

GRANVILLE STATE FOREST GRANVILLE AND TOLLAND

Historical Background

Granville State Forest was established in the early 1920s when the state acquired cut-over land from Tiffany and Pickett Lumber Company. Subsequent acquisitions brought total state holdings in the area to 4,682 acres by 1933 (some of this is now part of Tolland State Forest). This property was unusual for Massachusetts state forests in that recreational facilities (a campground) existed there as early as 1932. When CCC Camp SP-4 (Company 114) was established at Granville in 1933, it was placed under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service because of the potential for recreational use. However, as at other CCC camps, road building and forestry were the first priorities, with several miles of heavy duty road built and many miles of truck trail cut and brushed. Along Hubbard Brook the campground and picnic area were expanded and enhanced with trails, vistas, rustic bridges and shelters.

The CCC camp was located just north of Halfway Brook Pond with living quarters on the east side of the main road and blacksmith shop and garages on the west side. Camp SP-4 was abandoned in fall of 1935 and the area converted to the Halfway Brook campground. Several of the rustic bridges built by the CCC were destroyed by flooding the following year and not replaced. Other CCC crews, including Camp SP-24 from Robinson State Park, did some forestry work at Granville after the resident camp was closed. The present headquarters building was erected in 1959.