

cialist in the Department of Forest and Parks. This was done in an attempt to assist the political sub-divisions in establishing recreational areas and programs.

This Administration also appointed a committee charged with the responsibility of studying and preparing a ten-year master plan for the acquisition and development of parks and recreational areas. On the basis of this master plan, ten additional State parks will be developed in the very near future and improvements will be made in all recreation areas. A top-priority recommendation of the master plan is the acquisition of an area on Assateague Island for development as an oceanside State park. While the recent storm impeded progress in this area, plans are now proceeding.

In still another area, this Administration promoted the development of nature trails and nature centers in present areas such as Patapsco. Future development of this kind is scheduled for Gunpowder, Susquehanna, Tuckahoe and Shad Landing. State parks have already been proposed for these locations and we have been given the necessary cooperation by State, county and local groups.

I am vitally interested in all forms of water-based recreation within the State. I have advocated the development of water contact recreation on existing bodies of water and endorsed the impoundments set forth in the aforementioned master plan.

In closing, let me say that, as your Governor, I congratulate each of you here today for the interest you have shown in initiating sound programs for our parks and recreational areas, and for the interest you have displayed in the health and enjoyment of your fellow Marylanders. It is my hope that all of you will come away from this conference inspired and dedicated to the task of improving our recreational resources. Through this work you can play a vital part in the moral, physical and cultural betterment of us all.