

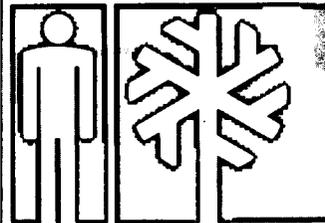
development concept plan

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june 1982

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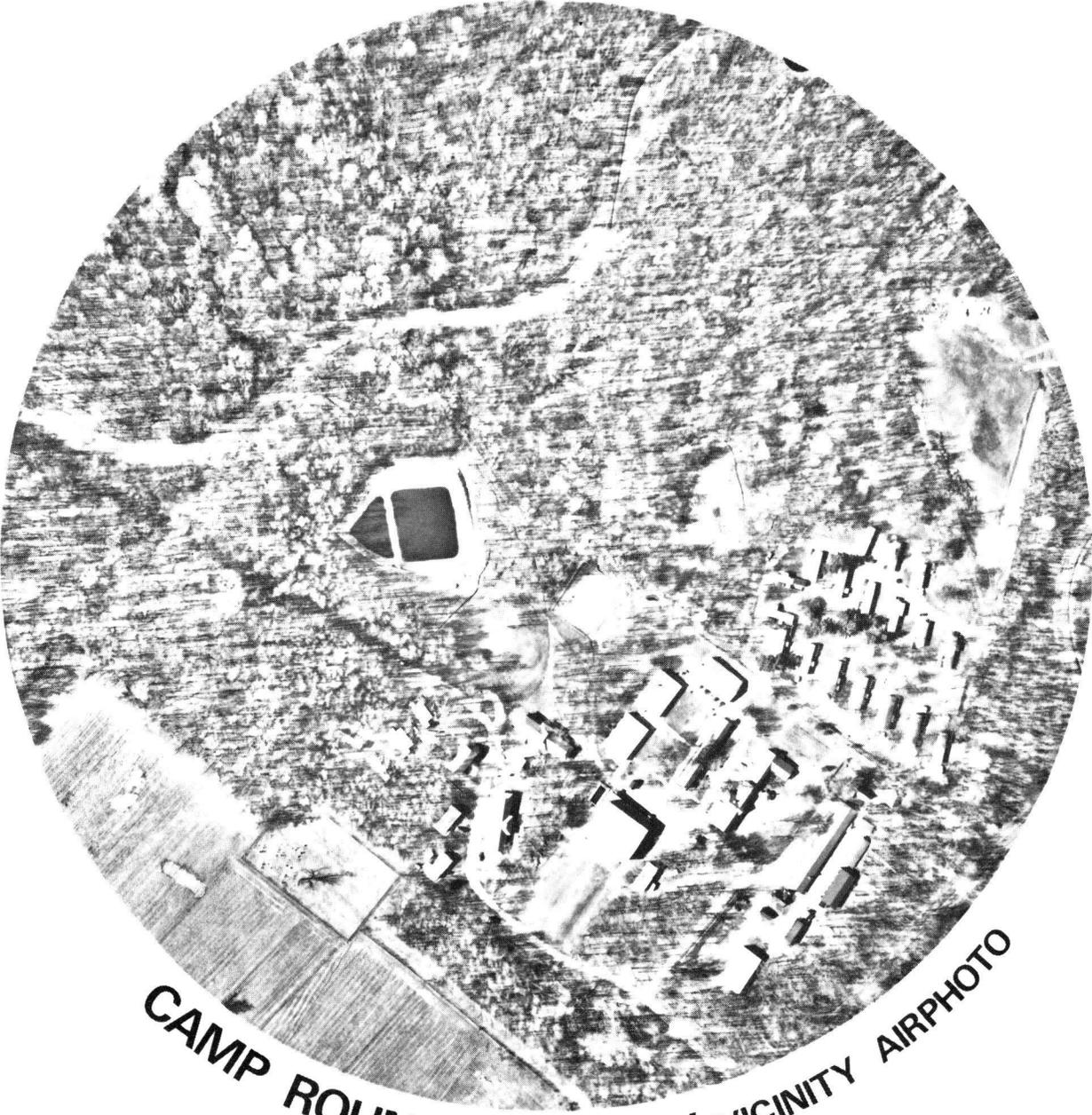
CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK
CAMP ROUND MEADOW



MARYLAND

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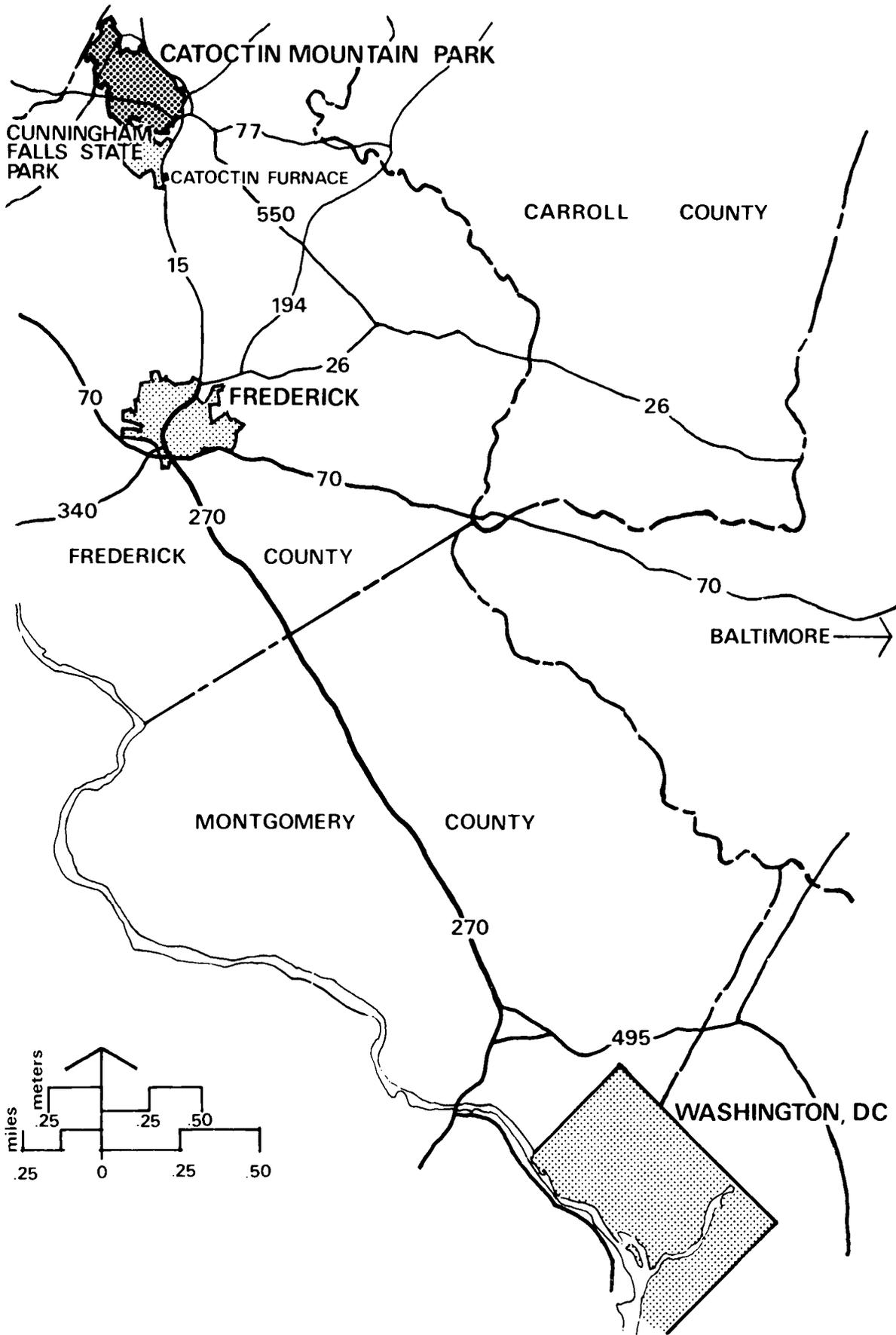


CAMP ROUND MEADOW VICINITY AIRPHOTO

DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN
CAMP ROUND MEADOW
CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK,
MARYLAND



Prepared by the
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



REGIONAL MAP
 Catoclin Mountain Park

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THE CAMP

Nestled in the scenic mountains of rural western Maryland, Round Meadow is a unit of Catoctin Mountain Park, encompassing 30 acres in the southwest quadrant. The park is situated on the fringe of the Washington-Baltimore urban area in rural western Maryland, approximately 60 miles northwest of the Nation's Capital. It originated as the Catoctin Recreation Demonstration Project in 1936, when the camp served as the headquarters and maintenance area of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). By 1955, it had become the Technical Service Quarters of the CCC and part of the site had been allocated to the Commander of the Naval Support Facility at Camp David as a housing area. The CCC camp was converted to a Job Corps Camp, the first in the United States in 1965. Four years later, it was modified to accommodate present activities. These include, in addition to the Navy housing, and Environmental Education Center (EEC), a craft center, a park maintenance compound and a park staff housing area. During the academic year, students from area schools use the EEC structures. In the summer, Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) members utilize the buildings.

The natural beauty and diversity of the mountains form an appropriate setting for environmental study, learning job skills, and the demonstration of mountain crafts.

PLANNING SUMMARY

This publication documents the decisions reached in the course of planning for the management and use of Camp Round Meadow. The planning process included cooperative meetings involving the park, the National Capital Region, neighboring communities, visitors and local residents. Several public meetings were held throughout the planning effort to encourage public involvement in the identification of park needs, potential, and impacts on the local community. Mailers were made available at these meetings, and at the Craft Center, to facilitate the submission of written comments by the public. This information, together with resource data, was used to develop four planning alternatives for Camp Round Meadow, which were described in an Assessment of Alternatives and released for public comment in September 1980. A public hearing was held in October 1980.

The adopted planning alternative is a recombination of the actions proposed and analyzed in the Assessment of Alternatives. It embodies those elements of each proposed planning alternative, which, on the basis of resource data, consultation with interested parties, public involvement and cost-benefit analysis, best satisfy park and visitor needs. It proposes the continuation of site activities, but does not eliminate possible future changes in site functions, which may be deemed advisable under a new General Management Plan. Implementation of proposed actions will occur in phases, as funds become available.

PLANNING OBJECTIVES

This Development Concept Plan for Camp Round Meadow has been formulated to provide a framework for its future management and use. The following park objectives guided the selection of planning proposals:

- To make Catoctin Mountain Park available to individuals, institutions, and local public agencies or organizations as an outdoor classroom, and provide assistance with outdoor education programs, teaching man's interdependence with the natural world;
- To encourage involvement of colleges and universities in work-study or individual programs related to all aspects of park operations;
- To provide park visitors and surrounding communities the opportunity to understand and appreciate the natural and cultural values of the Catoctin area through interpretive programs, craft demonstrations, and educational programs;
- To ensure that all development is both aesthetically and ecologically compatible with the natural, historic, and recreational resources of the park;
- To provide for the protection and safety of the visitor by exercising care in development, planning, maintenance, and administration, and through visitor information services and employee training;
- To cooperate fully with the Naval Support Facility in matters of maximum security and privacy for the Presidential Retreat.

PLANNING ISSUES

The problems at Camp Round Meadow result primarily from the lack of a definitive plan for the site. They include obsolescent facilities, poor access and circulation patterns, conflicting activities, and insufficient provision for fire safety.

Various structures, designed for temporary use, have been built over the years to meet immediate demands, and subsequently adapted to meet new demands without necessarily being suited for these new uses. The fire hydrants on the site lack sufficient water pressure to provide adequate fire protection. The sewage lagoon is in need of repair.

The Job Corps facility is perhaps the best example of adaptive architecture. The facility was erected in 1965 with a life expectancy of ten

years. When the Job Corps Center closed in 1969, the buildings were allocated to the District of Columbia School System as an Environmental School Laboratory to function as a part of the environmental education program funded by the District of Columbia. The program terminated in the fall of 1981 due to insufficient funding. The remaining Job Corps buildings are six years beyond their useful life expectancy, with operating and maintenance costs escalating each year.

Another example of maladaptation of an existing structure is the Folk Craft Center, which is located in a converted maintenance garage. The activities at this center have been substantially curtailed, due to lack of funds.

The Navy trailer housing area adjacent to the Environmental Education and Craft Centers is a functional and aesthetic intrusion, which conflicts with the educational and recreational activities of the camp.

Considerable congestion is created by the location and diversity of activities at Round Meadow. Automobiles, buses, maintenance vehicles and pedestrians may all be present in the campus simultaneously. Traffic from the Navy Trailer facility competes with that entering the campus area. National Park Service staff attempting to reach their housing units, as well as maintenance vehicles, must enter the campus area through the same entrance as Craft Center visitors and EEC/YCC vehicles.

Concern for public use and the structural condition of many of the Round Meadow facilities, compelled the National Park Service to proceed with demolition and replacement of dated facilities. To date, four new dormitories and two staff housing units have been constructed. The structure which functioned as an EEC/YCC dispensary has been removed.

THE PLAN

Resolution of certain Camp Round Meadow planning problems influences decisions for Catoctin Mountain Park as a whole. The intent of the Development Concept Plan for Camp Round Meadow is to provide coordinated interim development, which can interface with a General Management Plan.

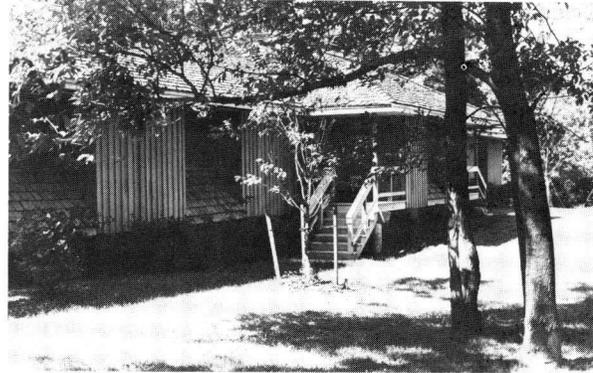
Craft Center

The craft program will be incorporated into the overall park interpretive program, using the visitor center and other appropriate locations, both within the park and in local communities. The Craft Center at Round Meadow will be closed. The tin shop will be removed.



EEC/YCC Facilities

The central core of the campus, which includes four new dormitories, a dining hall, museum, gymnasium, gazebo and laundry/restroom structure will remain. Dogwood dormitory and the Hickory dorm/education building will be demolished. Environmental education programs will continue, as long as the need exists. The YCC will continue to use the facilities during the summer months. The log building, which presently serves as a general store for the Craft Center, will be converted to a dispensary. The forge will be retained for possible use as a smithy.



Maintenance Compound

The maintenance area will remain. After the Craft Center exhibits have been relocated, the former maintenance garage in which they were housed will revert to its original use. It is recognized that this facility is incompatible with the primary campus function of Round Meadow. To mitigate this intrusion, the maintenance compound will be screened from view by plantings. Eventually, efforts will be made to relocate this function. The YCC will continue to jointly use these facilities during the summer.



Sewage Lagoon

The sewage lagoon is adequate for the projected level of use. Cracks and resultant leaks that have recently developed in the lagoon will be resolved by installing a vinyl liner. If future unforeseen demands upon the system become unmanageable, the issue of expansion of the ponds or conversion into another system will be addressed. The existing lagoon and its treatment capacity will dictate the amount of use the area can accommodate, therefore all programs will be planned to stay within the capacity of the sewerage system to adequately treat waste products.

Housing

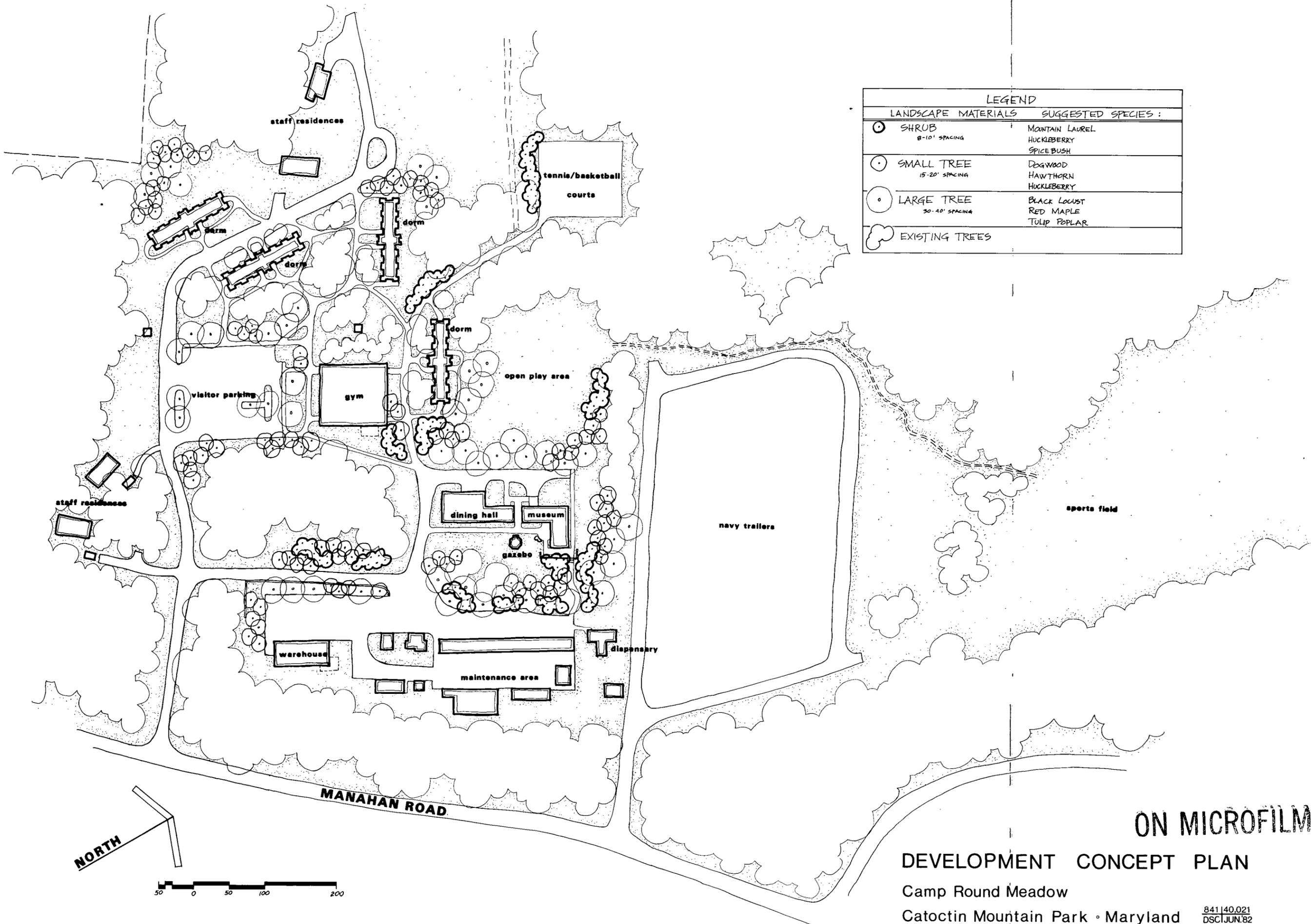
Navy requirements for staff housing have been of long-standing concern to the National Park Service. The existing facility is an inappropriate use of parkland and an aesthetic intrusion in the Round Meadow area. Efforts to identify an amicable solution to this situation will continue. In the



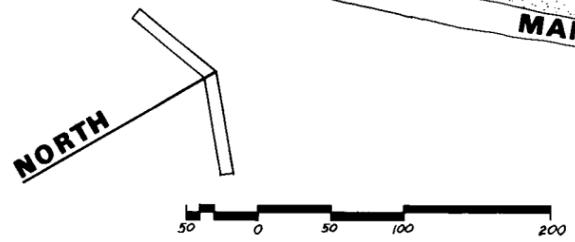
interim, the Navy trailer complex will remain. Until other accommodations can be provided, the United States Park Policeman, on detail during Presidential activities, will be housed in one of the staff trailers presently on site. Another trailer will be used to house practicum students, student conservation aides, volunteers and seasonal employees. All trailers will eventually be removed.

General Improvements

To ensure that development is aesthetically compatible with the resources of the park and to improve park safety, the plan recommends the incorporation of certain overall site improvements. These include the improvement of signs, relocation of the existing trash disposal area, painting of the YCC warehouse, demolition of the ballfield comfort stations, provision of adequate pressure to the camp fire hydrants and development of a site landscape plan.



LEGEND	
LANDSCAPE MATERIALS	SUGGESTED SPECIES :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SHRUB 8-10' SPACING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOUNTAIN LAUREL HUCKLEBERRY SPICE BUSH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SMALL TREE 15-20' SPACING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOGWOOD HAWTHORN HUCKLEBERRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LARGE TREE 30-40' SPACING 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLACK LOCUST RED MAPLE TULIP POPLAR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☁ EXISTING TREES 	



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DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

Camp Round Meadow
 Catoclin Mountain Park • Maryland

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, and parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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