

WEST VIRGINIA
HISTORIC
NEW DEAL/CCC TRAIL





The West Virginia Historic New Deal / CCC Trail

President Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented the New Deal programs to revitalize the nation's economy during the Great Depression. Recreation and infrastructure projects provided employment opportunities. Begun in 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), commonly called the "Tree Army," focused on reforestation and recreation projects. More than 55,000 West Virginia men were enrolled in the CCC and the state had more than 65 camps. Generally, CCC camps held a complement of 150-200 men housed in Army-style barracks. Enrollees were paid \$30.00/month with \$25.00 sent to the families and \$5.00 for personal use.

The West Virginia Historic New Deal/CCC Trail developed by the State Historic Preservation Office and Preservation Alliance of West Virginia has been financed with a Preserve America grant. The program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program activity or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are based on the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior. All historic sites included in this trail are eligible for or listed in The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). www.wvculture.org/shpo/shpindex.aspx



Monongahela National Forest Overview

The Monongahela National Forest of today was shaped by the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). From 1933 to 1942 the National Forest was home to 22 different CCC camps, including Camps Parsons, Laurel Fork, and Glady Fork.

CCC Camp Parsons, the first CCC camp, was established in the Nursery Bottom area. Enrollees constructed roads, buildings and structures for the experimental forest and nursery and were integral in the planting of trees from 1933 until 1942. The nursery expanded production to 7.5 million trees between 1936 and 1937; making it the largest tree nursery for reforestation in the eastern U.S.

CCC Camp Laurel Fork (www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf) opened in 1933 with 191 enrollees. Work centered on forest fire protection and forest improvement, such as building Middle Mountain Road and tree planting. FR-423 bisects the camp, as it did the original CCC camp. One building from the CCC days remains; originally used as personnel quarters it was converted into a wildlife manager's residence.

CCC Camp Glady Fork was home to CCC Company 524 and CCC Company 566 from 1933 to 1937. After 1937, the campsite, with its numerous wooden barracks and administrative support buildings, was occasionally used as an auxiliary camp by other CCC camps. During its period of occupation the camp was involved with a variety of recreation, construction, fire protection, and conservation projects. After the CCC program ended the US Forest Service sold or demolished the remaining buildings.

REGION 1 | EAST



CCC Camp Parsons: Although no original structures remain, Parsons Nursery Bottom does retain original open fields and roadway patterns; these paved roadways are used by local citizens as walking trails and for bird watching. CCC Camp Laurel Fork is now Laurel Fork Campground and affords visitors a remote camping experience and a base from which to fish, hike, and explore the Monongahela National Forest. CCC Camp Glady is now Lower Glady Dispersed Camping Area, managed by Monongahela National Forest as a rustic camping area with a central restroom facility. Today, the only visible signs of the camp's existence are a scattering of concrete slabs found around the camping area.

Monongahela National Forest Gateway

This imposing monument of stone was constructed in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) using stones gathered from a nearby historic farmstead. Eugene W. Beatty, a CCC project foreman, designed and supervised the construction of the Gateway and other CCC-built stone fountains along Stuart Memorial Drive. The twin columns of hand cut stone are approximately 20-feet high and are set about 30-feet apart. In the 1950's, wooden signs with routed letters covered the original stone carved lettering in an effort to improve motorist readability of the Gateway. In 1992, the wooden signs were removed and the stones cleaned and repaired to their original appearance.



1 USDA Building/Supervisor's Office 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins

Dedicated in 1937, the USDA building symbolized increased importance of the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service in the New Deal era. It housed offices for Civilian Conservation Corps projects and local New Deal programs designed to assist rural farmers and woodsmen. The rectangular, three-story, Neo-Classical designed building is constructed of red brick with stone trim. The original grading and landscaping around the exterior of the building was done with CCC labor. Most notable is the wood-paneled interior reception/entrance area where two original murals by noted WPA artist Stevan Donahos hang opposite one another in the vestibule. (listed NRHP 2006)

2 Stuart Recreation Area www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf

Completed and opened in 1937, Stuart Recreation Area is one of four developed recreation areas built by the CCC. Known locally as "Stuart Park," it became the centerpiece of a large recreation complex built with CCC labor that also included Bickle Knob. Designed by MNF recreation planner H.T. Stoddard, Stuart's landscaping plan called for large open grassy fields, winding wooded trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, rustic picnic shelters with the central swimming area found along the banks of Shaver's Fork. Today, the open fields and the historic CCC-built administrative building along with two CCC-built rustic log picnic shelters continue to draw visitors. (eligible NRHP)

REGION 1 | EAST



3 Camp Horseshoe YMCA / Camp Lead Mine www.hi-y.org/camphorseshoehome.html

In 1933, a temporary tent camp, Camp Lead Mine, was built along Horseshoe Run in Tucker County and occupied by CCC Company 1524 with 221 enrollees. In 1937, the site of the former CCC camp became Horseshoe Forest Camp, a recreational campground and swimming area. Adjacent to this popular recreation spot, the Monongahela National Forest built the Horseshoe Organizational Camp. Opened in 1940, "Camp Horseshoe", as it is locally known, was designed specifically for the use of service organizations to provide recreational and outdoor educational opportunities for children and adults. The camp is operated by the YMCA and has been since its opening. The camp is one of only a handful of New Deal organizational camps ever built in the eastern US. (eligible NRHP)

REGION 2 | SOUTH



4 Camp Caesar www.campcaesar.info

Located in the rolling hills at the edge of the Monongahela National Forest, (beside Gauley River) Camp Caesar has been a home away from home, for many campers since 1922. In the early 1930's, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the cabins and the original portion of the dining hall. Harley and Maude Chenoweth Burton served, and lived with their family, at the camp from 1931 until 1975. As the WVU Extension Agent, he established 40 4-H clubs in Webster County with approximately 600 members. He was dedicated to the camp and its young people. His grave is on-site and the epitaph reads "a dream you dream is soon wafted away, but a dream you live, lives on and on." (NRHP pending)



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Blue Bend Recreation Area

www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf

Constructed in 1936, Blue Bend's rustic log architecture and 26-acre wooded setting along Anthony Creek make it a popular recreation spot. H.T. Stoddard, forest recreation planner, designed Blue Bend to focus on campsite seclusion, the beauty of Anthony Creek's "Blue Hole" swimming area, and use of native building materials. The CCC built camp sites, picnic grounds, a large picnic shelter/administrative building, a small picnic shelter, bathhouses, two suspension bridges, a wooden footbridge, drinking fountains, parking areas, roadways, flagstone pathways and two flagstone beaches. Blue Bend retains its CCC era character and rustic landscape design. (listed NRHP 1994)



Overview of State Parks and State Forests

www.wvstateparks.com

In 1933, the WV Legislature established the Division of State Parks to utilize the CCC, WPA and other Federal programs. The State provided \$75,000 in 1934 to purchase about 30,000 acres of land (about half of the present-day park system) for \$5.00 or less per acre. Most of the land had been ravaged by timbering, forest fires and bad agricultural practices making it prime acreage for reforestation and recreational development. Most state parks and forests were also established as game refuges. Native game such as deer, turkey and grouse had been lost to habitat destruction and over hunting. Early CCC built cabins were very primitive with ice boxes, kerosene lamps and stoves. Many camp buildings were disassembled at the start of WWII and used in the war effort wherever they were needed, but some are still extant in their original locations such as the barracks and recreation building at Watoga State Park, as well as the forest service buildings at Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park. Once the CCC program was terminated in 1942, the state began operating the park system completely from state appropriations.



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Cacapon Resort State Park

www.cacaponresort.com

Cacapon Resort State Park was the first CCC state park to be completed. Camp Morgan was established October 4, 1934 in what is now the main picnic area in the park. The land was devastated by clear-cutting of the timber and by poor agricultural practices of small subsistence farmers during the Great Depression. The men were responsible for the construction of 27 miles of roads and trails within the park, bath house, lake, dam and beach, picnic areas and shelters, stables, supply house, staff residences and rental cabins. The 12-room Old Inn was the first lodge in the WV Park system.

7

Lost River State Park

www.lostriversp.com

On July 1, 1937 the park officially opened. There are 15 cabins in the park constructed by the CCC enrollees of Camp Hardy. The CCC log cabins still retain some original furnishings which include dining room tables, corner cupboards, and chairs with cane seats. Several also still retain their original iron and other light fixtures. Unusual for the rustic cabins, they include indoor plumbing and bathrooms. In 1935, the fire tower was rebuilt. The superintendent's residence and fifteen cabins were completed by 1937. By 1940 a restaurant, swimming pool, riding stables and picnic shelters were completed. The Lee Cabin rehabilitation was also completed by 1940 and by 1942 the swimming pool bathhouse was finished.

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Kumbrabow State Forest

www.kumbrabow.com

Two CCC camps worked in Kumbrabow State Forest. Established in 1935, Camp Bowers, at the head of Mill Creek, was located at 3,939 foot, the highest elevation of any in the state. Camp Bower's site is identifiable and is marked with a commemorative sign. Tents located here housed about 200 men. The enrollees were responsible for the majority of the work including roadways, culvert heads, bridges, trails, two picnic shelters, Cabins 1-5, dam, amenities such as fireplaces, the Superintendent's Residence and the campground. Camp Randolph was on the present site of Stuart Recreation Area. Camp Randolph was integrated with 189 white and 14 African-American enrollees.



9 Cabwaylingo State Forest www.cabwaylingo.com

The construction of the resources and infrastructure in Cabwaylingo were completed in 1935-38. Henry Stamper was a stone mason and medic in Camp Anthony Wayne. His work is identified by the diamond-shaped cut stones as well as the stone cartouche of a pine tree inscribed in the Long Branch Picnic Shelters. His stone work is evident in the chimneys and foundations of the buildings. Mr. Stamper often used grapevine joints in the mortar of his stonework. The “signature” architectural element of Cabwaylingo is a pyramidal stone found at the top of the Entrance/Exit signs and as a cap for all the fireplaces within the forest.

10 Kanawha State Forest www.kanawhastateforest.com

The State purchased 6,705 acres in 1938 to develop a recreational destination and provide forest fire protection for the area. CCC Camp Kanawha was responsible for the construction of the roadways, trails, bridges, picnic shelters and Superintendent’s residence. A dam was built along the creek to create a 1-1/2 acre pond for swimming and fishing. The camp was located on the present site of the swimming pool. The remaining CCC resources are excellent examples of the CCC Rustic architecture style and the history of Camp Kanawha is illustrated with interpretive signage, trails and commemorative markers. (listed NRHP 1993)

REGION 2 | SOUTH



11 Watoga State Park www.watoga.com

Development began in 1933, when three different CCC camps were established: Camp Watoga, Camp Seebert and Camp Will Rogers. The first projects included the road, cabin construction, office/restaurant building, superintendent's residence and the dam. The arboretum was established in 1938 with six and a half miles of trails. The last CCC project was the swimming pool completed in 1940. Prior to that time the area was a rearing pen for deer, turkey, raccoon and game birds used to restock a seven county area. Watoga State Park opened July 1, 1937 along with three other state parks in West Virginia; Babcock, Cacapon, and Lost River.

12 Babcock State Park www.babcocksp.com

Present-day Babcock State Park was heavily impacted by timbering, coal mining, forest fires and drought during the late 1920's and early 1930's. Babcock Coal and Coke Company donated 2,000 acres of land for redevelopment. Camp Beaver and Camp Lee were established to develop both Babcock and Hawk's Nest as parks. Each had about 200 men, their own infirmary, kitchen, barracks and heavy equipment. The camps were located about two miles from the park entrance so they commuted in trucks,



even in bitter temperatures. Amenities credited to the enrollees include the stone administration building, the dam on Glade Creek, log rental cabins, picnic areas, game courts and other recreational facilities as well as roads and trails. Italian stonemasons from the Fayetteville area worked here.

13 Hawk's Nest State Park www.hawksnestsp.com

Hawk's Nest State Park first opened in 1935 as a roadside park when the state purchased 31 acres. The planning was done by the National Park Service. CCC Camp Lee (1935-1942) men built the concession building, public toilet building and other facilities at Hawk's Nest. CCC Camp Beaver (1937-38) men built the picnic shelter and museum building. The stone work includes the Main Overlook; the Overlook trail fencing; the retaining walls in the parking area and in the picnic area with stone walkways. There are twelve picnic pads with fireplaces built into the back stone retaining walls. The original exhibit display cases that were built specifically for the Museum Building are currently housed in Ansted City Hall and open to the public during operating hours.

REGION 2 | SOUTH



14 Camp Washington Carver www.wvculture.org/shpo/nr/fayette.html

This African American 4-H Camp in 1939-42 served 200 to 1600 youth and was “the first of its kind in the entire nation”. The lodge, log cottage and dorms are built of locally fashioned hardwood and native stone. Along with the grounds and ponds, these survive as one of WV’s most ambitious WPA projects. The Great Chestnut Lodge is the largest log building in the state built entirely of chestnut. Because chestnut stands were destroyed by uncontrolled blighting in the 1930’s the materials of the buildings become increasingly valuable with age. In 1949, the name changed to Camp Washington-Carver in honor of two prominent African Americans, Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver. The camp integrated in 1960. The site hosts events, musical concerts and the Appalachian String Band Music Festival. (NRHP 1980)

15 Holly River State Park www.hollyriver.com

In 1935, the area that Holly River State Park now occupies was targeted for “Resettlement.” Under the direction of the USDA Farm Security Administration, 13 families were relocated. Programs to improve the land included soil erosion, stream reclamation, game restocking and reforestation in addition to a recreational area. WPA laborers began work in January 1936; their first project was road development. The winter of 1935-1936 was one of the coldest winters on record and many of the laborers distinctly



remember their coffee freezing solid in jars and cups. The office/restaurant building, the Superintendent's Residence, a supply building, some of the hiking trails, the swimming pool bathhouse, pool and filtration plant, the large picnic pavilion and nine seasonal rental cabins were all built during this time period.

16 Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park www.droopmountainbattlefield.com

Camp Price was established in 1935 on Droop Mountain at the site of the 1863 Civil War battle. During two short years Camp Price enrollees reclaimed the battlefield, planted trees, constructed cabins and the lookout tower and developed the picnic areas; most of the existing current park buildings are CCC constructed buildings. During the 1930's, drought and forest fires decimated the park's forest cover. A sawmill was set up to salvage as much lumber as possible with much of it used in Watoga and Babcock State Parks. One rental cabin built by the enrollees is a Civil War Museum and also houses some CCC artifacts.

REGION 2 | SOUTH



17 Seneca State Forest www.senecastateforest.com

Camp Seneca was established in 1933 in a large field across from the present-day office headquarters. Until 1938, work projects for the camp included trails, roads, eight rental cabins, picnic areas and the dam for Seneca Lake. Thorny Mountain Fire Tower was erected in 1935. Once the fire tower was in place and manned, fires were greatly reduced in the forest. Reforestation, game and fish improvements and fire hazard reductions were also completed. Cabins 4,5,6,7 are still extant. All 20 miles of hiking trails within the forest were developed by the CCC except for the new trail, Rich Patch Loop. Many of the trail shelters were built by CCC enrollees.



18 Tomlinson Run State Park www.tomlinsonrunsp.com

The area was first developed by the earliest settlers who saw the potential power of the water of Tomlinson Run and developed numerous mills along the stream. CCC Camp Marshall (1935) was the parent camp for the spur camp at New Cumberland, for park development. Camp Marshall was disbanded in 1941 and the WPA workers entered the park to complete their construction projects. The WPA used the site until 1942 when the dam and the 29 acre lake were completed. The barracks for the camp workers were located at the present-day site of the group camp. Several trails were established during the New Deal era.

19 Cooper's Rock State Forest www.coopersrockstateforest.com

The forest and its amenities are directly attributable to the development CCC Camp Rhododendron, formerly Camp Preston. A priority for the forest was fire fighting and wildlife food plots to increase hunting and thus, increase state revenues from hunters. The construction work at Cooper's Rock began in May 1936 with some road and trail development. By the spring of 1937 the men were at work on the permanent structures in the Main Overlook area. The camp was occupied for a total of five years and their projects included road and trail development, picnic shelters, staff residences, fireplaces, water fountains and other recreational amenities.

REGION 4 | NORTH



20 WV CCC Camp Museum www.wva-ccc-lagacy.org/the_museum.html

The West Virginia CCC Museum is housed in the old Quiet Dell schoolhouse in Harrison County. Displays represent the work and depict the accomplishments of the CCC in WV and other states. These items range from camp photographs to tools and personal items used by former CCC enrollees. Museum visitors experience the story of the CCC from onset of the Corps in 1933 to the final phase-out of the program in June, 1942. The museum shares the building with a group of juried artisans who make and sell West Virginia heritage crafts. (listed NRHP 2001)

New Deal Overview

The second wave of New Deal programs began in 1935 and included the Works Progress Administration (WPA); it became the largest New Deal agency. The WPA built and improved city and county infrastructures such as roads, sewer systems, bridge building and municipal buildings. The WPA was also responsible for many arts, drama, media and literacy projects. Evidence of federally sponsored activities such as the Writer's program, photography of the Great Depression in Appalachia, as well as post office murals and other arts programs are found throughout WV.



21 Tygart Dam Grafton www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/tygartla.htm

Construction of Tygart Dam started in 1935 and was completed in 1938. It was one of the first Public Works Administration (PWA) projects initiated to reduce unemployment through the construction of massive, labor intensive projects. Veterans, as well as men from Taylor, Barbour, Preston and other surrounding counties, were given employment preference. At its peak in May of 1936, 1,701 men were employed. The pay was set at 45 cents per hour for non-skilled labor and \$1.10 for skilled at a maximum of 30 hours a week. Tygart Dam is currently operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam overlook area is open to the public from sunrise to sunset and free public tours are available Fridays in June, July & August. (listed NRHP 1995)

REGION 2 | SOUTH



22 Gassaway Municipal Building/City Hall Elk Street

The building was begun in 1940 and completed the following year. While the façade is sandstone, the interior walls are brick, making the walls extremely thick. The building contains the Mayor's Office, the Police Department and Council Chambers. Originally it also held the fire department and the public library but both of these services now are located in their own buildings. The City Hall also houses a large auditorium often used for community functions and recreational purposes. The City Park is located on the west side of the building. Open Monday – Friday 8 am – 4 pm (NRHP list pending)

23 Sutton Community Building 400 Fourth Street

Completed in 1942 this WPA project is a two-story, flat roof municipal building. The façade is random coursed ashlar sandstone with a recessed entrance. It has large fixed pane windows that are 3 bays wide. The interior of the first floor houses the Mayor's Office and the Police Department. The second floor contains a large auditorium with a small stage where local schools hold various functions. The building is located directly opposite the County Courthouse and Jail and thus helps to form the core of downtown Sutton. The building is open at normal business hours with public rest rooms. (listed NRHP 1987)



24 Gilmer County

The benefits that the New Deal brought to Gilmer County can still be seen today. Identified by their original PWA markings and plaques, improvements include sidewalks, retaining walls, Glenville State College buildings such as Louis Bennett Hall, the county jail and garage, other educational and maintenance projects and even privies. Funding also assisted the following bridges: the Shock pony truss, Grandcamp Road slab, Troy, Finn Creek in Troy, the Stumptown, Gilmer Station and the Tanner Rigid frame bridge.

The National Youth Administration (NYA) granted scholarships to local high schools and Glenville State College, as well as provided job opportunities. The CCC also provided employment for over 460 Gilmer County youth. The New Deal Sewing Project sponsored by the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) and the WPA instituted sewing rooms in Glenville and Sand Fork.

REGION 4 | NORTH



Homesteads

The earliest efforts to provide relief in the coal camps were privately funded. In May 1933, as part of the First Hundred Days legislation, Congress passed the National Industrial Recovery Act. This included funds for the subsistence homestead program through the Department of the Interior. Subsistence farming with part-time industrial employment and handicrafts would support families devastated by the Depression. A chief supporter of these programs, Eleanor Roosevelt often visited West Virginia to attend events and meet with families.

25 Arthurdale
www.arthurdaleheritage.org

In August 1933 Eleanor Roosevelt visited the impoverished coal town of Scott's Run, outside Morgantown. Almost immediately afterward, the President, his wife and his advisor, Louis Howe, agreed to purchase the Arthur farm in Preston County to "resettle" this community 15 miles away. Arthurdale, referred to as Eleanor's Little Village, saw its first families arrive in 1934. Altogether, 165 homesteads were built, along with schools, factories, an inn and other farming-related structures. Today, Arthurdale Heritage, Inc. operates the New Deal Homestead Museum in five original structures: the Center Hall complex, the Forge, the Administration Building, the Esso Station and the E-15 Wagner Homestead. A driving tour of the community is available to the public. (Listed NRHP 1988)

REGION 1 | EAST



26 Tygart Valley Homesteads www.wvculture.org/goldenseal/summer05/tygart.html

Tygart Valley Homesteads: Dailey, East Dailey and Valley Bend were built in 1934-35 for workers laid off from local mining and lumbering jobs. Successful applicants were selected with “homesteaders” working for credit towards their homes and for actual pay. A new school was constructed and still serves as an elementary school. In Dailey there are several structures extant: trade center, store, post office and fire department. Most homes are found in Valley Bend. At the end of the project, Tygart Valley paid back the initial loans in full to the U.S. government along with a profit from the sale of the lumber mill. Today the community remains largely intact with descendents of many homesteaders still living in the communities, although infill homes have sprung up on the once 2-3 acre homesteads. (listed NRHP 2004)

Photo credited to Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection

REGION 3 | WEST



27 Eleanor www.eleanorwv.20m.com

In 1934, a total of 150 families were selected for the Town of Eleanor, a community of 2,200 acres. Each house plot was three-quarters of an acre to an acre and provided for a barn, chicken pen, garden and a lawn. Built of cinder blocks, the three to five room homes were designed in several basic styles with an average cost of \$1,800 to \$2,500. The homes were built by the homesteaders, of which 146 still remain. In 1935, the project name was changed from Red House Farms to Eleanor in honor of the First Lady, who is reported to have made five trips to this project. (eligible NRHP)

Photo credited to West Virginia State Archives

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