

Klein Proposes Wider Open Spaces

By Jim Klurfeld

Hauppauge—Suffolk County Executive Klein has recommended that the county double its parkland by acquiring more than 10,000 acres of open space within the next two years.

The acquisition proposals, made in Klein's first annual message Monday, range from 600-acres at Fort Hero on Montauk Point to a 150-acre greenbelt in Wyandanch. Also included are a 1,500-acre greenbelt along the Sag Harbor-Bridgeton Turnpike, 2,000 acres of open space on Shelter Island, the Boy Scouts' 450-acre Camp Wauwepex in Wading River and the 350-acre Carman's River Preserve in Middle Island.

Klein said he had no estimate of the cost of the acquisitions, but said he would have that and a pri-

ority list when he submits his first capital program to the county legislature May 1. "What I hope we have here is all the parkland acquisition that will be needed by residents of the county by 1985," Klein said. "I'm sure other acquisitions will come up and, if they do, we are not saying we won't act to acquire if we feel that is desirable."

Suffolk Planning Director Lee E. Koppelman agreed with Klein. "My office worked with John on these proposals and we think they will go a long way toward meeting the county's open space needs and are in accord with the bicounty comprehensive plan," he said. Klein worked closely with former Suffolk Executive H. Lee Dennison in gaining acceptance of the county's parkland program.

Peter Walkodoff, head of the Long Island chapter

of Nature Conservancy, Inc., a group dedicated to open space preservation, praised Klein's proposals. "We support the concept," he said. "If this type of thing isn't done, Long Island will be turned into one great expressway."

These are some of the major acquisitions recommended by Klein:

● Fort Hero—About 600 acres on the tip of Montauk Point just south of Montauk Point State Park. It is now owned by the government and used as an Army base but Suffolk's chief planner, Arthur Kunz, said the land may be declared surplus and turned into a park.

● Curtis-Wright—About 60-acres on Block Island Sound just north of Hither Hills State Park. Kunz said the area consists of bluffs now, but that the Curtis-Wright Corp. might level the bluff for a housing development. Local residents have opposed those plans.