

“Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to the people.” Franklin D. Roosevelt



FDR and Chief examine one of the pine plantations on his property in Hyde Park (photo courtesy FDR Library).

FDR - Tree Farmer

In 1911 Franklin Delano Roosevelt began a 34-year “career” as tree farmer, planting nearly 500,000 trees on his property. He carefully managed his forest plots, from planting through harvesting. They were not only meant to be harvested commercially, but also served as experimental and demonstrative plantations for New York State. FDR’s Hyde Park forestry work launched a national movement of conservation initiatives like the Shelter Belt Program, the Norris Doxey Farm Forestry Act, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, also known as Roosevelt’s Tree Army. Some of his Hyde Park plantations can still be seen today.

Viewing FDR’s Farm Lane Plantations

There are several ways to explore FDR’s forest plantations. Hike Roosevelt Farm Lane, a 1.8 mile trail along the route FDR took to Val-Kill that passes several plantations. Look for the Hyde Park Explorer markers to access brief snippets of history. You can also take a ranger-guided tram tour on Farm Lane that highlights historic and natural features along the way.