

**Division of Operations** 

Bureau of Recreation

# Cranberry Lake Public Campground Initial Draft Unit Management Plan

Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County, New York

**May 2016** 

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Operation 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233

#### CRANBERRY LAKE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II DRAFT UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

**NOTE:** Volume I is a generic plan and contains an overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertains universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill Public Campgrounds and Special Day-Use classified Intensive Use Areas. Volume II is a site-specific document containing inventories of physical, biological, and human-made features, together with specific management actions for the individual site. Volume III contains support data in the form of an Appendix to Volumes I and II.

Unit Management Plans are prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to cover the next five-year management period. The Final Unit Management Plan is completed in accordance with guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

This DRAFT UMP has been prepared by Region 6 staff. Any comments and/or information may be forwarded to Mike Toohey, copy to Josh Houghton, Division of Operations, Albany.

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#### SUMMARY CRANBERRY LAKE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND DRAFT UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with criteria referenced in the APSLMP, the Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day Use Areas (GUMP/EIS) and Department of Environmental Conservation Management Policy for State-owned lands, this five-year management plan has been prepared for the Cranberry Lake Public Campground. The management goals include protecting the natural resource base in accordance with applicable law, offering recreational opportunities for public enjoyment of the forest preserve, ensuring that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees, and managing the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the State.

The Department's management of the Cranberry Lake Campground will be in conformance with the APSLMP. In addition, the actions proposed in this UMP will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the GUMP/EIS and do not require any separate site-specific environmental review (see 6 NYCRR 617.10[d]).

Any action taken by the Department on this unit that is not addressed in this Unit Management Plan and is not addressed in the GUMP/EIS may need a separate site-specific environmental review.

To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the following eight (8) Management Actions are being proposed:

# Proposed Management Actions\*Pave Campground Loop Roads

- Construct Waterway Access Site
- Replace Waterlines
- Construct Equipment Garage
- Upgrade Electrical System
- Construct Additional Dump Station
- Install Utility Sinks
- Restore Campsites

<sup>\*</sup>Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available

Beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with State health codes, maintenance of physical plant investment, modernization of facilities (which enhances visitor recreational experiences), upkeep of facilities to contribute to public safety, and provision of camping conditions in a setting and on a scale that is in harmony with the character of the Adirondack Park.

Determination of conformance to criteria established in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan includes: determining whether proposed activities avoid alterations of wetlands and topography; limiting vegetative clearing; preserving the scenic natural resources of the area; and determining whether the plan contains an adequate assessment of actual and projected public use.

Mitigation measures to limit environmental impacts have been considered. All construction projects will minimize tree removal to reduce clearing and maintain the wooded appearance of the facility. Architectural designs will be selected to achieve a harmonious blending with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will reestablish vegetation readily, which effectively stabilizes soils. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. Proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak-use periods rather than to accommodate increased population projections.

Various alternative actions to those favored and selected were considered. Alternatives such as allowing unregulated public access, limiting public use or changing the current reservation structure were examined. It was determined that public unrest, adverse effects on local communities, and uncontrolled use of State lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. The care, custody, and control precedent outlined in Volume I of this plan precludes selection of these alternatives at this time.

## **Table of Contents**

I. INTRODUCTION	6
A. Overview	6
B. Area Description	6
1. Location	6
2. History	7
II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES	9
A. Inventory of Existing Facilities	9
1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas	9
2. Roads, Bridges and Parking	9
3. Buildings	10
4. Sewage System	11
5. Solid Waste	11
6. Barriers	12
7. Telephone	12
8. Signs	12
9. Electric System	12
10. Potable Water System	12
11. Trails	13
12. Fuel Systems	13
13. Swimming	13
14. Boating	13
B. Inventory of Systems	13
1. Staff	13
2. Fee Schedule 2015	14
3. Permits	14
4. Off-Season Use	14
5. Junior Naturalist Program	
C. Inventory of Natural Resources	15
1. Physical	15
2. Biological	15
III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS	17
A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution	17
B. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan	17

C. Environmental Conservation Law	17
D. Campground Generic Plan/EIS	17
E. Recreation Program Goals	17
F. Public Use	
1. Inventory of Public Use	
2. Carrying Capacity	
IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	26
A. Pave Campground Loops	26
B. Construct Waterway Access Site	26
C. Replace Waterlines	27
D. Construct Equipment Garage	27
E. Upgrade Electrical System	27
F. Construct Additional Dump Station	27
G. Install Utility Sinks	
H. Restore Campsites	28
V. EXHIBIT INDEX	29

#### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Overview

Cranberry Lake Campground is a State-owned, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)-operated public campground. The campground is located in the western part of the Adirondack Park on the northeastern shore of Cranberry Lake, the third-largest body of water in the park. Approximately three-quarters of Cranberry Lake's shoreline is bounded by Forest Preserve. The campground is adjacent to a 14,452-acre parcel of the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, while a 7,149-acre parcel of this forest lies on the western shore, and the 129,000+ acre Five Ponds Wilderness Area lies on the southern shore. Just 1.5 miles north of the campground is the hamlet of Cranberry Lake. Although small in size, the hamlet can cater to most visitors' needs.

Recreational opportunities in this area are oriented toward a wide range of outdoor activities. There is a DEC-operated boat launch site just west of the hamlet. Boating and fishing on Cranberry Lake are very popular. Two foot trails being in the campground. The 2.4-mile Bear Mountain Trail is a loop trail that offers a scenic vista and challenging climb to the novice hiker. The campground trail provides access to a 17.4-mile loop trail system well maintained for casual hiking. Approximately two miles west of the hamlet is the Peavine Swamp Ski Trail, a system hikers use to view a relatively untouched forest reminiscent of the original forest in the area. The Five Ponds Wilderness Area has over 50 miles of foot trails which are generally more challenging. The Oswegatchie River, at the headwaters of Cranberry Lake, provides a canoe trip of approximately 16 miles starting at Inlet. For the more adventurous, a canoe carry of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles offers a unique opportunity to enjoy over  $14\frac{1}{2}$  miles of unencumbered scenic waters on the Bog River Flow. Information and recreational brochures are available at DEC offices.

The campground itself boasts many fine attractions. Camping sites, located amid large hardwood trees, are spacious and private. The day-use area has an excellent sandy beach with a breathtaking view of Cranberry Lake and the surrounding hills. Guidelines for management of the campground are based on its classification as an Intensive Use Area in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

#### **B.** Area Description

#### 1. Location

Cranberry Lake Public Campground falls within DEC Region 6, Potsdam working circle. The campground is 1.5 miles southeast of the hamlet of Cranberry Lake on Lone Pine Road, off State Route 3, Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County (See Exhibit # 1 – Location Map.)

#### 2. History

Cranberry Lake's impoundment and size is the result of a concrete dam constructed in 1916. By virtue of a law passed in 1865, the stated purpose of which was to improve navigation and hydraulic power and check freshets on the Oswegatchie River, the predecessor of the present dam at Cranberry Lake Village was erected in 1867. Dam construction and acquisition of lands for flooding, maintenance and regulation of the dam are matters handled by the Commissioners for Improvements on the Oswegatchie River. The lands this body acquired have been held to be State lands but not part of the Forest Preserve.

Cranberry Lake Campground has developed through several phases of construction. The CCC developed the original 15 camping sites in 1935. Work was accomplished with hand tools and wheelbarrows. The supervisor's cabin was constructed in 1937 and the date and several names were engraved in the foundation. Bathhouses and vault latrines followed. Expansion consisted of construction of the "peninsula loop," which was completed in the early 1960s. At this location, some of the most desirable camping sites are to be found. Loops I-V were completed in the late 1960s. They more than tripled the occupancy capacity of the campground and also contain prime waterfront sites. The lifeguard cabin, garage, and amphitheater were also constructed at this time. A central shower house was constructed in 1979. In 2001, a 12' x 24' addition was constructed, along with rehabilitation of the original structure. This included adding new showers and dressing stalls, a tile floor, siding, roof, ventilation and ADA accessibility. Additional buildings constructed were a 20' x 40' picnic pavilion in 1991 and a 16' x 24' recycling center in 1992. In 2014, 24.32 tons of trash and ½ ton of recyclables were transported to the Star Lake Transfer Station.

In spring 1993, an Environmental Education Program was started at the campground and a 16' x 18' cabin was built to house an Environmental Education Assistant and a Park and Recreation Aide IV to oversee the program. This program was designed to provide activities for campers of all ages, with both day and nighttime activities scheduled. Although very popular, the program may not be provided every year due to staff and funding limitations.

In 1992, water wells were developed and put in use as the preferred alternate water source to comply with the new "Drinking Water Regulations" under the State Sanitary Code. Two 10' x 10' pump houses were also constructed. Alternate or backup wells were drilled in 1999 and were put in use in 2002.

The latest building to be constructed, in 2002, was the 18' x 26' comfort station in the Upper Loop of original Campground Sites 1-13. This modern flush bathroom replaced the old vault dry toilets.

Federal monies were involved in improvements at this campground under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Department of Interior, through the National Park Service, requires that this facility be inspected every five years. This inspection, conducted by the grant administrator in the DEC Central Office, is to ensure the facilities continue to be properly maintained and used in conformity with the grant award. A Land and Water Conservation Fund sign is posted at each campground where federal funds have been involved.

Year	Campground Improvements
2002-03	Constructed 2 comfort stations
2002-03	Upgraded potable water supply
2003	Provided accessible campsites (6) and comfort stations (2)
2003-04	Upgraded bathhouse accessibility
2004	Replaced ticket booth
2005	Upgraded comfort station (Peninsula) accessibility
2006	Upgraded comfort station 1 accessibility
2007	Upgraded comfort station 2 accessibility
2008	Upgraded comfort station 3 accessibility
2009	Installed new 10,000 gal. HDPE tank for reservoir #1
2009	Upgraded comfort station 4 accessibility
2010	Upgraded comfort station 5 accessibility
2013	Paved - 3,200' main road, DUA, Loop Sites 1-13, shower
2013	parking, cabin parking and Loop 3
2015	Installed underground primary electric distribution
2010	infrastructure for Loop Sites 1-5

#### II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

#### A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

#### 1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
173 campsites	15 picnic tables
Design capacity – 1,038 people	Design capacity – 90 People
173 picnic tables	12 grills/fireplaces
173 fireplaces	3 standpipes/fountains
33 spigots	50-vehicle parking lot (9,180 sf)

#### 2. Roads, Bridges and Parking

Presently, the Department maintains 3.8 miles of paved road. The main road from the campground entrance to Loop IV is 1.5-miles long, 18' wide, and has an oil and stone surface. The main road is in good condition. The remaining 2.3 miles of campground road average 10' wide and also have an oil and stone surface. These roads are in fair condition, with some dispersed sections in poor condition.

Between Sites #25-27, there is a 9' half-round steel culvert bridge with 18' stone facing that carries the campground loop road across a small creek. In Peninsula Loop, there is a 4'-wide wood deck, 38'-long pole stringer foot bridge across a creek to the comfort station.

Seven parking lots are located throughout the campground. Their specifications are as follows:

Location	Capacity	Surface	Size
Beach/day-use area	50 vehicles	Oil and Stone	34' x 270'
Upper beach area	45 vehicles	Oil and Stone	30' x 265'
Lower cabin lot	25 vehicles	Oil and Stone	70' x 90'
Amphitheater/shower	100 vehicles	Oil and Stone	145' x 210'
Garage lot	6 vehicles	Oil and Stone	20' x 60'
Phone booth lot	5 vehicles	Oil and Stone	23' x 48'
Bear Mountain trailhead	25 vehicles	Oil and Stone	62' x 80'

## 3. Buildings

<b>Building Name/Function</b>	Location/Description/Use	Size	Condition	Year Built
Facility Supervisor's Cottage	Living Space	745 sf	Good	1937
	Office Space	80 sf	Good	1966
	Basement	825 sf	Good	1937
Life Guard/Asst. Caretaker's Cabin	Living Space	725 sf	Good	1966
Other/NRP Cabin	Living Space	288 sf	Good	1994
Chlorination Bldg. Reservoir 1	-	100 sf	Good	1993
Chlorination Bldg. Reservoir 2		100 sf	Good	1993
Shower Building	Men's - 2T (1ADA), 4S, 7 stalls (1ADA) Women's - 2T (1ADA), 4S, 7 stalls (1ADA)	690 sf	Good	1979
Comfort Station (Loop A)	Men's - 2T (1ADA), 1U, 2S (1ADA) Women's - 3T (1ADA), 2S (1ADA)	468 sf	Good	2001
Comfort Station (Loop B)	Men's - 2T (1ADA), 1U, 2S (1ADA) Women's - 3T (1ADA), 2S (1ADA)	468 sf	Good	2002
Comfort Station (DUA)	Men's - 3T (1ADA), 1U, 3S (1ADA) Women's - 4T (1ADA), 3S (1ADA)	400 sf	Good	2003
Comfort Station (Pen. Loop)	Men's – 4T, 1S Women's – 4T, 1S Additional (2) ADA rooms 1T, 1S ea.	477 sf	Good	2005
Comfort Station (Loop I)	Men's – 4T, 1S Women's – 4T, 1S Additional (2) ADA rooms 1T, 1S ea.	323 sf	Good	2006
Comfort Station (Loop II)	Men's – 4T, 1S Women's – 4T, 1S Additional (2) ADA rooms 1T, 1S ea.	323 sf	Good	2007
Comfort Station (Loop III)	Men's – 4T, 1S Women's – 4T, 1S Additional (2) ADA rooms 1T, 1S ea.	323 sf	Good	2008
Comfort Station (Loop IV)	Men's – 4T, 1S Women's – 4T, 1S Additional (2) ADA rooms 1T, 1S ea.	323 sf	Good	2009
Comfort Station (Loop V)	Men's – 4T, 1S Women's – 4T, 1S Additional (2) ADA rooms 1T, 1S ea.	323 sf	Good	2010
Reservoir (1)	10,000 gallons HDPE	NA	Good	2009
Reservoir (2)	15,000 gallons Steel	NA	Fair	Unk
Ticket Booth		80 sf	Good	2004
Refuse/Recycle Center	16' x 24'	384 sf	Good	1992
Garage		828 sf	Good	1966
Bath house		592 sf	Good	2004
Picnic Pavilion		800 sf	Good	1992
Accessible Fishing Pier		384 sf	Good	1980

#### 4. Sewage System

The campground is serviced by seven 8-unit and two 6-unit flush-type comfort stations, a shower building and an accessible beach station containing a total of 32 lavatories (16 accessible), 3 urinals and 60 seats (20 accessible). Total hydraulic flow design capacity 18,345 gal/day (SPDES Permit #NY 0206946-UPA#60-86-0590, issued 02/25/87).

One trailer dumping station has a 1,000-gallon septic tank. The leach field size is 75' x 50' and the hydraulic flow design is 2,000 gal/day.

<b>Building Name</b>	Septic	Hydraulic	Leaching
Loop A	1,000	490	15' x 37'
Loop B	1,000	490	15' x 37'
Day-Use Area "C"	1,500 (2)	unk	15' x 100' (2)
Peninsula Loop	2,000	1,500	60 x 45
Loop I	2,000	1,250	60 x 45
Loop II	2,000	1,250	60 x 45
Loop III	2,000	1,250	60 x 45
Loop IV	2,000	1,250	60 x 45
Loop V	2,000	1,250	60 x 45
Beach accessible (not in use)	1,000	<b>Holding Tank</b>	N/A
Shower building	1,000 (2)	8,105	200 x 155
Dump station	1,000 (2)	2,000	75' x 50'

#### 5. Solid Waste

Refuse generated in 2014 was 24.32 tons. Solid waste is trucked approximately 12 miles to a collection point operated by the St. Lawrence County Solid Waste Disposal Authority. The collection point is expected to be operational as a permanent facility. DEC's cost to dispose solid waste at the collection point is currently \$155 per ton for mixed solid waste and \$50 per ton for recyclables. A recycling program was begun after construction of the recycling building at the campground. Of the 24.32 tons of waste generated and disposed of, ½-ton was recycled materials. The centralized recycling and refuse disposal facility is tied into the water and sewage systems. A brochure is available to instruct campers of its availability and required use.

Since 1992, all day-use areas have been under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public.

#### 6. Barriers

All barriers are for controlling campground use and are opened or closed for this purpose.

Department policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. The current inventory is as follows:

Location	Type	Function
Main entrance	Wood gate	Control campground access
Water tank road	Wood gate	Control water tank access
Shower building	Pipe gate	Control leach field access

#### 7. Telephone

The main phone number is 315-848-2315. When the campground is closed, the number is disconnected. The campground also has a dedicated 911 call box located on the beach in case of emergencies.

#### 8. Signs

The variety of messages conveyed to public users by means of standard (yellow on brown) signs includes directions and information for entrance, supervisor's office, bulletin board, traffic control, commemorations, regulations, picnic area, comfort stations and camping sites.

#### 9. Electric System

DEC maintains the 11,620 feet of electric power lines that extend through the campground. Maintenance of the above-ground line is a constant and costly activity, especially maintaining against interference of trees and limbs. National Grid furnishes the electric power. Electric consumption for 2015 was 32,900 kwh (see Exhibit 9).

#### 10. Potable Water System

There are two water systems. Each system pumps water from wells and delivers it to a reservoir, where it then gravity feeds back to the campground. The lower reservoir serves the supervisor's cabin, Peninsula Loop and day-use area and comprises a 10,000-gallon above-ground HDPE storage tank. The pump for this system delivers about 10 gpm at the reservoir.

The second system serves the lifeguard cabin, shower house and camping Loops I-V. This, the upper reservoir, consists of a 15,000-gallon above-ground storage tank. The pump for this system delivers about 15 gpm at the reservoir.

In 1992, water wells were developed and put in use as the preferred alternate water source to comply with the new "Drinking Water Regulations" under the State Sanitary Code. Two 10' x 10' pump

houses were also constructed. Alternate or backup wells were drilled in 1999 and yielded 6 gpm each (see Exhibit 7).

#### 11. Trails

The campground is a trailhead for the Bear Mountain Trail. Vehicle parking capacity for this trail head near campsite #27 is 25 vehicles. The registration booth also contains a map of the 2.4-mile Bear Mountain Trail, the 2.2-mile campground trail, the 3.5-mile Burntbridge Pond Trail, and the 11.4-mile Dog Pond Trail, which all connect to each other. The booth was reconstructed using rustic logs in 1995. The overall size was maintained, but the structure was made with materials that enhance how it blends into the environment. There are two bridges within the campground - Loops 25-27, 9' half-round steel culvert with 18' stone facing for road across creek, and Peninsula Loop, 4'-wide wood deck, 38'-long pole stringer foot bridge across creek to toilets (see section III.F.2.e and Exhibit #2 – Topography and Trail Map for more information).

#### 12. Fuel Systems

The following chart displays the permanent fuel system used at the campground in 2015:

Tank #	Product Type	Tank Size	Location
1	Fuel oil	500 gal.	Shower building
2	Propane	100 gal.	Caretaker cabin
3	Propane	100 gal.	Recycling building
4	Propane	100 gal.	Asst. caretaker cabin
			Total 2015 Use - 1,775 gal.

#### 13. Swimming

The swimming area is located at the north end of the campground in the Day-Use Area.

Swimming Area Capacities			
Location	Size	Capacity	
Swim area < 5' deep	5,000 sf	178	

#### 14. Boating

This campground has no developed launching facilities. Car-top boats are currently launched at individual waterfront campsites or in the area between the designated beach and bathhouse.

#### **B.** Inventory of Systems

#### 1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation
	Facilities Supervisor I
8	Park and Recreation Aide
1	CSW

#### 2. Fee Schedule 2015

Daily Fees		
2015 Open Dates: May 15-Oct 12		
Camping/night – NYS residents	\$20.00	
Camping/night – Non-residents	\$25.00	
Day Use - Auto	\$8.00	
Day Use - Walk-In	\$2.00	
Day Use - Bus	\$35.00	
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$4.00	
Picnic Shelter Rental	\$50.00	
Firewood – per bundle	\$9.00	
Ice - per bag	\$2.00	
Empire Passport - season	\$65.00	

#### 3. Permits

Peddling permits may be issued annually for items such as firewood, boat rentals and camper supplies. A fee of \$2.00 x number of campsites is charged for each vendor. In 2015, one permit was issued for selling ice cream.

Temporary revocable permits (TRPs) may be issued for certain events at the campground. Three TRPs were issued in 2015 for two boat events and one ice-fishing derby.

#### 4. Off-Season Use

Campground use during winter months consists of ice fishing, cross-country skiing and trail hiking. Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits required or issued for off-season use, nor staff on site to monitor use. The section of road between the main entrance and the Day-Use Area is plowed in the winter to enable access for an ice-fishing derby. For the rest of the winter, the campground is not plowed.

#### **5. Junior Naturalist Program**

The Junior Naturalist Program provides boys and girls ages 5 to 12 a series of structured recreational activities. Participants are awarded Junior Naturalist patches for activities completed. This program is dependent on funding being available and may not be offered every season.

#### **C. Inventory of Natural Resources**

#### 1. Physical

#### a. Elevation

The average elevation of the Cranberry Lake Campground is 1,550', with a maximum of 1,600' (see Exhibit #2 – Topography and Trail Map).

#### b. Water

Cranberry Lake is 6,995 acres in size, with a maximum depth of 38 feet. There are 31 campsites on the shore of the lake. The campground beach is located on the northeast shore.

#### c. Wetlands

Wetlands were mapped by Adirondack Park Agency staff after an on-site field investigation. Exhibit #4, Wetland and Soil Map, depicts .6-acre of broadleaf deciduous forested wetlands within the campground boundary.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of the wetland will require a permit from the APA. The APA will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to this designated wetland area.

#### d. Soils

Label	Soil Type	Drainage
831D	Tunbridge-Lyman complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very rocky	Well drained
741C&D	Potsdam-Tunbridge complex, 0 to 35 percent slopes, very bouldery	Well drained
643C	Berkshire loam, 3 to 15 percent slopes, very bouldery	Well drained

See Exhibit #4, Wetland and Soil Map, for approximate soil type location.

#### 2. Biological

#### a. Forest Type

The forest type for this campground is northern hardwood. Predominant species are hard maple, beech and yellow birch, with lesser amounts of eastern hemlock, soft maple, black cherry, and red spruce. Small clumps of hemlock are evident along the shoreline.

It is probable that this forest was last harvested around 1907 and that the species harvested were primarily softwoods—red spruce, eastern hemlock and white pine. Consequently, the remaining stand consists of relatively large specimens of hardwood species—hard maple, yellow birch and beech.

An annual program of hazardous-tree removal has been in progress for many years. Structurally unsound trees in proximity to campsites, roads, trails, power lines and buildings threaten public safety and will be removed. In past years, this program accelerated due to the decline in beech caused by oyster shell scale (*Lepidosaphes ulmi*), beech scale (*Cryptococcus fagi*) and nectria (*Nectria coccinea*).

The impact of hazardous-tree removal on aesthetics is negligible because of the dynamic nature of the forest ecosystem in this region. Forest trees quickly respond to openings created by the removal of individual stems. Within five or ten years, regrowth typically fills voids in the canopy caused by the loss of a tree. This is evident by the fact that this campground has existed for over 65 years. It is likely that thousands of trees were removed in that time, yet the site remains completely forested.

#### b. Wildlife

A diversity of wildlife can live in or use this area. The clearings and brushy ecotones created by developments provide habitat for wildlife species dependent on earlier stages of succession. No permanent damage is anticipated to either wildlife habitat or species.

There are no known significant habitats within the Cranberry Lake Campground. However, two significant habitats nearby have been inventoried: 1) SW-45-037 - Cranberry Lake, Dead Creek Flow, Loon Nesting Sites; and 2) DC-45-171 - Bear Mountain Deer Yard. Bald eagles and ospreys have been observed at Cranberry Lake. While management of the campground does not involve these locations, seasonal pubic travel extending from the campground itself may include visits to them.

Black bear presence is common in areas adjacent to the campground. Consideration must be given to minimizing the potential for bear/human conflicts by implementing standard bear/campground detriment procedures.

#### c. Fisheries

The Cranberry Lake Fishery has had a storied history ever since the first dam was completed in 1867, raising the level of the lake. Fisheries management over the last 100 years has had varying success. Current species present are brook trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch and brown bullhead.

#### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

#### A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution

Article XIV of the State Constitution provides, in part, that "The lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed, or destroyed."

#### B. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

The APSLMP requires, in part, that all campgrounds and day-use areas will be of a rustic nature. Natural materials will be used in construction to the fullest extent possible so as to blend with the Adirondack environment. This constraint and others are further described in Volume I of the generic plan.

#### C. Environmental Conservation Law

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, and established Policies and Procedures for the administration of the lands involved.

#### D. Campground Generic Plan/EIS

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the GUMP/EIS and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria that pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill Public Campgrounds and Special Day-Use Intensive Use Areas.

#### **E. Recreation Program Goals**

- Manage recreation programs to help ensure protection of the natural resources base in accordance with Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, Adirondack and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans, Environmental Conservation Law and the GUMP/EIS.
- Offer recreational opportunities for leisure time enjoyment for the people of the State.
- Ensure that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees.

• Manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the State.

#### F. Public Use

#### 1. Inventory of Public Use

#### a. Attendance Trends

Attendance numbers are a combination of camper days (number of campers x number of nights spent) and day use (the number of people using the beach, day-use areas or visiting campers but not

staying overnight). The five-year trend in camping attendance indicates fairly static visitation, with fluctuations due to economic and weather conditions. Camping attendance for 2015 was over 20% higher than the previous year. Day-use attendance for 2015 was slightly lower than the five-year average.

Most Cranberry Lake campers are from New York State (81%) with strong representation from northwestern New York,

Cranberry Lake Attendance		
Year	Camping	Day Use
2015	24,691	2,483
2014	19,445	2,600
2013	21,834	2,200
2012	23,893	2,632
2011	23,825	3,254
Average	22,738	2,633

Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester. Ontario campers make up the majority of out-of-state campers (4.2%), with a smaller representation from many other states across the country (see Exhibit 6).

#### b. Revenue Trends

Revenues are important because they are used to offset annual operating costs of the campground. The operating budget is based on revenues generated from camping, day-use, and other service fees. In addition, revenue is generated by things such as pavilion and boat rentals, firewood and ice sales and Empire Passport sales. Total revenue has fluctuated over the last several years but showed an increase in 2015.

Cranberry Lake Revenue		
Year	Total	
2015	\$174,002	
2014	\$162,637	
2013	\$ 165,867	
2012	\$ 169,436	
2011	\$ 159,771	
Average	\$ 166,343	

#### 2. Carrying Capacity

Cranberry Lake Campground facilities should be operated within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the site. Operation within these limits will grant continued character and integrity to intensive recreational use and will assure that public use is conditioned within the capacity of the physical, biological and social resources to withstand it.

During the 2015 camping season, Cranberry Lake had a 33% average Campground Site Utilization Rate, with a low of 3% and a high of 86%. This means that on average, 1/3 of the sites were

rented at any given time. At 44%, weekends tend to have a higher site utilization rate than weekdays, with a 24% rate. The average length of stay at Cranberry Lake for the 2015 season was 2.84 days.

#### a. Physical Design

The following is an analysis of existing design capacities as compared to NYS Department of Health codes and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation design standards. The existing design capacity for the 173 campsites is six persons per site or 1,038 persons total. The Day Use Area design capacity is six persons per picnic table x 15 tables or 90 persons total. Although July and August tend to be the months with heaviest use of this facility, Cranberry Lake had only a 34% user capacity rate (based on actual site occupancy x total sites rented).

The table below compares the calculated capacity needs with the currently available capacity, and deficiencies are noted. Utility sinks are needed in each camping loop to provide a sanitary and convenient location for cleaning and disposing of waste water.

	Facility Infrastructure	Capacity Analys	is	
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/ site	-	-
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites*	2	1	1
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site 5 gal/day/picnicker	9,515 gal. 450 gal.	25,000 gpd	0
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	18	33	0
	1/60 picnickers	2	3	0
Lavatories (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	13	32	0
	1 for every 60 picnickers	2	Shared	0
Toilets/Urinals	2 for every 10 sites	35	63	0
(within 500')	2 for every 60 picnickers	4	Shared	0
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	-	0	-
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	14	14	0
*DEC design standards meet	or exceed NYS Health Departme	ent codes.		

#### b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many of the campsites have been in continuous use since the campgrounds opened. Depending on site design and level of occupancy, they are showing their age in terms of loss of vegetation screening, soil compaction, drainage issues and site amenity needs. In an effort to address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the conditions and needs at all DEC campgrounds, which will include all 6,000+ campsites. Restoration work will include tree and shrub plantings, replacement of lost soils, regrading of sites, drainage improvements, evaluation of the design and size of campsites and replacement of deteriorated tables and fireplaces. In most cases, sites that

require restoration work will be removed from use for two camping seasons. Sites 15, 26, 41, 47, 62, 113 and 119 have been selected for restoration work and for closure in 2017 and 2018. Signs will be posted at the campground, and no reservations for those sites will be taken. Additional sites for restoration, approximately five per season, will be selected each year. In some cases, sites will be considered for permanent closure or reconstruction. Sites permanently closed may be evaluated for relocation to another facility in future unit management plans.

During the winter, the campground is closed to camping, but it is used for ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Hazardous trees are removed on a regular basis in accordance with established policy. Natural regeneration, growth of residual trees and supplemental tree planting compensate for losses incurred by hazardous-tree removal.

#### c. Social Carrying Capacity

Annual camper surveys have been conducted since 1996. Campers have been asked to rate their camping experience on a scale from unacceptable to excellent. Based on the responses received from visitors to this facility over the last five years, the campground appears to be operating within an acceptable social carrying capacity at current attendance levels.

Additional impacts associated with planned campground objectives and actions are identified and discussed in the Generic Unit Management Plan Volume I. The following table summarizes survey statistics over the past five years.

Cranberry Lake Camper Survey			
Year	Number of	Good or	
1 ear	Respondents	<b>Excellent Rating</b>	
2015	411	96%	
2014	365	99%	
2013	618	99%	
2012	248	97%	
2011	237	96%	

#### d. Unique Ecosystems, Historical

No significant unique ecosystems have been identified or are known to exist at this campground. The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map does not indicate that archaeological resources are present in the developed area of Cranberry Lake Campground. However, prior to site disturbance for construction of any facility affiliated with this management plan, the nature and extent of archaeological

resources in the project area, if any, will be investigated. If it appears that any aspect of the project will cause any change, beneficial or adverse, in the quality of any historic or archaeological property, all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered together with feasible plans to avoid and/or mitigate adverse impact on the property. The Agency Preservation Officer has been so informed, in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

#### e. Adjacent Lands

The Cranberry Lake region is one of the largest remote areas remaining in the State. There has been only minimal encroachment of civilization on the lake itself. Just to the south of the lake lie thousands of acres of rolling hills, numerous lakes, ponds, and unbroken forest lands that show little or no marks of civilization.

Cranberry Lake covers 11 square miles and has 55 miles of shoreline, of which more than 40 miles the State owns. The original lake doubled to its current size in 1867 with the construction of a log crib dam for flow, navigation and hydraulic power control. The present concrete dam replaced the crib in 1916.

On July 15, 1995, the area changed suddenly and dramatically. A violent windstorm blew down thousands of acres of trees south and west of Cranberry Lake. Virtually all trails in the <a href="Five Ponds">Five Ponds</a>
<a href="Wilderness">Wilderness</a> were blocked and access to the interior ended for the rest of the year. Ecological impacts will mean more young forest growth, which will work to the benefit of wildlife such as deer and snowshoe hare. This kind of event is not unusual in the Adirondacks, though it may happen only once in a human lifetime. Trails have been cleared, but travel off the trails will be a challenge for decades to come.

The <u>Cranberry Lake Wild Forest</u> surrounds the campground. This 24,111-acre forest consists of three separate parcels to the west, northwest and east of Cranberry Lake. It contains 15 miles of foot trails, 9.4 miles of snowmobile trails, 8.5 miles of ski trails, and two Adirondack lean-tos. Generally, the trails in this forest are more easily traversed than those in the 129,000-acre Five Ponds Wilderness to the south.

The Eastern Parcel, which is closest to the campground, consists of 14,452 acres that lie primarily south of Route 3 to the northeast and east of Cranberry Lake. It offers the greatest opportunity for outdoor recreation within this forest and contains the following:

Bear Mountain Trail (red) (2.4 miles) - This is a loop trail beginning at a parking lot adjacent to Campsite 27 in the Cranberry Lake Campground and ending in Loop IV. Several vistas overlook the lake from the mountain, and a lean-to is located 0.6-mile from the parking lot.

Campground Trail (yellow) (2.2 miles) - This trail connects the Bear Mountain Trail with the Burntbridge Pond Snowmobile Trail. It was constructed in 1987 to provide campers at the Cranberry Lake Campground with more access to this parcel. It also provides hikers with access to Bear Mountain from Route 3. The crew that built this trail refers to it as "the boardwalk" because two, 250-foot-long bridges cross portions of Bear Mountain Swamp.

*Burntbridge Pond Snowmobile Trail* (6.8 miles) - This trail begins at a parking lot on State Route 3 and is the roadbed of a spur of the Grass River Railroad, which was probably constructed between 1913 and 1916. The tracks were removed prior to State acquisition in 1933.

The Campground Trail joins this trail 1.4 miles from Route 3. It soon enters a clearing that was the former site of a logging camp. A 1916 Conservation Department map shows this camp serviced by a telephone line. The trail leaves the railroad 0.8 mile later and follows old logging roads to Brandy Brook and a grassy area beyond known as the "Potato Patch." From there, it branches east to Burntbridge Pond and conservation easement lands, while a south branch leads to Brandy Brook Flow on Cranberry Lake. A lean-to was constructed at Burntbridge Pond in 1986.

The Cranberry Lake Campground is not open for camping during the winter months but is used for such activities as ice fishing, cross-country skiing and hunting.

#### f. Invasive Species

The threat of invasive species at Cranberry Lake is of concern to the Department, both for its destructive effect on our environment and its associated financial drain on revenue and resources.

One common way many insect pests are moved around the country, beyond their natural rate of spread based on biology and flight potential, is on firewood carried by campers, hunters and other users of our forests. This firewood may come from trees killed by insect pests and taken down wherever the visitors came from. A regulation is in effect that prohibits the import of firewood into New York unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source.

It is the Department's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, to work to establish a documented inventory of species by location within the campground and to implement an active invasive species management program to help contain, and possibly eradicate, further growth of these species.

It is through these continued efforts that a collaborative initiative among the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry developed the *Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management 2015 Program Report*. The 2015 report finds the following for Cranberry Lake Campground:

Garlic must

A total of 206 second-year garlic mustard plants were pulled and removed from the campground this year.

This campground should be monitored annually in order to combat the garlic mustard infestation. An enormous infestation was reported and managed in the waste area in 2014, but only rosettes were present this year. This area should be closely monitored in future years for returning plants.

In addition to the aforementioned terrestrial invasive species, variable leaf milfoil, which is considered an aquatic invasive, has been detected in Cranberry Lake. Currently there are public boat inspection stations at the Department's boat launch and on Route 3 to help control the spread of aquatic invasive species.

#### g. General Operations

Cranberry Lake Campground is a popular facility used by visitors during the summer season (mid-May through mid-October) for camping, swimming, boating and hiking. The rest of the year, this campground is used for such recreational activities as ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The continued maintenance and upkeep of this facility helps ensure safe operation of the campground for both visitors' and employees' use. A well-maintained facility promotes increased interest in campers' use of the campground and its amenities for recreation. Day-to-day operations are guided by policy set forth in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index of the manual is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D, of the *1990 Generic Unit Management Plan*.

The campground also provides employment for local residents on staff. Wages from these individuals are largely turned over in the local business economy. Various supplies and materials needed for maintenance of the campground are frequently purchased locally. The services of local contractors, including plumbers, electricians, carpenters, masons and others, also are used at times.

#### h. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations. Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to the services and programs of public entities so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden.

Title II also requires that new facilities and parts of facilities that are newly constructed for public use are to be accessible to people with disabilities. In rare circumstances where accessibility is determined to be structurally impracticable due to terrain, the facility or part of it is to be accessible to the greatest extent possible and to people with various types of disabilities.

Consistent with ADA requirements, the Department incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. This UMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation, and communication to individuals with disabilities. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible as long as the Department's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible.

For copies of any of the above-mentioned laws or guidelines relating to accessibility, contact the DEC Universal Access Program Coordinator at 518-402-9428 or <a href="mailto:UniversalAccessProgram@dec.ny.gov">UniversalAccessProgram@dec.ny.gov</a>.

Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Department incorporates accessibility into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and the assets supporting them.

This UMP contains an accessibility assessment within the inventory of the facilities and programs

offered. Current ADA construction standards or guidelines will be used in the design of all new projects and will be implemented unless structurally impracticable due to terrain. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions. Currently this facility has the following accessible features:

- Sites 4, 6, 20, 46, 50, 52, 105, 114
- Comfort Station A (Men's Bathroom, Women's Bathroom)
- Comfort Station B (Men's Bathroom, Women's Bathroom)
- Comfort Station C (Men's Bathroom and Shower, Women's Bathroom and Shower)
- Peninsula Loop Comfort Station (Men's Bathroom, Women's Bathroom)
- Loops 1-5 (Men's Bathroom, Women's Bathroom)
- Picnic Pavilion
- Fishing Pier
- Recycling Center
- Shower House (Men's and Women's Showers)
- Accessible Picnic Area (at Beach)
- Bath House

#### IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following management actions are being proposed for the ensuing five-year period and will be completed as staff and funding allow (see Exhibit #10 for the location of proposed management actions).

	Proposed Management Actions		
	Management Actions	Cost	Priority
A	Pave campground loop roads	\$650,000	2
В	Construct ADA waterway access site	\$ 50,000	6
C	Replace waterlines	\$ 20,000	4
D	Construct equipment garage	\$ 5,000	7
Е	Upgrade electrical system	\$450,000	1
F	Construct dump station	\$ 40,000	3
G	Install utility sinks	\$ 5,000	5
Н	Restore campsites	\$ 1,000/site	Annual

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities, comply with health and safety codes, and meet user needs. They will also provide universal access and increase the efficiency of campground management. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for the Department. Prioritization of management actions is based on the availability of funding, health, and safety concerns.

#### A. Pave Campground Loops

Over time, the campground's loop pavement has deteriorated. It is proposed to repave all campground loop roads. Culvert and ditch condition will be addressed during paving. This project has an estimated cost of \$650,000.

#### **B. Construct Waterway Access Site**

Currently the campground does not have a designated waterway access site, leaving campers to hand launch kayaks and canoes at various locations throughout the campground. It is proposed that a formal waterway access site be designated between the beach and bathhouse. Campers already use this site as an informal hand-carry launch. By designating the site, the Department can better control water access and informal launches. Additionally, the Department proposes to make this waterway access site fully accessible, with designated parking, an accessible route and an accessible canoe/kayak launch.

Little if any vegetation will be impacted by the waterway access site because it is part of the beach area and has been used as a handa hand-carry launch for some time.

#### **C. Replace Waterlines**

The Department proposes to replace all water distribution lines within the campground. The existing distribution system comprises mainly galvanized steel pipe with some sections of plastic pipe. Water leaks are a common occurrence due to the aging system. Replacement of these lines will reduce the maintenance required. Impacts on physical or biological resources are not anticipated because new lines will be placed within the existing water distribution system or along roadways. This project has an estimated cost of \$20,000.

#### D. Construct Equipment Garage

Currently the campground does not have a dedicated equipment garage. Maintenance materials and equipment are stored in various outbuildings throughout the campground. A new equipment garage is proposed for construction near the caretaker's cabin that will tie into the existing on-site utilities and that may include an employee restroom and utility sink. Exact design specifications will be decided based on specific site conditions and design standards at the time of implementation. When construction begins, the Department will consult with APA staff for compliance with the APSLMP. This project has an estimated cost of \$50,000.

#### **E. Upgrade Electrical System**

Much of the Cranberry Lake Campground electrical system is currently above ground which causes maintenance and operational issues in addition to detracting from the visual aesthetics within the facility. It is proposed that the electrical system be upgraded by burying the lines and by adding backup generation capabilities. This upgrade will significantly increase the reliability of the system during bad weather conditions and decrease maintenance costs. Exact design specifications will be decided based on specific site conditions and design standards at the time of implementation. When construction begins, the Department will consult with APA staff for compliance with the APSLMP. This project has an estimated cost of \$450,000.

#### F. Construct Additional Dump Station

The Department proposes to install an additional dump station to handle the increased use of camping trailers. The existing infrastructure does not meet current design standards and requirements.

Installation of an additional dump station will relieve overuse of the existing dump station. Exact design

specifications will be decided based on specific site conditions and design standards at the time of implementation. When construction begins, the Department will consult with APA staff for compliance with the APSLMP. This project has an estimated cost of \$40,000.

#### **G. Install Utility Sinks**

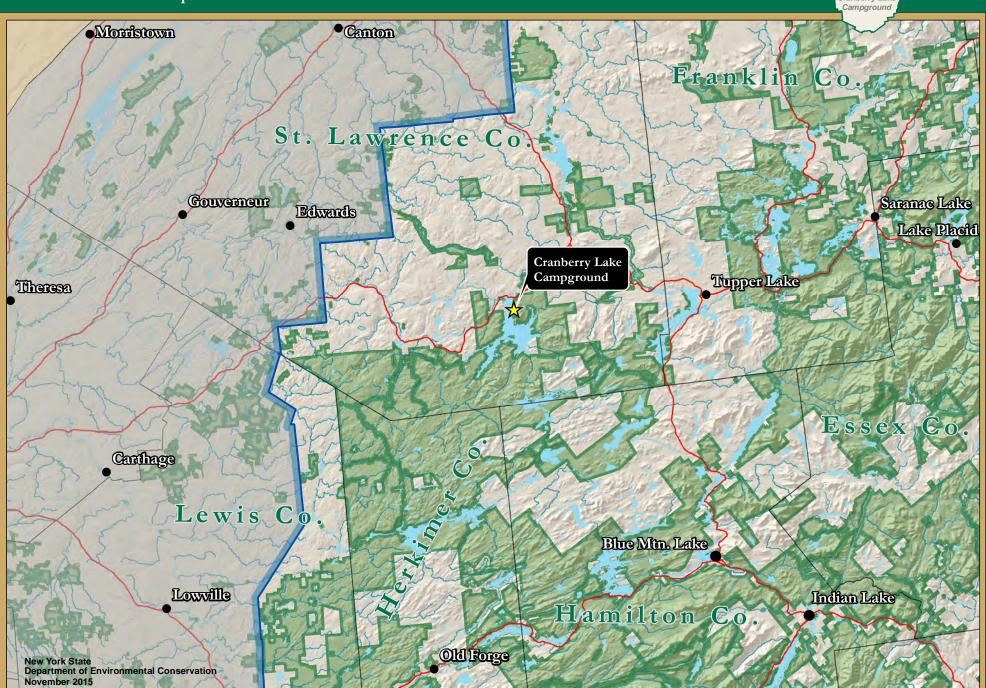
It is proposed that a utility sink be installed at each comfort station for use by campers. These sinks will provide an appropriate place for campers to wash items without causing site contamination. On-site grey water disposal, along with associated particulates, will be decreased. Use of utility sinks will help decrease site pollution and cut down on pest issues associated with improper disposal of gray water. This project has an estimated cost of \$5,000.

#### **H. Restore Campsites**

Many of Cranberry Lake's campsites have been in continuous use since the campground opened in 1948. With decades of use, some sites have begun to show their age. In an effort to rehabilitate them, it is proposed that 2.5% of the campground sites be restored each year. This will include efforts to improve site screening, drainage, soil retention and layout. Sites selected for restoration may be closed to reservations during rehabilitation. During site restoration planning, future site accessibility will be considered, and, where possible, some sites will be restored using universal design. This project has an estimated cost of \$1,000 per site.

#### **V. EXHIBIT INDEX**

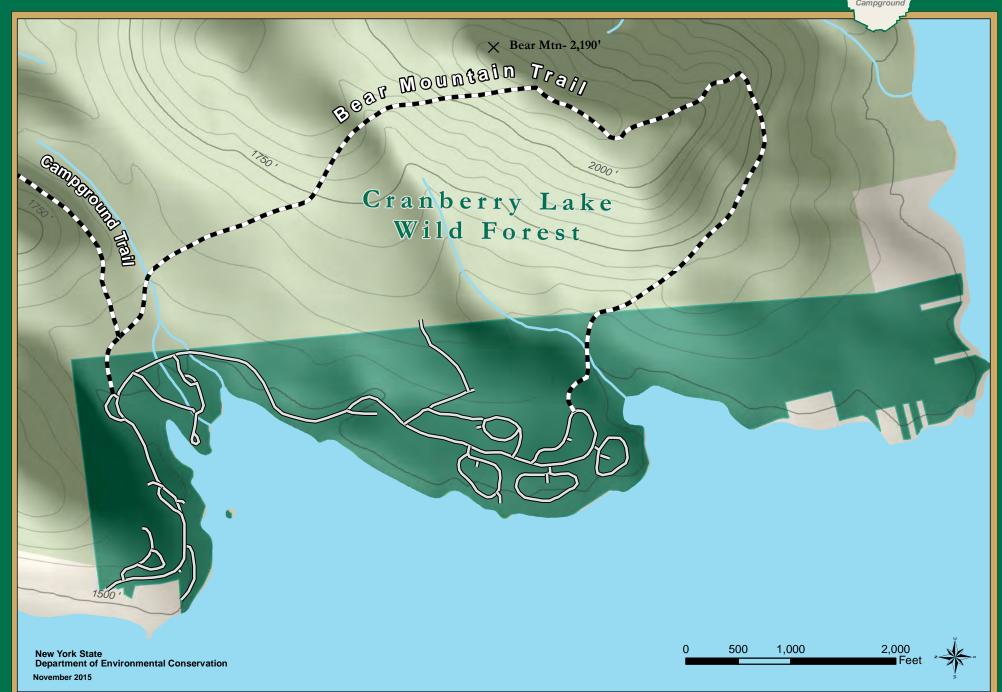
Cranberry Lake Campground Exhibit Index
Exhibit #1 - Location Map
Exhibit #2 - Topography and Trail Map
Exhibit #3 - Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4 - Wetlands and Soils Map
Exhibit #5a - Cranberry Lake Facility Map - North
Exhibit #5b - Cranberry Lake Facility Map - South
Exhibit #6 - Camper Demographics Map
Exhibit #7 - Campground Water System
Exhibit #8 - Campground Sewage System
Exhibit #9 - Campground Electric System
Exhibit #10 - Management Actions Location Map
Exhibit #11 - Campground Photos



# Cranberry Lake Campground

Exhibit # 2 - Topography & Trail Map



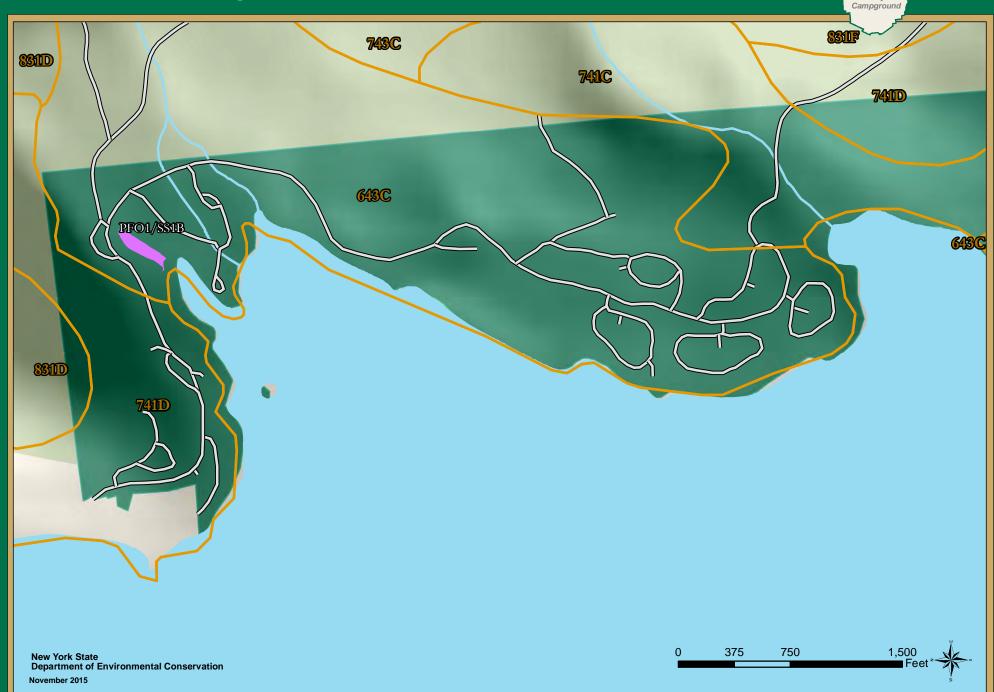


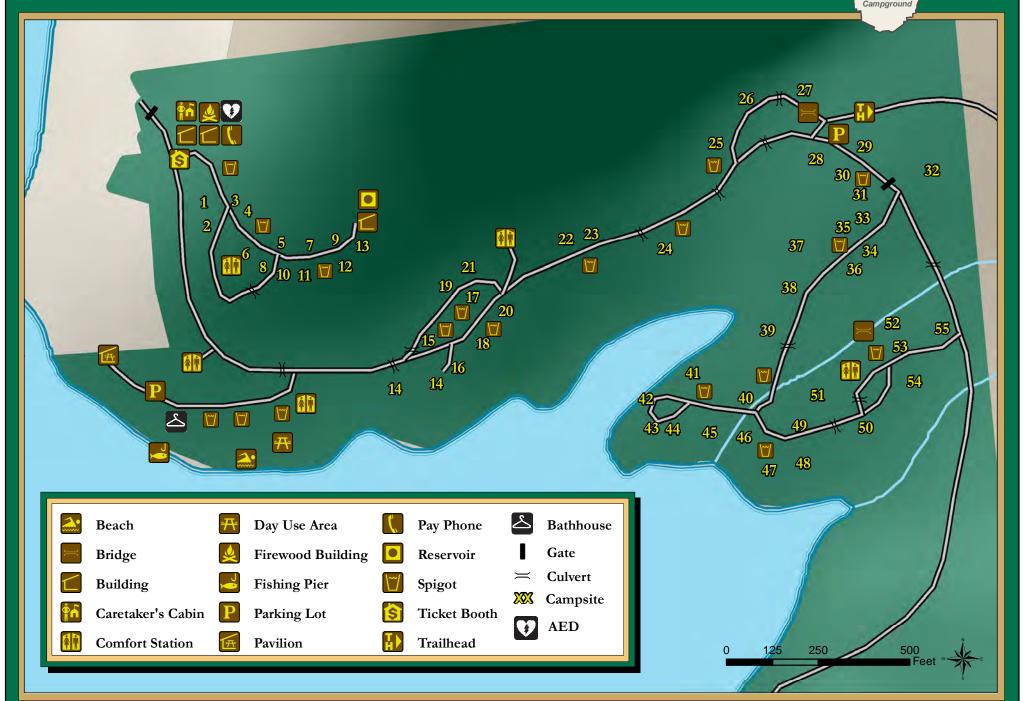


# Cranberry Lake Campground

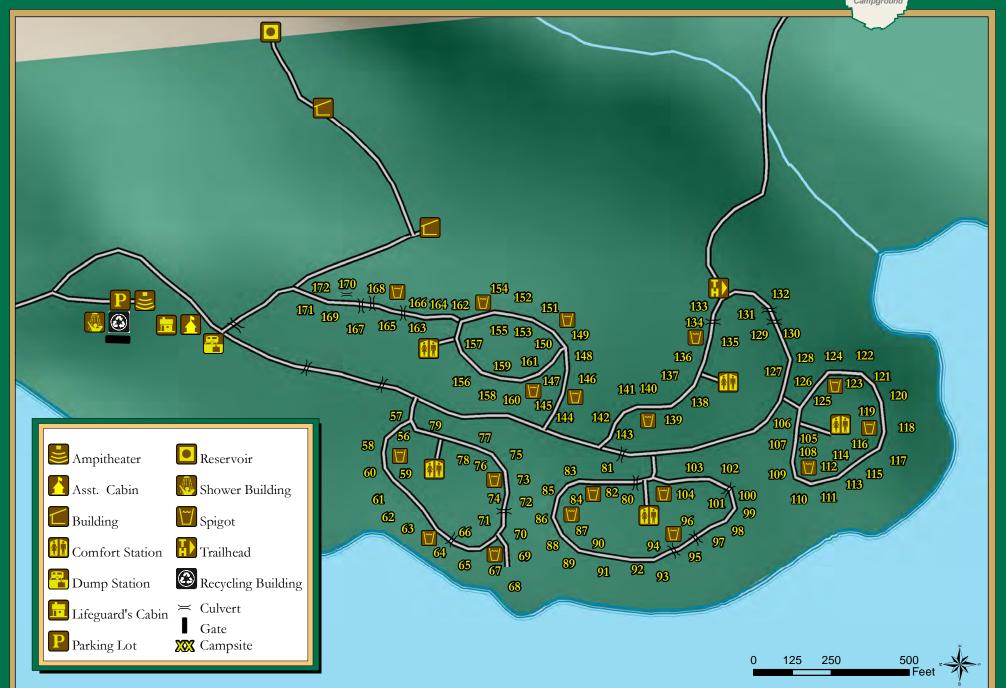
Exhibit # 4 - Wetland & Soils Map







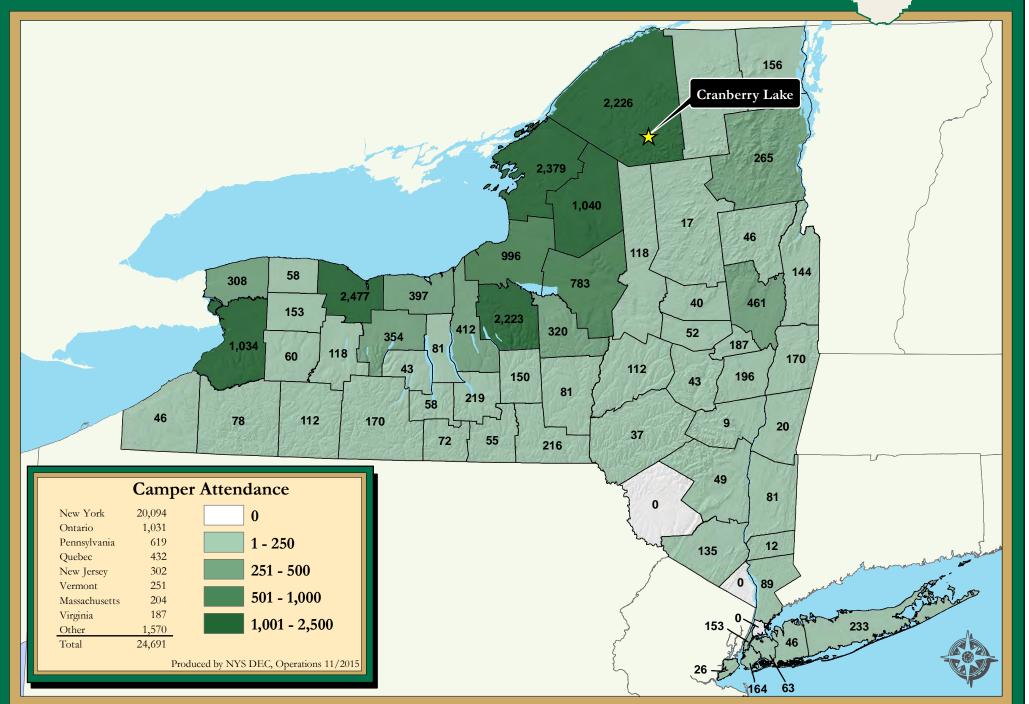




## Cranberry Lake Campground

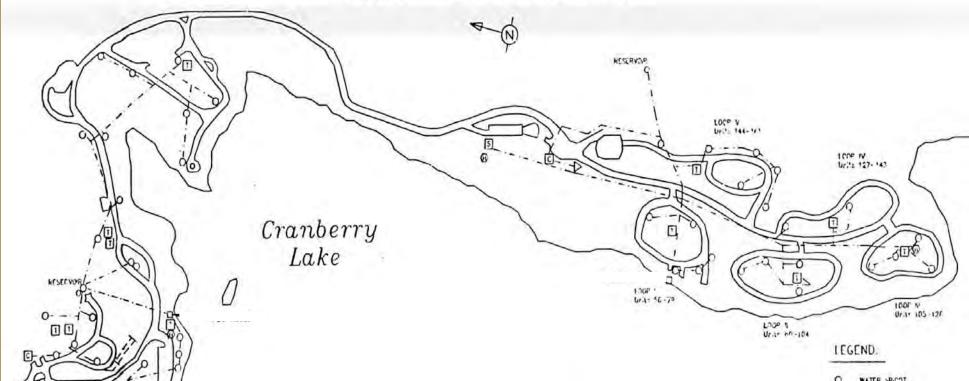
Exhibit # 6 - Camper Demographics 2015







## WATER SYSTEMS MAP

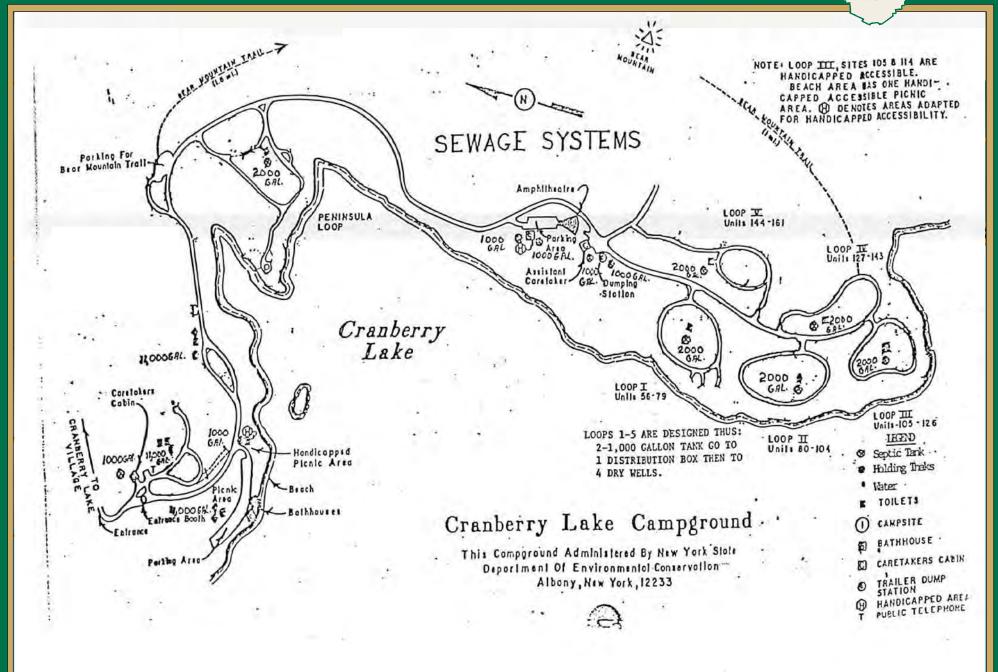


## Cranberry Lake Campground

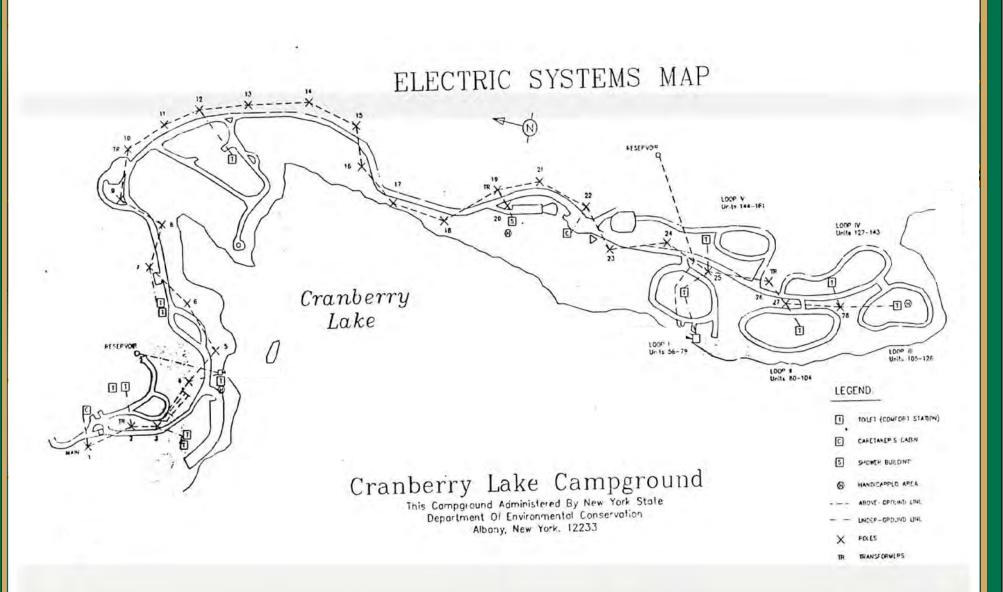
This Comparound Administered By New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation Albany, New York, 12233

- TOHET (CONFOR' STATION)
- CARLTANER'S CASIN
- SHOW F HUILDING
- TRALLE DUUP STATION
- HAND'CAPPED AREA

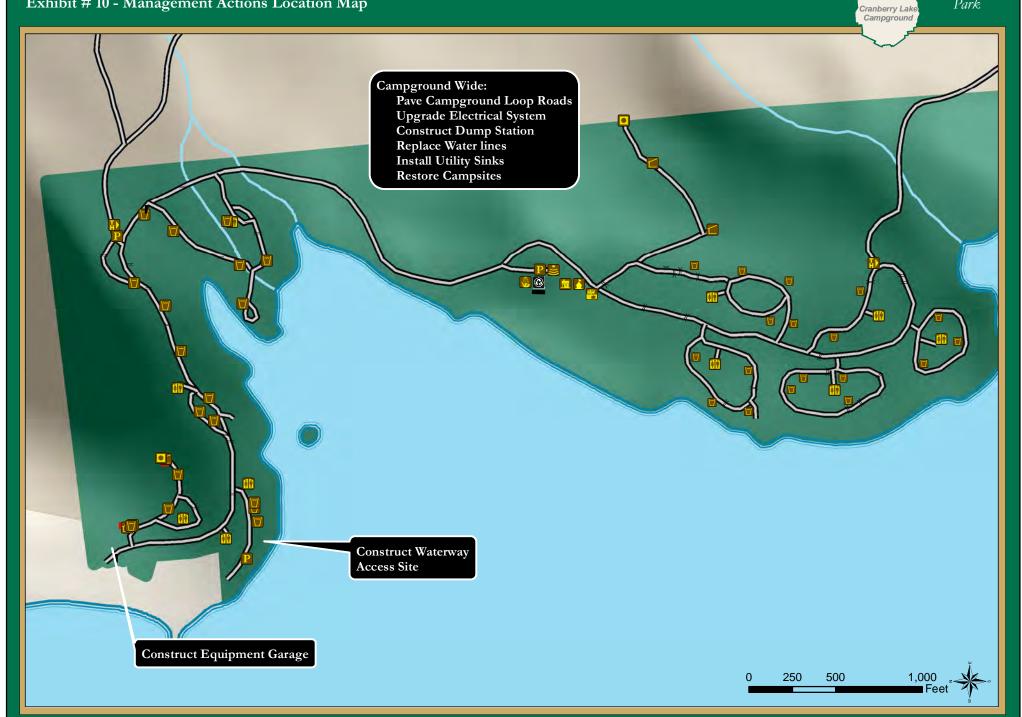








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## Cranberry Lake Campground Photos

2015



Caretaker's Cabin



**Ticket Booth** 



Wood Storage Shed



Garage



Phone



Well



Storage



Entrance Loop Comfort Station



Entrance Loop Tile field



Well







Pump house



Reservoir #1



Day Use Area Comfort Station



Bathhouse



Pavilion



Day Use Parking Lot



Fishing Pier







Day Use Area



Accessible Day Use Area



Storage



Comfort Station Near Site # 21



Bridge Near Site #27



Bear Mtn. Trail Trailhead



Trailhead Parking Lot



Gate



Peninsula Loop Comfort Station Bridge



Peninsula Loop Comfort Station



Shower Building/Recycle Center Parking Lot



Recycle Center



**Shower Building** 



Shower Building Pump



Recreation Field Gate



**Recreation Field** 



NRP/JNP Stage



NRP Cabin



**Assistant Caretaker Cabin** 



**Dump Station** 



**Loop I Comfort Station** 





**Loop III Comfort Station** 



Loop II Breaker



Loop IV Bear Mtn. Trail Trailhead



Loop IV Comfort Station



Loop V Comfort Station









Reservoir Road Storage Building



Reservoir Rd. Pump house and Well



Old Well