
RECREATION

Like most Americans, Marylanders have found themselves in the 1960's with increased amounts of leisure time. With this development has come an awakened interest in recreation accompanied by a demand for adequate parks and other outdoor recreation facilities. The importance of Maryland as a mecca for tourists and others seeking leisure-time activities is enhanced by the State's proximity to the large urban and industrial centers of the East Coast. This factor has rendered tourism and recreation an important ingredient in the economies of many Maryland communities.

To help meet the demand, Governor Tawes obtained substantially increased appropriations for land acquisition and the development of additional state parks. During his first term, a master plan was prepared to serve as a guide for the future development of recreation facilities throughout the State.

ADDRESS, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON RECREATION AND PARKS BALTIMORE May 1, 1959

Since I became Governor of Maryland only a few months ago, I have received some highly significant reports regarding the use of outdoor recreational facilities in our State.

The Department of Forests and Parks tells me that last year there was a 44 per cent increase over 1957 in the use of Maryland State park and forest facilities. We had, in 1958, 5,744,101 visitors, as compared to a round 4,000,000 visitors the year before—an increase of one and three-quarter million visits. This is encouraging, because it means that our citizens are putting into practice the maxim of the poet Juvenal, who said the wise man would ask of heaven no more than a healthy soul in a healthy body.

Longer vacations, longer weekends—more leisure in general—is the order of the day, and those of us engaged in the service of the public