

*Proposed*

**MEMORIAL FIELD  
EXPANSION PROGRAM**

**Recreational & Parks Department  
City of Concord  
New Hampshire**

## FOREWORD

Considerable discussion has been given the proposed expansion of athletic facilities at the City owned Memorial Field.

This booklet was prepared by the Recreation and Parks Advisory Council. We trust the information provided will assist the City Council and the citizens of Concord in making an informed judgement towards the implementation of this project.

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## HISTORY OF MEMORIAL FIELD

The land presently owned by the City of Concord was a gift to the City from Allen and Amoret N. Hollis deeded December 30, 1926.

It was the Hollis family's wish that the land be "for the purpose of providing a play-ground and athletic facility for the citizens of the City of Concord, primarily for high school pupils and such other use as the City by its authorities determine, and furthermore that a bronze tablet be placed dedicated as a memorial to the Concord boys whose lives were sacrificed in the World War".

With the gift of land and a sum of money from the Hollis family, construction of the present facility was begun.

Plans on file at City Hall show that the firm of Robert W. Beal of Boston was retained in 1928 to conduct engineering design before construction.

Supplemental appropriations by the City during the next four years resulted in the majority of the present facilities being built.

Facilities included six clay tennis courts, a cinder track, football field, bleachers, and a softball field. It is interesting to note that an extensive tiling system was also included in the plans.

The erection of football lights in 1945 was the last major addition at Memorial Field.

## SCHOOL USE

Since the completion of Memorial Field both Concord High School and Bishop Brady (formerly St. John's) have traditionally used the site as their home field.

Numerous football games, tennis matches, and track meets have been held at the site.

#### FACILITIES PRESENTLY NEEDED

Present demands placed on the City's park system continues to increase yearly. Citizen participation has increased during the past decade making it at times impossible to accommodate the needs of various athletic groups.

#### BASEBALL - SOFTBALL

Concord does not have a lighted baseball field. Efforts by citizens groups to have lights erected at White, Rolfe, and Rollins Parks ended with problems of spectator control, traffic, and park restrictions. A lighted baseball field proposed at Memorial Field eliminates the above stated problems.

Participation in softball has increased 100% in the past ten years. In 1966 there were four Industrial League teams, presently there are fourteen.

The number of children participating in Little League Baseball has increased proportionately. A regulation field for the south end National Little League is recommended, self contained and enclosed. This field would eliminate the dangerous situation of back to back fields that now exists at Rollins Park.

#### TENNIS

A national publication states that by all accounts tennis is the fastest growing participant sport of the 1970's. Under the proposed expansion program five additional all-purpose

courts would be recommended. The battery of ten courts would then be lighted, thus increasing their availability to the public. During the season the present courts are often in use from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

#### TRACK

It is also recommended that consideration be given to expanding the running track from the present one-fifth mile to a standard one-fourth mile. An all-purpose surface would eliminate maintenance problems.

#### RESTROOM FACILITIES

New public restroom facilities should be constructed immediately with the possibility of at least two rooms for football teams use during games.

The above listed facilities are documented in the Community Facility Report of 1965 and the Recreation "1990" report of 1971.

#### FIELD HOUSE

Although not recommended at this time, the site for a future field house has been included. Recent discussions and studies completed by the Union School District indicate that if and when additions are made to the present high school physical education classes might be scheduled at Memorial Field. To accommodate these classes a field house and indoor cage could be constructed on this site and utilized by both the school district and citizens of the community. However, the Advisory Council feels that this would not be included in the current expansion program.

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

The City Council approved a department request of \$2,000 in the 1971 budget for a feasibility study.

The firm of Allen Associates of Bennington Vermont, Park and Recreation Planners, were retained to conduct an in depth study of the Memorial Field Proposal.

Excerpts from the Allen Report are as follows:

"Since Memorial Field is the athletic field for the City's high schools and plays a prominent part in summer recreation as well, it is necessary for the City to either improve it or replace it. The latter possibility was rejected since it was determined that adequate land could be acquired to expand the field and that the wetness could be controlled through drainage fields. These factors coupled with the knowledge that, (1) some expensive existing facilities such as the football field, grandstand and parking area can be retained and (2) that the field is a traditional place to go made it less expensive and more desirable to improve the existing site."

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Acquire a portion of land north of existing field which will permit the expansion of the track and a link to the City owned 2.2 acres to the north. Care should be taken to acquire only what is necessary and to protect the surrounding homes. The tax title land, owned by the City should be dedicated for park purposes.

2. Acquire the State owned land and a portion of the next property to the south of Memorial Field.

These acquisitions will increase the total area to approximately 36 acres and will permit the development of an excellent field.

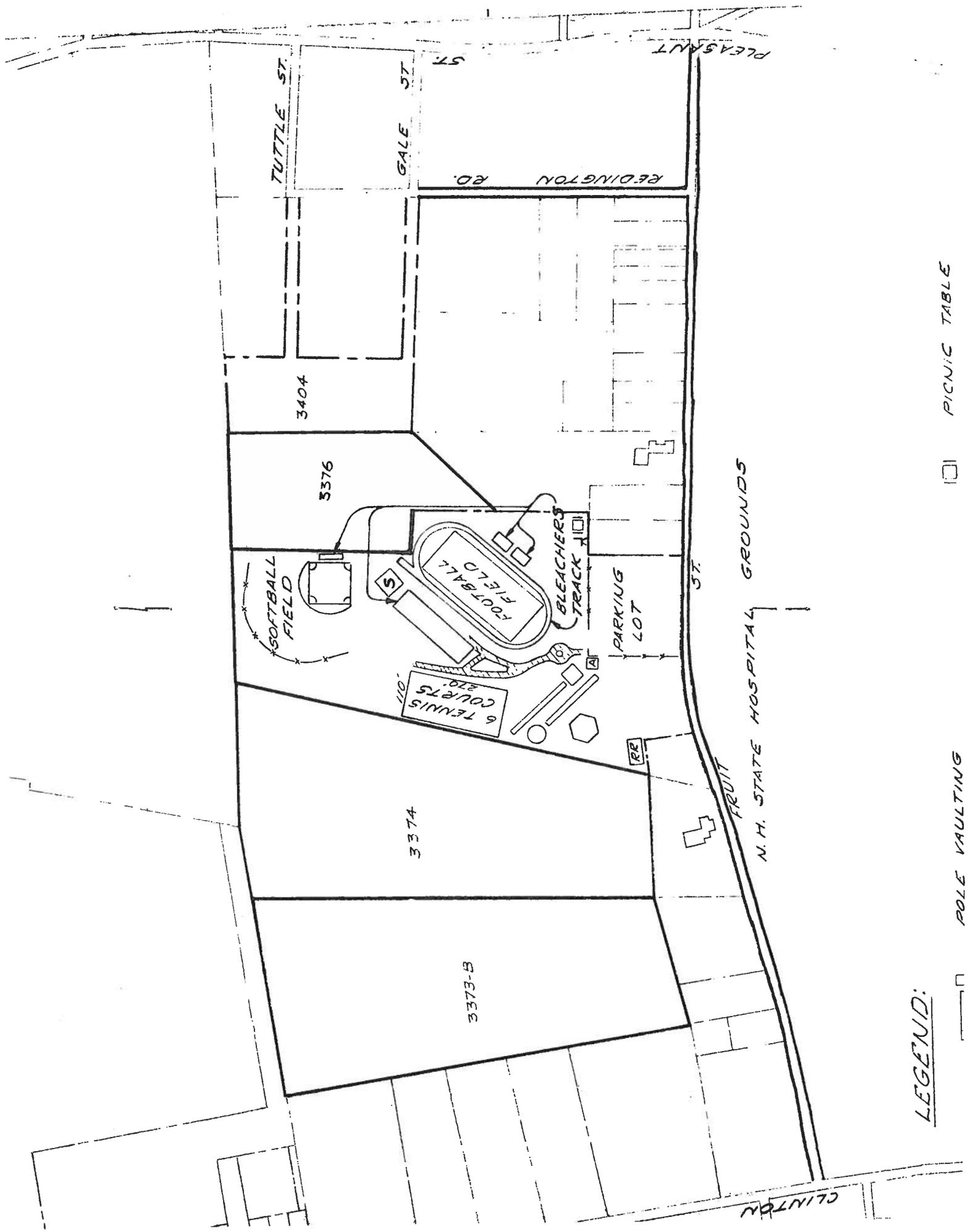
The U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, assisted the City in conducting an in depth study relative to existing drainage problems at Memorial Field. Their report determined that "drainage of the areas adjoining Memorial Field for use as recreation area, park, and athletic fields is feasible from a technical standpoint".

Through guidelines recommended by the S.C.S. the proper drainage system would eliminate most of the wet, damp problems that now exist.

## LAND PURCHASE REQUIRED

In order to implement the expansion program additional land must be obtained. The present site totals 11.9 acres. Last spring the State of New Hampshire, approved by the Governor and Council, deeded parcel #3374-B - 9.5 acres to the City for the expressed purpose of expansion of the City's athletic facilities.

Two additional parcels would need to be obtained. Parcel #3373-B - 9.7 acres and #3376 - 2.6 acres. Appraisals have been completed on both parcels and a formal application for 50% Federal Funding submitted.



LEGEND:



POLE VAULTING



PICNIC TABLE

The City also owns parcel #3404 - 2.2 acres through tax title.

These acquisitions will increase the total complex to approximately 36 acres and permit orderly development.

#### PROGRAM FINANCING

Financing for the Memorial Field Project by the City is eligible for B.O.R. (Bureau Outdoor Recreation Department of Interior) funding on a 50% matching basis.

It is the Advisory Council's and the architect's opinion that a staged development program would be in the best interest of the City.

The following is a phased stage development submitted by the planners. It should be noted that the stages are subject to change as more detailed designs are completed.

PROGRAM FINANCING

MAINTENANCE COSTS

	City Cost	B.O.R.*	Stage of Development
Phase I	\$100,000	\$100,000	Under Drain System, Sewer Electric Service, Drainage, Rough Grading
Phase II	\$100,000	\$100,000	Site Water, Baseball Field, Driveways, Parking, Little League Field
Phase III	\$100,000	\$100,000	Tennis Courts, Multiple Use Areas, Basketball Courts, Softball Field, Soccer, Practice Football Area
Phase IV	\$100,000	\$100,000	Football Stadium & Track
Total	\$400,000	\$400,000	

If completed, an increased operating budget would be required. Increased grounds personnel would be necessary in addition to mowing equipment assigned to the area.

It is not yet known what the projected operating costs will be for the lighted facilities. A rental fee for the use of the lighted facilities is contemplated.

\*Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
U.S. Department of Interior

# MEMORIAL FIELD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

