



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

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# **Fish Creek Pond Public Campground**

## **Unit Management Plan**

### **PROPOSED FINAL**

Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County, New York

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**MAY 2021**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Operations, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233

Governor ANDREW M. CUOMO

Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS



**FISH CREEK POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND  
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**NOTE:** Unit management plans for the Department of Environmental Conservation operated campgrounds and day-use areas located in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks are composed in three (3) volumes. 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. This document is Volume II. It is a site-specific management 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.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) prepares unit management plans (UMPs) to cover the next five-year management period. The final UMP is completed according to guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Region 5 staff prepared this UMP. Any comments and/or information may be forwarded to Josh Houghton, Division of Operations, Albany. For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

**SUMMARY**  
**FISH CREEK POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND**  
**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria referenced in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Department of Environmental Conservation management policy for Forest Preserve State-owned lands, DEC has established a management plan for the five-year operation of Fish Creek Pond Public Campground.

Goals include: managing recreation programs to ensure protection of the natural resources base according to Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), offering recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of state residents, 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.

To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the following 15 management actions are being proposed:

**Proposed Management Actions\***

- Replace six comfort stations: #3, 7, 13, 17, 24, 29.
- Reconstruct roads to accommodate two-way traffic and repave.
- Replace bathhouse.
- Construct a new caretaker cabin.
- Reconstruct boat launch in day-use area.
- Expand extra car parking sites.
- Make improvements at amphitheater.
- Improve bike path
- Construct parking lot at Floodwood trailhead.
- Extend internet connection through campground to Rollins Pond.
- Re-classify area between campgrounds to intensive use area.
- Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.
- Continue shoreline stabilization.
- Plant trees and shrubs.
- Campsite restoration.

\* Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with state health codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act, maintenance of physical plant investment, modernization of facilities providing a satisfactory recreational experience for users, upkeep of facilities to contribute to public safety, and providing conditions in a setting and on a scale that is harmonious 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 deciding whether the plan contains an adequate assessment of actual and projected public use.

Mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts have been considered. All construction projects will limit tree removal to reduce clearing and maintain the facility's wooded appearance. Architectural designs will be selected to blend with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will reestablish vegetation, which effectively stabilizes 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 were considered. Public unrest, an adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. Current care, custody, and control practices preclude choosing these alternatives at this time.

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Overview**

Fish Creek Pond Campground is a large and popular campground which offers visitors forested campsites along a natural sand shoreline with water access for many of the campsites. Visitors can enjoy pristine rivers and ponds accessible to both motorized and non-motorized boats. Square Pond and Fish Creek Pond, the two bodies of water around which the campground is situated, are open to motorboat usage. Also, motorboat operators can enjoy miles of open water on the Upper Saranac Lake. The moderate shade offered by white birches and red pines along the shoreline makes the campsites very popular. Camping equipment from tents to 40-foot RVs can be accommodated. A picnic area is available adjacent to the beach.

In addition to camping, Fish Creek Pond Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, picnicking, swimming, bicycling, educational programs, hiking and boating. Amenities include a beach, playground, boat launch, hot showers, flush toilets, trailer dumping station, firewood sales, volleyball and basketball areas. Boat and canoe rentals are available at the adjacent Rollins Pond campground.

Hikers can start out right from the campground, with an abundance of other hiking possibilities nearby. Two of the most popular are the Otter Hollow Loop and Floodwood Loop. A beach and designated swimming area are available when lifeguards are on duty. The Wild Center (formerly the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks) is 11 miles to the southwest in Tupper Lake. The Adirondack Park Visitors Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths is 18 miles north on NYS Route 30. Saranac Lake Village is located 15 miles to the east. Lake Placid and the Olympic venues are located 25 miles to the southeast.

### **1. Location**

The campground is located on State Route 30, 12 miles northeast of Tupper Lake in the Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County. All lands make up a portion of Townships 20 and 23, within Great Tract #1 of Macomb's Purchase.

## I. INTRODUCTION

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### 2. History

While the valleys of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Champlain were among the earliest regions in New York to be settled by Europeans, the rugged mountain character of the interior of what today is Franklin County delayed settlement long after other parts of the state. When counties were established in New York in 1683, the present Franklin County was once part of Albany County, a huge area which included all of upstate New York and Vermont.

In 1791, Alexander Macomb, a successful land speculator and shipping magnate from New York City, purchased 3,934,899 acres in the northern Adirondacks covering most of today's Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin and Clinton counties, for the price of 8 cents per acre. Great Tract One, which covered today's Franklin County, was sold almost immediately to Daniel McCormick. This tract was surveyed into 27 townships, each containing approximately 32,000 acres. Names were given to those townships which were most closely related to the original members of the purchase or their families and for regions of Ireland and England. For example, Township 1 was named Macomb and Township 2 Cormachus for McCormick. Fish Creek Ponds Campground is located in the northern portion of Township 23, named Killarney and in the southern portion of Township 20, Margate. While settlement on these lands was slow, portions of these townships were bought and sold many times including sales to David Hale in 1804, to Joseph Pitcairn in 1833, to Alexander Brodie in 1848, to Henry Teft in 1851, and to the Adirondack Timber and Mineral Company in 1890.

Divisions of Albany County resulted in Clinton County being formed in 1788. In 1808, Franklin County was split off from Clinton County, when it became obvious that travel to Plattsburgh to conduct legal business was too great a burden. The county seat was set in Malone, as early settlement was primarily in the northern portion of the county. The largest period of growth in the county was between 1820 and 1830, when the population nearly tripled. The earliest industry in the county was potash production. Potash was created by felling trees, burning them in great piles, leaching the ashes, and boiling the lye to dryness. The making of potash was also a way to dispose of the large amounts of timber resulting from clearing land for farms, roads and houses. Once roads were carved into the great forest lands, logging became a profitable industry. Great tracts of trees were cleared, and the logs were hauled to rivers and floated out of the wilderness.

The 1876 Franklin County atlas shows Fish Creek Ponds located in the town of Brandon. At this time, the nearest road led west from Saranac Lake Village and West Harrietstown and terminated at C.F. Morton's Prospect House, located at the north end of Upper Saranac Lake. Opened in 1864, it started as

a small hotel that accommodated 15 guests. It was gradually enlarged to handle up to 100 guests and later renamed the Saranac Inn. It was frequented by US Presidents Grover Cleveland and Chester A. Arthur and New York Governors Charles Evans Hughes and Al Smith. It closed in 1962 and burned to the ground in 1978. Many canoe carries are labeled on the 1876 map indicating that the waterways served as boat highways, and the carries provided vital links between various rivers, lakes and ponds. During the 1850s, Jesse Corey built his Rustic Lodge which took advantage of the considerable amount of travel coming across the Indian Carry that connected the Raquette River to the Saranacs. The Town of Santa Clara was formed from part of the town of Brandon in 1888.

In 1883, William West Durant purchased 11,901 acres from the Adirondack Company, portions of which would be used to construct the Adirondack railway. The original line ran for 191 miles from Herkimer to Malone and passed just west of Rollins Pond. This new and efficient method of transportation proved to be a boon to commercial enterprises along the route and helped to expand the visitation to camps and hotels in the region. In 1913, the New York Central bought the line and commenced a major upgrade to both accommodate heavier engines and withstand the harsh climate. The line operated profitably for another 10-15 years before paved roads began to siphon off both freight and passenger traffic. Passenger service ended in 1958 and freight service in 1972. A brief period of passenger service resumed for the 1980 Olympics. In 2016, the APA voted to support a proposed rail-trail between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake and the possible extension of rail service north from Big Moose to Tupper Lake. Legal challenges to the 2016 UMP are being addressed.

In 1898, the NYS legislature passed legislation that authorized the State to a tract of land to Cornell University for conducting scientific forestry. The first college of forestry in the US was formed and Dr. Bernard E. Fernow, then Chief of the Division of Forestry at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was hired as its director. According to Morris Bishop's *History of Cornell*, the state legislature wasn't sure what Cornell intended to do with the lands, other than it would be for something scientific, appropriated \$30,000. Dr. Fernow felt the most efficient course of action would be to clear cut the lands and replant with conifers. He contracted with the Brooklyn Cooperage Company to cut the hardwoods to use in a wood alcohol plant and a stave mill. A five-mile railroad spur was completed to improve access. Opposition arose almost immediately from some of the local and powerful camp owners on Saranac Lake who claimed that Cornell University was trying to turn the Adirondacks into barren land and was selling everything down to the brush and shrubs. The protests grew louder, and in 1903, the governor withdrew the annual funding to the college, thus ending the short-lived Cornell

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School of Forestry. In response to this, The New York State College of Forestry was founded in 1911. Today the school is known as the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse. The Brooklyn Cooperage, who had a 15-year contract to continue clearing of forest, sued the college, and after several years of litigation, in 1912 the lands were conveyed back to the State of New York. The southern portion of Fish Creek Ponds campground is located on lands sold by Cornell back to the State. The northern portion is located on lands purchased from the Upper Saranac Association in 1898.

Over time, transportation options near today's campground continued to improve. The 1905 U.S. Geological Survey map for St Regis Falls shows a highway following the route of today's NY Rt 30, passing the entrance of Fish Creek Ponds, a steamboat route connecting the Wawbeek Hotel to the Saranac Inn on Upper Saranac Lake and the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad passing just west of Rollins Pond with a station at Lake Clear.

With the advent of the automobile, there was a need to establish roadside camping areas within the Forest Preserve. In 1920, the Conservation Commission began to establish camping sites throughout the Adirondacks. An open camp (lean-to) and two or three fireplaces were developed at Fish Creek Ponds. By 1924, it became apparent that proper sanitary facilities and drinking water were required for those using these roadside campsites. Therefore, an effort began to concentrate the campsites at certain locations. In 1926, 20 campsites, sanitary facilities and a well were constructed at Fish Creek Pond. The next year the Conservation Department doubled the size of the camping area and doubled it again in 1928. Although continually expanding the campground, it proved difficult to keep up with the demand for campsites. In 1927, there were 1,888 campers registered at the campground, and by 1931, more than 45,000 campers used the 264 sites. During the Great Depression, there were few funds available for recreational development. This was overcome by the creation of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). On June 3, 1933, CCC Camp #8 was established at Fish Creek Pond. The main purpose of this camp was the extension of Fish Creek Pond Campsite. The CCC camp operated until October 26, 1935. The total work accomplished by the workers for the NYS Conservation Department was valued at \$9,000,000 in 1935 dollars.

Additional campsites were added in 1958 and 1960. Rollins Pond Campground was opened in 1951 to meet the ever-increasing demand for campsites. Other notable improvements to the campground have included a central shower building in 1980, upgraded water system in 1995, underground utilities project in 2004, shoreline restoration project in 2011 and water supply improvements in 2015. Today, Fish Creek Ponds campground is the largest and most popular campground operated by DEC in terms of

the number of campsites, annual visitation and annual revenue collected. This facility is a key component to achieving the program's management goals: to manage recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resources base, 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 and manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the State.

Year	Fish Creek Pond Campground Improvements
1926	Campground opened with 20 campsites and sanitary facilities.
1927	Campground expanded to approximately 40 campsites.
1928	Campground expanded again to approximately 80 campsites.
1931	Campground had been expanded to 264 campsites.
1932	Amphitheater and bandshell constructed.
1933	CCC Camp #8 established at Fish Creek Ponds, Existing warehouse constructed.
1936	Existing assistant facility supervisor's cabin constructed.
1951	Rollins Pond campsites opened. Existing back entrance booth constructed.
1958	Additional campsites opened.
1959	Existing pump house #1 and #2 constructed.
1960	Additional campsites opened. Existing comfort stations #2, #16, #18, #24, #25 and #29 constructed.
1962	Existing comfort stations #10, #13 and #26 constructed.
1963	Existing comfort stations #3 and #8 constructed.
1964	Existing garage, pump house #3 and comfort stations #14, #23 and #27 constructed.
1965	Existing bathhouse constructed.
1966	Existing comfort stations #22 and #31 constructed.
1967	Existing comfort station #17 constructed.
1968	Existing comfort stations #7, #9 and #12 constructed.
1969	Picnic pavilion #2 constructed.
1976	Existing comfort station #28 constructed.
1978	Existing comfort station #32 constructed.
1979	Existing caretaker's cabin constructed.

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1980	Existing shower building constructed. Picnic pavilion #1 constructed.
1984	Existing comfort station #15 constructed. Activities program office constructed.
1989	Existing entrance ticket booth constructed.
1990	Activities program office expanded.
1992	Tent platforms for seasonal staff constructed.
1993	Recycle center constructed.
1994	Central shower building rehabilitated.
1995	Three new wells drilled.
2004	Utilities rehabilitation project completed.
2004	Multiple projects completed to increase accessibility
2007	Emergency electrical work completed.
2011	Shoreline restoration project completed.
2014	Day use playground replaced.
2015	Water supply improvements completed.
2016	Assistant caretaker cabin rehabilitated.
2017	Dump station leach field replaced.

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

### A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

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

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
355 campsites (11 campsites accessible)	Area – 3.2 acres
355 picnic tables	32 picnic tables
355 fireplaces	21 fireplaces
82 water spigots	19 grills
	8 water spigots, 1 drinking fountain
	3 picnic shelters, 8 benches
	playground area
	accessible fishing pier
Design capacity – 2,130 persons (355 x 6/site)	Design capacity – 192 persons (6 x 6/table)

#### 2. Roads and Parking Areas

The campground has a total of 4.5 miles of interior roads. This consists of the main campground road, which is 16 to 20 feet wide, 3.8 miles long from the front entrance to the rear exit, including .4 miles servicing the A-Section sites. Roads servicing the C-Sections are 10 feet wide and 0.2 miles long in total. The road to the day-use area is 16 to 20 wide and .2 miles long. All roads are paved and in poor to fair condition. Department of Transportation STOP and YIELD signs are placed at intersections.

There are formal parking areas throughout the facility and numerous informal pull offs along the campground roads. Most are gravel or dirt surface lots with four being paved.

Parking Lot Location	Approx. Lot Capacity	Surface
Day Use Area, main lot	40 Vehicles	Paved
Day Use Area, overflow	29 Vehicles (1 Accessible)	Paved
Near volleyball net	9 Vehicles	Gravel/Dirt
Basketball Court*	25 Vehicles	Paved
Near Boat Launch	6 Vehicles	Gravel/Dirt
Near Site 263	3 Vehicles	Gravel/Dirt
Near Comfort Station 26	4 Vehicles	Gravel/Dirt
Near Comfort Station 28	6 Vehicles	Gravel/Dirt
Near Comfort Station 31	12 Vehicles	Gravel/Dirt
Shower Building Lot	25 Vehicles	Paved

\*The basketball court is only used for parking under high occupancy or special events.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

3. Buildings

Bldg #	Bldg Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Bathhouse	Day use area	1,130	Poor	1965
(002)	Comfort station #2	Near day use parking lot	323	Poor	1960
(003)	Comfort station #3	Near campsite #3	143	Poor	1963
(005)	Ass't caretaker cabin	Near front ticket booth	825	Poor	1936
(006)	Garage/workshop	Near ass't caretaker cabin	750	Poor	1964
(007)	Comfort station #7	Near campsite #17	308	Poor	1968
(008)	Comfort station #8	Near campsite #C7	289	Poor	1963
(009)	Comfort station #9	Near campsite #24	308	Poor	1968
(010)	Comfort station #10	Near campsite #C13	204	Poor	1962
(011)	Pumphouse #1	Near campsite #40	143	Poor	1959
(012)	Comfort station #12 (ADA)	Near campsite #42	396	Poor	1968
(013)	Comfort station #13	Near campsite A003	323	Poor	1962
(014)	Comfort station #14	Near campsite A010	323	Poor	1964
(015)	Comfort station #15 (ADA)	Near campsite #91	550	Poor	1984
(016)	Comfort station #16	Near campsite #100	289	Poor	1960
(017)	Comfort station #17	Near campsite #110	323	Poor	1967
(018)	Comfort station #18	Near campsite #125	289	Poor	1960
(019)	Warehouse	North of shower building	3,753	Poor	1933
(020)	Central shower building	Rollins Pond entrance road	2,016	Poor	1980
(022)	Comfort station #22	Near campsite #141	323	Poor	1964
(021)	Woodshed	Near comfort station #18	50	Poor	1959
(023)	Comfort station #23	Near campsite #160	323	Poor	1964
(024)	Comfort station #24	Near campsite #177	289	Poor	1960
(025)	Comfort station #25	Near campsite #181	289	Poor	1960
(026)	Comfort station #26	Near campsite #204	323	Poor	1962
(027)	Comfort station #27	Near campsite #227	323	Poor	1964
(028)	Comfort station #28 (ADA)	Near campsite #240	396	Poor	1976
(029)	Comfort station #29	Near campsite #254	323	Poor	1960
(031)	Comfort station #31 (ADA)	Near campsite #264	396	Poor	1966
(032)	Comfort station #32	Near campsite #281	396	Poor	1979
(033)	Rear ticket booth	Near site #290	36	Poor	1951
(034)	Supervisor residence	Near entrance	1,053	Poor	1979

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(035)	Front ticket booth	Near entrance	150	Poor	1989
(036)	Recycle center #1	Near comfort station #7	320	Poor	1993
(037)	Recycle center #2	Near shower building	320	Poor	1993
(038)	Interpretive activities building	Near campsite #A01	200	Poor	1984
(039)	Pumphouse #2a	Near shower building	200	Poor	1959
(040)	Firewood storage shed	Near campsite #137	720	Excellent	2012
	Pumphouse #2	Near site #123	50	Good	1959
	Amphitheater	Near comfort station #13	224	Poor	1932
	Picnic pavilion #1	Day use area	512	Poor	1980
	Picnic pavilion #2	Day use area	640	Poor	1969
	Picnic pavilion #3	Day use area	800	Poor	1980

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted November 2018. Bldg. # correlate to labels on exhibit maps.

### 4. Barriers

Barriers are used to control campground use and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. DEC policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. There are two barriers in this facility. A gate at the entrance to the warehouse is a standard design, yellow, with a reflective stop sign on both sides, and reflectors on each post. A barrier is used at the back entrance. Movable, well-marked barriers are at various locations in the campground during partial or temporary closure of the facility. All barriers are opened or well-marked during the snowmobile season.

### 5. Sewage System

All sewage disposal in the campground is by use of septic systems, utilizing septic tanks and leach fields or seepage pits. Effluent from comfort stations #25-32 are pumped by lift stations to a centralized leach field located near the south entrance to the campground. Effluent from comfort station #14 is pumped by a lift station to a combined seepage pit also utilized by comfort station #13. Eight lift stations and 3,952' of pressurized sewer line are utilized as part of this system.

Septic tank content is periodically disposed by a DEC septic tank pumper, with effluent transported to the village of Saranac Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant. A log is kept by "outfall number" indicating each tank inspection date, and pumping.

A NYS-DEC SPDES permit #NY-023 9470 was issued in December 1991. The application covers the systems noted below. Permit coverage is currently through April 30, 2029. The system was last inspected on October 9, 2018.

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Bldg #	Building #/Type	Toilets (T), Sinks (S) Showers (SH)	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/ Seepage Pits	Outfall #	Construction Date
001	Bathroom (1)	M-4T,2S W-4T,2S (ADA)	2,000	1-round x 4' SP1	1	1965
002	Comfort station (2)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	6-40' x2' trenches	2	1960
003	Comfort station (3)	M-2T,1S W-2T,1S	1,000	1-8' round x4' SP	3	1963
004	Comfort station (7)	M-3T,2S W-3T,2S	1,000	4-40' x 2' trenches	4	1968
005	Comfort station (8)	M-2T,1S W-2T,1S	1,000	3-8' round x 4' SP	5	1963
006	Comfort station (9)	M-3T,2S W-3T,2S	2,000	1-8' round x 4' SP	6	1968
007	Comfort station (10)	M-2T,1S W-2T,1S	1,000	2-8' round x 4' SP	7	1962
008	Comfort station (12)	M-4T,2S W-4T,2S (ADA)	2,000	2-8' round x 4' SP	8	1968
009	Comfort station (13-14)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	8-8' round x 8' SP	9	1962
010	Comfort station (15)	M-4T,2S W-4T,2S (ADA)	2-750	4-5' x 10' x 4' SP	10	1984
011	Comfort station (16)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S		Leach field	11	1960
012	Comfort station (17)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	3-8' round x 8' SP	12	1967
013	Comfort station (18)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	2-8' round x 8' SP	13	1960
014	Comfort station (22)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	1,500	3-8' round x 4' SP	14	1966
015	Comfort station (23)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	1,500	3-8' round x 8' SP	15	1964
016	Comfort station (24)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	3-8' round x 8' SP	16	1960
017	Comfort station (25)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Pumped to leach field	17	1960
018	Comfort station (26)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Pumped to leach field	17	1962
019	Comfort station (27)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Pumped to leach field	19	1964
020	Comfort station (28)	M-4T,2S W-4T,2S ADA	2,000	Pumped to leach field	19	1976
021	Comfort station (29)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Pumped to leach field	19	1960
022	Comfort station (31)	M-4T,2S W-4T,2S ADA	1,500	Pumped to leach field	22	1978
	Comfort station (32)	M-4T,2S W-4T,2S	1,500	Pumped to leach field	22	1978
023	Shower building (20)	M-4T,7S,16SH W-3T,7S, 15SH	2-2,000 3,000	(Gray water) (Septic) 8-15' x 85' absorb bed	23	1994
024	Dumping station		2,000	6-8' round x 8' SP	24	1965
025	Assistant residence (5)	1T,2S,1SH	1,000	4-30' x 2' trenches	25	1965
026	Supervisors residence (34)	1T,2S,1SH	1,000	2-5' x 10' x 4' SP	26	1979
027	Recycle center (36)	1S	1,000	15' x 46' Absorb bed	27	1992
028	Recycle center (37)	1S	1,000	15' x 46' Absorb bed	28	1992

*Numbers in parentheses are building numbers assigned in the Building Inventory of Minor State Structures. Size of septic tanks and absorption areas taken from an Engineer's Report submitted June 5, 1991, in application for a SPDES permit. Comfort Station 12 is heated and has hot water.*

## 6. Solid Waste

Annual solid waste generated is estimated to be 86 tons. Cash deposit/returnable containers are collected by a local non-profit organization. Solid waste and recyclables are taken to the Franklin County Transfer Station in Lake Clear. A single source recycling program is operated at the campground.

This campground has two staffed centralized refuse/recycling facilities. A brochure is distributed to instruct campers of its availability and required use. The Recycling Centers are tied into the water systems and each have their own sewage systems.

Beginning with the 1992 season, day-use areas have been subject to the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public, and the DEC's Albany office has produced a brochure.

## 7. Telephone

The main phone number for the campground is (518) 891-4560, and calls will be answered only when the campground is open.

## 8. Signs

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

## 9. Electric System

Since 1999, the main campground has had underground primary and secondary electrical distribution. National Grid provides electricity to the campground's primary lines. Average electrical consumption is 146,000 kwh at a cost of \$10,600. One entrance meter serves both this facility and the Rollins Pond Campground.

The electric lines within the campground total 6.4 miles and are owned by DEC. The right-of-way receives annual maintenance consisting of hazardous tree removal and brushing. (See Exhibit #7a-d.)

### 10. Potable Water System

Two water systems service the campground.

System #1 supplies facilities from the day-use area to the turnoff for Rollins Pond. In 1992, a well was drilled that is 360' deep with a casing depth to 100 feet and a yield of 48 gpm. The pump is located 280 feet below the surface. In 2000, a new pump house that chlorinates the water via a flow-based feed pump and a 16,000-gallon water storage tank was connected to this system.

System #2 supplies water from the turnoff to Rollins Pond to site #305. In 1997, a well was drilled that is 460 feet deep with a casing depth to 95 feet and a yield of 50 gpm. The 5 hp pump is located 425 feet below the surface. In 2016, a second well was drilled near site #122 to supplement this system. This well is 430 feet deep and the 2hp pump yields 10-12 gpm. The water from both wells is chlorinated via a flow-based chlorination pump to dual water storage tanks with a total capacity of 25,000 gallons. A compressor style booster system in building #21 boosts water pressure up to the shower building. There is an interconnection of the two systems near campsite #135.

The caretaker cabin is supplied water from a well drilled in 2016 that is 580 feet deep. The well is cased at 86 feet and the 1.75 hp pump is located at a depth of 500 feet. This well yields 2 gpm and the water is purified using an ultra-violet treatment system.

Water is distributed to various buildings and 90 water spigots throughout the campground via 5.6 miles of buried waterlines. (See Exhibit #6a-d.)

### 11. Trails

Many miles of trails begin from the campground, with an abundance of other hiking possibilities nearby. Two of the most popular are the Otter Hollow Loop and Floodwood Loop. The Otter Hollow Loop Trail, which starts at site #104, follows the shorelines of several nearby ponds before looping back on the Rollins Pond campground road for a total of 8.1 miles. The Floodwood Pond Loop, which starts roughly across from site #12, also passes by several ponds and then follows Fish Creek back to the campground at site #23 for a total of 7.7 miles. Both trails are relatively flat with some ascents and descents. Panther Mountain is a shorter nearby hike, located 6 miles from the campground entrance. Good views of local lakes and mountains are visible from its partially open summit. The Ampersand Mountain trailhead is located 12 miles southeast of the campground entrance. The 2.7- mile climb leads to the bare rock summit with extensive views of the High Peaks to the east and the Saranac Lakes to the west.

Biking is another popular activity at the campground. Bikers can ride the campground roads, approximately 4 miles gravel bike trail loop, as well as a .6-mile paved path that connects the park entrance to the far gate, allowing bikers to do a complete loop around the park. (See Exhibit #15 for representative photos.)

**12. Fuel Systems**

The chart below displays the permanent fuel system used at the campground.

Product Type	Tank Size Gal/Lb	Location	Annual Use
Propane	420 Lbs	Garage	484
Propane	420 Lbs	Pumphouse #1	173
Fuel Oil	2,000 gal	Shower building	1850

**13. Swimming**

Fish Creek Pond operates a staffed beach for the core of the camping season. The swim area is generally 100 feet wide with a capacity of approximately 200 bathers.

**14. Boating**

A boat-launching site enhances fishing and other water-related recreational opportunities at the Fish Creek Pond Campground. The New York State Directory of State Access and Boat Launching Areas describes the boat launch as consisting of a hard surface launching ramp and parking for 15 car and trailer units. Boat and canoe rentals are available at the adjacent Rollins Pond campground.

The Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program has conducted studies on 103 lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park including Fish Creek Ponds. Data collected indicates that Eurasian watermilfoil and variable leaf milfoil are present in the ponds.

**B. Inventory of Systems**

**1. Staff**

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor 3
4	Conservation Security Worker
1	Maintenance Assistant
12	Park and Recreation Aide
1	Lifeguard

**2. Fee Schedule 2019**

Daily Fees 2019 Open Dates: Apr 5 – Oct 27	
Camping/night – NYS Residents	\$22.00
Camping/night – Non-residents	\$27.00
Day Use - Auto	\$8.00
Day Use - Walk In	\$2.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$4.00
Day Use - Bus	\$50.00
Firewood - Bag	\$9.00
Picnic Shelter – Day Rental	\$50.00
Empire Passport - Season	\$80.00

**3. Permits**

Peddling permits may be issued annually for firewood, boat rentals and camper supplies. Each vendor is charged a fee of \$2.00 x number of campsites. In 2019, six permits were issued for camper rentals, boat rentals, baked goods, ice cream, ice and firewood. A temporary revocable permit (TRP) was issued for the 90-miler canoe event.

**4. Off-season Use**

DEC plows roads to the day-use parking lot and to the boat launch to accommodate ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Gates at the south entrance and to the warehouse are closed.

**5. Junior Naturalist Program**

The “Junior Naturalist Journal” is an activity book that gives children the opportunity to test their environmental knowledge while teaching them more about New York State's environment. Children five through twelve-years old can request a journal from campground staff. When the journal is completed, children bring it to the appropriate DEC staff person, who reviews the journal and gives the child a Junior Naturalist patch. This program is dependent on available funding and may not be offered every year. Fish Creek Ponds campground also offers the Nature Recreation Program that provides scheduled environmental activities for visitors of all ages. The daily activities are posted throughout the campground. Other programs and activities at the campground include the Campground Ambassador Program, which provides a campsite for a camper in return for aiding campground staff, I Love My Park

Day, the annual tree planting day and providing dock space for the Upper Saranac Lake Association for its aquatic invasive species removal program.

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

#### **1. Physical**

##### ***a. Elevation***

The elevation of Fish Creek Pond is 1,571 feet. Campsites rise moderately from the lakeshore to a maximum elevation of 1,675 feet. (See Exhibit #2.)

##### ***b. Water***

The Intensive Use Area encompasses all of Fish Creek Pond and Square Pond. Fish Creek inlet flows through a small portion of the campground. Fish Creek Pond is 135 acres in size with a maximum depth of 20 feet. The campground beach is located on this pond. Square Pond is 143 acres in size with a maximum depth of 55 feet. There are campsites located along the entire shore of Square Pond and along Fish Creek Pond on all but one mile, along the highway. Waters flowing from Square Pond and Fish Creek Pond enter Upper Saranac Lake, continuing through the chain of Saranac Lakes and then to the Saranac River. The waters of the Saranac River enter Lake Champlain south of Plattsburgh before flowing through the Richelieu River and entering the St. Lawrence River near Sorel, Quebec.

##### ***c. Wetlands***

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency inventory, map and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A total of 103 acres of palustrine wetland has been identified in several locations within the campground. In the Adirondacks, these wetlands are dominated by trees, shrubs, emergent plants that are rooted underwater, but their leaves and stems extend out of the water and emergent mosses or lichens. A 120-foot section of lower perennial riverine wetland has been identified near campsite #137. These wetlands are generally defined by their low gradient flow and where the substrate is mud or sand.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of them 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 these designated wetland areas. (See Exhibit #9.)

### *d. Soils*

The campground area consists of several soil associations. The Adams loamy fine sands are somewhat excessively well-drained, with more than 80 inches depth to bedrock. The Kushaqua-Onchiota complex are somewhat poorly drained, with less than 24 inches depth to bedrock. The Searsport-Haplosaprists- Naumburg complex are very poorly drained, with more than 80 inches depth to bedrock. The Monadnock-Adams-Colton complex and the Monadnock-Tunbridge complex are well drained, with more than 80 inches depth to bedrock. All the soil associations are classified as not prime farmland. (See Exhibit #10.)

## **2. Biological**

### *a. Forest Type*

There are six different forest types present in the campground. Vegetation in the immediate campsite areas are affected by a heavy concentration of use. A number of trees are removed annually to eliminate hazards to the campground visitors. Replanting is necessary to replace trees removed in heavy use areas. Much of the campground is plantation or open areas that have re-seeded to pine. In areas of northern hardwoods, immature hardwoods or over-mature pioneer species are evident. There are wetland areas as noted above in section 1c. (See Exhibit #8.)

### *b. Unique Vegetation*

The New York Natural Heritage Program keeps track of the status of the state's rare flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern allies, and mosses. A 3,400-acre upland terrestrial community commonly referred to as a balsam flat has been identified in the vicinity of Deer Pond Marsh, of which a portion extends into Fish Creek Pond campground. This area is described as a very large, well recovered, second growth forest with possible old growth patches. There are few disturbances other than from historical logging. The flats are in a moderately large, fairly protected forested landscape. (See Exhibit #18.)

### *c. Wildlife*

Wildlife communities found in the vicinity of Fish Creek Pond Campground reflect those species commonly associated with northern hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forests that are transitional to the boreal forests of higher latitudes. The bordering Saranac Lakes Wild Forest contains significant lowland boreal forest which represents 10% of all such forests within the Forest Preserve. These lowland spruce-fir habitats are important for a variety of wildlife species with statewide

distributions mostly or entirely within the Adirondacks (e.g., Spruce Grouse and other boreal birds, American marten). In addition to lowland boreal forest, aquatic habitats are abundant and include lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Together, these habitats support a diverse wildlife community, including rare animals and significant ecological communities. Terrestrial fauna is represented by a variety of bird, mammal, and invertebrate species. Amphibians and reptiles also occur on the unit, although species diversity is relatively low as compared with other vertebrates. Some nearby ponds, located outside the campground, have been identified areas with a history of loon nesting. For a more complete description of wildlife species and habitats, refer to the Saranac Lake Wild Forest unit management plan. (See Exhibit #18.)

### *d. Fisheries*

Fish Creek Ponds are a 355-acre waterway consisting of 3 connected ponds which flow directly into 4,773-acre Upper Saranac Lake. Fish species present include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, northern pike, Atlantic salmon and pumpkinseed. For a more complete description of fisheries species and habitats, refer to the Saranac Lake Wild Forest unit management plan.

### **III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS**

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

Article XIV of the New York 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 Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 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 construction so as to blend with the Adirondack environment. These constraints 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, rules and regulations of the State of New York, and established policies and procedures for administration of the lands involved.

#### **D. Recreation Program Goals**

- Manage recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resources base in accordance with the Environmental Conservation Law, Article XIV of the New York State Constitution and the Adirondack and Catskill Parks State Land Master Plans.
- 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.

#### **E. 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.

**F. Public Use**

**1. Inventory of Public Use**

**a. Attendance Trends**

Attendance numbers are a combination of camper days (the number of campers x the number of nights spent) and day-use visitors (the number of people using the beach, day-use areas or visiting but not staying overnight). Camping attendance at this facility has been relatively stable for the last five years with 80% of all campers visiting from New York State, 9% from the Canadian provinces and the remaining 11% from all other states and countries.

Campers stay an average of 4.5 nights and 87% of campers arrive after making a reservation. Camping attendance at this facility is down nearly one-third from levels reported 20 years ago. Day-Use attendance at this facility has also been trending down during the last five-year period. While day-use attendance is more greatly impacted by weather and

<b>Fish Creek Pond Attendance</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Camping</b>	<b>Day Use</b>	<b>Total</b>
2019	88,028	4,511	92,539
2018	90,858	4,370	95,228
2017	92,165	4,688	96,863
2016	92,667	5,053	97,719
2015	92,786	5,626	98,411
<b>Avg</b>	<b>91,301</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>96,152</b>

gas prices, it is also affected by the ability of the facility to have a staffed swimming beach. Day-use attendance totals are similar to those reported 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and ice fishing. 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. (See Exhibit #12.)

**b. Revenue Trends**

Revenues are used to offset annual operating costs of the campground. Operating budget allocations are based on revenues generated from camping fees, day-use fees, temporary revocable permits (TRPs), peddler permits, shower building revenue, sales of Empire Passports and sales of firewood. Revenue reported from camping and day use follow the same trends reported above in the attendance trends. The use of coin operated showers was discontinued in 2017. Sales of firewood have increased steadily since 2017.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Fish Creek Pond							
Year	Camping	Day Use	Firewood	Empire Passports	Showers	Other	Total
2019	\$ 722,456	\$ 15,114	\$ 21,338	n/a	n/a	\$ 900	\$ 759,808
2018	\$ 726,217	\$ 14,580	\$ 11,771	\$ 1,280	n/a	\$ 0	\$ 754,598
2017	\$ 721,309	\$ 14,526	\$ 7,245	\$ 650	n/a	\$ 750	\$ 744,480
2016	\$ 714,917	\$ 16,258	\$ 6,435	\$ 1,105	\$ 5,857	\$ 900	\$ 745,472
2015	\$ 682,777	\$ 15,990	\$ 5,670	\$ 1,300	\$ 6,897	\$ 700	\$ 713,334
<b>Avg</b>	<b>\$ 713,535</b>	<b>\$ 15,294</b>	<b>\$ 10,492</b>	<b>\$ 867</b>	<b>\$ 2,731</b>	<b>\$ 11,050</b>	<b>\$ 743,538</b>

Operating costs for Fish Creek Pond Campground average \$257,000.

**2. Carrying Capacity**

All DEC campground facilities should be operated within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the site. Operation within these limits will ensure the continued natural character and integrity of the resources at this location and that the impacts of continued public use is conditioned within the capacity of the physical, biological and social resources to withstand such use.

**a. Physical Design**

The following is an analysis of existing design capacities as compared to NYS Department of Health codes and DEC design standards. The existing campsite design capacity is based on six persons per site and the day-use design capacity is six persons per picnic table.

The table below compares the calculated capacity needs for each campground with the currently available capacity, with deficiencies noted. The day-use area lacks water spigots within a convenient distance from picnic tables. No comfort stations within the facility meet current accessibility standards.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (355)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites	4	3	1 *1
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	19,525 gpd	141,120 gpd	None
32 day-use picnic tables	5 gal/day/picnicker	960 gpd		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	36	82	None

	1/60 picnickers	4	6	None
Lavatories (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	24	72	None
	1 for every 60 picnickers	4	4	None
Toilets/urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites	71	166	None
	2 for every 60 picnickers	7	16	None
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	24	0	24
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	28	31	None
<b>*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.</b>				

\*1 Observations by staff have concluded that a 4<sup>th</sup> trailer dumping station is not needed.

To design an effective, environmentally acceptable onsite wastewater treatment system, it is necessary to evaluate the physical characteristics of a site to determine whether adequate conditions exist or can be created to safely treat and discharge wastewater on a long-term basis. Points to be considered when evaluating a site for location of an on-site wastewater treatment system include identification of flood-prone areas; proximity of structures; location of nearby utilities; proximity to surface waters, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas; terrain and other surface characteristics; subsurface conditions; and area for system replacement and/or expansion. Final site-specific planning for new or replacement on-site wastewater treatment systems at Fish Creek Pond Campground will adhere to all requirements and guidance that should be met for treatment and dispersal systems.

***b. Biological Carrying Capacity***

Many of the campsites have been in continuous use since the campground 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. To address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the condition and needs of each facility, including all 6,000 campsites managed by DEC. Restoration work will include planting trees and shrubs, replacing lost soils, regrading sites, improving drainage, evaluating the design and size of campsites and replacing deteriorated tables and fireplaces. In most cases, sites that require restoration work will be removed from use for two camping seasons. Sites #28, 136, 183, B1-4, C1 and C4 were selected for restoration work and for closure in 2017 and sites #1W, 9, 83, 132, 164, 183, 271, 272 were selected for 2018. Future restoration sites include #36, 73, 105, 128, 181, 190, 242, 252, 299. Signs have been posted at the campground, and no reservations will be taken for these sites.

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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The Fish Creek Pond Campground Boat Launch is one of seven public boat launches giving the public water access to the surrounding Saranac Lake Wild Forest unit. In addition, visitors have access to a swimming beach and fishing pier. While access to the water provides recreational opportunities for the public, there is potential for environmental impacts. Shoreline stabilization and erosion mitigation efforts are ongoing in the campground. The Department works in partnership with the Upper Saranac Lake Association, the Upper Saranac Foundation, the Adirondack Watershed Institute and other organizations to monitor use and water quality. These partnerships are instrumental in the Department's effort to monitor and prevent the spread of invasive species. For further information regarding carrying capacity, please refer to the Saranac Lake Wild Forest UMP (2019).

During the winter, campground roads are plowed to the day-use parking area and the boat launch for ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and skiing. Hazardous trees are regularly removed in accordance with established policy, and, in addition to natural regeneration, growth of residual trees and plantings, as noted above, compensate for losses.

#### *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 table below summarizes survey statistics over the past five years.

Year	# of Responses	# Good or Excellent	% Good or Excellent
2019	85	74	87%
2018	184	158	86%
2017	781	682	87%
2016	928	876	94%
2015	862	791	92%

*d. Unique Ecosystems, Historical Assets*

The New York Natural Heritage Program maintains a comprehensive database on the status and location of rare species and natural communities found throughout the state. No areas in the campground have been identified where these special conditions may be present.

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that it is unlikely the campground is located where archaeological resources may be present. 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 reasonable 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 encompasses 853 acres of lands classified as Intensive Use and the perimeter boundary totals 5.9 miles. The north, west and south boundaries border the Saranac Lake Wild Forest for 4.3 miles. The eastern boundary borders two private parcels classified as low intensity for 1.1 miles, the shore of Fish Creek Ponds for 0.4 miles and two private parcels classified moderate intensity for 0.1 miles.

The adjacent 75,000-acre Saranac Lake Wild Forest offers many recreational opportunities, including hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing, mountain biking, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. Popular hiking attractions include Scarface and Panther Mountains, Fernow Nature Trail, and the Lake Placid Peninsula Nature Trails. Many people enjoy boating and camping on Upper, Middle and Lower Saranac Lakes.

*f. Invasive Species*

DEC is concerned about the threat of invasive species at campgrounds, both for their destructive effect on our environment and the associated financial drain on revenue and resources.

One common way 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 visitors originated. A regulation is in effect that prohibits the import of firewood into New York State

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source. Staff share this information with registering campers.

DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, is 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 DEC, the 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 2019 Program Report*. The report states that bush honeysuckle was observed growing sporadically throughout the campground, but was not managed due to time constraints, its distribution, and the size of plants. Purple loosestrife was mapped and managed in a wet, grassy area across from site 182. In total, six plants were removed. This marks the second consecutive year that purple loosestrife was observed since 2014. Recommendations included that bush honeysuckle is widespread throughout the campground and should be addressed only after management of higher priority species is complete. However, since this species can be spread long distances via bird dispersed seed, reintroduction is likely. Purple loosestrife plants were mapped and removed from the same location as the 2014 infestation and likely emerged from the seedbank or remnant rootstock. This location should be a high priority for follow-up surveys and management to ensure full eradication of the infestation. With continued management, purple loosestrife can likely be locally eradicated from the campground.

DEC also works cooperatively with Paul Smiths College and the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program to address the aquatic invasive species. Watercraft Inspection Stewards work to prevent the introduction of AIS into Fish Creek and to prevent users from spreading Eurasian watermilfoil and variable leaf milfoil to other waterbodies. In addition, 6 NYCRR Part 576 requires that all boaters clean, drain, and dry their boats before launching into public waterbodies including Fish Creek. 6 NYCRR 59.4 also requires that boaters take preventive measures when retrieving their boats as well. Standard signage is intended to remind boaters of these requirements. In 2018, 1,741 boats were inspected by staff who were on location seven days a week throughout the summer. 4.3% of the boats inspected were found to be dirty or contain invasive species plants and invasive plants were removed on 14 occasions. Fish Creek Ponds is known to contain Eurasian watermilfoil and variable-leaf milfoil and these organisms were intercepted by stewards on 65 occasions after boats were retrieved from the ponds.

DEC also works cooperatively with the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation to assist efforts to control milfoil and its spread. The Upper Saranac Lake Foundation has begun a long-term effort to remove Eurasian watermilfoil and variable leaf milfoil that is supported by a DEC Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control Grant and private funding.

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

Fish Creek Pond Campground is a popular facility used during the spring through fall seasons for camping, swimming, boating and hiking. The rest of the year, these campground experiences some visitation for ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the campground for both visitor and employee use. Day-to-day operations of these campgrounds 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***

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504, has 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.

Consistent with ADA requirements, DEC incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into siting, planning, construction, and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. In addition, Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that services, programs, and activities of DEC, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. DEC is not required to take any action which would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the service, program, or activity, or would present an undue financial or administrative burden. When accommodating access to a program, DEC is not necessarily required to make each existing facility and asset accessible, as long as the program is accessible by other means or at a different facility.

This plan incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities and assets on the unit or area, and an assessment of the programs, services, and facilities provided to determine the level of accessibility. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, and the transportation of and communication with individuals with disabilities.

In accordance with the US Department of Justice’s ADA Title II regulations, all new DEC facilities, or parts of facilities, that are constructed for public use are to be accessible to people with disabilities. Full compliance is not required where DEC can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements [28 CFR § 35.151 (a)]. Compliance is still required for parts of the facility that can be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable, and for people with various types of disabilities. In addition, all alterations to facilities, or part of facilities, that affect or could affect the usability of the facility will be made in a manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities [28 CFR § 35.151 (b:1-4)].

DEC uses the Department of Justice’s 2010 Standards for Accessible Design in designing, constructing, and altering buildings and sites. For outdoor recreational facilities not covered under the current ADA standards, DEC uses the standards provided under the ABA to lend credibility to the assessment results and to offer protection to the natural resource (ABA Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas; Sections F201.4, F216.3, F244 to F248, and 1011 to 1019).

Any new facilities, assets, and accessibility improvements to existing facilities, or assets proposed in this plan, are identified in the section containing proposed management actions. A record of accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record.

For further information, please contact Leah Akins, DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator, at [accessibility@dec.ny.gov](mailto:accessibility@dec.ny.gov).

Inventory of Accessible Features	
Campsites with Mobility Features*	Campsites# 12, 13, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 87, 88, 91, 244, 245, 275, 276, 277
Ambulatory Accessible Comfort Stations**	Building #12, 15, 28, 31 (Near Campsites #42, 91, 240, 264)
Wheelchair Accessible Comfort Stations	None
Wheelchair Accessible Shower Buildings	None
Common Use Areas with Mobility Features	In the Day Use Area, the picnic area and fishing pier have mobility features.

\*DEC campsites with mobility features have a picnic table, fireplace, and paths with accessible amenities.

\*\*Ambulatory accessible toilet facilities are designed to accommodate people who use a walker, crutches, cane, or similar device, but they are not wheelchair accessible.

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The management actions below are being proposed for the forthcoming five-year period and will be completed as staff and funding allow.

Proposed Management Actions	
Management Actions	Cost
1. Replace comfort stations #3, 7, 13, 17, 24, 29.	\$400,000 each
2. Reconstruct roads to accommodate two-way traffic and repave.	\$900,000
3. Replace bathhouse.	\$450,000
4. Construct a new caretaker cabin.	\$250,000
5. Reconstruct boat launch in day use area.	\$700,000
6. Expand extra car parking sites.	\$40,000
7. Make improvements at amphitheater.	\$25,000
8. Improve bike path.	\$110,000
9. Construct parking lot at Floodwood trailhead.	\$8,000
10. Extend internet connection through campground to Rollins Pond.	\$6,000
11. Re-classify area between campgrounds to intensive use area.	\$1,000
12. Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.	\$15,000
13. Continue shoreline stabilization.	\$150,000
14. Plant trees and shrubs.	\$15,000
15. Campsite rehabilitation.	\$45,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities to comply with health, safety codes and user needs. They will also provide universal access and increase the efficiency of the campground management. New buildings will blend with the Adirondack environment and use natural materials where possible. Using the footprint of existing infrastructure and areas disturbed by past management will be a priority over construction in undisturbed areas. Prioritization of previously disturbed areas will assist in limiting the need for additional vegetative impacts, minimizing topographic alterations and preserving the scenic, natural and open space resources of the campground. Site-specific plans will be developed to include erosion and sediment control components and will address stormwater runoff. The goal is to minimize erosion and protect watercourses and wetlands from sediment and other pollutants. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention

#### IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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Plan (SWPPP). These plans will be prepared in accordance with the NYSDEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges, to inform construction personnel of measures to be implemented for controlling runoff and pollutants from the site during and after construction activities. See Exhibit 17 for typical design examples. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for DEC. Prioritization of management actions was based on the availability of funding, health and safety concerns.

##### **1. Replace six comfort stations: #3, 7, 13, 17, 24, 29**

The average age of the 23 comfort stations is 53 years and none have been built since 1984. The aging comfort stations include toilet and sink fixtures that are not water efficient. Additional resources are necessary to maintain these fixtures as they are not easily drained to prevent frozen pipes during the winter. All the comfort stations were rated as being in poor condition when inspected in November 2018 and do not meet current accessibility standards. The campground only has one central shower facility. Visitors must travel as far as 4 miles to utilize the facility. Additional traffic contributes to road congestion on narrow campground roads, and noise and air pollution.

This management action proposes to replace six comfort stations and include showers at each of the new buildings. In conjunction with the building replacement, associated wastewater treatment systems will be evaluated for adequacy and code compliance. If found deficient, systems will be replaced and modernized as part the comfort station replacement. The seepage pits associated with comfort stations #3, #13, #17, and #24 will be replaced with a drainage field or added to a force main. Building locations will be spread throughout the campground to disperse improvements and minimize travel distance to new shower facilities. These buildings will be constructed to meet modern design standards, comply with all codes, provide for ADA accessibility, including accessible parking, be more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. Standards for erosion and sediment control will be met in conformance with the *New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control* <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29066.html>, dated November, 2016. In addition, wash sinks for washing dishes will be added to each comfort station. This will help address disposal of gray water that campers often toss at the edge of the campsites, leaving soap, food and grease on the ground. This is unsightly and it draws wildlife. The tree cutting required to construct the replacement buildings will vary for each building. Three of the comfort stations are connected to tile fields adjacent to buildings. After analyzing existing fixture count, future needs, calculated design flows and soil percolation rates, these

existing tile fields may need to be enlarged. All six comfort stations will contain shower units and the building footprints may be enlarged by up to 50%. See exhibit 17 for photographs of existing buildings and their surroundings.

## **2. Reconstruct roads to accommodate two-way traffic and repave**

The 5.4 miles of campground roads are in rough shape, including crumbling shoulders, potholes and broken pavement. Roads average between 10' and 20' wide. This management action proposes to repave all 5.4 miles and add gravel on the shoulder.

The 1.6-mile section of road from the entrance to the turn to Rollins Pond is of concern because the pavement is not wide enough to reasonably accommodate two-way traffic (See exhibit 16). This road is used by the campers entering and exiting Rollins Pond Campground (287 sites) and Fish Creek Campground (355 sites). On turnover days (e.g. Sunday) when existing campers are leaving, and new campers are entering, this road may be used by several hundred vehicles. Dangerous conditions are created when walkers or bike riders and camper vehicles passing one another all converge. Some of this congestion may be reduced through improvements to the bike trail, adding showers to the bathroom buildings and relocating the boat launch closer to the entrance. This management action proposes to widen this 1.6-mile section of road. A minimum width of 18' is needed to accommodate passing camper with sidemirrors.

Much of the campground road system rehabilitation will be within the existing road footprint or within the existing impacted road shoulders requiring little additional vegetative clearing and limited topographic alterations. In addition, the rehabilitation will improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, assist in reducing impacts to wetlands and help alleviate stormwater erosion and sedimentation issues. The road rehabilitation will assist with addressing stormwater management through: 1) road crowning to maintain sheet flow to appropriate sites to avoid resource impacts, 2) adding check dams, where needed, to existing cross drainage, 3) providing adequate road and shoulder surface to limit adjacent soil compaction, 4) supplying permeable, granular shoulders, 4) adding vegetation as part of the campsite restoration project (detailed in Sec III.F.2.b) and shoreline stabilization (detailed in Sec IV. 13). Other storm water management techniques may be incorporated as part of final detailed plans developed for the campground road rehabilitation.

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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### 3. Replace bathhouse

The bathhouse, at the day use area, was constructed in 1965 and is in fair condition. However, the users' needs for a bathhouse have changed over the years. Most visitors no longer use the bathhouse to change clothes but utilize the restrooms. In addition, visitors are using the bathhouse more for changing children's diapers. This management action proposes replacing the existing bathhouse with one that will meet the changing needs of today's visitors, meet modern design standards, provide for ADA accessibility and be more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. The new facility will provide less area for changing stalls and require a smaller footprint. As a result, no additional tree clearing is expected at this time. (See exhibit 17) As part of replacing the bathhouse, two alternatives will be considered for managing associated wastewater: replacing the existing wastewater system with a drainage field or conveying the associated wastewater to a force main.

### 4. Construct a new caretaker cabin

Fish Creek Pond campground is the busiest facility operated by DEC and requires a staff of 20 or more. There are staff on duty 24 hours a day and a broad spectrum of skills are required to ensure a safe and enjoyable stay for visitors. There are currently two buildings available to house employees who live beyond a reasonable commute and both buildings contain two bedrooms. Additional housing is needed to help recruit the number of employees with the skill sets needed to operate this facility. This management action proposes to build a new three-bedroom caretaker cabin and associated infrastructure that could house a staff person and their family, if required. The existing caretaker cabin will be rehabilitated to provide housing for other employees. Based on the calculated design flows and soil percolation rates, the existing tile fields may need to be enlarged. Potential tile field expansion and construction of the new building is not expected to exceed ¼ acre. Siting will prioritize the use of existing disturbed areas to limit clearing of existing vegetation and minimizing topographic alterations (See exhibit 17). When specific site designs are developed the Department will consult with the APA through the State Land Project Consultation process.

### 5. Reconstruct boat launch in day use area

Problematic congestion often occurs in the water near the launch and on land at the launch. These conditions are the result of the number of boaters using the area and the limited space for vehicles. The size and configuration of the current launch is not adequately meeting the needs of users, including staging, launching and removal. In addition, there is inadequate parking and no safe location

for an aquatic invasive species monitoring or a boat washing station. This management action proposes to reconstruct the boat launch ramp near the fishing pier west of the day-use parking lot. The proposed design will take into consideration the need for adequate clearance for vehicles and trailers to create a safe location for an aquatic invasive species monitoring and appropriate infrastructure for a boat washing station. This proposal will reduce congestion at the boat launch, provide a more functional launch area, afford adequate parking, and reduce traffic in the camping loops. The existing launch area will be retained as a roof top launch site; no ramp for trailered boats will be provided.

#### **6. Expand extra car parking sites**

Many campers bring additional vehicles resulting in the need for additional parking spots. Parking in the campsites is limited to a single vehicle with trailer and parking along campground roads is prohibited. Currently, additional car parking is permitted at the day-use area, amphitheater and shower building parking lots as well as at smaller designated sites near campsites #203, #245, #263, #270 and #293. However, additional parking space is still needed. This management action proposes enlarging the existing parking lots where possible by 3-5 parking spots (Approx. 900-2500sf each). In addition, this management action proposes formalizing three to five additional parking spots at the proposed reconstructed comfort stations. Due to the fact that much of the proposed locations are heavily impacted by informal parking, clearing of existing vegetation and topographic alterations will be minimized.

#### **7. Make improvements at amphitheater**

The amphitheater area is a very popular location within the campground offering scheduled programs, supervised activities, a swing set, and volleyball and basketball facilities. The existing amphitheater seating is in poor condition and the stage area needs structural and electrical repairs. The swing set is rustic and does not meet current ASTM design standards. This management action proposes to repair the amphitheater seating, make required improvements to the electrical systems and replace the swings with a small playground structure which will comply with design standards.

#### **8. Improve bike path**

In 2004, the overhead utilities and sewer lines were buried throughout the campground creating an opening through the woods in many places away from the road. Over four miles of this utility corridor were graded, hardened in sections with gravel, and seeded in others for a grass surface to create a multipurpose trail. As the surface of this trail has deteriorated over the years, today this trail is most often utilized by people walking or riding mountain bikes. Unlike the paved section of trail along Route

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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30, the condition of the trail on the corridor discourages use by standard bicycle riders, or people with limited mobility. As a result, more people are walking and riding along the roads which adds to the congestion and safety concerns previously noted in this plan. This management action proposes to resurface the multipurpose trail with pavement or an alternative material such as stone dust that will improve the surface in a manner that encourages use by more visitors. It will also be proposed in future UMPs to extend the trail to Rollins Pond Campground. This will further help alleviate congestion and safety concerns on the road between the two facilities. Signage will be posted to notify users of grades, curves and junctions. Sections of the existing trail with excessive grades will not be improved and users will be directed onto the roads in those locations. Connectors to campground roads will permit access to the trail at various locations. Sections of improved trail that meet accessibility standards will be marked for ADA access (see exhibit 15).

### **9. Construct parking lot at Floodwood trailhead**

The Floodwood trailhead is located near comfort station #8 providing access to a network of hiking trails leading to Floodwood Pond, Little Square Pond, Follensby Clear Pond and others. There is no formally designated parking at the trailhead and hikers often park in places that block access to campsites and the comfort station. This management action proposes building a 5-car parking (approx. 2,500-3,000sq/ft) lot at a location near the trailhead. Clearing of existing vegetation and topographic alterations will be minimized as much of the proposed location is currently heavily impacted by informal parking by trail users.

### **10. Extend internet connection through campground to Rollins Pond**

Fish Creek Ponds campground has a high-speed internet connection at the entrance. The connection facilitates reservations, point of sale transactions and staff reporting. It also provides weather information which is used to inform campers of impending serious storms in a timely manner. Rollins Pond campground operates with a satellite connection that is slower, less reliable and often fails at the critical time when weather data is most valuable. This management action proposes to co-locate the high-speed data wiring through the campground, through lands currently classified as Wild Forest, to the entrance and into the Rollins Pond Intensive Use Area along the existing utility corridor that connects the two facilities. This is for use by staff for official/administrative purposes, not the public.

### **11. Reclassify area between campgrounds to Intensive Use Area (future plan).**

There is about 0.75 miles of state land between Fish Creek Pond and Rollins Pond campgrounds that are located within the Saranac Lake Wild Forest. The road connecting the two facilities as well as certain camping loop roads and associated campground improvements are located on the wild forest and considered non-conforming uses per the Adirondack Park State Land Masterplan. A future management action will propose to reclassify approximately 30-50 acres of lands between campgrounds from Wild Forest to Intensive Use Area to eliminate the existing non-conforming uses. This reclass will be addressed in the update of the Rollins Pond Campground Unit Management Plan.

### **12. Add utility sinks to all comfort stations**

Section III.F.2.a of this plan noted a deficiency of utility sinks at all comfort stations in the camping area. With no alternative for disposing of gray water, campers often toss wash and rinse water to the edge of the campsites, leaving soap, food and grease on the ground. This is unsightly and it draws wildlife. A utility sink attached to the outside of each toilet building and tied to the campground's sewer system will provide a place for campers to wash dishes or dispose of gray water. This management action proposes to install utility sinks at each comfort station in the camping area.

### **13. Continue shoreline stabilization**

Natural and boat-wake wave action on Fish Creek Ponds results in erosive forces on the shoreline areas around the campground. Much of this shoreline is in a deteriorated state, leaving it unprotected and subject to further damage. Certain sections of shoreline, often on the western shore, are more exposed to these impacts than others. In 2011, a section of eroded shoreline was stabilized using softscape techniques for slope and soil stabilization. DEC uses green infrastructure such as straw waddles to stabilize embankments by establishing root systems of vigorous plants such as native willows, shadbush and blueberries. In addition to stabilization, many of the plants provide wildlife habitat. This management action proposes to repair approximately 3,000 feet of deteriorated shoreline between sites #107 and #160. Shoreline stabilization and erosion mitigation will be included as part of the Campsite Restoration project detailed in this plan. Construction material and methods will be determined during the design phase and utilize *DEC Shoreline Stabilization Techniques* <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/67096.html> dated July 2010 or latest version. Grading and planting of vegetation will be compatible with the natural shoreline and utilize native species. Staff will develop site specific recommendations in consultation with the APA.

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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### **14. Plant trees and shrubs.**

New trees and shrubs are required to replace those lost to hazardous tree removal and to establish trees in high-traffic areas where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Species selected will be native to the area and provide the needed shading and screening. Areas will be identified through the annual campsite survey. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the plan.

### **15. Campsite restoration.**

Management of visitor use at Fish Creek Ponds began in the 1920s with the development of lean-tos and fireplaces. Today, the Fish Creek Campground includes 355 camping sites and is the largest and one of the most popular campgrounds operated by DEC. With close to 100,000 camper days and day-use visitors to Fish Creek annually, striving to balance the protection of the physical, biological and social resources with visitor enjoyment is a challenge. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) requires that campgrounds be of a rustic nature and each camping site retains the natural character of the surrounding forest. With proper planning and management, visitor enjoyment, resource protection and compliance with requirements can be achieved.

This management action will involve a two-step process to develop a unit management plan amendment within four years that addresses the condition of campsites in the Fish Creek unit. DEC staff in consultation with Agency staff will first develop visitor use management and monitoring guidance to support the planning and management of Intensive Use Areas in the Adirondack Park. The approach will be consistent with the federal Interagency Visitor Use Management planning framework, be complementary to the UMP planning process and will identify desired conditions, indicators and standards for the management of Intensive Use Area campsites. The DEC in consultation with the Agency will then prepare a unit management plan amendment consistent with the new guidance and containing diverse design and management actions to balance resource protection and visitor enjoyment including revegetation, relieving soil compaction, replacing amenities, reducing erosion, integration with shoreline restoration efforts, and site relocation or closure.

Until the visitor use management and wildlands monitoring guidance and accompanying protocols for camping sites within DEC Campgrounds is finalized, a minimum of nine campsites per year at Fish Creek Pond will be selected for temporary closure for the purpose of rehabilitation to render the site's character similar to the surrounding forest. Rehabilitation work will include stabilizing shorelines; maintaining the campsite surface to reduce erosion, soil loss and soil compaction;

revegetating the site (between sites and along shorelines); and replacing fireplaces and picnic tables. In situations where issues cannot be reasonably addressed an individual campsite may be relocated or closed. Furthermore, work to upgrade sites to meet current accessibility standards will be given priority to meet program goals. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the plan. For more information on the Campsite restoration project or which sites at Fish Creek are currently being restored please visit

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/100146.html>.

**V. EXHIBIT INDEX**

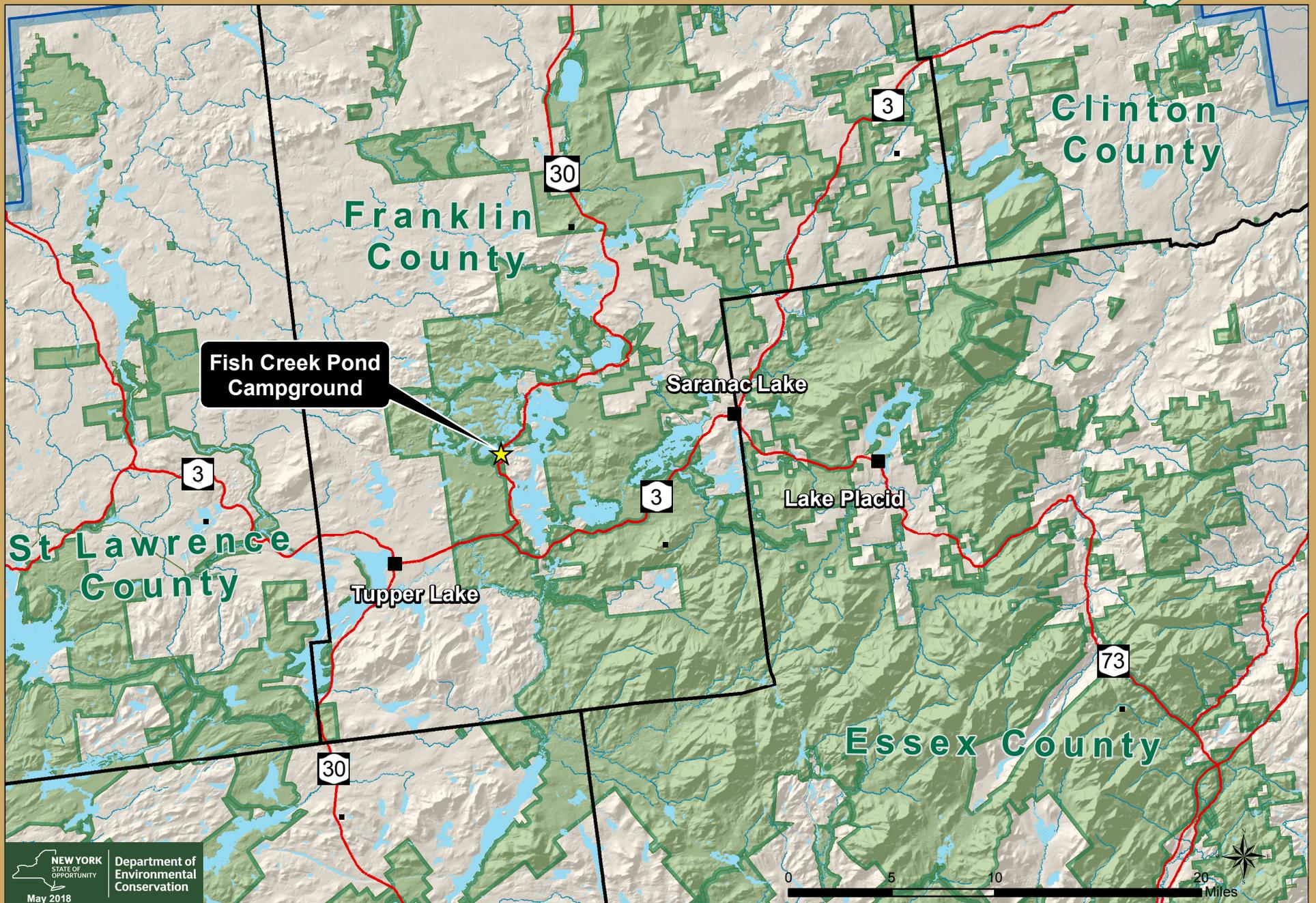
Exhibit Index	
Exhibit #1	Adirondack Park Location Overview Map
Exhibit #2	Topography & Trail Map
Exhibit #3	Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4-4g	Existing Facilities Maps
Exhibit #5a-5d	Sewer System Maps
Exhibit #6a-6d	Water System Maps
Exhibit #7a-7d	Electric System Maps
Exhibit #8	Forest Type Map
Exhibit #9	Wetlands Map
Exhibit #10	Soils Map
Exhibit #11	Campground Occupancy Map
Exhibit #12	Campground Demographics Map
Exhibit #13	Management Action Map
Exhibit #14	Natural Heritage Occurrences
Exhibit #15	Multi use trail proposed improvements
Exhibit #16	Proposed road improvements map
Exhibit #17	Campground Photos
Exhibit #18	Typical drawings
Exhibit #19	Response to Public Comments

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map

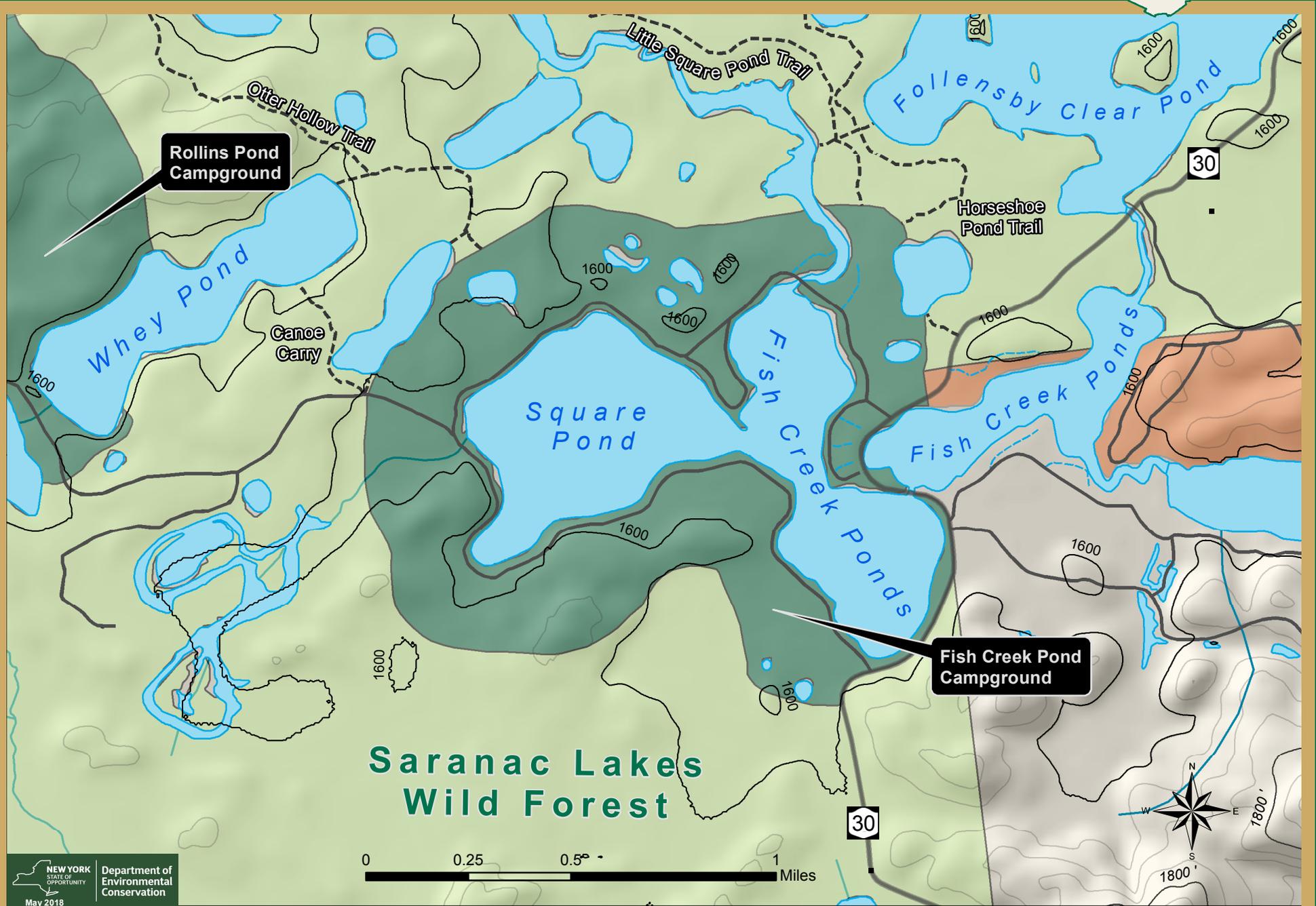
Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 2 - Topography & Trail Map



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 4 - Existing Facilities Map

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



### Legend



Ticket Booth

— Road



Fish Creek Ponds Campground

- - - Trail



Saranac Lake Wild Forest

0 625 1,250 2,500 Feet



July 2019

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Entrance and Day Use Area

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

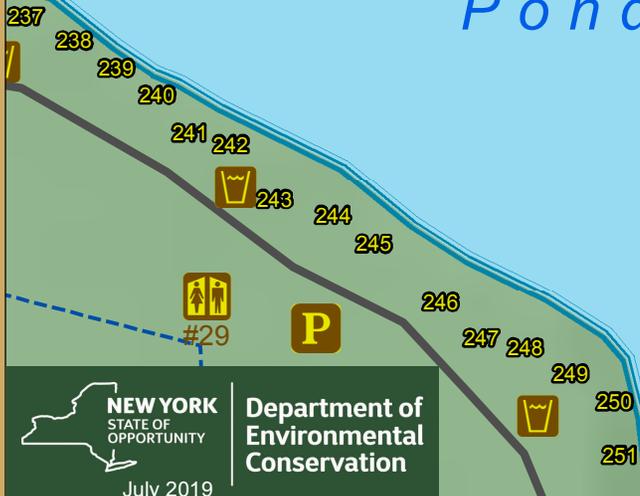
Adirondack  
Park

## Legend

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  Comfort Station |  Garage         |  Beach       |
|  Staff Housing   |  Picnic Shelter |  Parking Lot |
|  Bathhouse       |  Fishing Pier   |  Payphone    |
|  Ticket Booth    |  Playground     |  Spigot      |
|   |  |  Trail       |

0 200 400 800 Feet

Fish  
Creek  
Ponds



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Environmental  
Conservation

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

Exhibit #4b - Facility Map for Sites 9 - 49 and C Loop



Adirondack  
Park



## Legend

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Boat Launch     |  Recycle Building |
|  Comfort Station |  Spigot           |
|  Parking Lot     |  Trail            |
|  Campsite        |  |

0 200 400 800 Feet

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

Exhibit #4c - Facility Map for Sites 44 - 108 and A Loop

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



## Legend

- |   |                 |   |                     |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Amphitheater    |  | Playground          |
|  | Comfort Station |  | Recreation Building |
|  | Parking Lot     |  | Spigot              |
|  | Campsite        |  | Trail               |
|   |                 |  | Culvert             |

0 250 500 1,000  
Feet

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

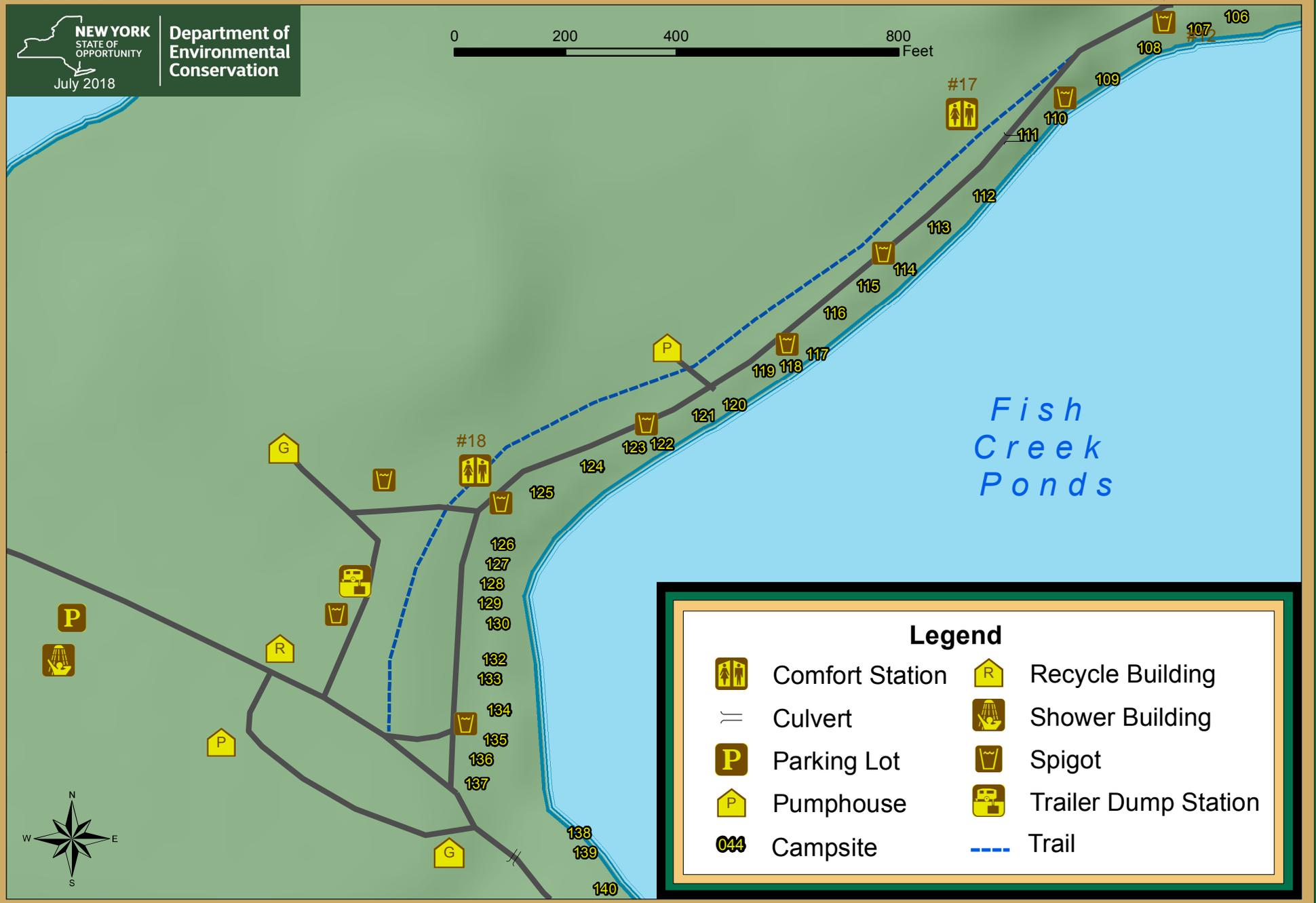
Exhibit #4d - Facility Map for Sites 108 - 140

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



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### Legend

	Comfort Station		Recycle Building
	Culvert		Shower Building
	Parking Lot		Spigot
	Pumphouse		Trailer Dump Station
	Campsite		Trail



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

Exhibit #4e - Facility Map for Sites 141 - 212

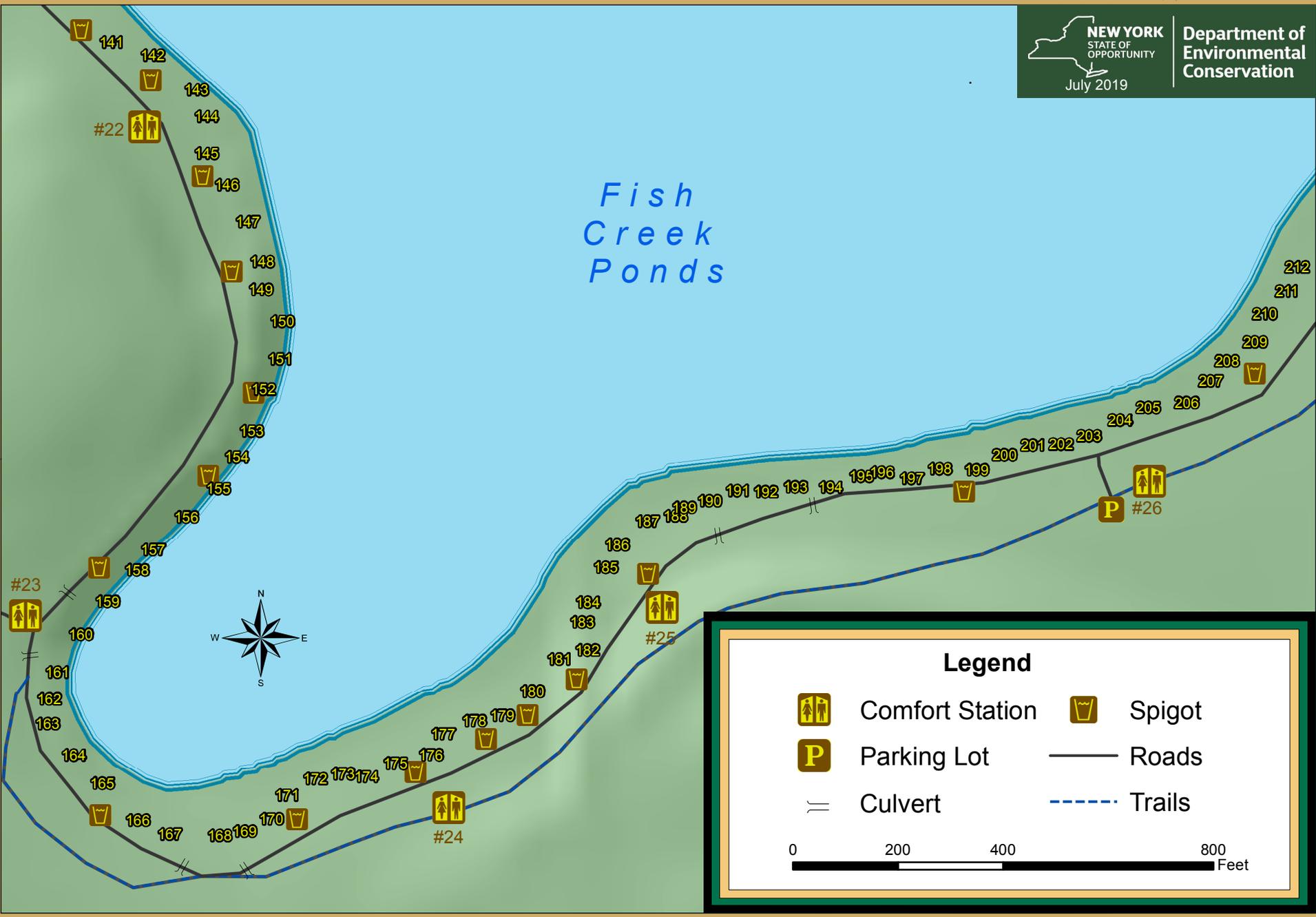


Adirondack  
Park

NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
July 2019

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Conservation

Fish  
Creek  
Ponds



### Legend

	Comfort Station		Spigot
	Parking Lot		Roads
	Culvert		Trails

0 200 400 800 Feet

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

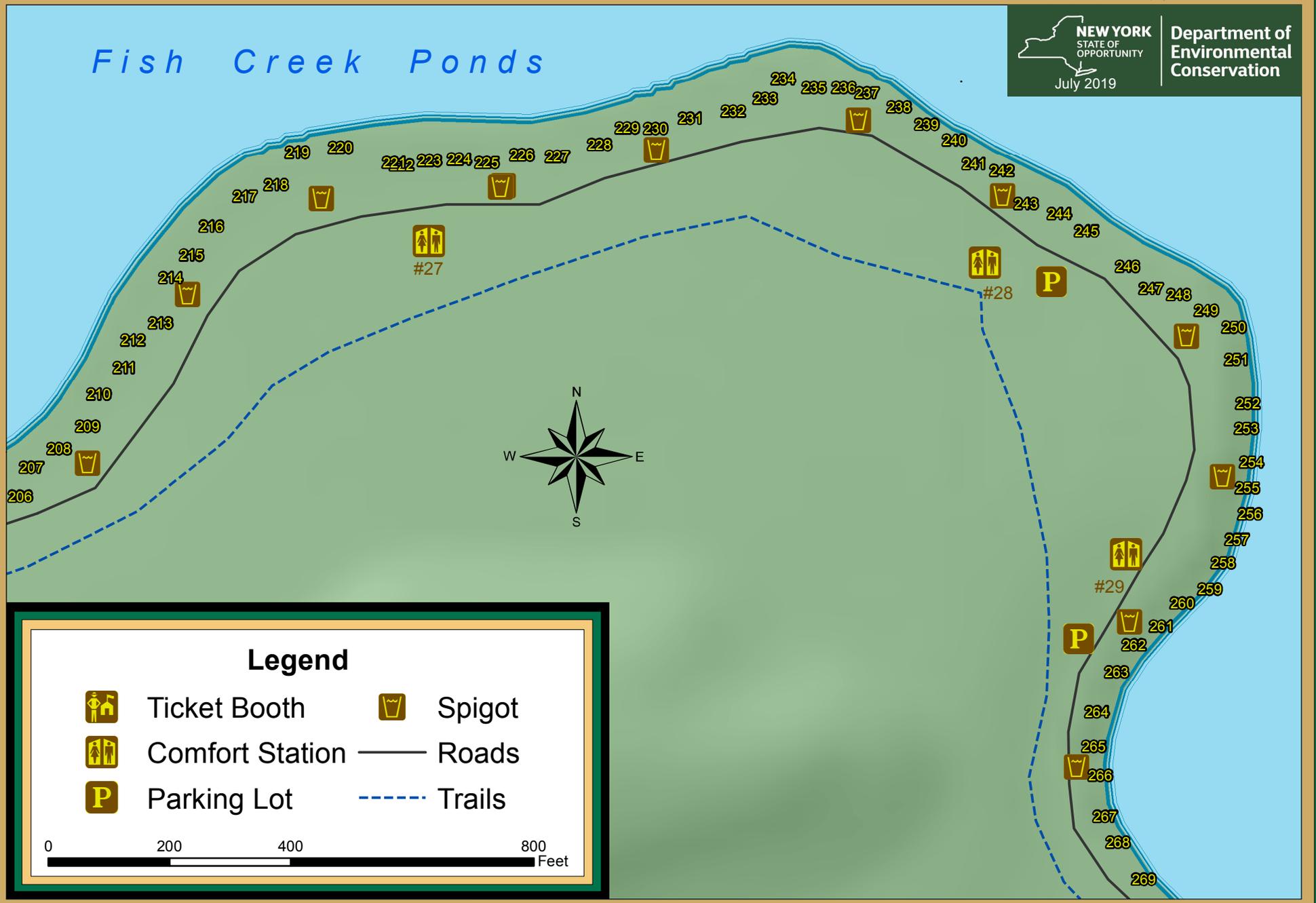
Exhibit #4f - Facility Map for Sites 207 -269



Adirondack  
Park

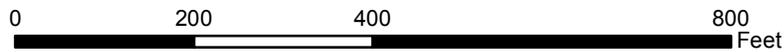
NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
July 2019

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Conservation



## Legend

- |  |                 |  |        |
|--|-----------------|--|--------|
|  | Ticket Booth    |  | Spigot |
|  | Comfort Station |  | Roads  |
|  | Parking Lot     |  | Trails |



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

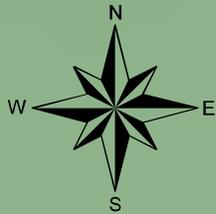
Exhibit #4g - Facility Map for Sites 270 -305



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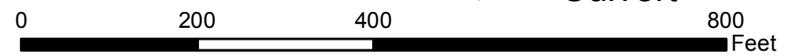


Fish  
Creek  
Ponds



## Legend

- |  |                 |  |         |
|--|-----------------|--|---------|
|  | Ticket Booth    |  | Spigot  |
|  | Comfort Station |  | Roads   |
|  | Parking Lot     |  | Trails  |
|  |                 |  | Culvert |



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 5a - Sewage System Map

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

NEW YORK  
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September 2018

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



### Legend

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  Bathhouse        |  Septic Tank  |  Gravity Sewer Line     |
|  Comfort Station  |  Seepage Pit  |  Pressurized Sewer Line |
|  Staff Housing    |  Leach Field  |  |
|  Recycle Building |  Lift Station |  |

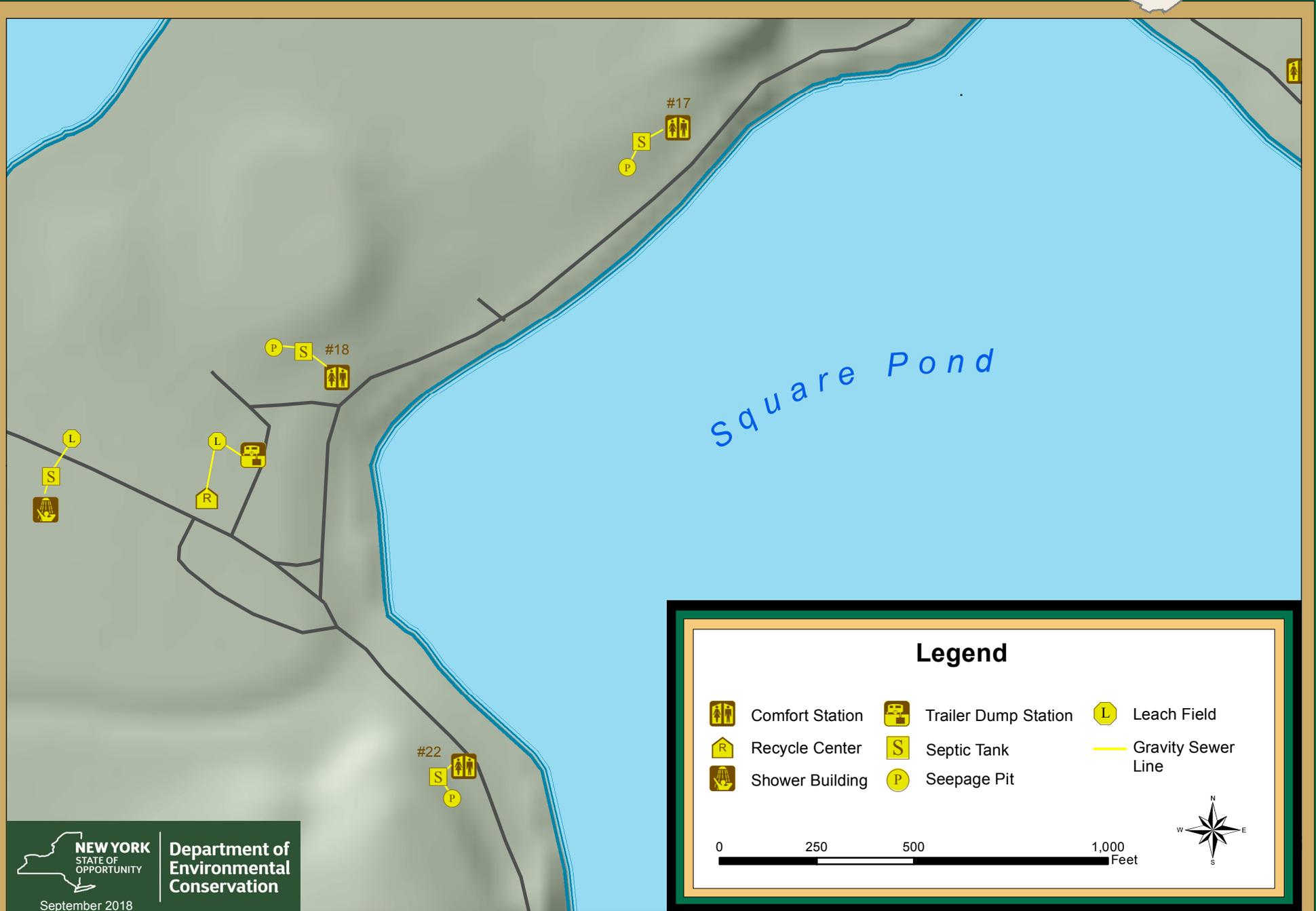
0 375 750 1,500 Feet

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 5b - Sewer System Map



Adirondack  
Park



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

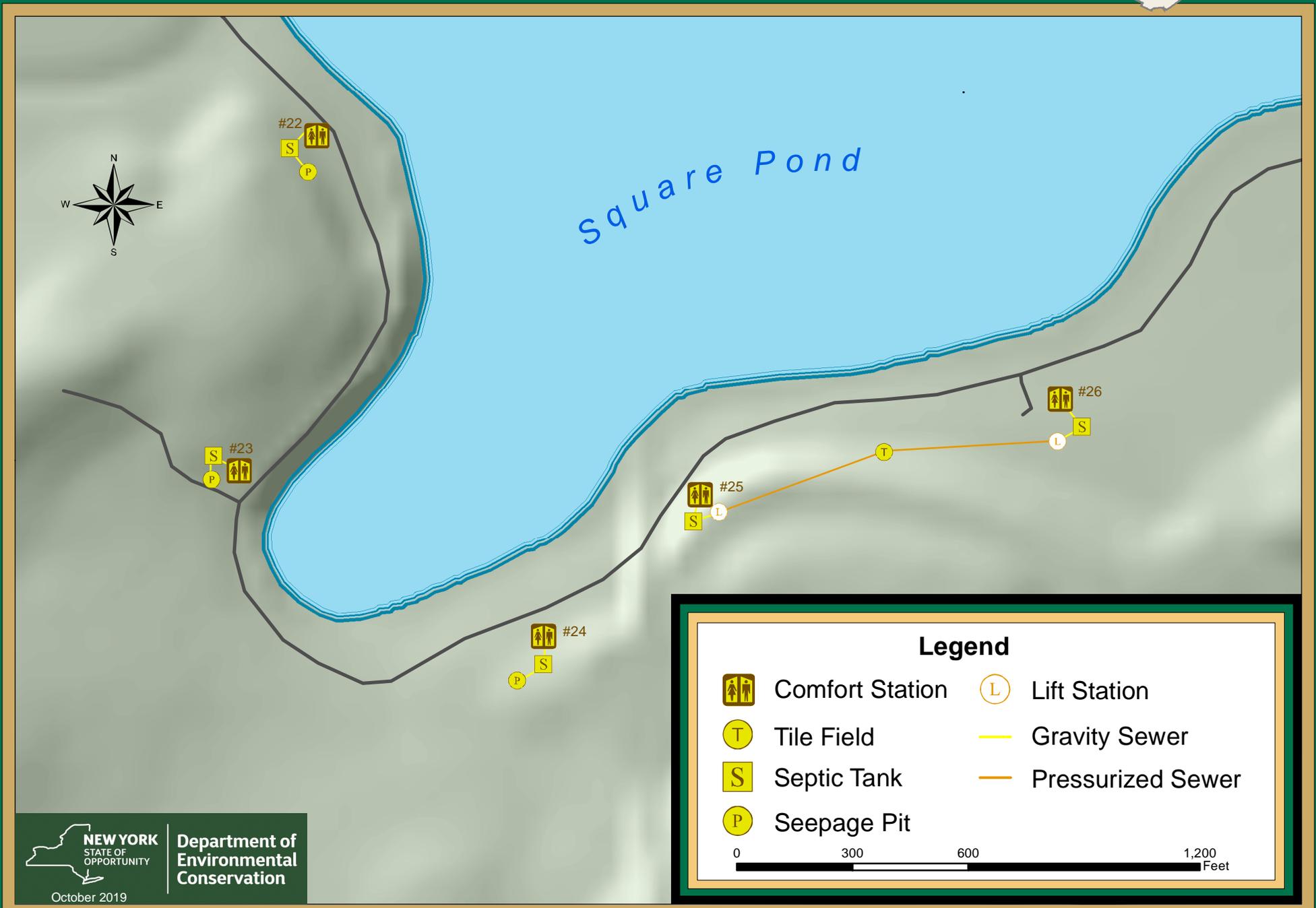
September 2018

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 5c - Sewer System Map



Adirondack  
Park



**Legend**

Comfort Station	Lift Station
Tile Field	Gravity Sewer
Septic Tank	Pressurized Sewer
Seepage Pit	

0 300 600 1,200 Feet



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October 2019

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 5d - Sewer System Map

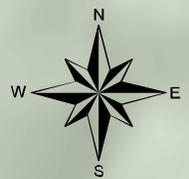


Adirondack  
Park



### Legend

- |   |                 |   |                   |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Comfort Station |  | Lift Station      |
|  | Septic Tank     |  | Gravity Sewer     |
|  | Tile Field      |  | Pressurized Sewer |



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

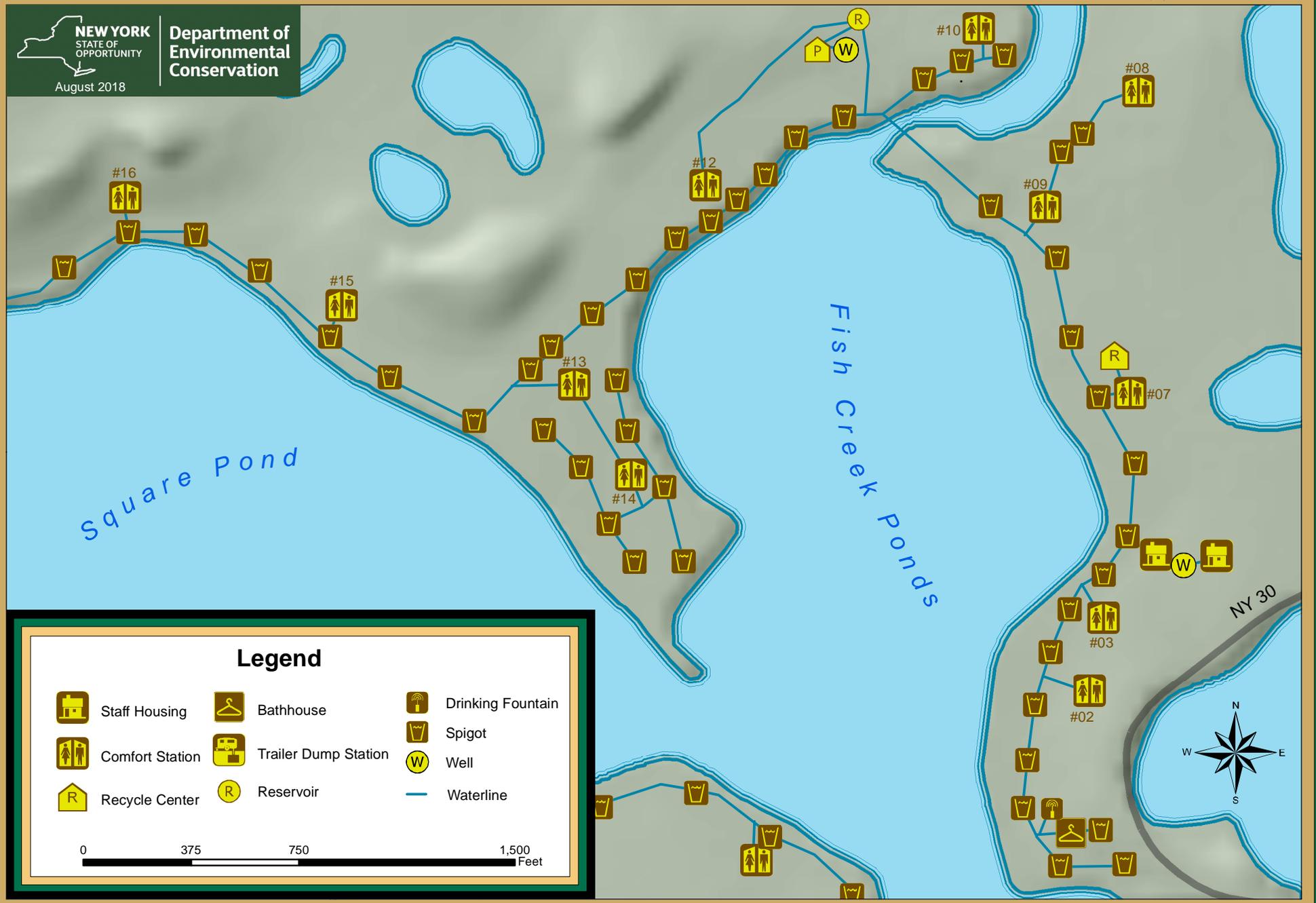
## Exhibit # 6a - Water System Map

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



### Legend

- |                 |                      |                   |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Staff Housing   | Bathhouse            | Drinking Fountain |
| Comfort Station | Trailer Dump Station | Spigot            |
| Recycle Center  | Reservoir            | Well              |
|                 | Waterline            |                   |

0 375 750 1,500 Feet

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 6b - Water System Map

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



August 2019

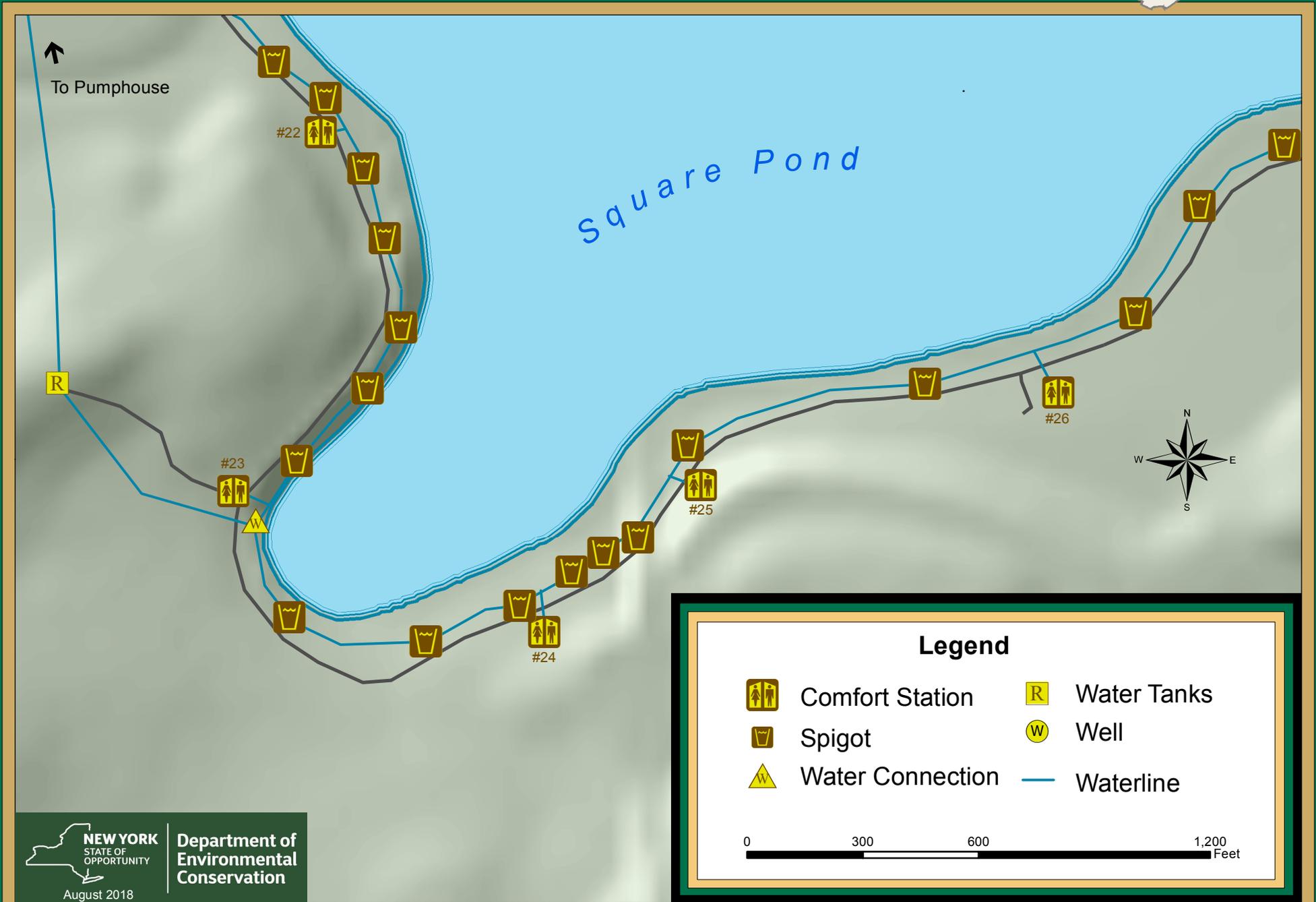
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 6c - Water System Map



Adirondack  
Park



### Legend

- |   |                  |   |             |
|---|------------------|---|-------------|
|  | Comfort Station  |  | Water Tanks |
|  | Spigot           |  | Well        |
|  | Water Connection |  | Waterline   |

0 300 600 1,200 Feet



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

August 2018

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 6d - Water System Map



Adirondack  
Park



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 7a -Electric System Map

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
August 2018

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



0 400 800 1,600 Feet

### Legend

- |                 |                      |                |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Amphitheater    | Garage               | Electric Meter |
| Bathhouse       | Museum               | Switch Box     |
| Ticket Booth    | Pumphouse            | Transformer    |
| Comfort Station | Recycle Center       | Lift Station   |
| Well            | Buried Electric Line |                |

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 7b -Electric System Map



Adirondack  
Park



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**Legend**

Comfort Station	Well	Electric Meter
Shower Building	Pumphouse	Switch Box
Ticket Booth	Garage	Transformer
Buried Electric Line	Lift Station	

0 300 600 1,200 Feet

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 7c -Electric System Map



Adirondack  
Park

NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
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August 2018

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



Square Pond



### Legend

- Comfort Station
- Buried Electric Line
- Switch Box
- Transformer
- Lift Station



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 7d -Electric System Map



Adirondack  
Park

NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY  
August 2018

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



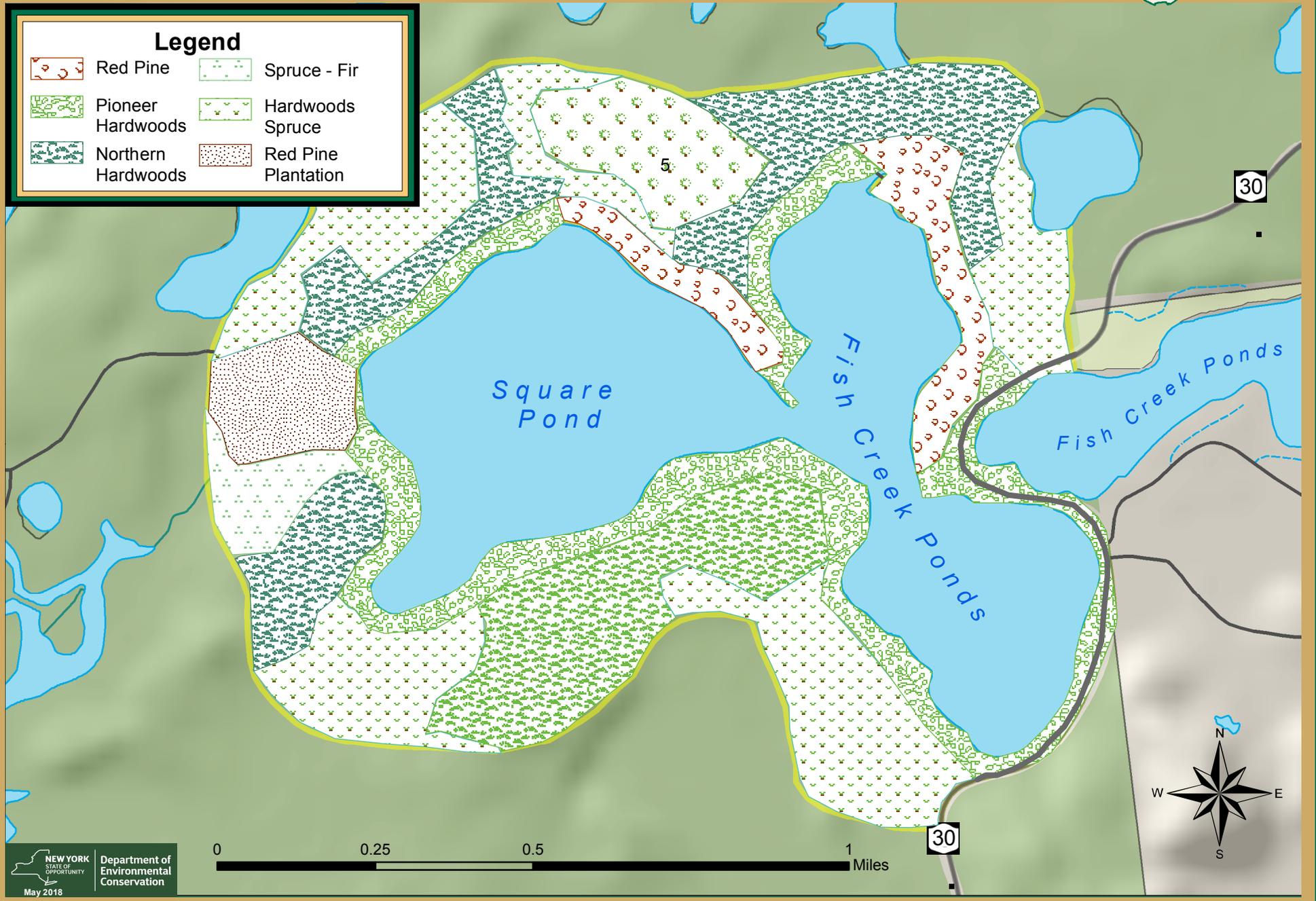
### Legend

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Comfort Station | Transformer          |
| Ticket Booth    | Lift Station         |
| Pumphouse       | Switch Box           |
| Bathhouse       | Buried Electric Line |

0 400 800 1,600 Feet

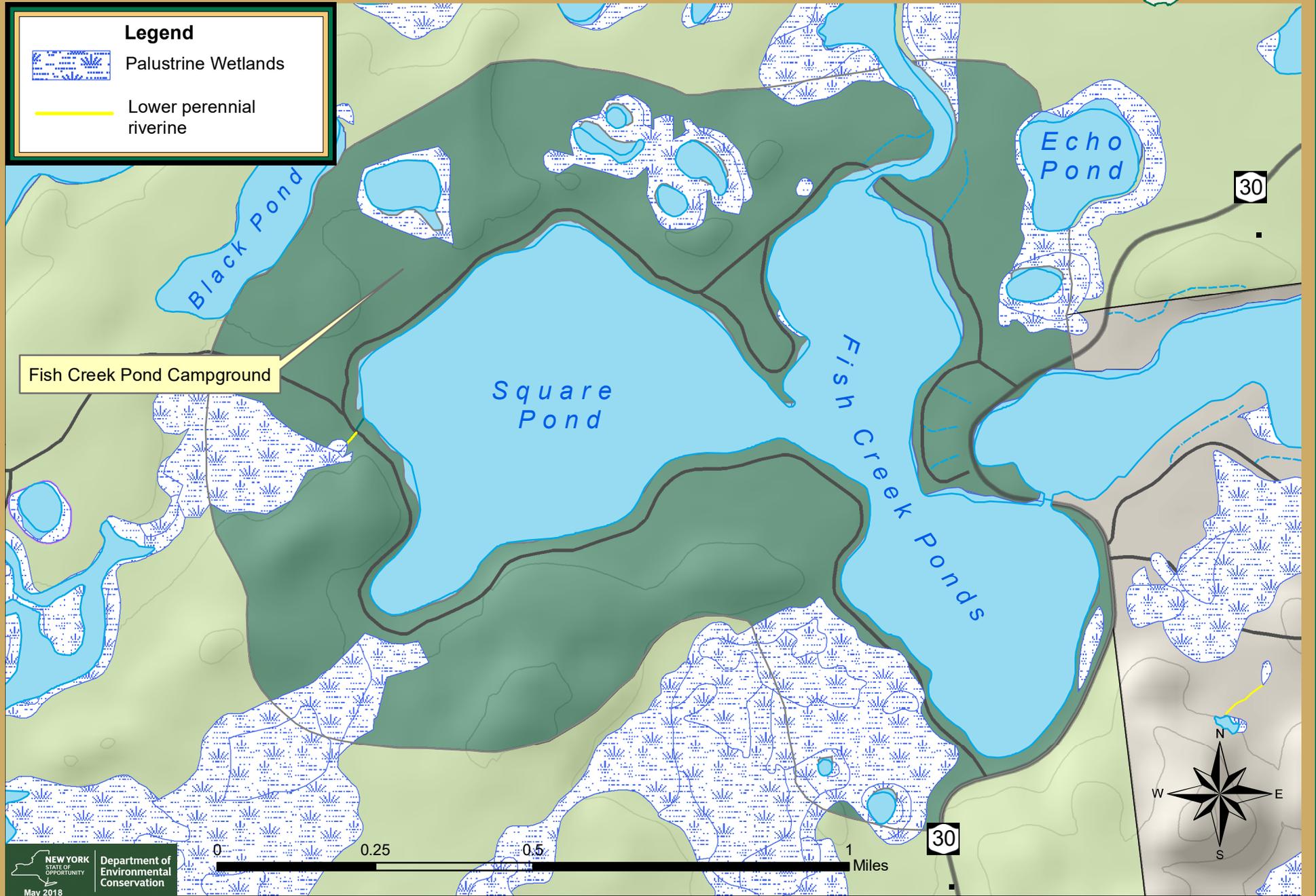
# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit #8 - Forest Type Map



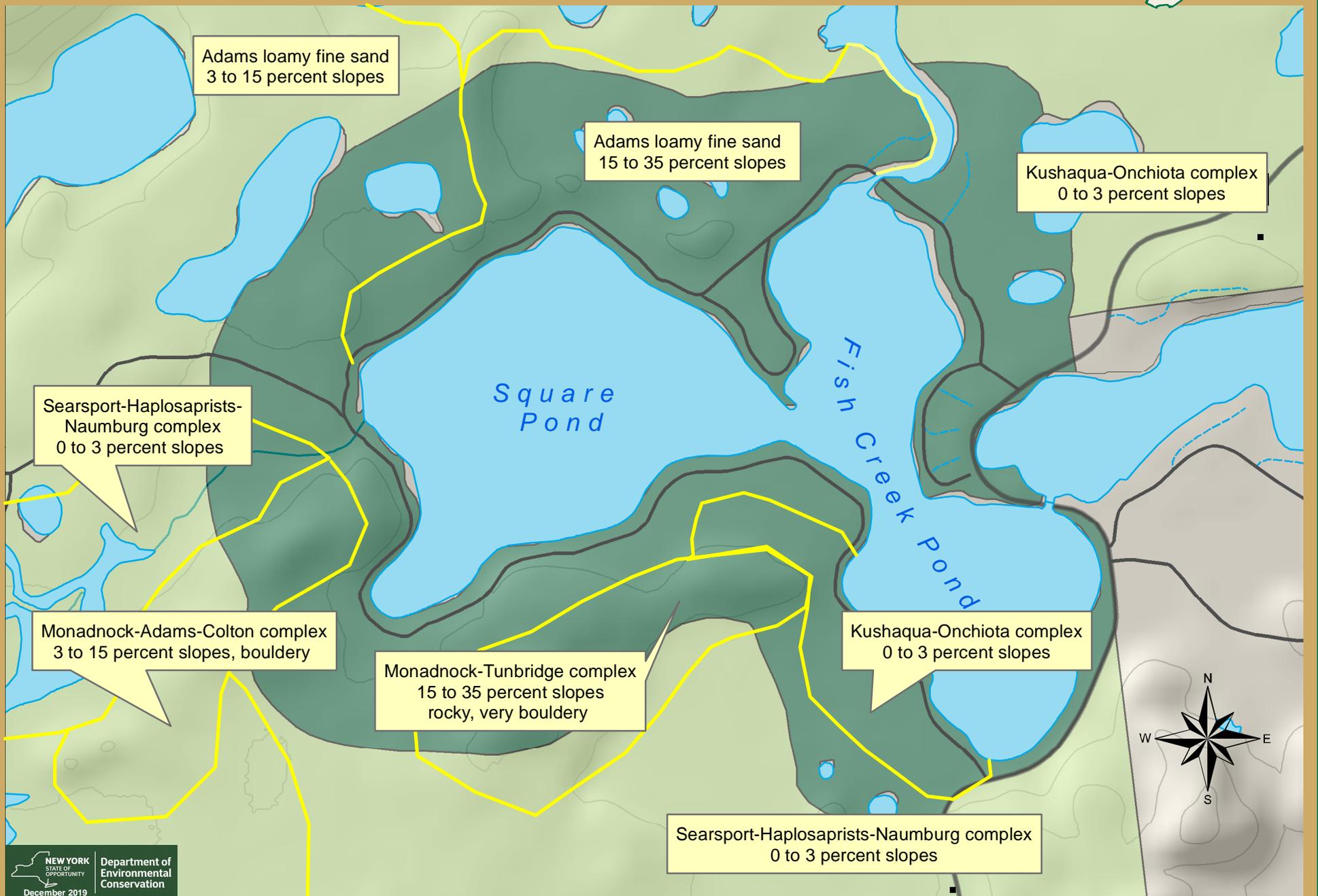
# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 9 - Wetlands Map



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit #10 - Soils Map



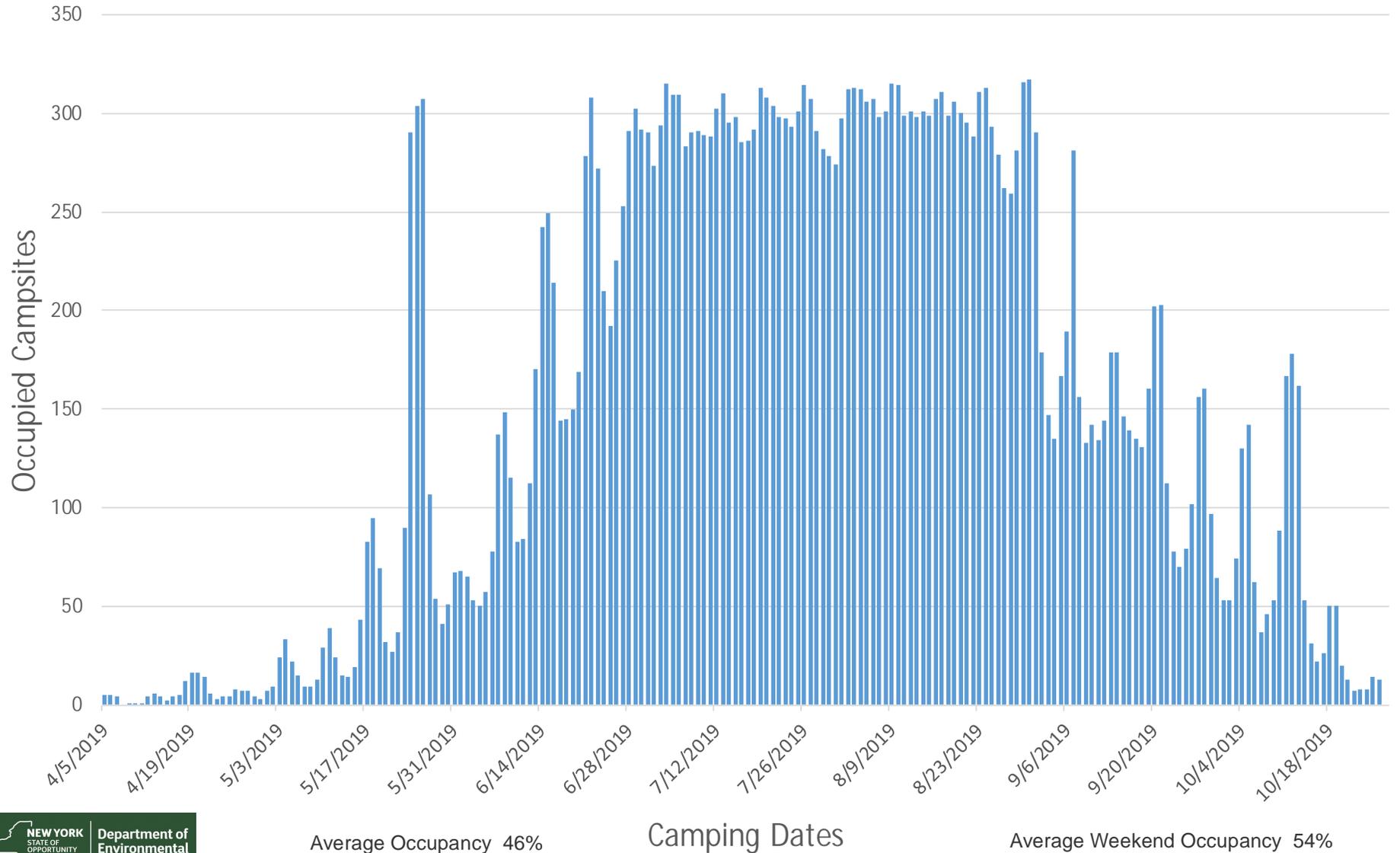
# Fish Creek Pond Campground

Exhibit # 11 - Campground occupancy 2019



Adirondack  
Park

## Fish Creek Pond Campground Occupied Campsites 2019



Average Occupancy 46%

Camping Dates

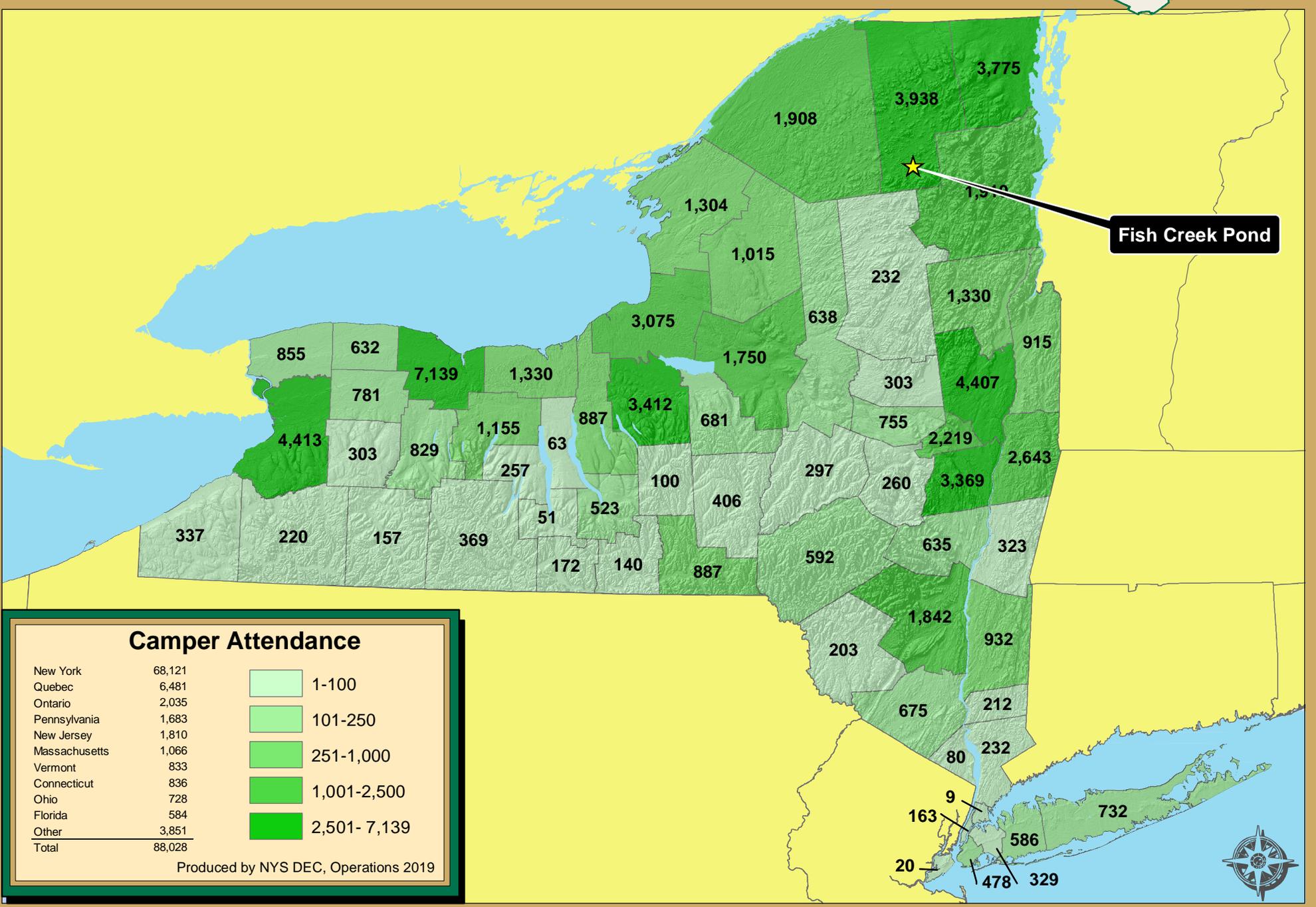
Average Weekend Occupancy 54%

# Fish Creek Pond

## Exhibit #12 - Camper Demographics 2019

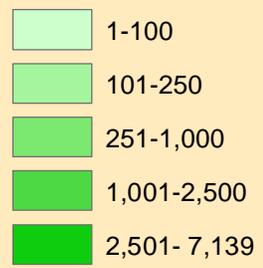


Adirondack  
Park



### Camper Attendance

New York	68,121
Quebec	6,481
Ontario	2,035
Pennsylvania	1,683
New Jersey	1,810
Massachusetts	1,066
Vermont	833
Connecticut	836
Ohio	728
Florida	584
Other	3,851
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,028</b>



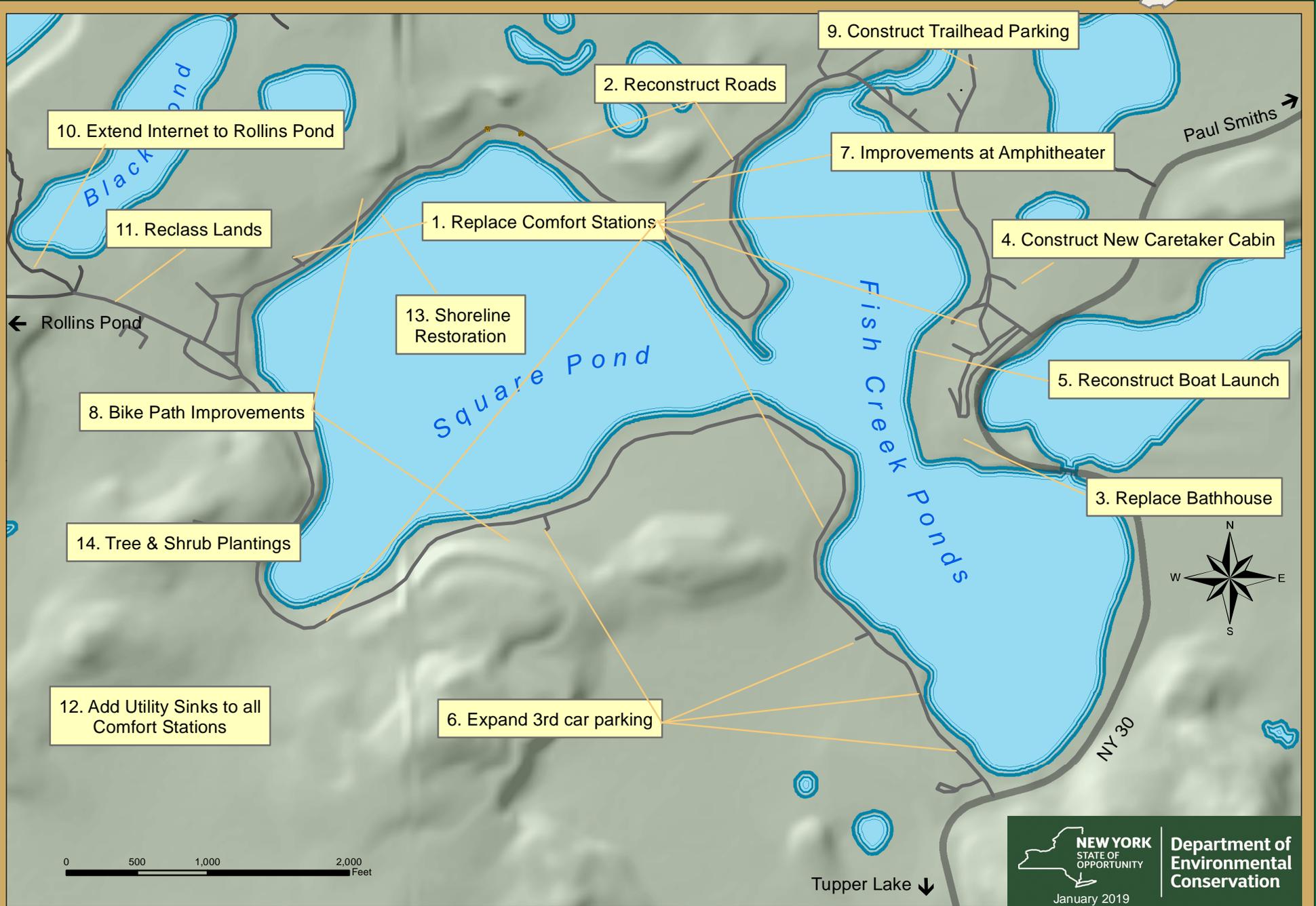
Produced by NYS DEC, Operations 2019

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 13 - Management Actions Map

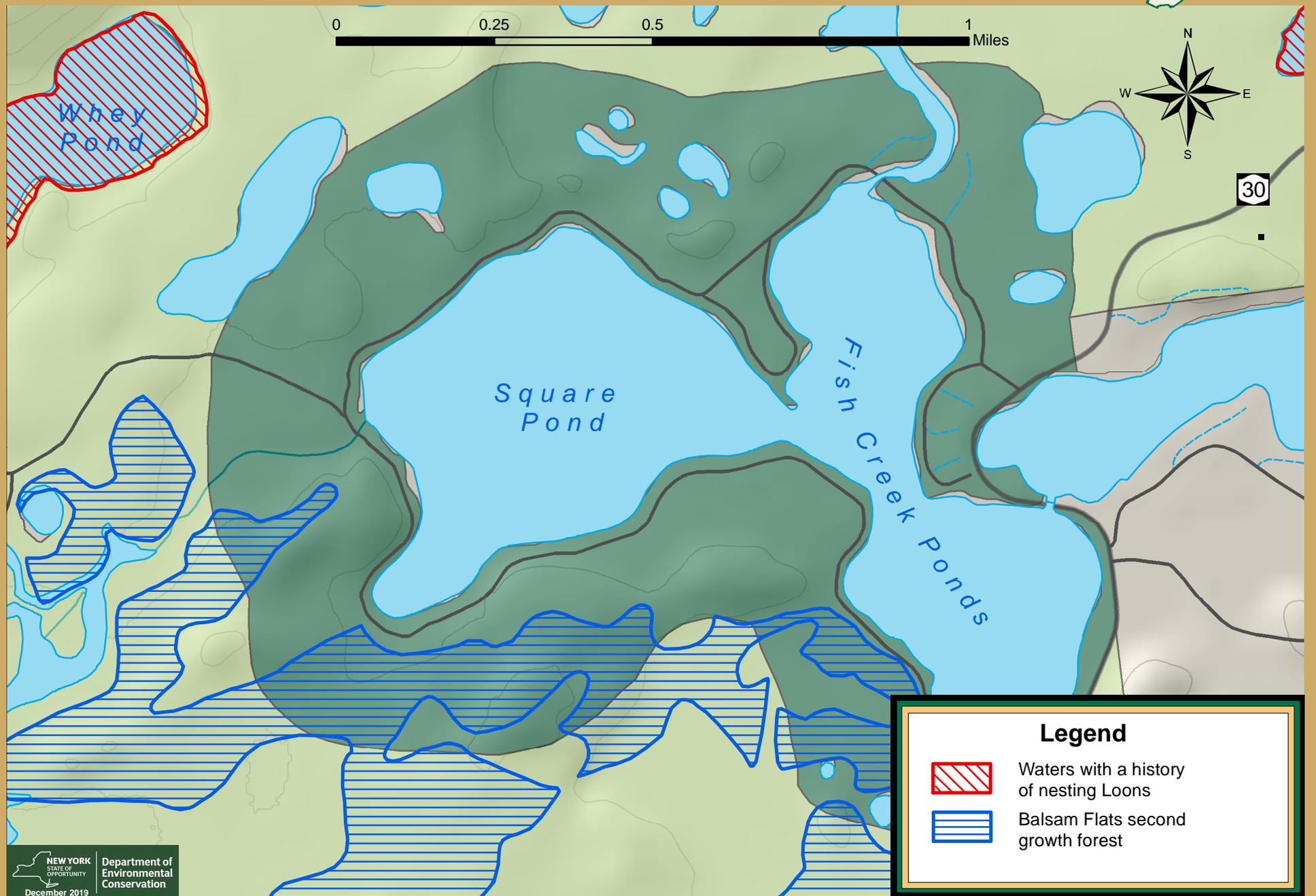
Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit #14 - Natural Heritage Occurrences



# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 15 - Multi Use Trail Proposed Improvements Map



Adirondack  
Park



← Rollins Pond

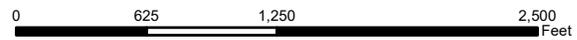
→ Smiths

Tupper Lake ↓

NY 30

### Legend

- Existing paved trail to be repaved
- Existing cleared trail to be paved
- Bike lane to be delineated on road



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

August 2019

# Fish Creek Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 16 - Proposed Road Improvements Map

Fish Creek Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park



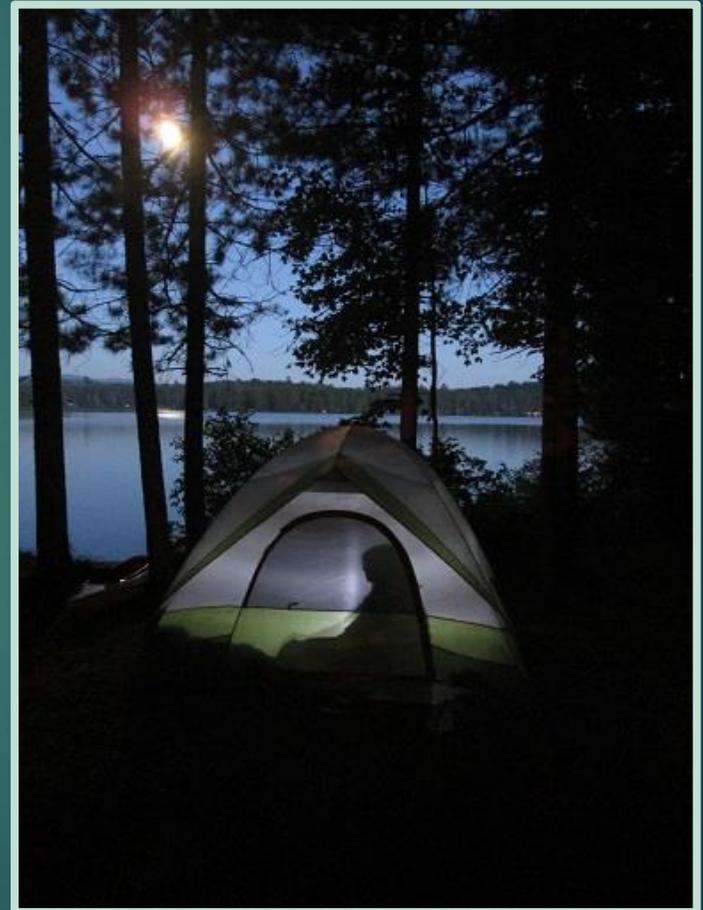
### Legend

- Existing road to be widened and paved
- Existing road to be paved & bike lane added
- Existing road to be paved
- Existing road

0 625 1,250 2,500 Feet

Exhibit # 17

# Photos of Fish Creek Ponds Campground



# Entrance Area

Ticket Booth



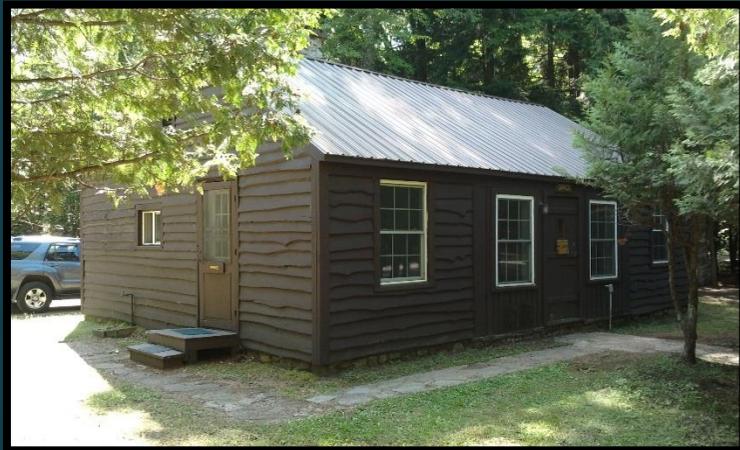
Entrance Sign



Caretaker Cabin



Ass't Caretaker Cabin



Garage



# Day Use Area



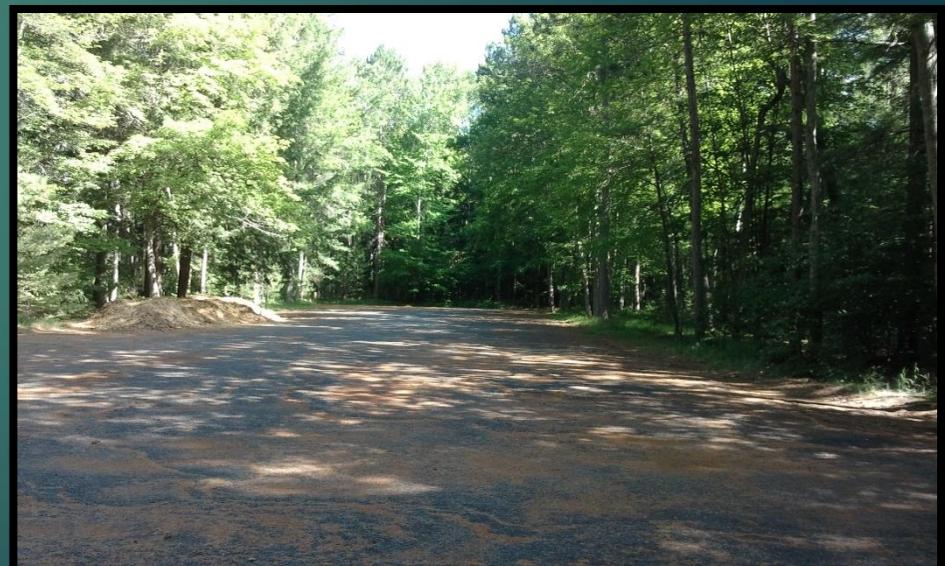
Bathhouse



Beach



Fishing Pier



Parking Area

# Day Use Area



Pavilion #1



Swings



Pavilion #3



Playground

# Amphitheater Area

Parking Area



Amphitheater

Volleyball Court



Staff Cabins

Information Kiosk





Firewood Storage Building



Boat Launch



Recycle center #1 (Bldg #36)



Recycle Center #2 (Bldg #37)



Comfort Station #2



Comfort Station #3



Comfort Station #7



Comfort Station #8



Comfort Station #9



Comfort Station #10



Comfort Station #12



Comfort Station #13



Comfort Station #14



Comfort Station #16



Comfort Station #17



Comfort Station #18



Comfort Station #22



Comfort Station #23



Comfort Station #24



Comfort Station #25



Comfort Station #26



Comfort Station #27



Comfort Station #28



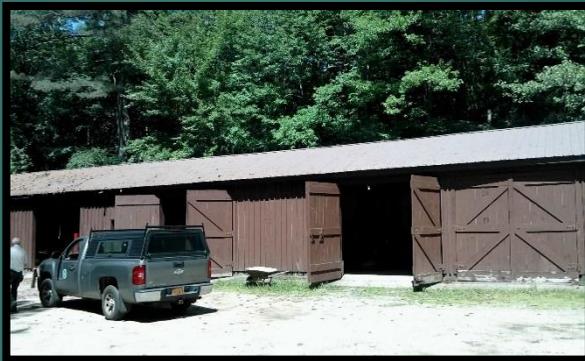
Comfort Station #29



Comfort Station #31



Comfort Station #32



Warehouse



Trailer Dump Station



Water Tank (System #1)



Water Tanks (System #2)

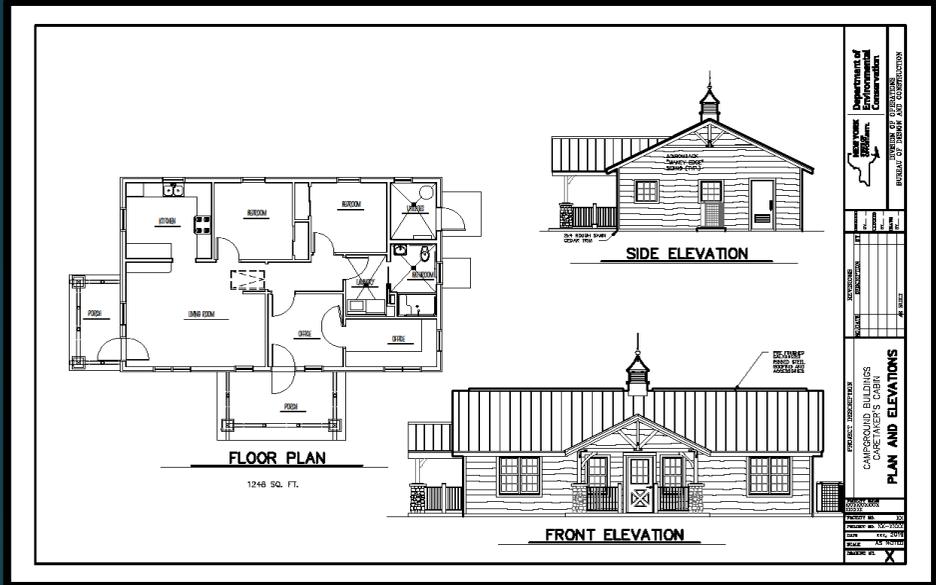


South Ticket Booth

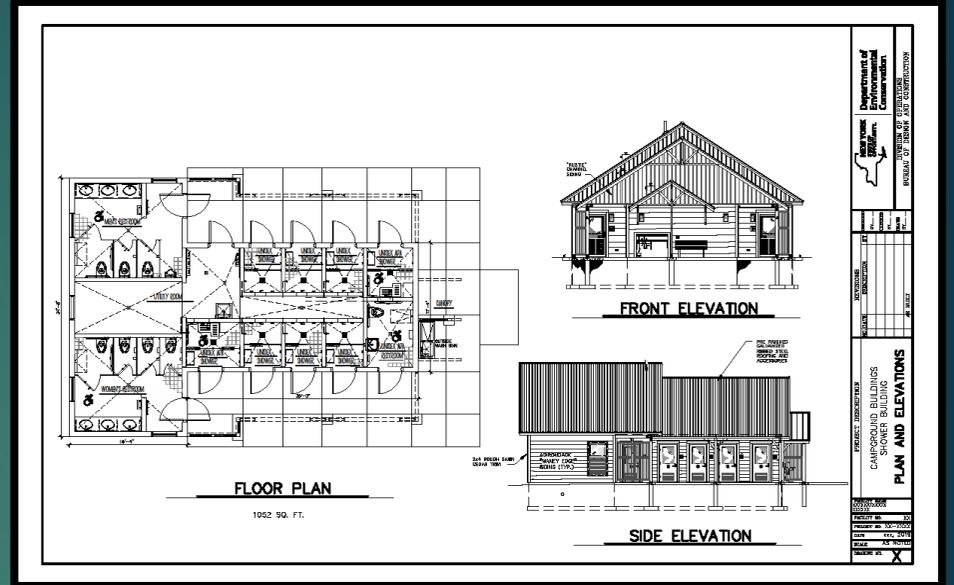


Previous Shoreline Restoration

# Typical Drawings



Caretaker Cabin



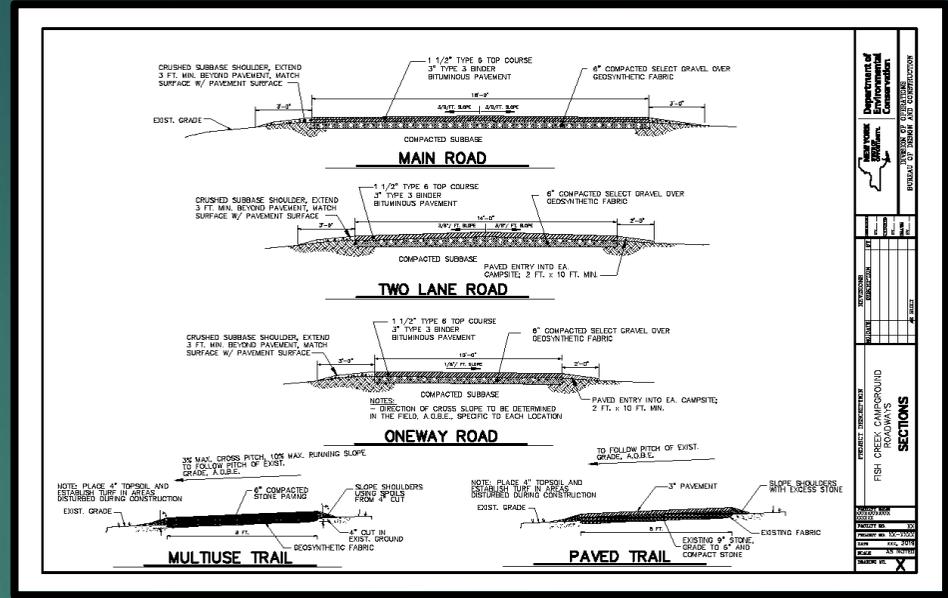
Comfort Station (8 showers)



# Typical Drawings



Bathhouse Comfort Station



Road & Trail Details

## Exhibit 19 Response to public comments

The Department held a public comment period from September 1 - October 2, 2020. During that time, 38 written comments and 329 survey responses were received, which is a higher than normal range for Campground and Day-Use Area Unit Management Plans (UMP). Submission numbers can not be viewed as discrete individuals or weighed purely on numerical majority. Members of the public were not limited to one form of comment or from submitting multiple responses. In addition, some comments were submitted on behalf of organizations or user groups representing many members. All comments regardless of type will be reviewed and considered as the final UMP is prepared. In review, 8 common themes emerged. The Department's responses are grouped by each theme below.

### Public comments regarding Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring, prevention, and potential impacts to waterbody.

Summarized Public Comments- The threat of invasive species and practices to control the spread are of concern to many respondents. Requests for access to boat washing stations and stewards, public education, and enhanced mitigation efforts are some of the issues related to aquatic invasive species voiced by the public.

DEC response- DEC currently funds a watercraft inspection steward at Fish Creek Campground boat launch. Current NYS Regulation 6 NYCRR Part 576 requires that all boaters must clean, drain, and dry their vessel and equipment before launching into a public waterbody. This requirement applies to boaters whether boat stewards are present or not. DEC has and will continue to provide a steward at Fish Creek Campground in the future as resources allow. Restrictions on boat launch access to steward hours primarily impact angler activity and create traffic congestion at the launch.

DEC's designation of sites for decontamination stations is dependent upon the presence of microscopic AIS and boater traffic patterns. The risk of AIS introduction and spread at Fish Creek will be reviewed for future contracts.

DEC has many education and outreach products that are made available through the watercraft inspection steward program. These include AIS tip strips, pet trade tips strips, fact sheets, watch

cards, towels, and keytainers. Additional locally targeted education and outreach programs are provided through the Adirondack PRISM in the Adirondack Plant Invasive Species Program.

DEC has awarded an Invasive Species Grant to the Upper Saranac Foundation to partly fund diver assisted suction harvesting of Eurasian watermilfoil and variable-leaf milfoil in Fish Creek. USF is eligible to apply for additional funding for further EWM and VLM removal efforts.

The collaboration between a multitude of organizations, councils, public outreach and education efforts are outlined in the New York State Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan. The goal of the plan is to “minimize the introduction, establishment, and proliferation of invasive species thereby limiting potential negative impacts” and does so through these partnerships and several initiatives.

Department staff will continue to educate and provided guidance to the public on this important effort. The UMP has been updated to include priority be placed on the reconstructed boat launch design incorporating adequate space for a boat steward area and/or infrastructure to support a boat washing station.

### [Public comments regarding plan to reconstruct the boat launch.](#)

Summarized Public Comments- Many comments were received in favor of relocating and improving the boat launch. However, some concerns were raised regarding the additional boat traffic that a new launch could bring through the facility.

DEC response- The size and configuration of the current launch is not adequately meeting the needs of users. There is not enough parking available, nor is there sufficient space to ensure the safety of a boat steward. This management action proposes to reconstruct the boat launch ramp near the fishing pier west of the day-use parking lot. This proposal will reduce congestion at the boat launch, provide a more functional launch area, afford adequate parking, and reduce traffic in the camping loops. In addition, the UMP has been updated to provide enough vehicle and trailer clearance to create a safe location for an aquatic invasive species monitoring steward and/or boat washing station. The existing launch area will be retained as a roof top launch site with no ramp for trailered boats provided. Signage will direct boaters to visit the steward for inspection before launching. Visitors are charged a day-use fee to access the launch, which may discourage overuse when there are other free access points to Upper Saranac Lake and other local

waterbodies. Based on data from the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program, only 36% of boats entering the water from the Fish Creek Pond launch are motorized. In comparison, 76% of boats launching from DEC's boat launch on Upper Saranac Lake are motorized. Additionally, program data has shown that day-use visitation has been consistently trending down at rate of 9% over the last five camping seasons. Overnight campground visitation is much higher than day-use visitation, and most campers tend to use non-motorized boats during their stay.

The Department is committed to monitoring use and working in cooperation with the Upper Saranac Lake Association, the Upper Saranac Foundation, the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program and other user groups and organizations to prevent overtaxing the resource.

### [Public comments regarding shoreline stabilization and shoreline erosion.](#)

Summarized Public Comments- Most comments from the public were in favor of shoreline stabilization and shoreline erosion mitigation proposals.

DEC Response- This management action proposes to repair an additional ~3000 feet of eroded shoreline by utilizing Department best practices and techniques, incorporating native vegetation, and maintaining the aesthetic of a natural shoreline. Design and implementation will be done in coordination with APA.

In addition, as part of the Department's ongoing Campsite Restoration Project, campsites will be rehabilitated on a rotating basis. During this time aspects such as screening, erosion, aesthetics and accessibility are addressed. Waterfront site rehabilitation will include a focus on correcting and mitigating impacts on the shoreline.

### [Public comments regarding plan to reconstructing and repaving campground roads and additional parking.](#)

Summarized Public Comments- Many comments were received both in favor and against the need for reconstructing and repaving the campground roads and formalizing parking areas.

While most comments were in favor of the repaving, some were concerned widening the road would affect the character of the campground and encourage speeding and the use of larger boats

and camping trailers. User safety, impact to the campsite footprint, erosion issues and stormwater runoff impact concerns were also raised.

DEC response- Much of the campground road system rehabilitation will be within the existing road footprint or within the existing impacted road shoulders requiring little additional vegetative clearing and limited topographic alterations. In addition, the rehabilitation will improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, assist in reducing impacts to wetlands and help alleviate stormwater erosion and sedimentation issues. Throughout the facility there are informal parking areas that have led to crumbling road shoulders and heavily impacted areas. By formalizing these parking areas, the Department is able to address and prevent any potential wetlands disturbance and discourage patrons from parking along the roadside and further damaging roads. Areas that have been identified as potential parking areas will require minimal vegetative clearing.

The road rehabilitation and paved parking areas will assist with addressing stormwater management. Road crowning to maintain sheet flow to appropriate sites to avoid resource impacts, adding check dams where needed to the existing cross drainage and providing adequate road and shoulder surface to limit adjacent soil compaction are methods that will be used. By supplying permeable, granular shoulders to roads and adding vegetation, along with continuing shoreline stabilization, impacts will be further reduced.

Additionally, widening the road will occur in an area identified as the greatest concern to user safety and meet DOT standards. Widening the road will allow for two-way travel at the most congested area of the roadway. Traffic speed limits will continue to be enforced by campground staff and signage. The UMP also proposes to make improvements to the bike path, which should further alleviate congestion on the campground roads.

### **Public comments regarding the trailer dumping stations.**

Summarized Public Comments- Comments received voiced the desire for an additional dump station near the entrance of the campground.

DEC Response- Currently there are three trailer dumping stations in the facility for campers to use. Based on staff observation and current volume of use, the Department does not feel an additional trailer dumping station is necessary at this time.

## Public comments regarding general condition of campsites and amenities within the facility.

Summarized Public Comments- Several responses from the public were in favor of rehabilitating the shower and comfort stations, rehabilitating campsites, replacing fireplaces and picnic tables, and improving campsite layout and screening.

DEC Response- These management actions are consistent with the 1990 *Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas* which states that facilities found to be contributing to the degradation of physical, biological and sociological resources of the recreation area will be rehabilitated to upgrade and/or stabilize resource values. The concerns regarding campsites have been noted and the UMP has been updated to include site restoration work which has been ongoing as part of the Department's Campsite Restoration Project. As part of the Department's Campsite Restoration Project, 2.5% of campsites per year are removed from inventory for rehabilitation. During this time aspects such as screening, erosion, aesthetics and accessibility are addressed. In situations where issues cannot be reasonably addressed an individual campsite may be relocated or closed. For more information on the Campsite restoration project or which sites at Fish Creek are currently being restored please visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/100146.html>.

## Public comments regarding accessibility and ADA standards in the campground.

Summarized Public Comments- Public concerns regarding accessibility and ADA standards in the campground.

DEC Response- An assessment was done in October 2020 by the Department's Statewide Accessibility ADA Coordinator and the plan has been updated to reflect the most current accessible features within the facility. The Department requires all new construction and rehabilitation projects to meet current ADA and Department of Health standards. For further information, please contact Leah Akins, DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator, at [accessibility@dec.ny.gov](mailto:accessibility@dec.ny.gov).

## Public comments regarding access and personal use of internet or electric utilities.

Summarized Public Comments- Several comments from the public expressed interest in access to an internet connection and/or the use of electric utilities for personal items.

DEC response- The management action regarding the extension of internet connection will be further addressed in a future UMP. However, the intended use of this internet connection is for administrative use relating to day to day operations of the facility and will not be available to the public. This use is consistent with the guidelines for appropriate use in the *Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan* for DEC campgrounds, which states facilities will be of a rustic nature without utility hookups and other elaborate facilities customarily provided by private campgrounds.

### General/ Other public concerns

Summarized Public Comments- Various comments were received on issues such as: Concerns about the use of generators and the need for more strict enforcement of quiet hours and less vendor restrictions should be placed on peddlers. Comments were also received regarding reservation website issues, limiting access to the website for out of state campers, and changing cancellation policies.

DEC Response- These comments have been noted, however, they refer to administrative matters that are outside of the scope of this UMP.

Summarized Public Comments- Comments expressed need for more staff in the campground.

DEC Response- Staff levels are determined administratively based on availability of funding, access to qualified employees, and programmatic need. Staffing issues are not included in the scope of this plan.

Summarized Public Comments- Demand for safe access to water from campsites.

DEC Response- Department regulations clearly state that all users are to access the waterbody from designated boat launch and day-use areas within the campground. Additionally, overuse of the shoreline from users will continue to add to the erosion issues and need for shoreline stabilization, as well as increase the potential for introducing invasive species to the waterbody by way of uninspected watercraft. No plan to construct any structure to access the water at the campsites are included in this UMP. In addition, Department staff continue to educate the public about such impacts and enforce existing rules and regulations as issues arise.

Summarized Public Comments- Several comments from the public were submitted regarding boat traffic, unsafe boat speeds, and limiting horsepower allowed on the water.

DEC Response -The *Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan* states the importance of maintaining the character of the Park regarding scale and intensity of water related use, and specifically in the type, speed, and number of watercrafts. The Department is committed to monitoring use and working in cooperation with APA, the Upper Saranac Lake Association, Upper Saranac Foundation, Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program, and other user groups to protect Fish Creek and Square Ponds and ensure reasonable carrying capacity is not exceeded. Law enforcement officials are available to intervene in situations deemed necessary.

Summarized Public Comments - Comments regarding the need for improvements at Rollins Pond Campground.

DEC Response- Although Fish Creek Pond and Rollins Pond Campgrounds share an entrance, they are managed as separate facilities and are located on separate forest preserve units. A UMP for the Rollins Pond Campground Intensive Use Area will be forthcoming and management actions such as the reclassification of land around Rollins Pond Campground entrance will be formally detailed and contemplated therein. Management actions that involve Rollins Pond and/or Saranac Lake Wild Forest have been included in this plan for public transparency, programmatic contiguity and are part of the complex planning that is required to manage co-located infrastructure and services.