

At the present time Loantaka Brook Reservation contains 556 acres of land, of which approximately 40 acres is adjacent to the proposed wilderness area and on which, in 1963, the Morris County Park Commission constructed a nature education center.

The program at this center is devoted entirely toward an ecological understanding and appreciation of the values of the Great Swamp wilderness area. During this past year, 5,000 children, through a coordinated school program, had the opportunity of participating in this experience. In addition, there have been many thousands of adults who have visited the center to learn and explore the values of this unique area.

To the immediate north of the wilderness area, the Morris County Park Commission maintains and has developed the remaining portion of the Loantaka Brook Reservation, which follows the course of the Loantaka Brook, one of the major waterways of the swamp. This reservation acts to preserve the quality of the brook as it feeds into the Great Swamp and further acts as an open-space buffer against urban development pressures. It provides public recreational facilities such as horseback riding, walking trails, and limited picnic and day camp areas.

It is most important to emphasize the outstanding cooperation which has existed over this period of time between citizens, county, and Federal officials on this project. For example, 200 acres of this land, representing now a value of over \$500,000, was donated to the park commission by private individuals. The Morris County Park Commission believes that the cooperation between citizens' organizations and other municipal, county, and State organizations removes the danger of erosion from such a small wilderness area.

On behalf of the Morris County Park Commission, we urge the favorable approval of S. 3379 by your committee as a national showcase to demonstrate the wilderness values in the eastern United States. We believe that only in acquainting urban and suburban population with these values can the national wilderness system be preserved, have meaning, strength, and protection.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHURCH. Thank you very much, Mr. Myers, for your testimony.

Senator Jordan, do you have any questions?

Senator JORDAN. Only one. Who would be prepared to tell us why the rest of the wildlife refuge was not included in this wilderness designation?

Senator CHURCH. Is there someone here with an answer to that question?

Mr. GOTTSCHALK. I am John Gottschalk.

Senator JORDAN. You will be testifying later?

Mr. GOTTSCHALK. Yes, sir.

Senator CHURCH. We will wait until then for the questions in that case.

Senator Hansen, do you have any questions?

Senator HANSEN. No, sir.

Senator CHURCH. Then let's ask Mr. Stowell to proceed with his testimony.