

SECTION V

RECREATIONAL USES OF EXISTING RESERVOIR AREAS AS PART OF A GUNPOWDER PARK DEVELOPMENT

Public water supply reservoirs have as their primary purpose the storage of water to insure an adequate and safe supply in time of drought. Because these waters are intended for domestic consumption, they must be protected against pollution by the imposition of certain sanitary restrictions affecting both the use of the water surfaces and the land surrounding them. Yet many such reservoirs and their enclosing reservations possess great recreational potentialities, which should, whenever possible, be made available to the public.

The two reservoirs on the Gunpowder River are no exceptions. Situated as they are in magnificent settings of varied topography and forest cover, and with miles of splendid shore line varying from steep rocky cliffs to long shelving slopes, these lakes and their surrounding lands could, under proper controls, provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for a large number of people.

Practices in the use of reservoirs for recreation vary in different parts of the country. In Illinois, for example, many municipalities permit swimming and many other recreational pursuits on their reservoirs. Springfield per-



No Trespassing—Prettyboy Reservoir Area
Key No. 8



Boat Docks on Prettyboy Reservoir
Key No. 8

mits practically unlimited recreational activities including swimming, motorboating, sailing, iceboating, ice skating and private cottage developments. The Illinois State Department of Health reports that, with proper controls, no detrimental effects on water quality or public health have resulted from such uses. In other areas of the country, practically no recreational use of reservoirs is allowed. Opinion among sanitary engineers and public health personnel regarding the degree to which such uses are permissible has not yet become consolidated, but as experience is gained and public attitudes change, there is a growing tendency to become more liberal in the approach to this problem.

The City of Baltimore is cognizant of the recreational value of its water supply reservoirs areas, and over the years has gradually been expanding the opportunities accorded the public for the enjoyment of these resources. To aid and advise it in this program, it has established a committee of public officials and interested citizens of the area, which includes representatives from the Commission on State Forests and Parks, both the City and County Departments of Recreation, the City's Bureaus of Water Supply and Sewers, the City Solicitor's Office, the State Department of Health, the Game and Inland Fish Commission, the City Department of Public Works, and the Commissioners of Carroll County.