

## SECTION II

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PARK AREAS

In the previous section, the need for additional parks in the Baltimore Metropolitan region was established on the basis of present and prospective population considered in relation to existing park facilities. Besides need, there are other important criteria that must be observed in the selection of park areas. These are discussed below.

#### General Consideration—Types of Uses

As indicated above, present day patterns of living, plus personalized transportation, make necessary a drastic revision in the basic concept of public parks and recreational areas. In seeking recreational areas, most people apparently now prefer to get away from an urban environment, and seek areas of a more remote and natural character. Furthermore, preferences are such that it is not sufficient merely to provide open space. The area must have associated with it a stream or other water body, some height of land or over-look, or some similar attraction which provides a focal point for the day's outing, and the general environment must be such as to promote a feeling of completely informal, relaxed, outdoor living. Wooded slopes and groves, rocky stream banks, opportunities for fishing, camping, riding, wading, swimming, and for cooking outdoor meals are sought, and where provided, are heavily patronized. This is well illustrated by the figures on attendance at the several developed centers in the Patapsco State Park, the roadside picnic areas of the State Roads Commission, the picnic areas now available at the several water supply reservoirs of the area, and at Sandy Point Beach, as well as by the number of people who now fish in the City's water supply reservoirs, either from boats or from shore. All of these places are heavily patronized, especially during the warmer months of the year, as shown by the following tabulation. Of special significance is the rapid rate of increase in patronage, at the Patapsco State Park, which these figures reveal.

ATTENDANCE AT STATE PARKS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL AREAS IN THE BALTIMORE REGION

| <i>Park</i>  | 1947    | 1951    | 1952    | 1953      | 1954      | 1955      | 1956      | 1957      |
|--|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Elk Neck .....   | 7,440   | 31,000  | 28,000  | 102,000   | 172,000   | 83,000    | 186,000   | 380,000   |
| Rocks (Deer Creek) .....   |         |         |         | 55,000    | 61,000    | 53,000    | 61,000    | 46,000    |
| Sandy Point .....  |         |         | 58,000  | 144,000   | 280,000   | 296,000   | 289,000   | 309,000   |
| Patapsco .....   | 297,000 | 528,000 | 596,000 | 1,014,000 | 1,213,000 | 1,190,000 | 1,930,000 | 2,320,000 |
| Washington Suburban Sanitary<br>Commission Picnic Areas at<br>Reservoirs ..... |         |         |         |           |           |           |           | 100,000   |
| Washington Suburban Sanitary<br>Commission Fishing Permits....                 |         |         |         |           |           |           |           | 100,000   |

### Esthetic Considerations

In addition to the general consideration and natural characteristics discussed above, it is desirable, when possible, to avoid areas in which the presence of railroads, operating quarries or other enterprises detract from the full enjoyment of the area.

### Economic Considerations

Areas now devoted to industrial, commercial, or farming activities will, in general, usually prove too expensive to acquire for park purposes. In some instances, however, the activity may be of such a nature as to detract seriously from an otherwise acceptable park area, and it may be necessary to acquire the property in such a case to insure preservation of the esthetic qualities desired. Beyond this, it is undesirable for public policy reasons to withdraw from the tax rolls producing industries, or to take lands now efficiently serving a public need, such as a privately-owned recreational facility. Also, areas of concentrated development, such as villages, must be by-passed.

### Accessibility

Ready access to the area is a necessity and the presence or absence of adequate public roads at reasonably frequent intervals, or the possibility of constructing service roads or trails, at a reasonable cost, are necessary considerations in the selection of a park area.

### Water Quality

In the consideration of park areas associated with streams or other water bodies, the presence or absence of pollution, or the threat of future pollution must be considered. This becomes all the more important if fishing or bathing are included in the possible uses for which the park is being developed.