

CITIZEN INITIATIVE IN GREENBELT PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT FOR STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

By

GAYLE NIXON ROBINSON,

Bachelor of Arts

University of Tulsa

Tulsa, Oklahoma

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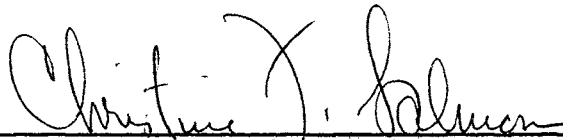
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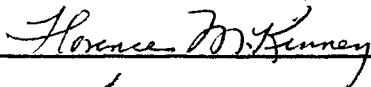
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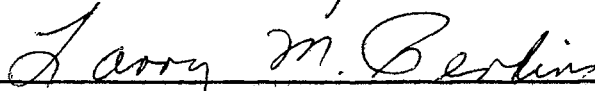
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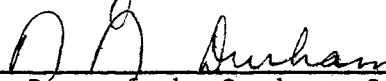
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PREFACE

An idea comes to life only when people believe in it--
a project can be successful only when people will work
for it.

Jeanne Adams Wray

The Greenbelt Project of the Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council is an example of an idea that a group of citizens believe in so strongly that they have contributed months of planning and many hours of volunteer labor. The result has been a plan for a parks system that can preserve the natural beauty of the creeks which are our city's heritage and enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Stillwater. The present study deals with the events during the period May, 1970, to May, 1971, which led to the development of a Greenbelt Concept for Stillwater, Oklahoma.

The project was made easier by having the support of a number of university professors and their students in Architecture, Landscape Design, Sociology, Housing and Interior Design, Zoology, and Biology, many of whom are cited in the body of this work. However, other people deserve special mention.

I want to acknowledge John Head and Jeanne Wray as advisers to the Greenbelt Committee. Their counsel was invaluable to the author. Mrs. Wray was responsible for spearheading the effective newspaper publicity and was the author of many of the newspaper articles that were instrumental in making "Greenbelt" a household word in Stillwater. Her friendship to the author and support of the project are irreplaceable.

I also appreciate the support and direction given by my adviser, Mrs. Christine F. Salmon, Associate Professor of Housing and Interior Design. It was her foresight that initiated student involvement in the project; her influence is apparent throughout the study.

Appreciation is also expressed to my committee members, Dr. Florence McKinney, Professor and Head of the Department of Housing and Interior Design, and Professor Larry Perkins of Sociology. Professor McKinney's suggestions and criticisms were most helpful in the writing of this thesis. Professor Perkins contributed materially to the development of the study by integrating the Greenbelt Concept into his Sociology classes.

The preliminary steps leading to the Greenbelt Concept were made easier by the cooperation and encouragement given by City Manager, Larry Gish, and Assistant City Manager, Lloyd Harrell.

The Board of City Commissioners of Stillwater should also be commended for demonstrating their interest in the quality of our environment by their approval of and continued support of the Greenbelt Concept.

Finally, this thesis is dedicated to my husband, Robert, who is my constant source of strength and inspiration, and our daughter, Jennifer, for whom I hope the greenbelt will become a reality.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The population of a city consists of a multitude of individuals, each of whom has an equal obligation to keep the community in order. The subject at hand, therefore, concerns not only professional planners and civic authorities, but every dweller in the community. This later thought must be strongly emphasized because of the fact that only little can be accomplished in civic improvement, unless the people of towns and cities themselves, individually and collectively, contribute their positive support.¹

The history of greenbelts can be traced back to the time of Leonardo da Vinci. In the book, Garden Cities of Tomorrow, Lewis Mumford states that

At the beginning of the twentieth century two great inventions took form before our eyes: the aeroplane and the Garden City, both harbingers of a new age: the first gave man wings and the second promised him a better dwelling-place when he came down to earth. Both inventions had originally been conceived by that brilliant, many-sided technician, Leonardo da Vinci; for he not merely studied the flight of birds to good purpose but proposed to abate the congestion and squalor of Milan by building a group of ten cities of five thousand houses, limited to thirty thousand inhabitants each, cities which, in another place, he proposed to design with a complete separation of pedestrian and horse traffic, and with gardens attached to a municipal irrigation system.²

Today we find our urban areas facing numerous problems including the acquisition and use of both private and public lands to provide out-

¹Elieel Saarinen, The City (New York, 1943), p. xi.

²Ebenezer Howard, Garden Cities of To-Morrow (London, MCMXLV), p. 29.

door recreation in urban areas. Perhaps the most important kind of recreation is the kind that people find in their everyday lives.³ Distant parks and national preserves are important but the basic needs of preserving our surrounding environment and providing outdoor recreation cannot be met outside the community. The current national interest in ecology has led many people to question whether or not there will be any woods or streams left for the next generation to enjoy. Will our streams be lined with concrete and our trees destroyed? What we do today will determine the type of environment our children will inherit.

Whyte in his book, The Last Landscape,⁴ says that to bring people into contact with open spaces requires a definite design; not necessarily one that comes from a drafting table with its order and symmetry, but one that nature has provided. The designer must look at the ground. Form and order should come from the pattern that has been formed by years of rain and wind. Form and order are found in the land itself, the pattern of the soil, tree lines and streams. It is advocated that stream valleys be secured as soon as possible for

where the water flows, the positive benefits of open spaces are the clearest. Along the drainage network we can invoke the maximum overlay of benefits, for the land is most necessary for flood control, the conservation of water resources tends to be on the land that is most suitable for recreation and that is the most beautiful. If we follow this track in our open space planning, we are at once securing the prime lands and the lands which give linkage and continuity.⁵

With these thoughts in mind, concerned local citizens of Stillwater,

³William H. Whyte, Cluster Development (New York, 1964), p. 7.

⁴William H. Whyte, The Last Landscape (Garden City, New York, 1968), p. 180.

⁵Ibid., p. 181.

Oklahoma, took upon themselves the task of preserving the local creek areas, seeking to serve a twofold purpose of providing recreation and flood control. This was done with the realization that Stillwater has a stream area that needs to be saved--that there is a natural pattern already extant for the development of a greenbelt for Stillwater. Believing strongly that they could make a positive contribution to the city, these citizens formed a Greenbelt Committee in the summer of 1970 to study the possibility of a comprehensive parks plan for the City of Stillwater.

This thesis deals with the study and evaluation of a "Greenbelt Project" in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in which a group of citizens are attempting to preserve and develop the naturally occurring areas for recreation in the community. The purposes of this study were to record the events between May, 1970, and May, 1971, which led to the development of a Greenbelt Concept for Stillwater, Oklahoma, and, in particular, to present plans which were evolved for preservation and development of natural areas and recreation facilities and on the degree to which a group of citizens can initiate one phase of a city plan.

CHAPTER II

HISTORY OF GREENBELTS

Any study of the history of greenbelts leads to the name of Ebenezer Howard who is credited with conceiving and developing, at the turn of the century, the English green belts and garden towns.¹ In England, green belt is defined as "a large swath of permanent open space surrounding a town or city,"² the main purpose being to contain the city and channel future growth. However, Whyte states that in the United States green belt refers to any type of open space. Howard wanted greatly for the English people to be able to use and enjoy such greenbelt lands. The idea of containment of cities to check future growth has historically permeated English thinking. The planners of Howard's time proposed to encircle London so that future growth would have to jump the circle of green surrounding London and form new "sattelite towns." However, there were two different schools of thought on the purpose of green belts. One group was concerned with recreation, amenity, and agriculture. Howard, Sir Raymond Unwin³ and others advocated the above uses.

¹A Garden City is a town designed for healthy living and industry; of a size that makes possible a full measure of social life, but not larger; surrounded by a rural belt; the whole of the land being in public ownership or held in trust for the community. Howard chose the term as meaning as much a city in a garden--that is surrounded by beautiful country--as a city of gardens. Howard, p. 26.

²Whyte, The Last Landscape, p. 152.

³Ibid., p. 153.

Unwin⁴ proposed in 1932 the purchase of land for public use, easily accessible to built-up areas, not a continuous belt but circular in pattern and following the drainage network. The 1938 Green Belt Act⁵ provided for the purchase or control of 38,000 acres in London of such land.

A second school of thought developed after World War II when London experienced a large population and industrial growth. Sir Patrick Abercrombie⁶ developed a plan consisting of a series of concentric rings around London with the green belt ring five miles deep designed to separate the inner part of London from the outer or country areas. The purpose was to halt any further growth in London and force new towns to be formed outside London as the need arose. The Town and Country Act of 1947⁷ provided for the freezing of green belt land (now widened to six to ten miles deep) against future growth. However, the act provided for very little land to actually be purchased. The purposes of the green belt as stated by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in London are "(1) to check further growth of urban areas, (2) to prevent neighboring towns from merging, and (3) to preserve the special character of towns."⁸ The use of the land for recreation was stated as desirable but not considered a major purpose. By 1959 the London green belt was a reality.

The London green belt land is essentially intact. However, pres-

⁴Ibid., p. 153.

⁵Ibid., p. 154.

⁶Ibid., p. 154.

⁷Ibid., p. 155.

⁸Ibid., p. 156.

asures are rising to release some of the land for development as the business concentration in London increases. Also, much of the parkland within the green belt is not easily accessible. While there is much beauty in the English green belt, it cannot easily be seen by driving along the main roads. Few people actually drive down the lesser roads where the truly beautiful areas are located.

Whyte summarizes the lesson to be learned from the English green belt as "that open space has to have a positive function. It will not remain open if it does not. People must be able to do things on it or with it--at the very least, to be able to look at it."⁹

Ebenezer Howard was influenced in his thinking about garden cities by his visits to the United States where new towns were being built on new lands.¹⁰ He saw great opportunities for new beginnings.

His first Garden City at Letchworth, started in 1902, sought to bring town and country together to show the attraction of both when combined. In Howard's book, Garden Cities of To-Morrow, he states that "human society and the beauty of nature are meant to be enjoyed together."¹¹ Howard not only studied the physical layout of Letchworth but showed how much it would cost to build and maintain it.

Architects Sir Raymond Unwin and Barry Parker were the planners of Letchworth. The town was "a combination of landscaping, informal street layout to suit topography, and a main axis focusing on a town center.

⁹Ibid., p. 162.

¹⁰Howard, pp. 29-30.

¹¹Ibid., p. 48.

Sports field, a train station, houses, and factories were all included."¹²

A second Garden City, Welwyn, was started in 1920 and is considered to be "more successful than Letchworth in terms of Howard's original concept."¹³

Essentially, planners today are trying to do just what Howard said

There are in reality, not only, as is so constantly assumed, two alternatives--town life and country life--but a third alternative in which all the advantages of the most energetic and active town life, with all the beauty and delight of the country, may be secured in perfect combination.¹⁴

Garden cities and greenbelts of the Howard type are described below.

Greenbelt, Maryland

This greenbelt city, planned by Hale Walker, is the result of a project of the 1930's New Deal era.

The Greenbelt project was undertaken primarily to provide constructive work for persons on unemployment relief and to supply adequate housing accommodations for families of moderate income at rentals they could afford.¹⁵

It encompassed the garden city idea of large-scale towns and country planning.

Radburn, New Jersey

Radburn, a greenbelt community located outside New York City, was

¹²Paul D. Spreiregen, Urban Design: The Architecture of Towns and Cities (New York, 1965), p. 36.

¹³Ibid., p. 37.

¹⁴Howard, p. 45.

¹⁵George A. Warner, Greenbelt: The Cooperative Community (New York, 1954), p. 211.

designed by Wright and Stein and built in the late twenties but never really completed due to the depression. Spreiregin states that "it is one of the most important designs ever conceived for the modern residential community."¹⁶ Radburn incorporated Howard's idea of industries located within the town to create jobs for the residents. As new industries made new jobs available, more houses would be built in cluster-type communities. Spreiregin further states the "Radburn idea was to create a series of superblocks, each around an open green with the greens themselves interconnected."¹⁷ Pathways for pedestrian use located within the greens lead to schools and shops and cross over or under streets. The houses were arranged in cul-de-sac clusters.

The above were cities originally planned and developed around a greenbelt concept. With this background of garden cities knowledge can be applied to the development of greenbelts or open space programs around existing cities.

Whyte aptly states that with a limited amount of land, more people to be housed, more industries to be built, we should not forget to acquire the smaller open spaces. "The kind we should save first is the kind that is most useful to people--the spaces that are closest to them."¹⁸

Reston, Virginia

This new town development located outside Washington, D. C., is

¹⁶ Spreiregin, p. 40.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 40.

¹⁸ Whyte, The Last Landscape, p. 163.

an example of a satellite town and is noteworthy for several reasons. The planners, Whittlesey and Conklin, have taken great care to design the development to follow the natural terrain of the area. Most of the woods and streams have been left so that there is much open space. Many of the creek banks have been firmed up with natural plantings rather than lining them with concrete.¹⁹

Boulder, Colorado

Boulder, Colorado, is engaged in a greenbelt project to save the mountain backdrop for the city and the natural wilderness areas in and around the city. All bodies of water in Boulder are included in the project. Park areas are designed or located so as to be accessible to almost everyone living in the community.

Certain unique aspects of the implementation of the Boulder greenbelt bear mentioning. Citizens of Boulder have already endorsed a program which would increase taxes. (A one cent sales tax increase was earmarked to cover street improvements [60%] and greenbelt [40% of the total].) "Although the people voiced enthusiasm for the greenbelt program from the start, a comprehensive promotional campaign was needed to make all aspects of the plan known and to win support for the necessary tax increase."²⁰ Talks accompanied by slides were presented to fifty-two organizations in the community. The League of Women Voters held coffees within each precinct to inform people of the Boulder greenbelt program. A citizens committee organized telephone callers to inform

¹⁹ Whyte, Cluster Development, p. 20.

²⁰ "The Greenbelt Concept," Colorado Municipalities, Vol. 44, No. 5 (May, 1968), p. 108.

the people, distributed literature and bumper stickers, and organized press releases. "The people, without a doubt, were consulted about the program. And this probably had a great bearing on its success."²¹

The citizens of Boulder want to keep their city as free from city congestion as possible. By engaging in an open space program, the remaining land will be more valuable and serve to act as a buffer zone between residential and industrial areas and between different types of industrial areas.

The greenbelt plan includes 18,900 acres in all of which 5,700 acres have been obtained. Priorities are being set on obtaining the land as money becomes available. The project is scheduled for completion in 1985.

²¹Ibid., p. 109.

CHAPTER III

PROJECT CHRONOLOGY

The history of a Greenbelt Project for Stillwater, Oklahoma, is a story of concerned citizens and their efforts to actualize their project. The people involved are a composite of university faculty, students, and townspeople, and the description of their efforts requires mentioning of individual names as will become apparent in subsequent paragraphs.

The possibility of developing a greenbelt for Stillwater, Oklahoma, was originally suggested to one of the Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council members by a local man, John Head, who saw it as a logical project for sponsorship by the Council. The author first learned of the idea of a greenbelt for Stillwater at the May, 1970, meeting of the Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council. At that May meeting the Council gave its approval for the formation of a Greenbelt Committee and the author volunteered to serve as a committee member. The present chapter deals with the evolution of a Greenbelt Concept for the City of Stillwater in the period 1970-1971.

The original Stillwater Greenbelt Committee consisting of five people had its first meeting in June, 1970, to formulate ideas and plans for the greenbelt. From that meeting came a document listing objectives for the project which has served as a basis for all future writings and studies. The document states in part

that the intent of the Greenbelt Committee is to study the feasibility of utilizing what is now termed 'flood plain'

and adjacent areas in Stillwater for beautification and a usable park system. At the present time, the natural waterway running through the city presents three logical sites suitable for an excellent network of parks. The first area runs from the south side of Boomer Lake Dam to Husband Street following East Boomer Creek. The second area is from the railroad tracks on East Boomer Creek to Sixth Street. The third area is from Highway 51 (West Sixth Street beyond Western) to Highway 177 (South Main Street and East 19th Avenue) along Stillwater Creek.

The Greenbelt Committee had as its goal to provide a basic study for a comprehensive parks plan for the City of Stillwater which would, on a larger scale, constitute a major civic project for the people of Stillwater. The committee's views coincide with Mayor John Lindsay's of New York City who, in reflecting his thoughts on cities and urban environment, states that

we cannot plan for the citizenry unless we plan with them, unless we are willing to give to individuals, to neighborhoods and to communities the power to be heard and the power to challenge, the power most of all to decide, to the greatest possible extent, what their communities will look like and how they will function.¹

In a small way, this is what the committee wanted to do....to have the chance to help enhance the quality of life and environment for Stillwater.

Definite steps in the development of a Greenbelt Concept for Stillwater began to take form in the summer, 1970. The first week in July, 1970, the author enrolled in a class in Housing and Government at Oklahoma State University. One aspect of the course was the study of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and its operations. In a conversation with the class professor, Mrs. Christine Salmon, the author related the greenbelt story and discussed the possibilities of using it for a future class project. The professor agreed that this topic was

¹John V. Lindsay, "The Conspiracy Against American Cities," Redbook Magazine, 135 (October, 1970), p. 158.

appropriate for this class since the Department of Housing and Urban Development not only had programs dealing with housing but that it also had programs dealing with open spaces as related to housing.

One class requirement was to have an outside project involving the use of some Housing and Urban Development program. The author felt that the Greenbelt Project could certainly benefit from student studies and the students would be provided with a worthwhile project. Therefore, the project was presented to the class and volunteer workers were sought.

Ebenezer Howard stated that

among the greatest needs of man and of society today, as at all times, are these: a worthy aim and opportunity to realize it; work and ends worth working for. All that a man is, and all that he may become, is summed up in his aspirations, and this is no less true of society than of the individual.²

No statement could more appropriately sum up what happened in class that day. To the author and six other students³ the Greenbelt Project presented a worthy aim and an opportunity to realize it. This was, in the author's opinion, one of the key steps in the development of the Greenbelt Concept as it has progressed to date. Not only did these students provide the study with essential information, but they provided the author with the strength to carry the project to its future objectives.

After class that day, the six students toured the Stillwater creek areas to become more familiar with the landscape. Shortly thereafter, the group met with the Acting City Planner for the City of Stillwater, Don Paul, who outlined the first steps to take in order to arrive at

²Howard, p. 128.

³Jan Filtz, Martin Jantz, Karl Kuhlman, Curt Nolan, John Reed, and Dennis Wall.

some basic planning for the Greenbelt. His suggestions included:

1. Calculation of density of population based on 1980 projection.
2. Identification of existing parks and open spaces as listed in the comprehensive plan for the City of Stillwater.
3. Identification of land ownership and evaluation along creek areas.

Accomplishing the above items would first, furnish information as to where the population centers would be at the time a greenbelt could become a reality in Stillwater; second, the location of the existing parks would be known so that their relation to the population could be better visualized; and third, knowledge would be gained regarding the ownership of proposed greenbelt land.

The City Planning Office at the City Hall became a classroom for those involved and day-long sessions were held. Facilities and information were made available for this study.

Having accumulated the information suggested by the Acting City Planner, the students transferred the information to maps of Stillwater. From this it became apparent that there were in Stillwater eight logical "nodal" areas along the creeks. (In this study nodal area refers to an activity center.) Each student was assigned an area to develop and was responsible for planning the activities in that area.

Based on a study of the nature of the areas, what is presently in each area, what is known of future plans, and population density, these eight nodal areas and their possible uses are as follows:

1. North of Boomer Lake - This area was envisioned as

a possible wildlife reserve incorporating compatible activities such as canoeing, walking, and paddle boating.

2. Boy Scout Area South of Lakeview Street - Conditions in this area are such that nature identification trails, an amphitheater north of the high school with outdoor art gallery, and natural-type playground area with reflecting pool are appropriate activities.
3. Recreation Park - A park containing colorful modular playground equipment, wading pool, and footpaths to meet the needs of the high concentration of people in mobile homes is a prime consideration for this location.
4. Downtown Park (located south of present City Hall) - A park located here needs to incorporate needs of the elderly with many spaces for sitting, and a pavilion with coffee room for meetings. Attention was focused on the possibility of locating a temporary museum site in this area. The old Santa Fe station and armory were found to be logical possibilities.
5. Couch Park - Improvement and development of existing facilities is the main concern for this nodal area.
6. Southeast Section of Stillwater Creek - A youth activity park with riding stables is considered desirable for this location.
7. Southcentral Section of Stillwater Creek - Footpaths, bicycle trails, picnicking all lend themselves to the

natural conditions of this area and are thought to be the most suitable activities in this location.

8. Stillwater Creek by Highway 51 - An arboretum encompassing the natural beauty of this setting is envisioned for this area.

A continuous bicycle path along Boomer Creek was deemed desirable as was a bridle trail along the south side of Stillwater Creek. The bridle trails and bicycle paths could serve to bind the nodal areas as suggested by Whyte when he states that

by linking open spaces, we can achieve a whole that is better than the sum of the parts. But it is important to remember that the parts come first. Each has to be functional in its own right.⁴

Thus the group of students had expanded the original concept of three areas to eight areas which would permit formation of a continuous green link beginning at the north end of Boomer Lake and extending to several areas south of Highway 51. (See Figure 1.)

One student in the group undertook the task of further securing land ownership and land assessment information of the creek areas. The information was obtained from the files in the County Assessor's Office. The information was transferred to an overlay map designating private, city, and state ownership.

Another phase of this study was to prepare an overlay map on an aerial photograph of Stillwater showing the flood plain along both creeks and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers⁵ improvements for Boomer Creek.

⁴Whyte, The Last Landscape, p. 179.

⁵Detailed Project Report, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, March, 1969.

Having assembled the information described above, the author presented the results of these studies to the July, 1970, meeting of the Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council and sought their guidance as to the next step. The Council at that meeting gave the Greenbelt Committee approval to approach the Stillwater City Commission with the idea of developing the Greenbelt Concept for Stillwater. As a result, a written request was made by the Greenbelt Committee for permission to appear before the Board of City Commissioners for the purpose of presenting these ideas for a Greenbelt Concept for Stillwater.

On July 27, 1970, Acting City Planner and a member of the Greenbelt Committee presented the Greenbelt Concept to the city commissioners. The information presented to the commissioners was essentially that compiled by the students in the summer Housing and Government class. Those presenting the data requested that the presentation by them go into the commission record as an information item only. No action was asked of the commissioners but a request was made that the committee be allowed to return in November, 1970, to present further information on the project and, perhaps, request action by the city at that time.

The City Manager's comments in reference to the presentation were noted in the July 28, 1970, issue of the Stillwater News-Press and states in part

many Big Eight cities already have such Greenbelts....such a plan is possible if the community gets behind it. With construction booming all round Stillwater, this Greenbelt could provide 'outdoor activities' right in the heart of town.⁶

In a personal communication dated October 2, 1970, Stillwater's Mayor, the late Wilson Bentley, made the following statements:

⁶Stillwater News-Press, July 28, 1970, p. 1.

In a recent session which I had with City Manager Larry Gish and Assistant City Manager Lloyd Harrell, the project was discussed. We all agreed that the Greenbelt Concept is a very desirable activity which could do great things for the community. We all agreed that we should give the project a high priority in our thinking, planning, and actions.

The summer session of the Housing and Government class ended with the presentation to the commissioners on July 27, 1970; however, the students continued to work on the Greenbelt Project during the subsequent vacation period. Two of the students skilled in photography took slides of the Stillwater creek areas, depicting both the beautiful and the polluted sections of the creek. These slides were designed to furnish information for promotional purposes.

By late summer, 1970, the Greenbelt Committee had begun to receive requests for speakers to appear before various civic groups. As a result a speakers bureau was formed. The slides were intended to be used by these speakers to inform the citizens of Stillwater about the pollution of local creeks and the evidences of dumping that the students had found as well as to demonstrate to the people what could be done to the creeks if a Greenbelt Concept was implemented.

The students continued their work and prepared overlay maps including development of maps to show the existing tree line along the creeks, the first step toward the site planning that is needed for the proposed parks system.

During August, the Greenbelt Committee had several planning sessions to develop definite goals and means for accomplishing them. The goals were stated in the August-September, 1970, Progress Report of the Greenbelt Committee:

1. to discover ways to fund both immediate and anticipated operating expenses of the committee;

2. to cement ties with and provide up-to-date briefing for the city administration;
3. to seek out long-range funding possibilities from private foundations;
4. to coordinate the greenbelt plan with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan for Stillwater and Boomer Creeks;
5. to prepare materials and solicit personnel for a Greenbelt Speakers' Group to make appearances before civic and service clubs.

In August, Steve Ownby, an Assistant Professor of Horticulture at Oklahoma State University, whose profession is landscape architect, was introduced to the project and agreed to join the fast-growing group of greenbelt volunteers. In the author's opinion, his professional knowledge, ability to lead student workers, and sincere dedication to the Greenbelt Concept, was a vital factor in leading the project to its present status.

In September, the author, at her adviser's suggestion, enrolled in an Urban Sociology class at Oklahoma State University. The professor in charge of the class, Dr. Larry Perkins, was immediately interested and enthusiastic about the Greenbelt Project. With his approval and encouragement, the author solicited volunteers from this class to work further on the Greenbelt Project. Several architecture students expressed interest and were assigned to work with Professor Ownby and other students to develop site analyses for selected nodal areas along the greenbelt. Professor Ownby furnished the students with a checklist of important factors to be considered in site analyses. (See Appendix A.)

Nodal areas 3, Recreation Park; 4, Downtown Park by City Hall; and 5, Couch Park, were selected for initial attention.

An explanation as to why these nodal areas (Recreation Park, Downtown Park, and Couch Park) were chosen for development of a site analysis rather than some other areas is detailed in the following paragraph.

The City of Stillwater, seeking to alleviate the flooding potential of 1957 and 1959, asked the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers both in 1957 and again in 1959 to undertake a study of a flood control project for Stillwater. After the flood of 1959 the project was undertaken. The subsequent U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' plan for flood control along Boomer Creek focused attention upon these three nodal areas.

The results of this study are published in the Detailed Project Report of March, 1969. The city then made a commitment (through a city-wide bond election) of a million dollars with another million coming from the Corps of Engineers to carry out the project as outlined in the Corps' report.

In August, Professor Ownby found a letter in the Detailed Project Report from the Stillwater Director of Community Development dated December 4, 1968, stating it would not be feasible for the City of Stillwater to consider any recreational development as part of this project.

However, the Greenbelt Committee studies had indicated that recreation should and could definitely be a part of the flood control project. After checking with the Corps of Engineers, Professor Ownby learned that a letter from the city would authorize the Corps to come back and reassess their previous conclusion. The committee then had a meeting with the city manager who agreed to write the letter with the approval of the city commissioners. The letter dated August 24, 1970,

states in part:

along the upper reaches of West Boomer Creek, there are some substantial questions as to whether or not recreational development is feasible, but upon further analysis and review, we feel there are definite possibilities along the lower portion, and certainly all of Main Boomer Creek for recreational development. Inasmuch as detailed construction plans are just now beginning to be prepared, we are hopeful that an analysis of recreational needs can be made without delaying the project substantially.

Please accept this letter as a request from the City of Stillwater that you make proper recreational studies along this proposed improvement.

The Greenbelt Committee felt that it would be disastrous to let the Corps carry out their previous plans and then try to rectify at a later date what they had done. Whyte has similarly stated that "The less of our landscape there is to save, the better our chances of saving it. It is a shame we have to lose so much land to learn the lesson, but desecration does seem a prerequisite for action."⁷

The fact is well recognized that Stillwater does have a flood problem. In a speech given to a local civic group, Professor Ownby stated that

we want to provide flood control and green spaces at the same time along with land development. Much of the land in question, that near the creeks, is unsuitable for construction and would be ideal for green places.⁸

At the same time, other students in the Urban Sociology class had developed a questionnaire and were conducting an interview schedule for the following purposes:

1. to determine recreational interests of people
in a given area, and

⁷Whyte, The Last Landscape, p. 2.

⁸Stillwater News-Press, November 20, 1970, p. 7.

2. to coordinate available recreational facilities with future planned activities.

A survey was conducted in an area from Tenth to Fifteenth Streets and from Washington to Main Streets. A total of one hundred and one families were interviewed with the following results:

1. there is a definite interest in recreational facilities by all age groups, and
2. knowledge of existing facilities is not well known.

The questionnaire employed by these students is included as Appendix B.

At the same time the Urban Sociology students were working on the project, a second group of greenbelt volunteers had been recruited from the 1970 fall semester class in Housing and Government, the course that had provided the original workers during the summer session. As part of their brochure development, letters of endorsement were obtained from leaders in the community as well as from civic groups. These endorsements are in Appendix C.

Also during this fall semester, 1970, a zoology professor, Dr. Jack Barclay, had assigned some of his students to do a wildlife resources survey in connection with the Greenbelt Project. Appendix D includes a reproduction of the outline submitted by this group to help in defining some of the basic ecological considerations required in the development of comprehensive open space programs.

This group also submitted a research proposal on the Greenbelt Concept under projects sponsored by the Student-Originated Studies Program of the National Science Foundation. The proposal asked for support of fourteen students through the summer during which time the students

would:

1. conduct a thorough analysis of pollution problems on East Boomer Creek, and
2. conduct an intensive survey and evaluation of the biological communities, their components, and general health of the ecosystems involved.

The proposal ultimately received an honorable mention citation from the National Science Foundation. A copy of the letter from the National Science Foundation is also in Appendix D.

During the fall semester, 1970, the author also contacted the School of Architecture at Oklahoma State University to request they approve a greenbelt competition to be held as an outside-of-class project for the students in the School of Architecture. The author's idea was that such a competition could provide the possible development of nodal area one located north of Boomer Lake. Professor Dave Metzger, of the School of Architecture, agreed to conduct the competition with the sanction of the Head of the School. A copy of the competition announcement is shown in Appendix E. First and second place prize money was contributed by two local businesses. Photographs of the first place scale model and a watercolor sketch of the second place winner are also included in Appendix E.

By November of 1970, the Greenbelt Committee thought they had developed sufficient information based on the work of the members of the project and other interested parties to approach the city commission of Stillwater and request that they take action regarding implementation of the Greenbelt Project. This presentation took place on November 30, 1970. The introduction was made by the author as chairman of the

project. Details of the Greenbelt Concept were then presented by Steve Ownby who discussed materials developed by the project members to date and gave his interpretation of them, which included a slide presentation of the areas along the creeks for possible development, the maps and models developed. Specific material covered during the presentation is discussed below.

The first area described was nodal area 3 which is the area of Recreation Park. For this nodal area the flood plain was shown to the commissioners in the form of Figure 2 and illustrates:

- a. standard project flood (65 year flood)
- b. 100 year flood

This figure was designed to emphasize areas unsuitable for any purpose other than recreation.

Figure 3 shows the nature of the soils in the area. The construction limitations are shown as:

- a. severe
- b. moderate
- c. slight

This figure was designed to show that the most desirable greenbelt or recreation areas were the least desirable for construction purposes.

Figure 4 shows the natural cover and points out what land was already under cultivation, what was already developed for commercial use, and what remained for possible use in a greenbelt.

- a. natural vegetation
- b. cultivated
- c. developed area - residential, business

Again, this figure points out that the area of natural vegetation along



Figure 2. Flood Plain in Nodal Area 3

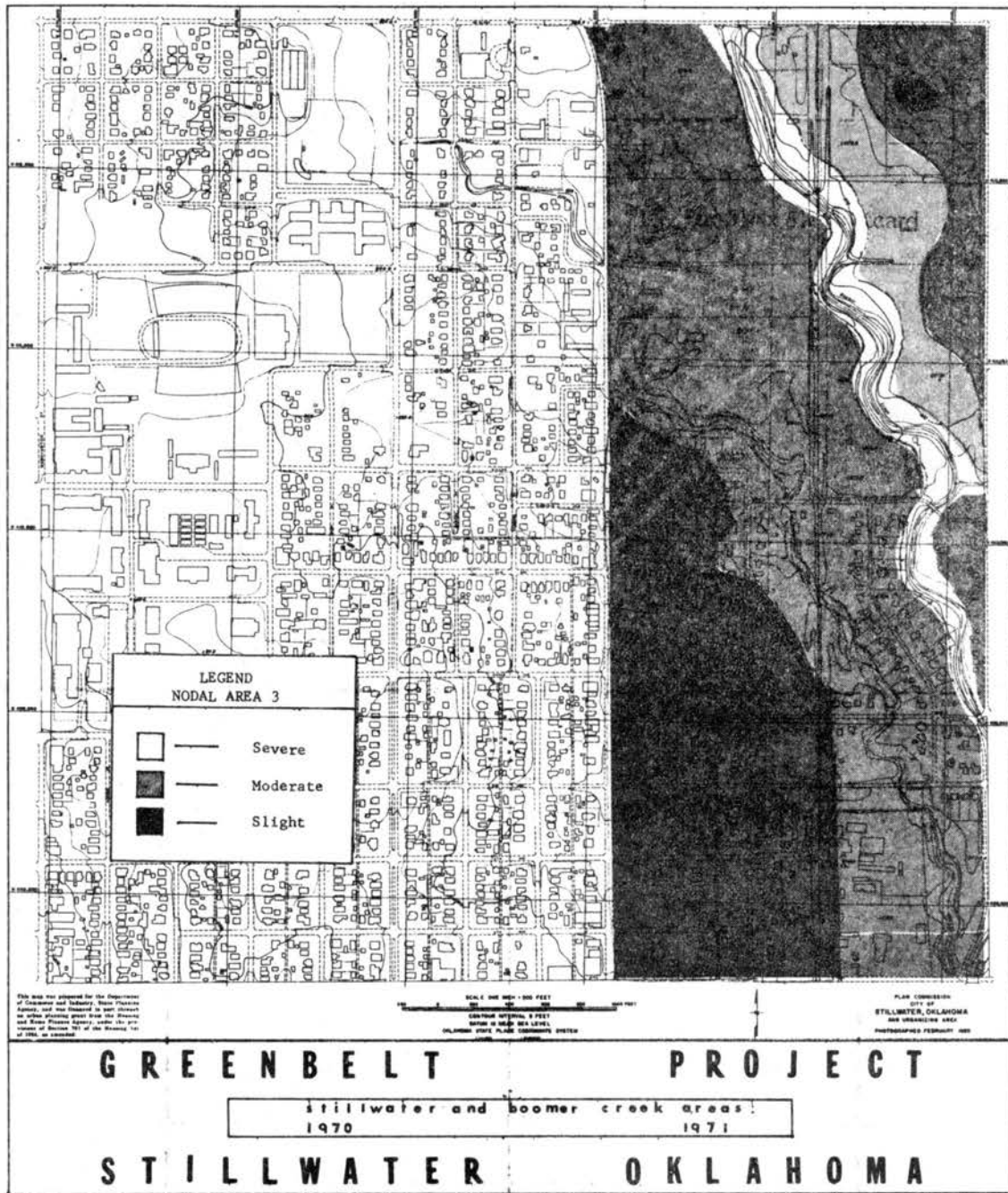


Figure 3. Soil Conditions in Nodal Area 3

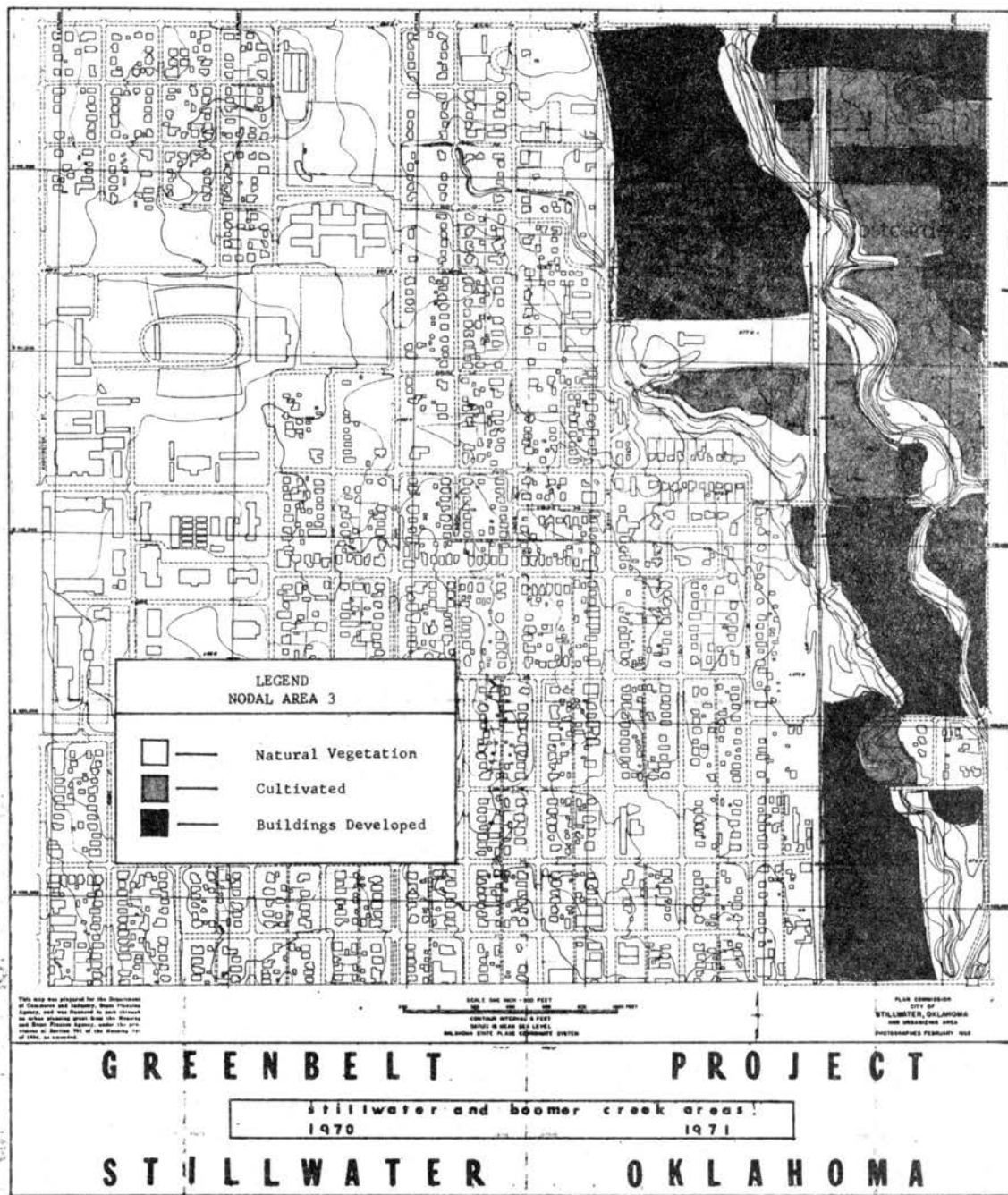


Figure 4. Natural Cover in Nodal Area 3

the creek is the most desirable for greenbelt purposes and the least desirable for commercial development.

Figure 5 is an overlay map on the natural cover to show the existing trees along the creek. A second overlay (Figure 6) on the natural cover map shows the remaining trees as follows:

- a. tree cover after Corps project
- b. limits of excavation
- c. property vegetation boundary
- d. fill area

The third overlay (Figure 7) shows the proposed Greenbelt Concept. This illustrates the diversion of West Boomer Creek to East Boomer Creek in the vicinity of Recreation Park. This will allow access from Recreation Park to Boomer Lake via East Boomer Creek and to nodal area 4 in the vicinity of City Hall via West Boomer Creek.

Figure 8 shows the developmental potential for the nodal area 3 as follows:

- a. undevelopable
- b. development potential for residence
- c. development potential for commercial

The purpose of this map is to show that the undevelopable areas for commercial or residential along the creek are the prime greenbelt lands.

The assessed property value of the nodal area is illustrated in Figure 9 with the following breakdown:

- a. 0 - \$999 per acre
- b. \$1,000 - \$5,999 per acre
- c. \$6,000 - \$27,000 per acre

The purpose of this map is to illustrate that, in some cases, the green-

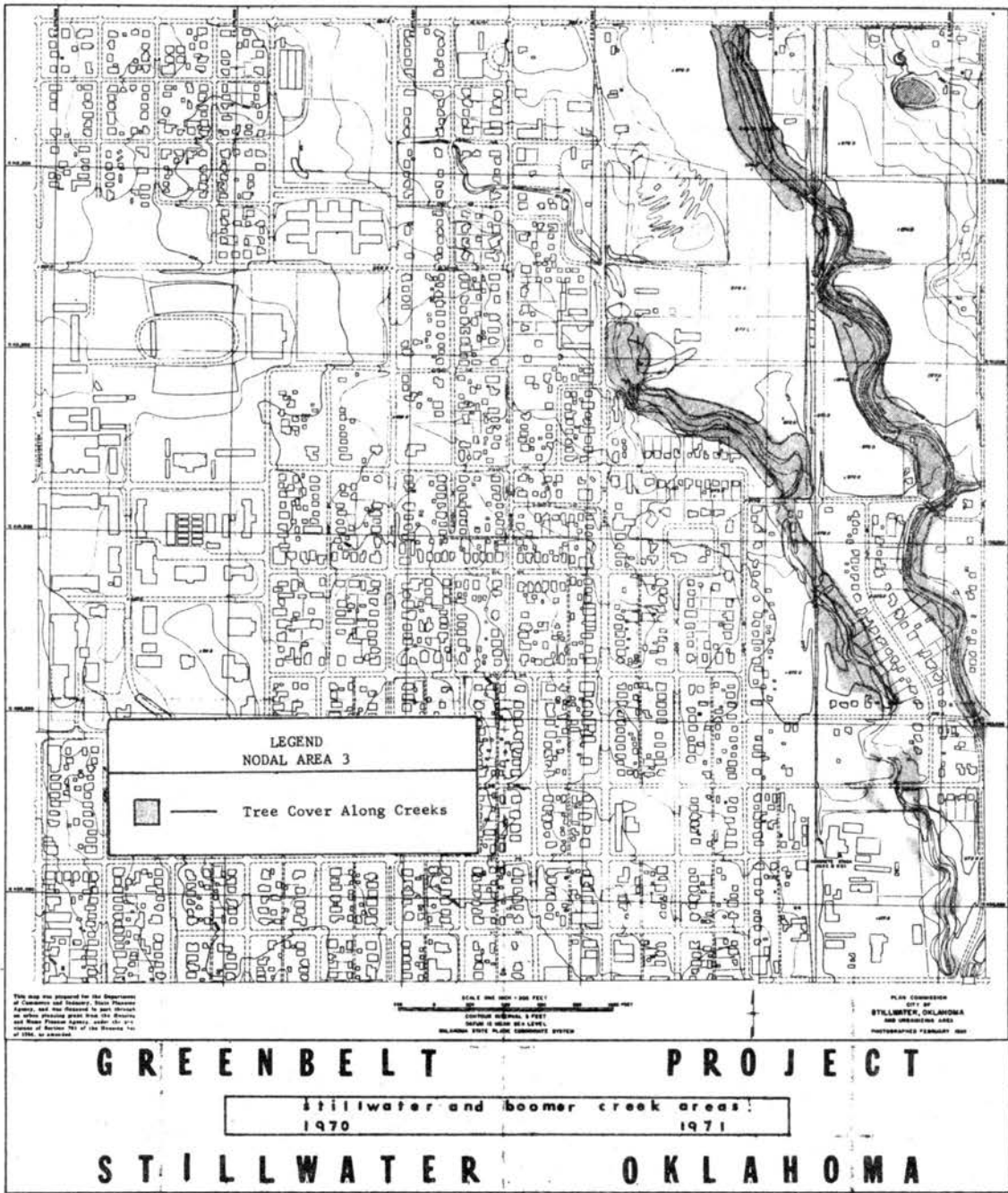


Figure 5. Existing Trees in Nodal Area 3



Figure 6. Remaining Tree Cover in Nodal Area 3

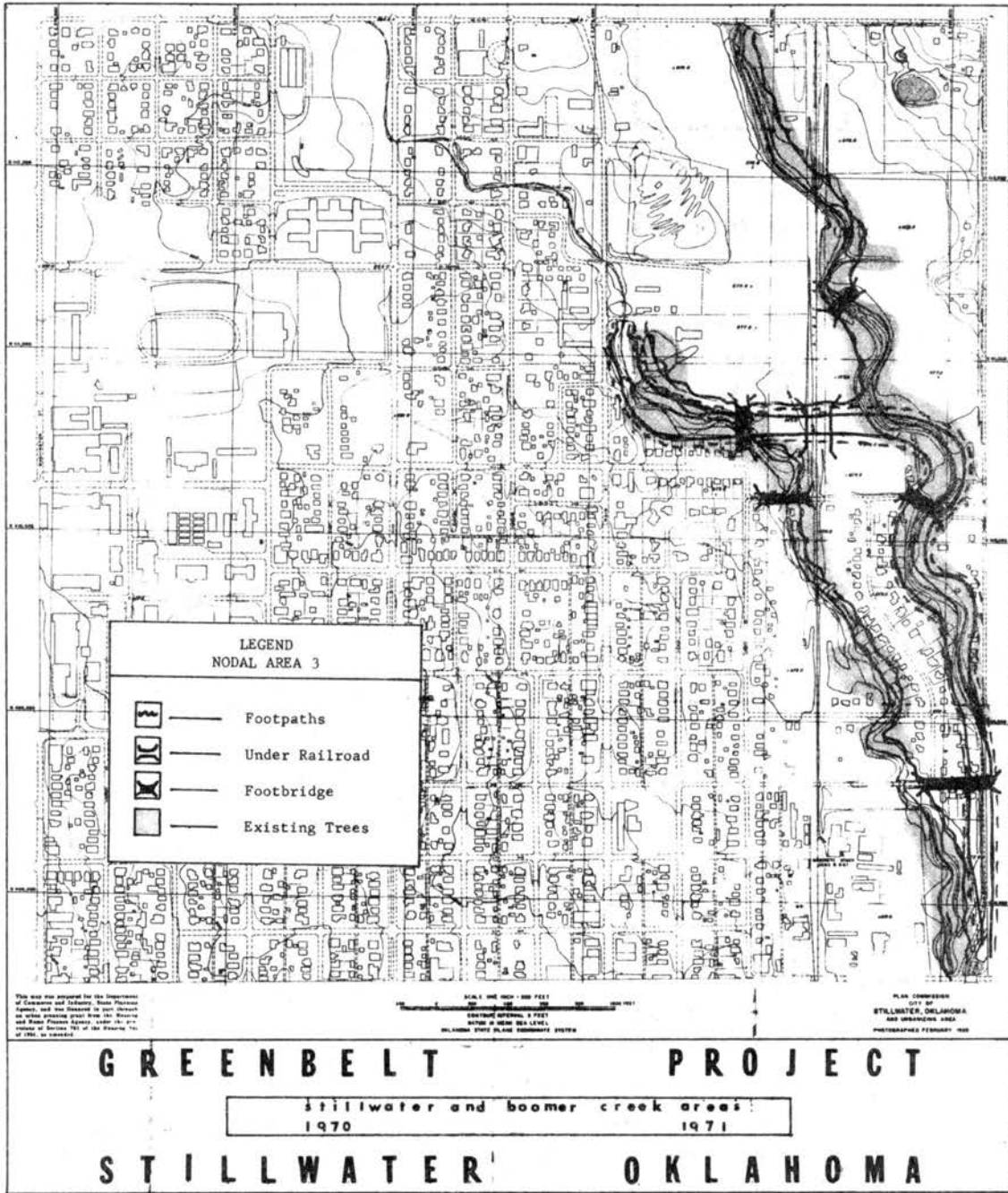


Figure 7. Greenbelt Concept for Nodal Area 3

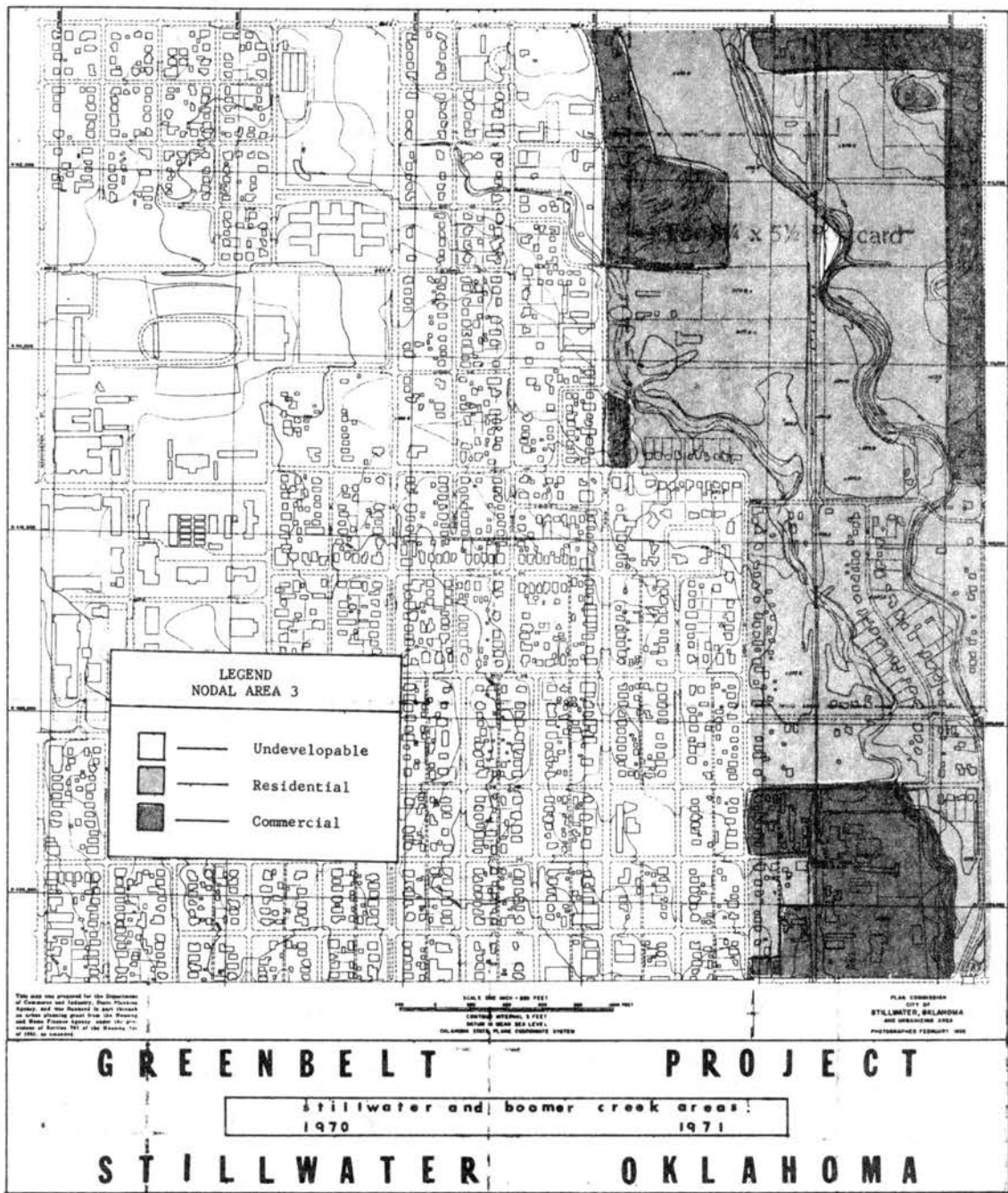


Figure 8. Development Potential in Nodal Area 3

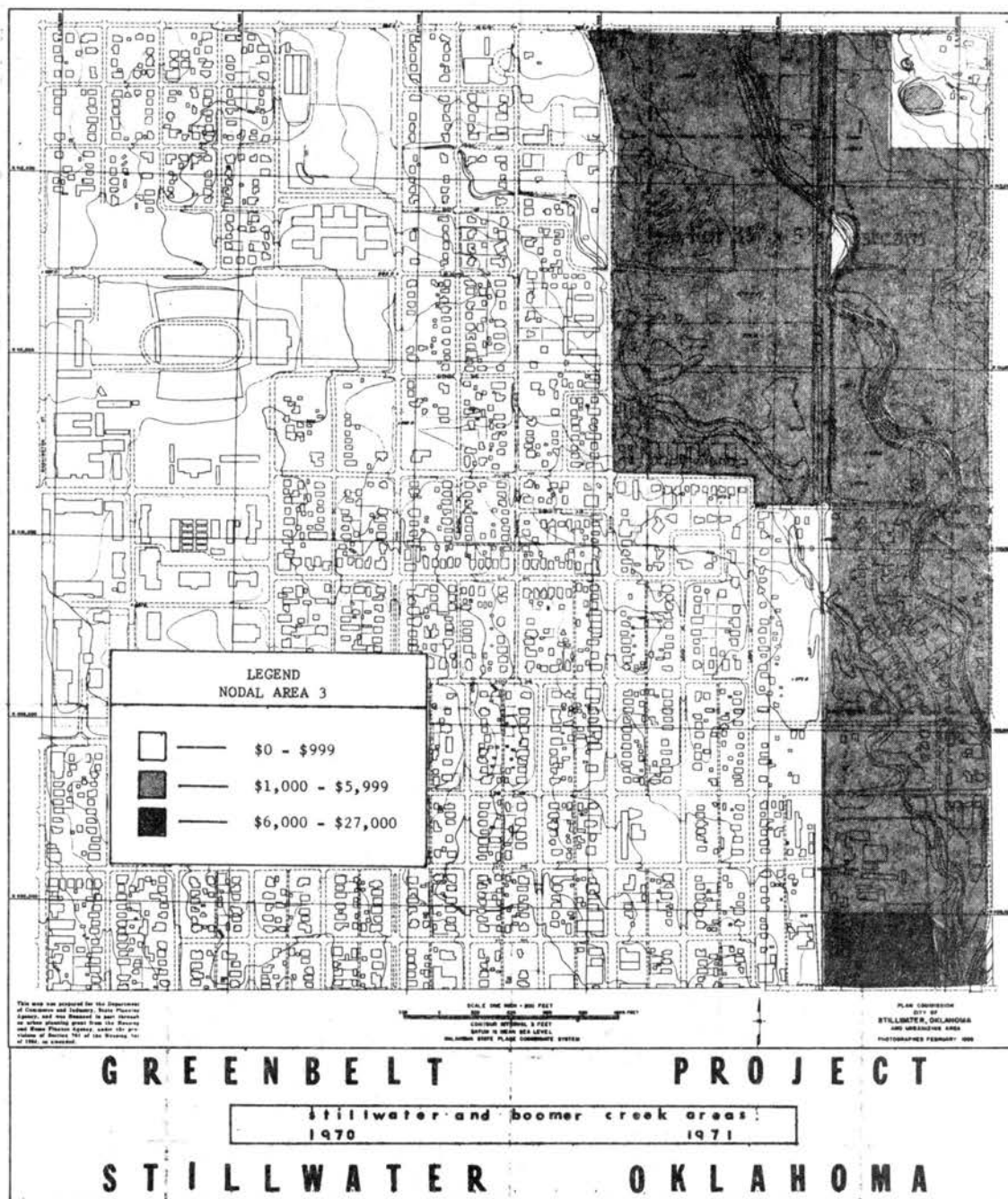


Figure 9. Assessed Property Value for Nodal Area 3

belt lands are the least developable and, therefore, have the lowest assessed property value.

Figure 10 shows the perceptual study or investigation of the nodal area and reads as follows:

- a. location of residential areas and areas on which dumping occurs
- b. notation of good spots of closure (where trees provide good spaces)
- c. commercial location within area and user access (ways people could get into area)

The purpose of the perceptual study was simply to determine the above listed information so that it would serve to aid in the development of a Greenbelt Concept.

A composite picture or synthesis (performed by the students) of all factors was integrated into a final figure (Figure 11) showing the Greenbelt Concept with the most favorable locations for recreation facilities.

Nodal areas 4 and 5 were treated in the same manner described for nodal area 3. Analysis was similar to that for area 3 and will not be presented in detail here. However, Figures 12 through 17 summarize graphically the analyses of areas 4 and 5.

A slide presentation previously developed for talks to various groups was then shown by Professor Ownby to illustrate both beautiful and polluted areas of the creeks. Slides of case studies showing areas of San Antonio, Muskogee, and other communities were included.

A note of historical significance was read from the Winter, 1969-1970 issue of Chronicles of Oklahoma in reference to Robert Cunningham's

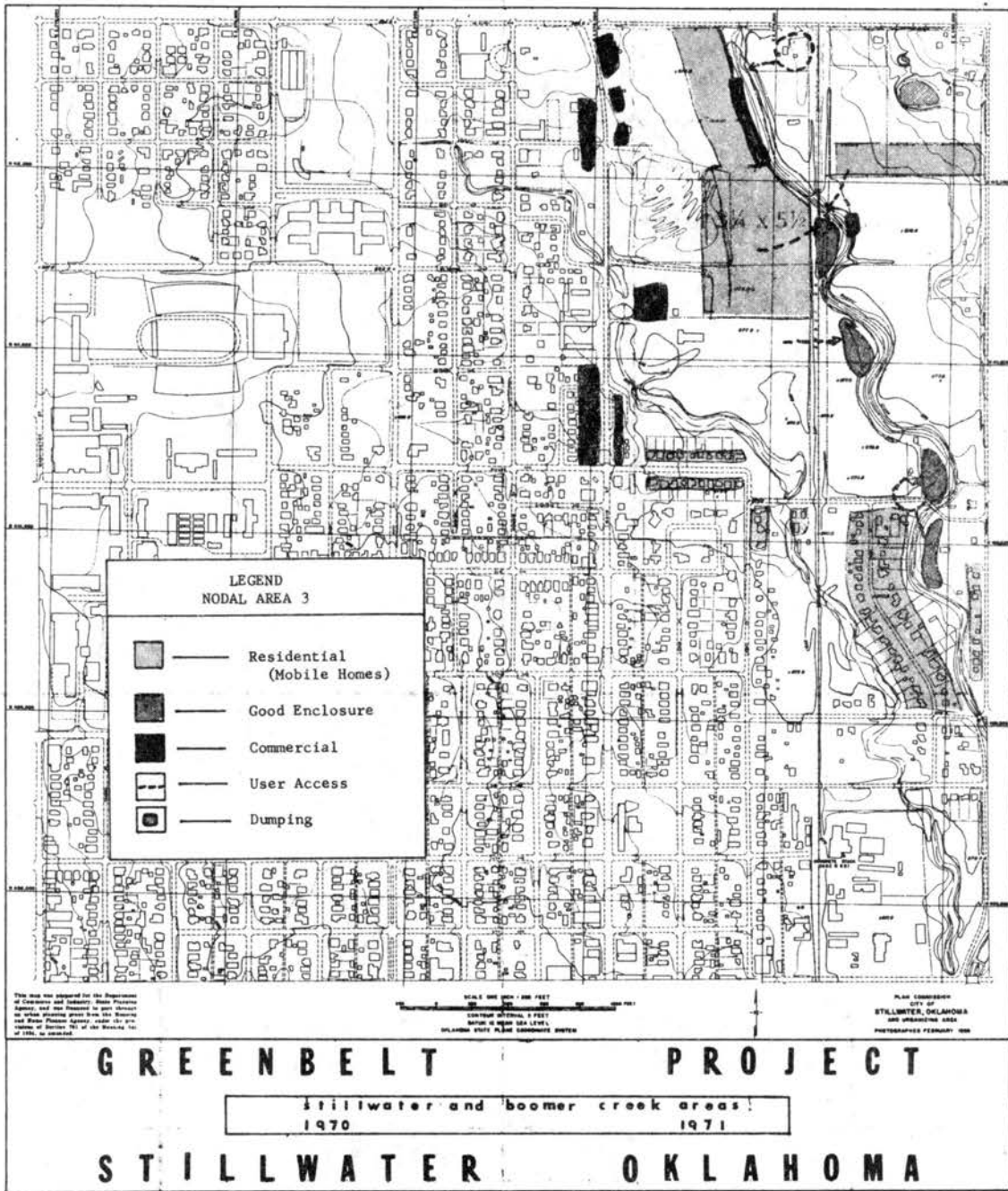


Figure 10. Perceptual Study for Nodal Area 3

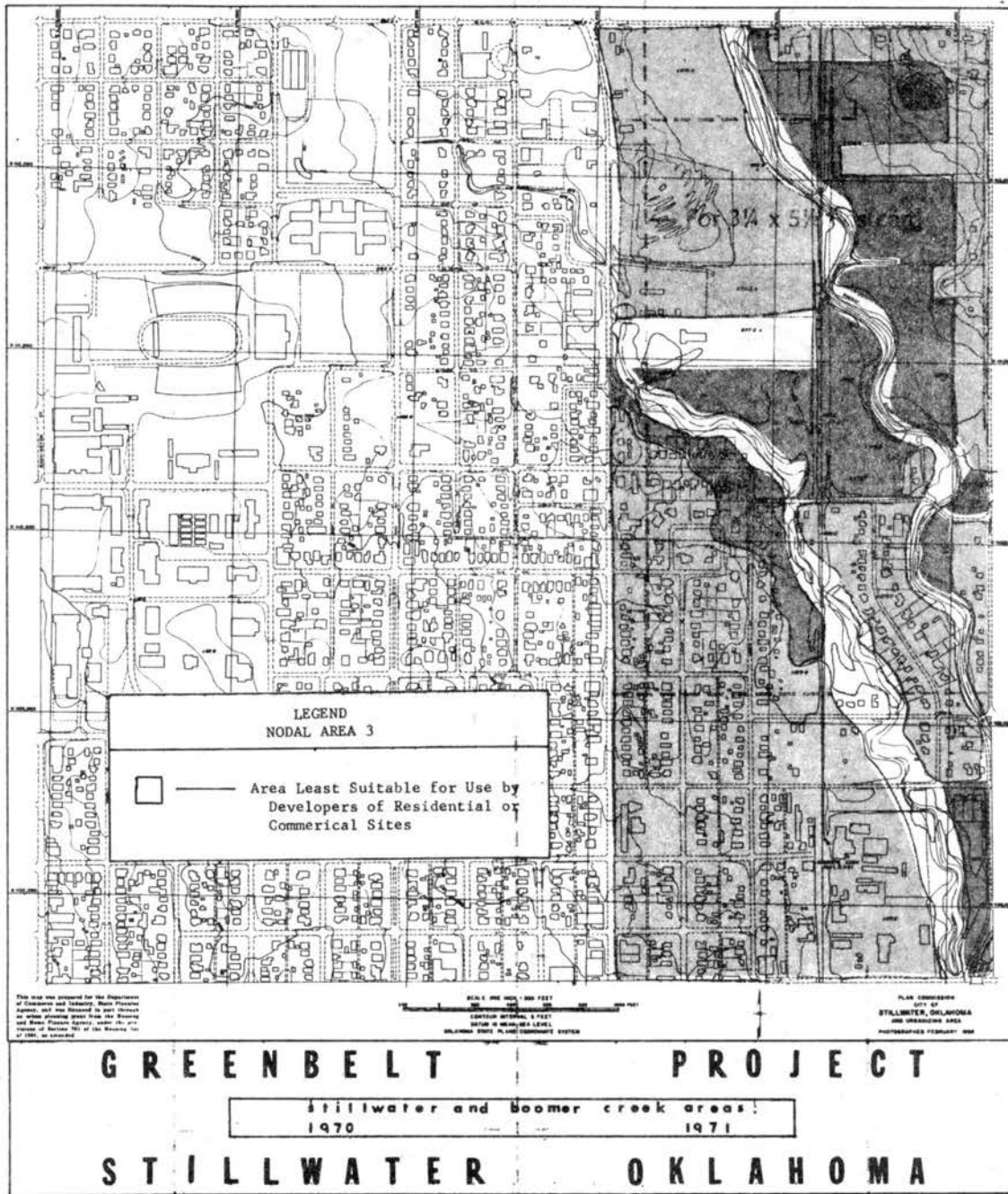


Figure 11. Composite for Nodal Area 3

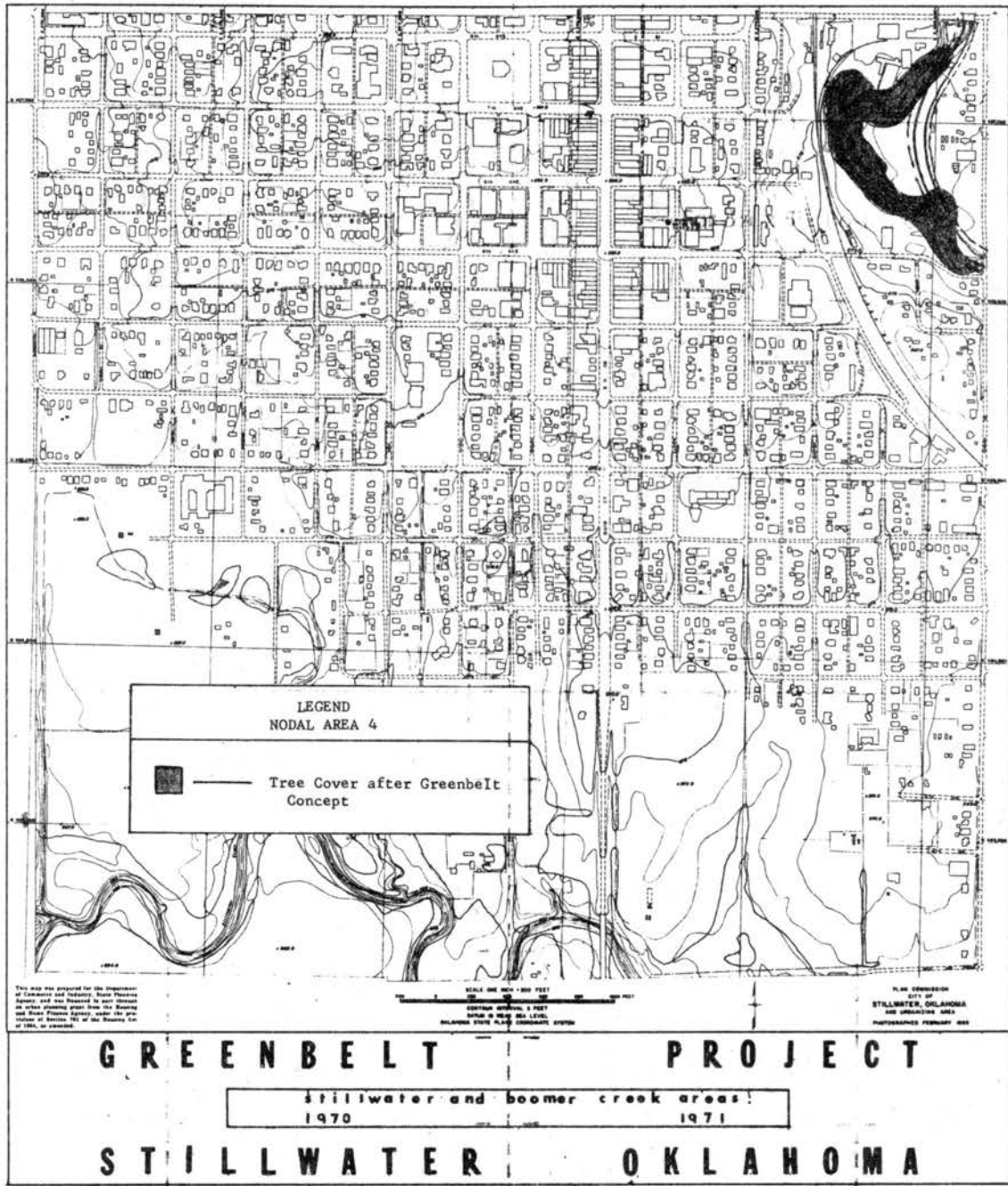


Figure 12. Existing Trees with Greenbelt Concept in Nodal Area 4

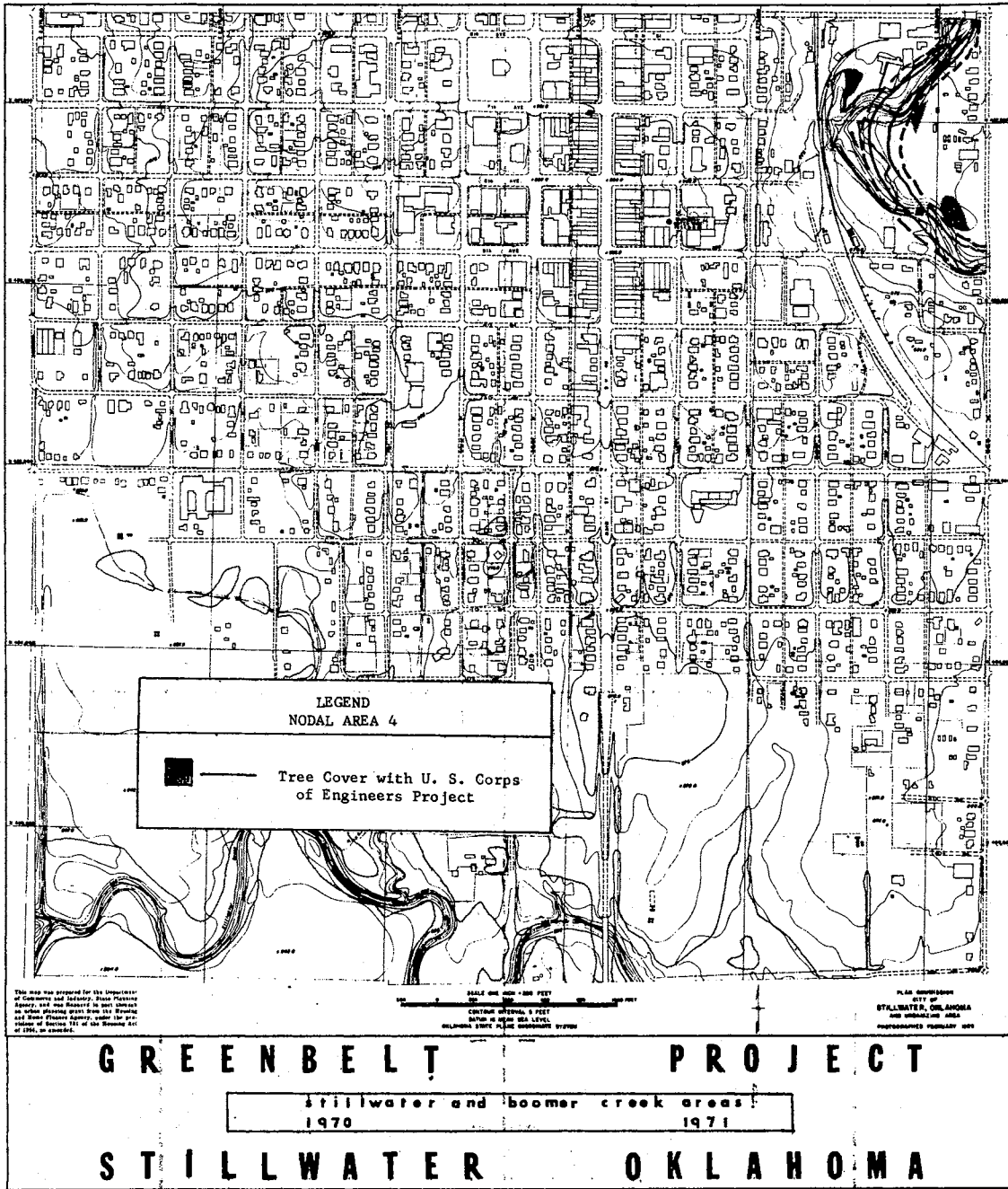


Figure 13. Remaining Tree Cover with U. S. Corps of Engineers Project for Nodal Area 4

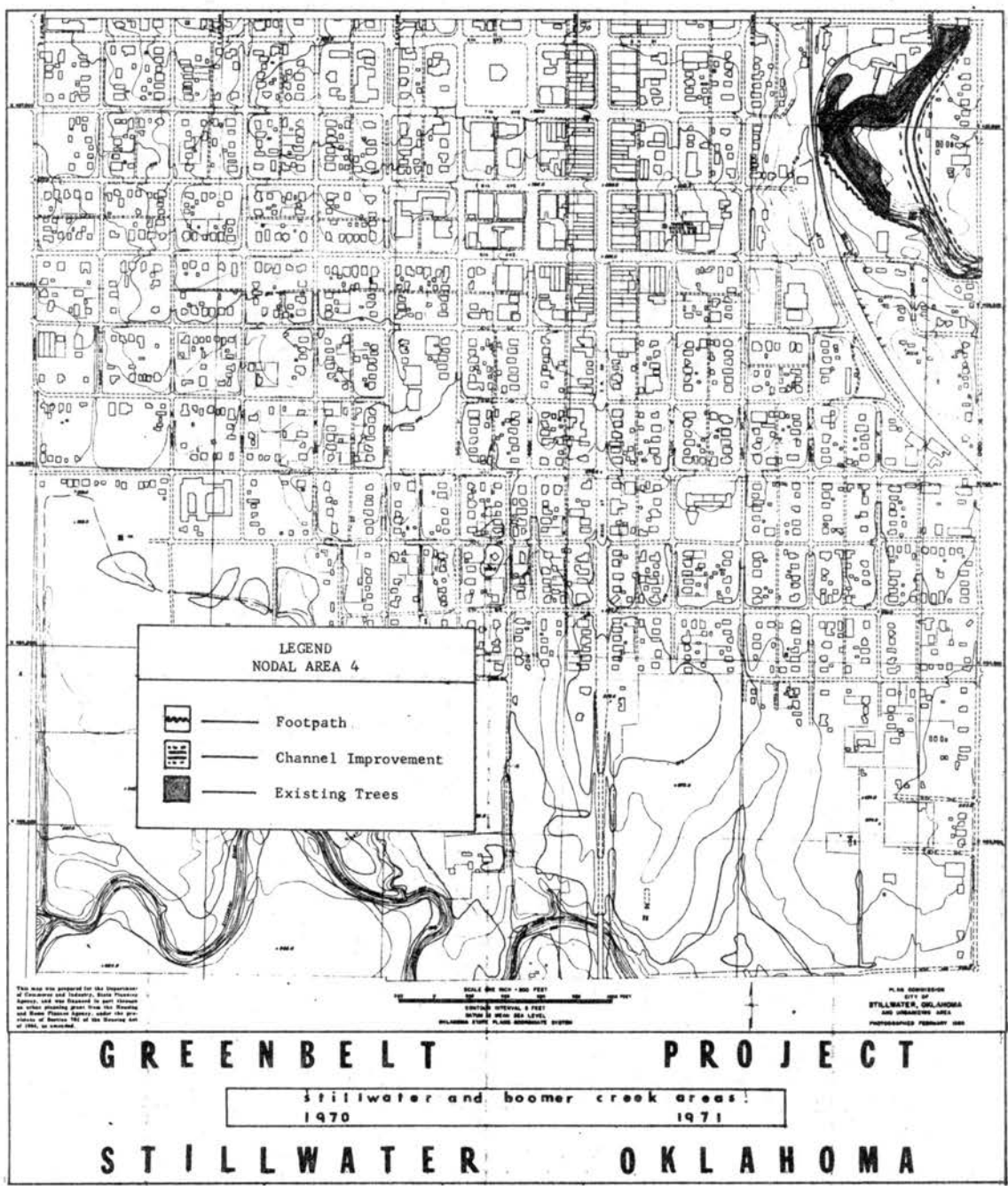


Figure 14. Greenbelt Concept for Nodal Area 4



Figure 15. Existing Trees with Greenbelt Concept in Nodal Area 5

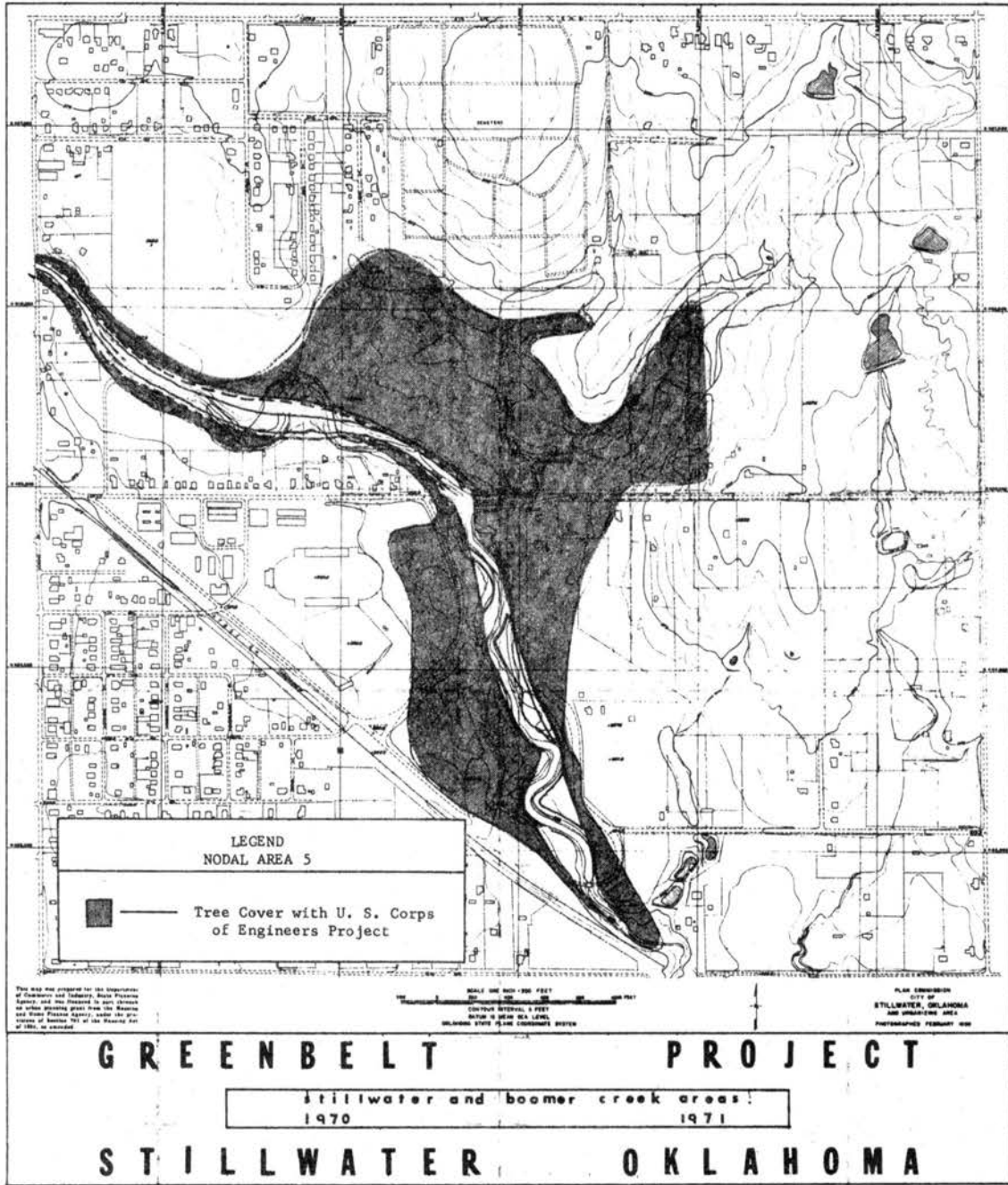


Figure 16. Remaining Tree Cover with U. S. Corps of Engineers Project for Nodal Area 5

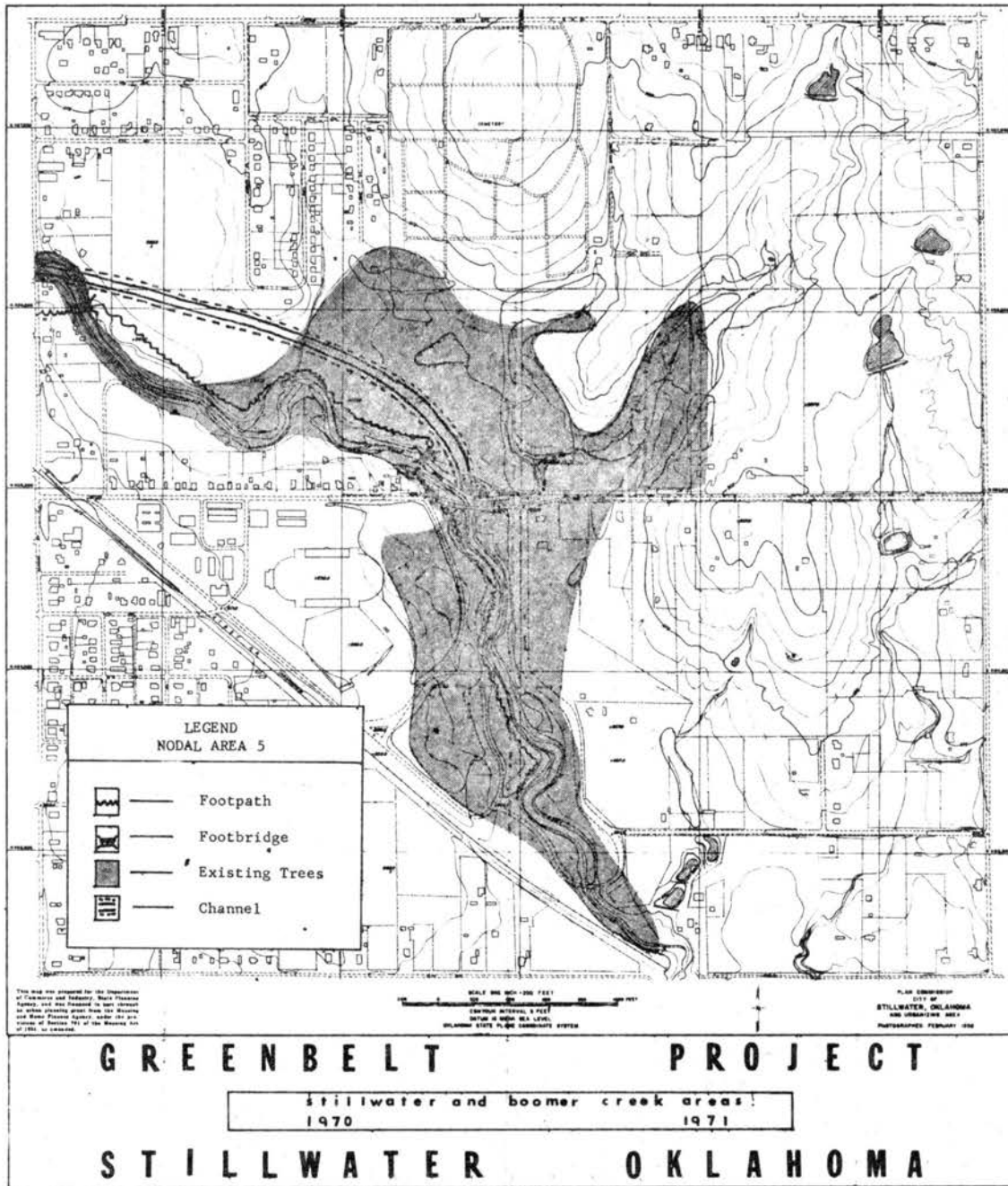


Figure 17. Greenbelt Concept for Nodal Area 5

book, Stillwater - Where Oklahoma Began.

In spite of the disputed title, Cunningham makes a strong case for the claim Oklahoma did 'begin' at Still Water Creek. It was here that William L. Couch led his 200 boomers, 60 miles south from Arkansas City, on a snowy trip in December, 1884. This was to be the last of his great invasions. Forty-four days later, Colonel Edward Hatch, with 600 cavalrymen and two cannon, scattered the gritty colonists back to Kansas. Couch made at least one more trip to the Oklahoma country; but it was the dust raised along Still Water Creek that finally forced Congress to clarify the issue and bring about the opening of Oklahoma to white settlement.⁹

This quote serves to illustrate the strong heritage Stillwater has in Oklahoma and the creeks of Stillwater have to the heritage of the town. Professor Ownby brought out to the commission that this is a heritage we can lose by indiscriminate channelization of the creeks.

After a brief question and answer period, the author made three requests of the commissioners. They were as follows:

1. Approve this Greenbelt Concept.
2. Direct the City Manager to work with U. S. Corps of Engineers to reach the best alternate that satisfies flood control and Greenbelt Concept.
3. Direct the City Manager to begin developing a scope of services description for a consultant(s) and prepare a cost of services estimate.

All three requests were given a "yes" vote by the commissioners.

The second of the above requests made by the Greenbelt Committee regarding contact with the U. S. Corps of Engineers was immediately acted upon. Assistant City Manager, Lloyd Harrell, who was appointed to act as a liasion between the city and the U. S. Corps of Engineers,

⁹Chronicles of Oklahoma, XLVII, No. 4 (Winter 1969-1970), p. 455.

wrote a letter dated January 7, 1971, in which he asked the Corps to consider the Greenbelt Concept in the flood control project for Boomer Creek. At that time a meeting was requested with the Corps either in Stillwater or Tulsa for the purpose of further explaining the Greenbelt Concept. On February 25, 1971, four officials from the Corps' office in Tulsa met with Stillwater city officials, commissioners and Greenbelt representatives to discuss the project. After hearing an explanation of the Greenbelt Concept, Colonel Vernon Pinkey, Tulsa Corps district engineer, made the following statement: "You have some pretty detailed ideas. We are real happy to sit down with a group that has something constructive like this."¹⁰ The meeting resulted in authorization from the City Commissioners to the Corps to proceed with Boomer Creek channel clearing plans, possibly incorporating elements of the Greenbelt with the flood control work and to come back with detailed cost estimates.

The third request made by the Greenbelt Committee of the commissioners was also acted upon. Representatives of the Greenbelt Committee and city officials spent the months of January, February, and March seeking interested consulting firms and screening applicants.

Prior to the commission meeting where selection of a firm was to be approved, City Manager Larry Gish sent a memorandum dated May 3, 1971, to the commissioners recommending a consulting firm. It states in part,

Urban Renewal, in my opinion, has the potential for creating the most significant changes and improvements in this city than any other project or program available to us. A close second, however, in my opinion, is the development of Stillwater Creek and Boomer Creek as a Greenbelt-controlled environment area. Development of this concept will cost a lot of money, but it can become the thing which would set Stillwater apart from other communities in Oklahoma. I

¹⁰Stillwater News-Press, February 26, 1971, p. 3.

recognize that there are many potential pitfalls before the citizens decide that they want to invest in this kind of program. I believe strongly, however, that the potential for the program warrants the employment of a consultant to develop its full potential and to form an ideal foundation for it.

Selection of a firm was completed and approval for hiring was made at the May 3, 1971, meeting of the Stillwater City Commissioners. The firm selected was Erling Helland Associates of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purposes of this study were to record the events between May, 1970, and May, 1971, which led to the development of a Greenbelt Concept for Stillwater, Oklahoma, and to show how a group of concerned citizens can affect city planning.

Major portions of this study included: 1) a review of the history of greenbelts and garden cities dating back to the early 1900's in England and their influence on the development of garden cities and greenbelts in the United States; 2) the selection of eight nodal areas along Boomer and Stillwater Creeks where planned activity centers could be developed; 3) the selection and development of a site analysis for three of the nodal areas; and 4) the presentation of the Greenbelt Concept to the City Commissioners culminating successfully in its acceptance by them.

Conclusions made from this study include:

1. Stillwater has a creek area running through the city which can provide the basis for linkage of open spaces and outdoor-based recreation.
2. A greenbelt is feasible and can provide much needed flood control and at the same time allow for recreation and preservation of the area's natural beauty.
3. A large percentage of the land along the creek banks

is unsuitable for construction and development purposes but is ideal for green spaces.

4. Implementation of the currently-planned U. S. Corps of Engineers flood control project would severely damage the natural vegetation and tree cover along the creeks.
5. Eight logical nodal areas have been located to provide activity centers along Boomer and Stillwater Creeks. Selection of the nodal areas was based on studies made of population densities, existing parks and open spaces, and nature of the areas (what is presently there and what is known of future plans).
6. The Couch Park area, which played a significant role in the early settlement of Oklahoma and Stillwater, should be preserved for its historical value.
7. The slide presentation developed to publicize the greenbelt has been very effective in informing the public of a greenbelt program.
8. Constructive citizens' groups can do much to influence city planning and thereby make a positive contribution to the city; Stillwater, as a university town, has excellent resources to aid such citizen groups.

Based on the present study and the above conclusions the following recommendations are made:

1. An effective publicity campaign should be maintained to keep the public informed of greenbelt developments and thereby maintain citizen enthusiasm for the project.
2. The city should continue its liaison work with the U. S. Corps of Engineers to insure that the recreational-environmental aspects of flood control are considered.
3. Funding sources should be actively sought to carry out implementation of the Greenbelt Concept.
4. The first funds obtained should be expended in an area having a high probability of successful outcome, thus generating permanent support of the citizens of Stillwater for future greenbelt developments.
5. Stillwater city planning staff should be urged to withhold action on any suggested zoning changes affecting the greenbelt areas until the presently-retained consulting firm concludes its feasibility study of the Greenbelt Concept.
6. The most satisfactory greenbelt for Stillwater will result if developments include inputs from the preliminary work done to date, the professional consultants, city planners, and an informed and interested citizenry.

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APPENDIX A

GREENBELT SITE ANALYSIS
Nodal Areas #3 (Recreation Park Vicinity)
and #4 (area between 6th and 12th and Perkins Road & Main)

Natural influences:

exposure (north or south winds)
topography (in addition to maps)
drainage patterns (ditches, draws, etc.)
vegetation (trees of value)
soils (note exceptionally poor or rich)
flood plain limits (observation or interview with residents-dates)

Manmade influences:

circulation patterns (vehicular and potential pedestrian)
space qualities (amount of enclosure or lack of same)
surrounding land use
utilities (as they might effect use - ie. overhead wires)
links to community or other facilities (visual or corridor access)
off-site nuisances and assets (present and future)

Site features:

good and poor views
possible structure locations (obvious settings)
possible location of activities
approach patterns - ingress and egress
parking facilities
potential access to creek
potential land that might be acquired

APPENDIX B

1. Number of people living at this residence. _____
2. Age, sex, and grade in school in order, starting with youngest.

	NAME	AGE	SEX	GRADE
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____	_____

3. Activities each person is interested in:

1. Table Games
(checkers, cards)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

2. Active Table Games
(ping pong, pool)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

3. Lawn Games
(horseshoes)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

4. Individual Sports
(archery, golf)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

5. Organizations
(Girl Schouts, Boy Scouts)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

6. Arts and Crafts
(painting, sewing)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

7. Team Sports
(volleyball, basketball)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

8. Dancing
(folk, square)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

PAGE 2

9. Water Sports
(swimming, canoeing)

10. Study Hall

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____

4. How interested would you be in your child taking part in these supervised activities in the afternoon after school?

- _____ a. Very interested
- _____ b. Interested
- _____ c. Indifferent
- _____ d. Not interested

5. How interested would you be in your children taking part in supervised activities at night?

- _____ a. Very interested
- _____ b. Interested
- _____ c. Indifferent
- _____ d. No interest

6. When during the day could the adults participate in these activities?

	MORNING	AFTERNOON (1-3 PM)	LATE AFTERNOON (3-5 PM)	EARLY EVENING (6-8 PM)	LATE EVENING (8-10 PM)
WIFE	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HUSBAND	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER ADULT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

APPENDIX C

At this time of great concern for the quality of life and of our environment, it is most appropriate that steps be taken to preserve and to improve the natural beauty and resources of our community. I am grateful to those who are taking the lead in this most worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert B. Kamm".

Robert B. Kamm, President
Oklahoma State University

STILLWATER BOARD OF REALTORS

BOX 696
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074

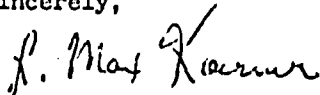
November 10, 1970

On behalf of The Stillwater Board of Realtors I wish to express sincere approval and thanks to the Greenbelt Committee for their excellent work in establishing a proposed Greenbelt within the City of Stillwater.

Without a doubt, a satisfactory Greenbelt within our City will help to create an atmosphere not previously available to the citizens of this ever-increasing community. As our population increases, the need for a Green Area will also increase; therefore, in our opinion, if we hope to have a Greenbelt within Stillwater the time to do it is NOW.

The Arts and Humanities Council of Stillwater has accepted a very large responsibility and, in all probability, will require assistance from many people in order to accomplish their Greenbelt goal. We, of the Stillwater Board of Realtors, hereby pledge our support and assistance to the Greenbelt Committee, and will suggest to each and every person or group within Stillwater to make every effort to help this outstanding group complete their goal.

Sincerely,



Max Koerner, President
Stillwater Board of Realtors



Agricultural Capital of the Southwest



V. M. THOMPSON, JR.
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

November 11, 1970

We, the people of Stillwater, have been negligent in keeping pace with the growth of our city and university. Fortunately, in recent years plans to expand and improve our utilities, streets, sewers, and housing have been formulated and as I understand are in various stages of implementation.

These plans, when complete, will materially improve the living conditions, traffic flow, and our economic well being. It is gratifying to know that plans have been made and are off the ground to do something about complimenting our city's physical assets.

I heartily endorse our Greenbelt Project as first impressions of an individual home or community are usually the most lasting.

V. M. Thompson, Jr.
President and Chief
Executive Officer

Stillwater  National Bank
AND TRUST COMPANY


P. O. BOX 711
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074



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ROBERT L. MCCORMICK, JR., PRESIDENT
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GILBERT M. CRIBWELL, VICE PRESIDENT
AUTRY W. HILL, VICE PRESIDENT
JAMES A. LOVILL, ASST. VICE PRESIDENT
OWEN PARNHAM, ASST. CASHIER
RACHEL O'BHEATH, ASST. CASHIER
MARGARET HOLLAND, ASST. CASHIER

November 5, 1970

I think that Stillwater is at a place in its growth and development where it has the opportunity to make the community an even more warm and gracious place to live. The idea of developing the creeks in the Stillwater area into a Greenbelt Park Land is a step in the direction of increasing the quality of the lives of everyone in the Stillwater area. I think the project is a wonderful idea.


Robert L. McCormick, Jr.

M E N ' S W E A R

7A07A

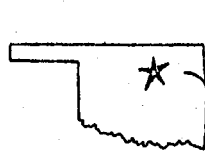
November 6, 1970

The Greenbelt plan seems to me to be an innovative and imaginative civic project which can, for a modest cost, make a very worthwhile contribution to our community and to the pleasures of living in Stillwater.

Sam W. Bates
Sam W. Bates, Chairman,
Community Development Committee,
Chamber of Commerce.

ALSO STORES AT
OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY, 242 S. KNOBLOCK
PONCA CITY, 3rd and GRAND

MEMBER OF OKLAHOMA JAYCEES, UNITED STATES JAYCEES AND JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL



"YOUNG MEN OF ACTION"

Stillwater Jaycees



★ STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA 74074

November 24, 1970

On behalf of the Stillwater Jaycees, I wish to express our approval and thanks to your Greenbelt committee for the excellent work you are doing in establishing a recreation area in the City of Stillwater.

There is no doubt that a Greenbelt in our city would provide the type of recreation area needed. With our increase in population this need of green area will definitely increase. Your solution to the problem would seem to be appropriate and well timed; if we are to establish a Greenbelt in this city, it must be done now.

The arts and humanities council has taken on a very awesome responsibility, and will surely need assistance to accomplish its goal. We, of the Stillwater Jaycees, take this opportunity to pledge our support to the Greenbelt Committee.

Sincerely,

Mike Miller
 Director-Community Relations
 Stillwater Jaycees

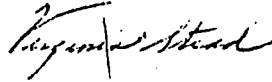
Stillwater, Oklahoma
November 15, 1970

Green Belt Project Committee
Stillwater, Oklahoma

The Stillwater Woman's Club supports the concept of the Green Belt Project as a much needed beautification and recreational project for our city.

Our club has been active in many efforts to make Stillwater a better place for the future, and we would like to extend our thanks to Mrs. Gayle Robinson for a well prepared talk on the Green Belt Project. It has created much interest among our members.

Sincerely,



Virginia Stead,
Corresponding Secretary
Stillwater Woman's Club



"We Build for Stillwater"

KIWANIS CLUB OF STILLWATER, INC. • STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

November 27, 1970


Mrs. Robert Robinson
2015 North Husband
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

Dear Mrs. Robinson:

As chairman of the "Green Belt Project" you maybe aware that Kiwanis International puts a major emphasis on our environment and polution control.

We find that the "Green Belt Project" sponsored by your group, adequately reflects our thinking in this area and we are happy to recommend your project to whomever may be concerned.

Sincerely yours,


A. J. Schott
President
Kiwanis of Stillwater, Inc.

sb



Stillwater Noon Lions

November 30, 1970

To Whom It May Concern:

On Thursday November 19, 1970, Mr. Steve Ownby appeared before the Stillwater Noon Lions and presented a program on the Green Belt Project. The club members present were most impressed with the project and the objectives of the Green Belt committee. We hope that every effort will be made by officials involved to see that Project Green Belt is put into operation in the near future. The Stillwater Noon Lions Club lends their whole hearted support to this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'R. A. Hesser'.

R. A. Hesser, President
Stillwater Noon Lions

BAKER ANIMAL CLINIC
2003 DOOMER ROAD
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
November 7, 1970

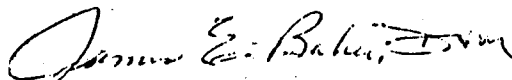
Mrs. Gayle Robinson, Chairman
Greenbelt Committee
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

Dear Mrs. Robinson,

I want to thank you and Mr. Ownby for presenting the Greenbelt program to the Lions Club last month. Your committee is to be congratulated for doing something that we all should do - beautify our city.

We as civic minded Lions want to encourage your project and hope that you are successful in accomplishing your goals. In regard to your request I am asking Paul Burch of our Community Betterment Committee to attend your meetings so that we may be better informed of the progress made and the help needed.

Sincerely,



James E Baker, D.V.M.
President Stillwater Evening Lions Club

Oct 21, 1970

Dear Mr. Tolman,

The Stillwater Chapter of
 Jaycees Jaycees would like to
 inform you that we are in
 favor of the City and Humane
 Society proposed Open Belt
 Project. We feel it will do
 much to enhance the beauty
 of our city, and to provide
 much recreation and fun
 to residents of Stillwater.

Sincerely,
 Mrs. Tom Riley

APPENDIX D

**STILLWATER GREENBELT PROGRAM
WILDLIFE RESOURCES SURVEY**

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Total species present
- B. Relative abundance by species - seasonal estimates
- C. Presence of rare, endangered and/or exotic species
- D. Impending threats to existence of populations and/or habitat
- E. Species distribution

II. WILDLIFE HABITAT (VEGETATION)

- A. Acreage by major cover type - Inventory

1. grass	4. open water	7. swamp
2. shrubs	5. stream	8. cultivated
3. trees	6. marsh	9. residential-commercial
- B. Inventory of major cover type species - plant and animal
- C. Condition of cover types
 - 1. type quality evaluations - relative productivity
 - 2. trends in condition by type
 - 3. predicted successional trends
- D. Food, Cover and Water
 - 1. abundance and quality
 - 2. distribution
 - 3. degree of interspersion
- E. Management needs and implication

III. WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

- A. Inventory by species, relative abundance and location
- B. Habitat requirements - by major species
 - 1. food - preferred, maintenance, survival
 - 2. cover - nesting, resting, escape, feeding
 - 3. water - quality, abundance, distribution
- C. Movements and migrations
 - 1. travel lanes
 - 2. flight corridors
 - 3. chronology
- D. Management needs and implications

IV. ANALYSIS: WILDLIFE AS A RESOURCE COMPONENT IN THE GREENBELT SYSTEM

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550 MAR 1 1971



Mr. Stephen W. Box
Department of Zoology
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74074

HONORABLE MENTION CITATION

Dear Mr. Box:

The project outlined in your proposal 1/Y50-4402 to the Student-Originated Studies Program has been found by the National Science Foundation and its reviewers to hold substantial scientific and educational merit. In a competition among 561 such projects, your submission is judged to rank in the upper half--an achievement upon which we extend sincere congratulations.

We regret that the funds allocated to the Student-Originated Studies Program do not permit us to support all of the really promising projects that were submitted, but we do want you and your colleagues to receive some word of commendation. You are free to use this Honorable Mention Citation as evidence of the National Science Foundation's opinion of the merit of your project if you decide to seek funding for it from your state or local governments, your institution or local community groups. By it the National Science Foundation certifies to any interested bodies that your proposed project has undergone a thoroughgoing and rigorous evaluation, and has been found to be well worth the support requested for its implementation.

Sincerely yours,

W. D. McElroy
Director

Copy to:

Honorable David Hall
Governor

Dr. Robert B. Kamm
President

Dr. John S. Barclay
Department of Zoology

APPENDIX E

Greenbelt Competition
Site Analysis and Development for a Nature Center

A nature center has been suggested as a likely use for Greenbelt Node #1, at the north end of Boomer Lake. This area is still fairly undeveloped and natural, and contains a variety of environments; marshy, lake, and field. The objective of this competition is to show site analysis and development studies, with the nature center use in mind. Actual building design, in terms of plans and sections, should be considered, but major attention will be paid to site sketches and exterior perspectives of the area.

Bear in mind that the term "nature center" does not refer to a building per se (although a building is always part of a nature center), but an area of undeveloped land, containing a representative sample of the natural landscape of a community. Although the land is undeveloped it generally contains various trails through which people can walk and observe the indigeneous flora and fauna.

The objectives and purposes of a nature center may be listed under two general headings. First is educational/scientific: to increase one's knowledge and understanding of the natural world and man's place in it; to develop an awareness of and appreciation for nature; to provide a natural area for the study of flora and fauna. The second major objective is cultural/recreational: to provide areas for painting and photographing the natural habitat; to promote more active instead of passive outdoor recreation.

The center building would be chiefly an information center for visitors to the nature center grounds. It would contain study exhibits, brochures, and pamphlets of natural flora and fauna, especially those that may be seen around the Boomer Lake area. A meeting room, work room (for displays), and rest rooms are necessary. Perhaps the bicycle concession for the north end of the Greenbelt would also be located here. An area of 2000 ft. (exclusive of a bicycle concession) would be sufficient. Again, although a building plan should be considered, site development of the nature center as a whole is more important. Preservation of the present property should be a prime consideration (vegetation, topography etc.); access roads, building location, and trails should be planned with this in mind.

Presentation is to be on 20 x 30 illustration boards; media and use of color is left up to your individual discretion. This will be a weekend problem, with actual work to begin Friday evening, November 13, and to end Sunday evening, November 15. Judging will be by a jury (to be announced). There will be a \$50.00 prize for the winner. This prize is made possible by a generous donation from the Swan Rubber Company.

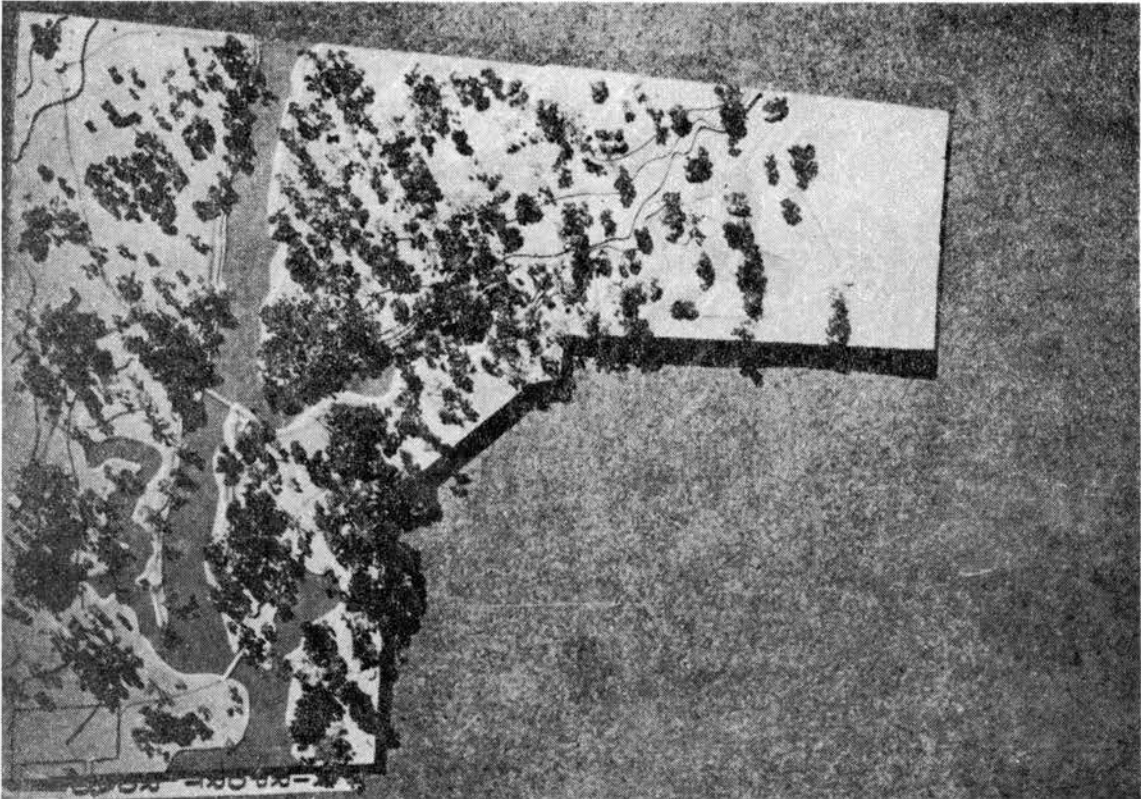


Figure E1. First Place Winner in Greenbelt Competition

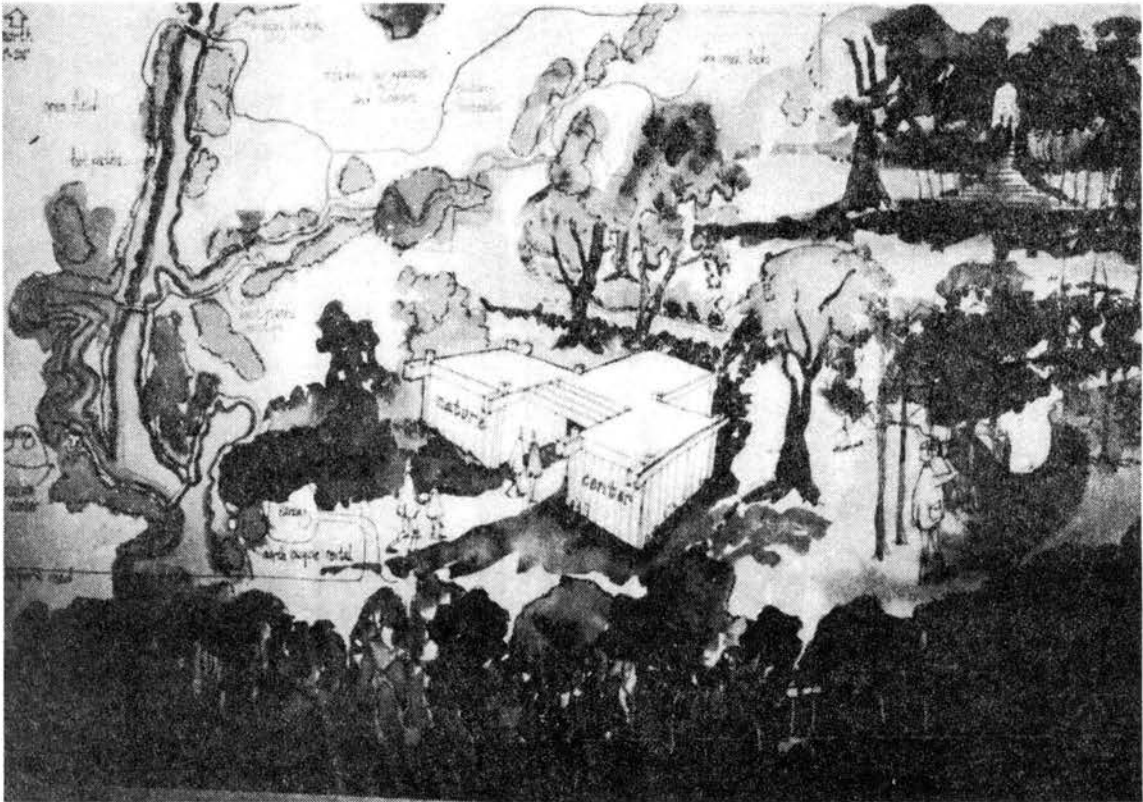


Figure E2. Second Place Winner in Greenbelt Competition

VITA

Gayle Nixon Robinson

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: CITIZEN INITIATIVE IN GREENBELT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FOR
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA

Major Field: Housing and Interior Design

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, November 19, 1937, the daughter of Clifford B. and Roxie Garrison Nixon. Married to Robert L. Robinson, Jr. in Muskogee, Oklahoma, May 31, 1958.

Education: Graduated from Muskogee Central High School, Muskogee, Oklahoma, in May, 1955; attended Oklahoma State University and University of Tulsa; received Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Tulsa in 1965; completed requirements for the Master of Science degree at Oklahoma State University in May, 1972.