

The plan outlines the demand for outdoor recreation facilities in Maryland through 1976 and predicts the requirements for additional facilities needed by the year 2000. Admittedly, this plan is ambitious and considerable effort will be required to carry out its provisions. Nevertheless, it is essential that a comprehensive plan be adopted and followed if the State is to meet the ever-increasing demand for additional outdoor recreational opportunities.

Maryland's land acquisition program has been accelerated and, during 1964, 1,125 acres, representing 46 tracts of land, were purchased for state park purposes. Approximately 110 additional tracts of land are in various states of acquisition. Land acquisition has been proceeding at Assateague Island, Tuckahoe, Point Lookout, Patapsco, Gunpowder, Susquehanna, Seneca, South Mountain, Patuxent, Rocky Gap, Dan's Mountain and Deep Creek Lake and the State has been cooperating with the counties in the purchase of Patuxent River watershed lands. Shad Landing State Park, near Snow Hill, in Worcester County, was opened in June, George Martinak State Park, near Denton, was opened July 1, 1964, and a dam creating a 42-acre lake is nearing completion at Greenbrier State Park in Washington County.

I mention these developments, ladies and gentlemen, simply because I want to impress upon you the fact that the State is aware of its obligations in providing outdoor recreational facilities. It is my hope that future activities at all levels of government can be dovetailed with the plans and programs of private groups for the benefit of all our citizens.

In your work in supervising the operations of the many fine golf courses through the Mid-Atlantic region, you provide a substantial percentage of our people with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation. But, you also do more than that. The wonderfully landscaped golf courses that dot the countryside are the most attractive features that many of our communities have to offer. They are, in a very real sense, a virtual guarantee that present and future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the open green spaces despite the rush of time and progress. The beauty of bent grass not only lures the golfer but inspires the poet and even offers some satisfaction to the duffer. For, in my opinion, on the golf courses that you here today have helped to provide and maintain, no one really labors under a handicap.