

There must be scope for adequate visitor accommodation, recreation, and the maintenance of a good highway system. The area must lie within reasonable distance from centres of population and be adaptable for road links with existing public highways. Although this has not always been the case, care is now taken to exclude wherever possible, land of commercial value to agriculture, forest operations, mineral development, or hydro-electric potential. Only countries that still have an adequate amount of uncommitted land at their disposal can meet the conditions that all these factors require. Even in Canada, still comparatively land-rich, the choice is narrowing year by year.

Once a new Park area has been established it undergoes a period of intensive study before development begins. Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland is an example. It is the Parks' policy to control the design of buildings and other developments to ensure that new structures complement the natural landscape and do not intrude upon it.

Concessionaries and resort owners are encouraged to use only display signs made from native woods and other harmonizing materials, and high standard in the design of building and direction signs is maintained throughout the parks. The position of buildings is also carefully controlled to harmonize as far as possible with the landscape.

What type of holiday do most Canadians choose when they visit a National Park? Like the majority of vacationers they prefer to have the best of two worlds - the world man lives in today and the world the way it used to be. Highly mobile, in search of a holiday that combines an authentic touch of the wild with water, electric light and plenty of activity, more and more visitors are showing a preference for campgrounds and trailer parks. A limited sampling taken in the summer of 1958 showed that rather more than half the visitors polled expressed a preference for campgrounds, or the type of de luxe trailer park that the Service has built at Banff and Waterton Lakes.

To serve this growing trend toward a holiday of which the nucleus is the family car, well stocked with camping equipment, the National Parks Service is testing a number of small, unserviced camp sites with space for about a dozen tents. The main purpose of this less elaborate type of campground is to relieve the pressure on the fully-serviced areas and provide for those who genuinely enjoy the simple life.

These sites, convenient to highways and water supply, need fewer supervisory services than the larger grounds with their well-equipped kitchen shelters and wash-houses and electric lighting.

The new Tunnel Mountain Trailer Park at Banff, with a 250-trailer capacity, has been designed for those who prefer a less mobile form of vacation on wheels. The Tunnel Mountain Trailer Park and the new trailer development at Waterton Lakes are a far cry from the pitched tent by the mountain stream. Tastefully landscaped with shade trees, hedges, flowers and sidewalks. equipped with ample electrical outlets, the modern trailer park provides for camping de luxe.

To private enterprise the National Parks Service looks for most of the accommodation provided in the form of hotels, lodges, motels, cabins and bungalow camps. Sites for these developments are provided by the Government on long-term leases, subject to the plans of would-be concessionaires being acceptable. Under the terms of the National Parks Act - and indeed under the fundamental concept of the Parks - lands within a National Park cannot be sold.