

# Recreationists Project Nationwide Plan

## Objective is to Coordinate State, Federal Moves to Make the Outdoors More Accessible

An enormous amount of hard work is going into the distinctly earthy task of ensuring the maximum return for all Americans from their expenditures on land and facilities for outdoor recreation. As humanity has become more and more circumscribed by steel, concrete and glass, human needs for recreation and untouched nature have become not only more obvious but, for some, indeed critical. A person whose life is a series of buildings, sidewalks and vehicles may be a finely honed, efficient tool in his civilized world, but he may not feel that he is fulfilling his humanity.

Many persons of all ages like to engage regularly and frequently in some kind of activity out-of-doors, in pleasing surroundings; but not all persons can. This, along with the need to make optimum use of planning expertise and tax dollars, is one of the concerns of an intensive study going on all over the country and centered in Washington, D.C.

### Goal is Defined

Named simply "The Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan," the study has a simple goal: to present a plan whereby all levels of government—federal, state, and local—move forward together in making the Out-of-Doors World of Recreation more accessible and satisfying to the public.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has been charged with producing such a plan, and has the expertise, organization and talent to do it.

During its 10 year history, the Bureau has become consultant and advisor to federal agencies with outdoor recreation functions and has a partnership with each

of the states and with many local governments in the acquisition and development of recreation areas and facilities. All of these "Friends of BOR" are assisting in the formulation of the nationwide plan.

The Bureau, with cooperation from the many agencies with an interest in outdoor recreation, is assembling a full inventory of publicly owned outdoor recreation areas and facilities, which includes data on their extent, purpose and cost. The best talent in each agency has been assigned to explore such specialized areas as urban recreation, quality recreation resources of the disadvantaged, problems and their possible solutions will be explored in all the subject areas.

### Citizen Involvement

Citizen involvement was sought early in the plan's evolution through a series of forums held in 10 cities across the country. Major themes and critical issues emerging from these forums were then analyzed for inclusion in the plan. Help has also come from citizen conservation organizations and industry groups with a stake in recreation.

State and local recreationists have added their knowledge and recommendations through such organizations as the National Association of State Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officers, the National

Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, and the National Recreation and Park Association. Individual state and local park officials have also contributed.

Two massive data gathering studies are under way,

one personal interview survey to determine the recreation habits and desire of the American public; the other an inventory of federal, state and local recreation areas and facilities collected on a county-by-county basis.

Also, there is a selected inventory of privately managed recreation projects. From all these data, analyses concerning present and future demand-supply and cost/benefit relationships will be made.

Throughout the nationwide plan, each facet of the recreation picture will be treated in the triangular context of resources, institutions and people, and subdivided geographically into central cities, the suburbs and fringe areas, small cities, the countryside, and special recreation resource areas.

### Report Scheduled

When all information has been gleaned from every conceivable source it will be distilled into a comprehensive report, with a release scheduled for the end of 1973.

The report, however, will not be the last word. The plan will be revised every five years to reflect the progress it has engendered, and to assess the needs not yet met.

The plan, though still very much in the works, confirms that the nation's recreation needs are great: its goal is to assure that they are met.

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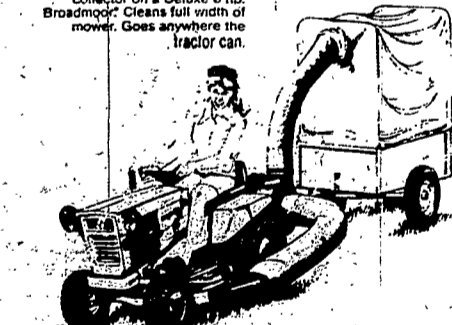
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