

The CCC Challenge was created to show the importance of the Civilian Conservation Corps to the state parks of Indiana. In most parks, you will find evidence of the CCC. Here at Ouabache State Park, your challenge is to find some of the CCC legacy. So, hike it, climb it, and find it!



There are seven photo opportunities to complete the challenge:

1. From the dam of Kunkel Lake (include the lodge, fire tower, and lake)
2. Water tower support pillars
3. Original entrance sign
4. CCC worker statue
5. Incubator house
6. Silting dam
7. From the top of the Lookout Tower, the bison enclosure

After completing the challenge, show your photos at the park office to receive a sticker recognizing your accomplishment.



If you wish, you may also purchase a CCC Challenge T-shirt by visiting the park office during normal office hours.



The Friends of Ouabache State Park want to make this a memorable challenge course. Please email feedback that would help improve this experience to friendsofouabache@gmail.com.



Friends of Ouabache State Park
friendsofouabache.wixsite.com/park

CCC Challenge Course

Ouabache State Park

**Hiked it.
Climbed it.
Found it.**

CCC Challenge Course

- 1** Begin at the Lookout Tower parking lot. You may climb the tower either at the beginning or the end of the challenge. (photo from top or the tower).

The **Lookout Tower** opened in May of 1939. The tower was closed in 2016 due to safety issues. The Friends of Ouabache State Park raised the funds for renovation, and the tower reopened in 2019. Where else can you climb a tower to see grazing bison?

- 2** Head south toward Kunkel Lake, following Trail 4 around the lake past the lodge to the stairs/spillway at the dam. (photo of lake, lodge, tower).

Kunkel Lake along with a wildlife island were started in March of 1937 and completed in 1939. Completed in the spring of 1939, the lodge originally had the assembly room, kitchen, toilets, and a five-room apartment. Renting the lodge in 1939 cost \$2.50.

- 3** Descend the stairs, cross the road to the bike path. Turn left, following the bike path to the end and continue straight on the main road until you reach the youth camp. Turn right into the camp and pass through the gate. To the right, you will see the cement support pillars for the CCC Camp water tank (photo).

- 4** Leave the youth camp, returning to the main road, and follow it to the bike path intersection and turn right. Turn left on Trail 5, and follow it to the main road. At the main road, look left, and you will see the original entrance sign (photo).

The **original entrance sign** was the site of the main entrance to the Wells County State Forest & Game Preserve from 1935-1961. In 1962, the property was designated Ouabache State Recreation Area, and it became Ouabache State Park in 1983.

- 5** Head back toward Trail 5 and go the CCC worker statue on the left, past the flagpole. (photo).

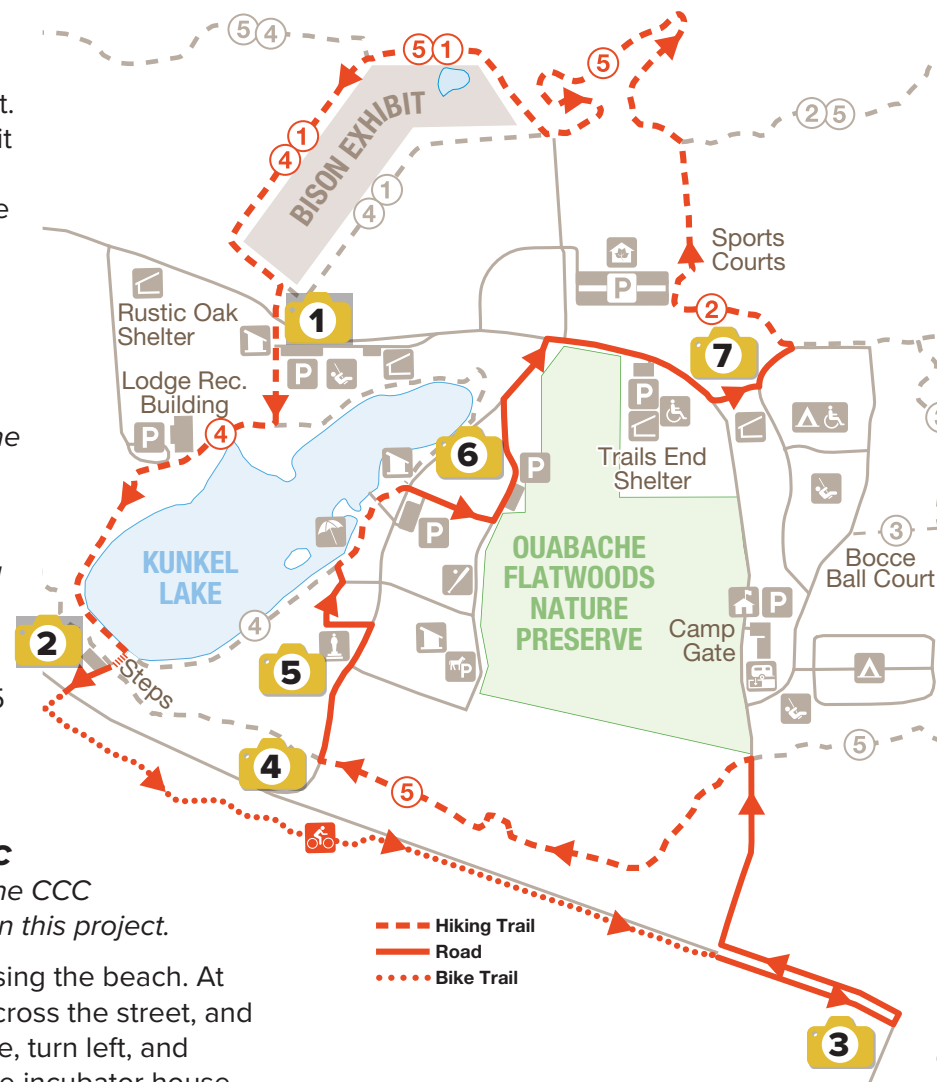
Dedicated in 2014, the **CCC worker statue** honors all the CCC young men who took part in this project.

- 6** Go to the Lake Trail, passing the beach. At the boat ramp, go right, cross the street, and take the drive to the park office, turn left, and behind the office, you'll find the incubator house built into the ground. (photo).

The **incubator house** was used for hatching quail and pheasant from 1936-1961.

- 7** Continue down the road and turn right, across from the Trails End Shelter parking lot, looking into the woods on the left, and you'll find the silting dam (photo).

The **silting dam** was constructed to prevent runoff from surrounding farmland from entering Kunkel Lake.



Continue toward the campground, taking the first left into it. Keeping left, go to Trail 2. Following Trail 2, turn left onto Trail 5 and follow it to and around the bison pen to the tower. Now you have completed the challenge!

There have always been **bison** at Ouabache. In 1936, there were also fallow deer, white-tailed deer, and elk. The current bison enclosure was completed in 1974.