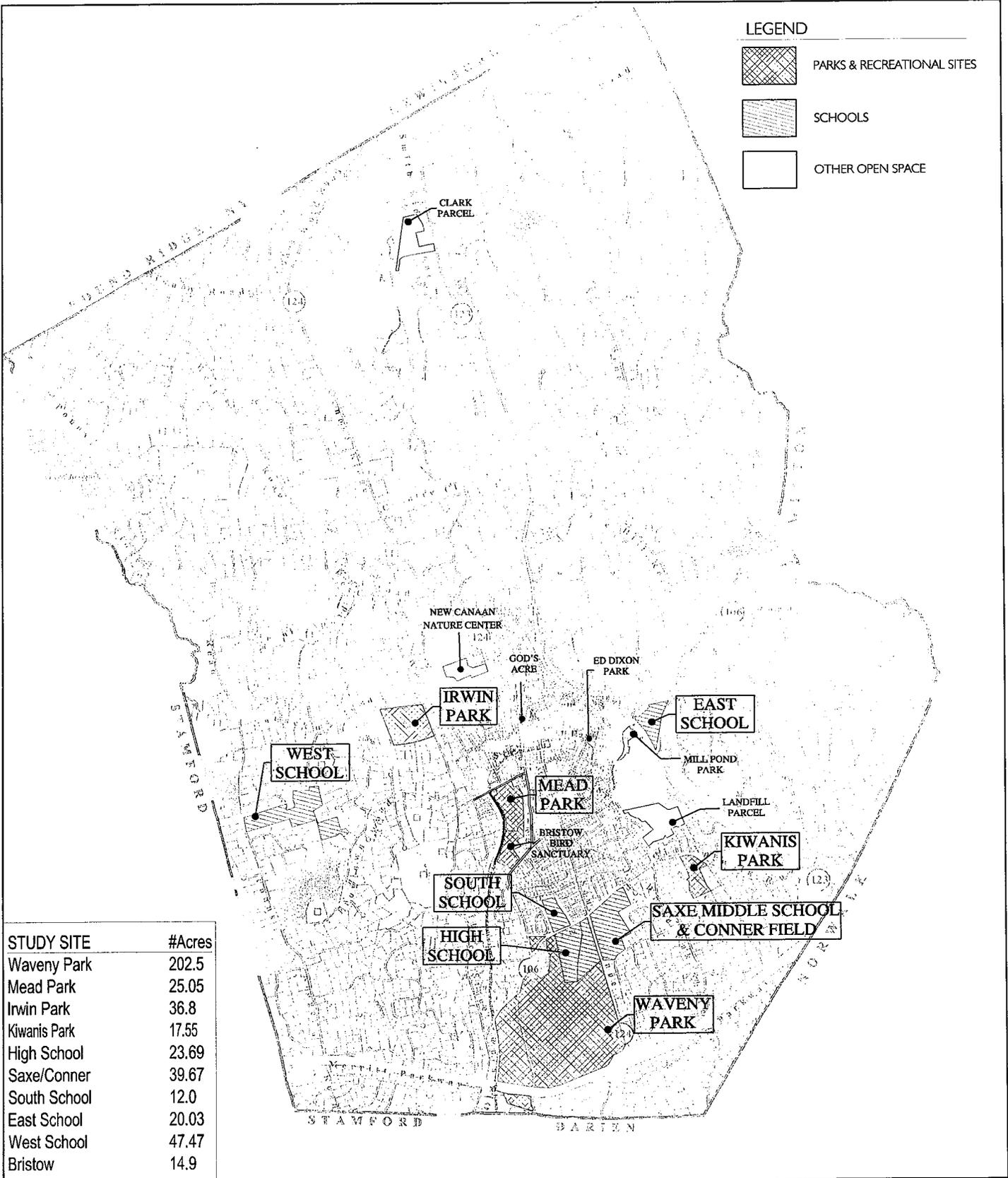
PARKS & RECREATIONAL SITES



SCHOOLS



OTHER OPEN SPACE



STUDY SITE	#Acres
Waveny Park	202.5
Mead Park	25.05
Irwin Park	36.8
Kiwanis Park	17.55
High School	23.69
Saxe/Conner	39.67
South School	12.0
East School	20.03
West School	47.47
Bristow	14.9

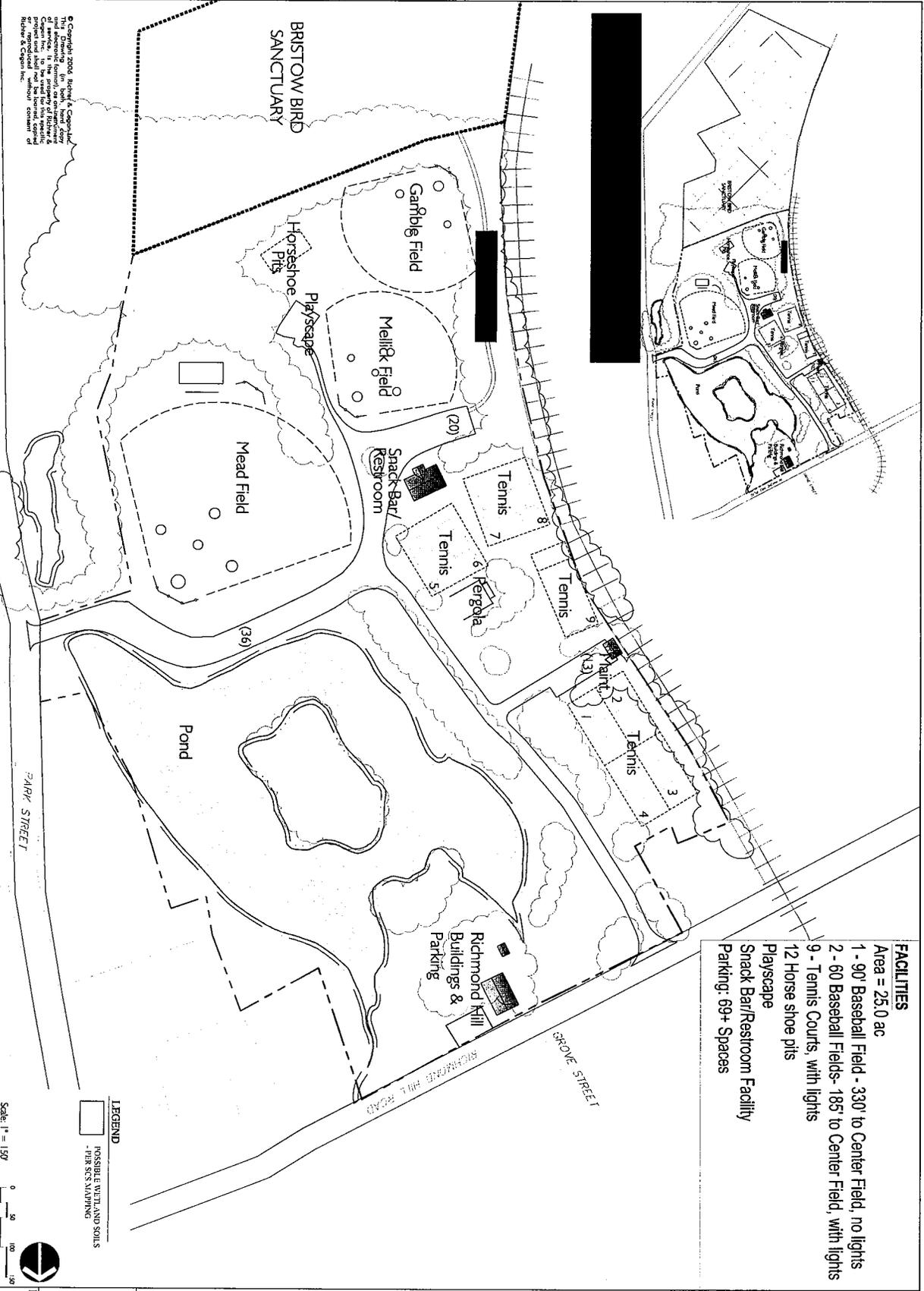
**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF  
PARKS and RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

Landscape Architects  
Urban Designers  
Land Planners  
**Richter & Cegan Inc.**  
Avon Park North Box 567 Avon, Connecticut 06001  
(860) 678-0669

**LOCATION  
MAP of  
Recreational  
Facilities**  
Date: 12-20-06

Figure:  
**3-1**





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- FACILITIES**  
 Area = 25.0 ac  
 1 - 90' Baseball Field - 330' to Center Field, no lights  
 2 - 60' Baseball Fields - 185' to Center Field, with lights  
 9 - Tennis Courts, with lights  
 12 Horse shoe pits  
 Playscape  
 Snack Bar/Restroom Facility  
 Parking: 69+ Spaces

**LEGEND**  
 POSSIBLE WETLAND SOILS  
 PARKING SPACES

Scale: 1" = 150'

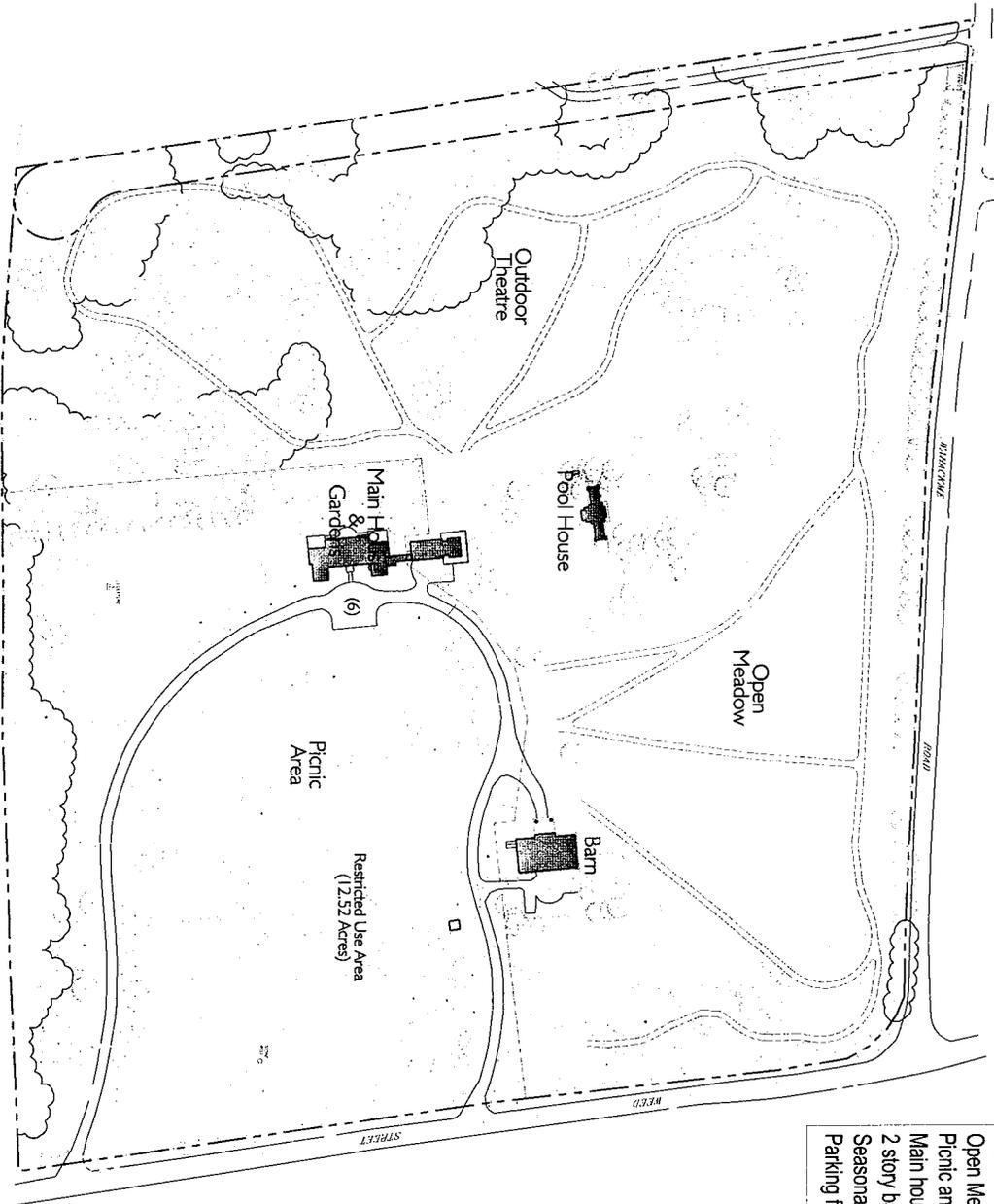


TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
 TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF

**MEAD PARK**  
 Figure: 3-3  
 Date:

Landscape Architects  
 Urban Designers  
 Land Planners  
 Richter & Cappiella

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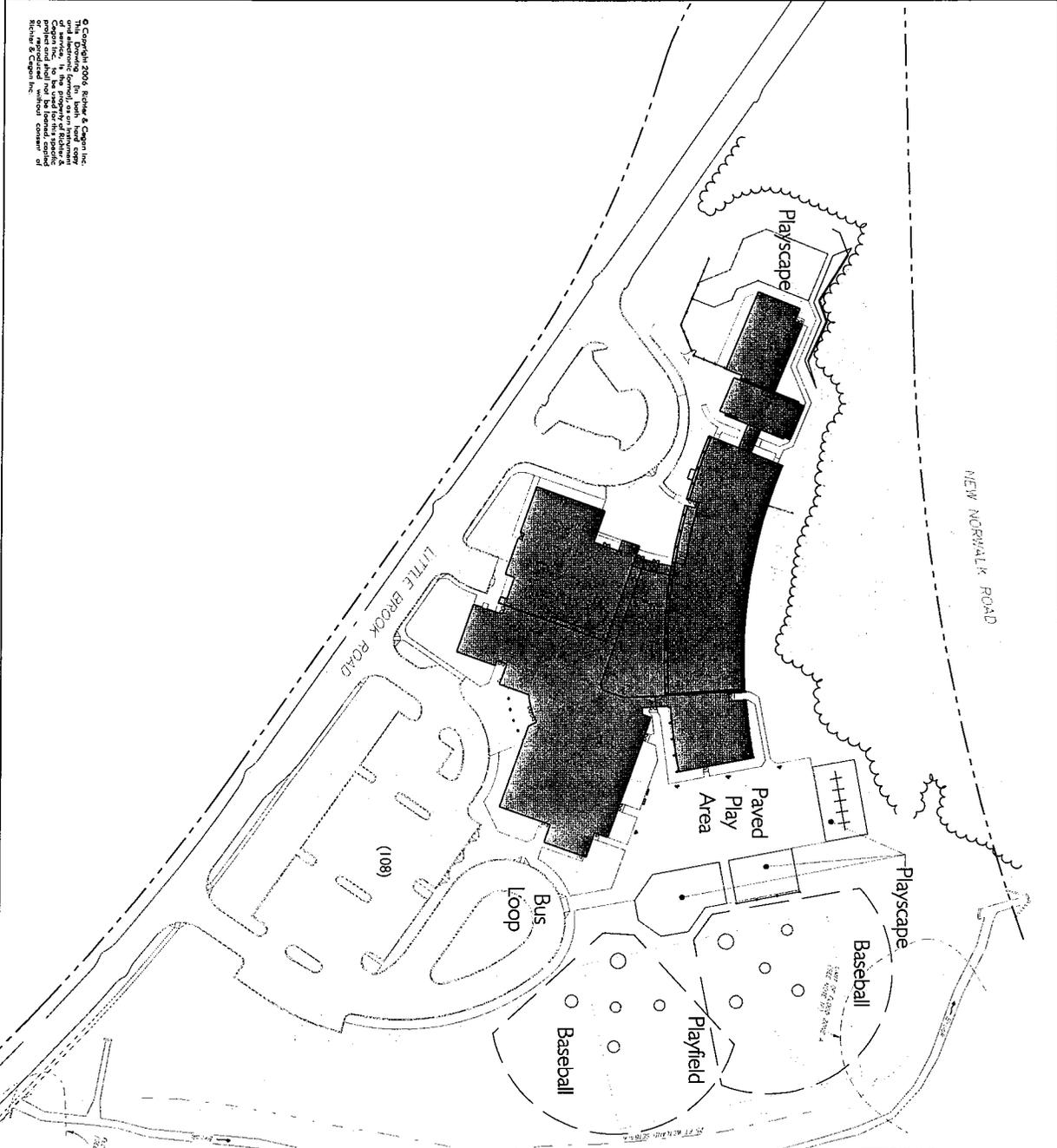


- FACILITIES**  
 Area = 36.2 ac +/-  
 Open Meadows with mown paths  
 Picnic and sitting areas  
 Main house & gardens  
 2 story barn  
 Seasonal outdoor theatre  
 Parking for 6 cars

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
 TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF

IRWIN  
 PARK  
 Existing  
 Conditions  
 Date:  
 Figure:  
 3-4

Landscape Architects  
 Urban Designers  
 Land Planners  
 Richter Cannon Inc.



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**FACILITIES**  
 Area = 20 ac  
 1 - 80 x 55 yds max. Playing field  
 2 - 60' Baseball Fields- 185' to Center Field  
 (Currently Unused)  
 Playscape  
 Parking for 108+ cars inc. 6 HC accessible

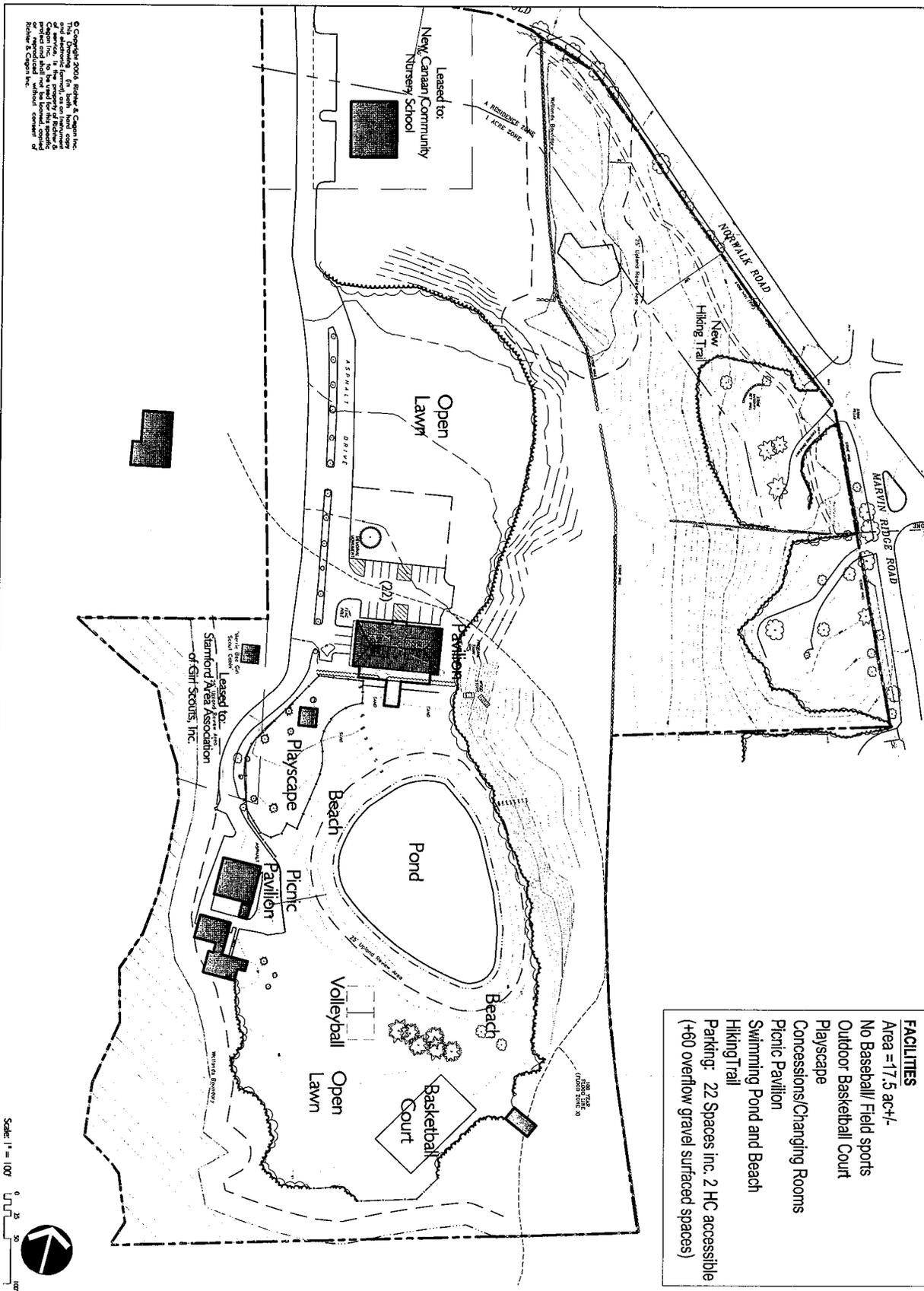
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Figure: **3-9**  
 Date: 11/11/06

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
 TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF  
 PARKS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Landscape Architects  
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- FACILITIES**
- Area = 17.5 ac +/-
  - No Baseball/ Field sports
  - Outdoor Basketball Court
  - Playscape
  - Concessions/Changing Rooms
  - Picnic Pavilion
  - Swimming Pond and Beach
  - Hiking Trail
  - Parking: 22 Spaces inc. 2 HC accessible (+60 overflow gravel surfaced spaces)



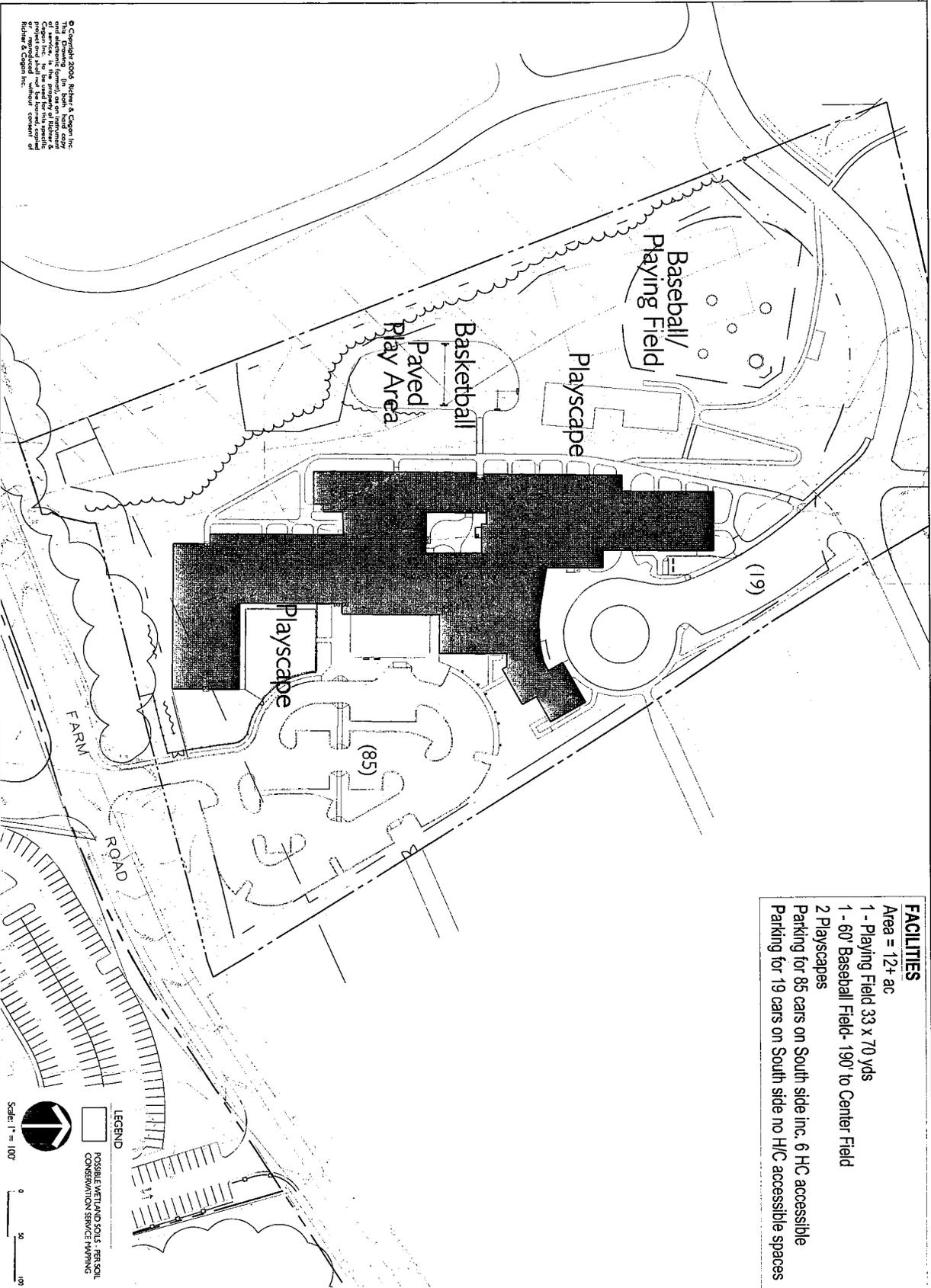
**KIWANI PARK**  
 Existing Conditions  
 Figure: 3-5  
 Date: 12

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN**  
**TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF**  
**PARKS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

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- FACILITIES**  
 Area = 12+ ac  
 1 - Playing Field 33 x 70 yds  
 1 - 60' Baseball Field- 190' to Center Field  
 2 Playscapes  
 Parking for 85 cars on South side inc. 6 HC accessible  
 Parking for 19 cars on South side no HC accessible spaces

**LEGEND**  
 POSSIBLE WETLANDS  
 CONSERVATION SERVICE PARKING

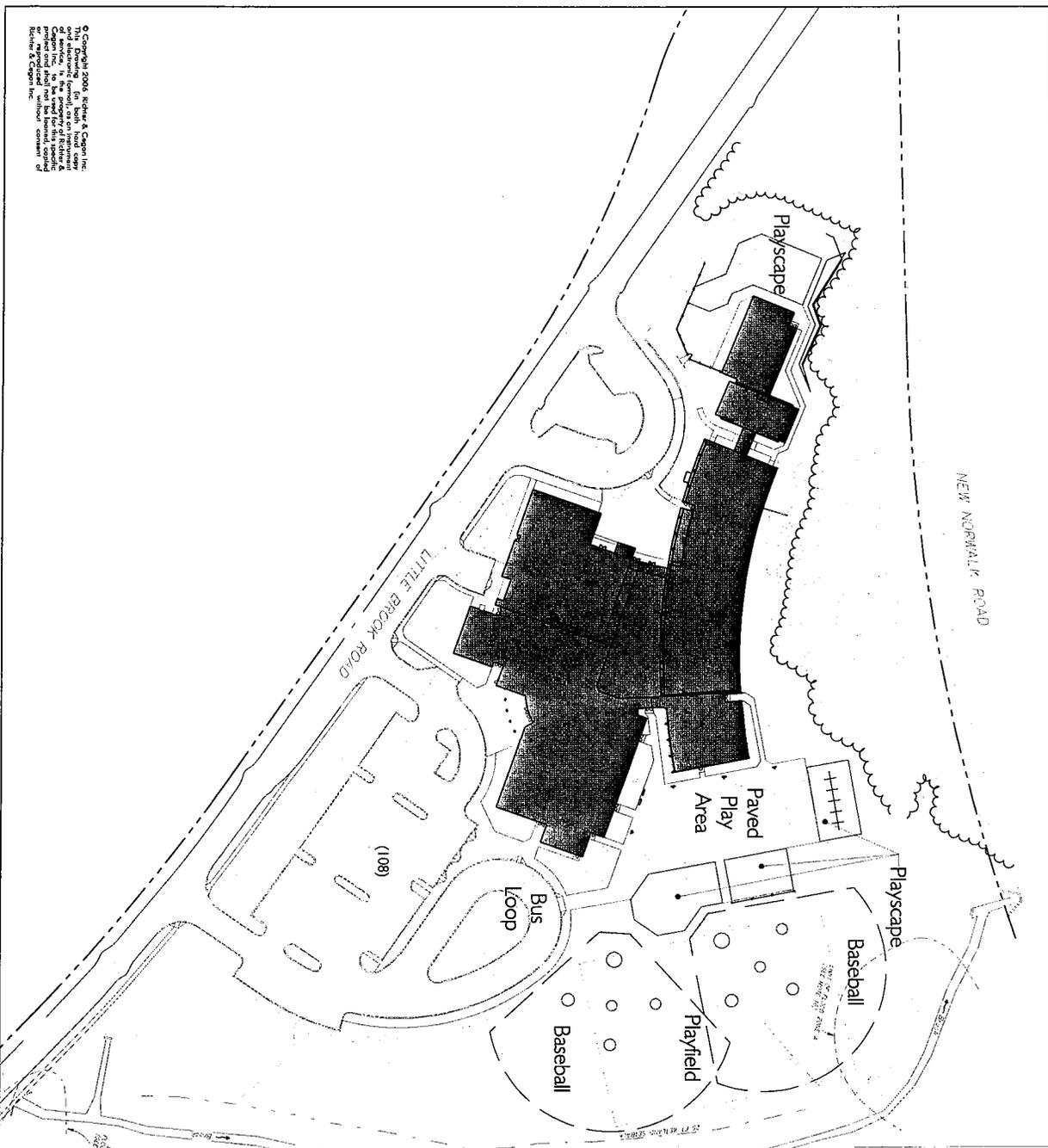
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0 20 40

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
 TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF

**SOUTH SCHOOL**  
 Figure: 3-8  
 Date:

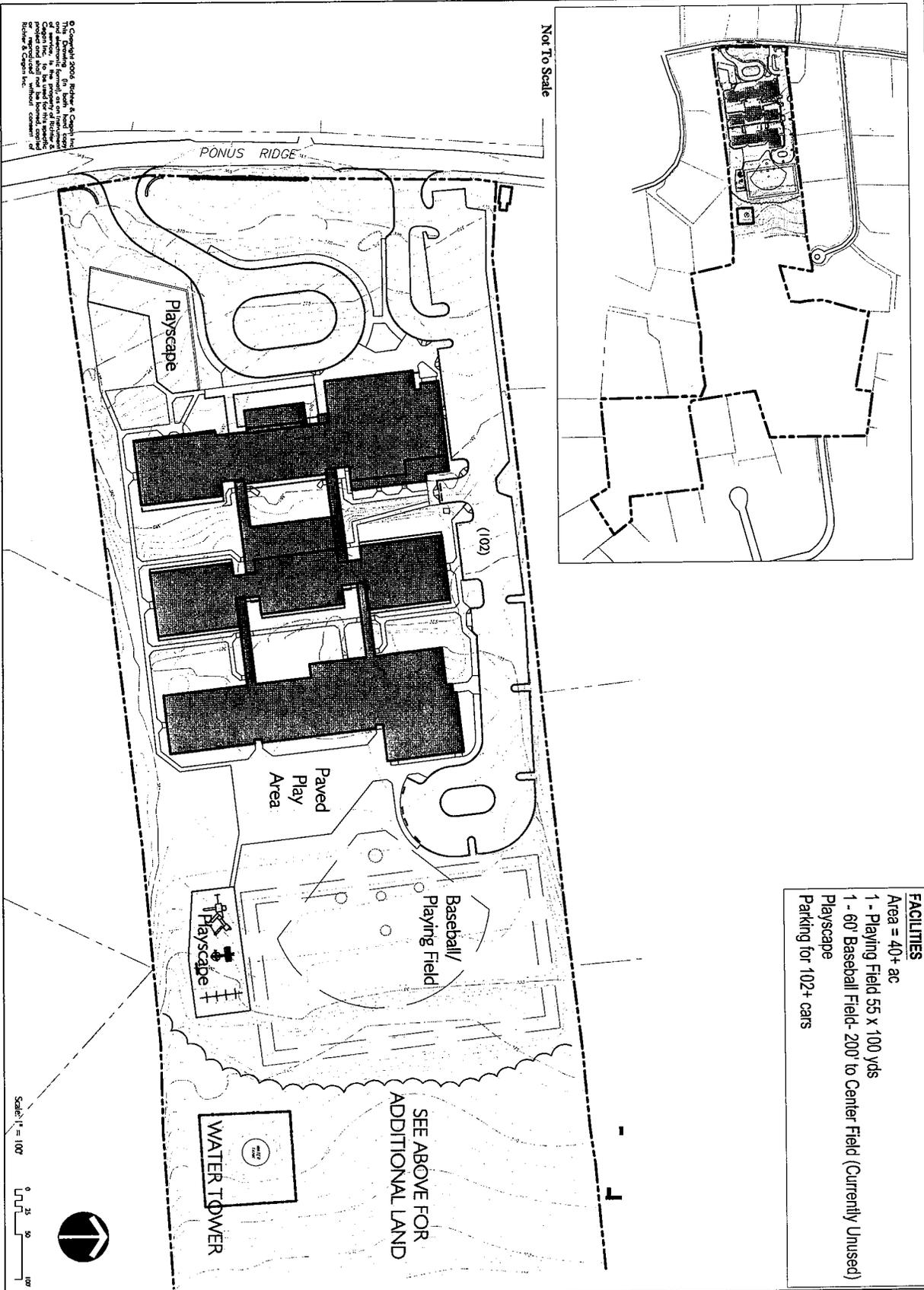
Landscape Architects  
 Urban Designers  
 Land Planners  
 Richter, Camp & ...



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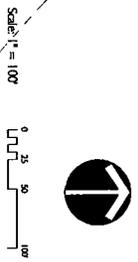
**FACILITIES**  
 Area = 20 ac  
 1 - 80 x 55 yds max. Playing field  
 2 - 60' Baseball Fields - 185' to Center Field  
 (Currently Unused)  
 Playscape  
 Parking for 108+ cars inc. 6 HC accessible





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- FACILITIES**
- Area = 40+ ac
  - 1 - Playing Field 55 x 100 yds
  - 1 - 60' Baseball Field- 200' to Center Field (Currently Unused)
  - Playscape
  - Parking for 102+ cars



TOWN OF NEW CANAAN  
 TOWNWIDE ASSESSMENT OF  
 PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

WEST SCHOOL  
 Figure: 3-10  
 Date: 12

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