



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Brown Tract Pond Public Campground

Unit Management Plan

~~PUBLIC DRAFT~~
FINAL

Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York

~~July~~October 2018

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

Governor **ANDREW M. CUOMO**

Commissioner **BASIL SEGGOS**

**BROWN TRACT POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II
~~DRAFT~~-UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

NOTE: Volume I is a generic plan and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day-use classified intensive-use areas. Volume II is a site-specific document containing inventories of physical, biological, and human-made features, together with specific management actions for the individual site. Volume III contains support data in the form of an appendix to Volumes I and II.

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

Region 5 staff has prepared this ~~draft~~ UMP ~~for review~~. Any comments and/or information should be forwarded to Gary Levesque, copy to Josh Houghton, Division of Operations. For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

SUMMARY
BROWN TRACT POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

Goals include: managing recreation programs in a manner which ensures protecting natural resources in accordance with Environmental Conservation Law, offering recreational opportunities for 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.

The DEC’s management of the Brown Tract Pond Public Campground will conform to the APSLMP. In addition, the actions proposed in this UMP will conform to the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the Generic Unit Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement (GUMP/EIS) and do not require any separate site-specific environmental review (see 6 NYCRR 617.10[d]).

Any action the DEC takes on this unit that is not addressed in this UMP and is not addressed in the GUMP/EIS may need a separate site-specific environmental review. To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the five management actions below are being proposed.

Proposed Management Actions
• Replace ticket booth
• Construct firewood storage building
• Reconstruct comfort station #1 and #4 to include showers
• Install utility sinks at all toilet buildings
• Construct a garage/ workshop

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with state health codes, maintenance of physical plant investment, modernization of facilities which enhance visitors’ recreational experience, upkeep of facilities to maintain public safety, and providing conditions in a setting and on scale in harmony with the character of the Adirondack Park.

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

Mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts have been considered. All construction projects will limit tree removal to minimize clearing and maintain the facility's wooded appearance. Architectural designs will be selected to achieve a harmonious blending with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will readily reestablish vegetation, effectively stabilizing soils. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. Proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities.

Various alternative actions were considered. Public opposition, adverse effects on local communities, and uncontrolled use of State lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. Current precedents preclude selection of alternatives at this time.

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	7
A. Overview	7
1. Location	7
2. History	7
II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES	11
A. Inventory of Existing Facilities	11
1. Camping and Day-use (Picnic) Areas	11
2. Roads	11
3. Buildings	11
4. Sewage System	12
5. Solid Waste	12
6. Barriers	12
7. Telephone	13
8. Signs	13
9. Electric System	13
10. Potable Water System	13
11. Trails	13
12. Fuel Systems	14
13. Swimming	14
14. Boating	14
B. Inventory of Systems	15
1. Staff	15
2. Fee Schedule 2017	15
3. Permits	15
4. Off season Use	15
5. Junior Naturalist Program	16
C. Inventory of Natural Resources	16
1. Physical	16
2. Biological	17
III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS	19
A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution	19
B. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan	19
C. Environmental Conservation Laws	19

D. Recreation Program Goals	19
E. Campground Generic Plan/EIS	19
F. Public Use	20
1. Inventory of Public Use	20
2. Carrying Capacity	21
IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS	28
1. Replace ticket booth	28
2. Construct firewood storage building	28
3. Reconstruct comfort station #1 and #4 to include showers	29
4. Install utility sinks at all toilet buildings	29
5. Construct a garage/workshop	29
EXHIBIT INDEX	30
I. INTRODUCTION	7
A. Overview	7
1. Location	7
2. History	7
II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES	11
A. Inventory of Existing Facilities	11
1. Camping and Day-use (Picnic) Areas	11
2. Roads	11
3. Buildings	11
4. Sewage System	12
5. Solid Waste	12
6. Barriers	12
7. Telephone	13
8. Signs	13
9. Electric System	13
10. Potable Water System	13
11. Trails	13
12. Fuel Systems	14
13. Swimming	14
14. Boating	14
B. Inventory of Systems	15
1. Staff	15

2. Fee Schedule 2017	15
3. Permits	15
4. Off-season Use.....	15
5. Junior Naturalist Program.....	16
C. Inventory of Natural Resources.....	16
1. Physical.....	16
2. Biological.....	17
III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS	19
A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution.....	19
B. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan	19
C. Environmental Conservation Laws	19
D. Recreation Program Goals	19
E. Campground Generic Plan/EIS	19
F. Public Use.....	20
1. Inventory of Public Use	20
2. Carrying Capacity	21
IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.....	28
1. Replace ticket booth.....	28
2. Construct firewood storage building.....	28
3. Reconstruct comfort station #1 and #4 to include showers	29
4. Install utility sinks at all toilet buildings.....	29
5. Construct a garage/workshop.....	29
EXHIBIT INDEX	30

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Brown Tract Pond Campground is located on the east shore of the 146-acre Browns Tract Pond. The campground consists of 20 acres all of which are considered developed. The remote Adirondack setting of this facility offers a relaxing, quiet beauty all its own. The campsites offer privacy; they are large and well-forested. Camping equipment from tents to 30-foot RVs can be accommodated. A picnic area is located adjacent to the sandy shoreline of Browns Tract Pond. Brown Tract Pond Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities including canoeing and boating. Canoe and row boat rentals are available at the campground. Good opportunities for fishing exist in this area. The major species in Browns Tract Pond is brook trout. The paved roads within the campground and miles of county and town roads in the surrounding area offer many opportunities for bicycling. Nearby trails to Black Bear Mountain, Bug Lake, Eagle Lake, and Eighth Lake offer patrons opportunities to hike in the area. Marked trails lead to Shallow Lake and West Mountain.

There are many other activities in the surrounding area. The nearby Old Forge Region offers amusements, restaurants, and golf courses. The Adirondack Museum is located in Blue Mountain Lake, and there are additional restaurants and golf courses in Inlet and Indian Lake.

Guidelines for management of the campground are based on its classification as an Intensive Use Area in the Adirondack Park State Land - Master Plan (APSLMP).

1. Location

The campground is located in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 5, Indian Lake Regional Sub-office, two miles northwest of the Village of Raquette Lake, and seven miles east of Eagle Bay, off Route 28, Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, all or portions of the northeast quarter of Township 45, and southeast quarter of Township 41, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase.

2. History

The history of the lands upon which today's campground is located is less about pioneers that settled here to tame the wilderness but more about speculators, lumberman and wealthy camp owners who passed through this area on their ways to other places.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the years immediately preceding the American Revolution, settlements were pressing closer to the Adirondacks and land speculators began to purchase large tracts of wilderness. In 1771, Joseph Totten and Stephen Crossfield, acting for King George III, purchased from the Mohawk Nation, the rights to 1,150,000 acres in the central Adirondacks. Initially, 40 townships were laid out, each about 25,000 acres, 6 square miles on a side. Later, 10 more townships were added bringing the total to 50. Browns Tract Ponds and the campground straddles the line dividing the northern portion of Township 5 and the southern portion of Township 41. Today, this line also divides the towns of Long Lake and Inlet. After the purchase, the ownership of these lands soon passed from the Crown to the newly designated New York State, which disposed of the lands for settlement.

In 1798, Rhode Island merchant John Brown obtained title to a 210,000-acre tract of land immediately to the west of townships 41 and 5. It became known as John Brown's Tract. These lands were divided into townships with names such as Enterprise, Industry and Sobriety. While Browns Tract Ponds and the campground are clearly named for the tract, they are not located within it.

According to DEC real property records, Township 41 was conveyed from the State to Alexander Macomb in 1787. In the conveyance to Macomb, the State reserved any gold and silver mines and five acres of every 100 acres for future highway construction. In subsequent years Macomb conveyed portions of Township 41 to different owners including Gabriel Shaw and his heirs. There does not appear to be much activity in this township for the period of time Macomb and the Shaws owned it. An 1829 map of Hamilton County reveals both townships 5 and 41 remained intact without subdivisions. When Township 41 was sold in 1897, it was still intact as a 25,000-acre parcel. The 1911 New York State Gazetteer map of Hamilton County shows no settlements on or near the Browns Tract Ponds. Township 5, where the southern half of the campground is now located has a similar story, but with conveyances involving different families.

During this same time period, much activity was taking place in other parts of the Adirondacks. Mining activity with forges and furnaces led to new settlements throughout the northern and eastern Adirondacks. Lumber and pulp production occurred throughout the Adirondacks starting in the mid nineteenth century and peaking about 1880. The central location of Browns Tract Ponds within the Adirondacks, made removal of timber more difficult than in other areas. The 1900 Report of the Forest Fish and Game Commission reported that in Township 5, spruce had been cut along the route of the Uncas Railroad, but the rest was untouched and contained a significant proportion of softwoods. The

report also noted that the adjacent Township 40, which surrounds Raquette Lake, was mostly virgin timber with heavy stands of mature spruce, pine and balsam.

Despite the remote location, the Browns Tract Ponds area did become a hub of human activity. In 1836, the Constable brothers established a canoe route starting in Old Forge and used by the region's early settlers and Adirondack guides. The route passes within one half mile of Browns Tract Ponds and today is known as the Adirondack 90 Miler. In the mid-to-late-1800's, some of America's most affluent families, such as the Vanderbilts, Morgans and Webbs, began securing lakeside summer homes in the Adirondacks. Transportation to reach these "Great Camps" was challenging and often required a combination of railroad, steamboat and horse and buggy travel. By 1896, roads extended from the steamboat landing at Eagle Bay on Fourth Lake all the way to Sucker Bay on Raquette Lake and to Camp Uncas on Mohegan Lake. Maps show that, until 1929, the only direct road to Raquette Lake from Eagle Bay was the Eagle Bay and Raquette Lake Road via Browns Tract Ponds. Today, this road is known as the Uncas Road and leads past the entrance of the campground. Campsites #83-#90 are located directly on this road. A northern spur which led to Sucker Bay on Raquette Lake passed between the ponds and then along the west shore of the Lower Pond. According to records, this spur had fallen into disrepair by 1910, but its remains are still visible today in the woods near campsites #68 and the start of the foot trail to Shallow Lake.

According to David Beetle's book *Up Old Forge Way*, Collis Huntington, president of the Southern Pacific Railroad, was forced to sit on a keg of nails on an overcrowded Fulton Chain steamer, when it occurred to him that this was no way for a railroad president to get to his summer home. He and his influential friends were also forced to park their private railroad cars at the Old Forge dock or at Big Moose Station. At this point, John Dix, the governor of New York, was using his lumber railroad from Clearwater Station to Rondaxe Lake. In 1897, in an effort to extend the railroad from Rondaxe to the Great Camps, William West Durant purchased thousands of acres east of the Fulton Chain including all 25,000 acres of Township 41. By 1900, Durant had completed the Raquette Lake Railway which allowed rail travel from New York City all the way to Raquette Lake. This short stretch of rail was famous for hauling as many as six private rail cars at once and having one the most distinguished board of directors in the world which included J. P. Morgan, W. Seward Webb and Alfred Vanderbilt. The railway passed just south of today's campground, and while the rails are no longer there, the route can be followed by driving along the Uncas and Dillon roads.

I. INTRODUCTION

At the close of the 19th century, William Seward Webb began selling off unneeded parcels to New York State. The portion of the campground in Township 41 was acquired first from William Seward Webb and his wife, Eliza Osgood Webb, on January 1, 1898. The portion of the campground that lies in Township 5 was acquired May 26, 1899. Thousands of acres of land were included in each conveyance, including lands beyond townships 5 and 41. These lands became part of the Forest Preserve and today are part of the Pigeon Lake Wilderness, Moose River Plains Wild Forest and Brown Tract Ponds Intensive Use Area.

In 1918, New York State voters approved an amendment to the New York State Constitution to allow for a highway to be built from Eagle Bay to Raquette Lake. This road, known today as Route 28, was completed in 1929, replacing the Uncas Road as the main route through this part of the Adirondacks.

As highways improved and automobile travel became affordable for more families, the State created more camping and recreational opportunities. Development of Brown Tract Pond Campground commenced in 1957 and was completed in 1958 at an approximate cost of \$136,000. According to the Conservation Department's 1958 and 1959 reports to the Legislature, annual attendance during the 1959 season was 7,711 visitors.

Year	Brown Tract Pond Campground Improvements
1959	Campground opened
1992	New well, chlorination and distribution system installed
1993	Construct recycle building
1994	Chlorination system installed in recycle building
2001	Toilets converted to flush, walls and floors resurfaced
2013	Electric system upgrades
2013	Roads and drainage improvements

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-use (Picnic) Areas

Camping Area	Day-use Area
90 campsites	10 picnic tables
90 picnic tables	15 fireplaces
90 fireplaces	3 water spigots
19 water spigots	50 vehicle parking lot
Design capacity – 540 persons (90 x 6/site)	Design capacity – 60 persons (10 x 6/table)

2. Roads

There are approximately 1 1/2 miles of paved roads with an average pavement width of 12 feet.

3. Buildings

Bldg #	Bldg Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Facility supervisor’s cottage	Living and office space	816	Good	1960
(002)	Tool shed	Storage	120	Poor	1960
(003)	Registration booth	Control	80	Good	1960
(004)	Toilet building #2	Near site #21	313	Fair	1960
(005)	Toilet building #1	Near site #16	313	Poor	1960
(006)	Pump house	Near Site #33	48	Fair	1960
(007)	Toilet building #3	Near site #37	313	Fair	1960
(008)	Toilet building #4	Near beach	313	Good	1960
(010)	Bathhouse	Near beach	256	Fair	1960
(011)	Lifeguard cabin	Living space	300	Fair	1960
(012)	Toilet building #5	Near site #39	313	Fair	1960
(013)	Toilet building #6	Near site #59	313	Fair	1960
(014)	Reservoir	Across road from entrance	81	Fair	1960
(015)	Recycle center	Near registration booth	320	Good	1993

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted Nov 2016.

Toilet building 1 has 3 toilets and 1 sink per sex. Toilet buildings 2-6 have 4 toilets and 1 sink per sex. The Caretaker and lifeguard cabins each have a kitchen sink, shower, toilet and bathroom sink.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

4. Sewage System

All sewage disposal in the campground is by use of septic tanks and leach fields. Sewage is pumped by lift stations from comfort stations #4 and #5 and the lifeguard cabin. For all other buildings, sewage flows by gravity to leach fields. Septic tank content is disposed of as needed in compliance with the DEC SPDES permit for this facility and utilizing a septic tank pumper, with effluent transported by the contractor to a regulated disposal site.

Bldg #	Bldg #/Type	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Pumped to Field	Year Built
(001)	Facility supervisor's cottage	1000	1,200 sq ft field	1993
(011)	Lifeguard Cabin*	1000	35' x 83' Field. Outfall #4	2001
(015)	Recycle Building	1000	Combined with (001)	1993
	Trailer Dump Station	1000	1,000 sq ft field	
(005)	Comfort Station 1	1000	15' x 29' Field. Outfall #1	2001
(004)	Comfort Station 2	1000	15' x 60' Field. Outfall #2	2001
(007)	Comfort Station 3	1000	15' x 22' Field. Outfall #3	2001
(008)	Comfort Station 4*	2500	35' x 83' Field. Outfall #4	2001
(012)	Comfort Station 5**	1000	15' x 50' Field. Outfall #5	2001
(013)	Comfort Station 6	1500	35' x 34' Field. Outfall #6	2001

*Wastewater from these two septic tanks flows by gravity to Lift Station No. 1 which pumps wastewater to a 35' x 83' absorption bed (Outfall #4)

**Wastewater from this septic tank discharges to Lift Station #2 which pumps effluent to a 15' x 50' absorption bed (Outfall #5)

5. Solid Waste

Annual refuse generated is estimated to be 2.3 tons. At this time solid waste is disposed of at the Indian Lake transfer station. A recycling program is operated at the campground. This campground has a centralized refuse disposal facility managed by a staff person. A brochure is available to instruct campers of its availability and required use. The Recycling Center is tied into the campground water system and has its own on-site sewage system.

Beginning in the 1992 season, all day-use areas have been under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected and brochures are used to help inform the public.

6. Barriers

Barriers 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. Currently there is one metal pipe gate which is used to control access to the facility. The pipe gate is locked closed during the winter.

7. Telephone

The main phone number for Brown Tract Pond Campground is 315-354-4412. When the campground is closed, the phone line is disconnected.

8. Signs

The messages conveyed to the public by means of standard (yellow on brown) signs include directions to and/or information about entry, the supervisor's office, the bulletin board, traffic control, commemorations, regulations, the picnic area, comfort stations and campsites.

9. Electric System

The campground is not serviced by public utilities. Electrical power is supplied by propane-fired generators. In 2013, a 14kW propane-fired generator was installed in a new building across from the Recycle Center. This generator provides electric to the Recycle Center, well pump, facility supervisor's cottage and Comfort Stations #1 and #2 via buried electric lines. Also in 2013, a 10kW propane-fired generator was installed in existing building adjacent to Comfort Station #4. This generator provides electric to Comfort Stations #3 and #4, the Bathhouse and Lifeguard Cabin via buried electric lines. An existing 10kw propane-fired generator in an existing enclosure provides electric to Comfort Stations #5 and #6 via buried electric lines. (See Exhibit #7.)

10. Potable Water System

A new well was drilled in 1992, and new pipelines were installed throughout the campground. A new chlorination facility was installed and placed in service in the spring of 1994. The well is 160 feet deep with a yield capacity of 25 gallons per minute. It is pumped by a 2 HP pump with a pumping capacity of 20 gallons per minute. Water is pumped to a storage reservoir with a capacity of 5,950 gallons and flows by gravity through 1.4 miles of supply line to a chlorination unit in the recycle center and on to 22 spigots, comfort stations, staff housing, recycle center and a trailer dump station.

11. Trails

Several hiking options are available starting directly from the campground or after short drives outside the campground. The Shallow Lake trail starts at a marked trailhead near campsite #69 and reaches an intersection with the Sucker Brook Bay trail at .2 miles. Shallow Lake is reached in another 1.2 miles on this trail. Turning left at this intersection, the Sucker Brook Bay trail leads .9 miles to Browns Tract Road. Turning right at this intersection, the Sucker Brook Bay Trail follows an old wagon

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

road to Sucker Brook Bay on Raquette Lake in 2.2 miles and to the summit of West Mountain in 4.8 miles. Other popular trails in the area include the .3 mile Ferd's Bog trail located on Uncas Road 3.7 miles west of the campground entrance and the 2.2 mile Black Bear Mountain trail located on Uncas Road 4.2 miles west of the campground entrance. In the winter, Browns Tract Road and Uncas Road are not plowed and are used by snowmobilers, snowshoers and cross-country skiers.

12. Fuel Systems

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

	Product Type	Tank Size Gal	Location
1	Propane	(3) 120ea	Near entrance
2	Propane	120	Caretaker's cabin
3	Propane	(2) 120 ea	Near comfort station 5
4	Propane	120	Day use area
	Avg gallons used 1,570		Avg annual Cost \$1,480

13. Swimming

In past years, the beach at Brown Tract Pond Campground was operational for the core of the camping season and staffed by lifeguards. However, a lack of qualified lifeguards in the area has forced the closure of the beach for the season since 2013. The Department intends to continue to recruit and test lifeguard candidates and open the beach if qualified staff become available.

14. Boating

Brown Tract Pond Campground boat launch is listed in the New York State Directory of State Access and Boat Launching Areas as consisting of a hand-launching area and parking for 10 cars. Paddlers can connect to Raquette Lake via Brown Tract Inlet. The use of boat motors is not permitted. Exhibit 11 of Volume I of the Final Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas indicated the campground affords the only point of public boat access to Lower Browns Tract Pond and that the boating access facility does not include a pre-existing, improved ramp. As the land surrounding Browns Tract Pond is entirely State-owned, no private boats are present and it is consistent with the "Fishing/Waterway Access Site" type of facility described in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

The Brown Tract Pond Campground was included in the 1990 Statewide Survey of Boating Use at Public Waterway Access Sites in New York State (Major, et-al, 1992). Based on counts of boats entering the campground, 283 boating trips were estimated during the campground's operating season.

This estimate should be viewed as a minimum estimate since it is based on the assumption that all boats entering the campground were counted. Insufficient boater questionnaires were returned from the survey (only three) to draw definitive conclusions about use rates, vessel types, reasons for boating or user preferences for the site.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

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

2. Fee Schedule 2017

Daily Fees 2017 Open Dates: May 19 - Sept 4	
Camping/night – NYS Residents	\$18.00
Camping/night – Non-Residents	\$23.00
Day Use - Auto	\$8.00
Day Use - Walk In	\$2.00
Day Use - Bus	\$50.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$4.00
Wood – per bag	\$9.00

3. Permits

Peddling permits may be issued annually for firewood, boat rentals and camper supplies. Fees for permits are set per DEC policy. In 2016, there were no permits issued.

4. Off-season Use

During the winter, the main campground is closed and gated. The Uncus Road is a seasonal road which is closed to vehicle traffic and is a designated snowmobile trail as conditions allow during the winter. Roadside campsites are used during the off season before the road is closed to vehicles and may be used by snowmobilers during the winter.

5. Junior Naturalist Program

The Junior Naturalist Program offers an activity book that gives children the opportunity to test their environmental knowledge while teaching them more about New York State's environment. Children ages 5 through 12 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 the availability of funding and may not be offered every season. In 2016, the program was offered at the campground.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The average elevation within the campground is 1768 feet and has a maximum of 1878 feet. (See Exhibit 2.)

b. Water

Lower Browns Tract Pond is 146 acres in size with a maximum depth of 32 feet. There are 23 campsites located on the shore of the lake. The campground day use area is located on the east shore. (See Exhibit 2.)

c. Wetlands

Wetlands are inventoried, mapped, and protected under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law, by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency. Wetlands were mapped by the Adirondack Park Agency staff in 1995 after an on-site field investigation.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of the wetland will require a permit from the APA. The APA will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to these designated wetland areas. (See Exhibit 12.)

d. Soils

Soil associations consist of:

Soil Association	Description	Drainage Class
Becket-Tunbridge complex	35 to 60 percent slopes, very bouldery	Well drained
Wonsqueak-Rumney-Bucksport complex		Very poorly drained
Lyman-Ricker complex	15 to 35 percent slopes, very rocky	Somewhat excessively drained
Skerry-Adirondack complex	0 to 8 percent slopes, very bouldery	Moderately well drained

(See Exhibit 11.)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

The forest in the vicinity of the shoreline of Browns Tract Pond is primarily a beech-maple mesic forest—a hardwood forest with American beech and sugar maple co-dominating. These forests occur on moist, well-drained, usually acid soils. Common associates are basswood, American elm, white ash, yellow birch, hop hornbeam and red maple. There are relatively few shrubs and herbs. Eastern hemlock and red spruce may also be present at low densities.

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 Brown Tract Pond Campground.

c. Wildlife

No comprehensive inventory of species is available for the campground, however mammals whose habitat needs can be met in the area include white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, river otter, beaver, mink, varying hare, striped skunk, gray squirrel, porcupine, red fox, gray fox, muskrat, fisher and marten. The smaller mammals include a variety of bats, shrews, moles and mice, along with ermine, long-tailed weasel, eastern chipmunk and red squirrel.

According to New York State Breeding Bird Atlas data, 80 species of birds are believed to breed in and around Brown Tract Pond Campground. Some species thought to occur occasionally within the unit are not shown in the Bird Atlas data. Birds associated with marshes, ponds, lakes and streams are

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

numerous and include the common loon, great blue heron, green heron, American bittern, a variety of ducks, Canada goose and shore birds such as the spotted sandpiper. The most common ducks include the American black duck, mallard, wood duck, hooded merganser and common merganser. Birds of prey common to the area include the barred owl, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk and broadwinged hawk. Bald eagles have been reported in the area but have not been confirmed as nesting within the campground. Songbirds, such as woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers, blackbirds, finches, grosbeaks, and sparrows can also be found in the area.

The area's relatively short summers and the long, cold winters limit the number of reptile and amphibian species. Two species of turtles, two species of snakes, four species of salamanders, one species of toad and seven species of frogs are believed to be local residents.

d. Fisheries

Lower Browns Tract Pond was last surveyed in 1985. Although a single brook trout was captured during that survey, it was likely a transient moving through the system as this is a warm water fishery. The game fish species present in the 1985 survey include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed and brown bullhead. Other fish species present include golden shiner, white sucker, and bluntnose minnow. Banded killifish and tessellated darter were recorded in a 1968 survey. In the 1985 survey the pond was dominated by white sucker and yellow perch. Lower Browns Tract Pond has a maximum depth of 32 feet and the pH was 7.09 pH units with an ANC of 105.9 in the 1985 survey. This water is not stocked. It is connected to Raquette Lake by Browns Tract Inlet.

Upper Browns Tract Pond is located along the Uncas Road and is in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area just west of the campground and Lower Browns Tract Pond. Its close proximity to both the road and campground make it a popular fishing location. Bait fish are prohibited within wilderness areas and cannot be used on Upper Browns Tract Pond. The game fish species present in the 1984 survey include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, pumpkinseed and brown bullhead.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution

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

B. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

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

C. Environmental Conservation Laws

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

D. Recreation Program Goals

- Management of recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of natural resources according to Environmental Conservation Law, Article XIV of the New York State Constitution and the Adirondack and Catskill Park,s State Land Master Plans.
- Offer recreational opportunities for State residents.
- Ensure that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees.
- Manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the state.

E. Campground Generic Plan/EIS

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the GUMP/EIS and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day-use classified intensive-use areas.

F. Public Use

1. Inventory of Public Use

a. Attendance Trends

Attendance numbers are a combination of camper days (the number of campers times the number of nights spent) and day-use (the number of people using the beach or day-use areas or visiting campers) but not staying overnight. Camping attendance at this facility for the latest five years is about 30% higher than 20 years ago and day-use attendance is similar to attendance numbers reported 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months is limited. The Uncus road is closed seasonally and is a designated snowmobile trail during the winter. The main campground is gated during the off season.

Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits required or issued for off-season use, nor staff on site to monitor use.

The five-year trend in camping attendance indicates consistent levels of use in recent years. Day-use attendance is also static with a very low percentage of visitors at the campground coming for

day use. This is most likely due to the remote location and plentiful alternatives to visit. Most Brown Tract Pond campers are from New York State (88%) with strong representation from Onondaga, Oneida, Monroe and Erie counties. (See Exhibit 9). The average stay for campers is 3.4 nights, and overall campground occupancy for the season is 46%.

Brown Tract Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2017	13,390	359	13,749
2016	13,017	202	13,219
2015	13,650	281	13,931
2014	13,113	270	13,383
2013	13,353	303	13,656
Avg	<i>13,283</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>13,547</i>

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 and boat rental fees and firewood sales.

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Brown Tract Pond

Year	Camping	Day Use	Firewood	Boat Rentals	Other	Total
2017	\$83,281	\$760	\$4,302	\$7,420	-	\$95,763
2016	\$83,891	\$480	\$3,220	\$1,259	-	\$88,859
2015	\$84,584	\$792	\$4,221	-	-	\$89,597
2014	\$77,565	\$648	\$4,014	-	-	\$82,227
2013	\$76,809	\$644	\$1,336	-	\$360	\$79,149
Avg	\$80,712	\$641	\$3,420	\$4,340	\$360	\$84,958

Operating costs for Brown Tract Pond Campground average \$69,000 annually. While the revenue at this facility falls short of the operating costs due to several factors such as the size of facility, staffing requirements, and unique infrastructure, the revenue totals of all DEC recreation facilities meet the program goal of ensuring that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees. Revenue for day use is consistent with attendance fluctuations. Firewood revenue has increased significantly from 2014-2017 due to increased sales. Boat rentals were introduced in 2016.

2. Carrying Capacity

DEC campgrounds should be operated within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of each site. Operation within these limits will grant continued character and integrity to intensive recreational use and will ensure 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 compared to NYS Department of Health codes and DEC design standards. The existing campsite design capacity 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, and the following deficiencies are noted. Utility sinks are needed in each camping loop to provide a sanitary and convenient location for cleaning and disposing of waste water. Showers are needed and should be located conveniently within the facility. Comfort station #1 was rehabilitated several years ago to meet accessibility standards but does not meet current design requirements.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (90)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites	1	1	None
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	4,950 gpd	28,800 gpd	None
10 day-use picnic tables	5 gal/day/picnicker	50 gpd		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	9	19	None
	1/60 picnickers	1	3	None
Sinks (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	6	12	None
	1 for every 60 picnickers	1	2	None
Toilets/Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites	18	38	None
	2 for every 60 picnickers	2	6	None
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	6	0	6
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	8	0	8
*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.				

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many of the campsites have been in continuous use since the campgrounds opened. Depending on site design and level of occupancy, they are showing their age in terms of loss of vegetation screening, soil compaction, drainage issues and site amenity needs. To address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the conditions and needs at all DEC campgrounds, which include 6,000+ campsites. Restoration work will include tree and shrub plantings, replacement of lost soils, regrading of sites, drainage improvements, evaluation of the design and size of campsites and replacement of deteriorated tables and fireplaces. In most cases, sites that require restoration work will be removed from use for two camping seasons. In the Brown tract Campground, sites 27, 73, 76, 46 and 87 have been selected for restoration work and for closure in 2017 and 2018. Signs have been posted at the campground, and no reservations are being taken for these sites.

Additional sites for restoration, approximately two per season, will be selected each year. In some cases, sites will be considered for permanent closure or reconstruction. Sites permanently closed may be evaluated for relocation within this facility or to another facility in future unit management plans.

During winter, the campground is closed and gated. The Uncus Road is a seasonal road and vehicles are prohibited winter through spring thaw. During the winter, the road is a designated

snowmobile trail. Campsites along the Uncus Road get use from hunters and snowmobilers. Hazardous trees are removed on a regular basis (according to established policy) and in addition to natural regeneration, growth of residual trees and plantings compensate for any losses as noted above.

c. Social Carrying Capacity

Annual camper surveys have been conducted since 1996. Campers have been asked to rate their experience on a scale from unacceptable to excellent. At current attendance levels, this campground is operating within an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors.

Camper Survey Results		
Year	# of Responses	Good or Excellent
2017	199	97%
2016	258	97%
2015	267	94%
2014	52	92%
2013	224	95%

In 2016, campers were asked to provide any comments or suggestions they had about their stay at the campground and 178 campers provided their opinions. As follows:

- 31% of the responses included complimenting the campground staff
- 18% recommended a shower building be constructed
- 13% complimented the maintenance of the facility
- 10% complemented the natural beauty of the area

Other common responses noted that noise policies need to be better enforced, visitors were pleased with the addition of boat rentals, the registration process is onerous, the trailer dump station is difficult to use, campers would like bear boxes on each site, and visitors would like to see a playground constructed.

As part of the UMP process at Brown Tract Pond Campground, the condition of the 90 campsites were reviewed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the APSLMP, the Generic UMP for campgrounds and environmental regulations.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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.

D. Unique Ecosystems, Historical

The New York Natural Heritage Program maintains a comprehensive database on the status and location of rare species and natural communities found throughout the state. No significant unique ecosystems have been identified or are known to exist at the campground.

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map does not indicate the presence of any archaeological resources in the immediate area. However, prior to site disturbance for construction of any facility affiliated with this management plan, the nature and extent of archaeological resources in the project area, if any, will be investigated. If it appears that any aspect of the project will cause any beneficial or adverse changes in the quality of any historic or archaeological property, all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered, together with feasible plans to avoid and/or mitigate adverse impact on the property. The agency preservation officer has been so informed in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

E. Adjacent Lands

The campground is surrounded by State lands and there are no adjoining private property owners. The western boundary of the Intensive Use Area borders the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area for .97 miles. The eastern boundary borders the Moose River Plains Wild Forest for 1.57 miles. Browns Tract Road, a seasonal town road, roughly parallels the eastern boundary for .64 miles and bisects the southern portion of the campground for .29 miles. There are hiking trails originating in the campground leading to Upper Pond, Shallow Lake, Sucker Brook Bay on Raquette Lake and West Mountain. There is also waterway access through Brown Tract Inlet to Raquette Lake.

F. Invasive Species

DEC is concerned about the threat of both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species at Brown Tract Pond Campground because of their destructive effect on the environment and the associated financial drain on revenue and resources.

Many insect pests are moved around the country beyond their natural rate of spread based on biology and flight potential on firewood from infested trees carried by campers, hunters and other forest

users. A regulation in effect prohibits the import of firewood into New York unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. It also limits the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source.

A common way aquatic invasive species are moved around is by boaters and fishermen using multiple lakes and rivers with their equipment. At DEC facilities, information is often posted concerning these risks, and at manned facilities such as campgrounds, we offer literature, and in some cases, volunteer groups and or lake stewards to educate, inspect for and identify potential aquatic invasive species contamination risks.

DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, to establish a documented inventory of both aquatic and terrestrial species by location within the campground and to implement an invasive species management program to help contain and possibly eradicate them. These continued efforts resulted in a collaborative initiative among DEC, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry to develop the *Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management 2017 Program Report*. The 2017 report finds the following for the Brown Tract Pond Campground:

Invasive Plant Species: Garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle

Locations: Garlic mustard was found and pulled from sites 48, 74, 76, 78 and 81. Bush honeysuckle was documented at sites 4, 21, and 17, but can be found sporadically throughout the campground.

Management Totals: A total of 27 second-year garlic mustard plants were pulled from the campground. Four bush honeysuckle plants were pulled and hung upside down on site to dry and decompose.

Recommendations: This campground experienced an increase in both garlic mustard and bush honeysuckle infestations from levels documented in 2016. Annual monitoring and control should be continued to prevent further spread and address re-invasion of historically managed sites. It is especially important to manage the garlic mustard infestation on the elevated section of the campground (site 81). This infestation could rapidly spread downhill if left unmanaged, potentially infesting other campsites.

Management of these existing and potential infestations will be accomplished through a combination of methods including the contract with Paul Smiths College, Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management Program, Student Conservation Association and others.

G. General Operations

Brown Tract Pond Campground is a popular facility used by visitors during the summer season (mid-May through Labor Day) for camping, fishing, boating and hiking. The rest of the year, these campgrounds see little activity, with some visitation for ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The hiking trails are popular, especially in the fall. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the campgrounds for both visitors and employees. A well-maintained facility promotes increased interest in campers' use of these campgrounds and their amenities for continued recreation. Daily operations of these campgrounds are guided by policy set forth in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D of the *1990 Generic Unit Management Plan*.

H. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

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

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

Consistent with ADA requirements, DEC incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and the assets supporting them. This UMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of

architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

The DEC is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible as long as the DEC's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible. For copies of any of the above-mentioned laws or guidelines relating to accessibility, contact the DEC ADA Coordinator at 518-402-9437 or dec.sm.accessibility@dec.ny.gov.

An accessibility assessment was conducted at Brown Tract Pond Campground in 2014 by the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. The assessment results were reviewed during this planning process. Certain accessibility improvements are proposed in the "Proposed Management Actions" section and other improvements will occur over the life of the plan as funding is provided.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

Proposed Management Actions		
	Management Actions	Cost
1.	Replace ticket booth	\$25,000
2.	Construct firewood storage building	\$30,000
3.	Reconstruct comfort station #1 & #4 to include showers	\$400,000 ea
4.	Install utility sinks at all toilet buildings	\$10,000
5.	Construct a garage/workshop	\$80,000

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

1. Replace ticket booth

The existing ticket booth was constructed in 1960, prior to the need for computers, printers, and ADA design requirements. The building is undersized for today's equipment to check in campers and day users efficiently. This management action proposes to construct a new ticket booth in the same location that will meet the needs of today's operations.

2. Construct firewood storage building

In 2010, the Adirondack Park Agency approved an amendment to the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan for campgrounds that allowed for the construction of firewood storage buildings to aid in offering the public a more reliable source of treated firewood. This action was part of a larger strategic management program to control the spread of invasive insect species which can spread through the transport of infected firewood. This management action proposes to construct a storage building approximately 30' x 20' that will be used to store firewood and serve as a retail sales location to sell wood to the public.

3. Reconstruct comfort station #1 and #4 to include showers

Section III.F.2.a of this plan noted a deficiency in shower facilities, which are required to meet current DEC design standards. This management action proposes to remove comfort stations #1 and #4 and construct modern comfort stations with flush toilets and showers like those being constructed at other DEC campgrounds. These buildings will also meet accessibility design standards and will be sized according to the number of campsites they serve. The number and locations of showers will be determined by the number of sites they serve and engineering assessments of existing absorption fields. Reconstructed buildings will meet the setback requirements from ~~shoreline~~shorelines and wetlands.

4. Install utility sinks at all toilet buildings

Section III.F.2.a of this plan noted a deficiency of five utility sinks in the camping area. With no alternative for disposal 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 toilet building 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 add utility sinks at the five toilet buildings in the camping loop areas.

5. Construct a garage/workshop

The seasonal nature of campgrounds requires a secure building to perform maintenance, painting and repairs to equipment, plumbing and electrical components, signs, picnic tables, etc. during foul weather. During the off season, space is needed to store items such as boats, mowers and tools. It also serves as a meeting place for employees. Brown Tract Pond currently does not have a garage, and this management action proposes to construct an approximately 400 square foot building near the recycle center.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Index
Exhibit #1 – Adirondack Park Location Overview Map
Exhibit #2 – Campground Contour Map
Exhibit #3 – Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4 – Facility Map
Exhibit #4a - Facility Camping Loop Map
Exhibit #5 - Sewage System Map
Exhibit #6 - Water System Map
Exhibit #7 – Electric System Map
Exhibit #8 – Forest Vegetation Map
Exhibit #9 – Campground Camper Demographics Map
Exhibit #10 – Campground Weekly Attendance Graph
Exhibit #11 – Soils Map
Exhibit #12 – Wetlands Map
Exhibit #13 - Campground Management Actions
Exhibit #14 - Campground Photos
<u>Exhibit #15 – Response to Public Comment</u>