

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Findings and Conclusions

1. Additional State parks are needed in Maryland.
2. Because almost sixty percent of the State's population live in the Baltimore Metropolitan region, a substantial portion of these additional State parks should be located in this area.
3. Presently available park and recreation lands in the Baltimore Metropolitan area amount to 25,000 acres, or a deficiency of 16,000 acres.
4. On the basis of the projected population for the region, there will be a deficiency of about 36,000 acres by 1980, if additional acreage for park use is not acquired.
5. The occupancy for residential purposes of farm and other open land in the outlying areas is proceeding at so rapid a rate that if land for the additional parks is not acquired soon, suitable acreage will not be available, except at a prohibitive cost.
6. Modern patterns of living and leisure-time pursuits further suggest the need for parks with a natural, wilderness-type environment that offer a wide variety of outdoor activities, such as, fishing, swimming, boating, riding, camping, hiking, and picnicking.
7. The stream valleys of the nearby counties are the areas most suitable for such parks.
8. The valleys of the Gunpowder and Little Gunpowder rivers are by far the most satisfactory areas in the Baltimore region for the development of extensive natural parks. In this respect, few, if any, metropolitan areas in the United States with a population in the neighborhood of two million people are so fortunate in having within a relatively short distance a system of unpolluted rivers, streams and lakes in an extensive unspoiled natural setting such as that offered by the Gunpowder rivers.
9. Large parts of the two Gunpowder river valleys are already being used extensively for informal outdoor activities, such as, fishing, swimming, hiking, and picnicking.
10. The Loch Raven and Prettyboy reservoirs of the City of Baltimore, which are now providing extensive fishing and other recreational opportunities for large numbers of people, are a logical part of any park system developed on the Gunpowder rivers and their recreational uses can be greatly expanded.
11. Not all portions of the Gunpowder river valleys are equally suitable for park purposes. The less suitable areas are the sections from Phoenix to Big Falls Road on the Gunpowder, from Pleasantville Road to Green Road on the Little Gunpowder, and the area east of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on both rivers, except for the Days Mount farm area. These sections contain extensive railroad lines and producing farm, commercial and residential properties which detract from a park environment or are expensive properties which should not be withdrawn from the tax rolls.
12. A park system embracing those portions most suitable for park purposes of both valleys, requires acquisition of about 11,600 acres of land, and the total park system envisaged for the region, including the public water supply reservoirs of the City of Baltimore, would amount to 27,710 acres.
13. Both rivers are crossed by numerous public roads which provide ready access to most sections of these valleys.
14. Much of the land in these valleys is presently unsuitable for economic development, and therefore relatively inexpensive.
15. The magnitude of the proposed park, the widespread area which it will serve and the proposed type of usage clearly indicate that it logically belongs in the State park system.
16. Acquiring the lands proposed for inclusion in the park system will cost an estimated \$3,483,000.

Recommendations

1. Approximately 11,000 to 12,000 acres of land should be acquired on the Gunpowder and Little Gunpowder rivers for the development of an extensive system of park areas, extending from tide-water to Carroll County on the Gunpowder, and from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to the Jarrettsville Road along both the Baltimore County and Harford County side of the Little Gunpowder River.
2. The proposed system of stream valley parks should be developed under the administration of the State Department of Forests and Parks, with the recreation departments of Baltimore City and Baltimore County, and the governments of Carroll and Har-