

Upton State Forest

FRIENDS OF UPTON STATE FOREST, INC.



*To preserve, enhance and protect the
natural and historic resources of
Upton State Forest*

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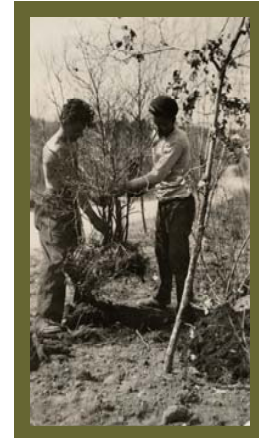
www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org

Photographs courtesy of the Upton Historical Society,
the Smithsonian Institution and
David Malhoit, CCC alumnus

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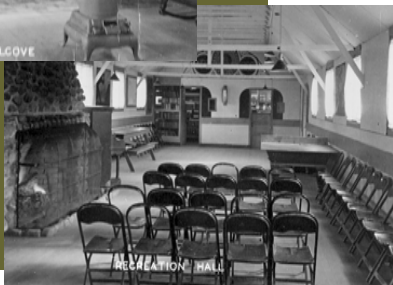
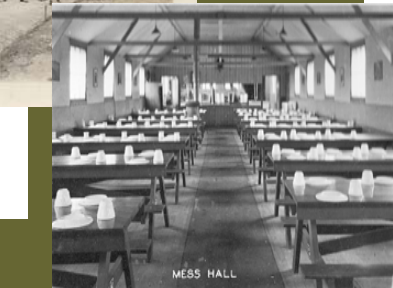
CCC at Upton State Forest

"We Can Take It!"



Camp SP-25

Friends of
Upton State Forest,
Upton, Massachusetts



Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

Responding to the Great Depression of the 1930s, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created New Deal programs such as the CCC. Millions of unemployed young men enlisted in this peacetime army to do emergency conservation work that included forestry and construction of roads, trails, bridges and dams. They battled erosion, fought forest fires, controlled tree diseases and insect damage, and developed public parks, beaches and forests.



CCC FACTS

Program ran from April 5, 1933 to June 30, 1942

3,463,766 enrollees nationally; 100,000 in Massachusetts

Average enrollee 18-19 years old and 147 pounds

Average weight gain of 12 pounds in first 3 months

Work week of 40 hours

Paid \$30 a month, \$25 sent home

Average number of men in each camp-200

800 camps built nationally

About 68 camps in Massachusetts

Throughout the United States:

- Planted 2 to 3 billion trees
- Erected 3,470 fire towers
- Opened 13,100 miles of foot trails
- Built 125,000 miles of roads
- Strung 89,000 miles of telephone lines



THE CCC IN UPTON

When the CCC enrollees arrived at Camp SP-25 in Upton on August 12, 1935, there was grave forest fire danger due to the acres of slash left from clear-cut logging. They made and burned brush piles leaving a few for wildlife cover and destroyed thousands of gypsy moth egg masses. Roosevelt's "Tree Army" of SP-25 planted 230,000 trees and built six miles of truck trails.

In March 1936, flooding washed out the Wildwood Dam destroying part of Route 140. A dependable road was important to the local hat industry for transporting their goods to the railroad in Grafton. Men of the camp had the road passable within a day. That same year an enrollee rescued a young girl who had fallen through the ice on Mill Pond. In April 1937, CCC men assisted in finding a missing two year old child.

In the evenings and on weekends there was time for recreation and education. Classes ranged from traditional courses to vocational skills training. In January 1936, the leather craft from the Upton camp won first place at an exhibit in the Boston Public Library. In 1937 the camp team won a basketball championship as well as the Fourth District soccer championship in 1936. They placed second in the district that year for volleyball.

Although many Uptonians were apprehensive when the camp opened, by the time the last contingent left on November 9, 1938, the enrollees of SP-25 were an accepted and welcome part of the community.