Development of Gooseberry Falls State Park started in May 1934, by enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC)
Imagine. As many as 200 young men at a time were living in a camp under the supervision of the National Park Service.
just behind the Upper Falls. A typical CCC Camp had 10 army style barracks,
an infirmary (hospital), latrine (camp bathroom),

“Ready to ring the dinner bell”

mess hall (lunch room), recreation hall,
The Camp even had an education building called "Gooseberry Falls University."
Large scale construction & development by the “CCC boys” began in 1935. By 1936 the park was “considered one of the more fully equipped in the state.”

There was a hustling, bustling of activity as the “boys” built
roads, trails, the campground with water & sewer lines, and many stone and log structures throughout the park.
Today, over 80 CCC buildings, structures, and objects are found within the Gooseberry Falls State Park National Register of Historic Places historic district.
Lakeview Shelter

Lakeview Shelter (1936)      Cost:  $2,049.72   3,874 Man Days
Campground Shelter (1938)  
Cost: $4,350.32  6,946 Man Days

Water Tower (1936)
“Castle in the Park” concourse (1936-1940)

Falls View Shelter (1939)  Cost: $4,386.44  5,300 Man Days
Guard Rail (1939), fireplaces, picnic tables, & benches.

The “CCC Boys” also helped in the community when needed.

Latrine (1935)
Cost: $216.08  2,225 Man Days

Ice House (1941)
Cost: $240.00  547 Man Days
Emergency CCC Camp #1720 was at Gooseberry from May to October 1934.

CCC Camp #2710 was here from July 1934 until it was terminated in May 1941. It remained in operation longer than any other Minnesota state park CCC camp.

After the camp closed a local newspaper wrote,

“Here lies a state park that will live in the years to come as a tribute to the nation’s Civilian Conservation Corps and a monument to Company 2710, its officers, and its boys.”

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