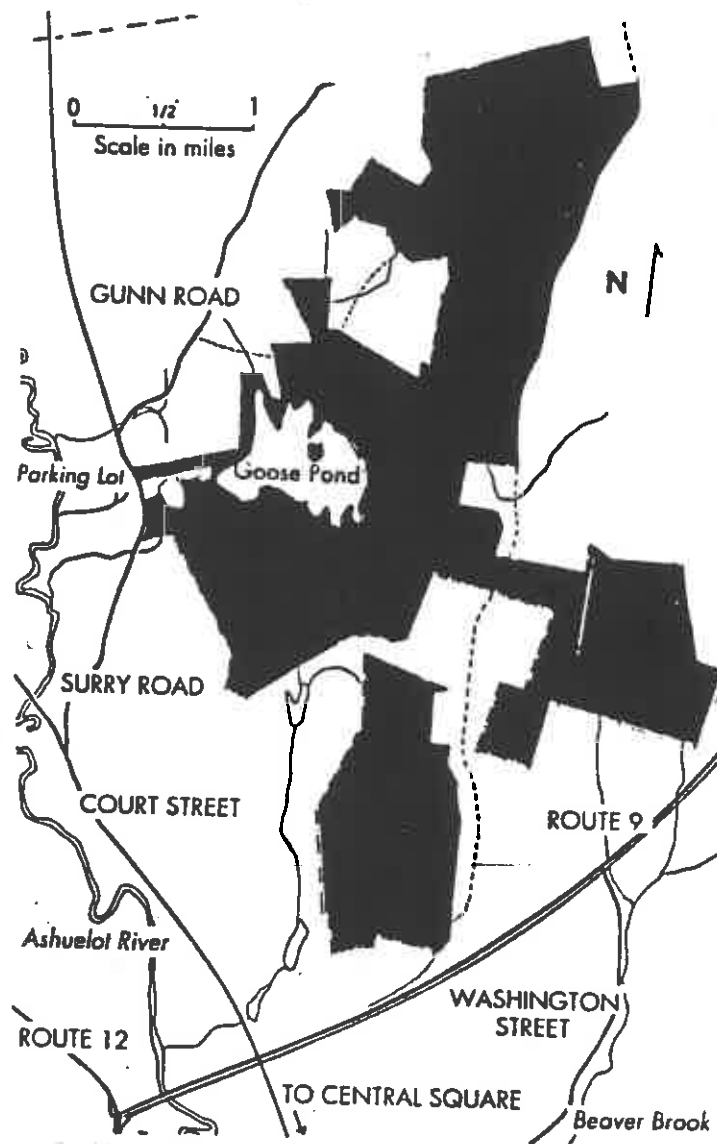


GREATER GOOSE POND FOREST



Plan Revision

1992 City of Keene

Public Hearing: March 22, 1993
Formally Approved by the City
Council: June 17, 1993

Formally Adopted by the Planning
Board: June 28, 1993

THE PLAN FOR
THE GREATER
GOOSE POND
FOREST

1992
Plan Revision
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Index	Page
Goose Pond Goals	
Summary Sheet	
Introduction	1
History	3
Present Conditions	4
1. Geologic, Topographic & Hydrologic Information	4
2. Vegetative Resources	5
3. Fish and Wildlife Resources	6
4. Water Resources	8
5. Forest Resources	9
6. Present Uses Within	10
7. Property Ownership	12
8. Present Access and Internal Trailways	13
9. Appropriateness of Various Uses & Activities	14
Plan Recommendations	18
1. The Pond	19
2. The Natural Setting	19
3. Access Recommendations	20
4. Nature Study Area and Protection	21
5. Forest Practices	21
6. Recommendations for Property Ownership	23
7. Trails	25
Implementation Strategies	27
Short Term	27
Long Term	29
Tables	
Map	

Goose Pond Goals

Long Term Goal: The intent of this plan is to maintain the natural beauty of the Greater Goose Pond Forest while encouraging public use. The area should provide the citizens of Keene a large woodland area accessible only on foot, ski, peddle bike or snowshoe from various points and laced with clearly marked trails and woods roads which lead to ponds, nature walks and scenic vistas.

Interim Goal: To produce accurate mapping, improve the trail system with additional access points, more trail linkage and marked trails while concurrently proceeding with the identification of important natural areas and with land acquisitions needed to consolidate the area.

352-5142.

Home

Summary Sheet

In 1984, the City decided to remove Goose Pond from the water supply system. The use of the pond and surrounding land no longer was dictated by water supply regulations so a committee was appointed to work with a consultant to determine the new use. The plan is the result of that action in 1984 and an update revision in 1992.

The 1985 Goose Pond Master Plan envisioned a North Central Park stretching from Drummer Hill to the Gunn Road. The park was to remain a forested area with uses such as hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing and nature studies. It was a large area of approximately 800 acres that were not all contiguous parcels. The plan called for the purchase of the important parcels that would tie it together and nearly all of that was accomplished. Other parts of the plan that were completed were the parking lot on the East Surry Road and trail from it into the pond. Also, some portions of the forest management effort were carried out.

The review and rewrite of the 1985 Master Plan has been carried out by an appointed group of Keene citizens. The updated Goose Pond Master Plan recognizes the original plan's recommended use of the area to still be the best.

The Review Committee has attempted to enhance the actions recommended to preserve the area. They have set specific deadlines for these actions and have assigned the responsibilities to specific bodies. Because of a strongly expressed concern by many, the forest management actions were reviewed closely and rewritten to bring the entire area into an acceptable management plan with buffers around the pond and Old Gilsum Road. One other decision was to recognize the fact that Goose Pond will always be the centerpiece of the area and the most appropriate name for the entire area from Drummer Hill to the Gunn Road should be the Greater Goose Pond Forest.

Specific recommended implementations of the plan:

<i>done</i> Establish acquisition priorities and pursue	Ongoing
Complete Forest Inventory for entire acreage <i>-again</i>	1994
Make available a trail map <i>sort of</i>	1995
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop a uniform trail sign system <i>Not done</i>	1995
Repair pond's maintenance road	1995
Identify biologically significant areas <i>sort of done</i>	1995
Accurate mapping of entire area <i>done</i>	1995
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create plan of trail development <i>not done</i>	1995
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend best Gunn Road access and acquire <i>not done</i>	1995
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select best Gunn Road access and acquire	1997
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Locate funding for Nature Study Areas creation	1997
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Nature Study Areas	1998
Discussion of the City-Wide trail system	Once every year
Review implementation of Master Plan	Every November



The trail around Goose Pond in the winter. Note the cross country ski tracks.



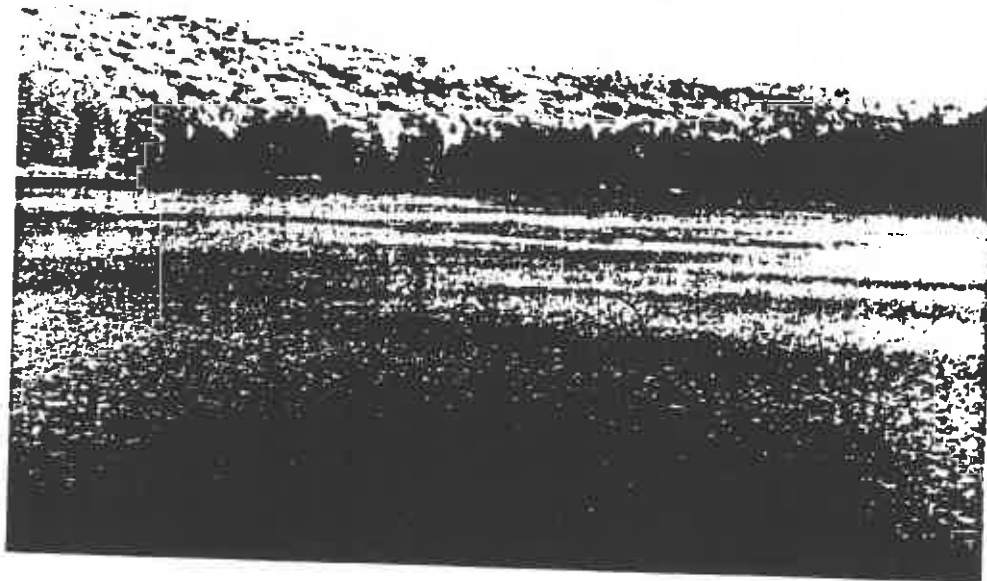
The hemlock stand near the southeast corner of Goose Pond.



The Old Gilsum Road heading north
from Timberlane Drive. Drummer
Hill is on the left side of the
road.



Typical view of the woods roads
in the Drummer Hill forest.



An easterly view across Goose Pond. The Old Gilsum Road runs across the top of the ridge on the right side of the horizon.



Typical stream that enters Goose Pond. Most streams into the pond become mere trickles during summer dry spells.



The parking area for Goose Pond
on the East Surry Road.



A view across Goose Pond looking
north. The island is on the
right.

**GREATER GOOSE POND FOREST
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

INTRODUCTION

— Over the years the City of Keene has had a longstanding goal of maintaining open space areas for both recreation and conservation purposes. The goal of previous Master Plans was to preserve 50% of the land in Keene as open space. However, with the loss of the farms and the growth of development, it becomes harder and harder to maintain this standard. Keene is presently at the point where 50% of its land is developed. We now face very hard choices when we seek to preserve open space areas. We must balance carefully the needs of the community for passive recreation and wetland preservation against the desire to develop and grow.

Good

For this reason, the present Open Space Master Plan talks of greenways and open space corridors linking the open space areas the City currently owns. The operant idea is to offer green areas which would be large enough for wildlife habitat, hiking, or cross country trails. These "greenways" would also serve to cleanse our air, filter surface water run-off before it reaches the groundwater supply, and preserve our hillsides from erosion. Some areas would also serve as flood storage areas, others as backup for the water supply. By choosing our greenways carefully, we can ensure that Keene remains a green and pleasant place to live.

The lands around Goose Pond offer us an excellent opportunity to create such a greenway. The City owns lands stretching from the Drummer lot off Elm Street to the former Paquette parcel which approaches the Gilsum town line. Portions of the Forest reach the East Surry Road, while the eastern boundary runs along the Old Gilsum Road excepting where acreage just north of Drummer Hill extends eastward toward Route 10 to the edge of the Ministers Lot. Not all of this land is City-owned or under conservation easement but much of it is. If all this green space were preserved and treated as one **Greater Goose Pond Forest**, then the City would have an unparalleled opportunity to offer passive recreation and to preserve conservation values.

This report suggests just that. That the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** be an open space greenway with trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, nature walks, mountain biking, and other compatible uses. The area surrounding Goose Pond itself, and the wetland adjacent to it, would become a conservation/nature study area. Preserving the forest lands adjoining the Pond would provide habitat for both flora and fauna native to the area, stabilize the hillside, provide scenic vistas, and offer citizens the chance to enjoy an unspoiled natural area within City limits.

Open space
greenway
what
is it
linked
to
the
area

HISTORY

Goose Pond, as it is today, was created from a smaller pond and bog in the late 1860's. It became the first piped water supply for Keene in 1868. The water supply was created largely in response to a need made evident in 1865 when wells ran dry during a terrible fire on the east side of Central Square. During the 1900's, the pond became a back up water supply and remained so until 1984.

Throughout all those years, the pond and much of the surrounding acreage was protected as a drinking water reservoir and watershed. Posted to prevent entry by anyone except City maintenance crews it sat sight unseen by nearly all Keene residents.

In 1984, the City decided to remove Goose Pond from the water supply system. The use of the pond and surrounding land no longer was dictated by water supply regulations so a committee was appointed to work with a consultant to determine the new use. This plan is the result of that action in 1984 and an update revision in 1992.

I. PRESENT CONDITIONS

The following sections describe the existing physical site conditions within the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** area, as well as any existing City policies which affect these lands. These topics were re-examined based on the initial Goose Pond Master Plan (1985): 1) geology, hydrology and topography, 2) vegetative resources, 3) fish and wildlife resources, 4) water resources, 5) forest resources, 6) present uses within the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**, 7) property ownership, 8) present access and internal trailways, and 9) appropriateness of various uses and activities.

1. Geologic, Topographic and Hydrologic Information

Based on data and maps from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the soils in the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** are those generally associated with the steeper topographic features (ranging in slope from 15% - 50%) and are shallow, stony glacial tills. These soils are found throughout the Greater Goose Pond area. Adjacent to Goose Pond, and along several of the drainageways there exist wetland soils of fine sandy loam or mucky peat.

Topographically, the area is characterized by moderately steep to very steep slopes, with isolated pockets of flatter terrain. Goose Pond is located in a basin surrounded by hills reaching elevations up to 900 feet along the east, 700 feet to the northwest, and decreasing to 600 feet to the south and southwest.

Hydrologically, the bedrock within the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** contains a low-yield groundwater supply. The steepness of the terrain throughout the area, combined with both large and small wetland areas, makes the entire **Greater Goose Pond Forest** a hydrologically sensitive region where drainage and groundwater recharge are dependent upon maintenance of the forested areas, wetlands and natural drainage channels. A portion of the Forest, including the Pond itself, is located within the tertiary aquifer recharge zone connected within the City's Court Street wellfields.

link to ground water importance of forest

2. Vegetative Resources

The **Greater Goose Pond Forest** contains a wide variety of vegetation, ranging from obligate wetland plants to forested uplands. The vegetation in general is that associated with a

mature softwood forest. Within this forest are some exceptionally large trees with some of the white pines and hemlock having diameters up to three feet. Table 1 is a listing of characteristic species found in the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**. An updated and more complete plant inventory, based on Table 1 needs to be conducted of the entire **Greater Goose Pond Forest**.

Of equal importance within the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** ecosystem are the wetland areas, which include not only Goose Pond and its immediate environs but isolated wetland pockets and forested wetlands. Several wetland areas, especially those adjacent to the Pond, contain plant species which are typical of bog communities found throughout central New England. Additional wetland areas generally occur wherever the soils are either poorly or very poorly drained.

3. Fish and Wildlife Resources

Within the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** there are no streams which have a large enough year-round water volume to be inhabited by fish. Goose Pond, however, has a sizable stock of large-mouth bass. This bass population was started by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department with a heavy stocking of the pond in

pond

Fish - large Mouth Bass

Painted turtles

beaver

Migratory birds

the late 1970's.

The pond is not only a full-time residence for painted turtles, bullfrogs and beaver, but a temporary layover for many traveling waterfowl. Mallard, Canadian geese, American mergansers, black ducks and buffleheads are frequent visitors.

Audubon Society

The forest offers a wide variety of nesting possibilities for birds. The list accrued by the Audubon Society in Table 2 exemplifies this.

evidence of

raccoons

skunks

foxes

minks

fisher cats

snowshoe hare

deer (white tail)

coyote

goshawk

pileated wood

ruffed grouse

black bear

* sightings

Although no specific study of the wildlife has been conducted within the Greater Goose Pond Forest, observations have been reported over the years. The Environmental Camp run by the Parks and Recreation Department at Goose Pond in the later 1970's and early 1980's often reported sightings of tracks of small forest animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes and mink. A 1991 pamphlet of the area mentions snow tracks of fisher cats, snowshoe hares and deer. During a 1991 forestry inventory, visual observations were recorded of white-tailed deer, coyote, goshawk, pileated woodpecker and ruffed grouse. Also in the summer of 1991 there were several reports of sightings of a black bear in the area.

4. Water Resources

The single most significant water resource in the Greater Goose Pond Forest is the 42-acre Goose Pond. The pond once served as a water reservoir for the City of Keene water system, having been purchased in 1867 to provide water storage for water lines in the eastern part of the City. In 1981 Goose Pond was disconnected from the City's water system and in 1985 the City formally abandoned it as being a component of the City's water supply.

Goose Pond receives its water through both surface water and springs. The areas to the northeast and the west drain into the Pond via intermittent streams. A permanent stream, originating on the former Paquette property, feeds the Pond from the north. The entire drainage basin of the Pond is relatively small, containing only about 950 acres or 1.5 square miles. Water levels in the Pond are seasonally dependent. During the drier summer season, when there is no flow over the spillway, the water becomes stagnant. During the wetter spring months, springs and streams feed the Pond causing higher water levels and flow over the spillway.

There are several significant wetland areas in addition to the

surface water of the Pond itself. South of the Pond, extending along the drainageway toward Drummer Hill, are forested and scrub-shrub wetlands. Southwest of the Pond, extending toward East Surry Road, from the dam along both sides of the access road are scrub-shrub wetlands several acres in size. There are smaller wetland areas throughout the forest. A detailed wetlands inventory needs to be included as part of the City's overall wetlands inventory.

5. Forest Resources

In 1970, the City conducted a timber survey of the 166 acres of land the City then owned around the Pond. It was estimated that there were 60,000 board feet of softwood and 45,000 board feet of hardwood with 700 cords of pole timber. All forest lands owned by the City are mixed soft and hard woods. Two of the parcels added to the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** were logged prior to their purchase. One of these areas is the Burroughs parcel which was cut just prior to its purchase in the late 1970's. The second area is the Leigh parcel on the hillside east of the Pond. This parcel was logged in the mid-1980's.

Forest Inventory and Management Plans were completed on three separate areas of the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**. In 1985 a plan

*2 parcels
Comp. to help
purchase
Burroughs
Leigh
Jan 1987*

was done on the Ministers' Lot, and in 1986 a plan was completed on the Drummer Hill Lot. Both of these plans were implemented. A third Management Plan was completed in 1991. This involved lands to the north and east of the Pond, consisting of the Wright, Sylvester and Thompson-Reed Lots. At this time, this plan has not been implemented.

With Drummer Hill to the South, the Goose Pond land area in the center, and the former Paquette property to the North, the City has a large tract of land containing considerable volume of mature and harvestable timber resources. This significance as a timber resource is coupled with the fact that it presents a large nature study area for the citizens of the community. Deer, grouse, rabbits and other wildlife associated with New England mixed wood forests are found as a result of these woodlands.

6. Present Uses Within the Greater Goose Pond Forest

Since 1985, when the initial Goose Pond Master Plan was first written, use of the "Greater Forest" has seen a marked increase. Prior to that time, access had been denied, in part because the pond was still considered a water source for the City. With the implementation of recommendations from the Master Plan,

especially the construction of a formal parking lot and trail to the Pond, pedestrian and other traffic has grown.

Current use of the area includes walking and hiking, mostly to and around the Pond, and often with pets. While pedestrian traffic is greater during the summer, a significant number of individuals hike the entire area throughout the year, policing the site to some extent, and reporting to the Parks and Recreation Department on a regular basis. Access via Drummer Hill off Green Acres Road is almost as frequent as is access to the Pond itself from the East Surry Road. The hills and unmarked trails provide a superb terrain for mountain bikers, and this activity has recently grown as well.

Winter activities have likewise sprouted. Ice fishing seems to be a frequent enjoyment even though results are sparse. The past winter, the KHS cross country ski team held regular practices on the Pond when thin snow cover made usual sites inadequate. In past years, X-C skiing throughout the Greater Forest has been frequent, depending on conditions. The eastern border of much of the Greater Forest is the Old Gilsum Road, a Class VI dirt road. This road is part of a statewide snowmobile trail system and occasionally used by these machines.

Nature study groups from the Harris Center, Antioch, and Keene State Colleges have availed themselves of the opportunity to explore the area. There is no longer a nature camp as had been run in years past. No toilet facilities, water or other amenities exist to encourage group activities.

Abuse of the preserve continues, although it seems less with the increase in legitimate traffic. Youth parties generally occur in the late spring with occasional reprimand from the Keene Police Department. There is sporadic camping on short- and long-term basis. Motorized vehicles do gain access despite concerted efforts to thwart them. Some of these activities promote litter and trash, although the area remains well maintained through volunteer efforts as well as those of the Parks and Recreation Department.

7. Property Ownership

The Greater Goose Pond Forest lands, owned by the City, generally are bordered by the East Surry Road, the Gunn Road, the Old Gilsum Road, and Timberline Drive. The Old Gilsum Road is not the easterly boundary in total as the City now has ownership of woodland easterly from the Road to the Ministers' Lot. This is an approximately 140-acre parcel on the east side

of the Old Gilsum Road.

The total acreage of the Greater Goose Pond Forest is more than 1,000 acres.

8. Present Access and Internal Trailways

Access to Goose Pond itself is currently by means of the recently constructed parking lot 0.7 miles in on the East Surry Road. From the lot, a 0.25 mile trail leads to the Pond. There is vehicular access for maintenance as well as for handicap access via a gated road just south of the parking area. Other access to the Pond is over privately owned land along the East Surry Road or the Gunn Road, including a gated road off the Gunn Road. There are trails leading off the Old Gilsum Road (Class VI) that provide occasional pedestrian or off-road vehicle entry. Finally, a network of old logging trails over privately owned land adjacent to the southern border of the Pond allow occasional access to both hikers and vehicles. Blockades are now in place to stifle motorized traffic.

Entry to the Drummer Hill property can be by means of a gated road at the junction of Green Acres and Drummer Roads. Motorized traffic is unusual, and most usage is from hikers or

mountain bikers.

The Paquette property is the most protected parcel with public access only from the Old Gilsum Road which abuts on the Eastern boundary.

Internal pathways on all three properties consist primarily of unorganized paths cleared for past logging operations. Most of these are identifiable and useable for pedestrian and mountain biking traffic as well as for skiing in the winter. The Old Gilsum Road, although gated, is used more frequently by motorized vehicles including snowmobiles in the winter. There is a well-cleared and mostly marked trail that encircles Goose Pond. It is negotiable only by foot and in part by bicycle. A complete inventory of trails has been initiated.

*where
is the trail
inventory*

Each of the properties is somewhat artificially separated from the others by two power lines intersecting at the Old Gilsum Road just to the east of the Pond. The clearing from power line right of way provides additional entry to each of the three sites.

9. Appropriateness of Various Uses and Activities

There are many acceptable recreational uses of the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**. These are uses that are compatible with the effort to preserve the area for the enjoyment of the citizens of Keene as a forested setting.

The following is a listing of activities and recommendations concerning their acceptance within the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**.

Swimming - Due to the lack of supervision and high bacteria counts during the low water periods, swimming should continue to be prohibited, and appropriate signage should be installed to reinforce that prohibition.

Picnicking - This activity cannot be accommodated in a large group setting. The creation of a picnic area would bring the need for restroom facilities. It would be difficult establishing a septic system in the soils near the Pond, and restrooms would require electrical service be brought into the area.

Passive Park Settings - The entire **Greater Goose Pond Forest** lands itself beautifully to use as a quiet retreat. Throughout the Forest, there are countless locations with scenic settings

Goal is to keep a quiet, peaceful recreational experience

and remoteness. Growing urbanization in Keene will only increase the value of this Forest for this use.

① Cross Country Skiing - This activity is most appropriate within the Forest. Many of the trails and woods roads are well suited for cross country skiing. There are some areas still only roughly or steeply connected but properly planned trail development could tie in the entire Forest with a comfortable network of cross country ski trails.

Boating - Goose Pond is large enough for boating with canoes, small sailboats and rowboats. Because of the emphasis on keeping the Greater Goose Pond Forest a quiet nature experience, no motorized boats of any kind should use the Pond. For use on the Pond, boats should be carried in. This will help keep the size of the boats on the Pond at an appropriate size.

Bridle Paths - Some of the woods roads would be appropriate for this activity. To openly encourage this activity, however, a recommended network should be marked so that the riding is done in appropriate areas.

③ Fishing - There is a reasonably good bass population in Goose Pond. The streams are virtually free of fish. Fishing in Goose

Pond is an appropriate activity at any time of the year in accordance with N.H. Fish & Game regulations.

Hiking - The Greater Goose Pond Forest offers a large network of trailways. There is a variety of trails in width and grade. Hiking is an appropriate use and one which leads to many opportunities for other activities within the Forest. The trail system will forever most optimally serve the use of the Forest and must receive good planning and maintenance.

Motorized Vehicles - Use by any motorized vehicles should be discouraged. Nothing motorized should go any further than the designated parking lots. Snowmobile use should be limited to the Old Gilsum Road as part of the statewide network of connector trails.

Hunting - It is unlawful to hunt or trap on any City property. This is specified in the Ordinances of the City of Keene, Chapter 16, Section 1.

Biking

II. Plan Recommendations

— It is recommended that the City of Keene create a **Greater Goose Pond Forest** which would include all City lands surrounding Goose Pond, from the Paquette land to the north to Drummer Hill to the south. To the east, the forest should include the Ministers' Lot and a buffer along Old Gilsum Road. Every attempt should be made to link these areas with a trail system which would afford an exposure to diversity of the natural aspects of this large tract of land.

The **Greater Goose Pond Forest** would be a link in the greenways concept proposed in the Open Space Master Plan and would create both conservation and open space lands for enjoyment of the residents of this community.

It is proposed that the City, in its endeavor to plan for the future, designate the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** as a permanent forest tract with trails, and access to these trails, and to provide for a fauna and flora preserve for nature study purposes in coordination and collaboration with the City's school system, Keene State College, and Antioch New England Graduate School, and other school systems. Long range plans for Goose Pond, Drummer Hill, the Ministers' Lot, and the former Paquette property, should provide for

their connection.

The following are recommended:

1) THE POND

It is recommended that the Pond be kept in its present form to serve as a focal point for the establishment of a nature preserve area.

In the past, the Corps of Engineers, in its evaluation, has found that the Goose Pond dike and dam were satisfactory with only minor improvements and continued maintenance. Some of these improvements have been carried out, and continued maintenance is planned. The Corps of Engineers' recommendations for the Pond should continue to be followed.

2) THE NATURAL SETTING

Those who have experienced a sunset or a quiet afternoon at Goose Pond must have been impressed by the natural beauty of the area. It is recommended that this strikingly beautiful natural setting be preserved. This means that forest management practices, trail systems, access to the Pond, key areas for public use, and

vistas be located in areas which afford the ultimate natural experience that the area has to offer. It is necessary that the natural setting be assured by either covenant or additional acquisition of lands located east of the Pond, to the Old Gilsum Road and to include a buffer along the east side of Old Gilsum Road. Acquisition of additional properties adjacent to the Pond should remain a high priority.

3) ACCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

*MORE ACCESS & TRAILS
Old Gilsum Rd
Quant Rd*

It is recommended that additional access via trails be provided to the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** from the Old Gilsum Road on the east and Gunn Road on the west similar to current access provided on the East Surry Road. In no case should motorized vehicles approach closer than 1,000 feet of the Pond. The exceptions would be the provision for handicapped access and maintenance vehicles on existing City access road.

It is recommended that pedestrian access to the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** be increased. Vehicles should be accommodated through the creation of 10-15 space parking lots. Trails should be developed from these parking areas to the Forest area.

An additional access to the Pond from Gunn Road should be

considered. Also needed is an access to the Paquette parcel from the Gunn Road. Other recommended future accesses are from Timberlane Drive and Green Acres Road into Drummer Hill. These accesses should have appropriate size parking lots.

4) NATURE STUDY AREA AND PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS

The existing study shows that there are sufficient natural resources along the Pond, along the permanent stream to the north of Goose Pond, and in the wetland areas to warrant their incorporation into a nature preserve and nature study project. Typical and rare plants should be identified through a well-marked identification system combined with a trail network conducive to environmental and biological studies. It is recommended that the City, through private donations support an annual scholarship program to a student or group who will identify plants, lay out trails, and conduct nature study tours within the area.

*Recommended
Implementation*

5) FOREST PRACTICES

The 1985 Master Plan recommended that a forest management plan be initiated to manage the forest, to help develop trails, and to control the forest practices that are used in the park area. The

recommendations of this Committee are to follow the 1985 Master Plan and to further define the role that the Forest Management Plan will play in the future of the Greater Goose Pond Forest.

goal of committee

The Forest Management Plan is currently incomplete. Some of the land areas have been inventoried; however, several more have not. The first priority of the Park Management Plan should be to complete a Forest plan/inventory of all properties owned by the City in this area and combine all inventories into one Management Plan for the entire park. This plan should treat the park as one parcel. The management plan for the Drummer property and the Ministers' Lot should also be incorporated into the inventory. This total inventory should be reviewed along with information about future trail needs and information gathered that would identify any fragile areas or areas of special nature interest. The review of all this information and the resulting Forest Management Plan should be the responsibility of the Conservation Commission along with the Planning and Parks Departments. The Forest Management Plan will then be sent to the City Council for final approval.

what are conservation trail needs

>150' no cut zone around trails

It is recommended that a greater than 150-foot no cut zone should be established around the edge of Goose Pond trail. This no cut zone should include a great part of the pond basin especially including the wetland south of the pond, any areas prone to erosion

majority of basin, stream N. of pond, wetland S. of pond, areas prone to erosion

and along the stream to the north of the pond. The exact extent of this no cut zone should be determined by the Conservation Commission, Planning Department and the Parks Department after the forest inventory, future trail plans and identification of sensitive nature areas is compiled and submitted.

Any harvesting operations should be done in the winter to minimize the impact on the area. Lumbering operations should be designed to diversify and improve the wildlife habitat to attract a larger variety of wildlife. Skidder trails should be mapped out so they can serve as hiking trails once logging is complete.

The overall objective of the Management Plan should be sound management to improve the stands of species of the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** and to benefit the overall Goose Pond area and forest. This can be accomplished by requiring that any logging roads that will be used as trails be left clean of debris. All skidding trails on steep side slopes or in areas that will be used as trails should be seeded to stabilize and to prevent erosion. These requirements will allow improvements to the park and the trail system with no outlay of funds by the City.

6) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

*Cutting
allowed
only in the
winter -
Use logging
trails as
hiking trails
Forestry should
improve
existing
stands*

There are several acquisitions or protective easements needed to completely protect the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** and to connect all its parts.

In the pond area, there are lands to the west and north that are visible from the Pond and are under private ownership. To maintain an unspoiled view of the forest from the pond, easements or purchase of lands to the height of land on the west and north should be negotiated.

The northerly portion of the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** should in some manner become connected to the upper end of the Gunn Road. This would offer access to an area of the forest that presently receives little use due to its isolated location. Possibilities would be easements via the power line or a right of way along existing woods roads.

It is recommended that a buffer of 100 - 150 feet be established on the easterly side of the northern half of the Old Gilsum Road. This gravel road acts as a spine along the edge of much of the Greater Goose Pond Forest. Most of the trail systems connect to this road. Because of its importance in linking so many trails, the Old Gilsum Road should be preserved as a main trail and should be buffered from any development so as to maintain as much

what's been done.

forested effect as possible while walking along it.

Connection of the Drummer Hill parcel to the Goose Pond parcels either by purchase of land or easement is important. A parcel of land owned by the Public Service Company of New Hampshire may offer an opportunity for some type of permanent easement.

The final parcel of immediate interest lies to the west of the Pond near the spillway. Ownership of approximately three-quarters of an acre of this parcel would allow for the construction of a foot bridge below the spillway.

7) TRAILS

The trail system should be improved through the Forest Management Plan and through the use of voluntary labor. One trail should be a loop for the nature study area and be limited to walking, snowshoeing, and crosscountry skiing. Other trails can be developed that will accommodate hiking and mountain biking in the summer and crosscountry skiing and snowmobiling in the winter. The trail system should be designed to connect all properties. The Old Gilsum Road should be incorporated into a trail system for the Park to create a looped trail.

build a bridge below spillway
need to acquire land.

Connect to

Trails should take advantage of the height of land for view towards the Pond. Additional access points should be created where possible to allow easy access to the forest trail system at other points to increase the usage of other areas of the forest. A trail map should be created which would show special points of interest such as streams, cellar holes, and views. The map should have the mileage of trails and the distances to the special points of interest and should also say what type of activity can be accommodated by that trail (some trails may be too steep or narrow for crosscountry skiing).

Greater Goose Pond Forest - Implementation Strategies

Wilderness quality

Since the adoption of the Goose Pond Master Plan by the City in 1985, the City has made substantial progress in establishing this area as an open space resource with a "wilderness" quality. As part of the process of revising and updating this plan to reflect both current conditions and future wishes, the following implementation strategies are proposed:

SHORT TERM

(To be completed within the next two years review period.)

- I. The trail map for public use should be created as soon as possible. The map will be the cornerstone to the overall improvement of the park. As demands on the park continue to increase in the future, the map will allow more people to be able to take advantage of all that the area has to offer. Funding for the creation of the map should be given a high priority.

*Antioch
Practicum
KHS*

The map should include the following:

1. All trails should be identified as to the type of use that can be accommodated by that trail.

2. A set of rules outlining regulations for the park should be developed and included on the map.

II. During 1994 the Conservation Commission and Parks and Recreation Department should jointly develop a uniform sign system that will be applied in all open space areas.

Has this been done?
III. Existing trails should be reviewed and a schedule of improvements and long-term maintenance developed. Additional trails needed should be identified. These needed trails should be incorporated into a schedule of development which will be used by the Conservation Commission in its considerations of the forestry management plan for the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**.

IV. Repair the maintenance/handicapped road from the East Surry Road.

V. The forest inventory for all parcels within the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** needs to be completed by the end of 1994. Using trail development, identified sensitive areas and the

inventory, a Forest Management Plan for the entire area should then be created by the Conservation Commission, Planning Department and Parks and Recreation Department to be presented to the City Council for final approval.

VI. Biologically significant interest areas should be identified using local college and high school students. Their work should include a map of the areas that are studied so that it can act as a guide for grade school groups that want to tour the area. The mapping will also be used by the Conservation Commission in their consideration of a Forest Management Plan for the Goose Pond Forest.

LONG-TERM GOALS

- I. It should be requested of the City Staff that the mapping of the area of the Greater Goose Pond Forest be completed by the end of 1995. Using the completed mapping, the Parks and Recreation Department should forward its recommendations for additional trails to the Conservation Commission. By the end of 1995 the Commission should adopt a trail development plan.
- II. The northerly section of the Greater Goose Pond Forest should be made more accessible via a trail in from the Gunn Road. By

Not done

the end of 1995, the Parks and Recreation Department should recommend to the Conservation Commission the strongest possibilities. By the end of 1997, the Conservation Commission should have an access selected and attempts to acquire should start.

done
III. During 1994 the Conservation Commission, Planning Department and Parks and Recreation Department should investigate the possibilities of Keene State College or Antioch/New England or some other qualified institute studying in depth the "interest" areas in the Greater Goose Pond Forest with the intent to create nature study areas. By the end of 1997, a funding method for creating the study areas should be found. By the end of 1998 the first study areas should be created.

IV. Once a year, the Conservation Commission should place on its agenda a discussion of a city-wide trail system as it relates to any trail connectors needed with or within the Greater Goose Pond Forest.

What parcels
V. There are several parcels of land around and within the Greater Goose Pond Forest that should be brought under city land protection either through ownership or easement. The addition of these parcels would insure contiguous open space use

throughout the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**. Protection of the acreage around Goose Pond to the height of land is important to the preservation of the nature experience that makes the pond so valuable.

The Conservation Commission, Planning Department and Parks and Recreation Department should review all parcels considered important to the **Greater Goose Pond Forest**. From this review a priority should be established and acquisition or some method of protection initiated.

- VI. Each November, the Conservation Commission should review the implementation of the **Greater Goose Pond Forest** plan.

Table 1

Woody Plant Species, Goose Pond Vicinity

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Biological Name</u>
Pine Family	Pinaceae
Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> (L) Carr
Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus Strobus</i> L.
Willow Family	Salicaceae
Willows	<i>Salix</i> spp
Aspen	<i>Populus</i> sp.
Wax-myrtle Family	Myricaceae
Sweet-fern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i> (L.) Coult.
Hazel Family	Corylaceae
Yellow Birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> Britt.
Gray Birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i> Marsh.
Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> Marsh.
Beech Family	Fagaceae
Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> Ehrh.
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i> L.
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i> L.
Elm Family	Ulmaceae
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i> L.
Witch-hazel Family	Hamamelidaceae
Witch-hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> L.
Rose Family	Rosaceae
Meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea latifolia</i> (Ait.) Borkh.
Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier</i> sp. Bramble <i>Rubus</i> sp.
Pin Cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i> L.f.
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> Ehrh.
Maple Family	Aceraceae
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> L.
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i> Marsh.
Cashew Family	Anacardiaceae
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i> L.
Linden Family	Tiliaceae
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i> L.
Heath Family	Ericaceae
Election pink	<i>Rhododendron roseum</i> (Loisel.) Rehd.
Lamblkill	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i> L.
Blueberries	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.
Honeysuckle Family	Caprifoliaceae
Hobblebush	<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i> Marsh.
Highbush-cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i> Marsh.

TABLE II

Bird Species Sighted At Goose Pond

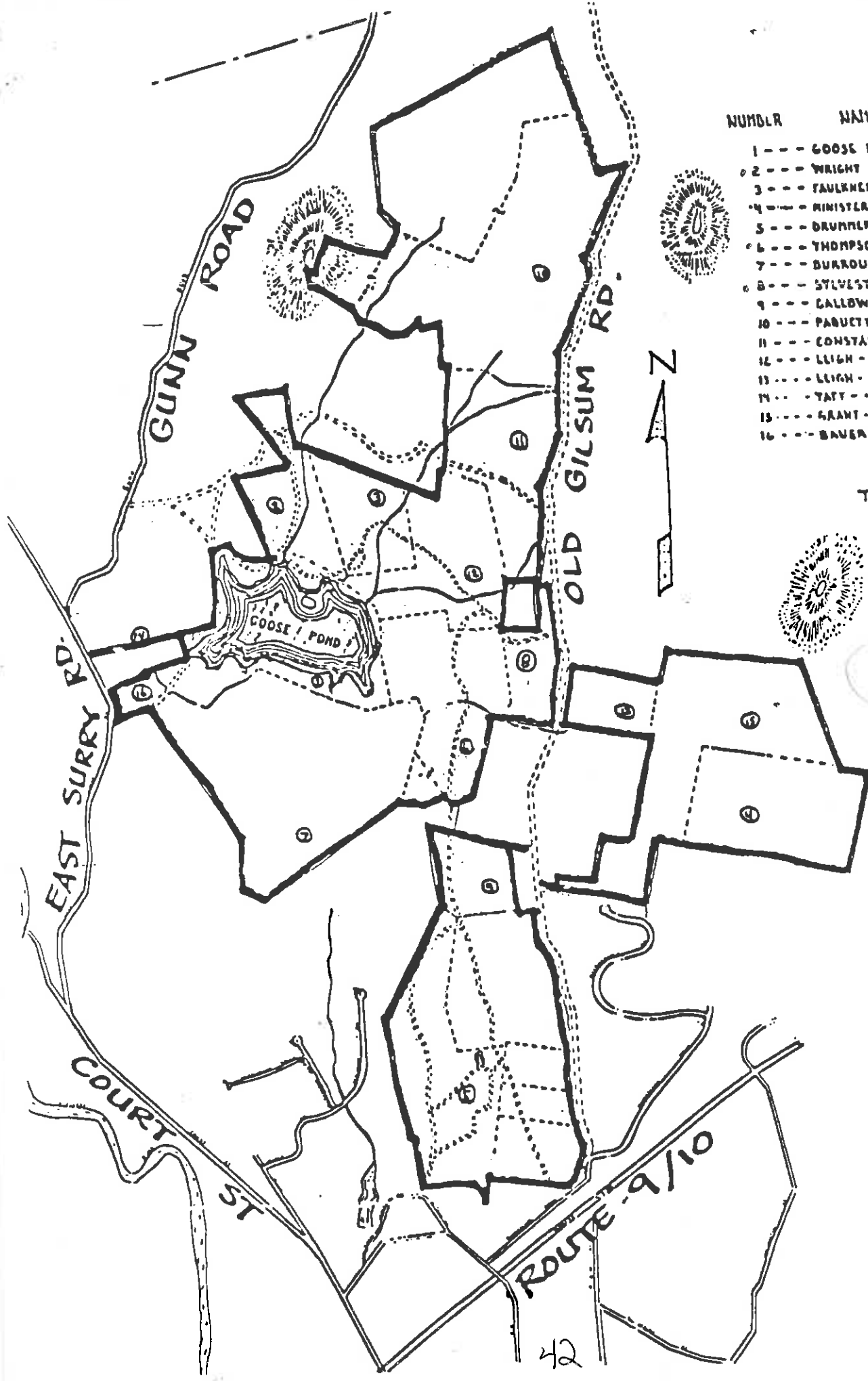
<u>Species</u>	<u>Possible Breeder</u>	<u>Probable Breeder</u>	<u>Confirmed Breeder</u>
Broadwinged Hawk	X		
Common Flicker	X		
Pileated Woodpecker	X		X
Hairy Woodpecker			
Downy Woodpecker	X		X
Eastern Kingbird		X	
Great Crested Flycatcher			X
Eastern Phoebe			
Least Flycatcher	X		
Wood Pewee	X		
Tree Swallow	X		X
Blue Jay			X
Common Crow			X
Black-capped Chickadee		X	
White-breasted Nuthatch			X
Red-breasted Nuthatch			
Brown Creeper	X		
Winter Wren	X		X
Catbird		X	
Robin		X	
Wood Thrush			
Hermit Thrush	X		
Veery	X		
Solitary Viteo	X		
Red-eyed Viteo	X		X
Black and White Warbler			X
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
Black-throated Blue Warbler	X		
Black-throated Green Warbler	X		
Black-burnian Warbler	X		X
Chestnut-sided Warbler			X
Ovenbird		X	
Louisiana Waterthrush			
Redstart	X		X
Northern Oriole			X
Scarlet Tanager		X	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			X
American Goldfinch		X	
Rufous-sided Towhee		X	
Darkeyed Junco	X		X
Field Sparrow		X	
White-throated Sparrow			X
Song Sparrow			

TABLE II
continued

Birds Found in Keene Surry Area,
Likely to be found at Goose Pond

<u>Species</u>	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Possible Breeder</u>	<u>Probable Breeder</u>	<u>Confirmed Breeder</u>
Great Blue Heron		X		
Green Heron	X			
Mallard		X		
Black Duck		X		
Hooded Merganser				
Turkey Vulture				X
Red-shouldered Hawk	X	X		
Ruffed Grouse				
Killdeer				X
Rock Dove	X			X
Mourning Dove		X		
Black-billed Cuckoo				
Chimney Swift	X		X	
Belted Kingfisher	X			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
Barn Swallow		X		
Tufted Titmouse		X		
House Wren				X
Mockingbird		X		
Cedar Waxwing		X		
Starling	X		X	
Nashville Warbler				
Yellow Warbler				X
Prairie Warbler		X		
Yellow-throat Warbler		X		
House Sparrow				X
Bobolink		X		
Red-winged Blackbird		X		
Common Crackle				X
Brown-headed Cowbird	X	X		
Cardinal				
Indigo Bunting				X
Purple Finch				X
House Finch			X	
Chipping Sparrow		X		
Swamp Sparrow		X		

Source: 1985 Goose Pond Master Plan



PARCELS		
NUMBR	NAME	ACRES
1	GOOSE POND	74
2	WRIGHT	40
3	FAULKNER COLONY	29
4	MINISTERS	50
5	BRUNNER	135
6	THOMPSON REED	59
7	BURROUGHS	124
8	STEVESLER	20
9	CALLOWAY	26
10	PABUETTE	26.5
11	CONSTANTINO	55
12	LEIGH	48
13	LEIGH	12
14	TAYT	3.4
15	GRANT	96.7
16	BAUER	9.8

TOTAL 1,046 AC

319.7

