



MARYLAND STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

100 Equitable Building
Baltimore 2, Maryland

E. DALE ADKINS, JR.
GEORGE M. ANDERSON
ROBERT O. BONNELL
JOHN B. FUNK
LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN
JAMES J. O'DONNELL
ALVIN THALHEIMER
RICHARD C. ZANTZINGER
JOSEPH MEYERHOFF
Chairman

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THEODORE R. MCKELDIN
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

August 1, 1958

I. ALVIN PASAREW
Director

Dear Governor McKeldin:

I am very pleased to transmit herewith a report, entitled *Study for a Proposed Gunpowder River Valley Park System*, prepared by the Allen Organization, nationally-known consultants in park and recreation planning.

This report, undertaken in behalf of the State Planning Commission and the Commission and Department of Forests and Parks, is in compliance with your letter of April 7, 1958 requesting a study assessing the potentialities of the Gunpowder River areas for public park purposes.

As a result of its survey, the Allen Organization finds that additional public parks are required to meet the demands of the rapidly growing population in the Baltimore Metropolitan region and that the Gunpowder River valleys offer by far the most attractive opportunity for the establishment of new parks in the area. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Gunpowder area be developed as a system of stream valley parks under the administration of the State Department of Forests and Parks, with Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll and Harford counties participating to the maximum possible extent.

After a thorough review, our Commission believes that the report of the consultants offers a well-planned program for the development of a Gunpowder River Valley Park System and concurs in the view that this should be a State responsibility. The Commission and Department of Forests and Parks similarly endorse the general recommendations of the report and would regard the proposed parks as admirable additions to the State's over-all system of parks.

The Department of Forests and Parks assures us that it will give this report further immediate study, and it is hoped that provision for the initial acquisition of land will be included in the 1960 fiscal year capital funds requested by the Department. To further implement the recommendations for a Gunpowder River Valley Park System, the Commission suggests that you consider the appointment of a citizens' advisory committee for the proposed Gunpowder park system at the earliest possible time, similar to that which so ably assisted in the development of the Patapsco State Park.

We concur in the view of the consultants that the development of the proposed park cannot long be delayed. The people of Maryland, we feel certain, will be deeply grateful to you for your foresight in bringing this important project to public attention for prompt action.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH MEYERHOFF
Chairman