

Timber Creek Campground:
A Landscape Architectural Perspective on Change through Time



Figure 1. Timber Creek Campground-Loop A Clear Cut. Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

Purpose: The purpose of this research project is to document the historic record of Timber Creek Campground in order to provide background information that may lead to the development of a long term stewardship plan for the campground. Additionally, during the research process I have made notes on sources regarding Timber Creek and the campgrounds of Aspenglen, Moraine Park, and Glacier Basin to help facilitate future research projects. The research, drawings and field work took place during the summer of 2008

Acknowledgements: This project would not have been possible without the guidance and support of Cheri Yost from the National Park Service and Ann Komara from the University of Colorado Denver, College of Architecture and Planning. Additional assistance came from Jeff Connor of RMNP, Alvin Sellmer, Archive Technician at the NPS Denver Information Center, and Sybil Barnes at the McLaren Library.

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Overview

Located on the western side of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), Timber Creek Campground lies in woodland of lodgepole pines that slopes down into verdant Colorado River beaver meadows. This campground, in its design, furnishings and structures, has evolved with the changing philosophies of the National Park Service (NPS) and is now facing a dramatic ecologic disturbance in the form of the native mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae* (see timeline on p. 9). During the summer of 2008, all of the trees in Timber Creek Campground were slated for removal to ensure the safety of campers. With only one in ten trees expected to survive the beetle kill, the remaining trees, if left, would be susceptible to windthrow and would cause a safety hazard for campers.¹ At this dramatic juncture in the history of the campground, questions arise about how to best plan for the future of the site. Thus, the purpose of this research project is to document the historic record of Timber Creek Campground to provide background information that may lead to the development of a long term stewardship plan for the campground. Another goal of the research process is to create an annotated bibliography for sources regarding Timber Creek and the campgrounds of Aspenglen, Moraine Park, and Glacier Basin to help facilitate future research projects.

This report will begin with an overview of the history of design and development philosophies employed by the NPS, and give examples of important design periods specific to RMNP and Timber Creek Campground. Additionally, I have reviewed historic drawings of Timber Creek and traced mylar layers that highlight topography, vegetation, circulation and structural information at key points in time: origins (1935-36 & 1941), Mission 66 additions (c.1963), and contemporary times (2001 & 2008). Ultimately, Timber Creek Campground's integrity is a palimpsest of significant time periods including the late 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps Era in RMNP, the Mission 66 decade of modernization from 1956-66, the return of the rustic style in 2001, and the current state of ecological disturbance. With this palimpsest integrity, the site offers a unique opportunity for public interpretation that could highlight the history, ecology, and the ongoing struggle facing the NPS—how to preserve the natural environment, and all its disturbances, while still maintaining access and enjoyment of scenery for the public?

History of Design

The ideas that influenced the design ethic of the NPS began in the 19th century with the aesthetic ideals of the English Picturesque movement and the development of public parks such as Prince von Pückler-Muskau's pleasure grounds in Muskau, Germany and Frederick Law Olmsted's Franklin Park in Boston, Massachusetts.

¹ Interview & Field Visit with Jeff Connor of the RMNPS, May 19, 2008.

The Picturesque movement valued landscapes that set up scenes like pictures and were influenced in particular by the landscape painters Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorrain who used techniques such as *repoussoir*—a painting technique that moves your focus in a zigzag fashion throughout the canvas—and *coulisse*—a painting technique of alternating light and shadow.



Figure 2. Claude Lorrain, *Landscape with the Flight to Egypt*, c. 1646. Photo: Nivaagaard Museum Online Collection



Figure 3. Picturesque view from Timber Creek Campground Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

Additionally, picturesque landscape design used scenography, circuit roads and paths to guide the experience and perception of the park visitor. These techniques strongly influenced Andrew Jackson Downing who wrote the highly influential *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* in 1875 that “established an ethic for landscape preservation and harmonization which would reach maturity in the work of the National Park Service in the 1920s and 1930s.”² An example of this evolution is the circular, circuit drives that the NPS altered to form loop roads for traffic control. Furthermore, Frederick Law Olmsted’s work in Franklin Park and Central Park are important precedents in the development of the natural and rustic styles. In fact Olmsted offered six principals for “naturalistic” design that were used in his park designs as follows: series of scenes, suitability, sanitation, subordination, separation and spaciousness.³ A naturalistic example is the rock work used in Franklin Park (figure 5) where one can see the use of native materials to create solid structures that imitate the natural surrounding elements. This technique informed the NPS rustic design and can be seen in the pictured Timber Creek culvert rockwork (figure 4).

² Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (November 18, 1997) 33-34.

³ Ibid., 36.



Figure 4. Timber Creek Culvert Rock Work Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)



Figure 5. Rustic water fountain in Franklin Park. Photo: McClelland, p. 42.

In addition to the historical design precedents, more utilitarian motives influenced the design ethic of the NPS. The National Park Service Act of 1916, that included RMNP, succeeded thanks to four individuals including Horace McFarland (horticulturist involved with the American Civic Association (ACA) and the City Beautiful Movement), Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (President of the American Society of Landscape Architects and board member of the ACA), Stephen Mather (Borax Executive and first NPS Director), and Horace Albright (Lawyer and NPS Acting Director, and Superintendent of Yellowstone).⁴ And in his critique, Richard West Sellers writes that the founders of the National Park Service were influenced by politicians and corporations, which thus lead to a constituency whose “primary concerns were the preservation of scenery, the economic benefits of tourism, and efficient management of the park.”⁵ If we look at the development in RMNP, we can see these “primary concerns” in action in the construction of Trail Ridge Road during the late 1920s and early 1930s to create scenic access to more remote park areas while increasing tourism.

The Trail Ridge Road project was an important connection of the east and west sides of the RMNP for automobiles (see figure 6), especially as the park’s annual visitors continued to climb steadily until the Great Depression. Landscape architects from the NPS Western Division Office in San Francisco Office spent time in the park in 1929 evaluating the Trail Ridge Road Project with members from the Bureau of Public Roads and Superintendent Rogers. This project led specifically to a road camp and stable area that was built in 1929 near the current Timber Creek Campground:

⁴ Richard West Sellers. *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*, Yale University Press, New Haven & London (1997) 30-32.

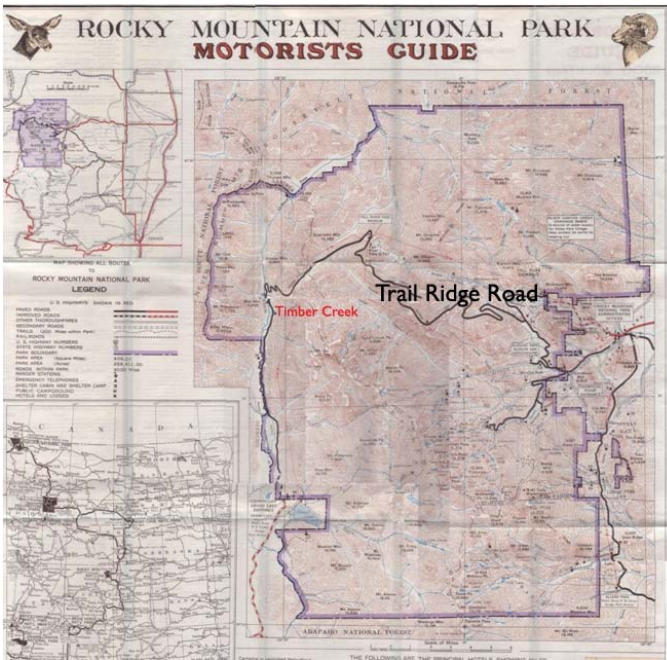
⁵ Ibid., 29.

T.C. Vint, Chief Landscape Architect, and Merel S. Sager, Assistant Landscape Architect, visited the park in July. These gentlemen and Superintendent Rogers selected sites for a new dwelling to be built at the Utility Site this fall; also, a site for a new stable that is to be built on the Fall River Road eleven miles north of Grand Lake village; also, sites for proposed 1931 building construction.⁶

A new stable is being built near Timber Creek, 11 miles north of Grand Lake on the Fall River Road, and the work is 75% complete. The building is of log trim construction and will house six horses. There is also a hay mow and storage shed for road equipment. This is the first building for a road camp which we have planned to locate at this point.⁷

The bunk and mess house were later added in 1931 as well as water and sewer lines.⁸ The development of Trail Ridge Road and the road camp at Timber Creek were important construction precedents that would mark this area as a potential site for further development during the Civilian Conservation Corps work that occurred in RMNP starting in the 1930s.

Figure 6. 1931 Rocky Mountain National Park Motorist Map showing newly complete Trail Ridge Road connecting the east and west side of RMNP. Construction around Timber Creek, including the 1931 mess house and stable, marked the area for future development.
Image: Ann Komara’s Rocky Mountain Image Report-ROMO 21535



The Great Depression brought a decline in visitors to RMNP, but also brought President Roosevelt’s New Deal and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to the park. Their manpower was used extensively throughout the park to develop fire trails, combat mountain beetle, build trout rearing ponds, plant

⁶ RMNP Superintendent’s Monthly Report, Estes Park, Colorado (August 15, 1929) 4.

⁷ Ibid., (September 11, 1929) 3.

⁸ Ibid., (September 5, 1931) 6 and (October 1, 1931) 5-6.

around the maintenance complex, construct stone guard rails on Trail Ridge Road, and build campgrounds.⁹

Because of their extensive work protecting and managing trees, locals nicknamed the CCC boys as woodpeckers and they were also called Roosevelt’s Tree Army.¹⁰ In RMNP, one of the CCC’s projects was the construction of Timber Creek Campground during 1938 to 1940 (originally called the Camp Woods project in a 1936 Superintendent Report).¹¹ Possible CCC camps who may have been involved in the Timber Creek campground construction include NP-7-C and NP-12-C, which had boys from “Oklahoma, although some from northeastern Colorado.”¹² According to the *Estes Park Trail*, the construction alone of the Timber Creek Campground water and sewage systems took “4,729 man-days.”¹³

Western Side CCC Camp Timeline¹⁴

Summers 1933-34	Phantom Valley	NP-3-C Temporary Camp
Summers 1935-36	Phantom Valley	NP-7-C Temporary Camp
Summer 1938	Phantom Valley	Temporary Camp
Summer 1940	Grand Lake	NP-12-C (Abandoned summer of 1942)

The design and layout of Timber Creek, as constructed by the CCC in 1938-1940, was completed through the San Francisco Western Design Office, and monitored by visits of the San Francisco landscape architecture staff to RMNP—including chief landscape architect T.C. Vint. The site was most likely chosen because of its adjacency to previous development and its access to Trail Ridge Road. Additionally, the campsite was situated in a wooded area with pleasing views of the Colorado River beaver meadows and mountain ridges to the east and west.

Another likely influence in the development of the campground was the work of E.P. Meinecke who revolutionized the design ethic for National Park campgrounds in the 1930s. A plant pathologist, he was hired by NPS Director Stephen Mather to study damage to sequoias in Sequoia National Park. He found compaction and trampling by the camper, most especially with the automobile, to have devastating effects on vegetation and the Forest Service published his recommendations for developing campground areas in the 1932 *A Camp*

⁹ Lloyd Musselman. *Rocky Mountain National Park: Administrative History 1915-1965*. Washington, D.C. Office of History and Historic Architecture Eastern Service Center (1971) 99.

¹⁰ Sellers, 126, and RMNP Superintendent’s Monthly Report, Estes Park, Colorado (July 7, 1933) 7.

¹¹ RMNP Superintendent’s Monthly Report, Estes Park, Colorado (August 7, 1936) 1.

¹² Musselman, 107.

¹³ Fry, George W. *Estes Park Trail*, “Civilian Conservation Corps Active in Rocky Mountain National Park.” Estes Park, CO (April 21, 1932).

¹⁴ Ibid., Compiled from information on p. 101.

Ground Policy. Meinecke’s recommendations called for site planning that considered suitability of soil and types of vegetation while creating a campground plan that included parking spurs and defined one-way roads, campsites delineated by rocks, logs or vegetation, and “a parking space and clearing equipped with a fireplace and camp table fixed in place and a tent site.”¹⁵ His recommendations became so incorporated into the NPS that the “term “meineckizing campgrounds” became common among landscape designers and CCC supervisors in the 1930s and continued to be used in the 1950s.”¹⁶ His name comes up specifically in RMNP in the Superintendent’s Reports for the development of Aspenglen Campground in 1933.¹⁷ One can also see the adherence to Meinecke’s recommendations for campground furnishings in a RMNP press release from 1938:

*Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park
David H. Canfield, Superintendent*

*Information Bulletin
Immediate Release—EAR 6/27/38*

Development of the first campground on the west slopes of the park will be undertaken this summer along Timber Creek by the Grand Lake CCC camp, David H. Canfield, Park superintendent, announced today.

The new campground will be eight miles southwest of the Continental Divide on the Trail Ridge Road, near the banks of the Colorado River, and will cover approximately 20 acres. Like the other five areas now established in the park, the new area will include table and bench combinations, stoves, fireplaces, water system, sanitary facilities and spurs for trailer houses.¹⁸

In the 1941 travel season, the finished site offered 76 campground sites and three comfort stations to the vacationing public. The CCC also completed a trail linking Timber Creek to Phantom Valley Trail in 1940.¹⁹ Ultimately, the Timber Creek Campground project was one of the final developments completed by the CCC group before they disbanded and left the park in 1942. Characteristic of the development style of the CCC era are three remaining comfort stations at Timber Creek (as seen in figure 7) that include rustic, rough hewn timber construction details.



Figure 7. Timber Creek Comfort Station #247, c. 1940 & Shingle Detail. Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

The next significant period of development for Timber Creek Campground occurred during the Mission 66 Era (1956-66) in which the loop circulation was redesigned and the construction of a comfort station, ranger station, and campfire amphitheatre were completed. On a national level, Mission 66 endeavored to modernize the national parks and accommodate more visitors. A ten-year project slated to end in 1966—the fifty year anniversary of the National Park System—the plan aimed to improve, develop and reinvigorate the parks and parks service. One criticism of the increased amount of NPS development comes from California conservationist Newton Drury, who labeled the NPS a “super-department of recreation” during the Mission 66 Era.²⁰ Despite criticism, the NPS was facing unprecedented numbers of visitors during this time due to the post-WWII economic boom and the increasing use of the automobile by the general public. Stylistically, landscape architects were encouraged to use more modern methods and materials such as “glass, concrete, and steel” while rejecting “the picturesque prototypes that had characterized park design in the 1920s and 1930s.”²¹ In figure 8, one can see the use of modern materials in the circa 1963 comfort station where brick replaced rock work and prefabricated dimensional lumber replaced more rustic trunk detail. The master plan for Timber Creek Campground was submitted by NPS landscape architect Theodore Wirth in 1952. The master plan also converted the sinuous loop pull-ins to rectangular pull-in spurs and increased the campsites from 76 to 101.²² Furthermore, the Timber Creek campfire amphitheatre, which was originally part of the 1941 Master Plan Drawing but never constructed, was finally completed by 1966.

¹⁵ Linda Flint McClelland. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*, The Johns Hopkins University Press (November 18, 1997) 276-280.

¹⁶ Ibid., 282.

¹⁷ RMNP Superintendent’s Monthly Report, Estes Park, Colorado (July 7, 1933) 6.

¹⁸ Ibid., (July 9, 1938) press release included at end of report.

¹⁹ Ibid., (December 12, 1940)

²⁰ Sellars, 143.

²¹ McClelland, 464.

²² RMNP Superintendent’s Monthly Report, Estes Park, Colorado (July 1952) 2.



Figure 8. Timber Creek Comfort Station, c. 1963.
Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)



Figure 9. Detail Plastic Lamp at Timber Creek Ranger Station c. 1963. Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

A stylistic critique of the Mission 66 Era can be seen in the design rejection by contemporary development. Newer comfort stations and other recently built structures in the NPS exhibit a kind of romantic rustic style that mimics the naturalistic design styles of the 1920s and 1930s as seen in *figure 10*. Compared with the heady pace of development that occurred during the Mission 66 Era, the environmental concerns and awareness of the 1970s coupled with the formation in 1962 of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation have limited the NPS's current role to “mainly managing the national park system itself.”²³ Any new construction strives for “harmony with nature” and comprehensive management plans for cultural and natural resources.²⁴



Figure 10. Timber Creek Campfire Amphitheatre, c. 2001. Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

²³ Sellars, p. 195.

²⁴ McClelland, p. 483.

Analysis of Drawing Layers

Timber Creek Circulation (1941 & 1963)

From the 1941 and 1963 circulation layers, one can see the semi-circular loop auto pull-ins of the CCC era evolve into pull-in spurs. Additionally, the eastern drive linking all the loops from the 1930s has been obliterated to create four loop roads (A-D). In loop A through C there are 8 remnant loop auto pull-ins, although when viewed together as transparencies, some of the 8 may have been reconfigured. These loop roads were later labeled Aspen, Birch, Columbine and Dogwood Loops according to the 1968 Signage Drawing-RM 121-60000. In a field study of the circulation in 2008, I observed that the 1963 circulation pattern seems to still be current, except for the obliteration of campsite loop #4 to accommodate a comfort station built in 2001 (dated by Drawing-RM 64006) and an additional handicap entrance to the campfire amphitheatre and handicap parking.

Timber Creek Vegetation (1935-36, 1941, 1963, 2007, 2008)

Owing to the recent ecological disturbance, it has been critical to try and recover any information about the original vegetation existing on the site, and what changes may have occurred over time. From a topographic study done in 1935 and completed in 1936, one can see a general outline of the tree canopy, and most likely the area was originally heavily wooded with lodgepole pine, some aspen and willow. The extant beaver meadows were also documented at that time.

In the written record, there is evidence that the Timber Creek site was a source of “considerable sod and other planting material...used in obliteration work there and also for planting road construction scars on the West Side. Growing conditions are more favorable on the West Side due to more plentiful precipitation.”²⁵ In the overlay of the 1941 circulation pattern with the 1941 vegetation layer, one can see clearings laid out for the individual campsites that housed the fire pit, picnic table and camp site—as prescribed by E.P. Meinecke. In the 1963 overlays, additional clearings have been made to accommodate the new pull-in spurs. (Note: the vegetation layer on the 1963 drawing was more vague than the 1941 drawing).

The next vegetation source that I found is a satellite image from Google Earth taken in 2007 that shows red evergreen trees affected by the beetle kill (see *figure 11*). Additional vegetation information might be available in aerial photos mentioned in the Superintendent's Monthly Report (1938 & 1951) that were taken by the Forest Service. In contacting the Forest Service, they offered two possible places those aerials may exist: (1) The U.S. Forest Service collection at the National Archives (Aerial Photographs: National forests, 1932-42)

²⁵ RMNP Superintendent's Monthly Report, Estes Park, Colorado (August 5, 1938) 5.

(2) The Regional Archives in Denver under the USFS records for the Arapaho and Roosevelt national forests, although the search record description is very terse.



With over 1.5 million acres of Colorado lodgepole pines destroyed by the mountain pine beetle, *Dendroctonus ponderosae*, (far right) water quality and recreation enjoyment in Timber Creek Campground could be effected by soil erosion and increased fire threats.²⁶



Figure 12. Mountain Pine Beetle
Photo: Colorado State Extension

²⁶ Todd Hartman. *Rocky Mountain News*, "Deaths of Trees 'Catastrophic,' Lodgepole Die-Off Imperils Recreation, Supplies of Water (January 15, 2008).

A vegetative survey of the campsite today reveals that the main vegetation is Lodgepole Pine, *Pinus contorta*, although these are in the process of being removed from the site as because of beetle infestation. Additional trees on the site include abundant willow species adjacent to the beaver meadows, some Engelmann Spruce, *Picea engelmannii*, and aspen, *Populus tremuloides*, although not as many as are indicated in the 1935-36 vegetation overlay. There is not a dense understory in the campground, but pussy toes, *Atennaria ssp.*, heartleaf arnica, *Arnica cordifolio*, red elderberry (*Sambucus microbotry*), wild rose, (*Rosa woodsii*), dandelion and clover were identified using *Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park*.²⁷



Figure 13. Red elderberry and various willow species at Timber Creek Campground Walk-In Site 51
Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

Timber Creek Structures

There are 5 comfort stations existing on the site: 3 from the 1938-40 CCC construction period, a Mission 66 addition, and a 2001 addition. Furthermore, proposed plans for a campfire amphitheatre circle were in place in the 1941 master plan drawing (and symbolized as proposed), but were revised and finally realized by 1966.²⁸ The campfire amphitheatre was rebuilt recently, around the same time as the 2001 comfort station. The other significant structure on the site is the c. 1966 ranger station that features vaulted glass windows and a harlequin concrete patterned entryway (see figure 14). All of the structures are in their original, built location.

²⁷ Beidleman, Linda H. & Richard G. and Beatrice Willard. *Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park*, Rocky Mountain Nature Association and Falcon Publishing, Inc. (2000).

²⁸ See drawing 1941-TC Campground Plan-Master Plan 121-3126-D—298902 on the attached CD. No other documentation of the campfire's actual construction were found until 1966.



Figure 14. Ranger Station c. 1966, far right detail of concrete pattern. *Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)*

Timber Creek Campsites

The 1938-41 campsite design included 76 sites, while the Mission 66 plan increased that number to 101 with additional walk-in sites. Today, there are 100 sites that include handicap and RV only campsites (see *Timber Creek Campground Layout Map on page 10*).

Timber Creek Topography

During the 1938-40 development, the topography of the site was initially altered to fit the loop roads within the campsite, with more dramatic grading changes surrounding the Fall River/Trail Ridge Road development. The 1936 topography drawing matches the 1941 and 1963 plan drawings, except for a reconfigured entryway in the 1963 drawing. The current removal of the lodgepole pines and the equipment used for removal are visibly changing the current topography and topsoil (see *figure 15*). After the removal is complete, a new survey of the campsite topography to compare to the historic drawings and to determine future stabilization, erosion control, and other management issues is vitally needed.



Figure 15. Revegetation at the campground is needed to help control erosion and soil loss. *Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008).*

Timber Creek Furnishings

The current furnishings (picnic tables, metal fire pits, camp sites, and bear boxes) appear to be manufactured through modern methods and materials, and do not seem original to the 1938-1940 origins. The drawing from 1941 depicts a fire pit constructed in a rustic style with rocks (see *figure 16*).

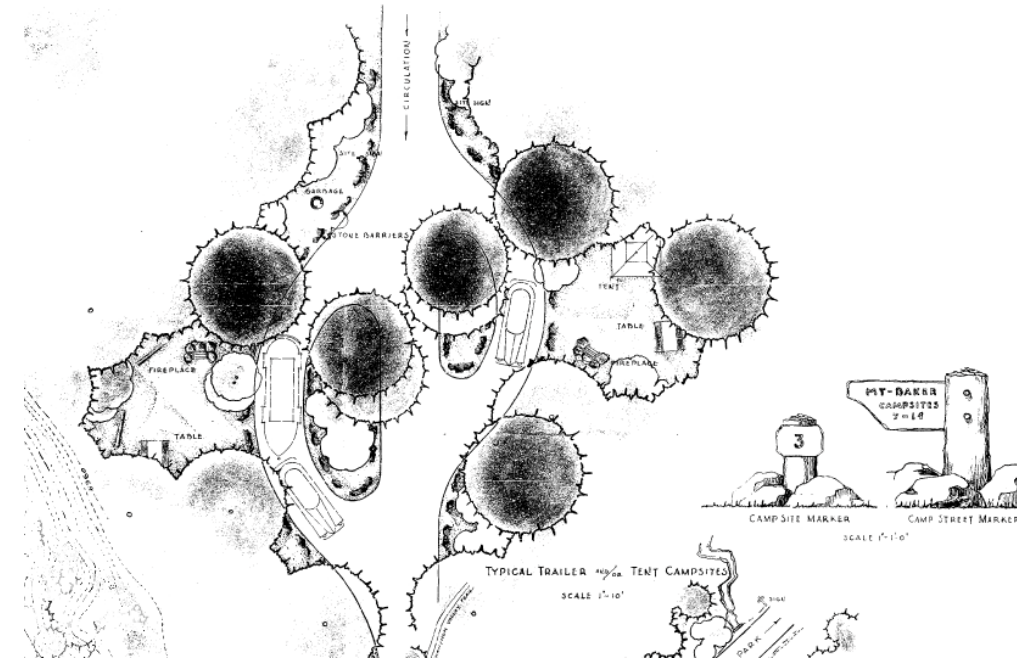


Figure 16. Detail of furnishings and signage from 1941 Timber Creek Master Plan Drawing
Drawing: NP-RM 3126-D

In a field inventory, all of the picnic tables and most of the fire pits were the same models. The picnic tables are constructed of wood and metal (one manufacturing mark listed Pilot Rock Park & Site Equipment), and the fire pits are metal with grills and no manufacturing mark could be found (see *figures 17 & 18*).



Figure 17. Current Picnic Tables
Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)



Figure 18. Current Fire Pits
Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

Examples of signage at the campground include brown wood painted timber with cinnamon brown printed numbers. If not exactly like the 1941 drawing, there is similarity in materiality with the use of wood and stones at the base of the sign (Compare figures 16 & 19).

From the Mission 66 Era, there exists remnant concrete curbs in some of the spur pull-in loops (See figures 20 & 21).



Figure 19. Current signage and rocks
Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

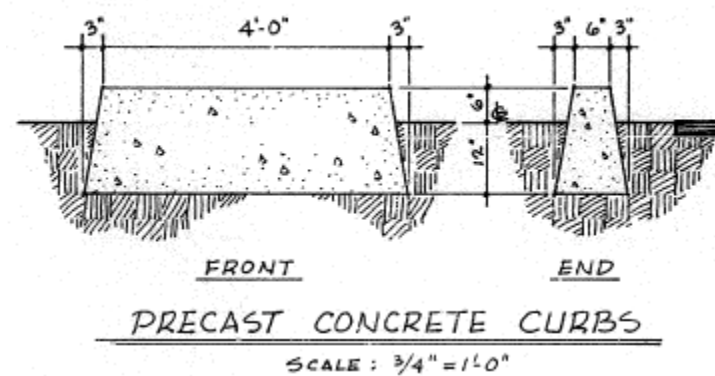


Figure 20. Timber Creek Curb Detail from 1966
As Constructed Drawing NP-RM 3710-B Sheet 1



Figure 21. Remnant Mission 66 Era
concrete curb in Timber Creek.
Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

Conclusion

Timber Creek Campground's current state is one of dramatic ecological disturbance. Despite this overwhelming dilemma of a historically forested campsite in the midst of tree removal, there exists several important remnant design examples from the CCC and naturalistic design ethic and from the Mission 66 Era of modernization that elegantly express the design standards of these historic periods for RMNP and the NPS. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of Timber Creek Campground is its inherent palimpsest integrity of these important design eras in the same setting as a natural system in a dramatic state of flux. This state offers an incredible opportunity for interpretation and discourse on the history of the NPS's sometimes opposing mission to preserve natural systems (which are in a constant state of flux) while providing public access (that can increase the state of flux). At the same time, the site is part of the global ecological system that is facing significant stress due to climate change. For the present time, the site requires stabilization of the topsoil and an ecologically sound revegetation plan to prevent erosion. For Timber Creek Campground's future, innovative interpretation offers an opportunity for the education and inspiration of the general public to better understand landscape as it changes over time and the ecological impact of our lifestyle and recreation activities on larger natural systems.

*"For many, spectacular scenery may create an impression of biologic health and provide such satisfaction that little consideration is given to the parks as segments of great ecological complexes under stress."*²⁹



Figure 21. An Air Burner is used to burn infected wood being removed from RMNP. Due to air quality issues from traffic and even China, RMNP is using this firebox to reduce emissions. Photo: Amanda Jeter (2008)

²⁹ Sellars, 287.

Timeline: Timber Creek Campground

1925	Timber Creek Bridge Constructed <i>Exact location is not indicated on drawing</i> Reference Drawing 1925-TC Bridge 121-4272---301407
1929	Timber Creek Road Camp and Stable built for Trail Ridge Road Project <i>Built across the road, east of the current camp site</i> Reference Superintendent Report September 11, 1929 Drawing 1931-TC Road Camp Plan 121-4931---301452
1931	Bunk and Mess House added to Road Camp Reference Superintendent Report September 5, 1931 Drawing 1931-TC Road Camp Plan 121-4931---301452
1935-36	Plans made for Camp Woods Project <i>Later named Timber Creek Campground</i> Reference Superintendent Report August 7, 1936 Drawing 1936-TC Campground Area Topo 121-5220---302060
1938-40	Timber Creek Campground built by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) <i>Three comfort stations still extant on site</i> Reference Superintendent Report July 9, 1938 & November 9, 1940 Drawing 1941-TC Campground Plan-Master Plan 121-3126-D--298902
1940	CCC completed trail linking TC Campground to Phantom Valley Trail Reference Superintendent Report August 8, 1940
1952	Theodore Wirth submitted Master Plan for Timber Creek Campground Reference Superintendent Report July, 1952 Drawing 1952-TC Campground Plan 121-3126-E--298903
1963-66	Mission 66 Improvements Constructed <i>Ranger Station and Comfort Station still extant on site, Campfire Amphitheatre built</i> Drawing 1966-TC Recirculation As Constructed 121-3709-A--301291 & 1963-TC Campground Plan III 121-3126-H--298906
2001	Additional Comfort Station Constructed—Campfire Amphitheatre Reconstructed Drawing 2001-RMNP Toilet Work 121-60446---282877-OCE' Full-Size Scanner-282877
2008	Clear-cut of Lodgepole Pines (Due to Beetle Kill and Windthrow Threat) <i>Includes Loop A & B with some trees removed from other Loops</i> Field Observation (See CD of 2008 Photographs)

Context Map: Timber Creek Campground in Rocky Mountain National Park

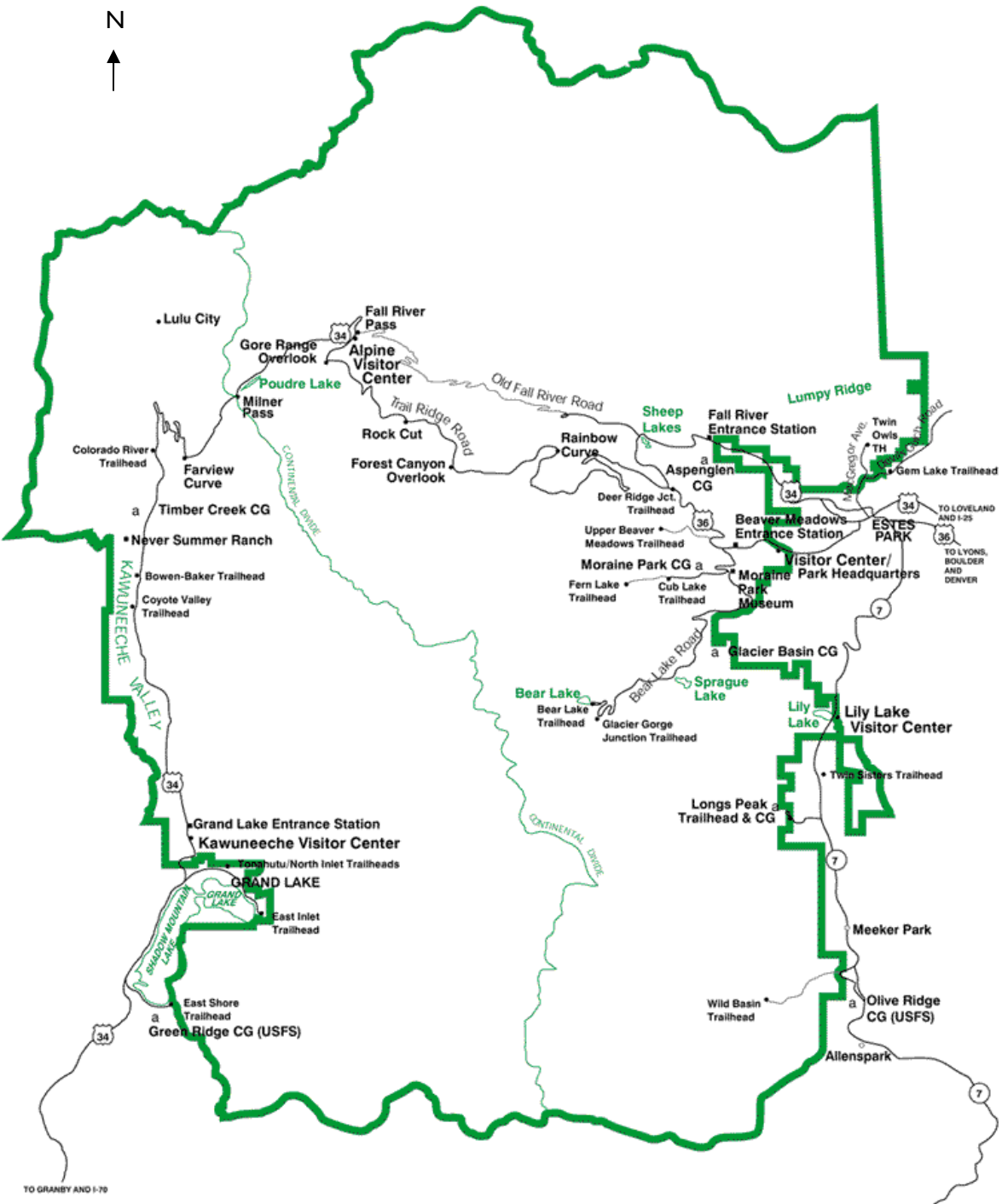
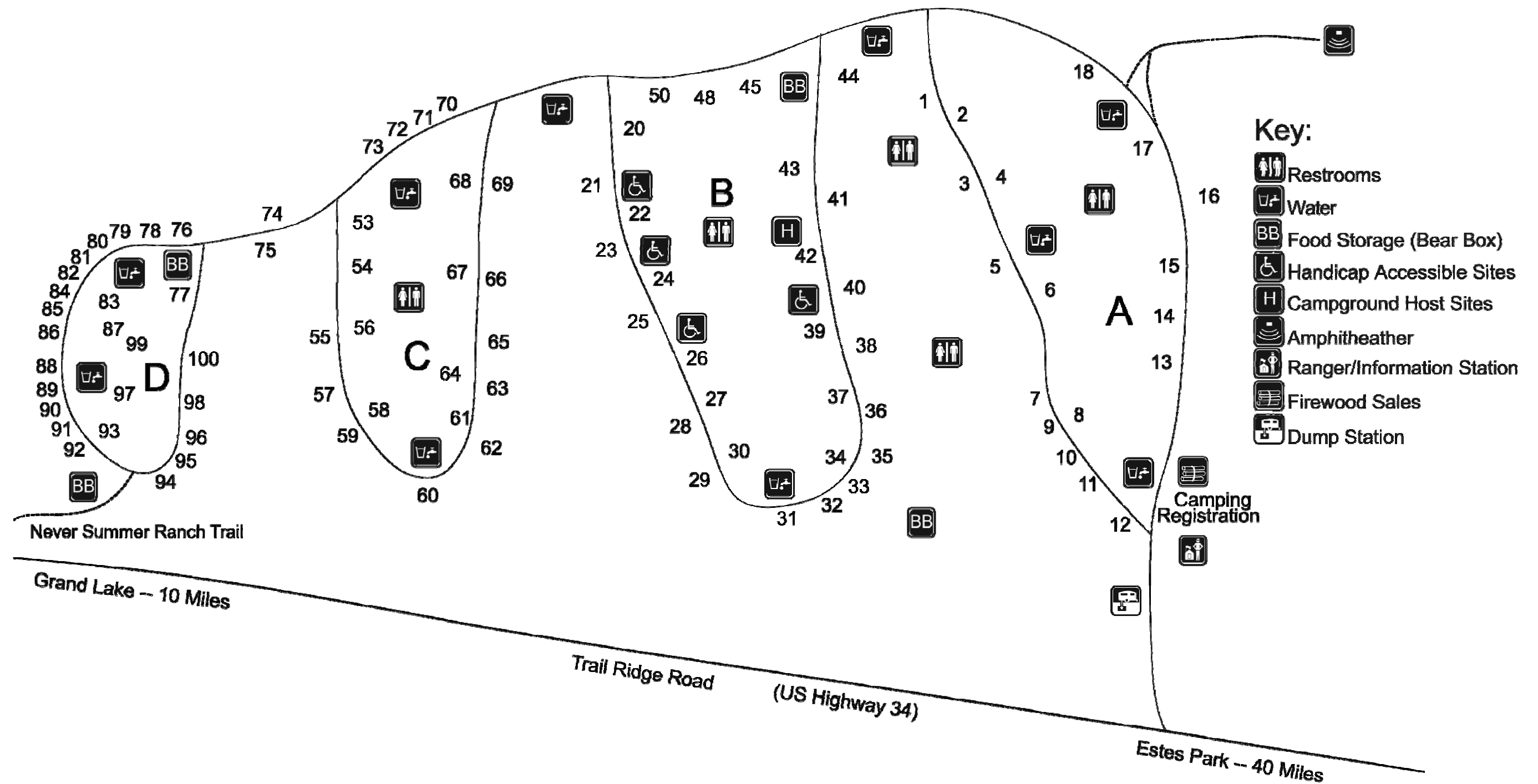


Figure 22. Map from RMNP website, <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/upload/Basic%20Map.pdf>



Timber Creek Campground

Figure 23. Map from RMNP website, http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/upload/timber_creek_campground-2.pdf

List of Historic Drawings from the NPS Denver Information Center

1. 1925-TC Bridge 121-4272---301407-OCE` Card Scanner-301407
2. 1931-TC Mess Hall 121-1001-A--298095-OCE` Card Scanner-298095
3. 1931-TC Road Camp Plan 121-4931---301452-OCE` Card Scanner-301452
4. 1935-TC Water Claims 121-6954---302908-OCE` Card Scanner-302908
5. 1936-TC Campground Area Topo 121-5220---302060-OCE` Card Scanner-302060
6. 1936-TC Topo & Vegetation I 121-5218---302059-OCE` Card Scanner-302059
7. 1938-TC Septic Tank 121-9012---303124-OCE` Card Scanner-303124
8. 1938-TC Sewer System 121-5354---302791-OCE` Card Scanner-302791
9. 1939-TC Phantom Valley Trail 121-5387---302864-OCE` Card Scanner-302864
10. 1941-Road Camp Utility Layout 121-5092-D-Z1-301636-OCE` Card Scanner-301636
11. 1941-TC Campground Plan-Master Plan 121-3126-D--298902-OCE` Card Scanner-298902
12. 1941-TC Minor Developed Areas Master Plan 121-3017-F--298802-OCE` Card Scanner-298802
13. 1941-TC Utilities Layout 121-5235-D--302818-OCE` Card Scanner-302818
14. 1942-TC Outdoor Theatre 121-2090---298311-OCE` Card Scanner-298311
15. 1950-TC Minor Developed Areas Master Plan 121-3017-G--298803-OCE` Card Scanner-298803
16. 1951-TC Minor Developed Areas Master Plan 121-3017-H--298805-OCE` Card Scanner-298805
17. 1952-TC Campground Plan 121-3126-E--298903-OCE` Card Scanner-298903
18. 1963-TC Campground Plan 121-3126-F--298904-OCE` Card Scanner-298904
19. 1963-TC Campground Plan II 121-3126-G--298905-OCE` Card Scanner-298905
20. 1963-TC Campground Plan III 121-3126-H--298906-OCE` Card Scanner-298906
21. 1963-TC Entrance Road Survey 121-3618---301146-OCE` Card Scanner-301146
22. 1964-TC New Entrance Working Drawing 121-3621---301147-OCE` Card Scanner-301147
23. 1964-TC Septic Tank 121-2679---298710-OCE` Card Scanner-298710
24. 1966-TC Amphitheatre 121-3712---301295-OCE` Card Scanner-301295
25. 1966-TC Amphitheatre As Constructed 121-3712-B--300415-OCE` Card Scanner-300415
26. 1966-TC Amphitheatre II 121-3712-A--300291-OCE` Card Scanner-300291
27. 1966-TC Comfort Station 121-3634-A--301157-OCE` Card Scanner-301157
28. 1966-TC Ranger Station Duplex Working Drawings 121-3710-A--301046-OCE` Card Scanner-301046
29. 1966-TC Ranger Station Plan 121-3710-B--301047-OCE` Card Scanner-301047
30. 1966-TC Ranger Station Preliminary Drawing 121-3710---301292-OCE` Card Scanner-301292
31. 1966-TC Recirculation As Constructed 121-3709-A--301291-OCE` Card Scanner-301291
32. 1966-TC Recirculation Working Drawing 121-3709---301281-OCE` Card Scanner-301281 1968-TC Signing 121-60000---299126-OCE` Card Scanner-299126
33. 2001-RMNP Toilet Work 121-60446---282877-OCE` Full-Size Scanner-282877

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McClelland, Linda Flint. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

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Downing, Andrew Jackson. *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening.* 9th ed. New York: Orange Judd, 1875. Reprint, Little Compton R.I.: Theophrastus Publishers, 1977.

Civilian Conservation Corps. *Civilian Conservation Corps: Contributing to the Defense of the Nation.*

Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1941.

–*Construction of Trails.* Project Training Series no. 7. Washington D.C.: Civilian Conservation Corps, 1937.

–*Woodsmanship for the Civilian Conservation Corps.* Washington D.C.: Civilian Conservation Corps, 1938.

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Kelso, William M., and Rachel Most. *Earth Patterns: Essays in Landscape Archaeology.* Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, 1989.

Tishler, William, editor. *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places.* Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1989.

SELECTED ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION TO SOURCES

Several books discuss National Park Service history and evolution of design standards. One can gain perspective of Rocky Mountain Park specifically in the Superintendent Monthly Reports housed in the McLaren Hall Library. Architectural drawings, plans and engineering reports can be found from the Technical Information Center in the National Park Regional Office located in Denver. Below is an overview list of the primary and secondary sources used in this research.

Additionally, I took notes on sources that mentioned the campgrounds of Timber Creek and the campgrounds of Aspenglen, Moraine Park, and Glacier Basin and a find word search can be conducted with the attached CD digital version of this report.

Primary Sources:

Landscape Field Studies
ROMO Superintendent Monthly Reports
Brief discussions with RMNP staff including Joe Arnold and Jeff Connor

Secondary Sources:

ROMO Archives
ROMO Tech. Information Center
Denver Public Library
National Park Regional Office, Denver
National Park Archives, St. Louis & Washington, D.C. (not used in this report)
Ann Komara ROMO Reception History Research Project (2007-2008)

BOOKS

Buchholtz, C.W. *Rocky Mountain National Park: A History.* Boulder, Colorado: Colorado Association University Press, 1983.

Concise history of park that starts with Native American history moving forward to the founding of the park and vision that introduces tension between preserving the park and making it accessible to public for recreation and enjoyment. Buchholtz describes the three life zones that the park: 1) montane zone (meadows and ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, and aspen) 2) subalpine zone (Englemann spruce, alpine fir and limber pine) 3) alpine zone (above 10,500 feet tundra). Demand for water resources led to construction in park of canals and reservoirs-conservation concerns, which ultimately led to founding of the park in 1915.

Campground Citations

p. 77 Moraine Park-Abner Sprague & Clarence Chubbuck built a cabin in May of 1875 in Moraine Park (then called Willow Park) p. 101 Abner developing ranch in 1890s, in early 19thc park officials began to look at private land for inclusion in the park including MP. P. 195 1932 looked at for possible development into ski resort p. 205 Mission 66 looking to make park more naturally scenic, bought up rest of Moraine Park property in 1962 and removed barns, lodge, cabins and golf course to make way for revegetation of meadow.

p. 204 Photo of Stead's Ranch in Moraine Park (RMNPHC)

p. 227 Photo of Stead's Ranch in Moraine Park (RMNPHC)

p. 102 Glacier Basin-Sprague sold Moraine Park homestead to J.D. Stead then developed smaller resort in Glacier Basin

p. 149 Bartholf Park (today's Glacier Basin)

p. 160 Aspenglen-small mention of development by 1926 with other campsites as Robert Toll promoted more recreational activities in park.

Howe, Julie. *Historic Structure Report: Moraine Lodge Assembly Hall.* Colorado: University of Colorado College of Environmental Design (research project) May, 1992.

Howe compiles drawings, photographs and analysis of the changes in Moraine Lodge Assembly Hall to Moraine Park Museum.

Holland, F. Ross. *Rocky Mountain National Park: Historical Background Data.* Office of History and Historic Architecture Western Service Center, 1971.

This source does not offer much for this project, but has several photos of Moraine Park Lodge and homestead activity.

Lindberg, James, Patricia Raney & Janet Robertson, Edited by John Gunn. *Rocky Mountain Rustic: Historic Buildings of the Rocky Mountain National Park Area.* Estes Park, Colorado: Rocky Mountain Nature Association, 2004.

This source offers some mention of Moraine Park and Glacier Basin Campgrounds, more mention of settlement buildings that once were at/near sites. See pages 147 & 151.

McClelland, Linda Flint. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction.* The Johns Hopkins University Press, November 18, 1997.

Tracing the influential role of landscape architecture in the formation of the National Park Service, McClelland thoroughly describes the evolution of NPS design standards from influences of the English picturesque movement, naturalistic design principals, the prairie movement, the evolution of the rustic, and movements to the 1940s. McClelland offers an appendix to help guide researchers in criteria needed to nominate historic park landscapes to the National Register of Historic Places. This is an excellent resource for measuring the design integrity of the campgrounds under research, however, it takes a fairly neutral stance in describing the conflict of developing the parks for recreation while at the same time trying to preserve the nature within the parks in perpetuity. There are also a couple of mentions of Aspenglen campground (see pages 263 & 241).

Musselman, Lloyd. *Rocky Mountain National Park: Administrative History 1915-1965.* Washington, D.C. Office of History and Historic Architecture Eastern Service Center, 1971.

This source is an administrative history of the park beginning with the European settlers and creation of the park. Musselman then moves on to “controversies and court battles concerning transportation and roads,” the construction of trails and roads, the role of the CCC, the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, wildlife management, naturalists, winter sports, boundaries, and finally the park rangers. This source offers a good history of park development and some great leads on CCC involvement in the campsites under research.

Campground Citations

p. 97-99 History of CCC camps in RMNP, first came May 13, 1933 and first campsite was Little Horseshoe Park near Estes Park. June 23-October 15, 1933 another camp was established near Phantom Valley, thirteen miles from Grand Lake. The CCC group worked closely with superintendents L.E. Douglas and Arthur Mathews, and Edmund Rogers. Sober Group, worked on saving the ponderosa pine from epidemic of black hills beetle infestation. They also worked on construction of fire trails, trout rearing ponds, and guard rails on new Trail Ridge Road. The men left in the winter to Arizona, but the park continued to benefit from Civil Works Agency (CWA). Under direction of park engineers A. Van Dunn and Fred A. Fair 170 CWA men from Estes Park and surrounding towns enlarged Bear Creek Parking area, relocating roads, performing extensive work on a new utility area. In April 1934, CCC folks returned and the locals had rehabilitated their camps.

NP-3-C temporary camp operated during summers of 1933-34 at Phantom Valley

NP-7-C replaced above in summer of 1935-36, another temporary campsite but was reoccupied in summer of 1938 then replaced by NP-12-C, established near Grand Lake in the summer of 1940, “and was one of the last camps to serve the park, being abandoned in the summer of 1942”

P. 104 *Estes Park Trail* April 22, 1938 reported the five-year record of the CCC, they built:

- 8 travel-checking stations
- 5 concrete reservoirs and pipe line to serve the Park Utility Area
- Glacier Basin campground ranger stations

Moraine Park Museum

2,179 linear feet of sewer line

six disposal tanks, according to US Public Health Service Standards

- In additions campgrounds were improved at Aspenglen and Glacier Basin including 158 fireplaces and 125 rustic table and bench combinations were built, and twelve acres of new campgrounds, and roads and trails received attention

p. 105 Moraine Park Amphitheatre (seating 390 people)

Conservation Efforts:

- Planted 2,565 trees and shrubs
- Developed 15,396 square yards of parking area
- 1.5 million trout
- Four fish-rearing ponds
- Fire fighting
- Utility area twenty-ton scale
- Seeded and sodded 62,131 square yards of land
- 302 directional signs
- 667 rods of guard rails
- 30.5 miles of grade line and 48 miles of lineal surveys
- Undertook tree-insect control measures over an area of 37,315 acres
- Stimulated economy

p. 106 “the next year (1939) there was further development of the Timber Creek campground on the western slope of the Park”

p. 107 most of the Grand Lake camp boys came from Oklahoma, although some from northeastern CO, worked on Shadow Mountain and Granby reservoirs

“the CCC accomplishments in the fiscal year 1940 included the near completion of the Timber Creek campground north of Grand Lake along the Trail Ridge Road, and the entire completion of two outdoor amphitheatres at Aspenglen and Glacier Basin campgrounds...”

Sellars, Richard West. *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History.* Yale University Press; New Ed Edition, March 11, 1999.

As an employee of the National Park Service, Sellars gives an insider’s history into the development and politics of the Service. Sellars repeatedly cites evidence of the lack of scientific research and understanding by the National Park Service in making development decisions and natural resource management decisions. He does temper the evidence with perspectives from the administrator’s of the time and the national social trends that would have affected points of view. Ultimately, Sellars paints the current state of the National Park Service as a “house divided” and insists that it must be guided by current scientific and ecological knowledge in the management of the parks. This source does not talk of the campgrounds under study specifically, but it does

offer important insight into the minds of the administrators and landscape architects who developed these campgrounds, and is thus helpful in evaluating primary source’s perspectives and why certain information is lacking in some of the campground drawings (specific ecological and botanical information about the trees and other natural resources).

PERIODICALS, PAMPHLETS & OTHER PRINTED PIECES

Cargo, David. *Exploring Rocky Mountain National Park.* Boulder, Colorado: Johnson Publishing Company, 1978.

A pamphlet travel guide with black and white photographs. General mentions of Timber Creek, Glacier Basin, Aspenglen and Moraine Park Campgrounds with various hiking trails.

Quin, Richard. *Historic American Engineering Record: Rocky Mountain National Park Roads HAER n. CO-78* “Supplementary material HAER no. CO-31 Trail Ridge Road. Volume II. 1993

This source gives specific details on the construction of Trail Ridge Road, which offers some insight into the development that occurred in the area where Timber Creek Campground was eventually to be situated. The development of this road and the increased auto access it allowed to the west side of RMNP surely encouraged the development of a west side campground, ultimately Timber Creek.

Campground Citations

p. 35 “Kawuneechee Valley Project I-D-I, extends Trail Ridge Road from Station 576+50 at Phantom Valley Ranch (just north of future site of Timber Creek Campground), the southern end of section I-C, to station 1010+00, a point 4 miles north of Grand Lake was conducted in the fall of 1931 by a BPR crew under Highway Engineer W.H. Curwen. NPS Chief Landscape Architect Vint inspected the proposed line in October. Following his approval, the project was turned over to the BPR...the standard adopted called for a 24’ shoulder-to-shoulder roadway with a minimum ditch width of 5’ and rounded cut slopes...three reinforced concrete box culverts with masonry wing walls, a number of corrugated metal pipe culverts, and 2,000’ of vitrified tile under drains would be required for drainage (Superintendent Rogers Monthly Report Sept. 1931) ... finally completed in 1937 engineering group from Denver.”

RMNP SUPERINTENDENT MONTHLY REPORT (SMR) REFERENCE NOTES

Includes citations about Timber Creek, Aspenglen, Moraine Park, and Glacier Basin

SMR October 7, 1925 p. 7 Work under the “Road Budget Appropriation”

Bridges-Bridge site surveys for the following bridges were completed: Glacier Creek, Mill Creek, Fall River, Timber Creek and Onahu Creek. ...Assistant Engineer George A. Gregory in charge of work under “Road Budget” appropriations...work done under Bureau of Public Roads

SMR July 12, 1926

p. 1-2 “Mr. T.C. Vint, associate Landscape engineer, visited the park near the end of June, and made inspections of all park operations, including buildings and road and trail construction, making recommendations for coordinating this work in relation to the landscape plans of his department. Mr. Vint left the park on July 3, but expects to make another visit this year, as he did not have the opportunity to complete the necessary inspection of Bureau of Public Roads projects, trail construction projects, and the 1928 building program.”

p. 5 “the construction of additional roads and camp sites in Aspenglen CG was started toward the end of June, and work has progressed very satisfactorily to the time of this report...”

SMR April 10, 1929

p. 1 “The Department of the interior appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930, includes the following items for RMNP:....construction of physical improvements, \$13,600. The latter item will construct a stable for sheltering road maintenance animals at Timberline Camp on Fall River Pass, and additional house for employees at the Utility Site...”further mention of \$200,000 for the Trail Ridge Road contract”

SMR June 10, 1929 p. 1 “Merel S. Sager, Assistant Landscape Architect, from the San Francisco Office, visited the park in the latter part of the month, in connection with development work at Glacier Basin Campground, and study of Trail Ridge Road project.”

SMR July 10, 1929 p. 1 “Merel S. Sager, Assistant Landscape Architect, ..., was in the park three weeks. While here, he made a study of the Trail Ridge road construction project, the contract for which will be let this season. P. 2 Mr. L. A. Hamilton, Highway Engineer, Bureau of Public Roads, of the Denver office, spent several days going over the Trail Ridge road project with Superintendent Rogers and Resident Engineer Lafferty of the BPR.”

p. 2 Buildings “A combination shower and wash house was constructed with funds donate by the Highlander Boys, Inc., at the Glacier Basin campground. This building, which was described in the May report, was completed for the opening of the Highlander camp of 700 boys, on June 15. 7,000 feet of 3” pipe was laid, to bring water to the site.” P. 4 public camps ...”one large party of 700 boys, members of the Highlanders Boys, Inc. held their annual encampment in Glacier Basin campground from June 15 to June 30.”

SMR August 15, 1929 p. 1 “Status of Work: The present season has been a very strenuous one in the administration office and routine work has reached the point where it taxes the capacity of the present office force to the very limit.”

p. 2 visitors to the park:

- Thomas C. Vint, Chief Landscape Architect
- Frank A. Kittredge-Chief Engineer
- Merel S. Sager-Assistant LA
- A.Van V. Dunn- Assistant Engineer
- Fred L. Conner-Supervisor of Field Accounts

Plans, Maps and Surveys-Mr. Dunn’s task to resurvey the water pipes in Glacier Basin campground, the pipe was laid on top of ground and is to be buried based on his survey

Buildings “new toilet buildings were built in the following locations:...four in Glacier Basin Campgrounds...

p. 4, 260-Landscape Work “T.C. Vint, Chief Landscape Architect, and Merel S. Sager, Assistant Landscape Architect, visited the park in July. These gentlemen and Superintendent Rogers selected sites for a new dwelling to be built at the Utility Site this fall; also, a site for a new stable that is to be built on the Fall River Road eleven miles north of Grand Lake village; also, sites for proposed 1931 building construction. “

SMR September 11, 1929 P. 3, 230-New Construction “A new stable is being built near Timber Creek, 11 miles north of Grand Lake on the Fall River Road, and the work is 75% complete. The building is of log trim construction and will house six horses. There is also a hay mow and storage shed for road equipment. This is the first building for a rod camp which we have planned to locate at this point”

SMR October 9, 1929 p. 1 , 122-“Special Field Representatives of the National Park Service Merel S. Sager, Assistant LA, arrived in the park on September 8, and remained during the rest of the month. His time was devoted to inspection of the Fall River Pass (West Side) project, and supervision of planting trees and shrubs at the Administration Building Site, in Estes Park. “

p. 2 170-Plans, Maps and Surveys: “The topographical map of Glacier Basin Campground was completed. This work was under the supervision of Assistant Engineer Dunn.”

p. 3 230-New Construction: “The new stable, near Timber Creek, 11 miles north of Grand Lake, which was begun in August, was completed during the past month. This is the first building of a road camp to be located at this point.”

p. 5 315-Contracts: “A contract was awarded to W. A. Colt & Son, of Las Animas, Colorado, for Project 1-B, Trail Ridge-Fall River Pass Road. This project is 17.2 miles in length...established camp in Hidden Valley. This contractor maintained a camp at Glacier Basin campground since the completion of the surfacing contract on the Bear Lake Road”

SMR April 4, 1930

C.E. Peterson, Assistant LA from San Fran Office visited park twice during the month....on building program for the coming season

SMR May 7, 1930 260-Landscape Work

Friday, April 25, “1300 three-year-old Western Pine seedlings were planted in Aspenglen Campground. This work was done with the cooperation of the Forest Service, the Chamber of Commerce, the Public Schools, the American Legion, the Rotary Club, the Woman’s Club, and the Fish and Game Association. A large number of men and women and school children did the actual work of planting the trees. We expect to make this tree

planting an annual community affair, probably on a larger scale, and expect that this will be a valuable educational feature. It seems likely that this can be done, since this year we had excellent support from all the organizations named.”

SMR July 14, 1930

122-Special Field Representatives

“T.C. Vint, Chief LA, and Charles Peterson, Assistant LA, arrived in park, June 25. They are inspecting roads and buildings and other construction projects.”

170-Plans, Maps, Surveys “A topographic map of the Glacier Basin Campground Area, was received from the Chief Engineer’s office during the month. Preliminary work for this map was done last summer...”

550-Public Camps “Approximately 1,000 boys, members of the Highlander Boys, Inc., held their annual encampment in Glacier Basin...”

SMR August 12, 1930

260-Landscape Work “Charles Peterson, Assistant LA, spent the first part of the month in this park, on landscape problems.” Also in September report

SMR June 10, 1931

Roads-“On the west side (Trail Ridge Road), the contractor, L.T. Lawler, has been at work since May 11. At the end of May, the contractor was employing 75 men, including 10 men engaged in the building of a box culvert, 2 gasoline shovels, 3 compressors and four trucks.”

SMR July 7, 1931

170-“Howard Baker, Jr. LA assigned to this park for the summer, has been busy throughout the month preparing plans for buildings to be constructed in the park during the year.”

SMR August 6, 1931

122-Special Field Representatives

“Thomas C. Vint, CLA, ...spent in conference with Superintendent Rogers, and inspecting all roads and building construction.”

SMR September 5, 1931

170-Plans, maps, and surveys p. 3 “Howard Baker, Jr. LA, was busy throughout the month preparing plans and studies for buildings to be constructed from this year’s appropriation.”

170-Plans Maps and Surveys-“revisions have been made to the maps of Aspenglen Campground and Glacier Basin Campground”

220-Improvements

p. 6 Timber Creek Bunk & Mess House-“The site for this new building was selected during the month and work was in progress during the latter part of the month. The building is 18’x40’ and of log frame construction. It is approximately 75% complete.”

SMR October 1, 1931

p.4-220-Improvements-Water Supply and Sanitation

“The water supply and sewer system were completed for the new Timber Creek Road Camp. This consisted of a small diversion dam, several hundred feet of water line, a spigot at the barn; connections in the mess hall, and a cesspool with its connections to the sink in the Mess House. Similar sewer facilities were provided at the Milner Pass Road Camp...Improvements at Aspenglen Campground...”

p. 5 New Buildings “Timber Creek Bunk and Mess Hall located on Timber Creek approximately 10 miles north of Grand Lake on the Fall River Road, was completed during this month.”

p. 8, 260 Landscape Work “Small areas on the old Bear Lake Road were planted with lodgepole pine and aspen trees. An effort is being made to obliterate unsightly areas where the new road crosses the old.”

SMR June 6, 1932

122.-p. 2 Howard Baker, Jr. LA, back in park

SMR July, 6, 1932

122-p.2 TV Vint back in park for inspections with Superintendent Rogers & Jr. LA Baker

260 Landscape Work

“Evidence of development on private property purchased during the past year are being obliterated as rapidly as possible. Buildings are being torn down and all material salvaged; barbed wire fences are being torn down and disposed of. After the buildings have been wrecked and fences removed the region certainly presents a different picture (one we have all been wishing for). –these lands were the ones acquired through Congressional acts on the outskirts of park.”

530 Visitors “Despite hard times and depression travel into the park is normal.”

SMR August 4, 1932

000-General p. 1 “The outstanding event this month was the opening of the Trail Ridge Road (East Side)...”

Photographs at end of report including one of Jr. LA Baker with first plane to land in park, along with other men mechanic Jack Barlow, pilot, etc. also some great photos of cabins and Chiquita Creek Bridge, rustic style

SMR October 4, 1932

p.6 Maintenance New Construction 230

Comfort Stations “Glacier Basin Campground: It is planned to build two comfort stations in the campground this fall. These are log trim buildings of standard size and design. Concrete foundations have been built and logs for the trim are on the site. The buildings are 8% complete.”

p. 7 “Fall River (West Side) Sec. I-C: Work on this project was about 100% complete at the end of the month. On September 27th Super. Rogers and Jr. LA Baker, accompanied by the Bureau of Public Roads official, made the final inspection of the road. Following the trip some clean-up was recommended. This, with the removal of the contractor’s camps, will see the job completed. The work of L.T. Lawler, contractor for this section, has been entirely satisfactory and progress has been very good.”

540 Public Camps

“Since there was a considerable increase in travel, the public camps experienced a large increase in usage. The most popular camps were glacier Basin and Aspenglen. Actual counts made at the campgrounds revealed an increase in cars of 163.6% and increase in campers of 80.9%.”

Some great pictures of the west side of Trail Ridge Road, the mason wall, and various buildings, including the mess house at Forest Canyon Pass (was this similar to the mess house at Timber Creek?)

SMR November 7, 1932

100 Administrative/ 170 Plans, Maps and Surveys “On October 19th, the Employment Stabilization Program of Projects in RMNP-1934-1939 was submitted to the Director’s office.”

220 Improvements/230 New Construction/Buildings

Comfort Stations, Glacier Basin Campground: “Work on these buildings has been suspended and will not resume until next spring. The buildings are approximately 60% complete.”

LA Baker left for San Francisco Office

SMR April 5, 1933 000General

General discussion on lack of snow, bitter cold weather and drop of travelers during the last few months, probably due to the Depression. “The Trail Ridge Road was open as far as “Many Parks Curve,” and the road from Grand Lake was open as far up the valley as Holzworth's Trout Lodge.” p. 1

SMR June 6, 1933

Jr.LA Baker back on May 5, they had a huge snow in April, good photos of deer in snow. Has assistant named Benson

170 Plans and Maps

“Engineer Dunn has revised the Utility and Glacier Basin Topographic Maps to include new buildings. The Aspenglen Campground Map is being enlarged to include area to be further developed this summer.”

220 Improvements

“Considerable improvement has been accomplished in Aspenglen Campground during the past month. Parking areas, camp sites, and fire places have been designated and constructed.”

230 Construction

“Some work was done on the two new comfort stations in Glacier Basin Campground. Plumbing and sewer fixtures were purchased and the buildings will be in use soon after the park opens.”

260 Landscape Work p. 5

“During the last two weeks of the month a crew of the C.C.C. men have been doing some planting at the administration site under the direction of Howard Baker, Jr. LA.”

400 Flora, Fauna and Natural Phenomena p. 5

“Sixty men from the Emergency Conservation Work Camp were put to work on May 22 in the Ponderosa Pine range in the Northern, Central, and Southern Ranger districts...Before the Boys were put out in the field they were familiarized with the Ponderosa Pine and the Black Hills beetle by means of a talk by the chief ranger. Each man took a great interest in the control work and before the end of the week a few of them could tell the difference between Dendroctonus and Ips beetles and identify them and their characteristic galleries and larval mines.”

Some good CCC pictures of work on beetle trees, admin building and campsite tents.

SMR July 7, 1933 000 General

“The outstanding event of the month was the establishing of the second Reforestation Camp in the park. This camp is located on the headwaters of the Colorado River, approximately twelve miles north of Grand Lake. The camp site is on property owned by LE Scott...”

June 22, “two commissioned officers and 180 men arrived at Granby via trains from Ft. Sill, Oklahoma...By the end of the month the camp was functioning perfectly...The majority of the boys are from the “Panhandle” of Texas, the morale of the men is high, all are enthusiastic and are ready for work.”

170 Plans, Maps and Surveys

“On receipt of the tentative Public Works Program for the park, plans and designs were started by Jr. LA Baker and Engineer Dunn. Much assistance was given those two men by Chief LA Vint who arrived in Denver July 1 and by Chief Engineer Kittredge...”

210 Maintenance p. 5 “In order to provide fire protection in Aspenglen and Glacier Basin campgrounds, five 1 ½” hydrants were installed where winter mains of sufficient capacity were available.”

220 Improvements p. 6

“Improvement work in Aspenglen Campground was continued throughout the month. Parking places, camp sites and fire places were constructed. Dr. Memecke’s (spelling from report) Campground Policy is being used to develop this area.

p. 7 comfort stations in Glacier Basin Campground completed.”

Great photos of CCC boys aka Woodpeckers (as described by locals)

SMR September 6, 1933

p. 7 plans approved for development of Glacier Basin Campgrounds

SMR December 6, 1933

220 Improvements/Public Work Projects

p. 4 Glacier Basin Campground, F.P. 172: Roads, waterlines and guard rails were completed in the campground. The construction of campground tables and fire places will be postponed till next spring.

SMR February 6, 1934

p. 4 170 Plans-realignment of Aspenglen Campground Road

SMR May 4, 1934 & July 7, 1934

Photos of ECW workers on a landscaping project, tree transplantation, watering sod

SMR December 6, 1934

Mr. Paul Wilkerson (ECW) motion picture photographer, Washington, D.C., arrived in the park November 14 and left November 26. While in the park (he) shot approximately 2600 feet of film.

SMR February 4, 1935 Photo of Bear Lake Checking Station at new location in Glacier Basin CG

SMR June 5, 1935 CCC Photo of crews working on Moraine Park amphitheater

SMR August 6, 1935 Photo of NEA workers lining up in Glacier Basin Campground for lunch

SMR September 5, 1935 Photo ECW enrollees at work on campground tables ...to be used in Glacier Basin Campground...Also good photo of fireplace type that is to be placed in our various public campgrounds

SMR December 6, 1935 Photo of logs for several ECW projects being skidded from the old Bierstadt Moraine Burn

SMR February 6, 1936 p.4 260 Landscape Work “Obliteration of old roads in Beaver Meadows continued during the month. This work is being done by ECW crew”

440 Insect Control p. 4 “ECW Insect Control Project no 402.6 was started on January 28. The control work is to be done along the eastern boundaries of the park where bark beetles have killed well over 600 trees. The insects involved in this infestation are the Black Hills Beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*), three species of Pine Engraver Beetles (*Ips oregond*, *Ips emorgenetus*, and *Ips interger*) and the Douglas Fir Beetle (*Dendroctonus pseudosugae*). These bark beetles are attacking ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, limber pine, and Douglas Fir. Great picture of enrollees felling an insect infested tree 1936 Resident LA Howard Baker, made office in Denver district office”

SMR July 1936 Photo of Moraine? Amphitheater with CCC workers...

SMR August 7, 1936 170-Plans, Maps, and Surveys...”Work progressed on the topographic survey of the Camp Woods (?) area, and this project was approximately 67 percent complete at the end of the month...”

SMR September 3, 1936

170 Plans “The topography of the Camp Woods area has been plotted and work is now progressing on contours. This topographic map should be ready for tracing in early September. Photo of reservoir for Aspenglen Campground”

SMR June 7, 1937 Photo of septic system for Glacier Basin Campground

SMR October 6, 1937 170 Plans. In preparation for CCC work topo studies have been done for possible addition of amphitheaters in Glacier Basin and Aspenglen

SMR February 7, 1938 Photo of signs CCC were working on, font and material style.

SMR April 6, 1938 p. 4 260 Landscape Work “43 ponderosa pine trees and 365 shrubs have been transplanted by CCC crews in the Moraine Park amphitheatre”

SMR July 9, 1938 “Plans for the Timber Creek Campground area were prepared during the month as well as plans for the proposed tennis court at Utility Area...engineer staff spent considerable time in the field making the following surveys:...water and sewer locations at Timber Creek”

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park
David H. Canfield, Superintendent

Information Bulletin
Immediate Release---EAR 6/27/38

Development of the first campground on the west slopes of the park will be undertaken this summer along Timber Creek by the Grand Lake CCC camp, David H. Canfield, Park superintendent, announced today.

The new campground will be eight miles southwest of the Continental Divide on the Trail Ridge Road, near the banks of the Colorado River, and will cover approximately 20 acres. Like the other five areas now established in the park, the new area will include table and bench combinations, stoves, fireplaces, water system, sanitary facilities and spurs for trailer houses.

CCC labor from Mill Creek and Horseshoe Park camps is to begin the construction in a short time of outdoor amphitheatres at Aspenglen and Glacier Basin Campgrounds. These evening campfire lecture circles are more informal than the one now in popular use at Moraine Park, and will seat approximately 200 people. Log seats are arranged in semi-circular fashion facing a small platform and rustic wall, the latter used for hanging screens when outdoor moving pictures or illustrated are planned. A circular pit is provided for bonfires when the summer air is cool.

SMR August 5, 1938 170 Plans, Maps and Surveys p. 3 “Triangulation markers and flags are being placed throughout the park in preparation for the aerial survey which is to be done by a Forest Service aerial mapping crew at first opportunity.

A topographic map for location of roads in Timber Creek Campground was prepared during this month, as well as the Timber Creek Campground trail profile.

Field surveys have taken a large part of the engineering time this month. In addition, a new filing system for all maps and plans was begun, along with an index of drawings.

A survey of the Fern Lake area included traverse, levels, topography, and solar observations. The location and staking of roads, water system, and sewer system were completed at Timber Creek Campground during the month.” (Glacier Basin work also mentioned)

260 Landscape Work p. 5 “Some of the landscape work has necessarily been discontinued due to the dryness of the season. Considerable sod and other planting material, however, were available at Timber Creek

Campground and are being used in obliteration work there and also for planting road construction scars on the West Side. Growing conditions are more favorable on the West Side due to more plentiful precipitation.”

SMR September 8, 1938 230 New Construction p. 5 “Work on the new Timber Creek Campground area continued with good progress.” Brief mention in 8/22/38 Information Bulletin, outlining CCC progress, states “One of the large jobs now underway is the establishment of the first campground on the western slopes of the park...”

SMR October 6, 1938 p. 5 230 New Construction. “The Timber Creek Campground Development is about 50 percent complete. 3200 feet of sewer line have been laid, 3130 feet of water line have been laid and 425 square yards of parking area and 12 acres of campground have been developed. “

SMR November 4, 1938 p. 4 230 New Construction. “The water system at the Timber Creek Campground, CCC Job 1043, was completed during the month.”

SMR February 8, 1939 p. 3. 170 plans, maps and surveys. “A topographic map was prepared showing water and sewer systems, roads, and campsites constructed at Timber Creek Campground in 1938. The above three maps were submitted to the regional office.”

SMR June 10, 1940 p. 4 220 New Construction-Amphitheatre in Aspenglen complete

SMR August 8, 1940 p. 3 220 new construction CCC crews continued construction on the following trails:...Timber Creek-Phantom Valley

SMR November 9, 1940 220 New construction p. 3 “During the month CCC enrollees worked on 41 jobs, completing 15 and starting on 11 new jobs, making October an outstanding month in CCC activities. Among jobs considered 100 percent complete is the Timber Creek Campground development which will be ready for use at the beginning of the 1941 travel season.”

SMR December 12, 1940 220 New Construction CCC completed Timber Creek-Phantom Valley trail

SMR December 9, 1941 p.2 “F.L. Olmsted Jr., Boston, Massachusetts, nationally known landscape architect and National Park Service consultant, making a general study of recreational potentialities in the Colorado River Drainage Basin, was in the area for several days beginning November 5 with Neal Butterfield, Land Planning Division, conferring with Rocky Mountain National Park officials on park recreational development aspects. He gave brief review to the proposed new approach road from Park Headquarters buildings near Estes Park Village to the Thompson River entrance, involving approximately three and one-half miles of new road construction with a 500 foot right-of-way to eliminate most of the unsightly buildings along the route.

He conferred with Resident LA Kenneth Mitchell and U.S. Commissioner Wayne H. Hackett on the ground in regard to the recreational potentialities of the Shadow Mountain Lake and the Granby Reservoir to result from the Colorado-Big Thompson irrigation project now underway.”

SMR July 10, 1942 p. 2 Improvements. “Construction of new comfort stations in the Aspenglen campground was reported 65 percent complete at the end of the month. Ansel Adams in park to take pictures for National Park Mural” p. 5

SMR August 10, 1942 p. 4 “In conformance with Congressional Action to abolish the Civilian Conservation Corps, Camps NP-11 and NP-12 were abandoned July 14.”

SMR February 10, 1950P. 2 Plans, Maps, and Surveys “Mr. Andrew G. Field, Jr. of the Region Two Office was assigned to this office for thirty days to assist in preparation of revision of the master plan drawings.”

SMR March 9, 1950 New Construction, p. 2 “All materials for the hypochlorinator installations at the Utility Area and Timber Creek Campground have been purchased”...continues through 1950 completed by July

SMR February 8, 1951 p. 1 On Jan. 10 “District Ranger Coffin and A.C. Ranger Field traveled to Denver to examine aerial photographs of the park. These photographs are located at the Regional Forester’s Office and now include complete coverage. Twenty-six pictures were purchased to facilitate winter range and winter use studies.”

SMR September 1951 Construction p. 3 Pit toilets were installed at the following locations: ...Timber Campground (2) Timber Creek or Timber Line?

SMR May 12, 1952 Plans, Maps, and Surveys p. 3 “The Park Engineer and Landscape Architect collaborated on the design of picnic table and fireplace plans...The Master Plan drawing file for RM...was brought up to date by the Landscape Architect.. Construction and Rehabilitation p. 4 Construction activities on several projects were started during the month, and the status of these projects follows:

Fireplace and Picnic Tables: Since there are four separate projects, three construction and one rehabilitation (where???), that include work on picnic tables and fireplaces, the total requirements were estimated, the contract advertised for casting the concrete table ends and fireplaces, and a purchase order to Fred Wolpert of Estes Park on April 25. The table tops and seats which were constructed during CCC days and stored in the warehouse since that time were prepared for use with the newly designed table ends. Fifty-five such sets were prepared and therefore comparatively few will have to be made from new materials. One-inch reinforcing steel was purchased as scrap material from the Bureau of Reclamation at a bargain price and should prove sufficient for all of the fireplaces required.”

SMR May 1952 p. 4 “work proceeded on the construction of picnic tables and fireplaces for various campgrounds”

SMR July 1952 p. 2 Plans, Maps, Surveys “LA Theodore W. Wirth, on assignment in the park from the Region Two Office, completed master plans for the Grand Lake Region and Timber Creek Campground, which were submitted to the Regional Office for review and approval. Sketches were prepared for various informational and directional signage in the park.”

SMR August 1952 p. 3 Revised master plan drawings for Timber Creek Campground, Minor Developed Areas, the General Development Plan and the Index Sheet were completed and submitted to the Regional Office for review and approval.

SMR June 1963 p. 10 “Plans were reviewed for Headquarters Area Master Plan on May 7, and for Timber Creek Campground on May 14.”

SMR July 1963 p. 10 “The proposed entrance road to Timber Creek Campground was reviewed on site by Super. Hanks.” Also, WGDC Landscape Architect O’Shea on June 20 Moraine Park Campground mentioned as well

Annual Report 1963 p. 8. Mission 66-lists Moraine Park Campground Comfort Station/roads/water

1963-1964 SMR are very difficult to read due to type face melting into pages, very blurry

SMR August 1964 List at end of monthly project report, Timber Creek Septic Tank

SMR December 1964 At end monthly progress reports info on Timber Creek Access Road, Moraine Park Campground



Campsite 17



Campsite 18 f



Campsite 18 b



Campsite 18



Campsite 18 c



Campsite 19 b



Campsite 18 d



Campsite 19 c



Campsite 18 e



Campsite 19



Campsite 40s 2



Campsite 42



Campsite 40s 3



Campsite 45



Campsite 40s 4



Campsite 46



Campsite 40s 5



Campsite 47



Campsite 40s



Campsite 48



Campsite 49



Campsite 5 b



Campsite 5



Campsite 50



Campsite 22



Campsite 24 2



Campsite 24



Campsite 25 2



Campsite 25



Campsite 51.52



Campsite 51



Campsite 52 2



Campsite 52



Campsite 54



Campsite 27



Campsite 28



Campsite 29



Campsite 3 b



Campsite 3



Campsite 55



Campsite 56 1



Campsite 56



Campsite 57



Campsite 58



Campsite 30



Campsite 31.32.33



Campsite 34



Campsite 35



Campsite 36



Campsite 59



Campsite 5-Loop Remnant



Campsite 6 b



Campsite 6 c



Campsite 6 d



Campsite 37



Campsite 38



Campsite 4 a



Campsite 4 b



Campsite 4



Campsite 6 e



Campsite 6



Campsite 60



Campsite 61



Campsite 62







Loop A Clear Cut 3

Loop A Clear Cut 4

Loop A Clear Cut 5

Loop A Clear Cut

Mission 66 Concrete Curb

Sawyer Work 5

Sawyer Work 6

Sawyer Work 7

Sawyer Work 8

Sawyer Work 9



Mountain Beetle



Picnic Table 2



Picnic Table



Pitch Tubes 2



Pitch Tubes 3



Signage 2



Signage 4



Signage 5



Signage 6



Signage 7



Pitch Tubes



Ranger Station 2



Ranger Station Concrete Detail



Ranger Station Concrete



Ranger Station Detail



Signage 8



Signage



Stone Road Edging



Tent Pad 3



Tent Pad Detail 2



Ranger Station Light 2



Ranger Station Light



Ranger Station Signage



Ranger Station



Red Evergreen 2



Tent Pad Detail



Timber Creek Culvert 10



Timber Creek Culvert 11



Timber Creek Culvert 12



Timber Creek Culvert 2



Red Evergreen



Road Detail b



Road Detail



Road Rocks 2



Road Rocks



Timber Creek Culvert 3



Timber Creek Culvert 4



Timber Creek Culvert 5



Timber Creek Culvert 6



Timber Creek Culvert 7



Road Stamps 2



Road Stumps 3



Road Stumps



Road Triangle Planting



Road View 2



Timber Creek Culvert 8



Timber Creek Culvert 9



Timber Creek Culvert



Trash Bin 2



Trash Bin 3



Road View



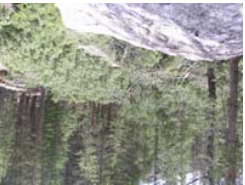
Sawyer Work 1



Sawyer Work 2



Sawyer Work 3



Sawyer Work 4



Trash Bin 4



Trash Bin



View from Beaver Meadow 2



View from Beaver Meadow



Water Pump 2



Wind Throw Tree



Water Pump 8



Water Pump 3



Wood Scene



Water Pump



Water Pump 4



Woodpecker



Western View from
Campground 2



Water Pump 5



Woods 2



Western View from
Campground 3



Water Pump 6



Western View from
Campground



Water Pump 7