

# Nature Trail First Project For Buena Vista Preserve

CHICOPEE — Ambitious plans for the development of a nature study area at Buena Vista, a 42-acre city-owned tract near Slate Road, were revealed Friday by Leslie A. Fournier, chairman of the Chicopee Conservation Commission.

## Extended Area

He outlined plans in the wake of aldermanic approval of Mayor Demers' recommendation to transfer jurisdiction of the land to the commission.

"The tract is ideally suited for nature study and conservation because it is an extension of hundreds of acres of 'green area' in the state park, municipal golf course and Oregon Sportsmen's Club land," declared Fournier.

"This area runs along the east boundary of Westover Air Force Base, from Chicopee well into the town of Ludlow," he said.

The first project, Fournier said, will be the development of a nature trail from the comparatively small 42-acre tract into the state park. Permission will be sought from the state Department of Natural Resources to make use of its land for this purpose.

## Signs to Be Put Up

The trail will be marked with signs indicating various

species of trees, shrubs and plants, as well as areas where certain birds and animals may be seen at times.

He said several Boy Scouts already have volunteered to assist the commission in laying out the trail and erecting signs. A minimum of tree cutting will be done in order to keep the trail in as natural a state as possible.

Work will begin in the spring, with a June target date for completion, he said.

Eventually, Fournier said the commission hopes to sponsor a monthly program, probably on a Sunday afternoon, when naturalists, bird experts and others in the outdoor field will be invited to conduct public tours.

## Much Interest

"I feel this program — a first for Chicopee — would attract many persons, both young and old, for the commission has found there are many in the city vitally interested in the natural world around them," he declared.

He said the area is attractive and convenient in its location near Slate Road and Sheridan Street, but the soil is sandy and supports scrub pine and other poor vegetation.

As part of the nature preserve development, Fournier said, the commission

intends to plant as many varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers as it can muster.

## 3 Variance Petitions Granted

CHICOPEE — Three petitions for variances from the zoning ordinance were approved by the Board of Appeals.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Harrison of 45 Blanan Dr. were given permission to build a family room and attached garage, notwithstanding the side yard distance regulation.

Albert Mileskie of 13 Tulsa St., Springfield, was granted approval to construct a one-family home at 25 Quebec St., notwithstanding the side yard rule.

Gerald Hamelin of 165 College St. was allowed to 200 College St. which is zoned Residence A and restricted to one family dwellings.

Approval was given by Mrs. Patricia Urdzela, chairman; Mrs. Dorothy Mruk, John Pappas, Edward Gura and Mrs. Vera Lafluer.

Westfield