

SANITATION IN FOREST RECREATION

by

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The ever increasing use of established picnic spots by the general public will eventually make it absolutely essential to have some sanitary form of conveniences that is within the financial scope of our forest recreation services, and yet be within a realistic degree of hygienic suitability which the public will accept and use.

To preserve the attractiveness of most of our undeveloped spots it should be the first requirement to make these facilities available - particularly so where the spot is on a road verge clearing or adjacent to some scenic stream.

Flush toilet systems would of course be the ideal method of disposal where a reliable water pressure was available at reasonable cost, or the proximity of the recreation area to settlement demanded such a system be maintained.

However the isolation of most picnic spots is desirable and generally demanded by the public and it is within this field that the Author considers the deep earth form of sanitation can be put to sound use with the minimum of establishment and maintenance cost. Vandalism, the greatest menace of the water borne system should not be so evident in the deep earth type. Water table levels will always dictate where such deep earth types must be sited, and in fact such requirements may have the main bearing on siting the resting place or actual picnic spots. Where water table problems of good seepage are impossible the planner would have to compromise with concrete pit and pump out system.

Good ventilation of pits is of course essential to maintain continuous hygienic use and this can be obtained by the fitting of up draft pipes constructed to include either an oil lamp heater or wind driven vanes to lift the foul air to a desired height.

The aesthetic disadvantages developed from having buildings on or near picnic spots could be overcome by using the suggested large vertical pipe design illustrated. If this form could be suitably camouflaged to blend in with the tree bowl colours there is no reason to regard such structure as having any disadvantage on a well planned, well maintained site.

The mistake is often made by establishing the stopping place too close to some particular scenic or beauty spot. As these spots can then be monopolised by the few to the disadvantage of many, perhaps the spot is inhabited by some particular species of flora and is trampled into history, so it would seem the better plan to establish a number of picnic spots within a short walking distance of the vantage point. In this way more use would be made of walking trails and more people are able to move onto and away from a vantage view point for the purpose of viewing and photography with the least possible damage and compaction of the soil and flora. At the same time they can retire to the privacy of a family picnic area and enjoy the undisturbed solitude of the forest.

The construction of a building is visualised on the visiting site and not on the vantage point of scenic attraction. Sections of 5 ft. concrete pipe would give a structure of rugged strength and able to withstand any uncontrolled fire of high intensity that may ravage an area at a time of extreme fire danger.

These buildings could be expected to have a serviceable life of over half a century. The structure could be installed and maintained by the departments existing work force.

As picnic areas are extended some indication of where toilets can be found would have to be shown on large route location boards or in prepared brochures of the layout.

If forest recreation progresses and bus routes are planned throughout the forests it would be all the more necessary to have such facilities available on all stopping places.

DEEP EARTH TOILET

FIG. 1

ROTATING VENTILATOR

