

must watch this trend carefully in planning our parks and recreation areas for future generations.

The needs of our State Department of Forests and Parks are being recognized. They are based on a master plan which is used as a guide in the acquisition of land for public recreation areas. But there are further needs. I am advised by the experts that the present holdings of the State perhaps should be doubled just to take care of the requirements of the present. Whether this be the case or not, there is no doubt that we are going to be compelled to expand our recreational lands greatly within the next few years.

I am interested in outdoor recreation for a number of reasons, but primarily because of its effect upon our society. We must encourage sound minds in sound bodies if we expect to maintain a healthy society. I am interested in it, too, because of its social and economic potential. Maryland is situated favorably in the middle of our East Coast economic areas. Because of this, it is possible to think that the attractive recreational facilities we are providing may have a chance of paying their own way. We have an excellent highway system now, and we are building more roads each year. This makes it possible for people to reach areas which were not accessible to them in years past. These highways open new areas to tourists, who on their visits to our beautiful and pleasant State spend their money with us, helping our local economy and adding to the income of our citizens.

Our own Maryland people usually spend a couple of dollars in the communities through which they pass, or at the place where they stop on a trip to a forest or park. From all the reliable information, it appears that visitors from out of the State spend much more on gasoline, films, lodging, food and various other purchases made during long tours or travels. Some of them even bring new business to states and communities where they find local living and recreation possibilities to their liking or to the liking of people they might enjoy.

As I stated before, we in the State government acknowledge that with more and longer paid vacations and shorter work weeks, the demands on our facilities for outdoor recreation will continue to grow. I am told that already there has been an enormous increase in family use of the camping facilities in our State parks and forest recreation areas. Last year, according to figures reported to me, 180,176 persons used our camps. Many of our camping areas already are loaded beyond the normal limits during the season because camping