

## RECREATION

Parks, open space, playgrounds and playfields serve as areas in which people carry on active and passive recreational activities. They also serve as open breaks in the built up areas of town. As density is relative so the pleasant rural aspect of Sterling center and the rural agricultural landscape of the remainder of the town can be maintained and the town grow as in the past with its basic character preserved by the provision of adequate open space in the general plan.

Changes in the population structure, more leisure time, and increased disposable income make it necessary for the town to provide recreation services on a much wider scale than ever before. To meet this need the Planning Board makes the following recommendations:

### PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS

Sterling's long term recreational needs are twofold. First, a program providing playground space for organized games and sports must be initiated. This program will reach young people of all ages in every section of the town. Secondly, a program must follow the first which is more long term in character and which will provide parkland and conservation areas that will be devoted to passive recreation, hiking, camping and nature study. These areas, when part of the public domain, will preserve for posterity the exceptional beauty of the long views of mountain and city from the hill tops, and the quiet glades wherein lie the meandering streams that characterize much of Sterling's rural countryside.

It is recommended that a review of the recreation plan be made in 1965 and a program of acquisition of sites for park and conservation areas be undertaken at that time in full co-operation with town Boards and Commissions as well as Federal and State authorities.

### ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

A program designed to provide playground space for children of all ages should be approved immediately, and work started on facilities that will provide needed play space in all sections of Sterling by 1966. With this program in mind, the Planning Board recommends that necessary steps be taken to provide these recreation facilities.

The program consists of expanded facilities at the Town Beach, expanded facilities at the Buttrick School, a full athletic field at the Houghton School site if the recommendations are followed with respect to the Junior High School plant

outlined in the School Report. And finally, three playgrounds located in the eastern (Spring Hill), northern (Twin Oaks) and western (Moore's Corner) section of town.

It should be noted in the beginning that the land needed for development of three of the six areas recommended is currently owned by the town of Sterling.

A Landscape Architect should be hired in 1963 for the purpose of preparing plans for new facilities at the Town Beach, Spring Hill site and expansion of facilities at Buttrick School. In 1964 the Architect should prepare plans of a full athletic field for the town at Houghton School site. Also at this time plans should be drawn for a playground in the Moore's Corner area.

A description of playground facilities follows:

1. PLAYGROUND AT THE TOWN BEACH. A playground with hard courts, softball field, tot lot and apparatus for older children will complete the facilities needed at the Town Beach on Lake Washaccum. The town land either side of the approach road to the picnic area should be filled and graded and the proposed facilities installed - completion of construction should be such that new areas are available by the summer of 1965.
2. PLAYFIELD AT SPRING HILL ROAD. Use of a rough triangle of land for a baseball diamond located at the junction of Spring Hill Road and Fitch Pond Road in the center part of town is an indication of need for an organized playfield in that area. It is recommended that approximately 4 acres of land on the easterly side of the intersection be acquired and developed as a town playfield. Acquisition should occur in 1963. A ball field should be ready in 1964 and hard courts in 1965. Further expansion will depend on population increases in the area after 1965.
3. PLAYFIELD AT MOORE'S CORNER. The western section of Sterling would be provided with a playground located on the northerly side of the intersection of Princeton Road (Route 62) and Holden Road. This facility with ball field should be ready for use in 1965. Further expansion of facilities is dependent upon population increases after 1965.
4. HOUGHTON SCHOOL SITE. A full athletic field for elementary junior-high school use is recommended for the southeast area of the Houghton School site. Twelve acres of land will be needed for this facility the expansion of which will eventually serve a town Junior-Senior High School complex as well, if the recommendations of the School Report are followed.

This facility with track, football and baseball fields available will be the major sports field in Sterling. Preliminary plans should be prepared in 1964 for these facilities.

5. PLAYGROUND AT TWIN OAKS. The acquisition of approximately 3 acres of land at the intersection of North Row Road and the access road to Twin Oaks area is recommended for the eventual construction of a playground to serve children in the northern part of Sterling. Site acquisition should take place in 1963 and facilities for organized baseball should be ready in 1966. Additional playground facilities can be provided as the area grows. However, they will not be needed until after 1966.
6. EXPANSION OF BUTTRICK SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. It is recommended that the recreation area at Buttrick School be expanded to 5 acres and include the following facilities to better serve the school and neighborhood recreational needs:
  - a. Tot Lot with sandboxes, swings and shaded play area.
  - b. Elementary school children - hard surface for court games, apparatus for older children and a softball field.

| Proposed<br>Playground                     | Present<br>Ownership | Area    | Town<br>Acquire | Proposed<br>Facility                                      | Approx.<br>Completion<br>Date |
|--|----------------------|---------|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Beach                                   | municipal            | 4 acres | -               | fill-grade  | 1963                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | ballfield   | 1963                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | hard courts   | 1964                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | apparatus   | 1965                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | Tot Lot   | 1964                          |
| 2. Spring<br>Hill                          | private              | 4 acres | 1963            | prepare site  | 1963                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | ballfield   | 1964                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | hard court  | 1965                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | apparatus   | 1966                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | toilets   | -                             |
| 3. Moore's<br>Corner                       | private              | 4 acres | 1964            | prepare site  | 1964                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | ballfield   | 1965                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | hard courts   | ind. *                        |
|  |                      |         |                 | apparatus   | ind.                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | toilets   | ind.                          |
| 4. Houghton<br>School<br>Athletic<br>Field | municipal            | 8 acres | -               | full elementa-<br>ry Jr. High<br>School Athletic<br>Field | after<br>1965<br>1964         |
|  |                      |         |                 | Prepare plans   |                               |
|  |                      |         |                 | prepare site  | 1965                          |
| 5. Twin Oaks                               | private              | 3 acres | 1963            | ballfield   | 1966                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | hard courts   | ind.                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | apparatus   | ind.                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | toilets   | ind.                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | expand<br>apparatus                                       | 1966                          |
| 6. Buttrick<br>School                      | municipal            | 5 acres | -               | Tot Lot   | 1963                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | Softball field  | 1964                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | Play area   | 1963                          |
|  |                      |         |                 | Hard courts   | 1965                          |
|  |                      |         |                 |   |                               |

\* ind. = indefinite

# RECREATION PLAN

## LEGEND

- ▲ EXISTING SCHOOL
- PROPOSED SCHOOL
- EXISTING PUBLIC BATHING BEACH
- ⬡ PROPOSED MUNICIPAL RECREATION FACILITY

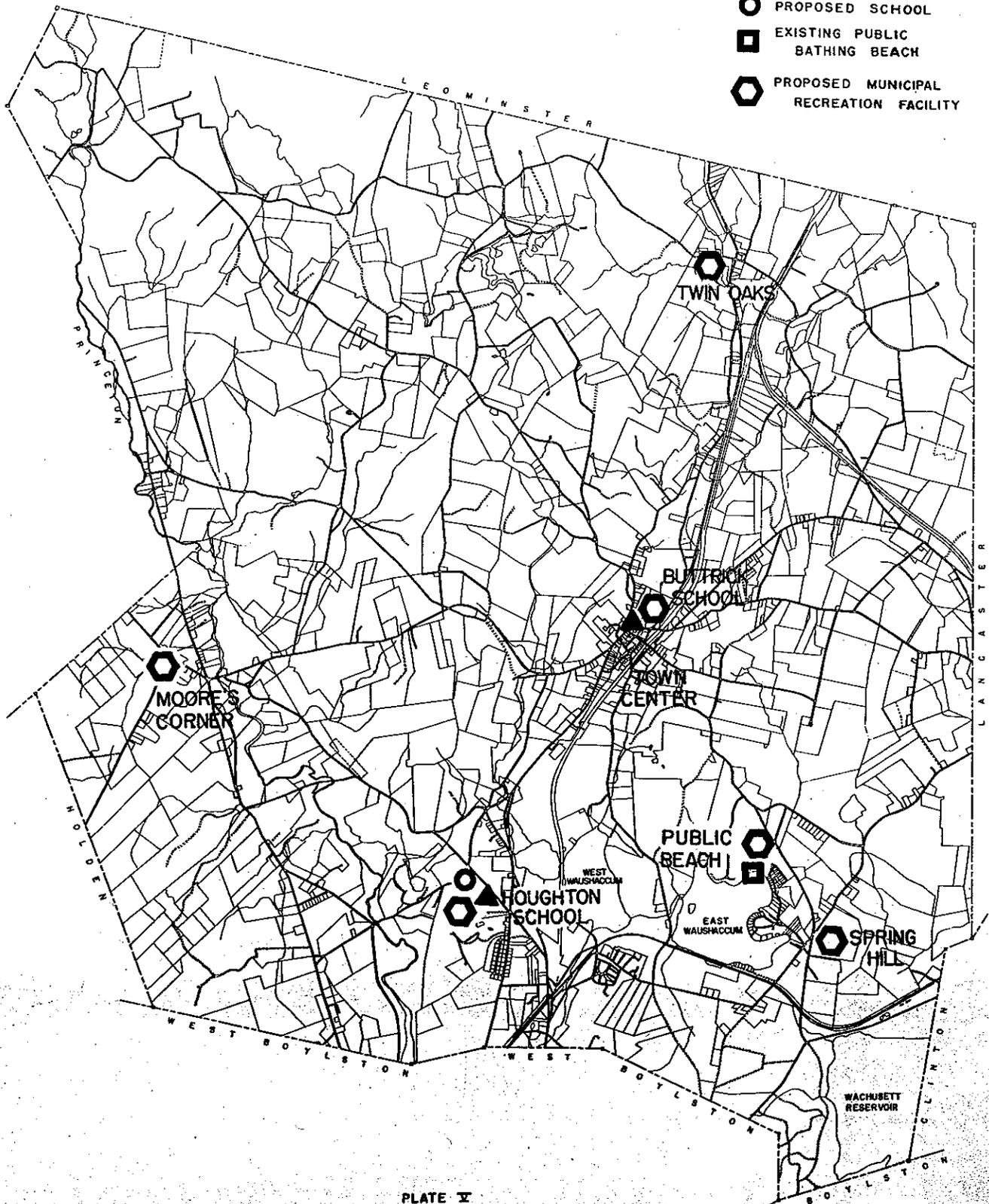
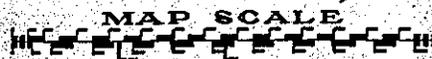


PLATE V



STERLING PLANNING BOARD



# RECREATION STUDY STERLING MASTER PLAN

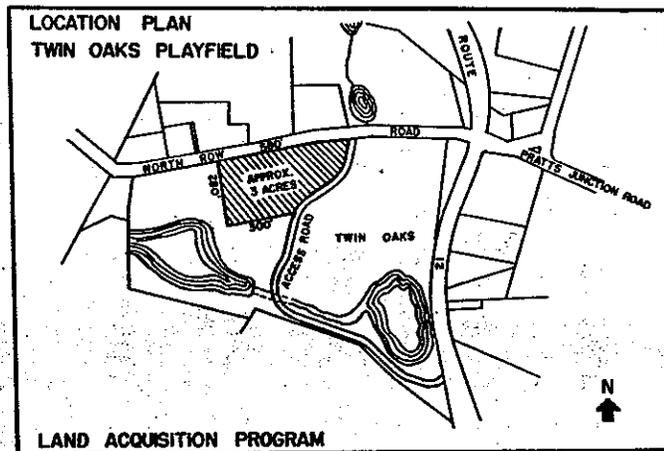
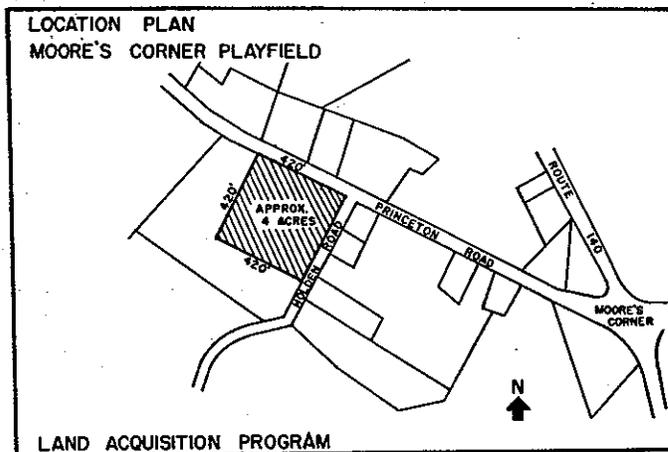
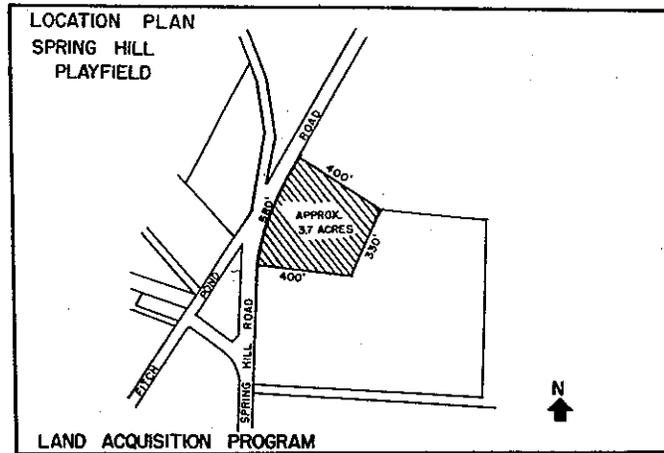


PLATE NO. VI