

SECTION VII

ADMINISTRATION OF PROPOSED PARK

The establishment of a public park calls for an effective agency to handle its administration, development, maintenance and program. In the case of the proposed Gunpowder River Valley Park, it is recommended that this be the function of the State Department of Forests and Parks. This decision has been reached because of the following:

1. The financial responsibility for a park of the scope contemplated (11,610 acres) which will serve the residents of an area involving a number of counties in addition to the City of Baltimore, should not be borne by a single local political jurisdiction.
2. The patronage anticipated for the proposed park, as already evidenced by attendance at the Patapsco State Park and the Baltimore City Reservoir areas, will be State-wide with substantial numbers coming from out-of-state.

3. The State Department of Forests and Parks is an existing State agency legally set up for this specific purpose. It has been charged with the responsibility of administering similar areas throughout the State.
4. The Department's jurisdiction in the State of Maryland transcends county and municipal lines.
5. The characteristics of the proposed park and its recreational uses more nearly conform to those usually associated with a state park than to those of a municipal or community park.

While acquisition and general development of the proposed park should be the responsibility of the State, certain areas within the park, especially in the vicinity of the two reservoirs, could well be developed and managed by local agencies. It is, therefore, suggested that as the acquisition and development proceeds, the State, County and City Park and Recreation Departments cooperatively work together toward this end.