

Within recent years, certain recreational activities have been introduced at both Loch Raven and Prettyboy reservoirs. At Loch Raven, fishing from rowboats is permitted under jurisdiction of the League of Maryland Sportsmen. The League sponsors a boat rental service. In the last year, fishing along the banks has been allowed. Picnicking in prescribed areas is permitted, with a total of approximately 175 tables being provided. These areas are being enlarged each year. The League also operates a skeet range and maintains a clubhouse on the reservoir lands. The public may use these facilities. The City's Bureau of Parks is completing a new 18-hole golf course, which will be managed by the Department of Recreation. Horseback riding is permitted, and recently a series of "fire trails" closely following the contours, has been put in, which will also serve as riding trails. Hiking is encouraged. No fires of any kind are permitted in the area because of the fire hazard.

At Prettyboy Reservoir, fishing is permitted from boats and from the banks. Boat slips are provided for privately owned boats, and a dockage fee is charged. Deer hunting with bow and arrow is permitted at Prettyboy during the deer season only in a restricted area and hunters must register with the Game and Inland Fish Commission. Picnic tables (approximately 50) are scattered around in the Prettyboy area. Again, no fires of any kind are permitted.

Recreational use of water supply reservoirs was recently made the subject of a meeting of interested State and local public officials of the Baltimore region, called together by the Baltimore Regional Planning Council in connection with its study of future land uses in this area. The consensus at this meeting was that "with certain exceptions and within certain limits, there was little reason on sanitary grounds for restricting use of water supply reservoirs for recreation, when, as in the case of Baltimore City, full treatment of the water is provided before consumption. There appeared to be reason to fear public reaction to some uses, however, unless the public were fully informed on the safeguards provided, but beyond this, the principal deterrent to the recreational use of these facilities appeared to stem more from difficulties of a legal, financial or an administrative nature."

The group expressed the feeling, however, that motor-

boats should not be allowed, both because of oil pollution and for safety reasons, as well as because they would detract from fishing and the quiet enjoyment of the superior esthetic values offered by these lakes. They also considered it entirely inappropriate to permit private cottages to be erected on the lake shores, and questioned whether overnight camping should be permitted on the reservoir lands. Beyond these restrictions, however, the general feeling was that "over a period of time, and with careful consideration of all aspects of each problem, existing uses could be greatly expanded and many additional uses might ultimately be permitted, including such things as general use of small boats and canoes, sailboating and ice skating in selected areas, and eventually, on a trial basis at least, swimming.

"The basic problem appears to be one of working out cooperative arrangements between water departments and those other State and local agencies who would be in a position to cooperate in the establishment, management, financing and policing of these other activities. Since some of these uses are already permitted, accomplishment of the ultimate goal appears to be primarily a question of continued cooperation and planning between the various interests involved, but this process should probably be undertaken on a more organized and accelerated basis. There was agreement, nevertheless, that even with maximum safeguards, reservoir areas could never be expected to provide as full a program of recreational uses as would be the case if the reservoirs were not primarily developed for water supply purposes. On this point, one of the most serious deterrents to such full usage, other than sanitary requirements is the fact that these reservoirs are drawn down very substantially in periods of drought, thereby destroying temporarily most of the recreational values they otherwise possess."

Unquestionably, the splendid recreational values of these two reservoirs should be utilized to the fullest extent consistent with the safeguarding of Baltimore's water supply. Accordingly, it is recommended that the officials of the various City, State and County departments concerned undertake to accelerate their present splendid cooperative approach to this problem, to the end that these reservoir areas be made an effective part of the Gunpowder park system herein proposed, to the fullest extent practicable.