

SECTION I

THE PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE NEED FOR PARKS IN THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN REGION

Population Growth

The Baltimore Metropolitan region, consisting of Baltimore City and the four surrounding counties of Harford, Baltimore, Howard and Anne Arundel, contains 1,805 square miles. This is only slightly more than 20% of the 9,887 square miles of land in the entire State of Maryland. Yet within this metropolitan region there were in 1957, 1,700,000 people, or almost 59% of the 2,900,000 total population of the State. The majority of these metropolitan residents live within 15 miles of the center of the City. However, only 980,000 people live within the corporate boundaries of the City, 443,000 live in Baltimore County, 180,000 in Anne Arundel County, 71,000 in Harford County and 33,000 in Howard County.

The significance of this population distribution is brought into better focus, if it is compared with similar figures for an earlier date, e.g., 1930. At this time the City already had 804,000 people, but Baltimore County had only 125,000, Anne Arundel 55,000, Harford 32,000 and Howard a mere 16,000. These figures clearly illustrate the explosive nature of the outward expansion of population in the Baltimore region. Of even greater import, however, is the population distribution predicted for the future. Recent studies of the Baltimore Regional Planning Council indicate that for the region as a whole, population will increase to about 2,600,000 by 1980 and 4,000,000 by the year 2000, but that the City proper in 1980 will have only 1,200,000 and probably will never have more than about 1,300,000 at its ultimate density.

Existing Parks in the Baltimore Area

Baltimore City now owns about 5,770 acres of public parks and playgrounds. Of these, 5,200 acres are within its boundaries, and provide just slightly more than one-half acre of recreational land per hundred City residents. However, Baltimore County now operates about 2,700 acres of school and playgrounds, and athletic fields. On a regional basis, therefore, the existing municipal and county-owned parks and playgrounds represent about 0.5 acres per hundred persons.

With the exception of Graham Park, a 120-acre parcel acquired by the City several years ago, and the Lake Roland area, there have been no significant additions to the public park system of Baltimore since Leakin Park was acquired a couple of decades ago. This park, together with Herring Run Park, acquired in the 1920's, added something over 1,000 acres to the City's park system, but still only provided at that time about 0.4 acres of park per hundred persons.

While there have been no major additions, other than neighborhood schools and playgrounds, to municipal or county parks in the Baltimore region in the last twenty years, several additions to the State park system in this area have provided significant additional recreational facilities. The Sandy Point State Park provides a splendid bayside park and bathing beach of 760 acres within easy access for most of the people of the area. The Patapsco State Park, which is essentially an enlargement of the older Patapsco State Forest Reserve, now contains more than 4,200 acres reaching from tidewater to Liberty Reservoir, and to Sykesville. It will ultimately include several thousand additional acres, if present plans are consummated, but already provides many of the recreational opportuni-

POPULATION, BALTIMORE REGION

	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1957	1980
Baltimore City.....	508,957	558,485	733,826	804,874	859,100	949,708	979,040	1,219,000
Counties:								
Anne Arundel.....	39,620	39,553	43,408	55,167	68,375	117,392	178,200	383,000
Baltimore	90,755	122,349	74,817	124,565	155,825	270,273	442,933	750,000
Harford.....	28,269	27,965	29,291	31,603	35,060	51,782	71,440	140,000
Howard	16,715	16,106	15,826	16,169	17,175	23,119	32,594	69,000
Total in Counties.....	175,359	205,973	163,342	227,504	276,435	462,566	725,167	1,342,000
Total in Region	684,316	764,458	897,168	1,032,378	1,135,535	1,412,274	1,704,207	2,561,000

Annexation—1918