

Natural Resources Survey Under Way

CHICOPEE — The Soil Conservation Commission is engaged in a survey of natural resources with the Soil Conservation Service representatives of the state Department of Natural Resources, it was reported Saturday by Leslie A. Fournier, chairman of the municipal commission.

He said the year-long survey is about half finished and will be completed with formal recommendations being made by the DMR in May or June.

Survey teams under the supervision of Vernon E. Johnson of Hadley have completed the study of 92 sites thus far, Fournier said, according to an informal report made recently by Johnson to the commission.

Fournier explained the study is aimed not only at making an inventory of local natural resources, but is intended to provide guidelines to serve for land use. The latter includes use

for recreation, nature study, bird and wildlife preserves and areas for hunting and snowmobiles.

Fournier said the commission signified 17 sites it favored for study. Chief among these were the Bemis Pond area in Szot Park, Buena Vista tract near Slate Road and Westover Air Force Base, Atwater Park near the Springfield city line, Coburn Pond in Willimansett, the Meadows District, adjacent to the city's waste water treatment plant and the 17-acre site of former Westover land abandoned by the federal government in the Jones Street area and expected to be acquired by the city from the Division of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoors to be used as a park.

Fournier indicated the commission was pleased with the progress of the study thus far and "much interest exists in what the final formal report will show," he added.