



cabin and fish pool
in primitive camping
area, late 1930s



BBQ shelter in
picnic area
late 1930s

Other South Carolina State Parks built by the CCC:

- Aiken**
- Barnwell**
- Cheraw** - South Carolina's first state park
- Chester**
- Colleton**
- Edisto Beach**
- Hunting Island**
- Lake Greenwood** - this park is home to the State Park's CCC museum
- Kings Mountain**
- Myrtle Beach** - South Carolina's first state park open to the public
- Oconee**
- Paris Mountain** - education center has CCC educational exhibits
- Poinsett**
- Sesquicentennial**
- Table Rock** - the CCC-built lodge was recently renovated

SOUTH CAROLINA'S
Lee
STATE NATURAL AREA
CCC HISTORY

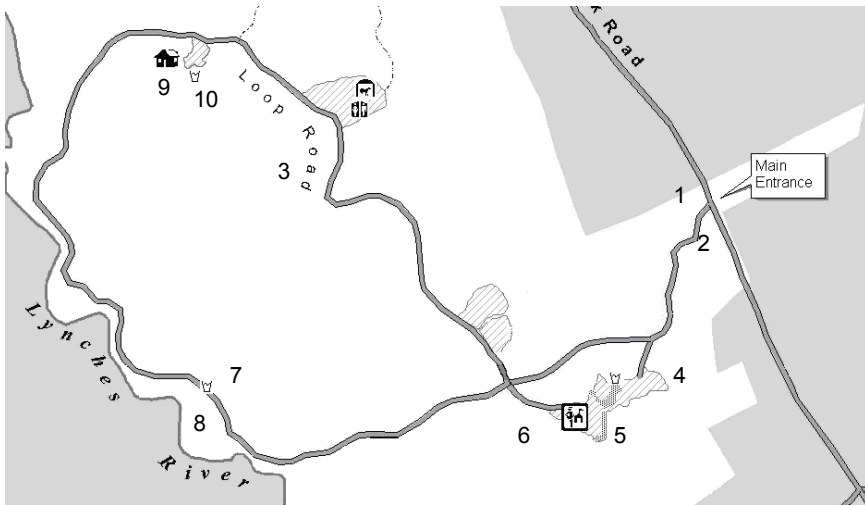


487 Loop Rd
Bishopville, SC 29010
(803) 428-5307
www.SouthCarolinaParks.com

Park Hours: Daily.....9am-6pm
Office Hours: Year-round.....11am-Noon

The Civilian Conservation Corps is responsible for the construction of many state and national parks across the United States. This Tree Army was conceived by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as part of his New Deal to help the nation during the Great Depression. It provided honest employment to young men. Many of these young men also earn a high school diploma and a vast array of job skills while in the CCC. As the "CCC Boys" worked and received pay, their families at home received a large portion of these wages from the federal government.

Some CCC Resources at Lee



1. entrance gate
2. maintenance shop - the CCC called it a barn
3. Loop Road

The soil used to build up the Loop Road was mined from nearby areas of the park.

4. artesian wells at ponds
5. spillway
6. picnic shelters

The original structures were built with woodpegs. You can find nails but these were used in post-CCC days. The juniper wood was hand hewn - the axe marks are still evident in the timber.

7. artesian well on Loop Road
8. elevated outhouse
9. rustic cabin with fireplace
10. artesian well and wading pool

Lee State Natural Area had its beginning during the Great Depression. Some of the land comprising Lee had been turned over to the county due to tax delinquency. Some was purchased from the land owners.

Lee County obtained a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp through the efforts of Senator Robert Ellison Dennis.

On June 24, 1935, Captain Fred L Dickson and 25 CCC members pitched their tents and took possession of the property that would later become Lee State Park. On August 16, 1935, Camp Robert E. Lee, officially known as Company 4471, SC P-88 began operations. By the end of August there were 14 buildings in the camp and 199 young men from seven counties housed at the camp.

The principle task assigned the men of Camp Lee was the development of the area as a state park. Although the park was not officially open to the public until June 1941, the public was permitted to use those completed facilities built by the CCC while the rest of the area was still under construction.



iron sandstone gate at park entrance, 1940s