

is a relatively inexpensive way for a whole family to enjoy the pleasures of the outdoors. In traveling through the State, it is not at all unusual to see families camping, with the children helping the parents prepare a meal. This is good family living, and we should do our part to assist any family which chooses to spend its vacation in the out-of-doors.

It was a great pleasure to me, in the preparation of the first budget to the General Assembly, to recommend the appropriation of additional funds for the operation of the State's program of parks and recreation. This additional money will be used for the first stages of land acquisition for sites extending from Assateague Island on the Atlantic Ocean to the mountains of Garrett County. I was pleased that my first budget contained an item to purchase property for the development of a State Park in the magnificent Gunpowder River Valley. Many improvements, I know, are needed to satisfy the public demand, and it is my aim to go as far as we can in providing the funds for the purchase and improvement of park and recreational areas.

It is a source of satisfaction to me to know that Maryland is cooperating with the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, recently created by the Congress, in studying the expanding problems of outdoor recreation which confront every part of the nation. I believe we may expect a great deal from this study, although, to be sure, it will require many years to obtain the data that is needed for the preservation and development of our outdoor recreational resources.

Collaterally, we in the State likewise will be studying and evaluating our own outdoor opportunities. A new agency which we created at the recent session of the General Assembly, the Department of Economic Development, will be expected to make a report on this at the 1960 session of the General Assembly. . . .

I sincerely hope that the meeting will be a pleasant one for all of you, and that you will come away from it with renewed inspiration to continue your good work to improve the quantity and quality of outdoor resources to the spiritual, cultural and physical benefit of all of us.