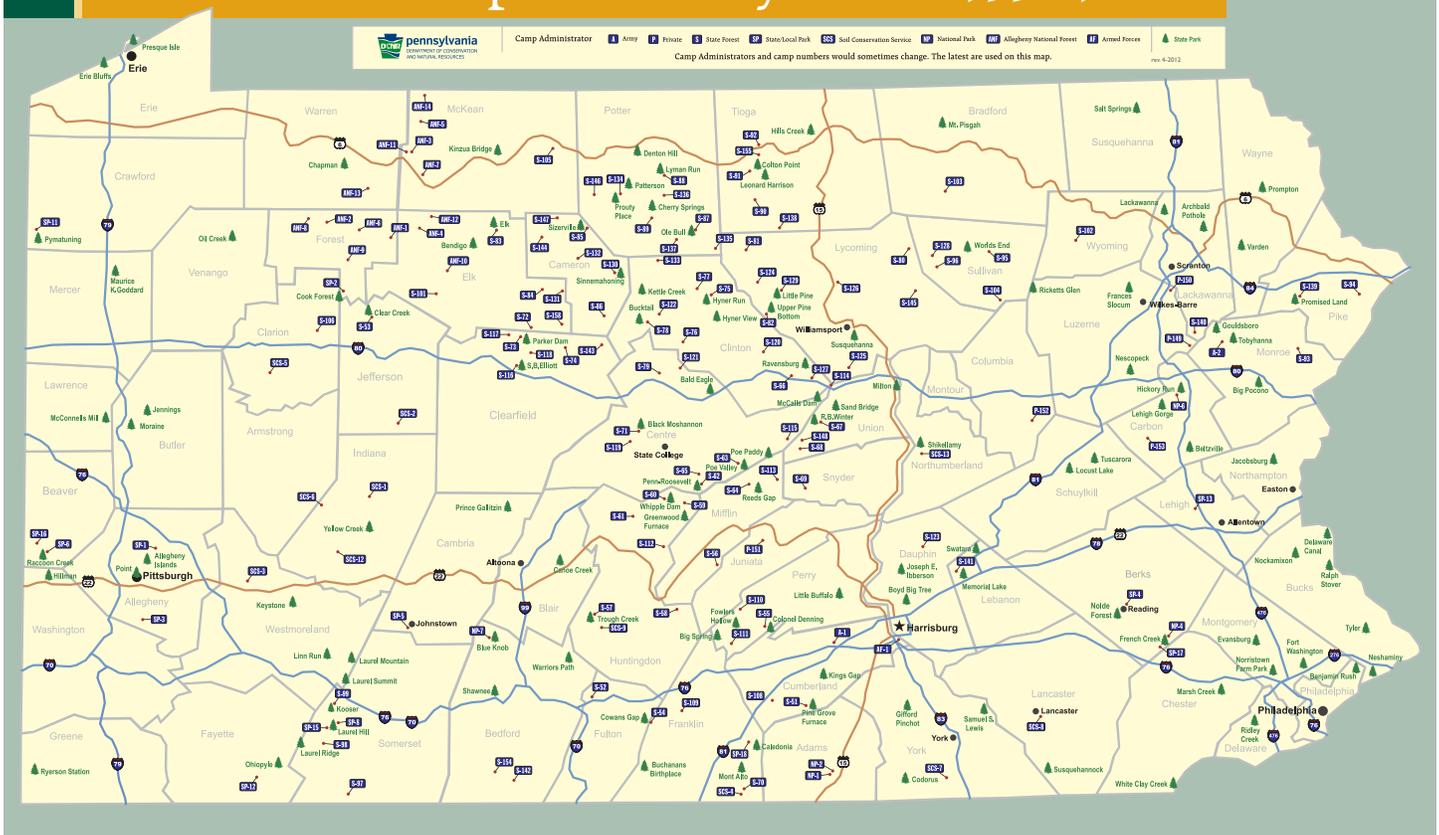




# PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVATION HERITAGE PROJECT

## The CCC Brought Recreation to You

### CCC Camps in Pennsylvania 1933-1942



A historical synopsis of recreation would not be complete without a summary of the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Numbers vary as to the total number of camps—the Corps averages that Pennsylvania had 78 camps a year. In some years this was as high as 97 or as low as four. We know that in Pennsylvania 194,572 young men passed through the camps from 1933 to 1942.

At the halfway point, the then Department of Forests and Waters estimated that the 'boys' had constructed 390 footbridges, 617 vehicle bridges, 83 cabins, 1,414 other buildings, 2,115 miles of truck trails, 692,036 acres of forest improvements, 14,061 acres of reforestation, 53 recreation dams, and had planted 12 million trees. By the end of the program in 1942, some statistics state that: 791 miles of telephone line were strung; 3,483 miles of foot and horse trails were blazed; 61,046,160 trees were planted, and 1,783 fish-rearing ponds stocked.

While much of the work was done 'in the woods,' the CCC boys also worked in city parks and on farms.

Prior to the CCC, only 18 states—one of them Pennsylvania—had set aside funding for state parks. Because of this, the CCC and the Civil Works Administration, also worked on park improvements such as cabins, picnic benches, pavilions, and dams. The largest single project in Pennsylvania was the Laurel Hill Recreational Development area dam, built by company #2332 to provide a 60 acre recreational lake. Today, this park contains a museum dedicated to the men of the CCC, and PPF recently received a grant from the Allegheny Foundation to restore some of the historic era buildings.



*CCC constructed dam at Greenwood Furnace State Park*

Source: *At Work in Penn's Woods, The Civilian Conservation Corps in Pennsylvania* by Joseph Speakman, The Pennsylvania University Press, University Park, PA 2006.

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