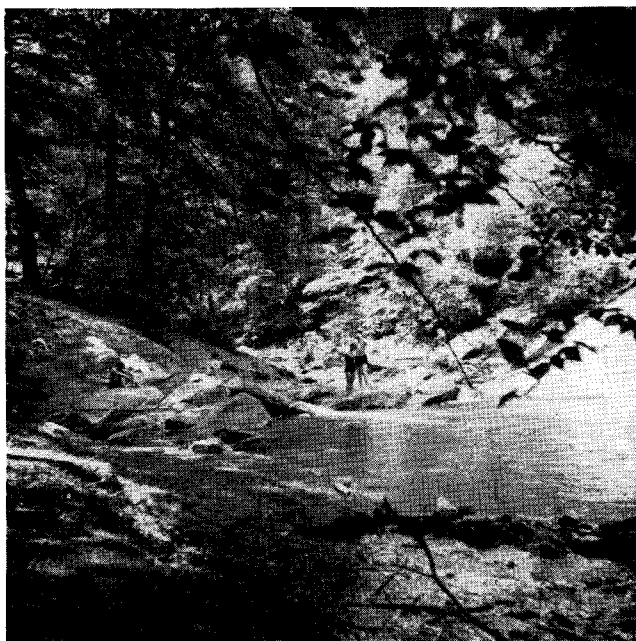


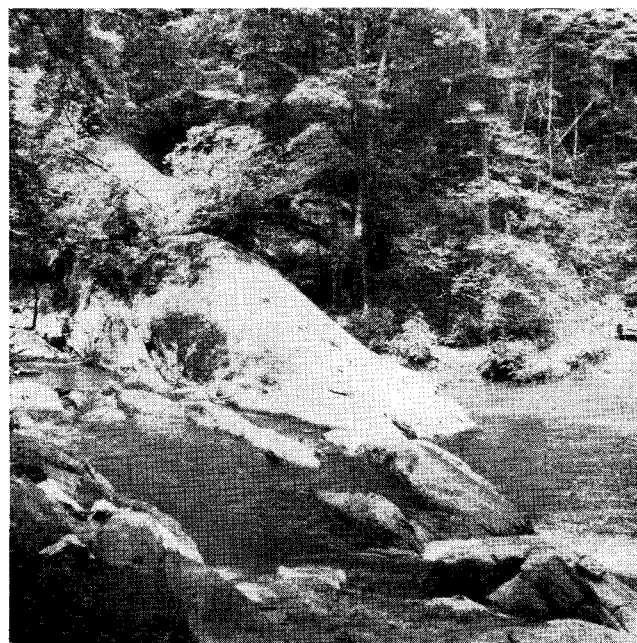
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present to the people of Maryland the results of our study of the Gunpowder River valleys with respect to the possibility of utilizing these areas for park and recreational purposes. The objective of our study, as more specifically defined in our instructions, was to determine:

1. The suitability of all or part of these river valleys for public park and recreational uses, taking into account such matters as accessibility, the relationship of the areas to population centers, the present and projected future population of the Baltimore region, possible types of recreational uses, and the topography and natural and cultural features of the valleys, including an evaluation of the possibilities for more intensive recreational use of the water supply reservoir reservations now existing in the Big Gunpowder River valley.
2. If, under item 1, the valleys are found to be suitable for a public park, then under what jurisdiction (State or local) should the land be acquired, developed, and managed. (This item will involve some determination of the policies which should guide the planning and development of a State versus a local



Swimming Pool in Long Green Creek



Long Green Creek

park system in order to determine the relationship of the proposed park to such a system.)

If a determination is made that the area should, in fact, be developed as a part of the State park system then:

3. The amount and extent of land to be acquired, indicating approximate taking lines of property involved.
4. Estimated cost of land acquisition and development.

The Gunpowder may well be called the "forgotten river" insofar as present development is concerned. The question arises, how could an unpolluted river with adjacent lands possessing such excellent potentialities for park development be so neglected in the face of the population expansion which now characterizes this great metropolitan area? There have been a number of local citizens who have long realized its importance in the total park program for the State and who have worked diligently to focus attention on its merits. Their enthusiasm and foresight is partially responsible for this study. However, the initiation of the study must be credited to Governor McKeldin, long an advocate of a broad park program for the State. The Governor's letter to Joseph Meyerhoff, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, requesting the study follows: