

ties characteristic of a rugged, heavily forested river valley. The Rocks State Park on Deer Creek in Harford County adds another 180 acres. With the addition of these State parks, the total of all lands devoted primarily to recreation in the Baltimore region amounts today to about 13,000 acres, or about 0.76 acres per hundred persons.

In addition to the foregoing, six public water supply storage reservoirs, with their surrounding publicly-owned lands, are located in the Baltimore region. These are Loch Raven, 7,900 acres, and Prettyboy, 7,400 acres, on the Gunpowder River; Liberty, 9,200 acres, on the Patapsco; Atkisson, 350 acres in Harford County; and Triadelphia, 1,650 acres, and Rocky Gorge, 1,620 acres on the Patuxent River.

Although these reservoirs were constructed primarily for the purpose of providing a safe and dependable public water supply, they and their surrounding lands possess great potentialities for public recreation also, as is elsewhere discussed in this report. However, the use of these areas and water surfaces for recreation is today restricted largely to fishing, although limited picnicking facilities, some bridle trails, a golf course and a skeet shooting area are also provided in a few selected areas. Furthermore, the Patuxent reservoirs serve both Baltimore and Washington populations in this respect, and only half their areas should therefore be allocated to the Baltimore region. In view of these restrictions, the areas in spite of their great potentialities should therefore be discounted to a considerable degree when including them in the total of park and recreation areas currently available to the public in the Baltimore region.

Assuming, however, that the recreational potentialities of the water supply reservoir areas could be fully developed to the extent permitted without interfering with the major purpose for which they were built, the total of all public park and recreation areas in the Baltimore region would then amount to about 39,000 acres, or about 2.3 acres per 100 people. As discussed later in the section on reservoirs, however, there is reason to question whether sanitary requirements plus public attitudes would ever permit full realization of their recreational potentials. Furthermore, draw-down of the water surfaces during drought periods would reduce substantially the utility of these areas for recreation and this must be recognized in evaluating these areas for park purposes. Under such circumstances, it would be the better part of wisdom to discount the full value of the areas for recreation, even after greatly expanding the present usage. An area equivalent to perhaps half their total acreage appears, therefore, to be a reasonable allowance for inclusion in the ultimate total of regional parks. (Even this will require a sub-

stantial increase in the recreational usage of the areas over that now permitted.) Under this assumption, total net effective public park and recreational lands currently available for public recreational development and usage in the Baltimore area would amount to not more than 25,000 acres or about 1.5 acres per 100 present population. On the basis of anticipated 1980 population this figure reduces to just about one acre per hundred people.

Standards for the Provision of Recreational Lands in Metropolitan Areas

Various standards have been proposed from time to time for providing parks and open spaces, but no firmly established formulae or quantitative criteria have as yet received general acceptance. A common standard frequently quoted is one acre of parks per 100 persons, but this standard was proposed several decades ago when urban life and transportation were vastly different from that of today. Then, too, this was applied primarily to the more urban types of parks, and did not cover rural-type parks of a more extensive and natural character.

When the park system of the City of Baltimore was first being developed, the average citizen had little time or opportunity for outdoor recreation. The work-week ranged from 48 to 60 hours extending through six days, and transportation was mainly by streetcar or railroad. Parks were of maximum value only if they were within walking distance or could be reached easily by streetcar. Even so, Baltimore's park system at that time, splendid as it was, provided far less than 1 acre per hundred people. Today, with a work-week of 40 hours or less extending through 5 days, paid vacations, universal use of the private automobile, and a far higher standard of living, there is not only far more leisure time available to most citizens, but the economic means are available to permit most of them to indulge a greatly enhanced appetite for a wide variety of outdoor pursuits not normally possible in urban-type parks. The wide range of activities for which provision should be made in recreation areas today is discussed in detail elsewhere in this report in connection with the discussion of the various uses for which a Gunpowder River Valley Park could be developed. But, with automation and the prospect of a still shorter work-week in the not too distant future, it is evident that not only will additional parks be needed in the Baltimore area because of increasing population, but it would logically appear that a greater proportion of parks in relation to population, as well as a greater variety of park types, will be needed to provide the additional opportunities for recreation required by present and anticipated leisure-time pursuits.

Just how much more park development will be required