In June 1933, the CCC established camp S-57 along Fishing Creek. Over the next decade, enrollees improved and protected the forests on the Frederick City Watershed and built Gambrill State Park here atop High Knob.

The CCC planted trees, built roads and bridges, hung telephone lines, built new trails, cut fire breaks, installed waterlines and sewage disposal tanks, and constructed most of the buildings and shelters here at Gambrill. The Tea Room, forest warden’s office, ranger’s residence and stone overlooks bear witness to their efforts.

“Many of the CCC men and boys are gone, but their works endure. The genius of the CCCs was that they combined conservation of our natural resources with conservation of our human resources. Talk with any of the surviving members, and they will say that those CCC days were among the happiest of their lives.” – Joseph J. Davis, Forester.

Gambrill State Park was named in honor of James H. Gambrill, Jr. (center), a prominent local businessman who lobbied Frederick to establish the City Watershed.

The CCC statue at Gambrill State Park was made possible by a generous donation from Potomac Edison Company, which is proud to support the heritage of Maryland State Parks.