



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

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# Lake Durant Public Campground

## Unit Management Plan

### Proposed Final

Village of Indian Lake, Hamilton County, New York

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**May, 2016**

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

*Governor* **ANDREW M. CUOMO**

*Acting Commissioner* **BASIL SEGGOS**

# **LAKE DURANT PUBLIC CAMPGROUND SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**NOTE:** Volume I is a generic plan and contains 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 manmade 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 UMP has been prepared by Region 5 staff. Any comments and/or information may be forwarded to Ellen King, copy to Josh Houghton, Division of Operations, Albany.

For information, contact Mike Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

**SUMMARY**  
**LAKE DURANT PUBLIC CAMPGROUND**  
**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 Lake Durant 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 Lake Durant 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 nine management actions are being proposed:

<u>Proposed Management Actions*</u>
• Construct Shower Building
• Construct Ticket Booth
• Construct Workshop/Garage
• Construct Picnic Pavilion/Rehabilitate Day Use Area
• Rehabilitate Lake Durant Fishing Pier
• Upgrade Electrical System
• Install Utility Sinks
• Monitor Boat Launch Usage
• Restore 2.5% of Campsites

\*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 experience, upkeep of facilities to contribute to public safety, and providing conditions in a setting and 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 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 in order to minimize 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 stabilize soil. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. Proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak use periods rather than accommodating increased population projections.

Various alternative actions to those favored and selected were considered. Public unrest, adverse effect 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 preclude selection of these alternatives at this time.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Overview

Lake Durant Campground is located on the east shore of 327-acre Lake Durant and is 35-acres in size, 25 of which are developed. The remote Central Adirondack setting of this facility offers a relaxing, quiet beauty all its own. The campsites offer privacy, they are large and well forested. Camping equipment from tents to 30' RVs can be accommodated. A picnic area is available adjacent to the swimming beach.

Lake Durant Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities including canoeing, boating, fishing and hiking. Small boats are recommended because of the depth of the Lake. Canoe and boat rentals are available at the campground by private vendor. Lake Durant is a very popular Large Mouth Bass fishery. Due to its location on the Northville - Placid Trail and proximity to adjoining wilderness trails, Lake Durant Campground offers many hiking opportunities. In addition, miles of paved campground, town and county roads make biking a popular activity amongst campers.

The Adirondack Park Visitors Interpretive Center at Newcomb is 25 miles east on N.Y.S. Route 28. The Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake is located two miles north on N.Y.S. Route 28, and features the History of the Adirondack Park.

Guidelines for management of the campground are based on its classification as an intensive use area in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

#### B. Area Description

##### 1. Location

Lake Durant Public Campground falls within DEC Region 5, Indian Lake working circle. The campground is two miles south of the Town of Blue Mountain Lake on N.Y.S. Route 28 & 30, and nine miles north of the Village of Indian Lake, Hamilton County, Township of Indian Lake, Totten and Crossfield's purchase, all or portions of Lot numbers 11 and 12, Indian Lake. See Exhibit # 1 – Location Map.

##### 2. History

Originally known as the “34 Flow”, Lake Durant was created by the lumbering industry to impound water used in the rafting of logs to downstream sawmills on the Hudson River. After use for lumbering, the area was left with flood-killed trees. Between 1933-1935, the flooded area was cleared and a new dam was constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews.

In August of 1938, the Lake was christened “Lake Durant” by the widow of railroad magnate and early developer William West Durant. It was dedicated for "recreational purposes" to the general public.

In recognition of the ever increasing demand for camping areas in the Adirondacks, the Conservation Department approved plans for the development of Lake Durant Campground in 1939. Construction proceeded over the next few years, with the campground opening in 1948. Comprehensive planning and beautiful surroundings have combined to make this one of the most popular campgrounds in the Adirondacks.

Year	Campground Improvements
1972	Construction of Comfort Stations
1992	Drilled New Water Well
1993	Construction of Recycling Center
2013	Construction of Firewood Building
2014	Installation of Beach Communications
2014	Rehabilitation of Dump Station



## II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

### A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

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

Camping Area	Day Use Area
• Design Capacity - 366 People	• Design Capacity - 48 People
• 61 Campsites	• 8 Picnic Tables
• 61 Picnic Tables	• 7 Grills/Fireplaces
• 61 Fireplaces	• 3 Spigots
• 17 Spigots	• 5 Vehicle Parking Lot (1,200sf)

#### 2. Roads

Presently the Department maintains 1.5 miles of paved roads with an average width of 10 feet.

Pavement and shoulders are in fair condition.

#### 3. Buildings

OGS #	Building Name/ Function	Location/ Description/Use	Size	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Facility Supervisor's Cottage	Living Space	857 sf	Fair	1948
		Office Space	158 sf	Fair	unk
		Porch	216 sf	Fair	unk
(002)	Life Guard Cabin		545 sf	Fair	1970
(003)	Chlorination Building		91 sf	Fair	1970
(004)	Bath/Shower House	2 Stalls & 2 Sinks Ea. Sex	56 sf	Fair	1993
(005)*	Comfort Station (#1)	Near Shower House	242 sf	Fair	1970
(006)	Comfort Station (#1 Vault)	Near Site #1A	143 sf	Fair	1948
(007)	Comfort Station (#2 Vault)	Near Recycling Building	143 sf	Poor	1948
(008)*	Comfort Station (#2)	Near Site #8	242 sf	Fair	1970
(009)*	Comfort Station (#3)	Near Site #16	242 sf	Fair	1970
(010)	Comfort Station (#3 Vault)	Used for Storage	143 sf	Poor	1948
(011)*	Comfort Station (#4)	Near Site #34	396 sf	Fair	1970
(012)	Pump House		192 sf	Fair	1970
(013)*	Comfort Station (#5)	Near Site #58	528 sf	Fair	1970
(014)*	Reservoir		324 sf	Fair	1970
(015)	Ticket Booth		80 sf	Fair	1970
(016)	Refuse/Recycle Center		320 sf	Good	1993
	Firewood Building		600 sf	Good	2012

\*Numbers in parentheses are building numbers assigned in the Building Inventory of Minor State Structures.

## II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

\*\* All Comfort Stations have flush toilets, sinks and urinals, with the exception of Vault Toilet #1. Comfort Stations #1 through #3 have 2 toilets, 1 urinal, and 1 sink (Men's), 2 toilets, and 2 sinks (Women's). Comfort Stations #4 and #5 have 3 toilets, 1 urinal, and 2 sinks (Men's), 4 toilets, and 2 sinks (Women's) Toilet #1 is a vault toilet and has 4 toilets. The Bath House / Shower building has 2 showers and 2 sinks for each sex.

### 4. Sewage System

All sewage disposal in the campground is by use of septic systems, utilizing septic tanks and effluent collector mains, with three mechanical lift stations pumping to a leach field, located east of the boat launch parking lot (See Exhibit 11). Soil percolation tests in 1970 indicated favorable soil conditions for ground disposal. Septic tank content is periodically disposed by septic tank pumper, with effluent transported by a licensed sewage disposal firm.

A NYS-DEC SPDES permit #NY 00034347 was issued in 1991 and is updated annually. The application covers any discharges and the systems noted below:

OGS#*	Building # / Type	Septic Tank Size(gallons)**	Construction Date
(001)	Caretaker Cabin	500 gal	1970
(002)	Lifeguard Cabin	500 gal	1970
(003)	Comfort Station # 1	2,000 gal	1970
(006)	Comfort Station # 2	2,000 gal	1970
(008)	Comfort Station # 3	2,000 gal	1970
(009)	Comfort Station # 4	2,000 gal	1970
(011)	Comfort Station # 5	2,000 gal	1970
(013)	Recycling Building	2,000 gal	1970
(016)	Dump Station	1,000 gal	1970

\*Numbers in parentheses are building numbers assigned in 1991 the Building Inventory of Minor State Structures.

\*\*Size of septic tanks was taken from a 1991 Engineer's Report submitted June 5, 1991 in application 023-9496 for a SPDES permit. Data based on actual field inspection.

### 5. Solid Waste

At this time solid waste is disposed of at the Town of Indian Lake sanitary landfill. This campground has a centralized recycling and refuse disposal facility which has a staff person to manage. A recycling program is operated at the campground, handling an estimated ½ ton of recyclables annually.

A brochure is available to instruct campers of its availability and required use. The centralized recycling and refuse disposal facility is tied into the water and sewage systems.

## II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

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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 pipe barriers are used to control campground use, and are opened or closed for this purpose. Department policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. The barrier at the entrance is locked open during snowmobile season. The current inventory is as follows:

Location	Type	Function
Near Site #1A	Pipe Gate	Control Campground Access
Bridge by Dam	Pipe Gate	Control Campground Access
Behind Site # 3	Pipe Gate	Control Reservoir Access

### 7. Telephone

The main phone number is (518) 352-7797. When the campground is closed all calls are directed to the Indian Lake Office. The campground also has a dedicated 911 call box located on the beach in case of emergencies.

### 8. Signs

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

### 9. Electric System

The main campground has overhead and underground primary electrical distribution with overhead and underground secondary distribution. New York State Electric and Gas Power Corporation provides electricity to the campground's primary lines. In 2014 the electric consumption was 24,340 kWh at a cost of \$2,693. (See Exhibit 12)

### 10. Potable Water System

A new well was drilled and new pipelines installed between drilled well and pump/chlorination building in 1992. The well is 78', yields 25 gpm and has a pumping capacity of 45 gpm. A 15,320-gallon chlorinated reservoir provides water storage. The campground also contains 20-spigots (17 camping, three day-use, all water fountains with spigots), 21 wash sinks and 35 toilets (See Exhibit 10).

### 11. Trails & Bridges

The campground is a trail-head for the Northville – Placid Trail. In addition there are many miles of trail on forest preserve and conservation easement lands that surround Lake Durant Campground. Hikers using campground facilities while through hiking are required to register and pay the day use fee while the campground is open. See section III.F.2.e and Exhibit # 2 – Topography & Trail Map for more information.

### 12 Fuel Systems

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

Tank #	Product Type	Tank Size	Location
1	Propane	500 gal.	Shower Building
2	Propane	100 gal.	Caretaker Cabin
3	Propane	100 gal.	Recycling Building
4	Propane	100 gal.	Asst. Caretaker Cabin
			Ave Annual - 1,750 gal.

### 13. Swimming

The swimming area is located at the east end of Lake Durant.

Swimming Area Capacities		
Location	Size	Capacity
Swim Area < 5' Deep	3,250 sf	112
Beach Area	3,600 sf	

### 14. Boating

A manmade facility which enhances fishing and other water related recreational opportunity within the Lake Durant Campground is a Boat Launch Site. The site is listed in the New York State Directory of State Access and Boat Launching Areas as consisting of a hard surface launching ramp (15'x17') with parking for five car and trailer units. This launch is appropriate for smaller craft and provides the only public access to Lake Durant. A boat wash area and aquatic invasive species dump box are provided to help stop the spread of invasive species. For more information regarding the invasive species found within Lake Durant Campground please refer to Section F.2.f below. Exhibit 11 of Volume I of the Final Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day Use Areas shows the facility to be a "pre-existing" and "improved" ramp which provides for the launching of trailered boats. Also located at the site is a 17'6" x 9'6" fishing pier.

## II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

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### 15. Dam

Lake Durant is controlled by a concrete gravity dam (Fed ID# NY01185) on its eastern end. The dam was originally constructed in 1933 and measures 130 ft. long and 20 ft. high. The dam was last inspected in 2012 and was given a hazard classification of “A” or “Low Hazard”.

### B. Inventory of Systems

#### 1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor I
5	Park and Recreation Aide
1	Life Guard

#### 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	\$75.00
Day use - Motorcycle	\$4.00
Picnic Shelter Rental	\$50.00
Firewood – Per Bundle	\$8.00
Ice - Per Bag	\$2.00
Empire Passport – Per 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 boat rentals.

#### 4. Off-Season Use

Campground use during winter months consists of ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and Northville-Placid Trail hikers. Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits required, or issued for off-season use, or staff on site to monitor use. The campground is not plowed during the winter.

### 5. Junior Naturalist Program

The Junior Naturalist Program provides boys and girls age five 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 Lake Durant Campground is 1,778' with a maximum of 1,800' (See Exhibit #2 – Topography & Trail Map)

##### *b. Water*

Lake Durant is 327-acres in size with a maximum depth of 20 feet. There are 31 campsites located on the shore of the lake. The campground beach is located on the southeast shore (See Exhibit #3 – Orthoimagery Map).

##### *c. Wetlands*

Wetlands were mapped by the Adirondack Park Agency staff after an on-site field investigation. Exhibit #4 – Wetland & Soil Map, depicts several emergent, shrub-scrub and 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 if a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to these designated wetland areas.

##### *d. Soils*

Label	Soil Type	Drainage
<b>708B</b>	Adirondack-Sabattis-Tughill complex, 0 to 8 % slopes, very bouldery	Very poorly drained
<b>723C</b>	Becket sandy loam, 3 to 15 % slopes, very bouldery	Well drained
<b>721C</b>	Becket-Tunbridge-Skerry complex, 3 to 15 % slopes, very bouldery	Well drained
<b>654C</b>	Monadnock-Sabattis complex, rolling, very bouldery	Well drained
<b>727B</b>	Skerry-Adirondack complex, 0 to 8 % slopes, very bouldery	Moderately well drained
<b>725B</b>	Skerry-Becket complex, 3 to 15 % slopes, very bouldery	Moderately well drained

See Exhibit #4 – Wetland & Soil Map for approximate soil type location.

### 2. Biological

#### a. Forest Type

There are several different forest types present in this area. These include Northern Hardwoods, Mixed woods, White Pine, Hemlock, Spruce and Wetland Species.

#### b. Wildlife

A diversity of wildlife can reside in or utilize this area. The clearings and brushy eco-tones created by developments provide habitat for wildlife species dependent on the earlier stages of succession. No permanent irreversible damage is anticipated to either the wildlife habitats or species.

The capacity of the wildlife resource to withstand non-consumptive use is broad and related to the number of persons utilizing the campground. Hunting within the campground (discharge of firearms) is restricted.

Predictive models show that the Lake Durant Campground potentially possessed suitable site conditions for both a winter deer yard and Spruce Grouse habitat (See Exhibit#5 – Potential Deer Yard Map and Exhibit#6 – Potential Spruce Grouse Map). However, this does not imply their presence but only that the campground possesses generic site conditions required to support each. In addition, it is more likely that campground development precludes both from the south end of Lake Durant.

In addition to the predictive models Natural Heritage data shows that there has been Common Loons on Lake Durant in recent history.

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

#### c. Fisheries

Lake Durant is a relatively shallow 293-acre lake. Only a small portion of the lake is in excess of 20 feet deep, and much of the lake is less than 10 feet. A chemistry survey from 2002 shows good pH (6.90 pH) and an Acid Neutralizing Capability (90.10 ANC). The same 2002 survey recorded a number of popular warm water sport fish species. Of note, Tiger Muskies are stocked at a rate of about 1900 approximately 9-10 inch fish per year.

#### FISHERIES SURVEY INFORMATION

Central Mudminnow (*Umbra limi*)  
Golden Shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*)  
Common Shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*)  
Banded Killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous*)  
Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*)  
Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)  
Brown Bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*)  
Tiger Musky (*Esox lucius*)  
Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)  
White Sucker (*Castomus commersoni*)  
Rock Bass (*Ambloplites rupestris*)

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Largemouth Bass were quite common in this survey and Lake Durant has a reputation as an excellent Largemouth Bass fishery. Ice fishing is also permitted on Lake Durant. A bathymetric map of Lake Durant is available on DEC's website at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/lkdrntmap.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/lkdrntmap.pdf)



## 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 that all campgrounds and day use areas will be of a rustic nature. Natural materials will be used to the fullest extent possible in the construction so as to blend with the Adirondack environment. These constraints are further described in Volume I of the generic plan.

### C. Environmental Conservation Laws

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 which pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill Public Campgrounds and Special Day Use classified Intensive Use Areas.

### E. Recreation Program Goals

- Manage the recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resource in accordance with Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, Adirondack and Catskill 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 (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. Day use attendance for the most recent five years shows variability but is ~20% higher than the previous five year period average.

The most recent five year average total attendance is about 1% higher than the previous five year period. Most Lake Durant campers are from New York State (74%) with strong representation from the Capital region, Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester. Pennsylvania campers make up the majority of out of state campers (3 %) with a smaller representation from many other States across the country. Most New York campers visit Lake Durant from communities along the New York State Thruway (See Exhibit 9).

Lake Durant Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2015	14,362	620	14,982
2014	17,405	381	18,482
2013	16,972	500	18,382
2012	16,511	615	18,127
2011	16,182	465	17,492
<i>Average</i>	<i>16,286</i>	<i>516</i>	<i>16,802</i>

#### 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, and other service fees. Camping Revenue is derived by the rental of the 61 campsites. The camping revenue has shown some variability which may be due to a combination of increased attendance, fee increases and weather events.

Lake Durant Revenue				
Year	Camping	Day Use	Misc	Total
2015	\$111,166	\$1,486	\$15,174	\$127,826
2014	\$106,890	\$1,608	\$17,785	\$126,283
2013	\$105,520	\$2,024	\$16,161	\$123,705
2012	\$102,765	\$1,338	\$12,784	\$116,887
2011	\$100,905	\$1,318	\$7,945	\$110,168
<i>Average</i>	<i>\$105,449</i>	<i>\$1,554</i>	<i>\$13,970</i>	<i>\$120,973</i>

Day use revenue constitutes park entrance fees only while Misc. revenue is a combination of pavilion rental, firewood sales and Empire Passports sales. Total day use revenue has fluctuated over the last several years.

### III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

#### 2. Carrying Capacity

Lake Durant 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 at this location and will assure that the public use is conditioned within the capacity of the physical, biological and social resources to withstand such use.

During the 2015 camping season Lake Durant had a 54% average Campground Site Utilization Rate, ranged from 11% to 89%. This means, that on average, slightly more than half the sites were rented at any given time. Weekends tend to have higher site utilization rates, at 65 %, than weekdays with a 45% rate. The average length of stay at Lake Durant for the 2014 season was 2.63 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 61 campsites is six persons per site or 366 persons. The day use design capacity is six persons per picnic table X eight tables or 48 persons. Although July and August tend to be the heaviest months for use of this facility, Lake Durant Campground had only a 25% user capacity rate based on actual site occupancy X the total sites rented.

The table below compares the calculated capacity needs with the currently available capacity and the following 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. Additional showers are needed and should be located conveniently throughout the facility.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
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*	1	1	0
Potable Water Supply	55 gal/ day/ site 5 gal /day/ picnicker	3,355 gal 420 gal	36,000gpd	0
Water Spigots	1/10 campsites 1/60 picnickers	7 2	17 3	0 0
Lavatories(within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites 1 for every 60 picnickers	5 1	21 Shared	0 0
Toilets/ Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites 2 for every 60 picnickers	13 2	35 Shared	0 0
Utility Sinks	Conveniently located	-	0	-
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	5	4	1
* DEC design standards meet or exceeds NYS Health Department codes				

While there is excess capacity of toilets and sinks, only the Day Use bathroom and Loop C restroom provide facilities with some accessible features.

#### ***b. Biological Carrying Capacity***

There is little evidence that current types and levels of recreational use are having a negative impact on overall soils, vegetation, or wildlife.

Most vehicular traffic occurs on paved surfaces which also helps limit compaction, rutting, and erosion. Although some of the original forest cover was cleared during construction in the 1930's, most of the campground remains forested. While hazardous trees are removed on a regular basis, natural regeneration, replanting, and growth of residual trees compensates for any losses. However, decades of intensive use and weathering has affected the Campground causing many campsites to need to be rehabilitated. Please see the proposed management actions section for details regarding the Campsite Restoration Program for details on site rehabilitation efforts.

#### ***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. At current attendance levels, this campground is operating within an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors.

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.

<b>Lake Durant Camper Survey</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Good or Excellent Rating</b>
2015	382	99%
2014	365	99%
2013	618	99%
2012	248	97%
2011	237	96%

### III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

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#### *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 Lake Durant Campground area. 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 campground is surrounded by Forest Preserve and Conservation Easement. NYS Route 28 is the primary access to Lake Durant and runs along the east side of the campground. The north side of the campground is bounded by Lake Durant and the [Blue Mountain Wild Forest](#). The south is bounded by the [Blue Ridge Wilderness](#). Hiking trails connect users with the surrounding Forest Preserve.

Lake Durant Campground is utilized by many hikers for day use and overnight camping. Hiking opportunities range from day hikes to extensive overnight backpacking trips along the [Northville – Placid Trail \(NPT\)](#) through the Forest Preserve. (See Exhibit#2 – Topography & Trail Map). The NPT is a 133 mile foot trail which runs through the heart of the Adirondacks and crosses the campground from east to west. The views from area trails are magnificent, especially during the fall season.

The [Upper Hudson Woodlands](#) conservation easement affords public access to the 1,600-acre Township 19 Public Use Area (PUA) and 4,000-acres of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest.

The O'Neil Flow Road provides public motor vehicle access to the Township 19 Public Use Area (PUA). O'Neil Flow Road leaves State Route 30/28 just a short distance south, and opposite, of Lake Durant Campground and serves as the boundary for the PUA. The public is prohibited from trespassing on the private lands north of the road. Hunters and other recreationalists can walk the road for more than five miles beyond the gate to access Dun Brook and the lands open for public use south of the road. The road continues on as the boundary between private lands to the north and the [Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area](#) to the south until it connects with the Cornell/Deer Pond Road.

Barker Pond Road departs the O'Neil Flow Road at mile two. The road extends 0.6 mile to a new parking area a short distance from Barker Pond.

It is estimated that the vast majority of the overnight usage comes from residents from upstate metropolitan areas (See Exhibit# 9- Camper Demographics 2015). Campers purchase fuel, food, firewood, sporting equipment, camping gear, clothing, and other items from nearby markets. At times vehicle repairs and personal emergency needs must be attended. As noted previously, many campers tour or utilize a wide variety of attractions in the vicinity. Peddlers serving campers under permit within the campground directly profit from goods exchanged.

The campground provides employment for local residents as 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 contractors including plumbers, electricians, carpenters, masons, and others may at times be utilized.

The Lake Durant Campground is not open for camping during the winter months but is utilized for Northville-Placid Trail hikers, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and hunting.

#### *f. Invasive Species*

The threat of invasive species at Lake Durant 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 other 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. A firewood storage building was recently completed to permit the sale of heat treated wood that complies with State regulations

It is the Departments 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 Lake Durant Campground:

### III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

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*Garlic mustard was found at sites 2, 35 and 36. Bush honeysuckle is fairly prevalent at the campground, especially in and around the picnicking, swimming and boat launch areas.*

*A total of 203 second year garlic mustard plants were removed from this campground, as well as many rosettes. No bush honeysuckle plants were removed.*

*This campground should be monitored annually to combat the current garlic mustard infestation and prevent new, small, easily pulled honeysuckle bushes from taking hold.*

*Due to the relatively widespread honeysuckle infestation, large honeysuckle bushes should be managed only if extra time and resources remain after the higher priority invasive species at this and other campgrounds (such as garlic mustard) have been removed.*

In addition to the aforementioned terrestrial invasive species Variable Leaf Milfoil, which is considered an aquatic invasive, has been detected in Lake Durant.

#### ***g. General Operations***

Lake Durant 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 snowmobile riding, ice fishing 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 an increased interest in camper's use of this campground and it's amenities for continued recreational use. Day-to-day operations of this campground are guided by policy set forth in the DEC Campground Guidance Manual. The subject index of the Handbook is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D, of the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan.

#### ***h. ADA Accessibility Guidelines***

Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Department incorporates accessibility into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and 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 utilized 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 there are no fully accessible features at this facility.

## 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.

Proposed Management Actions			
	Management Actions	Cost	Priority
A	Construct Eight Unit Shower Building.	\$ 650,000	1
B	Construct New Ticket Booth	\$ 50,000	2
C	Construct Workshop Garage	\$ 50,000	3
D	Construct DUA Picnic Pavilion/ Rehabilitate DUA	\$ 80,000	4
E	Rehabilitate Fishing Pier	\$ 5,000	5
F	Upgrade Electrical System	\$ 450,000	6
G	Install Utility Sinks	\$ 5,000	7
H	Monitor Boat Launch Usage	\$ 1,000	8
I	Restore 2.5% Campsites Annually	\$ 1,000/site	Annual

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

### A. Construct Eight Unit Shower Building

The existing shower building, is undersized and in need of replacement. A new, universally accessible, eight unit shower building will be constructed to replace the existing shower building. In addition to the eight shower stalls, the new building will include four toilet stalls per sex and one family stall. With the addition of bathroom facilities in the new shower building, comfort station #1 will be removed. The new building will be located in the same general vicinity as the existing shower building and comfort station #1. By utilizing the same site location limited vegetation clearing will be necessary. Utilities and adequate parking are currently available and will only need minor modifications. The new facility will also serve the Day Use Area. Exact design specifications will be decided based on specific site conditions and design standards at the time of implementation. When construction begins the



#### IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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Department will consult with APA staff for compliance with the APSLMP. This project has an estimated cost of \$650,000.

##### **B. Construct New Ticket Booth**

The present ticket booth is outdated and undersized to effectively process campground ingress and egress. In addition, it is too close to the Park Superintendent's cabin, and makes ingress difficult for large camping trailers and motor homes. A new, larger booth will be constructed approximately 20 feet north of the present location. The site of the new booth will require limited site disturbance and very little if any vegetation removal. The proposed site is part of the existing administrative area surrounding the current booth and cabin. The new booth will be universally accessible and large enough to accommodate administrative equipment and staff. 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.

##### **C. Construct Workshop Garage.**

Currently the campground does not have a dedicated workshop garage. Maintenance materials and equipment are stored in various outbuildings throughout the campground. A new workshop garage is proposed to be constructed on the site of the existing vault toilets located between the dump station and Site 1A. By removing the two vault toilet buildings, site clearing and vegetation loss will be limited. The new workshop garage will tie into the existing on site utilities and 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.

##### **D. Rehabilitate DUA and Construct a Picnic Pavilion**

Over time a large portion of the DUA has become overgrown with vegetation due to lack of maintenance. Most vegetation is still in the herbaceous stage of succession and historic fireplaces can be seen throughout the brush and saplings. It is proposed to remove this vegetation before it further develops and the full extent of the DUA is lost to succession. Any clearing will be cognizant of shoreline stabilization and if any vegetation is larger than the thresholds previously established, proper authorization will be secured. This project has an estimated cost of \$5,000. It is also proposed to build a new picnic pavilion in the reclaimed portion of the DUA. This will afford campers a place to recreate

during all weather conditions. The proposed location is within the historic DUA extent, is relatively level, adequately screened and is more than 150 ft from Lake Durant. The site is in close proximity to the existing comfort station #1 and an accessible path from the DUA parking lot to the new pavilion will be constructed. This project has an estimated cost of \$75,000.

### **E. Rehabilitate Lake Durant Fishing Pier-**

Over time the accessible fishing pier has begun to deteriorate. In addition, the pathway approaching the pier no longer meets accessibility standards. It is proposed to rehabilitate the pier and pathway to meet current accessibility standards. Rehabilitation will occur in the existing footprint and no vegetation is projected to be impacted. This project has an estimated cost of \$5,000.

### **F. Upgrade Electrical System**

The Lake Durant Campground electrical system is currently above ground which causes maintenance and operational issue in addition to detracting from the visual aesthetics within the facility. It is proposed to upgrade the electrical system by burying the aboveground lines and adding backup generation capabilities. Upgrades 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.

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

It is proposed to install a utility sink at each comfort station for use by campers. The utility 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. Utility sink use will help decrease site pollution and cut down on pest issues associated with improper gray water disposal. This project has an estimated cost of \$5000.

### **H. Monitor Boat Launch Usage**

Due to the fact that Lake Durant is less than 1,000 acres, periodic review of the boat launch sites appropriateness is required. To this end, it is proposed to install a launch register to capture boat launch usage information. Details such as number of boats, type and engine horse power will be recorded in the register. This information will help the Department gauge usage, carrying capacity and future retention of a trailered boat launch on Lake Durant.

#### IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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Additionally, in an effort to help stop the spread of aquatic invasives, control signs will be placed at the existing boat wash station and informational handouts will be available at the control booth. In addition, an invasive species disposal box will be located at the boat wash station. Campground staff will be trained in the identification and control of invasive species in an effort to educate the public and prevent the introduction or spreading of invasive species. This project has an estimated cost of \$1,000.

##### **I. Restore 2.5% Campsites Annually**

Many of Lake Durant'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 these sites, it is proposed that 2.5% of the campgrounds sites will be restored each year. This will include efforts to improve site screening, drainage, compaction and layout. Sites selected to be restored may be close 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 \$1000 per site.

## V. EXHIBIT INDEX

<b>Lake Durant Campground Exhibit Index</b>
Exhibit # 1 - Location Map
Exhibit # 2 - Topography & Trail Map
Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit # 4 - Wetlands & Soils Map
Exhibit # 5 - Potential Deer Yard Map
Exhibit # 6 - Potential Spruce Grouse Map
Exhibit # 7 - Lake Durant Facility Map
Exhibit # 8 - Lake Durant Entrance Area Facilities Map
Exhibit # 9 - Camper Demographics Map
Exhibit # 10 - Campground Water System
Exhibit # 11 - Campground Sewage System
Exhibit # 12 - Campground Electric System
Exhibit # 13 - Management Actions Location Map
Exhibit # 14 - Campground Photos

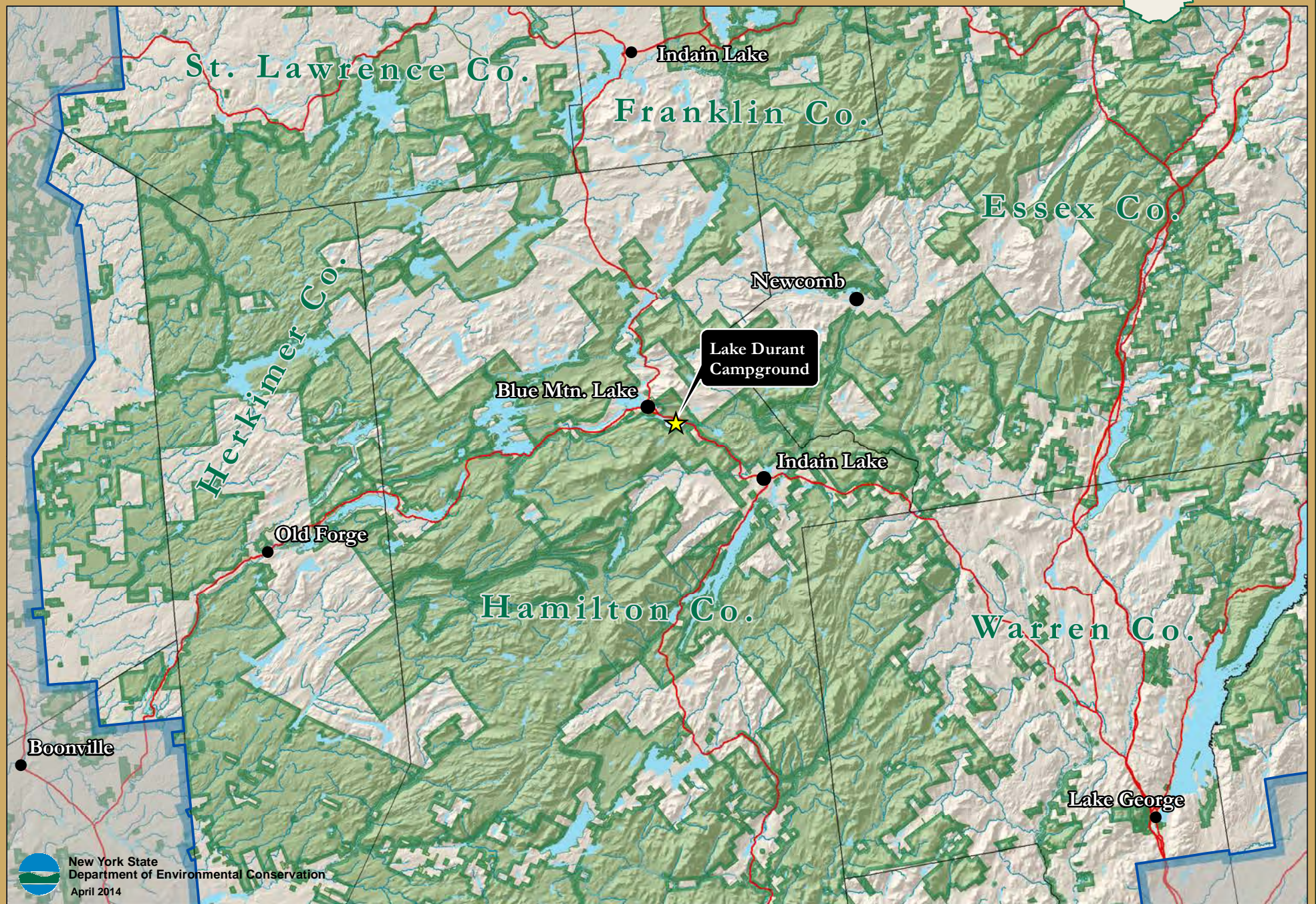


# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



Adirondack  
Park



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
April 2014

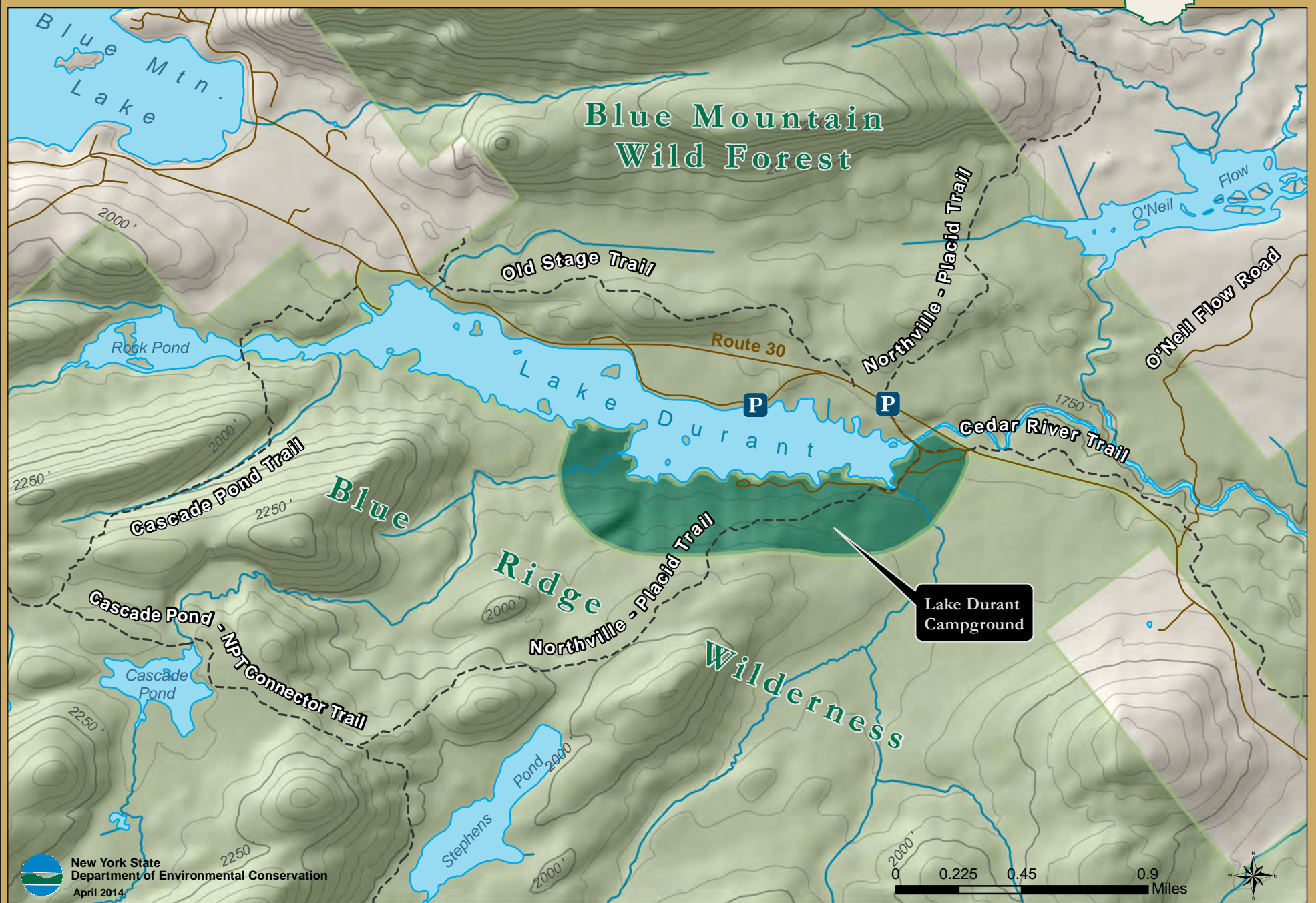


# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 2 - Topography & Trail Map



Adirondack  
Park



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
April 2014

0 0.225 0.45 0.9  
Miles

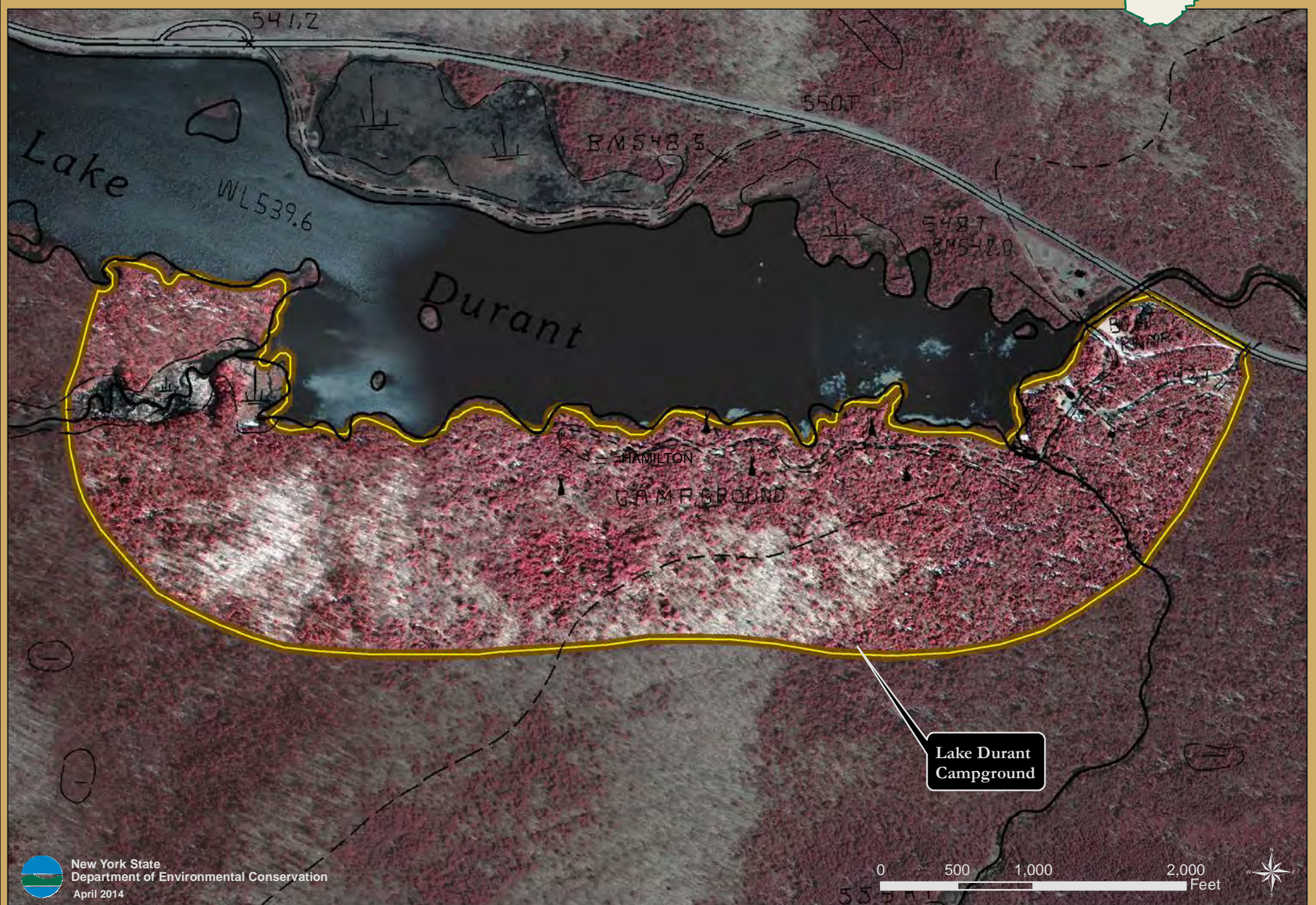


# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



Adirondack  
Park



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
April 2014

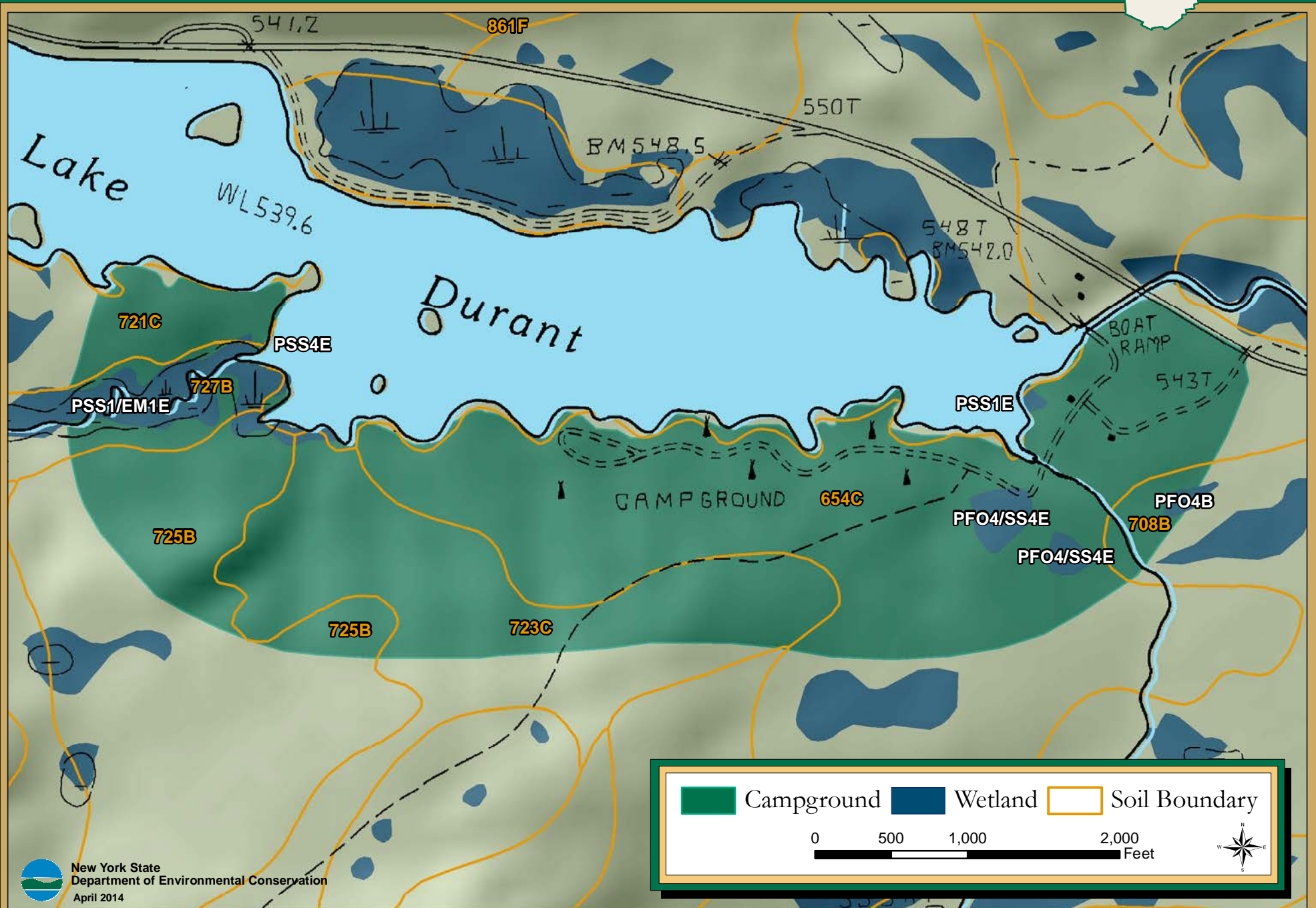


# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 4 - Wetlands & Soils Map



Adirondack  
Park



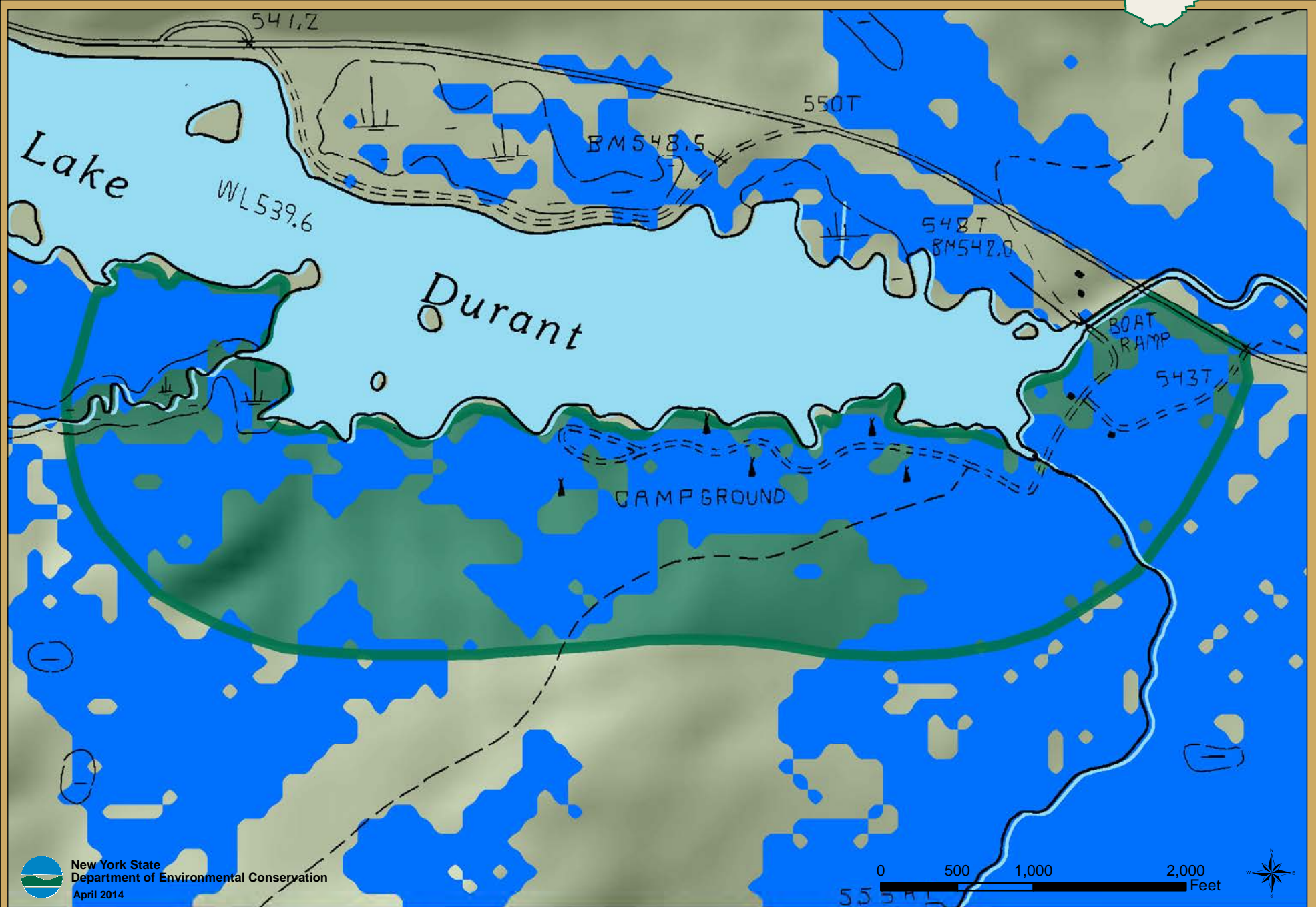


# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 5 - Potential Deer Yard Map



Adirondack  
Park



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
April 2014

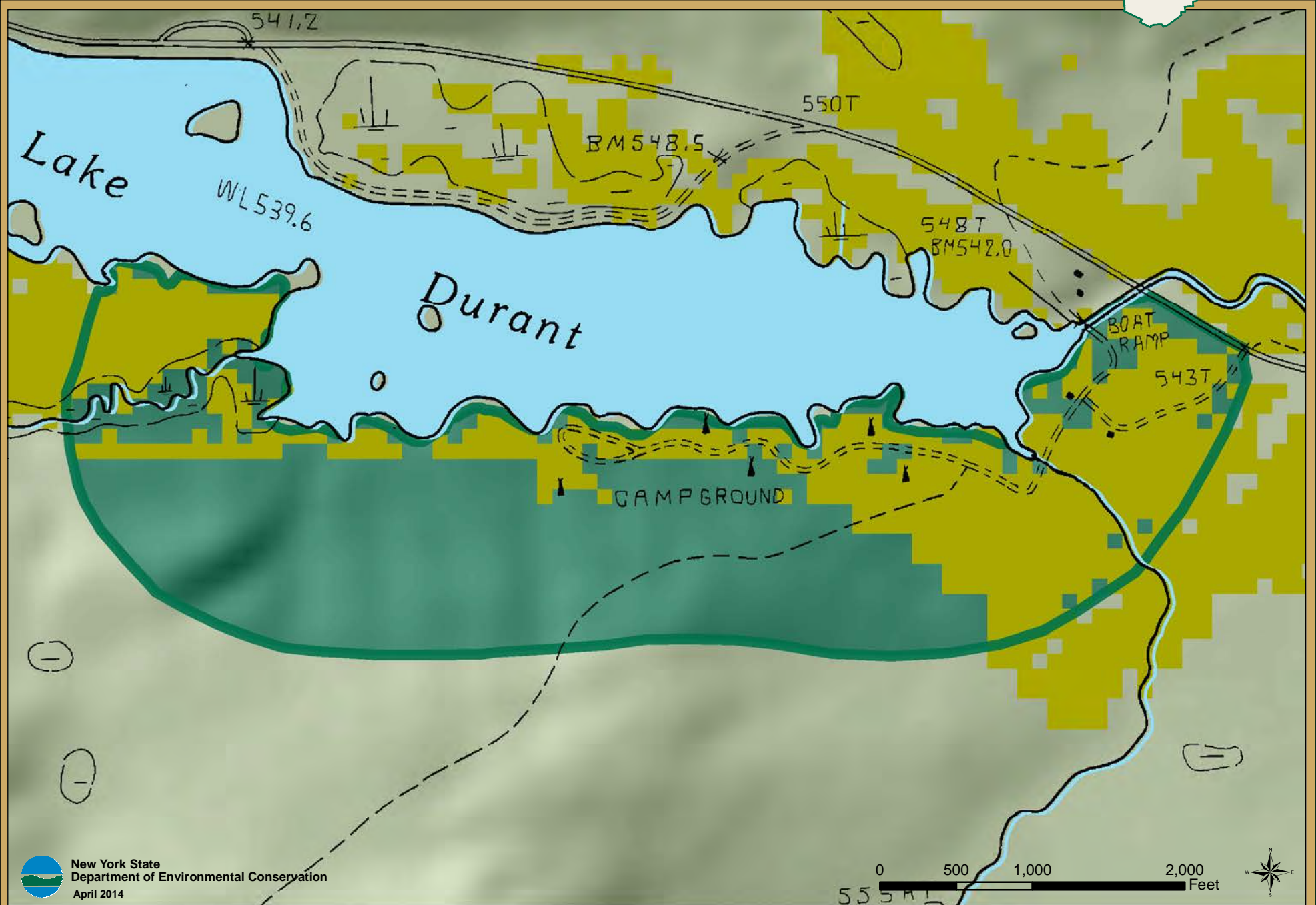
0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 6 - Potential Spruce Grouse Map



Adirondack  
Park



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
April 2014

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

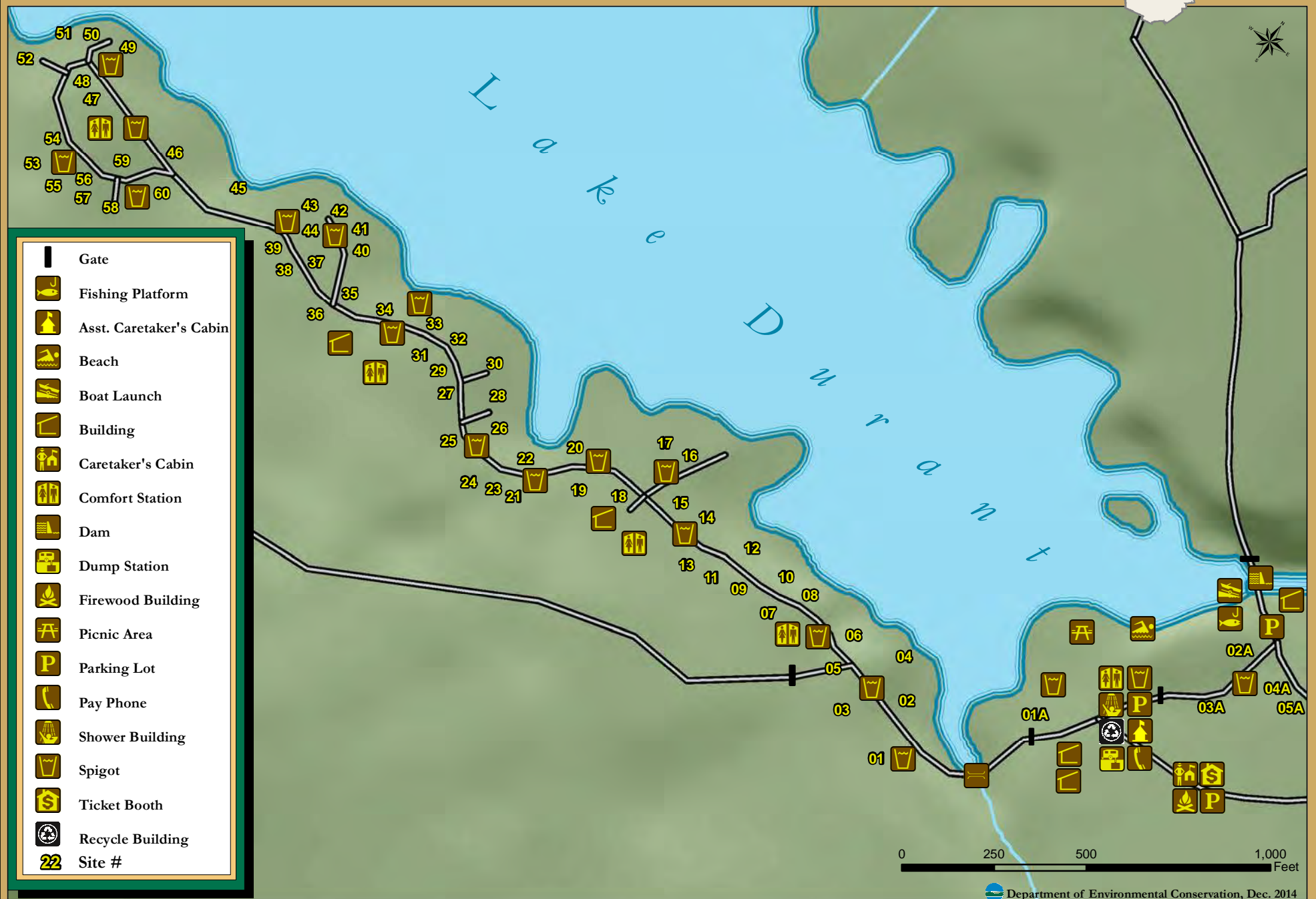


# Lake Durant Campground

## Exhibit # 7 - Facilities Map

Lake Durant  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



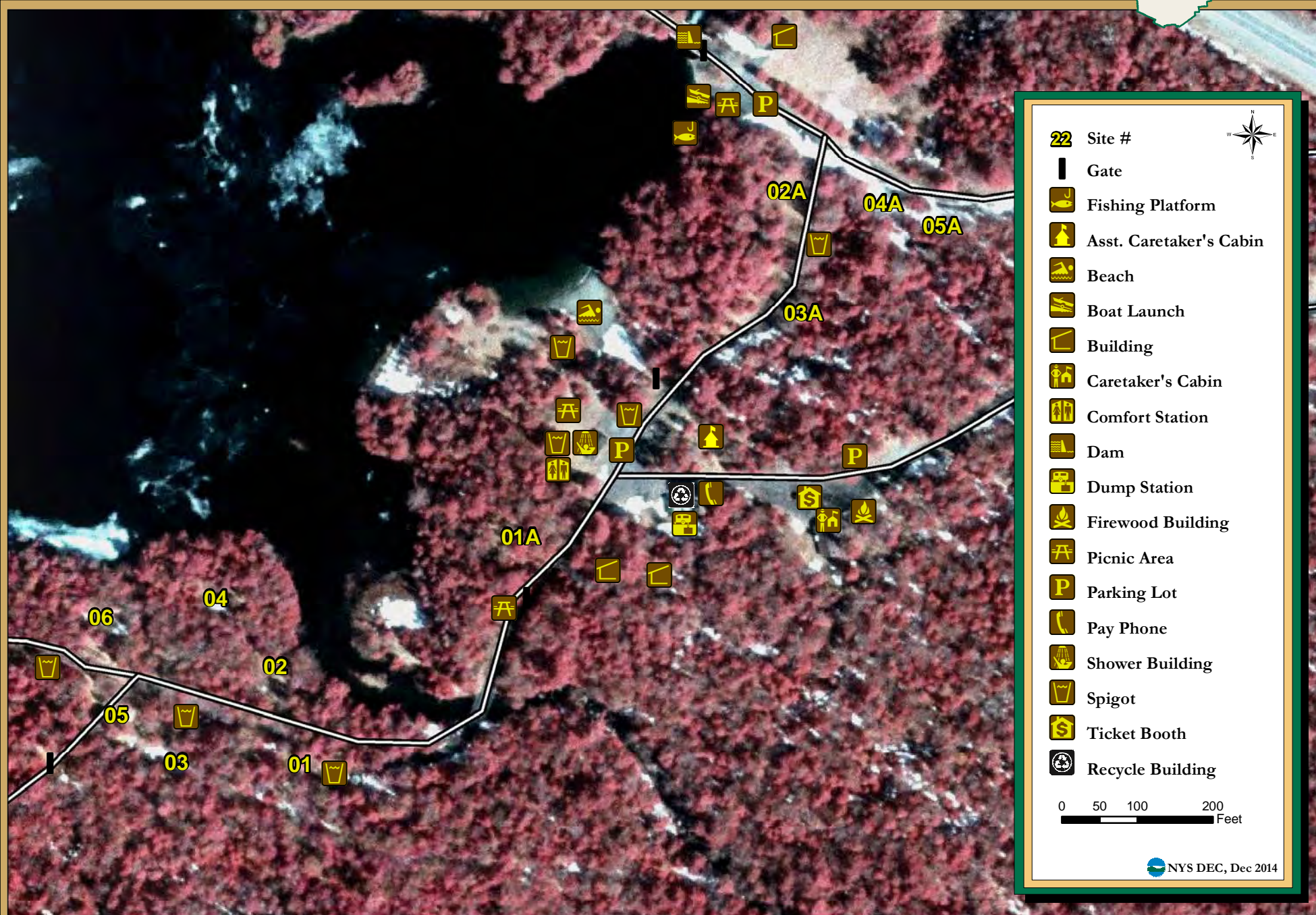


# Lake Durant Campground

## Exhibit # 8 - Entrance Facilities Map



Adirondack  
Park



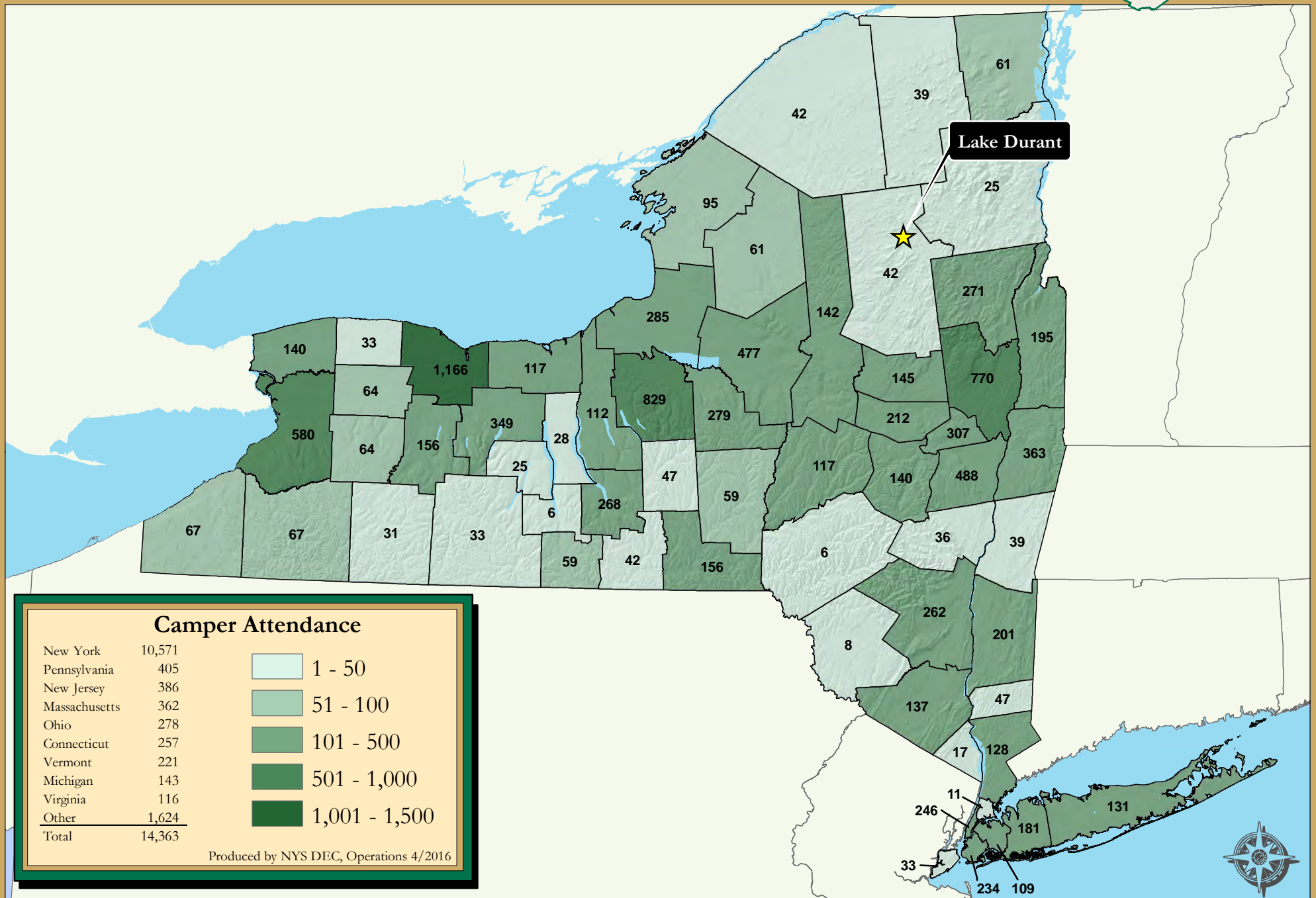


# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 9 - Camper Demographics 2015



Adirondack  
Park

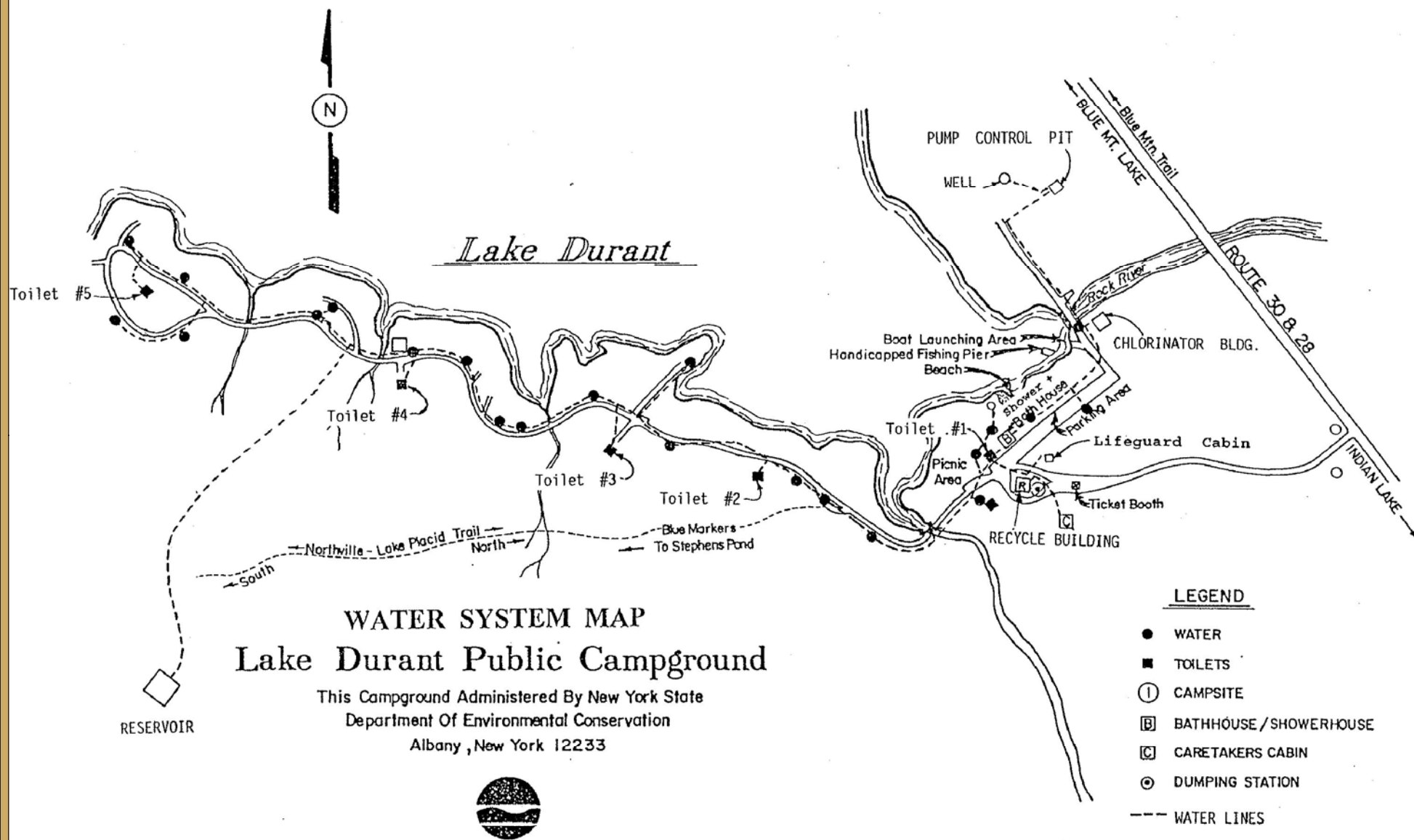


# Lake Durant Campground

## Exhibit # 10 - Water System Map



Adirondack  
Park



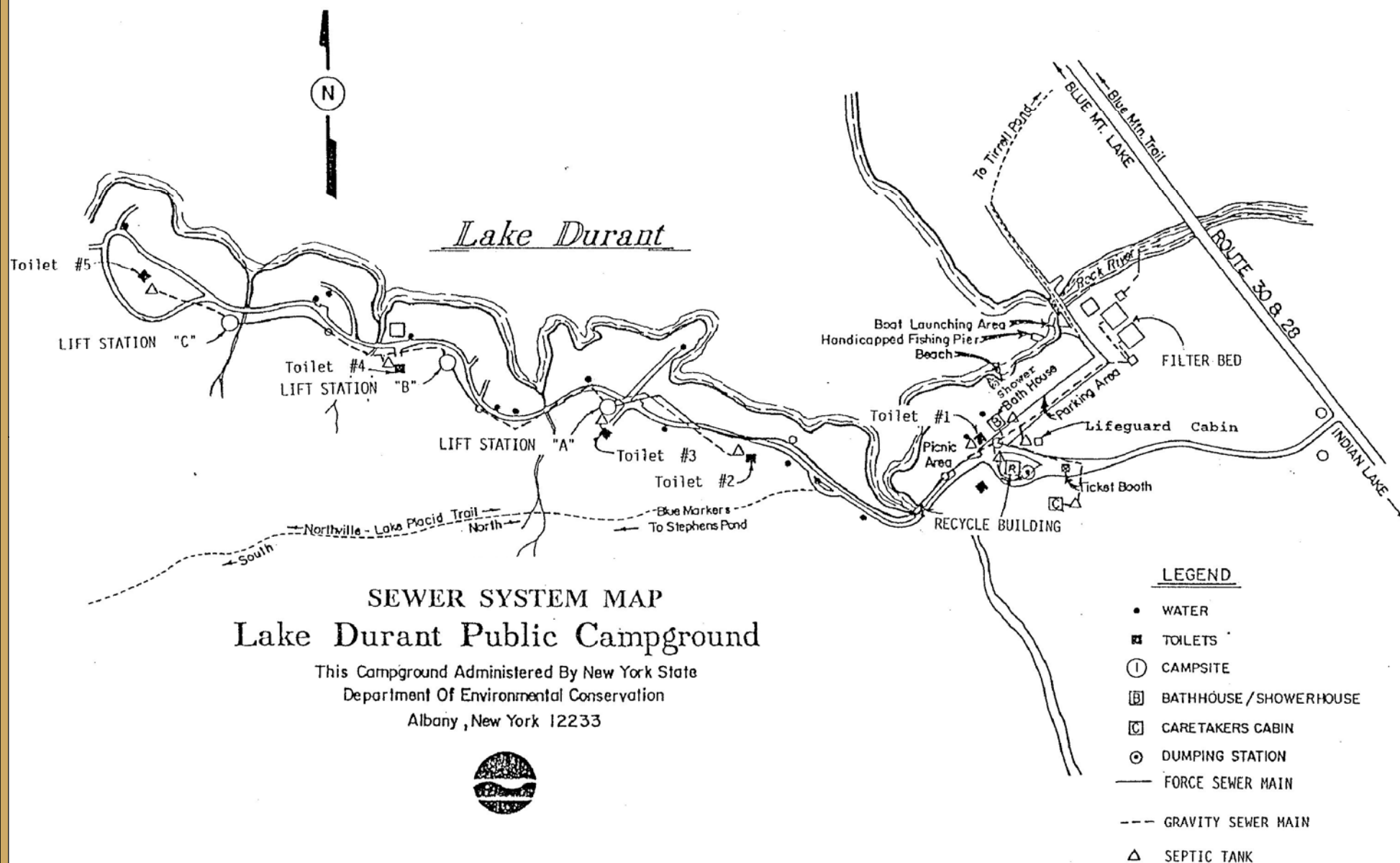
New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation

# Lake Durant Campground

## Exhibit # 11 - Sewer System Map



Adirondack  
Park



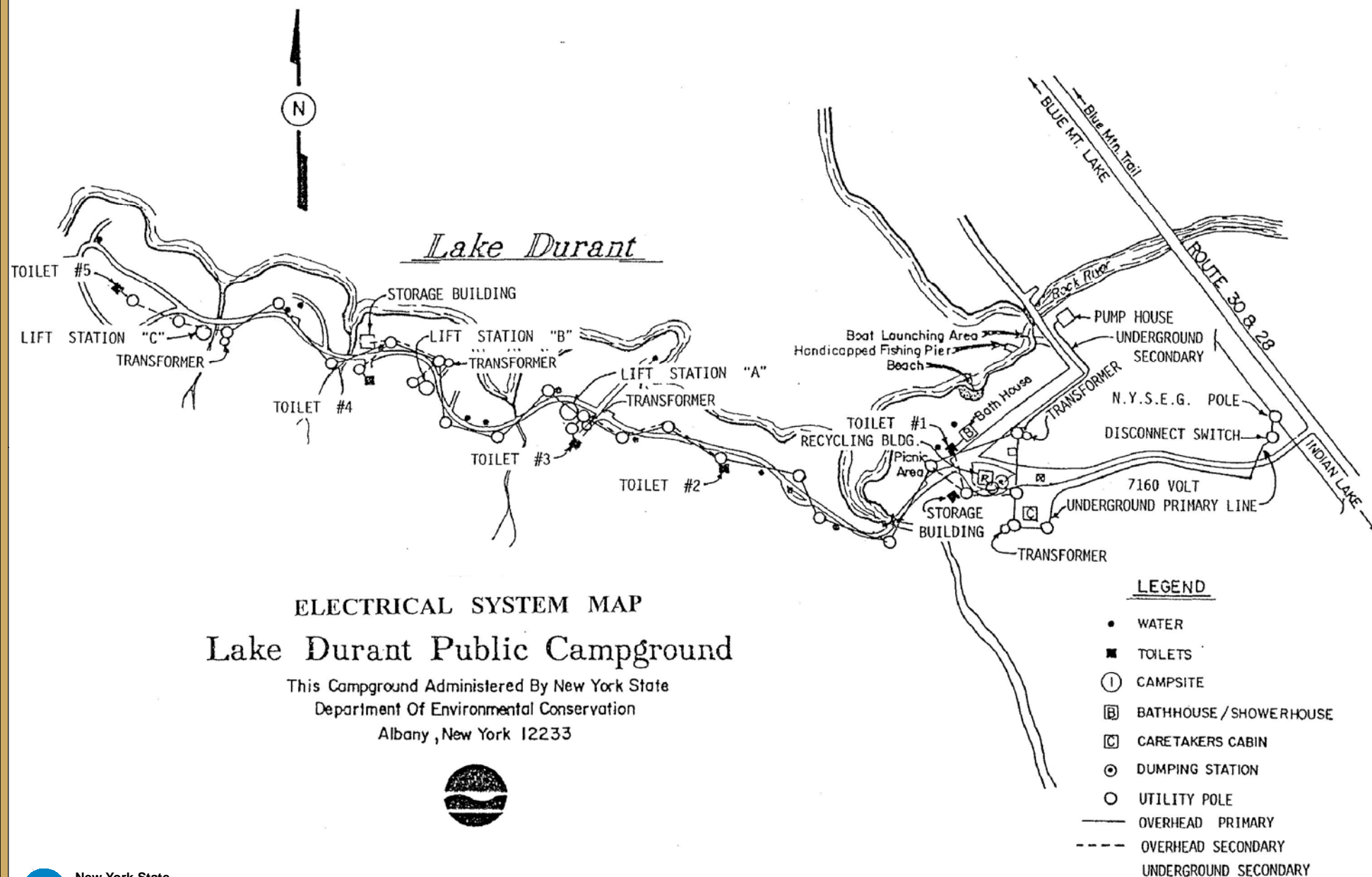
New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation

# Lake Durant Campground

## Exhibit # 12 - Electrical System Map



Adirondack  
Park



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation

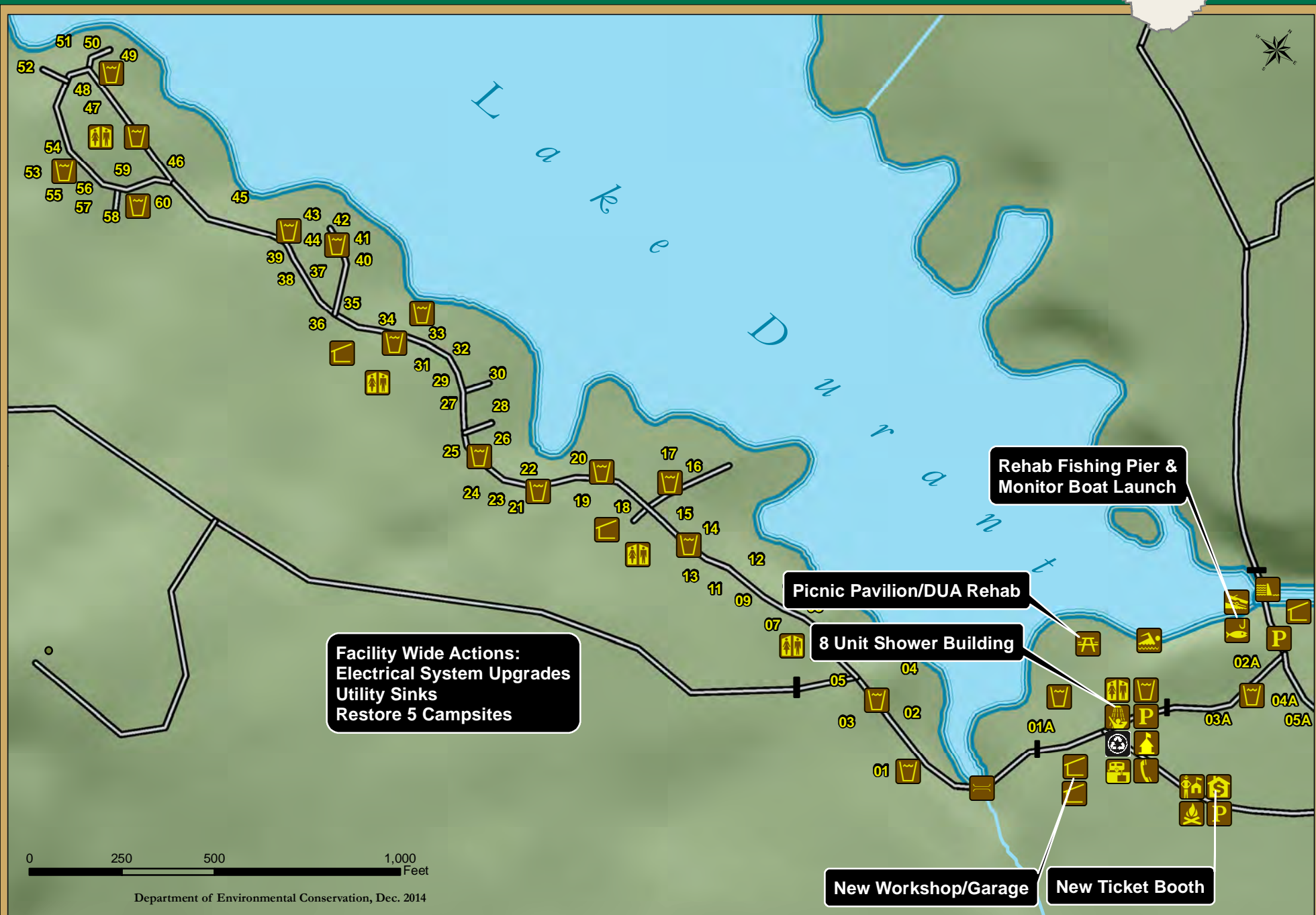


# Lake Durant Campground

Exhibit # 13 - Proposed Management Actions Map

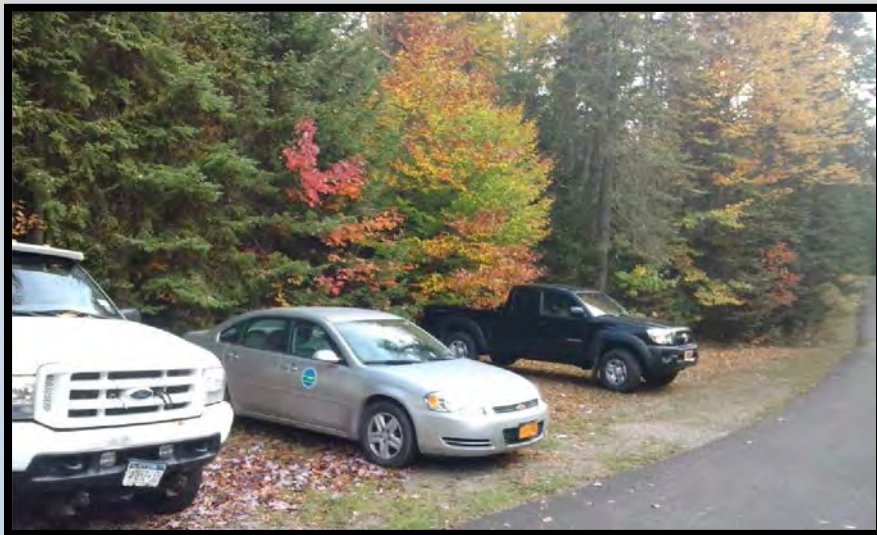
Lake Durant  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



# Lake Durant Campground Infrastructure

2014



Entrance Parking Lot



Firewood Building



Ticket Booth



Caretakers Cabin





Phone



Recycle Center

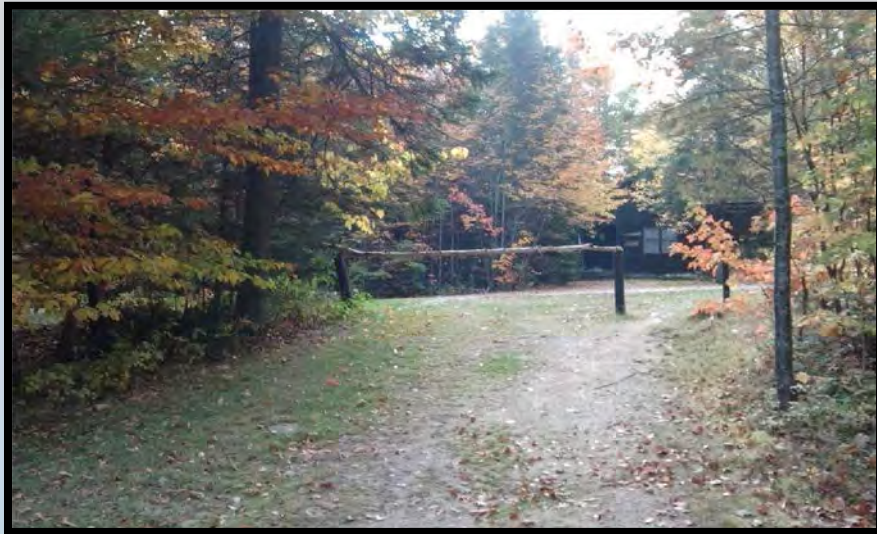


Asst. Caretakers Cabin



Main Parking Lot





Day Use Area Gate



Beach



Leach Field Distribution Box



Leach Field





Chlorination Building



Lake Durant Dam/Bridge Gate



Lake Durant Dam/Bridge



Boat Launch





Fishing Pier



Boat Launch/Fishing Pier Parking Lot



Shower Building

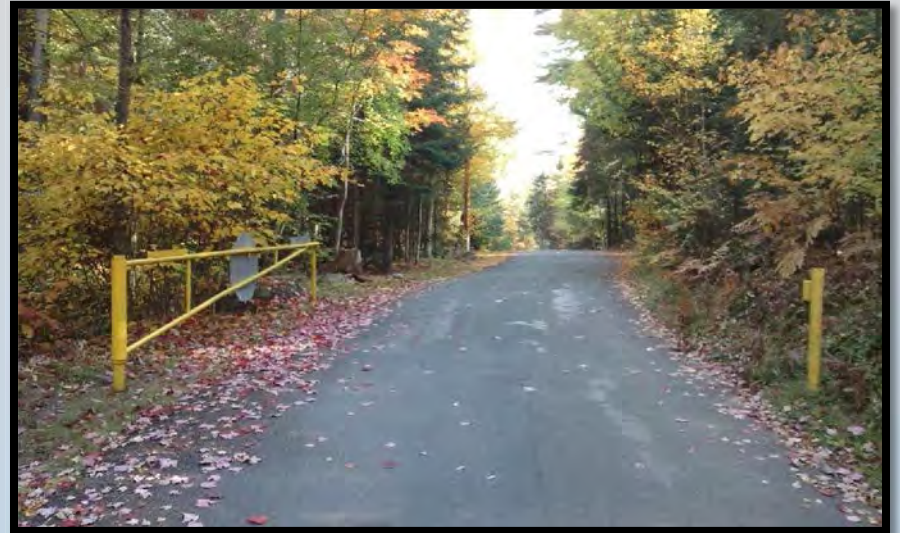


Comfort Station #1





Dump Station



Main Entrance Gate



Information Kiosk



Main Road Bridge





Site #5 gate



Comfort Station #2



Lift Station Near Site #18



Comfort Station #3





Vault #3 Near Site #18 (Used for Storage)



Lift Station Near Site #31



Comfort Station #4



Well Near Site #34





Pump House



Lift Station Near Site #45



Comfort Station #5



Reservoir





Vault #1 (Used for Storage) Near Site#1A



Vault #2 (Used for Storage) Near Recycle Center

## **EXHIBIT # - 15**

### **Public Comment Response**

Public comments and the Departments responses are summarized below.

Comment- Increase occupancy to spur the local economy.

Response- One of the Departments' recreation program goals is to *"Manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the State"*. It is in pursuit of this goal, in in conjunction with the other stated program goals that the department has proposed the nine management actions outlined in *Section IV Proposed Management Actions* portion of the plan.

Comment- General Infrastructure needs/concerns

Response- The condition of Lake Durant Campground infrastructure is in need of upgrade and repair. It is to this end that the Department has proposed the management actions outlined in *Section IV Proposed Management Actions* portion of the plan.