

Connecticut's State Parks and Forest road infrastructure is amass in deferred maintenance. A 2006 State forest road inventory estimated 305,403 tons of gravel and 37,255 tons of stone were needed to correct existing non-point source pollution concerns. In addition, a March 2008 CT DEP Engineering Unit sufficiency study rated 61% of State parks and forest bridges in either a fair or poor category. The number of forest access roads closed for public safety and environmental concerns continues to rise creating increased logistical difficulties for wildfire suppression and emergency ambulatory response. The Connecticut State Park & Forest Road Rehabilitation Project will significantly reduce non-point source pollution risk and improve watershed ecosystem function by bringing substandard road-stream crossings up to current Army Corp of Engineer performance standards. Rehabilitated roads will allow for increased forest management thus improved forest health and protection. Timber constructed bridges will utilize renewable construction material contributing to additional indirect forest products industry jobs.

December 2008 statistics from the US Department of Labor Bureau reported a 7.9 percent 12-month decline in Connecticut construction related jobs; [Connecticut Economy at a Glance](#), one of the hardest hit employment sectors according to CTjobs.com.

Connecticut's Governor Jodi Rell recently announce creation of the Connecticut Conservation Corp that will offer a decent wage for honest work and make a real difference for Connecticut and its people. [Governor Rell: Gov. Rell Promotes Plan for CT Conservation Corps to Put People to Work and Tackle Environmental Projects](#). Clearly there is support for the success of this project from Connecticut's highest public official.

**Direct private sector construction jobs. Estimates calculated using Department of Labor and Federal Highway Administration formulas.*



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Governor Rell Promotes Plan for CT Conservation Corps to Put People to Work and Tackle Environmental Projects *Tours CCC Museum at Shenipsit State Forest*

Governor M. Jodi Rell today toured the site of a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp in the 1930s to highlight her proposal to put people to work through a modern-day Connecticut Conservation Corps.

“In the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps and put thousands of young men to work on environmental conservation projects all across this nation. In the troubled times we now face, we can take a page from history and establish the Connecticut Conservation Corps,” Governor Rell said during her visit to the CCC museum at Shenipsit State Forest.

Governor Rell said by providing much-needed jobs and paychecks for Connecticut citizens, her proposal will build on the legacy of the young men whose labor changed the face of our nation and state.

“In return we can tackle important environmental conservation projects, starting with our own state parks, state forests and beaches,” said the Governor, who noted that her father was a CCC member in North Carolina.

In her budget address to the General Assembly February 4, Governor Rell proposed \$7.5 million in funding to establish the Connecticut Conservation Corps. The Governor asked the legislature to help her craft a formal and final plan to put this program in place by July 1. The new work force would not come at the expense of Department of Environmental Protection park and forest staff because the Governor’s budget does not call for cuts in that area. The program could also be expanded to include weatherization projects.

“We recognize that there are many ‘I’s’ to dot and ‘T’s’ to cross to turn my vision for a conservation corps into a reality,” the Governor said, “However, I am confident that we can create a program that will offer a decent wage for honest work and one that will make a real difference for our state and for our people. The Connecticut Conservation Corps is a practical, humane and common sense response to the national recession, much like the President Roosevelt’s ‘Tree Army’ was during the Great Depression.”

CCC Museum at Shenipsit State Forest

The Civilian Conservation Corps – Company 192 – was based within Shenipsit State Forest from 1935-1941. It was named Camp Connor, in recognition of General Fox Connor, who was the CCC commandant for much of the Northeast.

The building that now houses the CCC museum is the only remaining camp barracks building in Connecticut. It was originally used as an officer's barracks and office. It houses a collection of CCC tools, photographs and memorabilia

Among projects undertaken by the young men from Camp Connor were construction of the road that runs to the top of Soapstone Mountain and creation of the unique Mountain Laurel Sanctuary in Nipmuck State Forest. The campers also helped local towns with clean-up after the flood of 1936 and the hurricane of 1938.

CCC in Connecticut

There were 22 CC camps in Connecticut, with about 200 to 250 young men living at each of them, throughout the 1930s and early 1940s. Participants went to work in what were then largely undeveloped state parks.

They built trails, roads, fire towers and picnic shelters and planted trees and in many parks. Some of the specific projects were building dams that created swimming areas at Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth and Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown; clearing the recreation area for Squantz Pond, New Fairfield; improvements to Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison; and the construction of the forest rangers' homes at Shenipsit, Chatfield Hollow, Pachaug and Tunxis state parks.

CCC Across the Nation

The CCC was established by President Roosevelt shortly after he took office. Nicknamed Roosevelt's "Tree Army," the CCC created work at a time when jobs were scarce and to help complete environmental conservation projects in an era when soil erosion and deforestation had ravaged much of the nation's landscape.

Almost 3.5 million young men were enrolled in the CCC from 1933 until 1942, when it was disbanded as manpower needs for World War II grew.

Young men ages 17 to 21, as well as veterans of the Spanish American War and World War I, were eligible to serve. They signed up for six-month stints and lived in military style camps run by military officers. They were paid \$1 a day and required to send \$25 of their pay back home to their families every month.