WPA CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM PROVIDES VARIETY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES,
EIGHT MONTHS REVIEW SHOWS

More than 2,000 miles of new sewer lines, 97 new sewage disposal plants and 1,134 miles of new water mains, in addition to a large amount of repair work on existing facilities, constitute the outstanding accomplishments in the field of public utilities of the WPA construction program on projects completed during the eight months period ending March 1, Colonel F. C. Harrington, Commissioner, announced today. The sewer and water lines alone provided 79,000 new service connections, he added.

Among other accomplishments of the construction program, exclusive of highways and public buildings which have been reported on previously, Colonel Harrington cited the completion of 354 new athletic fields, 215 new parks aggregating a total of 5,326 acres, 23 new landing fields, the drainage of 85,000 acres of mosquito-breeding swamps, and the planting of 3,434,000 small trees in the reforestation program.

In addition to the public utility projects already mentioned, Colonel Harrington's report showed that WPA workers had completed 12 new water treatment plants and 81 pumping stations in addition to a considerable amount of repair and modernization work. Six hundred forty wells were dug.
Two items of importance in the field of public health, in addition to swamp drainage for mosquito control, were also cited by Colonel Harrington: the construction of 238,000 sanitary toilets for families lacking plumbing facilities, and the sealing of 49,600 abandoned mine openings. The widespread construction of sanitary toilets by WPA has been highly commended by officials of the U. S. Public Health Service, he said, and credited by them with helping to decrease the prevalence of certain diseases. The mine sealing program has reduced sulphuric acid pollution of streams in the Ohio River basin by approximately 25 percent and rendered many of the streams usable again for drinking purposes.

Outstanding conservation activities include the construction of 1,196 miles of forest trails and firebreaks, completion of 10,645 check and diversion dams, 1,504,000 square yards of ripraping, and the provision of irrigation facilities for 4,140 acres of farmland.

Recreational facilities, other than new parks and athletic fields, completed during the period include 236 new playgrounds and improvements to 1,274; 83 new swimming pools and 63 wading pools; 1,065 new tennis courts and a large number of miscellaneous facilities such as ice skating rinks, ski trails, outdoor theaters and band shells, etc.

The report, officials explained, covers only completed projects. No estimates were available on completed units of projects still in operation.

(More detailed information may be available at State WPA headquarters.)