

SECTION VI

DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR LAND ACQUISITION FOR A GUNPOWDER RIVER VALLEY PARK SYSTEM

Proposed Areas To Be Included In A Gunpowder River Valley Park

The Gunpowder valleys, in general, are by far the best choice for an addition to the system of natural parks which should be provided for the Baltimore region, and we have no hesitation in recommending that an intensive park be developed in these valleys.

The two Gunpowder rivers, in their entirety, contain some 70 miles of beautiful varied river valley land, with lakes, forests, sylvan glades, rocky defiles, deep pools, turbulent rapids, grassy meadows, clean cool trout streams, rustic bridges and scenic knolls and overlooks. All of it would, in some measure at least, contribute in satisfactory measure to a splendid natural park. Some portions have more to offer than others, however, and since sound judgment and economics demand some limits both on what should be withdrawn from the tax rolls and what should be acquired at public expense for park purposes, a choice is necessary.

Viewed in this light, and taking into account the substantial acreage recommended for inclusion in a Gunpowder park system, we must conclude that the mid-



Gunpowder River
Key No. 4

portion of the main Gunpowder valley, from the upper end of Loch Raven Reservoir at Phoenix, to the Big Falls Road, a distance of about 10 miles, probably should be eliminated from further consideration for park purposes at this time. Were no other lands available, this stretch of river could, without question, serve as a delightful park with many attractive features. However, the railroad, extending throughout the entire length of this section, plus the several village centers, and the various private homes and developments which are located in this stretch of the valley, all detract from the area for park purposes. In addition, it is quite probable that some of the lands in this section would be rather expensive. Even without this section of the valley, the lands recommended herein for acquisition for a Gunpowder River Park involve a substantial acreage. It is accordingly recommended that this section be excluded.

Similarly, in the Little Gunpowder River, we must conclude that the section from Green Road to Pleasantville Road which is now farmed to a considerable degree, does not possess the same attractions for park purposes as do the sections recommended. Since, in addition, it is now contributing to the economic welfare of the State in greater measure than the lands recommended for acquisition, we propose that it not be included in the park system.



Days Mount—Ruins of Old Colonial Home
Key No. 1