



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Golden Beach Public Campground & Day Use Area

Unit Management Plan

Proposed Final

Hamlet of Raquette Lake, Hamilton County, New York

February 2024

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Operations, 3rd Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233

Governor KATHY C. HOCHUL

Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS

GOLDEN BEACH PUBLIC CAMPGROUND SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTE: Unit management plans for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) 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.

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.

Central Office staff, in conjunction with 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
GOLDEN BEACH PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria referenced in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and DEC Management Policy for Forest Preserve state-owned lands, DEC has established a management plan for the five-year operation of Golden Beach Public Campground.

Goals include: managing recreation programs to ensure protection of the natural resources 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 14 management actions are being proposed:

Proposed Management Actions*

- Replace former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.
- Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with single building.
- Replace bathhouses with a pavilion.
- Replace ticket booth.
- Rehabilitate campground roads.
- Replace trailered boat launch with an accessible hand launch.
- Replace trailer dump station.
- Rehabilitate water system.
- Rehabilitate campground sewage system.
- Replace overhead lines with underground system.
- Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area, reclassify intensive use acreage to Wild Forest where applicable.
- Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.
- Tree and shrub plantings.
- 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. However, should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved, public dissatisfaction, an adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase. Existing care, custody, and control practices currently preclude choosing these alternatives.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area is located on the southeastern shore of the 5,935-acre Raquette Lake. The remote Central Adirondack setting of this facility offers a relaxing, quiet beauty all its own. The campsites offer privacy; they are large and well forested. Camping equipment from tents to 40' RVs can be accommodated. A picnic area is available adjacent to the swimming beach. Golden Beach boasts one of the largest natural beaches in the area for swimming.

Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Canoe and boat rentals are available in the hamlet of Raquette Lake. Good opportunities for fishing exist in this area. Major species in Raquette Lake are Brook Trout, Lake Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Whitefish, Bullhead, Yellow Perch, and Smelt. Hiking and bicycling are popular within the campground and on surrounding Forest Preserve lands and local roadways.

The Adirondack Park Visitors Interpretive Center at Newcomb is 30 miles east on N.Y.S. Route 28. The Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake is located 8 miles east on N.Y.S. Route 28 and features the history of the Adirondack Park.

The hamlet of Raquette Lake is 3 miles west on N.Y.S. Route 28, and offers restaurants, boat rentals, and scenic excursions on Raquette Lake with dining on board. Golf courses are available in the Town of Indian Lake and the Town of Inlet.

1. Location

The campground is located on State Route 28, 6 miles west of the Hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake in the Hamlet of Raquette Lake, Hamilton County, Arietta Township, Totten and Crossfield's purchase, all or portions of Lot numbers 34 and 42.

2. History

In recognition of the ever-increasing demand for camping areas in the Adirondacks, the Conservation Department approved plans for the development of public campgrounds in 1897. Construction proceeded over the next few years with the Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area opening in 1931.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Year	Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area Improvements
1931	Campground opened to meet demand for public campsites in the area.
1938	Existing caretaker’s cabin constructed.
1947	Existing bathhouses and vault toilet building #7 constructed.
1967	Existing lifeguard cabin, ranger cabin, garage, and pumphouse constructed. Existing comfort stations #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 constructed.
1968	Existing ticket booth constructed.
1979	Existing shower building constructed.
1988	Campground roads reconditioned.
1994	Existing recycling center constructed.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use Area

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
204 campsites	8 picnic tables
204 picnic tables	5 hibachi grills
204 fireplaces/rings	2 spigots
22 water spigots	
Design capacity – 1,224 persons (204 x 6/site)	Design capacity – 48 persons (8 x 6/table)

2. Roads and Parking Areas

There are 2.25 miles of paved roads, for both two-way and one-way traffic. The average road width is 20 feet. The paved roads were last reconditioned in 1988. All roads are paved and in poor condition. Paved parking lots are located at the recycling center, day-use area, beach, and boat launch areas.

Parking Lot Location	Approximate Capacity
Recycling Center	5 cars
Day-use Area/Beach	30-45 cars
Boat Launch	10-15 cars/trailer units

3. Buildings

Bldg. #	Bldg. Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq. ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Ticket Booth	Near entrance	80	Fair	1968
(002)	Caretaker Cabin	Near entrance	809	Good	1938
(003)	Garage	Near entrance	918	Good	1967
(004)	Shower House	Near campsite 5	682	Fair	1979
(005)	Comfort Station #1	Near campsite 123	374	Good	1967
(006)	Comfort Station #2	Near campsite 27	374	Good	1967
(007)	Comfort Station #3	Near campsite 39	374	Good	1967
(008)	Lifeguard Cabin	Near beach	570	Fair	1967
(009)	Women's Bathhouse	Near beach	496	Fair	1947
(010)	Men's Bathhouse	Near beach	496	Fair	1947
(011)	Pumphouse	Near boat launch	480	Fair	1967
(012)	Ranger Cabin	Near campsite #98	569	Good	1967
(013)	Vault Toilet Building #7	Near campsite#169	272	Poor	1947
(014)	Comfort Station #4	Near campsite #78	374	Good	1967
(015)	Comfort Station #5	Near campsite #70	374	Good	1967
(016)	Comfort Station #6	Near campsite #110	374	Good	1967
(017)	Refuse/Recycling Center	Near entrance	320	Good	1994

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted October 2020.

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 campground is a standard design, yellow, with a reflective stop sign on both sides, and reflectors on each post. There is a gate at the entrance to the leach field road. All barriers are closed and 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 effluent collector mains, with one pneumatic lift station pumping to a remote leach field, located approximately 1600 feet south of the campground on the opposite side of N.Y.S. Route 28. The Golden

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Beach Campground and Day Use Area septic system, which is within the borders of the Blue Ridge Wilderness, was constructed in 1967 and should have been included within the intensive use area.

Toilet #7 is a sealed vault unit. This facility is in poor condition and used only in emergencies when electric power is interrupted to the campground. After use, the vault is pumped by septic tank pumper for licensed disposal. Soil percolation tests in 1967 indicate favorable soil conditions for ground disposal.

Septic tank content is periodically disposed by septic tank pumper, with effluent transported by licensed sewage disposal firms. (See Exhibit 5a-5c.)

A DEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit #NY 0239356 was issued in 1991. The application covers the systems noted below:

Building Type/Number	Toilets (T), Sinks (S) Showers (SH)	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/Seepage Pits	Construction Date
Caretaker Cabin (2)	1T, 2S, 1 SH	500	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Dumping Station	n/a	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Comfort Station #1 (5)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Comfort Station #2 (6)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Comfort Station #3 (7)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Vault Toilet Building #7 (13)	M-4T, W-4T	2,000	Vault	1967
Comfort Station #4 (14)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Comfort Station #5 (15)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Shower Building (4)	M-1T,1U,4S,4SH W-2T,4S,4SH	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1982
Comfort Station #6 (16)	M-2T,1U,1S W-4T,2S	2,000	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Rangers Cabin (12)	1T,2S,1SH	500	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Lifeguard Cabin (8)	1T,2S,1SH	500	Centralized Leach Field	1967
Recycling Center (17)	2S	1,000	Centralized Leach Field	1995

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

6. Solid Waste

Annual refuse generated is estimated to be 240 cubic yards. At this time solid waste is transported via DEC garbage truck and is disposed of at the Indian Lake Transfer Station. A recycling program is operated at the campground. There is an estimated 2.5 tons of recyclables and construction and demolition material transported by DEC trucks to the Town of Inlet Sanitary Landfill.

This campground has a centralized recycling and refuse disposal facility with a staff person to manage. A brochure is available to instruct campers of its availability and required use. The Recycling Center is tied into the water and sewage systems.

All day-use areas are carry-in, carry-out and appropriate signage has been erected to inform the public.

7. Telephone

The main phone number for the campground is (315) 354-4230, 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, regulations, comfort stations, and camping sites.

9. Electric System

The main campground has 1.1 miles of overhead primary electrical distribution with overhead and underground secondary distribution. National Grid Power Corporation provides electricity to the campground's primary lines. Average yearly electric consumption is 9,625 kWh. As part of the Dept's regular maintenance, the right-of-way receives annual hazardous tree removal and brushing. (See Exhibit #7a-c.)

10. Potable Water System

Two wells were drilled in 1992 and new pipelines were installed between drilled wells and the pump chlorination building.

There are five water storage tanks located in the pumphouse. Each tank has a capacity of 422 gallons. The tanks are hydro-pneumatic and chlorinated. From the hydro-pneumatic tanks, the chlorinated water flows through an above grade – serpentine pipe contact system which consists of 16” diameter pipe with a total length equivalent of 83’-10”. From the serpentine pipe contact system, the water flows to the distribution system.

Well	Capacity
Well #1	100 feet depth 45 g.p.m. yield capacity 49 g.p.m. pump capacity (5 hp)
Well #2	225 feet depth 25 g.p.m. yield capacity 30 g.p.m. pump capacity (5 hp)

Water is distributed via 1.6 mile of waterlines to 24 spigots throughout the facility, 22 of which are in the camping area and 2 are in the day-use area. (See Exhibit #6a-6c.)

11. Fuel Systems

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

Product Type	Tank Size Gal/Lb	Location	Annual Use
Propane	1,000 gal	Shower Building	1045 gal
Propane	2- 120 gal	Caretaker’s Cabin	312 gal
Propane	120 gal	Assistant Caretaker’s Cabin	35 gal
Propane	120 gal	Lifeguard Cabin	15 gal
Propane	120 gal	Recycling Building	85 gal

12. Trails

There are no marked hiking trails within the campground, however, opportunities for hiking exist nearby. Death Brook Falls is a scenic spot about a quarter mile from Route 28, across the highway from Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area. Also just across Route 28 from the Campground and Day Use Area is the 47,000-acre Blue Ridge Wilderness, which offers several hiking opportunities. The Slim Pond trailhead is less than one mile north of the campground on Route 28 and the Shedd Lake trailhead is to the south.

Biking is another popular activity at the campground. Cyclists can ride the campground roads as well as miles of surrounding public roadways.

13. Boating

The boat launch area is shallow and unusable for large boats. The draft Strategic Plan for Modernization of DEC Waterway Access Facilities in NYS, dated September 1987, recommended the removal of the “inadequate” boat launch and the installation of a new relocated boat launch. The concrete launch ramp was removed in 2021 due to its poor condition. The launch now consists of gravel and natural material with 2-degrees of pitch. The launch is currently used by small boats or car-top boats and is 12 feet wide improved blacktop. There is one floating dock, 16 feet long x 8 feet wide, with two walk-on ramps 3 feet wide which is removed annually. There is a paved parking area which is 8,600 square feet and has a capacity of 15 vehicles with trailers.

14. Swimming

Swimming at DEC campgrounds is unsupervised by lifeguards. DEC advises those wishing to swim to access the water from the designated beach area(s) only. Beaches are maintained and patrolled

by campground staff. Swimming is prohibited from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Park and Recreation Aide 7
1	Park and Recreation Aide 5
1	Park and Recreation Aide 4
1	Park and Recreation Aide 3

2. Fee Schedule 2022

Daily Fees 2022 Open Dates: May 20 – Sept 5	
Camping/night – NYS Resident	\$20.00
Camping/night – Non-resident	\$25.00
Day Use - Auto	\$8.00
Day Use - Walk In	\$2.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$4.00
Day Use - Bus	\$50.00
Ice - Bag	\$2.00
Firewood - Bag	\$9.00

3. Permits

Peddling permits may be issued annually for firewood, boat rentals, and camper supplies. A fee of \$2.00 x number of campsites is charged for each vendor. In 2021, no permits were issued.

4. Off-Season Use

Department trucks plow roads to the campground maintenance garage. There are no formalized recreational uses of the facility in the off-season. However, roadside sites are sometimes used during the off season as primitive sites. Additional campground use during winter months occurs from passive recreational pursuits such as cross-country skiing, hiking, and ice fishing.

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

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

through twelve-years old can request a *Junior Naturalist Journal* from campground staff. When the journal is completed, children bring it to the appropriate DEC staff person, who reviews the journal and then gives the child a Junior Naturalist patch. This program is dependent on funding being available and may not be offered every year. 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, and the I Love My Park Day, a volunteer cleanup activity. Additionally, in an effort to restore the former Nature Recreation Program, Environmental Educators will be hired in the Albany and Regional offices and be dispatched to the campgrounds to provide scheduled programming and educational opportunities for campers. This program is also heavily dependent on funding being available.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The average elevation of Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area is 1,790 feet. Campsites rise moderately from the lakeshore to a maximum elevation of 1,800 feet. (See Exhibit #2).

b. Water

Raquette Lake is 5,395 acres in size with a maximum depth of 96 feet. There are 44 campsites located on the southeastern shore of the lake. The campground beach is also located on the southeast shore.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A total of 21 acres of palustrine wetland have been identified in several locations within the campground. In the Adirondacks, these palustrine wetlands are dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent vegetation, emergent mosses or lichens. The wetlands are generally defined by their low gradient or flow and where the substrate is mud or sand.

Wetlands were mapped by the Adirondack Park Agency staff after an on-site field investigation during the 1997 UMP and reviewed again in 2022. The map does not depict shallow or deep-water marsh within the lake.

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 #8).

d. Soils

Soil associations consist primarily of:

- #015A - Loxley-Beseman Complex
- #017A - Beseman-Rumney-Loxley Complex
- #650C - Berkshire-Adams-Colton Complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, bouldery
- #721D - Becket-Tunbridge Complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very bouldery

The soils of Adams-Colton association are poorly suited to crops or pasture as they are droughty, strongly acid, and low in available plant nutrients. As they are susceptible to water and wind erosion, they are well suited for forest cover. In the Adirondacks, areas of this soil association are important for recreational use. Many of the public campgrounds operated by DEC are located on soils of this association. (See Exhibit #9).

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are several different forest types present in the campground. These include Northern Hardwoods, Mixed Woods, White Pine, Hemlock, Spruce, and wetland species. Vegetation in the immediate campsite area is affected by intensive use. A number of trees are removed annually to eliminate them as hazards to the campground visitors. Replanting is necessary to replace trees removed in heavy use areas.

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. No rare plants or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area.

c. Wildlife

Wildlife communities found in and around Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area reflect those species commonly associated with northern hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forests that are transitional to the boreal forests of higher latitudes.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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. For a more complete description of wildlife species and habitats, refer to the Blue Ridge Wilderness and Moose River Plains Wild Forest unit management plans.

d. Fisheries

Raquette Lake is 5,395 acres in size with a maximum depth of 96 feet. Fish species present include Smallmouth Bass, Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Landlocked Salmon (rare), Brown Bullhead, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, Rainbow Smelt, Brook Trout. Trout species have been stocked in past years.

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 APSLMP requires that all campgrounds and day-use areas will be of a rustic nature. Natural materials will be used to the fullest extent possible in 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 (ECL), 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 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 programs to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the state.

E. Campground Generic Unit Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the Generic Unit Management Plan/EIS and contains an 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 facilities or visiting but not staying overnight). Camping attendance numbers at this facility have been steady for the last five years with 87% of all campers visiting from New York State and the remaining 13% from other states and countries. Campers stay an average of 4.1 nights and 95% of campers arrive after making a reservation. Average

Golden Beach Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2021	33,276	1,632	33,977
2020	29,571	1,505	31,076
2019	27,122	1,186	28,308
2018	31,501	1,796	33,297
2017	27,849	682	28,531
Avg	29,864	1,360	31,038

camping attendance at this facility is down approximately 15% from levels reported 20 years ago. Day-use attendance at this facility has fluctuated during the last five-year period. Day-Use attendance totals are about 65% those reported 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from passive recreational pursuits such as cross-country skiing, hiking, 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 #10).

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

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

permits (TRPs), peddler permits, sales of Empire Passports, and sales of firewood. Revenue reported from camping and day-use follows the same trends reported above in the attendance trends.

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Golden Beach					
Year	Camping	Day Use	Ice	Firewood	Total
2021	\$209,525	\$3,734	\$9,250	\$8,826	\$231,335
2020	\$162,465	\$3,716	\$6,870	\$0*	\$173,051
2019	\$188,105	\$2,982	\$9,277	\$8,565	\$208,929
2018	\$194,155	\$4,320	\$11,294	\$4,094	\$213,863
2017	\$191,220	\$1,262	\$8,072	\$4,364	\$204,918
Avg	\$189,094	\$3,202	\$8,952	\$6,462	\$206,419

Operating costs for Golden Beach average \$125,000 annually.

**Firewood was not sold at the facility in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has been excluded from average revenue calculation.*

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 continued character and integrity to intensive recreational use at this location and will assure that 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. None of the comfort stations or shower amenities currently meet accessibility standards.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (204)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer Dump Station	1 for every 100 sites	2	1	1
Potable Water Supply	55 gal/day/site	11,220 gpd	101,800 gpd	None
8 Day-Use Picnic Tables	5 gal/day/picniker	240 gpd		
Water Spigots	1/10 campsites	21	22	None
	1/60 picknickers	1	2	
Lavatories (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	14	21	None
	1 for every 60 picnickers	1		
Toilets/Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites	42	44	None
	2 for every 60 picnickers	2		
Utility Sinks	Conveniently located	8	2	6
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	17	8	9

*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes

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 Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area will adhere to all requirements and guidance that should be met for treatment and dispersal systems.

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many of the 6,000 campsites operated by DEC have been in continuous use since the campgrounds opened. Depending on site design and level of occupancy, they are showing their age in terms of loss of vegetation screening, soil compaction, drainage issues and site amenity needs. To address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the condition and needs of each facility. Restoration work will include tree and shrub plantings, replacement of lost soils, regrading

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

of sites, drainage improvements, evaluating the design and size of campsites, and replacement of deteriorated tables and fireplaces. In most cases, sites that require restoration work will be removed from inventory while work is being completed. In 2022, sites #76, 116, 118, 178, and 184 were selected for restoration work and sites #32, 34, 49, 53, and 175 were selected for 2023. Signs have been posted at the campground and reservations will not be taken for these sites.

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 any 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 below an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors. Concerns voiced by visitors included age and condition of facility infrastructure, particularly regarding the comfort stations and a lack of staff and lifeguards available on site. Campers noted issues with site conditions, including the need for grading and improved drainage and a lack of screening. This plan seeks to address these concerns in the proposed management actions.

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	Number of Responses	# Good or Excellent	% Good or Excellent
2021	284	193	68%
2020*	-	-	-
2019	57	36	63%
2018	94	71	75%
2017	240	177	74%

**Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual camper survey was not conducted in 2020.*

d. Historical Assets

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that the southwestern border of 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 consulted in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

e. Adjacent Lands

The campground encompasses 40 acres of lands classified as Intensive Use and the perimeter boundary totals 3.9 miles. The entire northern boundary of the Intensive Use area borders the Sargent Ponds Wild Forest. Directly across Route 28 is the Blue Ridge Wilderness, and to the southern end of the campground is the Moose River Plains Wild Forest.

The adjacent 82,339-acre Moose River Plains Wild Forest offers many recreational opportunities, including hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing, mountain biking, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. Popular hiking attractions include Black Bear, Rocky and Sawyer Mountains, and the Northville-Placid Trail.

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. DEC regulation 6 NYCRR Part 192.5 is in effect prohibiting the import of firewood into New York unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source. Staff share this information when 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

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

and Forestry developed the *Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management 2022 Program Report*. The 2022 report states that bush honeysuckle is widespread throughout the campground and was not managed. Garlic mustard was mapped and removed from sites 14, 16 -18, 20, 22, 37, 39, 41, 43, 52 -54, 61, 65, 67, 78, 89, 93, 102, 104, 109, 130, 136, and the bathroom near site 119. In total 1,238 plants were removed from 21 sites. Garlic mustard management should remain the top priority, as the number of plants removed has fluctuated since 2018 and saw a sharp increase in 2022. Winged euonymus should continue to be a survey priority to ensure early management. Bush honeysuckle is abundant throughout the campground and management is not recommended at this time as reintroduction is likely. Reed canary grass was observed in 2022 between sites 182 and 184. This campground should be monitored annually to document potential re-emergence or invasion by other species.

Variable-leaf milfoil has been documented in Raquette Lake at the Hamlet of Raquette Lake boat launch, staffed by a member of the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program with the objective of monitoring boats utilizing the waterway and to detect and document the distribution of aquatic invasive plant infestations. The boat launch area at Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area currently has signage and an invasive species disposal receptacle available for boaters.

DEC works cooperatively with Paul Smiths College and the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program to address the aquatic invasive species. In addition, 6 NYCRR Part 576 requires that all boaters clean, drain, and dry their boats before launching into public waterbodies including Raquette Lake. 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.

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

g. General Operations

Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area is a popular facility used during the spring through fall seasons for camping, fishing, and boating. The rest of the year, this campground experiences some informal visitation during the big game hunting season, snowshoeing, fishing, 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 documents in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index of the manual is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D of the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan.

h. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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 services, programs, and facilities provided to determine the level of accessibility. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, include 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

G. The Climate Act and Climate Mitigation Efforts on Forest Preserve Lands

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).

A record of accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record. 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. For further information, please contact the DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@dec.ny.gov

DEC continues to transition its facilities to be more accessible for people with disabilities. Based on a facility accessibility evaluation conducted in Summer 2022, the following facilities have been constructed to the relevant ADA/ABA accessibility guidelines at Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area: Campsites 5 and 120. These facilities will not be marked as accessible on public outreach materials (including maps, website, etc.), however, until a fully ADA-compliant restroom is available at this facility. Also, based on the same facility accessibility evaluation, the shower building is only ambulatory accessible and needs to be renovated in order to meet current ADA/ABA standards.

G. The Climate Act and Climate Mitigation Efforts on Forest Preserve Lands

In the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act), New York State committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state and to ultimately achieve net zero emissions. In accordance with Section 7(2) of the Climate Act, DEC’s CP-49 Climate Change and DEC Action, and the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan), the management actions proposed in this UMP have taken climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and the entirety of the Climate Act into consideration.

A key element of the Climate Act is achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions across New York State by 2050. Section 7 of the Climate Act requires all New York State Agencies to consider climate change in management decision making and approvals processes. The Scoping Plan, which was

based on strategies developed by sector-specific advisory panels, forms a framework for how the State as a whole would address the Climate Act's objectives. Following best management practices on Forest Preserve lands helps continue to ensure that management actions release minimal greenhouse gas emissions, and that the Forest Preserve continues to effectively sequester and store carbon – contributing to climate mitigation and the Climate Act's 2050 requirement of 85% reduction in GHG emissions from 1990 levels, with a goal of net-zero emissions. The Scoping Plan's Chapter 15 on Agriculture and Forestry continues by mentioning, "Management of New York's forests, to promote tree health, recreation, wildlife habitat, and wood products, among other reasons, also has many implications for long-term carbon storage and sequestration" (pg. 274). Forests are the only natural, large-scale, and continuous means (on land) for removing CO₂ from the atmosphere; and they have the greatest potential for storing that carbon long-term, as the sequestered carbon stays locked up in the standing trees and the durable wood products that come from the timber harvested from non-Forest Preserve lands. The value of carbon sequestration and storage is additive - it is a benefit that forests naturally provide, in addition to all other social, health, environmental, and economic benefits. This means the total value of healthy forests is much higher than any one unique aspect. It also means the same strategies that preserve healthy forests are strategies for maintaining carbon sequestration and storage. Protecting the long-term health of the Forest Preserve will continue to be critical for adapting to climate change, mitigating its effects, producing resilient ecosystems and fulfilling the objectives of the Climate Act. DEC will continue to look for ways to maintain and expand the forest cover across the State through public land ownership and supporting responsible forest management practices on private lands and the State Forest system outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Section 7(3) of the Climate Act requires the Agency to consider whether its decisions disproportionately burden identified disadvantaged communities (DACs). Furthermore, DEC shall prioritize actions that look to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants in DACs. Since DEC does not expect overall greenhouse gas emissions or co-pollutants to change due to the implementation of this plan, and the plan overall benefits users of the Forest Preserve by providing increasing access to safe outdoor recreational spaces, drinking watershed protection, and healthier overall ecosystems through the removal of invasive species, there should be no disproportionate impacts to DACs expected. As has been previously highlighted throughout the plan, the New York's Forest Preserve will continue to provide varied and invaluable services to the ecosystems and communities across a diverse landscape.

While the climate trends and projections for the Adirondack region paint a clear picture of a changing climate, they do not require DEC to significantly modify the nature of recreational opportunities and facilities it provides on Forest Preserve lands. Natural resource preservation has and will continue to be of utmost importance, and recreational uses should be encouraged as long as they can occur in harmony with existing and projected site conditions, including seasonal fluctuations.

Although long-term use projections are challenging, we can expect that the popularity of cooler, northern tourist and recreation destinations such as the Adirondacks will increase due to warming temperatures at lower elevations and southern latitudes.

If anything, the combined likelihoods of growing use and higher rainfall events underscores the importance of developing recreational infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather conditions, particularly rainfall, in combination with heavy public use. Trails, bridges, roads, and parking areas (to name a few) should be designed in a manner that reduces annual maintenance that arises from high use and and/or high rainfall events. Design standards for these types of facilities have existed for some time and should become the standard when DEC constructs or upgrades facilities. Where facilities cannot be built and maintained to these standards in certain locations, alternative locations will be sought or the need for recreational uses in these locations will be reconsidered.

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 former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.	\$750,000 each
2.	Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with single building.	\$1,250,000
3.	Replace bathhouses with a pavilion.	\$200,000
4.	Replace ticket booth.	\$75,000
5.	Rehabilitate campground roads.	\$1,500,000
6.	Replace trailered boat launch with accessible hand launch.	\$75,000
7.	Replace trailer dump station.	\$250,000
8.	Rehabilitate water system.	\$700,000
9.	Rehabilitate campground sewage system.	\$700,000
10.	Replace overhead electric lines with underground system.	\$700,000
11.	Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area, reclassify intensive use acreage to Wild Forest where applicable.	\$1,000
12.	Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.	\$50,000
13.	Tree and shrub plantings.	\$20,000
14.	Campsite restoration.	\$45,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities to comply with health and 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

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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 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. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for DEC. Prioritization of management actions is based on the availability of funding and health and safety concerns.

1. Replace former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.

The average age of the six comfort stations is 55 years and none have been built since 1967. The toilet and sink fixtures are not as water efficient as modern designs and are not easily drained for off season. All comfort stations within the facility were rated as being in good condition when inspected in October 2020, however, none of the buildings meet current accessibility standards. Vault toilet #7 was built in 1947, has been closed, and is in poor condition. It needs to be replaced in order to meet Department of Health regulations. With only one central shower building, visitors must travel to utilize the facility, which contributes to congestion on the campsite roads as well as noise and air pollution. This management action proposes to replace the vault toilet building and comfort station #6 with new 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 of the comfort station replacement. These buildings will be constructed to meet modern design standards, comply with all codes, provide for ADA accessibility and accessible parking, and 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](#), dated November 2016.

In addition, wash sinks for washing dishes will be added to the comfort stations. 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 draws in wildlife. At this time, no additional tree clearing is anticipated for the replacement of the bathhouses, as a single building would require a smaller footprint than what is currently being utilized. The replacement of the vault toilet and comfort

station #6 may require some clearing as the building footprint may be enlarged by 50%. See Exhibit #14 for photographs of existing buildings and their surroundings.

2. Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with a single building.

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 of the comfort station replacement. These buildings will be constructed to meet modern design standards, comply with all codes, provide for ADA accessibility and accessible parking, and 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](#), dated November 2016.

3. Replace bathhouses with a pavilion.

The two bathhouses in the day-use area were built in 1947 and are in fair condition. Visitor needs for a bathhouse have changed over the years, and many utilize the nearby comfort station for toilet facilities. This has resulted in the bathhouse building being closed to the public and used for storage. This management action proposes to demolish both bathhouses and construct a pavilion in the same location, resulting in a smaller footprint for the new structure. Golden Beach receives an average of almost 1,200 day-use visitors each season. A pavilion will provide shelter for visitors during inclement weather, a location for nature recreation programming, and can be rented to provide additional revenue. The pavilion will be constructed to meet current design and accessibility standards. The pavilion will be constructed with natural materials to blend in with the natural surroundings, and the removal of both bathhouses will open the view of Raquette Lake, and the natural sand beach offered at Golden Beach.

4. Replace ticket booth.

The existing ticket booth was constructed in 1968, before the need for computers, printers, and ADA requirements. The building is undersized for today's needs and cannot check in day-use visitors and campers at the same time, which leads to congestion near the entrance area. This management action proposes to construct a new ticket booth in the existing location that will meet current facility needs, improve customer service, and incorporate space for firewood and ice sales. The new booth will meet current accessibility standards.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

5. Rehabilitate campground roads.

The 2.25 miles of campground roads are in poor condition with crumbling shoulders, potholes, and sections of broken pavement. All 2.25 miles of roadway needs to be repaved. Where possible, roads rehabilitation design should consider access for emergency response and maintenance vehicles.

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). Other storm water management techniques may be incorporated as part of final detailed plans developed for the campground road rehabilitation.

6. Replace trailered boat launch with an accessible hand launch.

The concrete launch ramp was removed in 2021 due to its poor condition and now consists of gravel and natural material with a 2-degree pitch. In addition, the area of the lake where the boat launch is located is very shallow. Opportunities for launching larger boats exist in the Hamlet of Raquette Lake, including two marinas and a boat launch. This management action proposes to replace the current trailered boat launch with a hand launch for canoes and kayaks. This action would reduce the amount of environmental disturbance, including a decrease in erosion and turbidity. The hand launch area will be designed to meet current accessibility standards. User safety and ease of access would be improved, while maintenance required would be reduced. Hand launch parking will utilize the existing boat launch parking and may be resurfaced during launch replacement or the larger campground road replacement management action.

7. Replace trailer dump station.

This management action proposes to replace the existing trailer dump station to better accommodate modern camping trailers while meeting current standards for accessibility and design standards. The existing trailer dump station is inadequate for camper needs, and the single lane in its current location causes traffic to become congested near the entrance area. A two-lane trailer dump

station with an improved septic system is proposed to be placed near existing campsite #38 and where two-way traffic can be accommodated. This will result in the closure or relocation of 10 campsites. Tree clearing will be minimized, as the proposed location has already been impacted by camping use.

8. Rehabilitate water system.

The water system at Golden Beach is in poor condition and needs rehabilitation. Staff rely on one system to service the campground and meet camper needs. While the water storage tanks are new, the waterlines and other system components should be replaced. Additional water spigots should be installed as necessary to meet health codes and current accessibility standards. This management action proposes to rehabilitate the existing water system to meet current design standards and Department of Health codes.

9. Rehabilitate campground sewage system.

The Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area sewage system was constructed in the 1960s. Although still functioning, portions of the system do not meet current standards and are in need of rehabilitation. This action proposes to rehabilitate the system, including the 1.2 mile of sewer lines, to meet current standards. Due to logistics and proximity to both the water distribution system and road network, this project may be done in conjunction with those rehabilitation projects.

10. Replace overhead lines with underground system.

Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area has 1.1 mile of overhead power lines running through the facility. Both the water and sewer systems require electric power for pumps to operate. The overhead lines are in constant need of maintenance and have required emergency repairs resulting in the power being off in the facility for extended periods. This management action proposes to have the overhead power lines buried and the pole transformers moved to a ground pad location.

11. Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area, reclassify intensive use acreage to Wild Forest where applicable.

Since the adoption of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan there has been a classification error around the entrance to the Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area. As a result, access to and parts of the pre-existing campground were classified as Wild Forest. A correction is needed to accurately delineate the Intensive Use Area to include all pre-existing infrastructure, campsites, registration booth, and caretaker's cabin. The Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area septic

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

system, which is within the borders of the Blue Ridge Wilderness, was constructed in 1967 and should have also been included within the campground intensive use area. This reclassification will allow for the continued maintenance and operation of existing infrastructure. Reclassification of the aforementioned areas would result in approximately 5.7 acres of Sargent Pond Wild Forest and approximately 3.8 acres of the Blue Ridge Wilderness being classified as part of the Golden Beach Intensive Use Area and 31.1 acres of the Golden Beach IUA being classified as Wild Forest as depicted in Exhibit 13.

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 both unsightly and draws wildlife. A utility sink attached to the outside of each comfort station and tied to the campground's sewer system will provide a place for campers to either wash dishes or dispose of gray water. This management action proposes to install utility sinks at each comfort station in the camping area.

13. Tree and shrub plantings.

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 will be selected that are natural to the area and will provide the needed shading and screening. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the Plan.

14. Campsite restoration.

Management of visitor use at Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area began in the 1930s with the development of campsites to meet the increasing demand for camping accommodations in the Adirondacks. Today, the Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area includes 204 camping sites and is one of the largest and most popular campgrounds operated by DEC. With close to 35,000 camper days and day-use visitors to Golden Beach 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 includes DEC staff, in consultation with Agency staff, working to 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 (VUM) 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. Future unit management plans or amendment of existing plans will be consistent with the new VUM 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. Deployment of an intensive use area VUM framework across the DEC campground system will be dependent on results of a pilot program at one or more Department campground facilities.

Until the visitor use management and wildlands monitoring guidance and accompanying protocol for camping sites within DEC Campgrounds is finalized, a minimum of five campsites per year at Golden Beach 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. Natural and boat-wake wave action on Raquette Lake result in erosive forces on the shoreline areas around the campground areas, particularly along the section where sites 185 to 207 are located. Shoreline stabilization and erosion mitigation will be included as part of the Campsite Restoration project. Construction material and methods will be determined during the design phase and utilize [DEC Shoreline Stabilization Techniques](#), 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.

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.

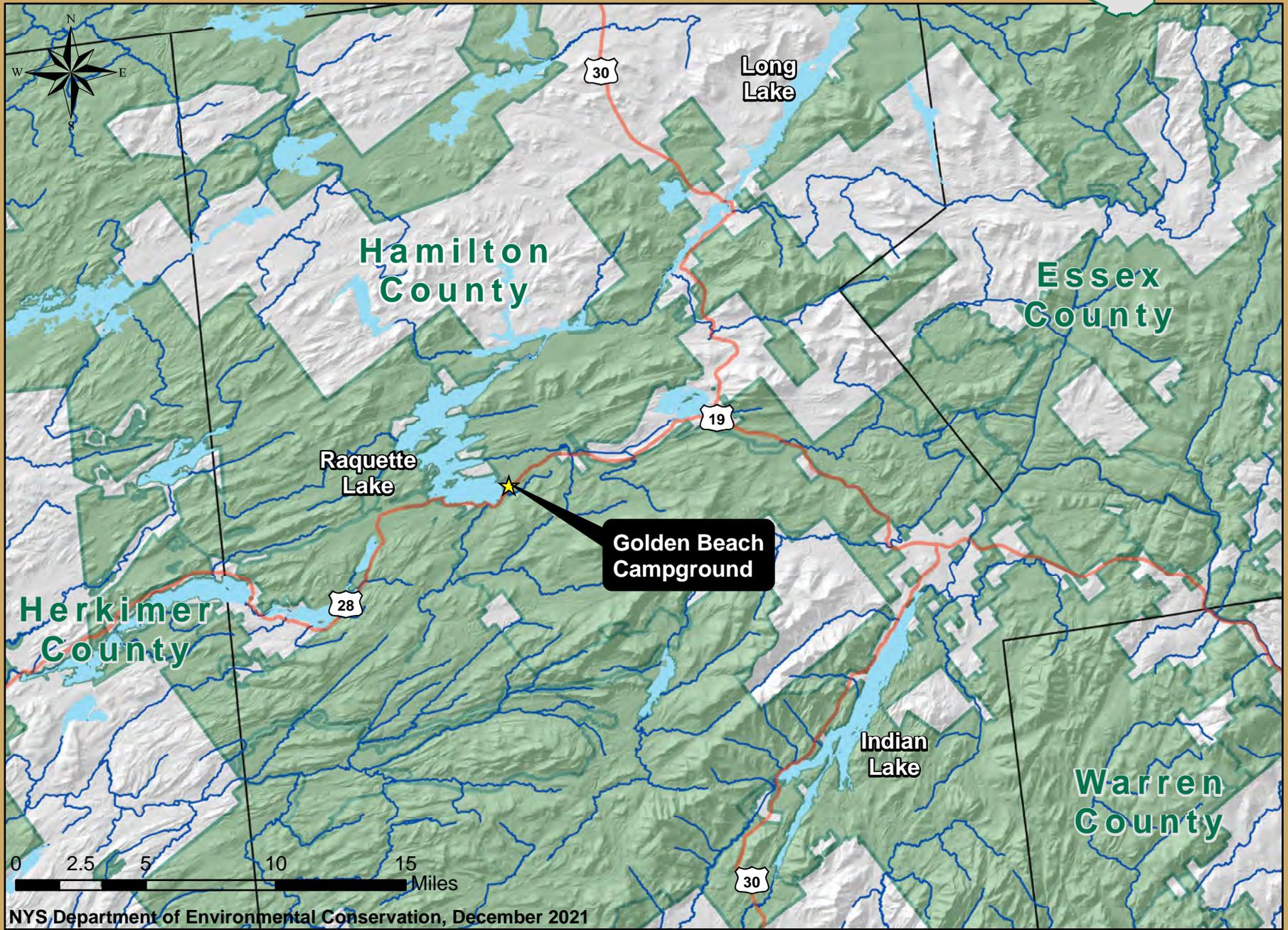
For more information on the Campsite Restoration project or which sites at Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area are currently being restored please visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/100146.html>.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Index	
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Exhibit #15	Typical Drawings
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Exhibit #17	Response to Public Comments

Golden Beach Campground

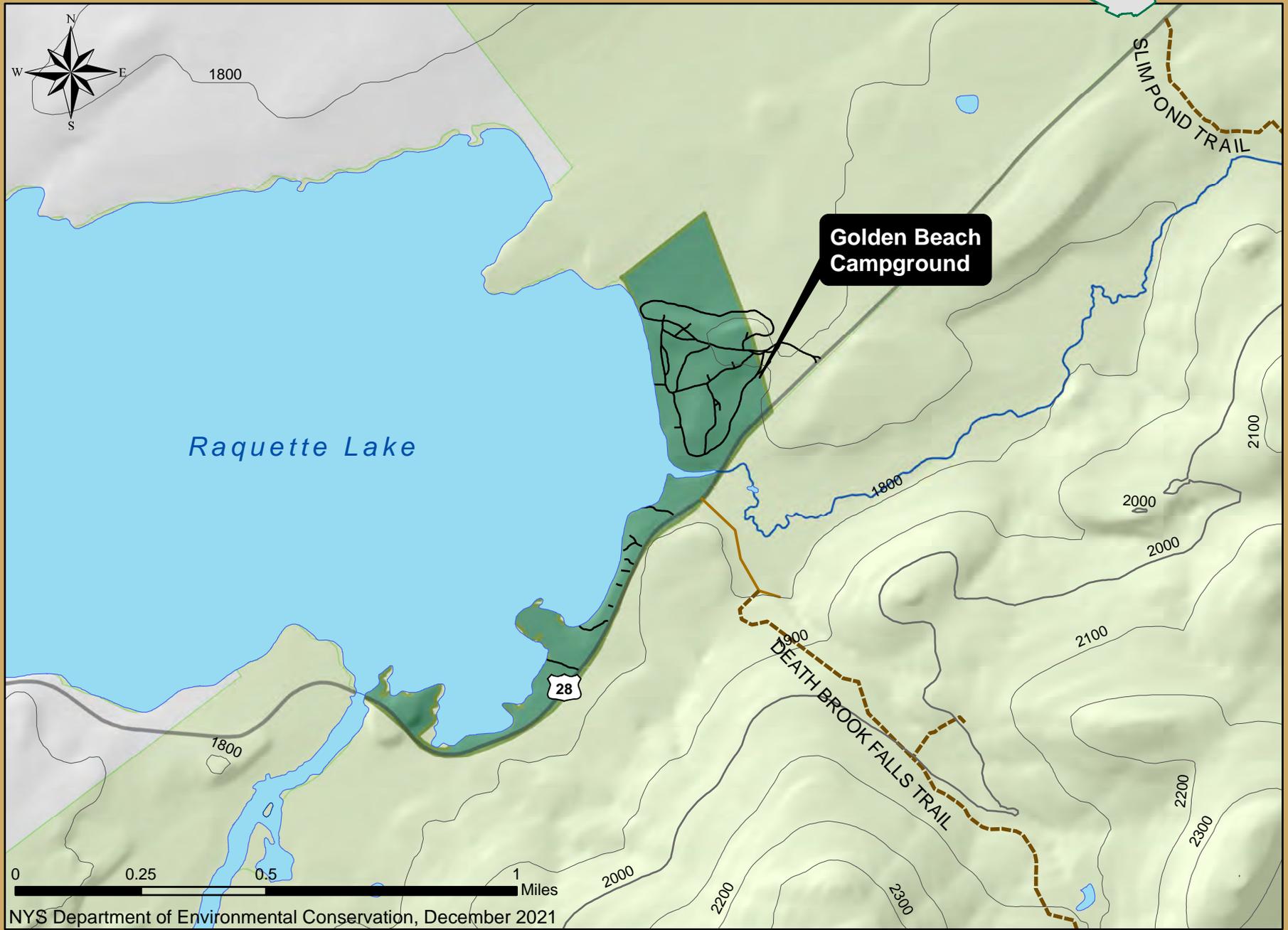
Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, December 2021

Golden Beach Campground

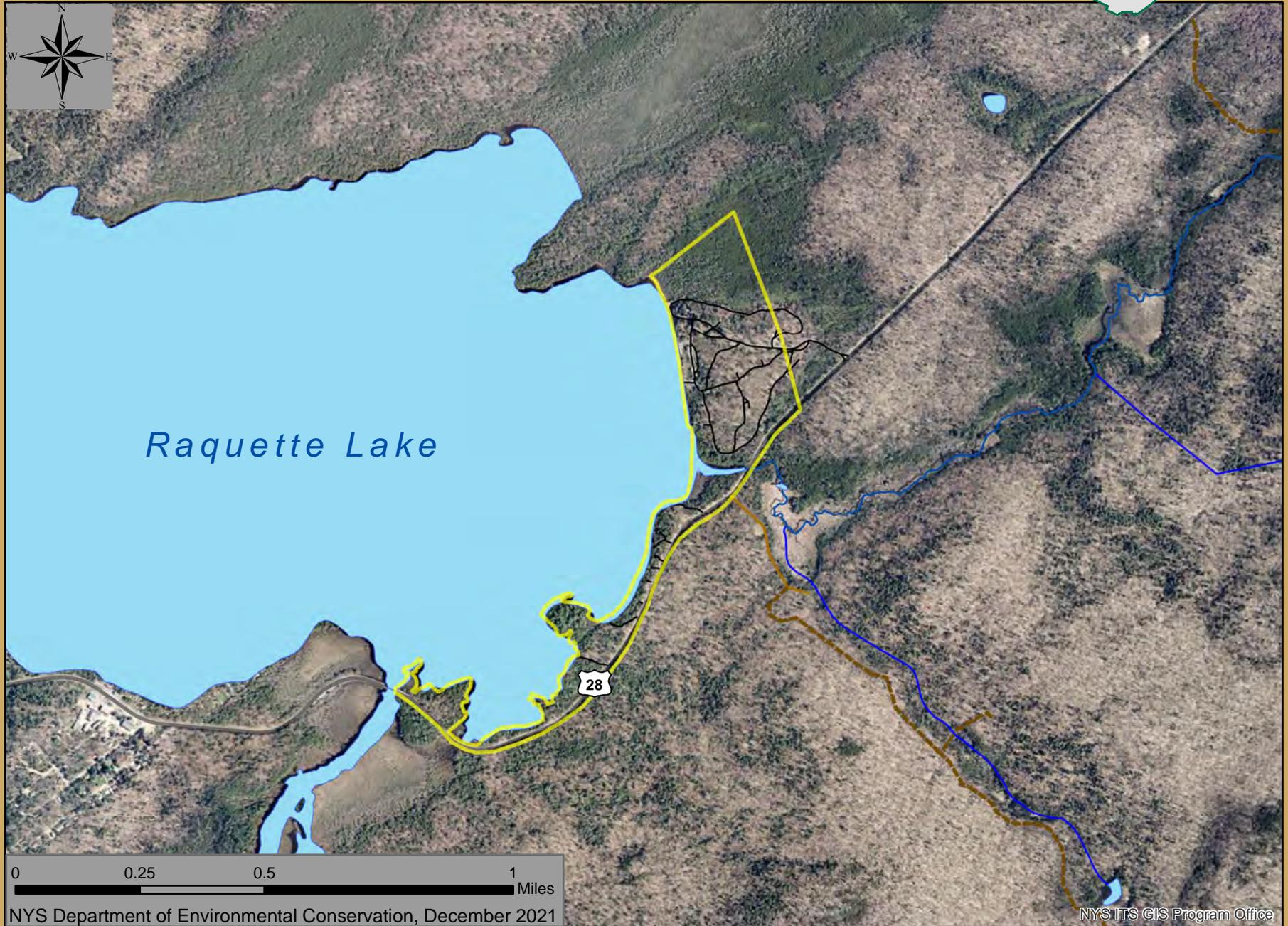
Exhibit # 2 - Topographic & Trail Map



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, December 2021

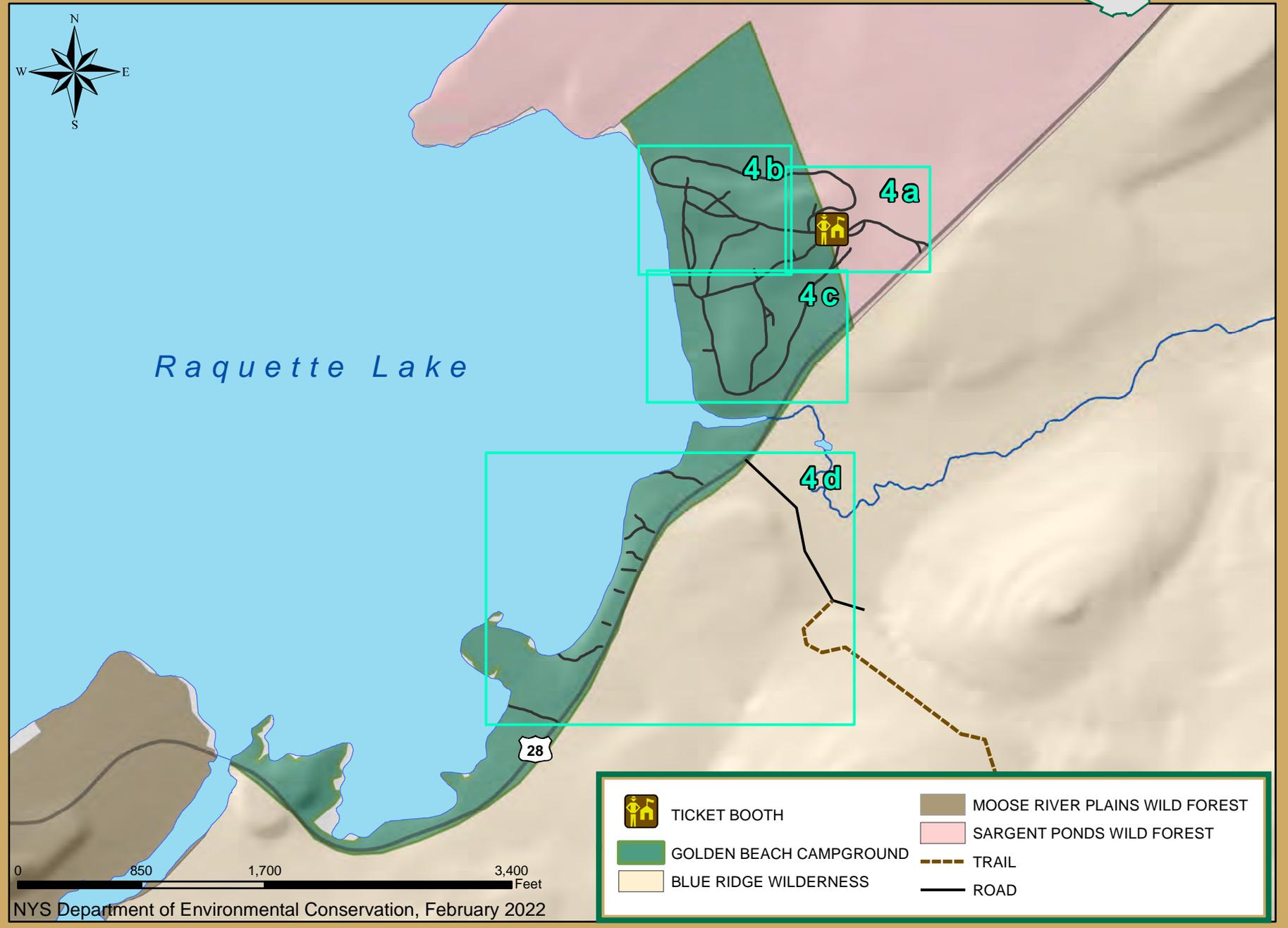
Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4 - Existing Facilities Map

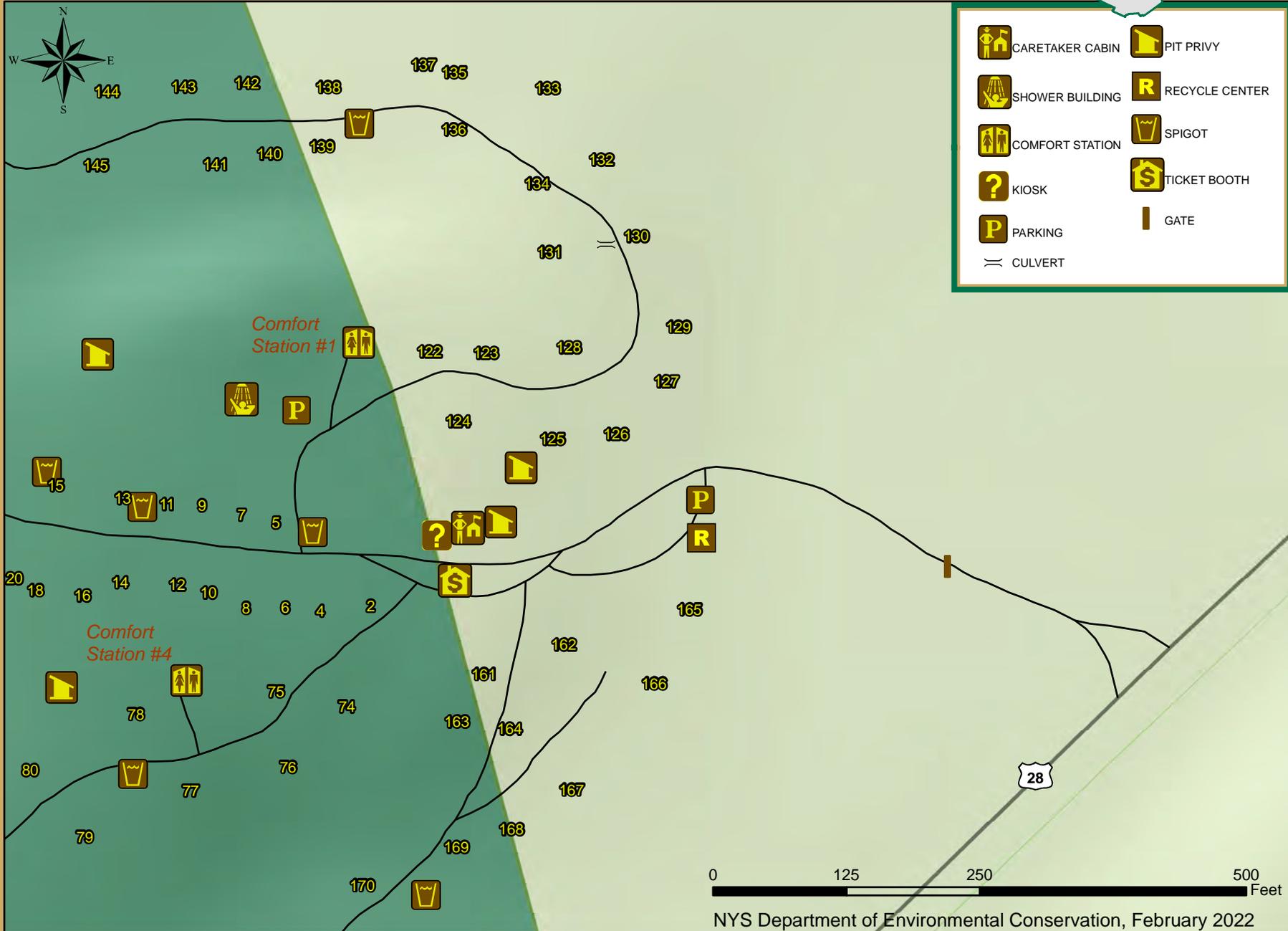


Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Entrance Area



Adirondack Park



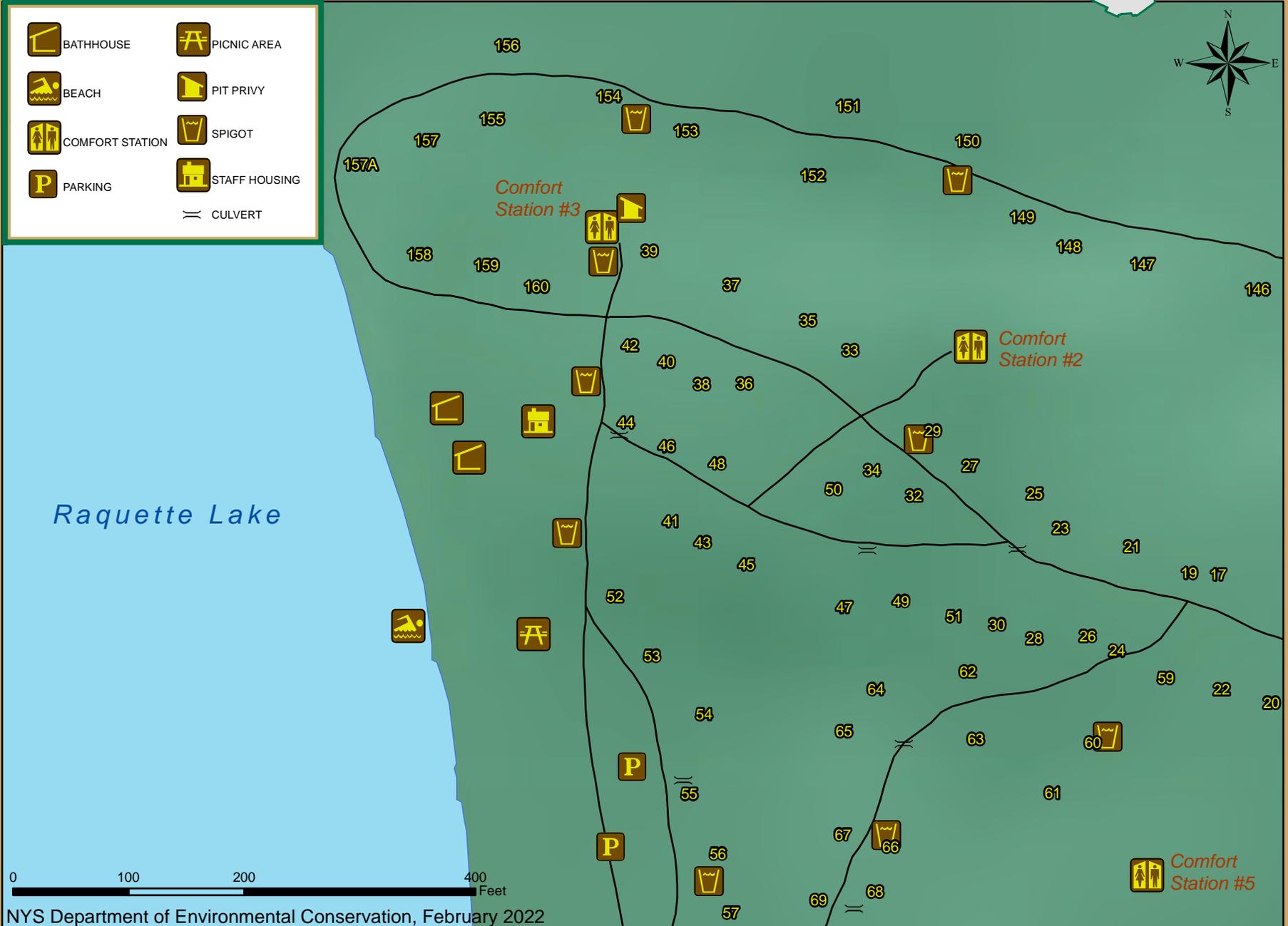
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, February 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4b - Campsites and Beach Area

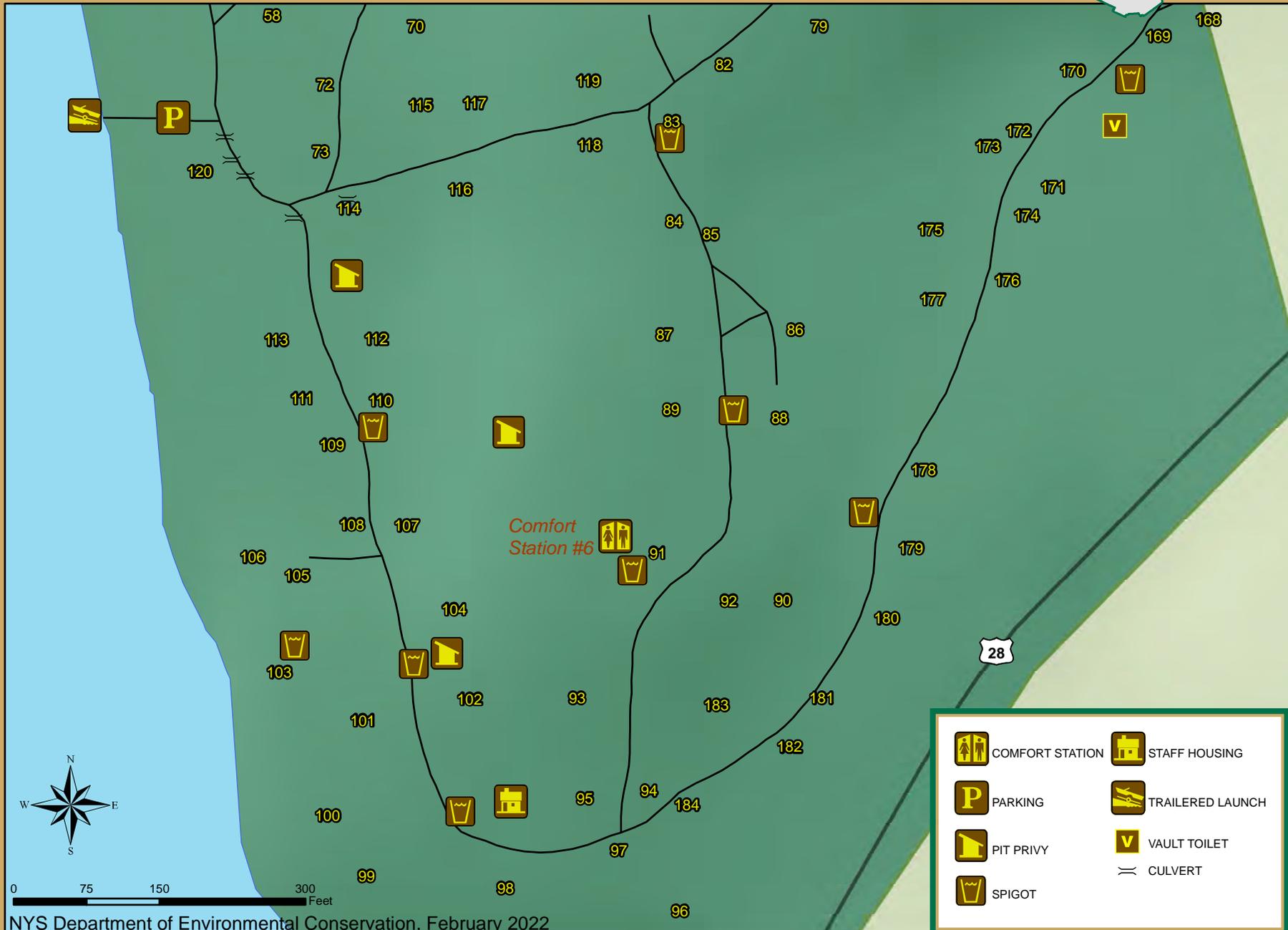


	BATHHOUSE		PICNIC AREA
	BEACH		PIT PRIVY
	COMFORT STATION		SPIGOT
	PARKING		STAFF HOUSING
			CULVERT



Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4c - Campsites and Boat Launch Area



Comfort Station #6

	COMFORT STATION		STAFF HOUSING
	PARKING		TRAILERED LAUNCH
	PIT PRIVY		VAULT TOILET
	SPIGOT		CULVERT

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4d - Roadside Campsites



Golden Beach
Campground

Adirondack
Park

 PIT PRIVY  CULVERT
 GATE



Raquette Lake

28

GOLDEN BEACH LEACHFIELD ROAD

DEATH BROOK FALLS TRAIL

0 250 500 1,000
Feet

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, February 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4e - Facility Road Map



	TICKET BOOTH		TRAIL
	MAIN ROAD		GOLDEN BEACH CAMPGROUND
	ONE-WAY ROAD		BLUE RIDGE WILDERNESS
	ROAD TO REMAIN UNPAVED		MOOSE RIVER PLAINS WILD FOREST
	TWO-WAY ROAD		SARGENT PONDS WILD FOREST

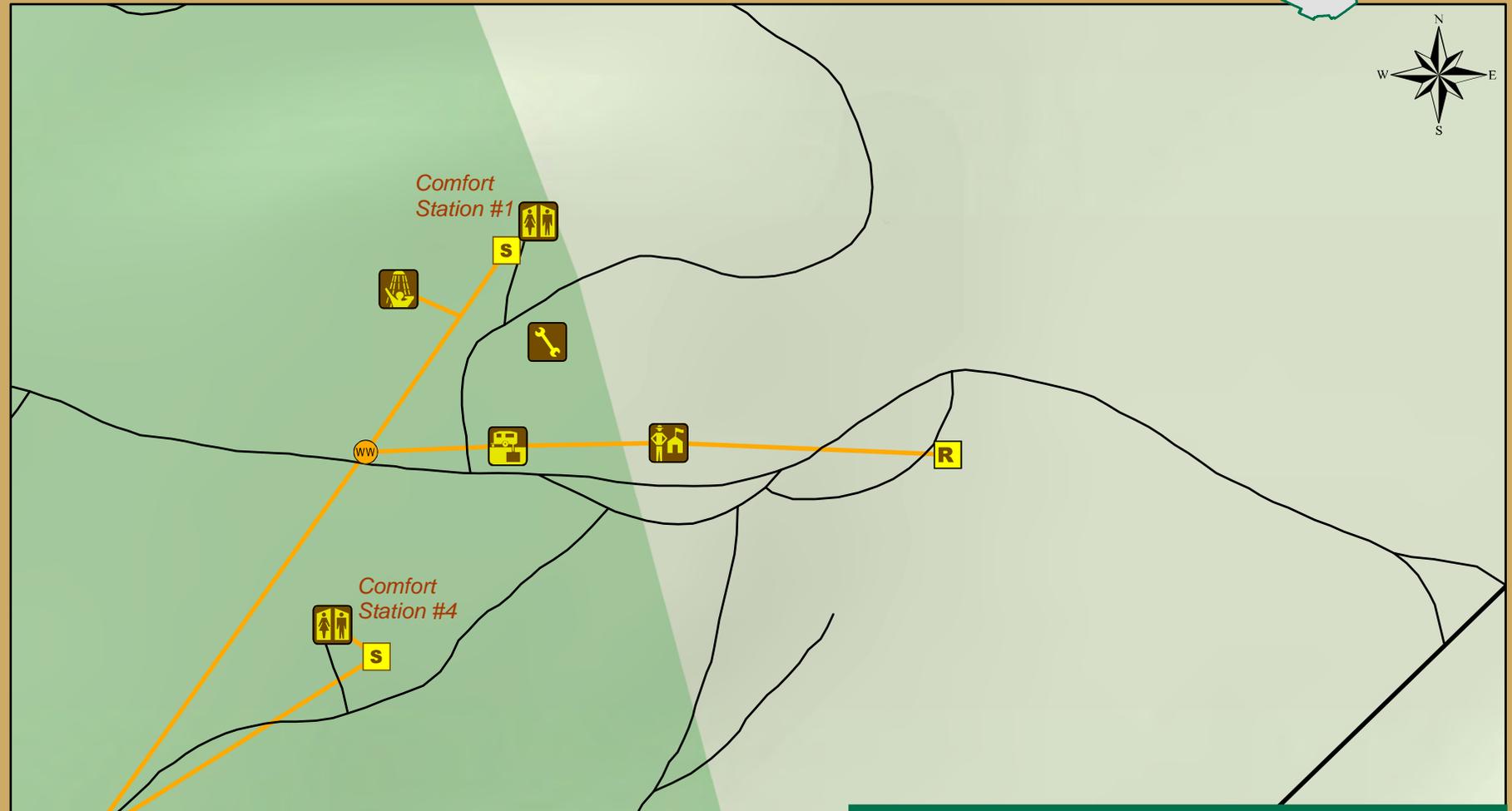
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, May 2022

Golden Beach Campground

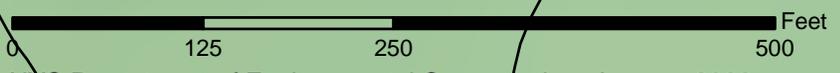
Exhibit # 5a - Sewer System Map



Adirondack Park



	CARETAKER CABIN		RECYCLE CENTER
	COMFORT STATION		SEPTIC TANK
	GARAGE		MANHOLE
	SHOWER BUILDING		TRAILER DUMP STATION
			VAULT TOILET
			SEWER LINE



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 5b - Sewer System Map



Golden Beach Campground
Adirondack Park



Raquette Lake

S  Comfort Station #3

 Comfort Station #2

Comfort Station #5

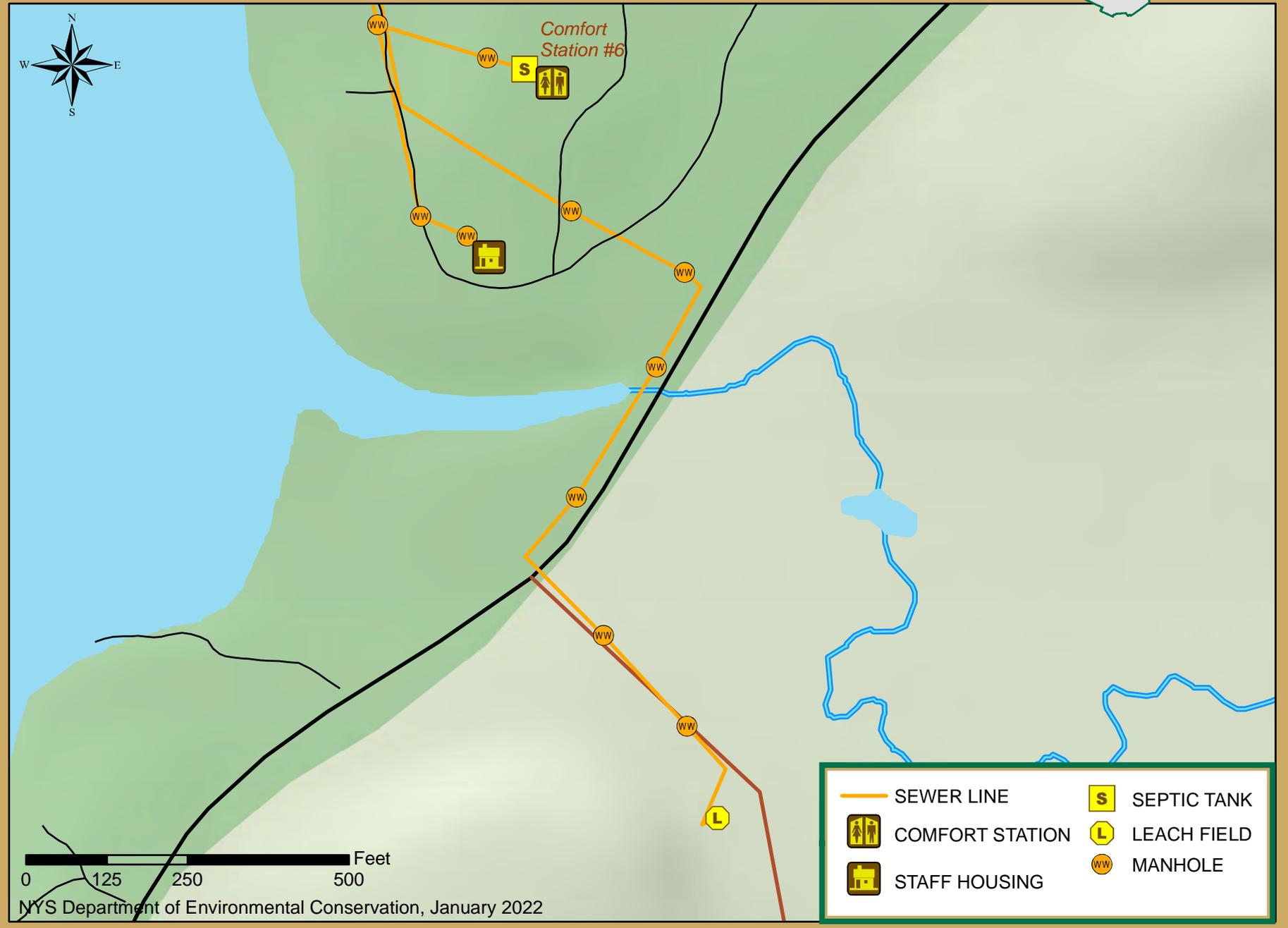
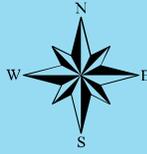
	COMFORT STATION		SEPTIC TANK
	LIFT STATION		STAFF HOUSING
	MANHOLE		SEWER LINE



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 5c - Sewer System Map



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

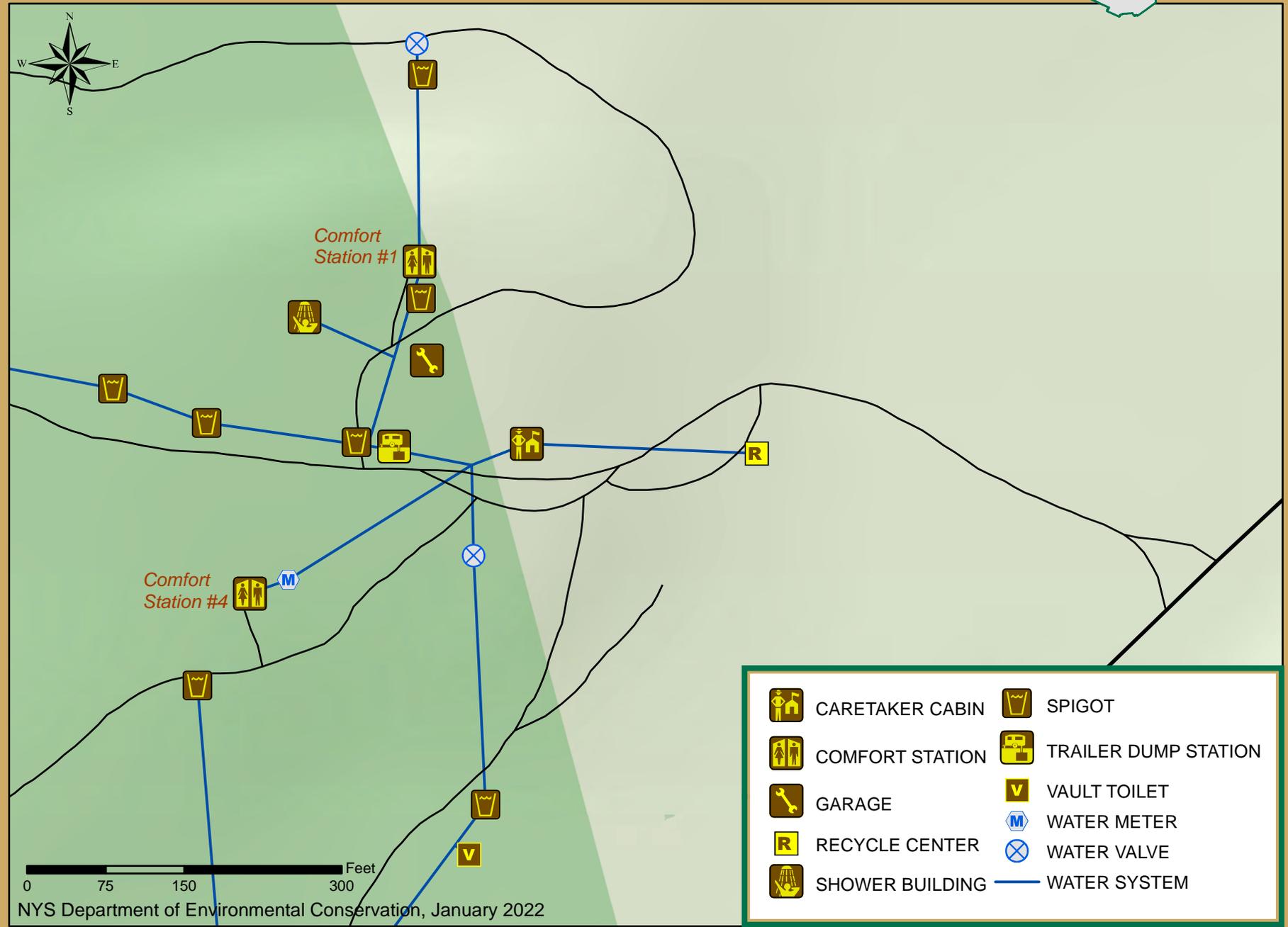
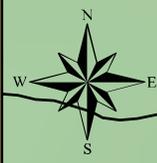
SEWER LINE	SEPTIC TANK
COMFORT STATION	LEACH FIELD
STAFF HOUSING	MANHOLE

Golden Beach Campground

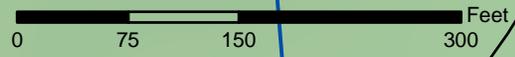
Exhibit # 6a - Water System Map



Adirondack Park



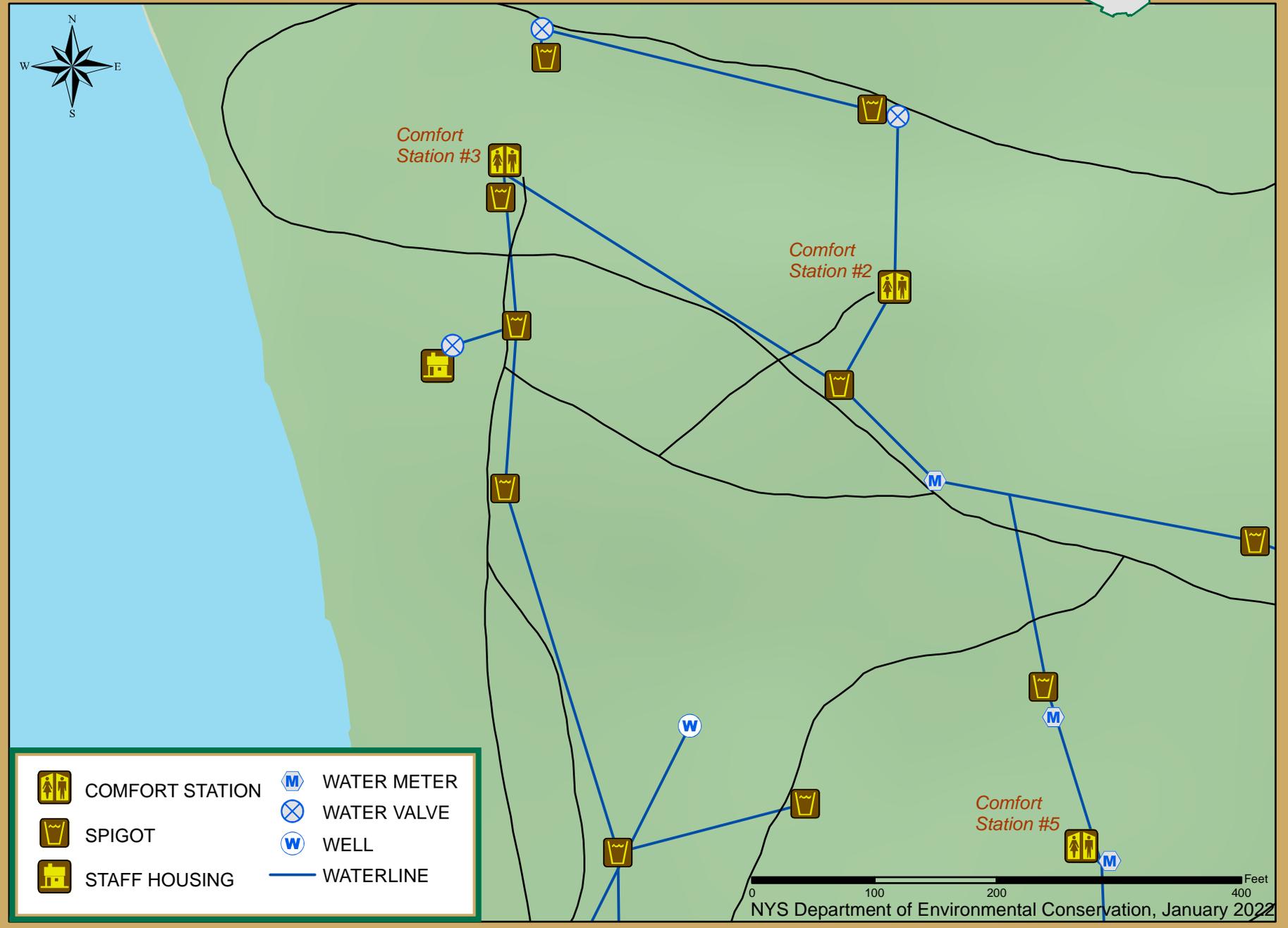
	CARETAKER CABIN		SPIGOT
	COMFORT STATION		TRAILER DUMP STATION
	GARAGE		VAULT TOILET
	RECYCLE CENTER		WATER METER
	SHOWER BUILDING		WATER VALVE
			WATER SYSTEM



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 6b - Water System Map



	COMFORT STATION		WATER METER
	SPIGOT		WATER VALVE
	STAFF HOUSING		WELL
			WATERLINE

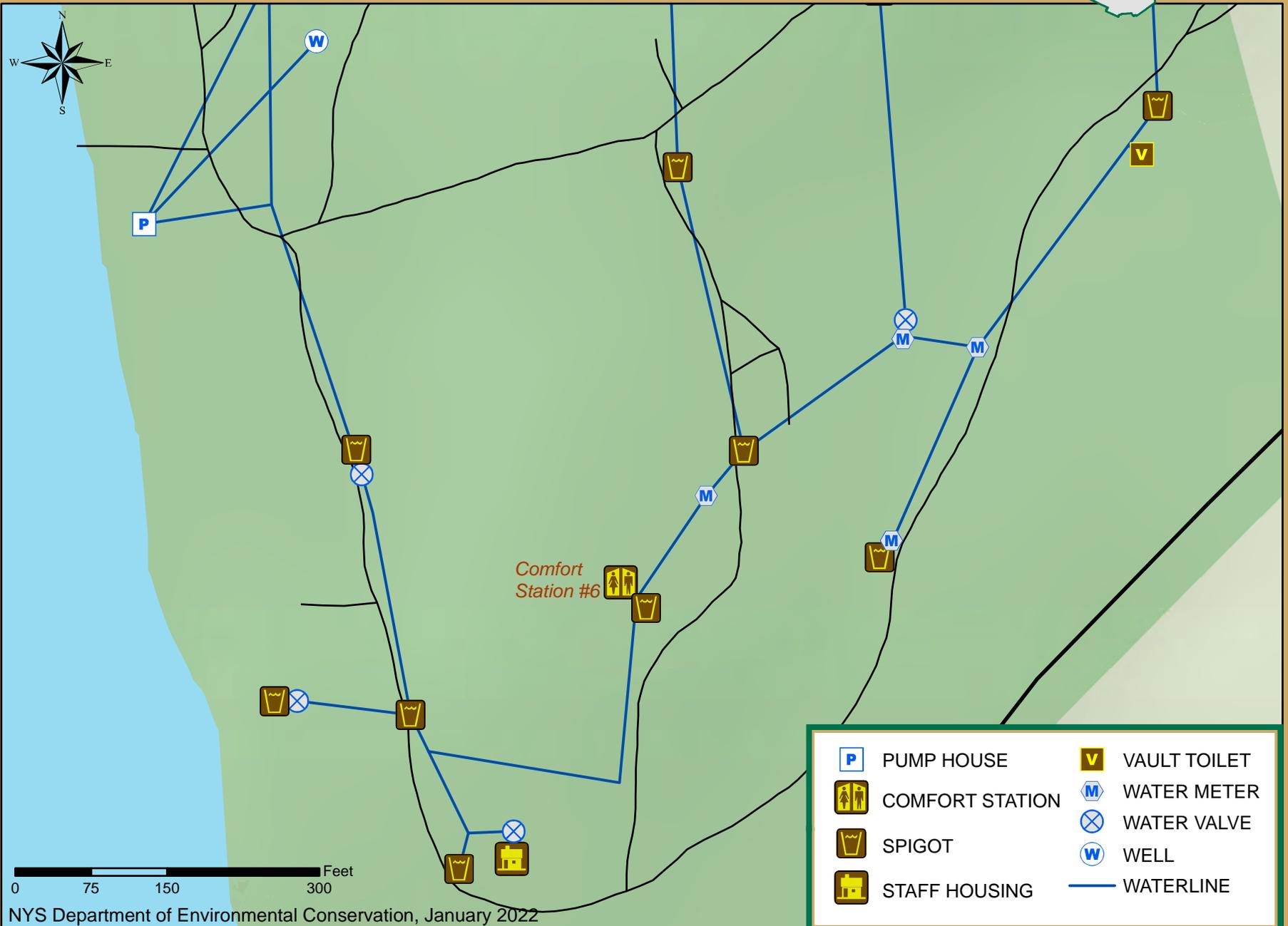
0 100 200 400 Feet
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 6c - Water System Map



Adirondack
Park



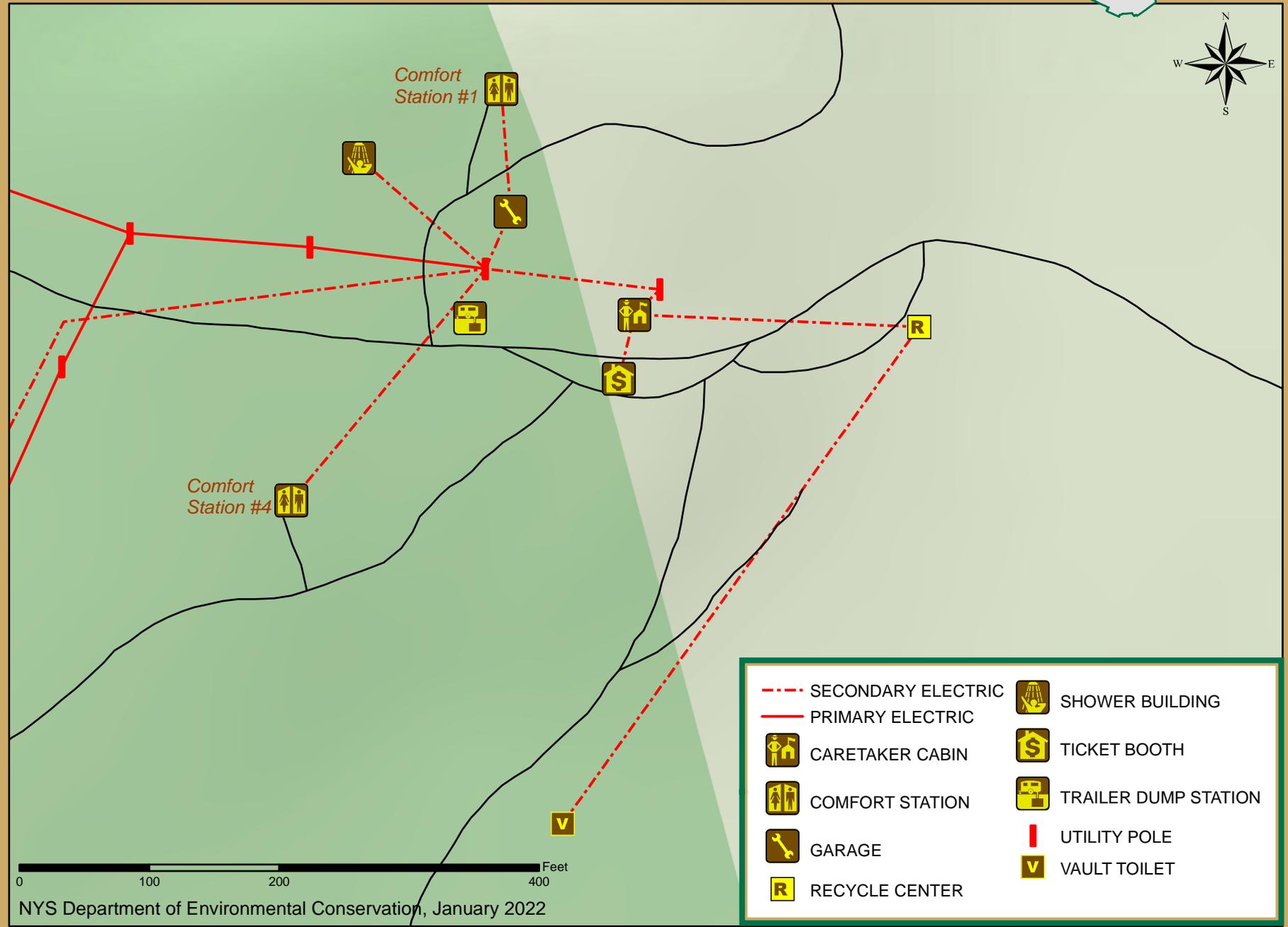
P	PUMP HOUSE	V	VAULT TOILET
	COMFORT STATION	M	WATER METER
S	SPIGOT	X	WATER VALVE
SH	STAFF HOUSING	W	WELL
			WATERLINE

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 7a - Electric System Map



Adirondack
Park



0 100 200 400 Feet

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

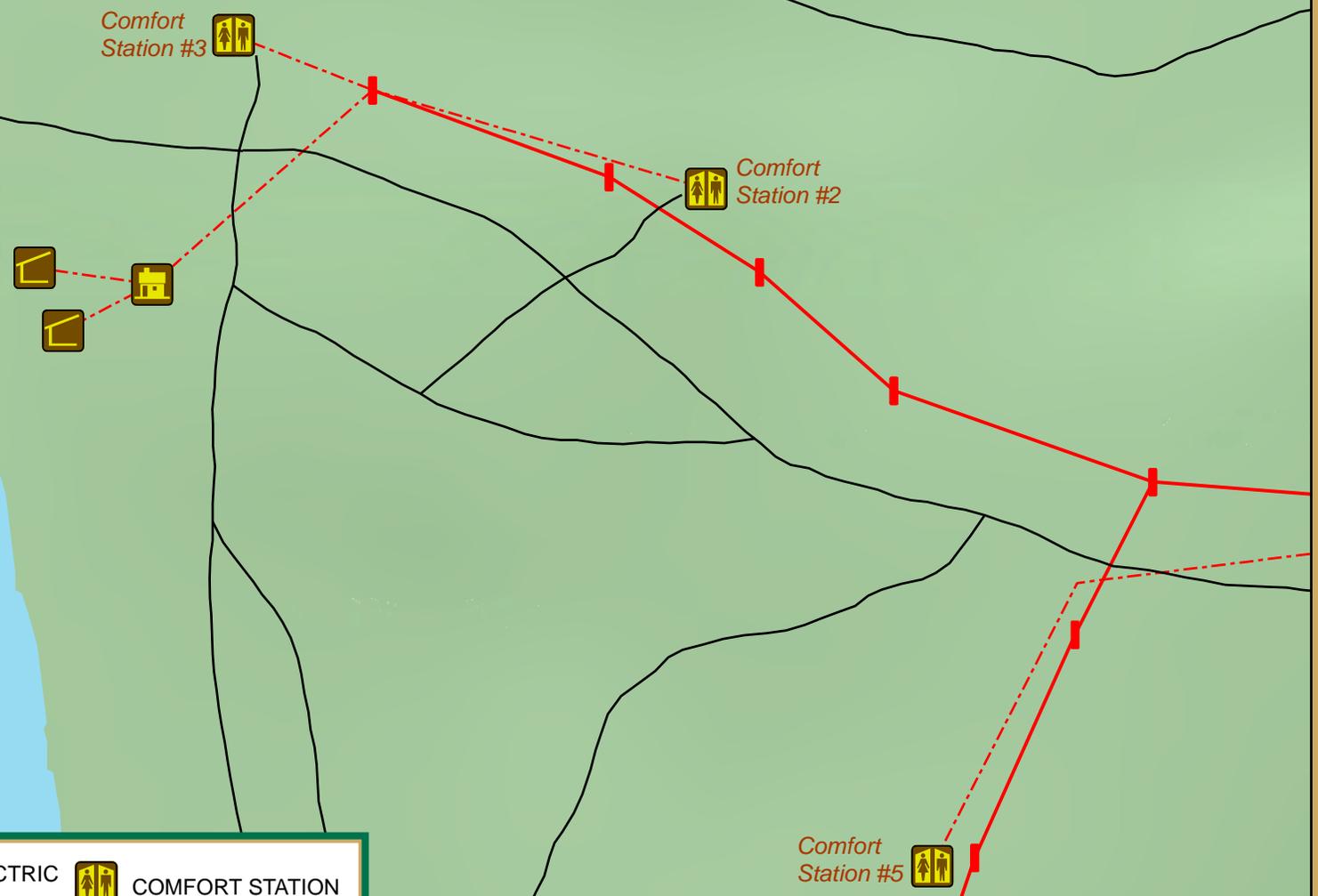
	SECONDARY ELECTRIC		SHOWER BUILDING
	PRIMARY ELECTRIC		CARETAKER CABIN
	COMFORT STATION		TICKET BOOTH
	GARAGE		TRAILER DUMP STATION
	RECYCLE CENTER		UTILITY POLE
			VAULT TOILET

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 7b - Electric System Map



Adirondack
Park



SECONDARY ELECTRIC	COMFORT STATION
PRIMARY ELECTRIC	BATHHOUSE
BATHHOUSE	STAFF HOUSING
UTILITY POLE	



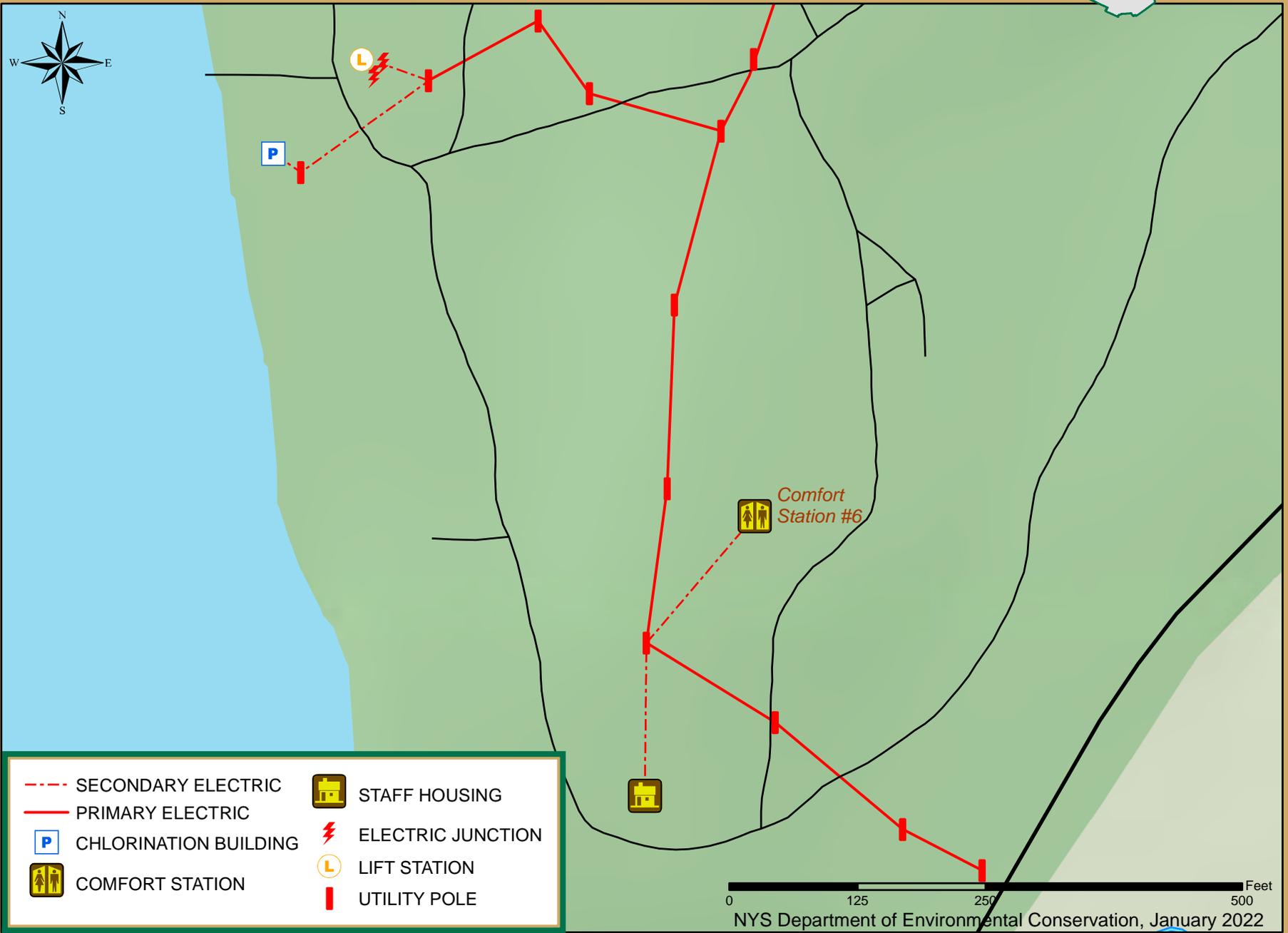
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 7c - Electric System Map



Adirondack
Park



SECONDARY ELECTRIC	STAFF HOUSING
PRIMARY ELECTRIC	ELECTRIC JUNCTION
CHLORINATION BUILDING	LIFT STATION
COMFORT STATION	UTILITY POLE

0 125 250 500 Feet
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit #8- Wetlands Map



Raquette Lake

	Freshwater Emergent Wetland
	Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
	Lake
	Riverine

0 625 1,250 2,500 3,750 Feet

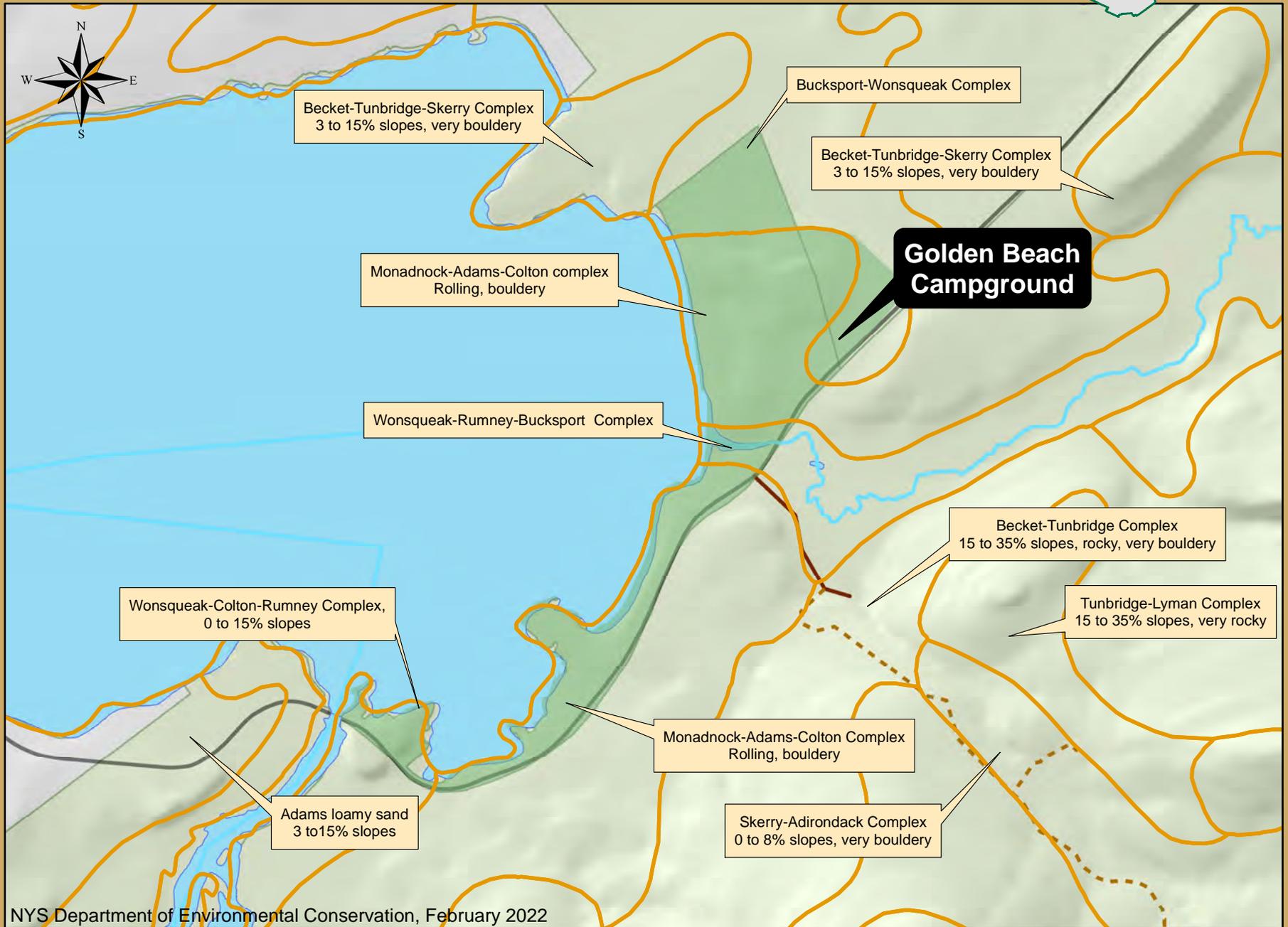
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, February 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 9 - Soils Map



Adirondack
Park



Becket-Tunbridge-Skerry Complex
3 to 15% slopes, very bouldery

Bucksport-Wonsqueak Complex

Becket-Tunbridge-Skerry Complex
3 to 15% slopes, very bouldery

**Golden Beach
Campground**

Monadnock-Adams-Colton complex
Rolling, bouldery

Wonsqueak-Rumney-Bucksport Complex

Becket-Tunbridge Complex
15 to 35% slopes, rocky, very bouldery

Wonsqueak-Colton-Rumney Complex,
0 to 15% slopes

Tunbridge-Lyman Complex
15 to 35% slopes, very rocky

Monadnock-Adams-Colton Complex
Rolling, bouldery

Adams loamy sand
3 to 15% slopes

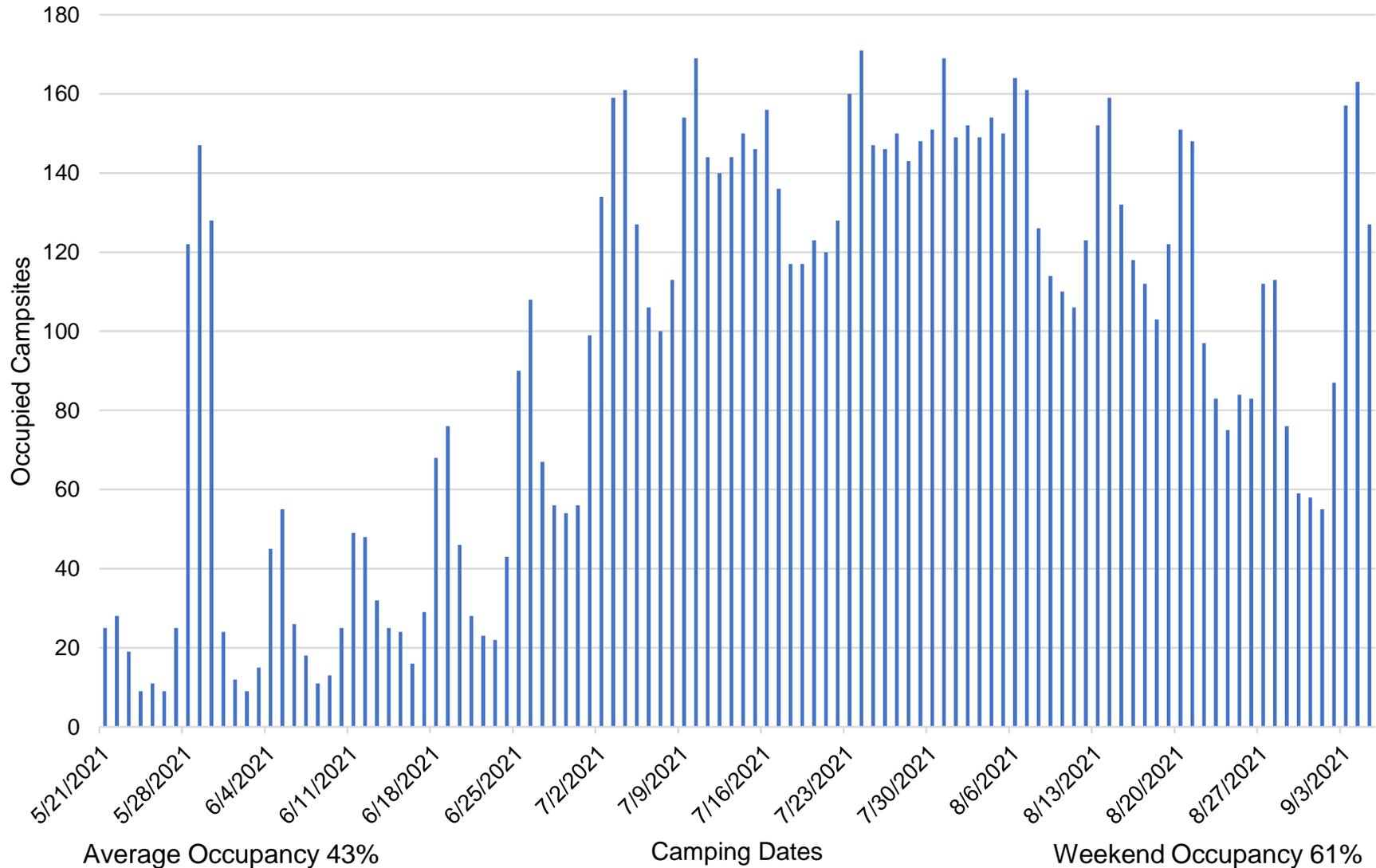
Skerry-Adirondack Complex
0 to 8% slopes, very bouldery

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit #11 - 2021 Campground Occupancy Map



Golden Beach Campground Occupied Campsites 2021



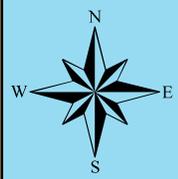
Average Occupancy 43%

Camping Dates

Weekend Occupancy 61%

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 12 - Proposed Management Actions Map



Golden Beach Campground

Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.

Replace trailer dumping station.

Replace bathhouses with pavilion.

Replace trailered boat launch with hand launch.

Rehabilitate water system.

Replace former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.

Campsite Restoration.

Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with single building.

Replace ticket booth.

Replace overhead electric lines with underground system.

Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area.

Rehabilitate campground roads.

Tree and shrub plantings.

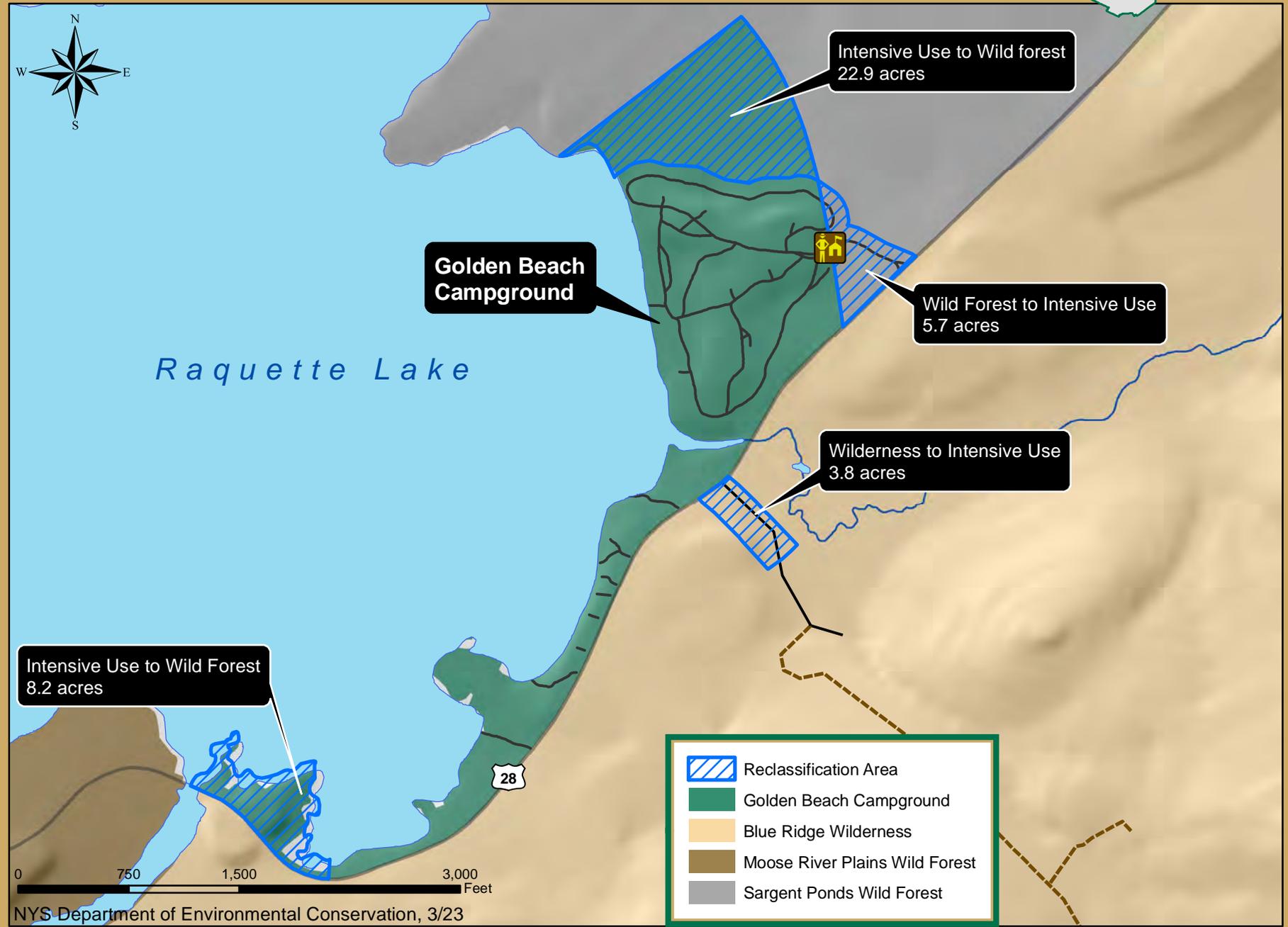
Rehabilitate campground sewage system.

Raquette Lake



Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 13 - Reclassification Lands Map



#14 Golden Beach Campground Photos





Entrance Sign



Ticket booth



Information Kiosk



Caretaker Cabin



Garage



Recycle Center



Trailer Dumping Station



Assistant Caretaker



Lifeguard Cabin



Pumphouse



Women's Bathhouse



Men's Bathhouse



Comfort Station #1



Comfort Station #2



Comfort Station #3



Comfort Station #4



Comfort Station #5



Comfort Station #6



Vault Toilet Building



Shower Building



Day-Use Area



Day-Use Area



Day-Use Area Parking



Beach

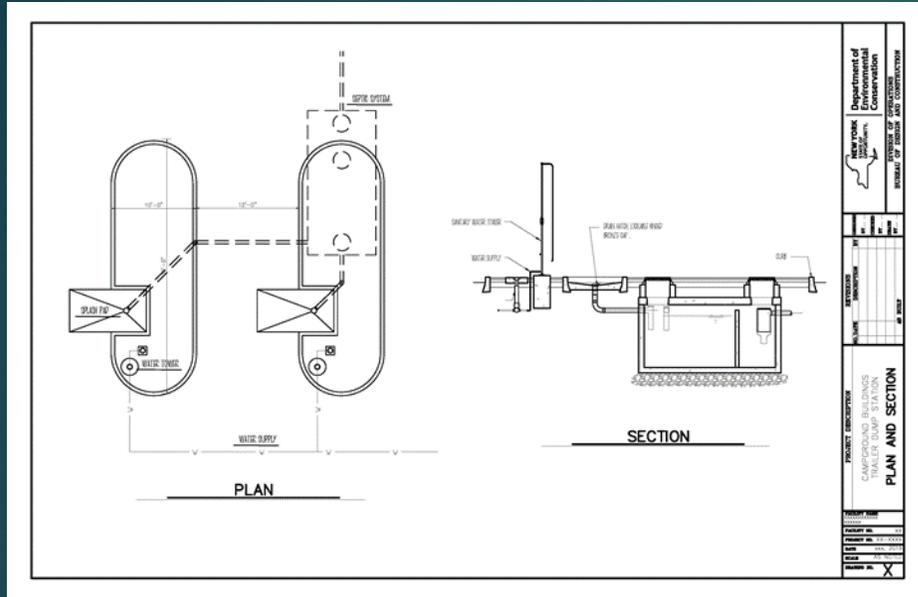


Boat Launch

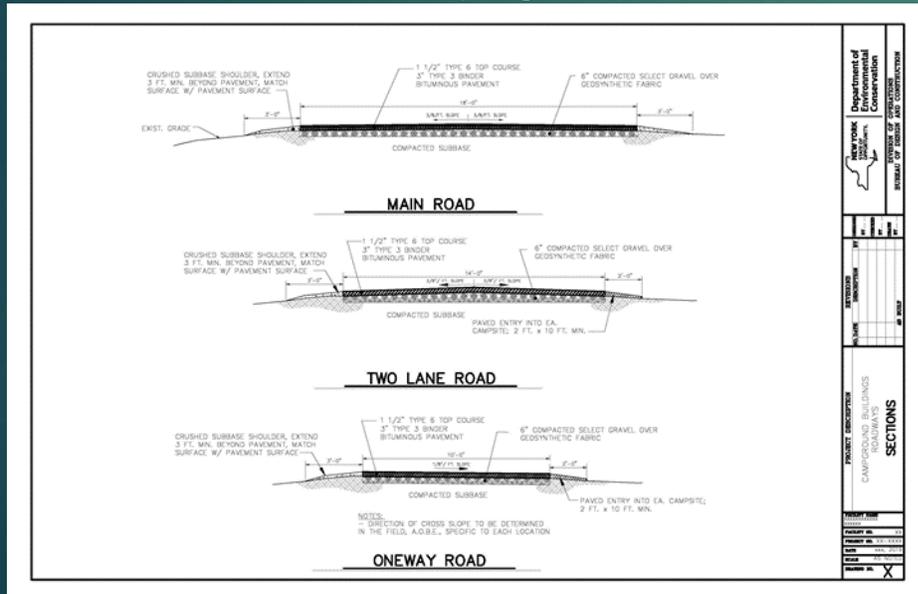


Boat Launch Area Parking

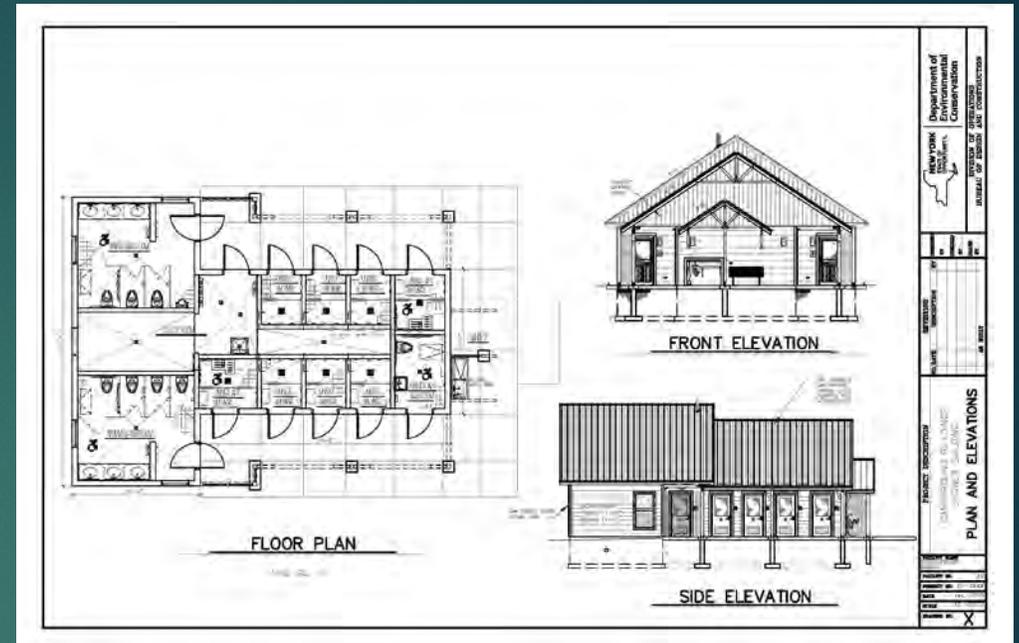
#15 Typical Drawings



Trailer Dumping Station

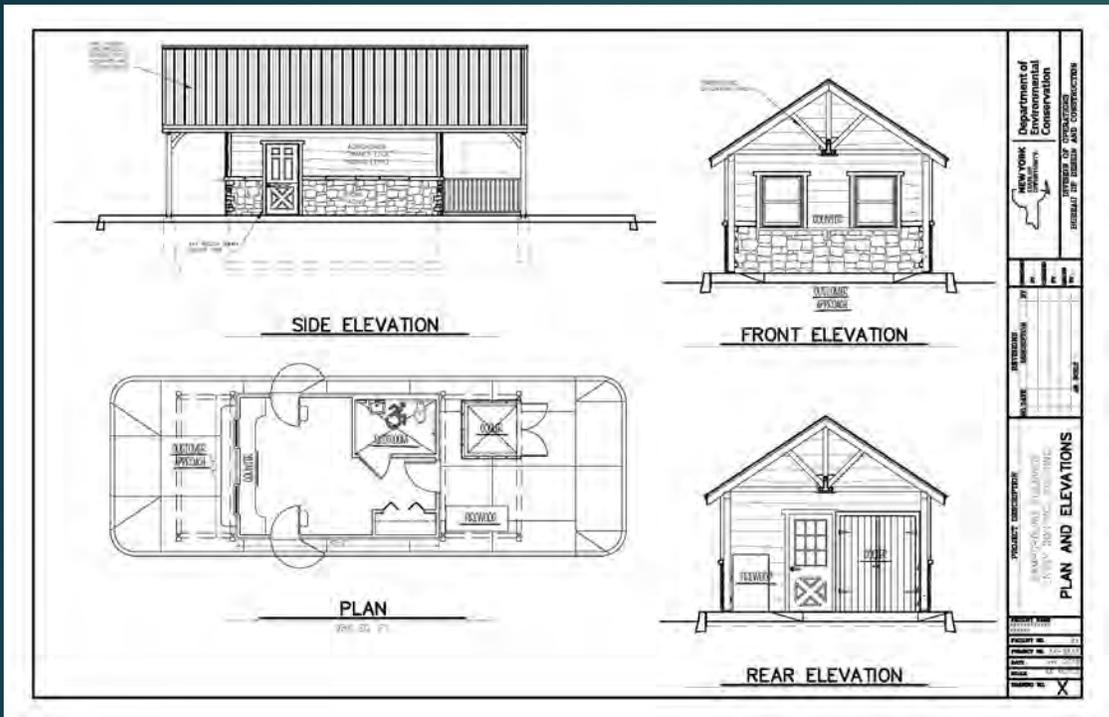


Road Section Profile

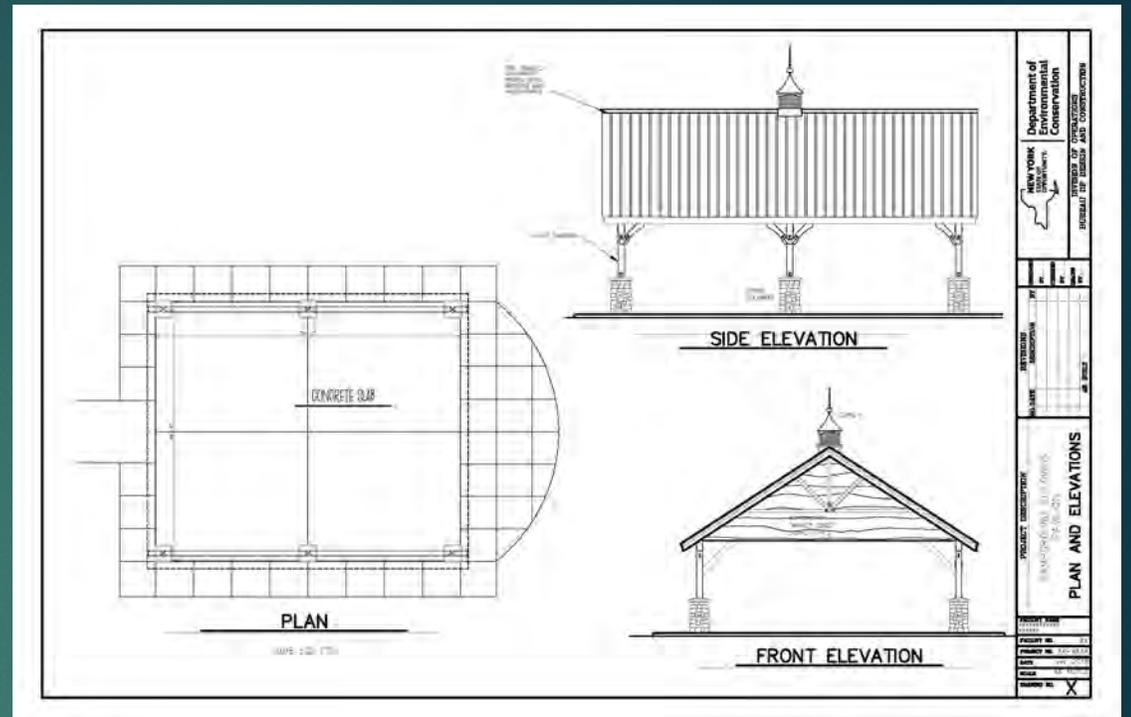


Comfort Station with Showers





Ticket Booth



Pavilion



Exhibit 17 – Response to Public Comments

The Department and the Adirondack Park Agency (Agency or APA) held a concurrent public comment period from August 16 through September 18, 2023. During that time, 10 written comments and 192 survey responses were received. All comments were reviewed and considered in preparation of the proposed final UMP.

The majority of survey responses and comments were in favor of the management actions proposed in the UMP. Many comments emphasized facility rehabilitation and infrastructure upgrades/rehabilitation. In addition, many comments on topics such as facility maintenance, staffing, season dates, generator hours or the use of fire rings were received. These topics are not addressed by a unit management plan but rather are operational decisions. For this reason, these comments have been forwarded to appropriate regional facility staff for review. Public comments received have been grouped by theme and the Department's responses are included below:

Comments regarding specific management actions

1. Comment: The proposed pavilion will obscure the view of the lake.

Response: The pavilion will be constructed with natural materials to blend in with the natural surroundings. The proposal also includes the removal of both bathhouses which will open the view of Raquette Lake and the facility's natural sand beach.

2. Comment: The location for the new trailer dumping station is unfavorable, as it eliminates ten potential campsites.

Response: The UMP proposes to replace and relocate the trailer dump station to provide a two-lane station with an improved septic system to safeguard natural resources. In order to accommodate two-way traffic and alleviate congestion near the campground entrance, the Department is proposing to place the new trailer dump station near campsite #38. Approximately ten campsites will need to be closed or relocated to facilitate this. Site managers will relocate some or all of these sites if such action is possible in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan guidelines and criteria for Intensive Use Areas.

3. Comment: Utility sinks at comfort stations won't be used and will attract wildlife.

Response: Concentrating the disposal of gray water at the comfort stations, which are connected to the campground's septic system, will reduce the impact to the individual campsites from individuals dumping dish and gray water, which often contains grease and food scraps that may attract wildlife to the campsite(s).

4. Comment: Don't want beach bath houses removed, they are needed as a place to change clothes.

Response: The two existing bath houses in the day use area have been closed to the public and used for storage for the past 15-20 years. Visitors are encouraged to use comfort station #3 for their changing needs.

5. Comment: There are hazardous condition at the southwest corner of the beach parking lot. After rain, slippery black silt collects there, likely from the short-term flooding of the lawn between the lot and the beach.

Response: The proposed management action to rehabilitate the campground roads will assist in addressing stormwater management via: road crowning to maintain sheet flow to appropriate sites to avoid resource impacts; adding check dams, where needed, to existing cross drainage; providing adequate road and shoulder surface to limit adjacent soil compaction; supplying permeable, granular shoulders; and adding vegetation as part of the campsite restoration project. Other storm water management techniques may be incorporated as part of final detailed plans developed for the campground road rehabilitation.

Comments regarding accessibility

6. Comment: Campground should provide more accessible features for individuals with disabilities.

Response: The Department works to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by incorporating accessibility for individuals with disabilities into the siting, planning, construction, and alteration of its recreational facilities. The UMP for Golden Beach contains various management actions to offer more accessible features, including replacement of the former vault toilet building, shower building, and comfort stations with accessible facilities and accessible parking; construction of an accessible pavilion near the beach area; replacement of the ticket booth (to be built to accessible standards); replacement of the existing trailered boat launch with an accessible hand launch; etc.

Comments regarding natural resources and potential impacts stemming from proposed management actions

7. Comment: The UMP should assess and describe climate impacts.

Response: The Department and Agency appreciate this feedback and have added language regarding the State's commitments under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act under "Inventory of Issues and Constraints."

8. Comment: The UMP is missing the necessary species and habitat inventory.

Response: Because the Golden Beach Intensive Use Area is surrounded by state lands with existing unit management plans, this plan references the wildlife and habitat inventories for the neighboring [Blue Ridge Wilderness](#) and [Moose River Plains Wild Forest](#) areas.

9. Comment: Mitigate stormwater flow off of roads into campsites.

Response: The management action to rehabilitate 2.25 miles of campground roads will help to alleviate stormwater impacts and erosion and sedimentation issues. Page 21 of the proposed final UMP includes the following language: "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."

10. Comment: Don't conflate carrying capacity with the camper survey. The survey has important information for maintenance reasons, but it does not identify the natural resources present and their ability to support "x" number of campers. This section should be retitled "annual camper survey."

Response: The UMP describes how DEC evaluated the physical design, biological carrying capacity, and social carrying capacity of the campground. As described in the UMP, the camper survey is only one part of assessing the third component: social carrying capacity. The survey helps inform DEC whether the existing facilities are adequate to meet customer expectations. The natural resources of the site are described in Part II.C of the UMP and the biological carrying capacity is assessed at Part III.F.2.b. DEC did not make any changes to the UMP in response to this comment.

Comments regarding campsites

11. Comment: Campsites are being closed for restoration and then no work is being done there – why?

Response: At present, a minimum of five campsites are selected for temporary closure per year. Rehabilitation work may include shoreline stabilization; maintaining campsite surface to reduce erosion, soil loss, and compaction; revegetating areas between campsites and along the shoreline; and replacing fire rings and picnic tables. Work is completed as staff resources allow and the campsites will remain closed until work is completed.

Comments regarding Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan conformance

12. Comment: Commenter is seeking more detailed information about the reclassification boundaries and buffers.

Response: The plan proposes the following four reclassification actions, which are detailed in the [online interactive story map](#) prepared for the 2023-2024 state land classification package.

HA-6-A: This action proposes reclassifying 5.7 acres from the Sargent Pond Wild Forest land to Intensive Use. The purpose for this is to reclassify areas that contain pre-existing campground infrastructure such as the entrance road, ticket booth, and caretaker's cabin. The northern boundary follows a 100-foot setback from the campground entrance road and the road to campsites 122 - 156.

HA-6-B: This action proposes reclassifying 3.8 acres from the Blue Ridge Wilderness to Intensive Use in light of a mapping error. This acreage contains components of the campground's pre-existing septic system. The boundaries are drawn to allow for minor expansion of the leach field when the existing infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life.

HA-6-C: This action proposes reclassifying 22.9 acres from the existing Intensive Use area to be added to the Sargent Pond Wild Forest. This area to the north of the campground loop is characterized by freshwater forested and shrub wetlands, therefore future developments allowable in an Intensive Use area would not be appropriate on this acreage. This boundary is drawn with a 100-foot setback from the road.

HA-6-D: This action proposes reclassifying 8.2 acres from the western end of the existing Intensive Use Area to be added to the Sargent Pond Wild Forest. The boundary is drawn roughly a quarter of a mile west of the last roadside campsite along NYS Route 28.

13. Comment: Previous reclassifications have followed a precedent of achieving a 2:1 or greater ratio for more restrictive classifications.

Response: When the Agency considers classification and reclassification of land, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) requires that classification decisions are made based on the characteristics of the land and its capacity to withstand use. Several mapping errors were identified at Golden Beach, which prompted Agency staff to take a more holistic look at the facilities and surrounding lands to determine whether land classification boundaries were accurate based on pre-existing infrastructure and resource constraints. The Agency does not employ any specific ratio when considering potential reclassifications of state land.

14. Comment: Given the information provided in the UMP, it appears that the campground is not operating within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the site.

Response: The carrying capacity analysis included at Part III.F.2 determined that the campground would benefit from additional infrastructure, renovations, and campsite restoration. Management actions to address these deficiencies are proposed in Part IV of the UMP. Other than these deficiencies, the UMP did not find that the campground is exceeding its physical,

biological, or social carrying capacity and the commenter does not point to any specific information to find otherwise. DEC did not make any changes to the UMP in response to this comment.

Comments regarding campground operations

15. Comment: DEC should provide more housing for seasonal staff, consider renovating old bathhouses into housing rather than a pavilion.

Response: Seasonal staff housing is a challenge across the Adirondack Park as a whole, for both governmental and non-governmental positions. One strategy that has been employed at the Golden Beach facility is to enable staff to utilize administrative campsites throughout the duration of the season. While the Department appreciates this feedback, the comment is administrative in nature and beyond the scope of this unit management plan.

16. Comment: Campground is understaffed.

Response: The Department appreciates this feedback, however these types of administrative/operational details are beyond the scope of this unit management plan.

17. Comment: Allow for fewer hours when generators can be used.

Response: The Department appreciates this feedback, however these types of administrative/operational details are beyond the scope of this unit management plan.

18. Comment: There is a preference for concrete fireplaces over fire rings at campsites.

Response: The Department appreciates this feedback. As both concrete fireplaces and fire rings are conforming to the APSLMP in intensive use areas, these types of decisions are administrative/operational in nature and beyond the scope of this unit management plan.