

California State Parks with CCC Features

Big Basin Redwoods State Park Boulder Creek (831) 338-8860

Big Basin Redwoods State Park was established in 1902 to protect old-growth redwood trees. CCC features include the Nature Lodge, Administration Building, outdoor theater and Diablo stoves in the day use areas.

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Decanso (760) 765-3020

Cuyamaca Rancho has over 100 miles of trails for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. CCC features include the Fire Station, several residences, the Paso Picacho Campground and the Boy Scout Camp.

Humboldt Redwoods State Park Weott (707) 946-2409

Humboldt Redwoods includes the Rockefeller Forest, the largest remaining old-growth redwood forest in the world. CCC features include the recreation hall, museum, outdoor fireplace, drinking fountains and Diablo stoves.

La Purísima Mission State Historic Park Lompoc (805) 733-3713

La Purísima Mission was founded in 1787. By the 1930s, the mission was in ruins. Between 1934 and 1942, the CCC restored or reconstructed many of the mission's adobe buildings, using the original building methods and materials. La Purísima is the most completely restored mission in California.

(continued)

Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



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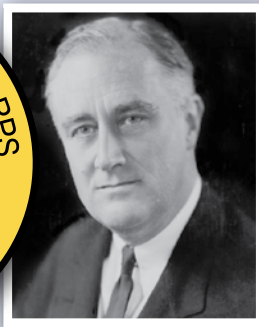
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Civilian Conservation Corps 75th Anniversary





President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Seventy five years ago, the United States was in the midst of the Great Depression. The slumping economy pummeled American workers. Tens of millions lost their jobs; others took lower paying work simply to scrape by. By 1933, desperation and poverty were wide spread, with no end in sight.

Soon after taking office, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) proposed a “civilian conservation corps” as part of his New Deal to lift America out of the Great Depression. FDR envisioned a peacetime army composed of unemployed men, who would engage in

“simple work . . . confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects. More important, however, than the material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work.”

The Emergency Conservation Work Act of 1933 created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to give young men across the nation the opportunity to do useful work and support their families. The CCC also provided access to education and medical care. But most important, it restored dignity and hope to millions of Americans.

Between 1933 and 1942, the CCC made an enduring impression on California’s state parks. Before the Great Depression, California had designated thousands of acres as state parks, but lacked the funding to develop them. By 1935, California hosted more than 30,000 CCC enrollees, including about 7,400 working in state and national parks. The men of the CCC built bridges, roads and trails, utility systems and campgrounds, restrooms, visitor centers, staff housing and other facilities that made it possible to open up the state parks to the public. They also erected more elaborate features such as recreation halls, open-air amphitheaters, museums and lookout towers. At its peak in the mid-30s, the CCC invested nearly \$2 million per year in California’s state parks.

National Park Service architects designed the new state park facilities in the “Park Rustic” style, emphasizing the use of native stone and timber to create structures that complimented the landscape. Park Rustic architecture employed minimal detail or embellishment, highlighting instead the natural beauty of the building materials and the local settings, as well as fine craftsmanship. The California State Park System owes its signature look to the thoughtful designers of the National Park Service.

The CCC built some 1,500 structures and landscape features in California State Parks during the 1930s. Many survive, although some are now in dire need of repair. The people of California owe a debt of gratitude to the men of the CCC, whose hard work, strength, and enthusiasm forged the unique character of California State Parks.

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Mount Diablo State Park

Clayton (925) 837-2525

This park is noted for its eponymous collection of stone “Diablo Stoves” (outdoor cooking hearths), which characterize CCC park facilities throughout California. The CCC also built the Summit Museum atop Mt. Diablo’s 3,849 foot peak, constructed of sandstone blocks quarried in the park.

Mount San Jacinto State Park

Idyllwild (951) 659-2607

Mount San Jacinto stands 10,834 feet above sea level, and offers two drive-in campgrounds. CCC work includes a summit shelter, two residences, Diablo stoves and picnic tables.

Mount Tamalpais State Park

Mill Valley (415) 388-2070

Mount Tamalpais has a spectacular view of San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean from its 2,571-foot peak. The CCC built the Mountain Theater (a.k.a. Cushing Memorial Theater), a natural stone amphitheater that seats 3,750 people and continues to be used today for theatrical productions.

Palomar Mountain State Park

Aguanga (760) 742-3462

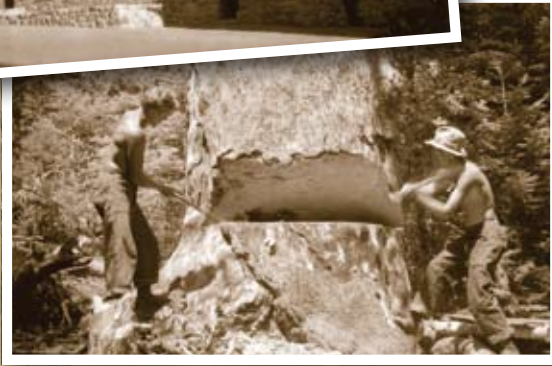
Palomar Mountain State Park is one of the few Southern California areas with a Sierra Nevada-like atmosphere. CCC features include the park access road, Doane Valley Campground, a Ranger’s residence and fire lookout towers.

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

Big Sur (831) 667-2315

Pfeiffer Big Sur features redwoods, open meadows, and dazzling views of the Big Sur coast. CCC features include the nature center, recreation hall, outdoor theater, drinking fountains and several residences.

Civilian Conservation Corps Heritage in California State Parks



Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Humboldt Redwoods State Park



La Purisima Mission State Historic Park

Mount Diablo State Park

Mount San Jacinto State Park



Mount Tamalpais State Park

Palomar Mountain State Park



Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park



California State Park Commission
Department of Natural Resources

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