

Recreation:

Recreation surveys include estimates of the present and future population of the area served, descriptions of the present use of all recreation facilities by local and outside residents, rating of all recreation facilities—publicly or privately owned—and recommendations for new recreation areas for both the urban and rural population of the watershed.

INITIATION OF A SCHEME

When the report is presented, the Authority must assume responsibility for initiating the schemes which it considers most urgent; it must also make approaches to the government departments or other bodies from which it hopes to get assistance, either financial or otherwise.

If, for example, a scheme undertaken by an Authority has to do with land use, it must seek assistance from the Ontario Department of Agriculture, which maintains Agricultural Representatives in all the counties of Ontario, as well as a large extension service at the Agricultural College at Guelph, including the Soil Advisory Service. If the scheme involves a forestry or wildlife problem, then the department of Lands and Forests, which is similarly organized is asked for assistance. In the case of flood control the Authority must engage a consulting engineer to do the engineering and designing up to the point of calling for tenders and to carry the work through the construction stage. Similarly, where an Authority acquires large Conservation Area which may include parks and recreation, it may be necessary to employ men especially trained in this work to design the park areas.

FINANCING

Three classes of financing are mentioned in The Conservation Authorities Act. The first is for capital expenses such as dams, reservoirs, reforestation land and Conservation Areas. The Authority's share of payment for these must be borne by the member municipalities which benefit from the scheme. The second is maintenance on capital costs and is paid entirely by the Authority in the same way. The third is called "Administration Costs", and includes all those activities which an Authority might be expected to engage in except capital and maintenance costs, such as salaries and travelling expenses, office rent and equipment, tree-planting machines, exhibits, visual equipment, printed matter, farm ponds, the investigation of reforestation lands and other small conservation projects.

Grants are made by the Ontario Government to all types of conservation schemes except maintenance. Grants are a matter of policy and may change from year to year. At the present time grants for flood control schemes costing less than \$5 million are 50 per cent; for large-scale reforestation 50 per cent for land purchases and 100 per cent for management. For Conservation Areas in which parks are situated, the acquisition of flood plain lands and all items included in "Administration Costs", the grants are also 50 per cent.

For flood control schemes which cost \$5 million or more, the Government of Canada, under The Canada Water Conservation Assistance Act, may contribute on the basis of 37½ per cent Canada, 37½ per cent Ontario and 25 per cent Authority. It should be pointed out, however, that the Government of Canada is under no legal obligation to assist the province in such work because, by the terms of The British North America Act, 1867, the control of natural resources was placed under the jurisdiction of the provinces, and consequently grants for Authority work can only be obtained by altruistic persuasion and other methods.