



**Little Gunpowder—Harford County  
West of Belair Road  
Key No. 13**

Branch area, the valley opens up again, with extensive farming of the river bottom lands, but by the time the Pleasantville Road is reached, the valley has become deeper and the side slopes are steeper and heavily wooded, but wide meadow bottoms, such as the one at the Belair Road, offer excellent sites for picnic and other daytime uses. The river generally flows through and over rugged rocky reaches which increase as tidewater is reached, until, like the main Gunpowder, the river tumbles down a last turbulent reach in a rush to join tidewater at the Pulaski Highway. From there it flows quietly for about a mile and a half through the flat coastal plain to its junction with the main branch.

The Little Gunpowder does not have the width and volume of the main river, the hills are not as high and its waters are often quite muddy, since there are no detention reservoirs to catch silt after heavy rains. Its groves, wooded slopes, rocky pools, quiet reaches and turbulent falls and rapids add up to a river valley of rich possibilities for park and recreation use, however. One of the most outstanding examples of its beauty is found at the Vinegar Hill Road crossing, where the water tumbles down over a massive rock formation to form a delightful pool which is extensively used for bathing. At the Jericho Road crossing, the old wooden bridge, apparently in excellent repair, is another interesting feature which should be preserved as a park attraction.

#### **Developments in the Gunpowder River Valleys**

**Gunpowder River**—The two principal developments in the Gunpowder Valley are, of course, the Loch Raven and Prettyboy water supply reservoirs of the City of

Baltimore. Loch Raven Reservoir, located in the middle reach of the river with its broad water areas in the rolling Dulany Valley section, is about ten miles long and in places, a mile wide. Prettyboy Reservoir, located almost at the upper end of the valley, is about seven miles long. This reservoir, unlike Loch Raven, is located entirely in narrow steep-sided valleys and is nowhere much more than three-eighths of a mile wide. Both reservoirs are beautiful bodies of water, with varied and interesting landscape, much of it heavily wooded, and possessing great potentialities for a variety of recreational pursuits, both on land and water.

Developments other than the reservoirs are located mainly in the middle reach of the river. Had ancient Joppa Town continued as the port of entry and business center for Baltimore County, it is highly likely that the lower Gunpowder River, like the Patapsco River in its relation to Baltimore City, would have been utilized as an artery of traffic. This did not occur, however, and consequently the entire 11-mile stretch from the Pulaski Highway to Loch Raven Dam is almost entirely devoid of developments. Even the ancient mill dams that powered colonial industries near and above old Joppa Town have disappeared. Except for a liquor warehouse at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and a few small commercial establishments at road crossings, the lower valley remains today much as it was when first discovered. West of Harford Road, on the south side, an operating quarry, and beyond this the grounds of the Maryland Training School for Boys, must be by-passed. The Gunpowder Rifle Range is located above the Notch Cliff Road, north of the river, but this reservation fits into the park concept, rather than interferes with it.



**Little Gunpowder—Harford County  
Jerusalem Road  
Key No. 11**