

## Camp Grant History

### World War I

**June, 1917** Work begins on Rockford's Camp Grant. Named after Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, it is the largest training facility in the Midwest.

**September, 1917** The first draftees arrive. Their primary focus is on infantry-related field skills. Camp Grant would train 56,238 troops during WWI, with an estimated one million people passing through in some capacity.



**September, 1918** An influenza epidemic sweeps the area, closing all schools and public places. 1,400 soldiers die at Camp Grant.

**November, 1918** "The Great War" ends. Troops return home.

### World War II

**October, 1940— August, 1945** Camp Grant is re-activated as an induction center (for physical exams, etc.) and medical training post for draftees.

Approximately 100,000 medical personnel were trained at the camp.



and at the height of the war it is the nation's largest induction site. The camp also served as a POW detention center and employed 6,000 civilians, greatly boosting the local economy.

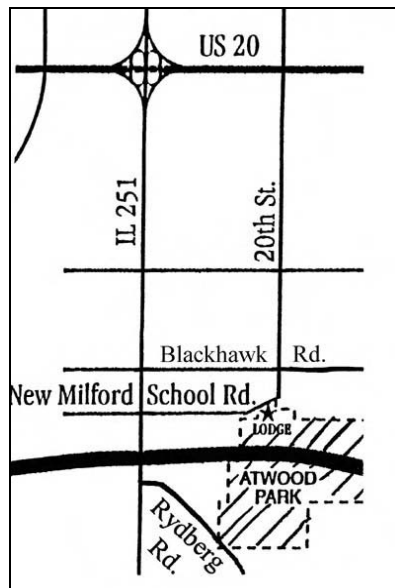
**September, 1945** WWII comes to a close.

### Post-War

**September, 1947** The majority of Camp Grant buildings are torn down.

**Fall, 1956** Seth B. Atwood buys 340 acres of former camp land and donates it to the Rockford Park District. Outdoor Education programs would begin 3 years later.

## Directions



We welcome the opportunity to assist guests with disabilities to enjoy ALL our facilities, programs, and services. For assistance and information on accessibility, contact Therapeutic Recreation Services at 987-1600 (voice/TTY).

#### Recreation Satisfaction ... Guaranteed!

We will refund your program fee if you are not satisfied with your experience and our service.

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## Camp Grant at Atwood Park

### Map and Visitors Guide



#### ATWOOD OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

2685 New Milford School Rd.  
Rockford, IL 61109-4435  
Telephone: (815) 874-7576  
TTY: (815) 963-DEAF  
Fax: (815) 874-2467



## Atwood Park

- Largest park in Rockford Park District
- Named in honor of Seth B. Atwood, who purchased the land and donated it to the Rockford Park District in 1956
- 334 acres of diverse habitats and public use
- Open every day from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.
- Free admission

### Atwood Outdoor Education Center

Located within Atwood Park is the Atwood Outdoor Education Center (AOEC), whose mission is to develop in young people and adults an understanding and respect for self, others, the earth, and all their interrelationships.



### Educational Opportunities

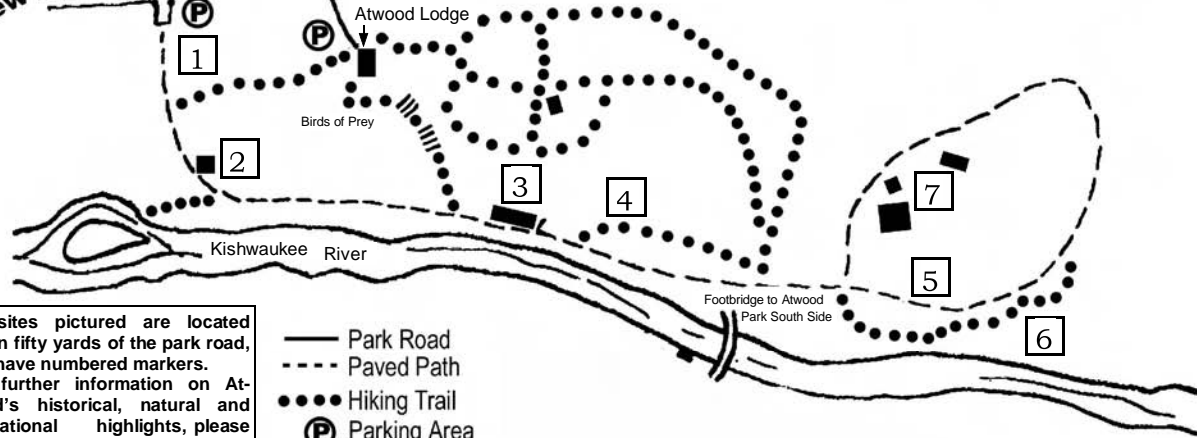
**Camp Grant Induction:** A session geared toward junior/senior high school students who are sent an "induction notice" for military service. Upon reporting to Camp Grant (Atwood Lodge), the "recruits" experience a simulated first day as a World War I soldier in a variety of ways, including inspection, learning to march, and touring the target pits and bunkers.

**History Hunt:** This class, geared toward students grades 3—8, is a treasure hunt for historical facts. Atwood Park and the adjacent New Milford Cemetery provide authentic sites that tell the story of Camp Grant—the Midwest's largest military base—as well as that of the settlement of Illinois.

If you are interested in programming or lodge rental, please call (815) 874-7576.

New Milford School Rd.

# Atwood Park Map



All sites pictured are located within fifty yards of the park road, and have numbered markers. For further information on Atwood's historical, natural and educational highlights, please call (815) 874-7576.

- Park Road
- - - Paved Path
- Hiking Trail
- Ⓟ Parking Area



1

**New Milford Cemetery**

It's the reason the town of New Milford still exists. After buying the land, the U.S. government didn't want to go to the trouble to move the cemetery, so it and the town remained.



2

**Pumphouse**

The still functional pump not only offers a cool drink on a warm day, but also fresh insight into the era of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).



3

**Target Pit**

The target pit shielded soldiers as paper targets above the pit were shot at from across the river. The number of hits was recorded and reported to the riflemen via a primitive telephone system on the south wall of the pit.



4

**Trench/Trench Bunkers**

Hand-dug trenches were considered an all-important part of warfare during World War I. Beginning near the north side of the road, west of the target pit, the trench is lined with bunkers.



7

**Log Lodge**

The CCC-style stone foundation of the former Atwood Lodge. Built in the 1930s, the primarily wooden structure caught fire in the mid-1970s, leaving only the stone remnants



6

**L-Bunker**

A modification of the standard field bunker.



5

**Field Bunkers**

Field bunkers offered soldiers a lesson on a different style of combat.