



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

**AMENDMENT TO CAMPGROUNDS & DAY-USE
AREAS GENERIC UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR WATERCRAFT DECONTAMINATION
FACILITIES**

PUBLIC DRAFT

March 2022

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Operations, 3rd Floor

625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233

Governor KATHY HOCHUL

Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS

SUMMARY

Generic Unit Management Plan (UMP) for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas Amendment

This is an amendment to the Final Generic UMP for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas adopted August 1990 (Generic UMP). The Generic UMP provides information on the environmental setting, inventory of facilities, organizational structure, issues, constraints, management objectives, and effects for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas in both the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

The proposed amendment will allow for the construction and permanent placement of aquatic invasive species (AIS) decontamination facilities including equipment storage buildings, decontamination pad, and vehicle access. Because watercraft contaminated with AIS is a common pathway for the introduction of AIS into a waterbody, decontamination of watercraft is seen as an effective tool for reducing the risk of anthropogenic introduction.

Background

DEC manages 51 campgrounds in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks with over 1,000,000 visitor camper nights each season. The campgrounds and five special use areas at Lake George Beach, Prospect Mountain Highway, Hinckley Reservoir Picnic Area, Fourth Lake Picnic Area, and Lake George Battlefield Picnic Area also receive nearly 400,000 day-use visitors annually. Many of these visitors bring recreational watercraft with them to the campgrounds, arriving at these DEC facilities from every county in New York and from most states and Canadian provinces.

Aquatic Invasive Species Concerns

Research demonstrates that recreational watercraft are the greatest vector for transport and introduction of AIS throughout the United States. New York has close to half a million motorized boats and hundreds of thousands more non-motorized watercraft. In addition, recreational watercraft users visit New York from many states and Canadian provinces, some coming from locations with known infestations of the aquatic invasive plants and animals such

as hydrilla and spiny waterflea. Many visitors are unaware of the animals and plants that hitch a ride on their boats, trailers, and equipment to new locations.

Aquatic invasive plants and animals can greatly impact native ecosystems. Aquatic invasive plants can create dense beds of vegetation that impair swimming, fishing and navigation as well as impacting aquatic animals. In addition, invasive mussels and zooplankton can negatively impact water quality and lake ecology by direct competition, and by altering the cycling of nutrients.

Proposal to Construct Watercraft Decontamination Facilities at DEC Intensive Use Areas

With hundreds of thousands of registered motorized watercraft being operated in New York and many more non-motorized watercraft (e.g. canoes and kayaks) being used for recreation, sport, and commercial endeavors throughout New York, decreasing the risk of AIS spread to our lakes, ponds, and rivers is imperative. Watercraft inspection stewards provide education and outreach to many boaters at the campgrounds. As part of their interaction with the public they offer voluntary inspections and boat washes using special decontamination units that have high pressure and hot water to dislodge and remove AIS from the watercraft and trailers. Currently, decontamination units are housed in sheds that are placed seasonally across the Park. Moving the temporary sheds at the end of each season results in damage and is logistically difficult and time consuming.

The proposal's Full Environmental Assessment form under SEQRA shows no significant adverse environmental impacts resulting from the plan's implementation. As existing temporary sheds no longer fulfill the intended purpose, permanent watercraft decontamination facilities will be installed. All new installations will be undertaken pursuant to a DEC work plan. Any modifications to the siting criteria discussed below will include consultation with the APA.

Siting Criteria

The following are the siting criteria for the construction of the decontamination facilities:

- Located in a campground or day use area.

- Avoid wetlands, minimize extensive topographic alterations, limit vegetative clearing, and preserve the scenic, natural and open spaces resources of the Intensive Use Area.
- Set back a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high watermark and located to be reasonably screened from the waterbody to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof. Setback must be sufficient to avoid overland runoff from reaching any wetland or surface water (including permanent or intermittent streams, or drainage ditches that discharge to surface waters, and including discharges resulting from storm events). Where the retention of this dimension cannot be maintained, distances more or less than 150 feet may be considered on a site-specific basis via a State Land Consultation with the APA.

Description of Watercraft Decontamination Facility

(see attached building drawings)

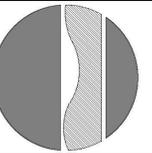
- The watercraft decontamination facility shall be a single story building not to exceed 320 square feet with a height of fifteen feet or less above existing grade.
- Exterior walls and siding shall incorporate natural materials or wood siding to the extent possible to blend with existing surroundings. Any exterior painted surfaces and roofs shall be a natural shade of green, grey or brown.
- Site-specific modifications may need to be made on a case-by-case basis via a State Land Consultation with the APA.

Description of Decontamination Pad Siting Criteria

- A stable and level surface should be designed and constructed to allow for the placement of the boat wash unit's decontamination pad to be laid flat on the road surface for boat inspection and cleaning. The pad should be constructed to the minimum dimensions possible to allow wash water to be contained, collected and recycled back to the unit for re-use or to run into an infiltration basin if the decontamination station does not recycle water. For locations that employ water recycling the pad will have a six-inch berm to contain wash water, which can be driven over. No ramp is needed.
- The pads need to be set up in such a manner that the boater doesn't have to excessively

maneuver the vehicle and trailer to drive onto the pad. Preferably it will be a straight drive on entry, as allowed by road layout/access.

- A relatively flat location within close proximity of the shed/decontamination unit is required to allow ample room for both the spray wand and waste water reclaim hose to reach the watercraft. The location should be level or sloped in a manner as to encourage wash water to naturally drain from the watercraft.
- Modifications may be considered on a site-specific basis via a State Land Consultation with the APA.

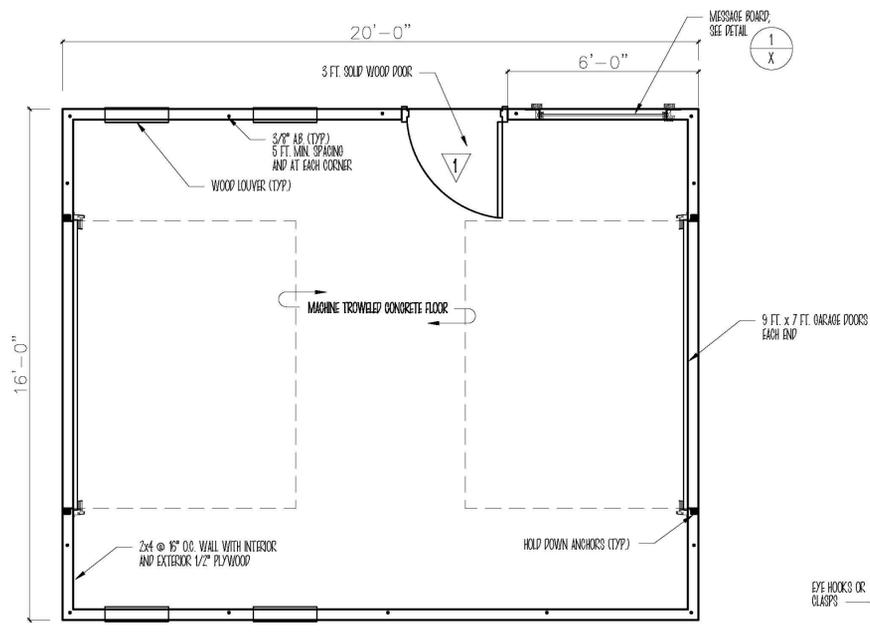


DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	DRAWN BY
BY <i>DLB</i>	BY <i>DLB</i>	BY <i>DLB</i>

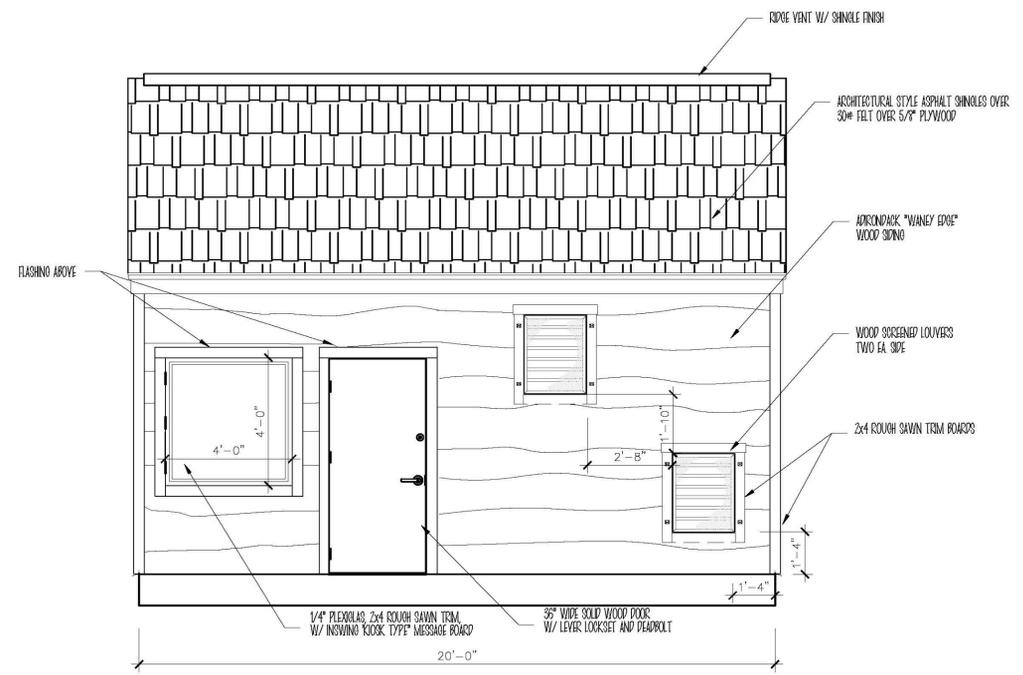
REVISIONS	BY	DESCRIPTION
NO. DATE		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
NYS DEC
CAMPGROUND BUILDINGS
BOAT WASH BUILDING

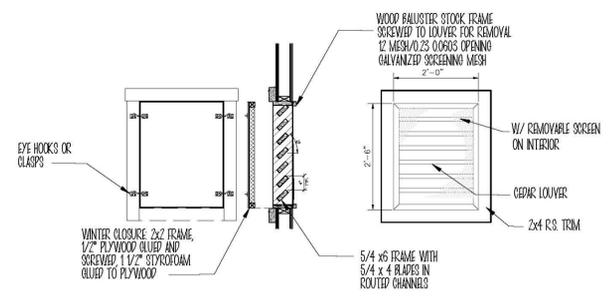
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DRAWING NO.	X



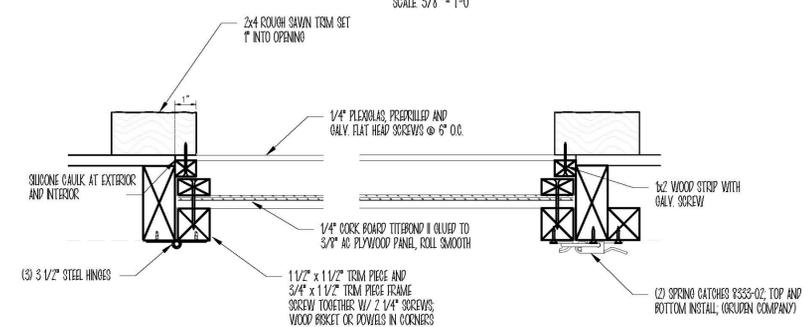
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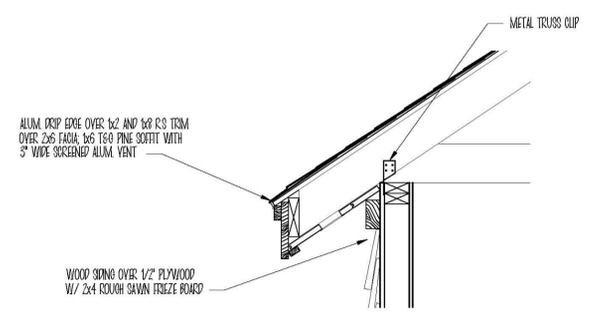
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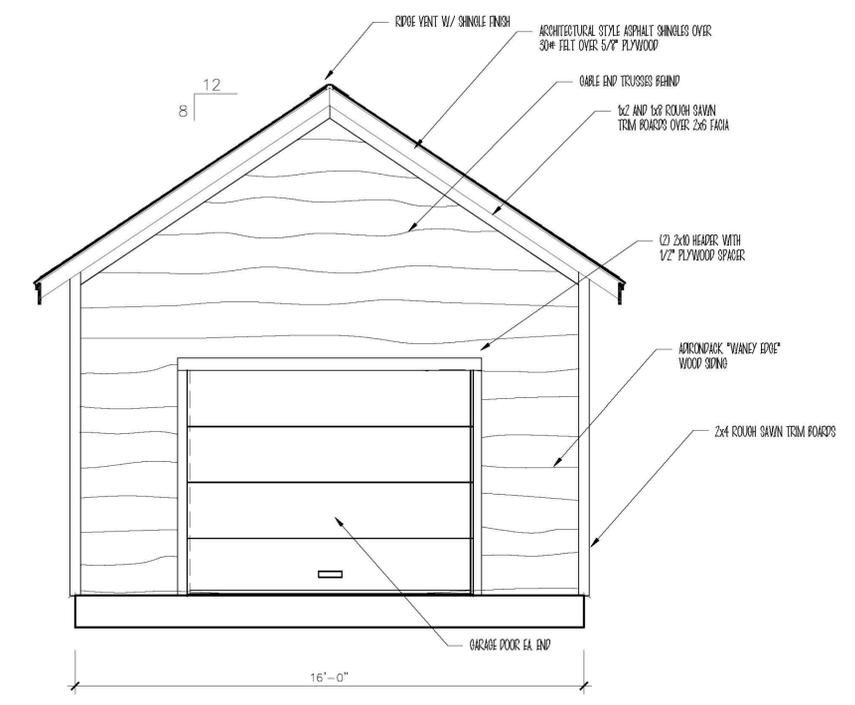
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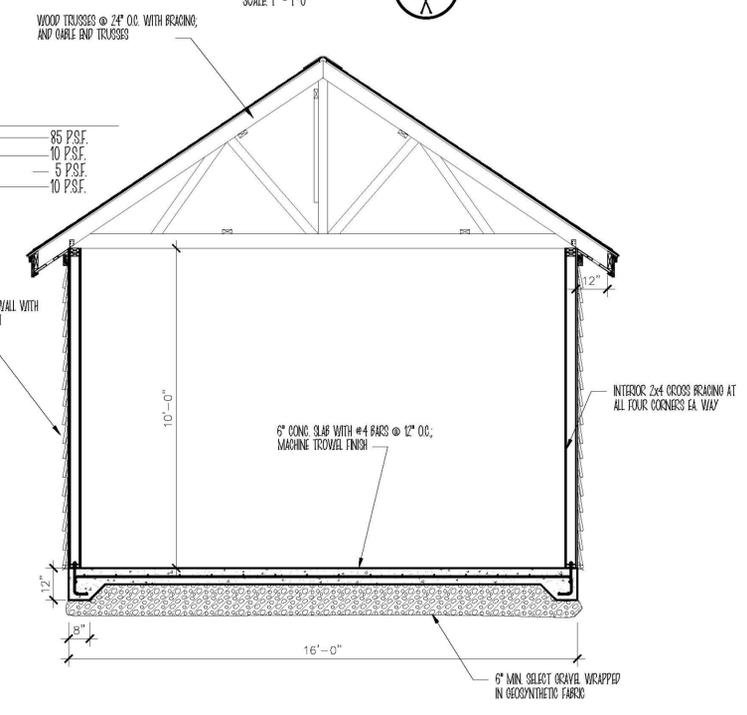
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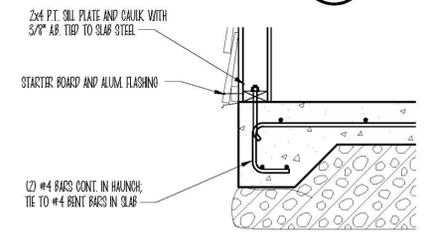
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SECTION
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HAUNCH DETAIL
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