

New Germany

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Past & Present



Self-Guided
Walking Tour

New Germany Past & Present

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

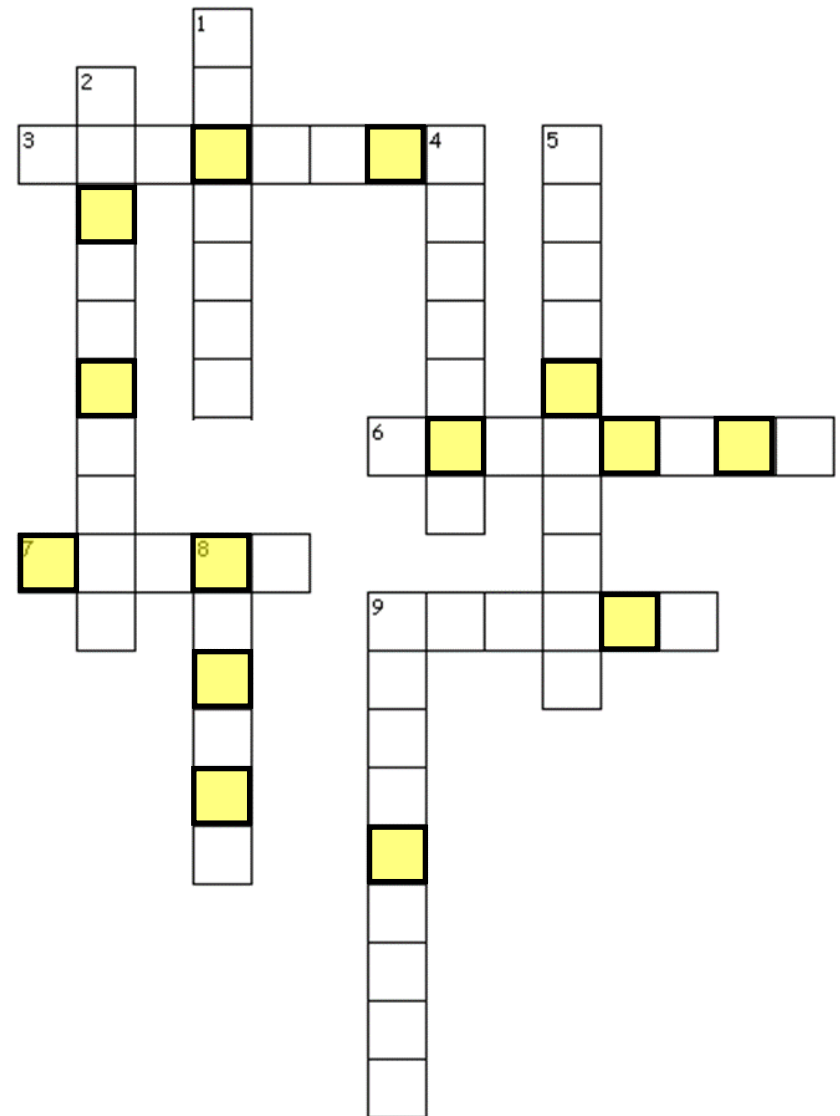
Welcome to New Germany State Park! This self-guided walking tour will inform you about what this land once was, and how it came to be a State Park. Before you begin your journey, take a few minutes to read the introduction below.

The Old Dutch Settlement, Village of New Germany

Earliest records refer to this land as the “Old Dutch Settlement”. It is not known when the name was changed, but when the first Post Office opened in 1883, it was referred to as New Germany. Like many rural sections, the exact boundaries of the New Germany village have never been specifically defined. Central to this area were the mills. The first is believed to be the Swauger gristmill and sawmill. Several homes, a doctor’s office and a general store soon were built at this location, serving farmers and residents of the New Germany area. The New Germany Post Office was closed in 1927.

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

The early 1930’s was a dark time in American history. With the Great Depression in full swing, millions of hard-working Americans found themselves unemployed and unable to provide for their families. In an effort to create jobs, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt developed a new program in 1933, called the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In addition to creating jobs, the purpose of the CCC was to help restore the nation’s struggling natural resources.



ACROSS:

- When it was originally built 1934, the Recreation Hall was surrounded by six similar buildings, which served as the _____ for the CCC camp.
- The “CCC boys” of Company 326 spent their first winter in _____ (two words) while they worked on constructing more permanent buildings for the camp.
- The New Germany Schoolhouse served children in grades one through _____ from 1905 until 1954.
- Many of the structures built by the CCC in the 1930’s still remain popular features of New Germany State Park, including 11 cabins, 2 pavilions, the Recreation Hall, and even a small _____ shaped like an octagon.

DOWN:

- Before the CCC arrived, much of the land surrounding New Germany Lake was used for _____.
- New Germany Lake was originally formed to provide _____ and to make ice.
- New Germany Lake was once called _____’s Dam.
- Today, there are two _____ at the entrance to Parking Lot #5, which serve as reminders of New Germany’s industrial past.
- Cabin # _____ was the first cabin built by the CCC at New Germany.
- Parking Lot #5 at New Germany State Park was once the site of a 3-story _____, which processed wheat, buckwheat, and cornmeal for the people who lived in the village of New Germany.

The CCC recruited young, unemployed men ages 17 to 25 to live and work in camps supervised by the U.S. Army. These young men—nicknamed “CCC boys”—went to work building parks, restoring forests, planting trees, fighting forest fires, and restoring watersheds across America. Between 1933 and 1942, the CCC provided jobs for over three million Americans.

The Local CCC Boys

One of the nation’s CCC camps was located in the area that is now New Germany State Park. In the spring of 1933, approximately 125 “CCC boys” arrived at the camp, ready for work. For the first year, the “boys” lived in army tents, while they worked constructing the barracks, mess hall, and other buildings for the camp. Much of the camp was constructed in the winter months, despite bitter cold temperatures, heavy snowfall, and icy conditions. Once they finished building the camp, the “boys” went to work on a number of projects at New Germany and the surrounding area.

The Development of New Germany State Park

A top priority for the local CCC camp was the development of recreation facilities, which would later become the foundation of New Germany State Park. When the “boys” began their work at New Germany in 1933, the park did not exist – there were no cabins, pavilions, picnic areas, or parking lots. There also was no running water. By 1940, the “CCC boys” managed to transform the area into a popular recreation destination. Without the CCC, New Germany State Park would not exist as it is today.

Begin Your Tour!

Now that you’ve learned some basic information about New Germany’s past, you’re ready to begin your tour of the present-day park! As you follow the instructions and admire the work of the CCC, search for the answers to complete the crossword puzzle on the last page.

1.) Begin at the Lake House. From there, walk across the dam, toward the beach.

If you were here in 1930, this walk would have been a bit more challenging, since the dam at that time wasn't quite as well-built as it is today. The crude construction can be seen in the photograph below. Rebuilding the dam was one of the first projects completed by the CCC in 1933. To learn more, take a look at the interpretive panel at the end of the dam, near the beach. Then find the answers to **#2 and #4 DOWN**.





2.) Walk along the beach until you find a view of the lake and hillside that matches the one pictured above. This photograph shows the Broadwater's farm in the 1930's, which closely bordered the lake at that time. Take a few minutes to compare the past and present views. As you ponder the changes, think about the answer to **#1 DOWN**.

3.) From the beach, find the log cabin pictured below. This photograph was taken in 1934, the same year the cabin was constructed. This cabin was the first and largest cabin built by the CCC at New Germany. When it was originally built, this cabin served as living quarters for CCC officers and foresters. As you compare the images of past and present, find the answer to **#8 DOWN**.



8.) To complete your challenge, unscramble the highlighted squares in the crossword puzzle to reveal the answer to the final clue:

Over the past century, New Germany has been known as a village, a CCC camp, and now a State Park. Many who have come here to live, work, or play have also described New Germany as a:

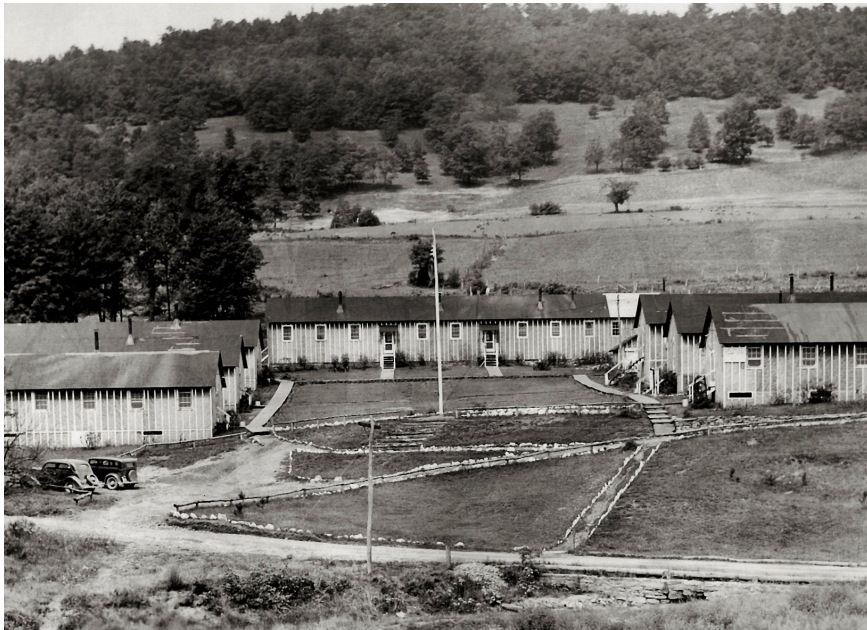


Hint: Squares are all the same letter. Answer on back.

7.) Next, turn around and follow the same black-blazed trail back to McAndrews Hill Road. Carefully cross the road and walk across the grass to the Recreation Hall (centered in the picture below).

Read the interpretive panel at the end of the walkway in front of the building. Try to imagine what it was like to live and work at the CCC camp with 125 other enrollees.

Then find the answers to **#3 and #6 ACROSS.**



4.) From the cabin, head south on McAndrews Hill Road until you come to the one-room schoolhouse pictured above.

Children who lived in New Germany and surrounding farms attended school in this building from 1905 until 1954. Take a few minutes to read the interpretive panel near the front of the schoolhouse. Then find the answer to **#7 ACROSS.**

5.) From the schoolhouse, walk back down McAndrews Hill Road toward the lake. Locate Parking Lot #5 and read the interpretive panel. As you will see, this area was once owned by the McAndrews brothers, who lived in the house pictured below. Take a moment to compare the views of past and present. Then find the answers to **#5 and #9 DOWN**.



6.) From Parking Lot #5, locate the stone steps that lead to a trail with black blazes. Go up the steps and follow the black blazes about one-tenth of a mile, until you reach a small wooden structure built by the CCC. Stop to rest and enjoy the view of Poplar Lick below. Then answer **#9 ACROSS**.