

WILDERNESS STATE PARK

Bliss Township, Emmet County, Michigan
Established 1928

WILDERNESS STATE PARK
ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR STATE PARK
Will Preserve Wildness of
Wilderness Park in Emmet County

Petoskey Evening News
Tuesday, March 17, 1936

Wilderness Park, a seven thousand acre tract of forest, lakes, streams and lake frontage on the Straits of Mackinac is being preserved as Michigan's last remaining bit of real publicly owned wilderness. The park contains one of the finest stands of young timber in the state.

Wilderness Park has been receiving the attention of the National Park Service in an effort to preserve the "wilderness environment," for which there is a constantly increasing demand. The Michigan public is asking that the state and nation protect this valuable resource. Thousands come to the park annually to study nature and enjoy a bit of rest from city noise.

Truck trails and fire breaks have been nearly completed and will be finished this summer, it is said, by the men of the CCC camp.

As the park has been set aside for human use the National Park Service experts have outlined a program for the coming spring and summer intended to develop spots for the convenience of the visitor. There will be no intrusion, however, into the real wilderness areas of the great forest. Foot trails are being completed throughout the section, with overnight cabins at convenient spots. Water is being provided in many locations. A pretty 12 acre lake and numerous channels have been provided and wild birds and fish are already using them.

Many of the things needed most to make the park suited for the park visitor remain to be constructed and a six months program of work has been outlined for this summer. In the concentration areas of the park, where the visitor may come on auto trails, there is need for convenience for campers. These include incinerators, drinking fountains, pipe lines, pump house, camp stoves, toilet buildings, disposal plants, signs, service roads, and eradication of poisonous weeds.

The general plan of the park improvement includes an attractive home, with residence, shops, stables, garages, and other conveniences for use of a well trained park director. These will be built this season, under present plans. Additional lake front property is being purchased and if the deal is completed in time much lake front improvements, with building of bath houses and other structures, will be undertaken this season.

The park affords the state one of its most complete outdoor laboratories for the study of wild life problems.