

Thus, our recommendation is for a system of unconnected parks along both rivers, which takes advantage of the best features of the two valleys for park purposes and at the same time offers the most economical selection. Along the main branch of the Gunpowder, this system would include a park of a more urban type embracing about 500 acres on tidewater at Days Mount, opposite old Joppa Town; that section of the river from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad up to and including the Loch Raven Reservoir; the section from Big Falls Road up to and including Prettyboy Reservoir; and a short section along the river above the latter reservoir, extending to the property lines of the Valley Ranch at Roller.

On the Little Gunpowder River, we propose the inclusion of the section from Old Philadelphia Road to Pleasantville Road and the section from Green Road to Jarrettsville Road.

The total acreage to be acquired would be about 11,610 and the total acreage of the whole park system, including the existing reservoirs and surrounding lands would amount to 27,710.

As previously indicated, any consideration of a continuous park the entire length of the two stream valleys of the Gunpowder would be unrealistic. This is emphasized by the fact that large portions of the two valleys are not desirable for park purposes, being largely in farm land or meadow, or cut off by highway and railroad. Land now in productive agriculture and in developed country estates



Confluence of Long Green and Gunpowder
Key No. 4



Swimming Hole west of Belair Road
Key No. 4

is economically beyond consideration and at the same time has little park potential. Certain sections which have established industrial and institutional uses must also be bypassed in any sound approach to a park acquisition program.

The nature of the proposed park can be compared to a broken chain with a series of links, extending along the Gunpowder River from its mouth to the Carroll County line and including the areas of Loch Raven and Prettyboy reservoirs, and to the Jarrettsville Road on the Little Gunpowder. Although the river valley park areas are interrupted by sections devoted to other land uses, each park section is easily accessible by existing roads or highways. In some cases, roadside developments which might prove detrimental to a park development are proposed for acquisition. In other cases, present industrial and semi-public uses in critical areas are included on an easement or lease basis with option to acquire at some future time.

Before presenting the proposal for land acquisition, it is necessary to point out that the exact shape and size of each area selected is subject to further study and investigation. It is within the scope of this report to indicate simply approximate areas based upon reconnaissance surveys and map studies. Thus the taking lines are generalized and must be refined later. The total acreage ultimately acquired may therefore be expected to vary somewhat from that recommended herein.