

Conservationists Ask Demers To Establish Nature Center

CHICOPEE — The Chicopee Conservation Commission will ask Mayor Demers to establish a Chicopee outdoor educational nature center on 42 acres of city owned land, it was reported by Commission Chairman Lawrence Briere.

Named Buena Vista

The area, known as Buena Vista, is located off Slate Road and is bordered by the Massachusetts Turnpike, Westover Field, Slate Road, Chicopee State Park and the Bardzik property, according to Briere.

The area would be similar to the area established by Mayor Demers adjacent to the state boat landing on the Connecticut River, and which

is kept in its natural state for nature lovers.

Briere said his commission has been studying the needs for more than five months and that the Slate Road area would prove an excellent spot as it abounds with natural beauty and is already owned by the city.

Growing Rapidly

He said that Chicopee is growing at such a rapid pace, it is important natural land be set aside before none exists.

Chicopee, with its parks, watersheds, and recreation areas, appears in solid shape recreationwise, but there are few areas for those persons who aren't part of the "organized sweating group," Briere said.

"There must be areas for solitary pursuits and family oriented activities," he said.

Many desire places where they can learn something about the natural world in which they live, where through better appreciation

and sharper sensibilities they can learn how to lead richer, fuller lives.

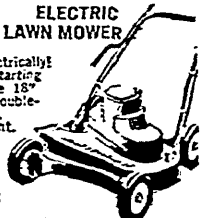
Many want wholesome, untrampled places near at home where they can learn about wildlife, trees, wildflowers and rocks; where they can see and hear and feel wild things for themselves," Briere said.

Mayor Demers has been studying the three-page report of the commission and its recommendations.



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