



WELCOME TO KANAWHA STATE FOREST

SITE OF THE FORMER DAVIS CREEK DAM



Former Home of Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp Kanawha, S-76

A Brief History

Construction of the Davis Creek Dam began in April of 1939. As designed, the dam was built as a 100-foot-long, 10-foot-high obstruction across Davis Creek. The purpose of construction was the resulting impoundment, which created a swimming hole on the Kanawha State Forest property. Construction of the dam was completed in the summer of 1940 and Davis Creek upstream was promoted as the first public, natural swimming pool in the Greater Kanawha Valley.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Kanawha State Forest Historic District (1993).



Source: West Virginia State Archives



Source: Tillman Diamond Collection | West Virginia State Archives

Our “CCC Boys”

Those assigned with the task of constructing the Davis Creek Dam were members of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) Camp Kanawha 2599, S-76. Members included Local Experienced Men (L.E.M.), many of whom were World War II Veterans, as well as junior enrollees. Junior enrollees were instructed by L.E.M. Foremen and tasked with building the dam structure, erecting recreation shelters, installing boundary fencing, and conducting general forest improvements. *Camp Inspection Report, S-76 (May 25, 1942)*. L.E.M. Foreman Walter Trail supervised the crew. Pictured to the left is Foreman Walter Trail (far left) and the some junior enrollees of CCC Camp Kanawha, S-76. Also included in the photograph is Sergeant Alan Keyser (center, front) and Calvin White (far right), a founding member of the Kanawha State Forest Foundation.



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