

Stokes Forest Camps Now Ready

EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY C. C. C. CAMPS S-51 AND S-71 READY FOR PUBLIC USE

Trenton, N. J., June 25—Stokes State Forest, consisting of 12,428 acres of wild forest land along the Kittatinny Ridge in northwestern Sussex County and one of the most popular recreation areas administered by the Department of Conservation and Development, has undergone extensive recreational development by C. C. C. Camps S-51 and S-71, under the direction of the department's landscape architect and foresters, and is ready for public use this summer, according to word received today from State Forester Charles P. Wilber.

Scattered throughout the forest are 22 camp sites all ready for overnight campers. Four of these camp sites may be used for trailer camps. Some are in clearings on good roads, and others are deep in the woods. Each camp site is equipped with a stone fireplace and iron grate, a table, a tent platform and sanitary facilities. Drinking water has been provided at, or near, each of the camps and a supply of firewood is available in long lengths. No tents or camping equipment are provided by the State.

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For the picnickers there are Kittle Field and Normanock Picnic Grove. At Kittle Field are seven combination picnic tables and benches and five stone fireplaces with iron grates. Close by are a large playground and a baseball diamond, and sufficient parking space to take care of the picnickers cars. Excellent drinking water is provided by a spring, and a shelter and a comfort station have been erected. About fifty people can be comfortably accommodated here at one time.

For those preferring quiet and solitude, Normanock Picnic Grove is an ideal spot. Here situated in a beautiful Grove on Normanock Brook just off State Highway Route S-31 near the State Forest Headquarters, are four combination picnic tables and benches and four stone fireplaces with iron grates. About thirty people can comfortably occupy this area and ample parking space has been provided. Drinking water is furnished by a good spring and a comfort station is situated closeby.

For the hikers, fifty miles of trails and old logging roads traverse the

forest, including the famous Appalachian Trail which extends from Maine to Georgia. From points along these trails the hiker may enjoy unsurpassed views of the upper Delaware Valley and the beautiful North Jersey Lake and Mountain country.

Recreational developments around Lake Ofquittunk, a beautiful lake of eleven acres recently completed by the C. C. C., are expected to be finished during the summer. In a grove of trees on the west side of this lake, a colony of eleven attractive log cabins is being erected. Each cabin will have a large living room, with a fireplace as the central feature, and a small kitchen provided with a stove, a sink and running water.

A bathing beach, a shelter and bath houses are being provided on the south side of the lake. Parking space is situated conveniently closeby. A large, shaded area toward the east side of the lake, especially adapted for picnicking, will contain twenty four fireplaces, tables and benches, two shelters and two comfort stations. Camp sites are being developed where the areas are especially adapted for such use, and in the near vicinity of the lake there will be ten trailer camps.

Tillman Ravine, situated in the southern section of the forest, is one of the most beautiful spots in the state. Canopied by beautiful old hemlocks, Tillman Brook rushes between the precipitous banks of the ravine, which are covered with great masses of rhododendron. It flows steadily over the glacial rocks, dropping over huge boulders in beautiful cascades. In addition to the groves of hemlocks and great masses of rhododendron, several sections of this area are covered with laurel and a fine stand of white pine.

Tillman Ravine area is being developed with paths, parking facilities, shelters and picnic sites that will make it possible for the public to enjoy the place and at the same time preserve all its natural beauty.

For the motorist thirty miles of good roads wind through the forest. Work on the construction of Sunrise Mountain Road, one of the most beautiful scenic highways in the East, is being rushed.

Big Flatbrook and Stony Brook, which wind their way through the forest, have long been favorite places for trout fishermen and are well stocked through the cooperation of the New Jersey Fish and Game Commission. Deer and smaller game abound in the woods, and fishing and hunting are permitted subject only to the New Jersey Fish and Game Laws.

Stokes State Forest is typical of the finest North Jersey Mountain country.

It lies about three miles northwest of Branchville. Touching High Point Park on the north, the forest extends for about twelve miles along Kittatinny Ridge to Walpack Center on the south. Good roads make it easily accessible. State Highway Route S-31, from Newton to Milford, crosses the forest through Culver's Gap.