

Maryland's needs are clearly visible. Located in the highly urbanized megalopolis which stretches from Boston to Richmond and having a population of 3,800,000 people, the State finds itself not only having to serve its own people, but also citizens from neighboring States. Recent statistics from the Maryland travel and use survey conducted jointly by the Department of Forests and Parks and the Maryland State Planning Department reveal that approximately 50 percent of the Maryland State park users are from out of State.

Approximately 250,000 acres of additional recreation land will be necessary to meet the demands of a projected population of 4,678,000 by 1980. By the year 2000, with a population of 6,070,000, demand will increase to approximately 400,000 acres. These future outdoor recreation needs are clearly outlined in Maryland's statewide comprehensive plan recently approved by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

Most of Maryland's open space and recreation lands are concentrated in the rural regions of the State. Eighty-six percent of the population, on the other hand, is concentrated in the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas.

The problem of acquiring outdoor recreation land in the face of rapidly escalating land costs has been demonstrated to the committee by the Department of Interior. The situation is even more critical at the State and local level. Land in the Washington-Baltimore corridor, which could be purchased for \$750 per acre 5 years ago, now costs the State of Maryland in excess of \$2,200. Land costs throughout Maryland are increasing at a rate of approximately 18 percent annually. Unless immediate action is taken to implement an accelerated land acquisition program, the State will be priced out of the market and the land will be converted to other uses and forever lost.

Since the passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, all levels of government in Maryland—State, local, and municipal—have actively participated in the program. Every effort has been made to encourage use of funds by all political subdivisions.

In Maryland, 36 percent of our total apportionment is retained and utilized by State agencies charged with recreation responsibilities. Fifty-four percent of the apportionment is suballocated to Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City based on a formula including population density, urbanization, and the need for additional recreation land. The remaining 10 percent is reserved in a State contingency fund and is subsequently allocated to projects of critical need.

As of January 1, 1968, Maryland had processed 64 projects totaling \$12 million. Twenty-two of these projects were for land acquisition and totaled \$10,461,000 or 86 percent of the value of all projects submitted. Forty-two were development projects totaling \$1,675,000 or 14 percent. Of the 64 projects, 48 were submitted from the political subdivisions. Thirteen of these were acquisition projects and 35 development projects.

Maryland has, to date, been apportioned \$4,449,000 during the first 5 years of funding. Of this total, \$3,451,000 has been obligated, or approximately 71 percent. Twenty-two county and city projects totaling \$401,461 are currently being processed and will be forwarded to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation during the coming months. Nineteen of these projects are for development and three are for acquisition.