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Preservation 50

Fifty Years of Historic Preservation

The National Historic Preservation Act established the federal review process for protection of historic properties. Under Section 106 of the law, federal agencies must consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, approve, or fund, and must consult with interested parties in order to try to minimize adverse effects. The Hiawatha National Forest includes two units in Michigan's Upper Peninsula that initially existed as two separate National Forests; the Marquette National Forest (East Unit) established in 1913, and the Hiawatha National Forest (West Unit) established in 1931. During the 1930s, enrollees with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) helped with reforestation efforts and constructed several recreational buildings that are now eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In 2016 the Hiawatha partnered with Historicorps and a crew of volunteers to restore the Soldier Lake Picnic Pavilion.

A restored picnic pavilion for future generations to enjoy!

CCC enrollees construct the Soldier Lake picnic pavilion, 1936

Volunteers work to restore pavilion, 2016

Multiple generations work together for historic preservation