



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

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# **Brown Tract Pond Public Campground**

## **Unit Management Plan**

### **FINAL**

Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York

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**October 2018**

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

*Governor* **ANDREW M. CUOMO**

*Commissioner* **BASIL SEGGOS**



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

**NOTE:** Volume I is a generic plan and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which 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 UMP. 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.

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### 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.



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

## I. INTRODUCTION

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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.

At the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.*

**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

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).

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

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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.)

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

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### *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

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
<b>Avg</b>	<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.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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.

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
<b>*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.</b>				

***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

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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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.



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

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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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

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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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](mailto: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**

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

<b>Proposed Management Actions</b>		
	<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>Cost</b>
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.

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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### **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 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.

**EXHIBIT INDEX**

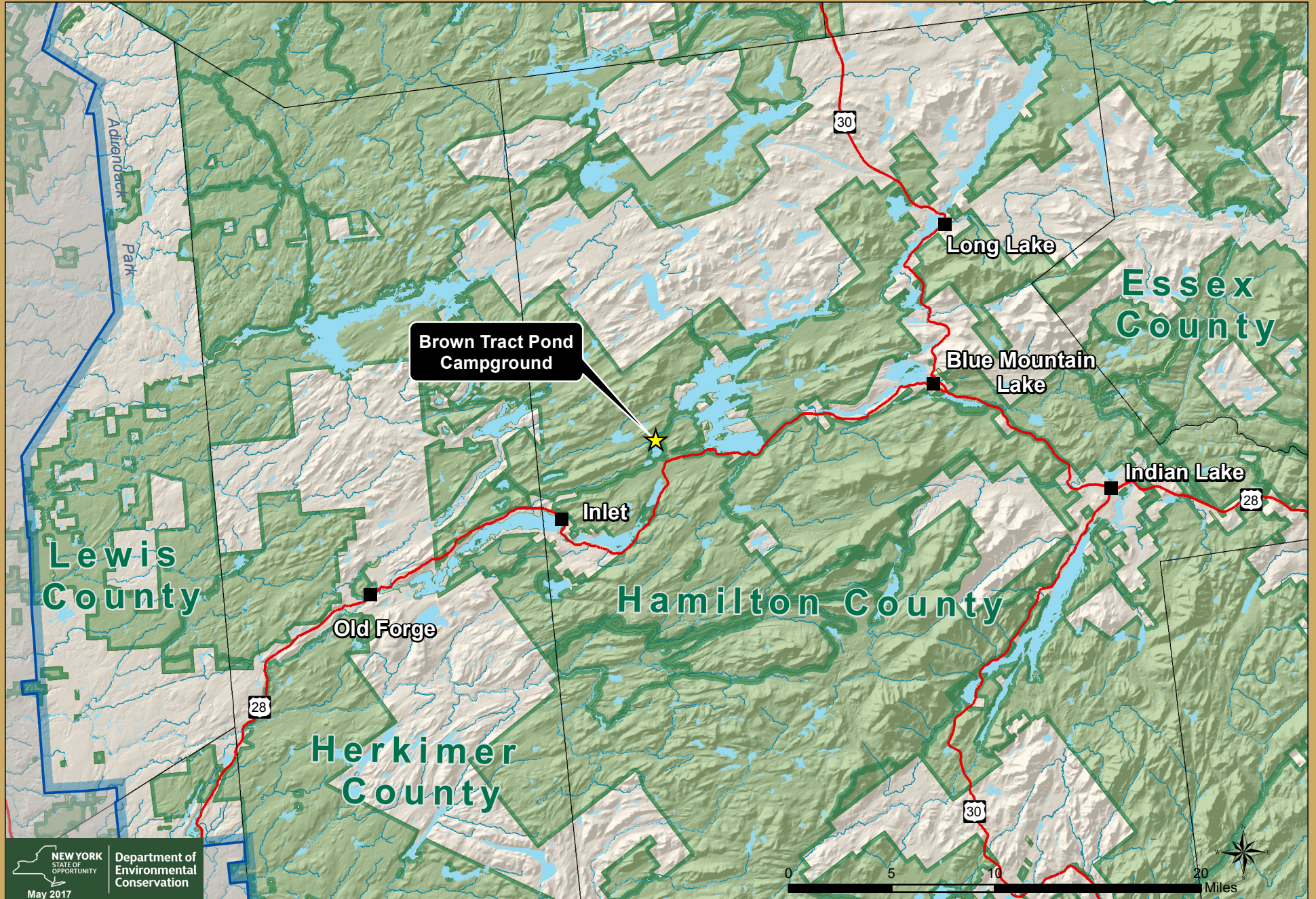
Exhibit Index
Exhibit #1 – Adirondack Park Location Overview Map
Exhibit #2 – Campground Contour Map
Exhibit #3 – Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4 – Facility Map
Exhibit #4a - Facility Camping Loop Map
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Exhibit #6 - Water System Map
Exhibit #7 – Electric System Map
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Exhibit #13 - Campground Management Actions
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Exhibit #15 – Response to Public Comment

# Brown Tract Pond Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



Adirondack  
Park



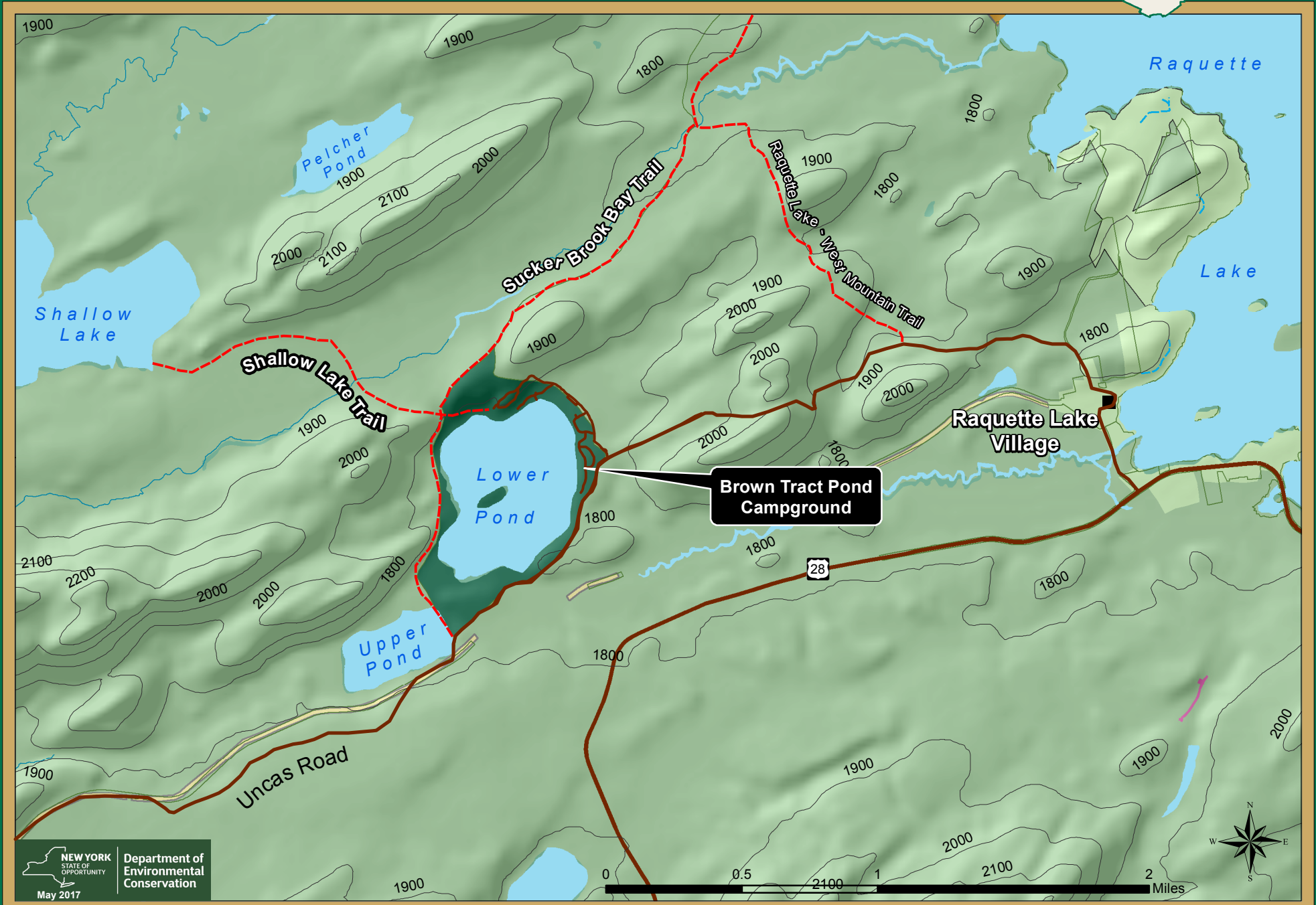


# Brown Tract Pond Campground

Exhibit # 2 - Topography and Trail Map



Adirondack  
Park

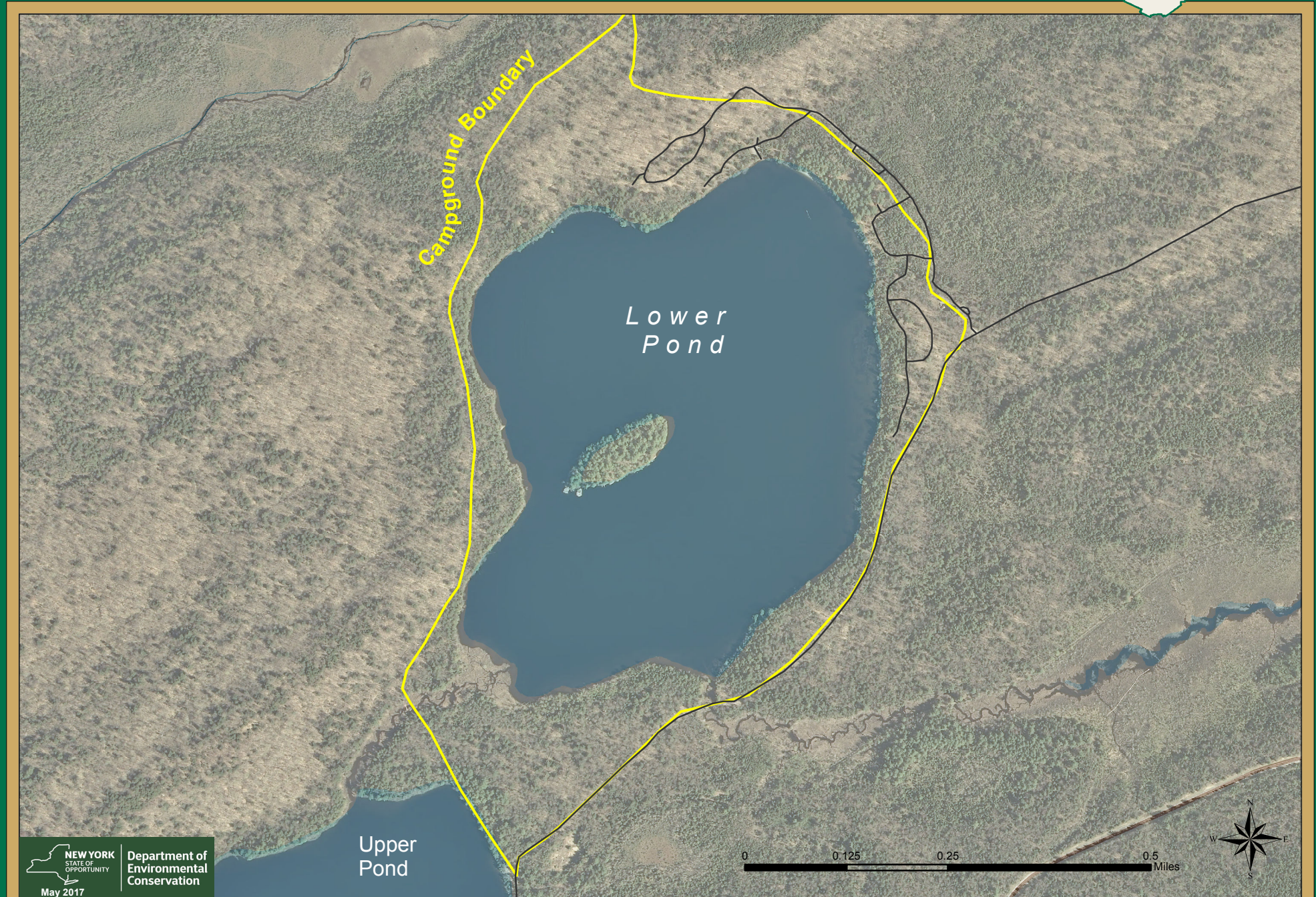


# Brown Tract Pond Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



Adirondack  
Park



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

May 2017

Upper  
Pond

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



# Brown Tract Pond Campground

Exhibit # 4 - Facility Map



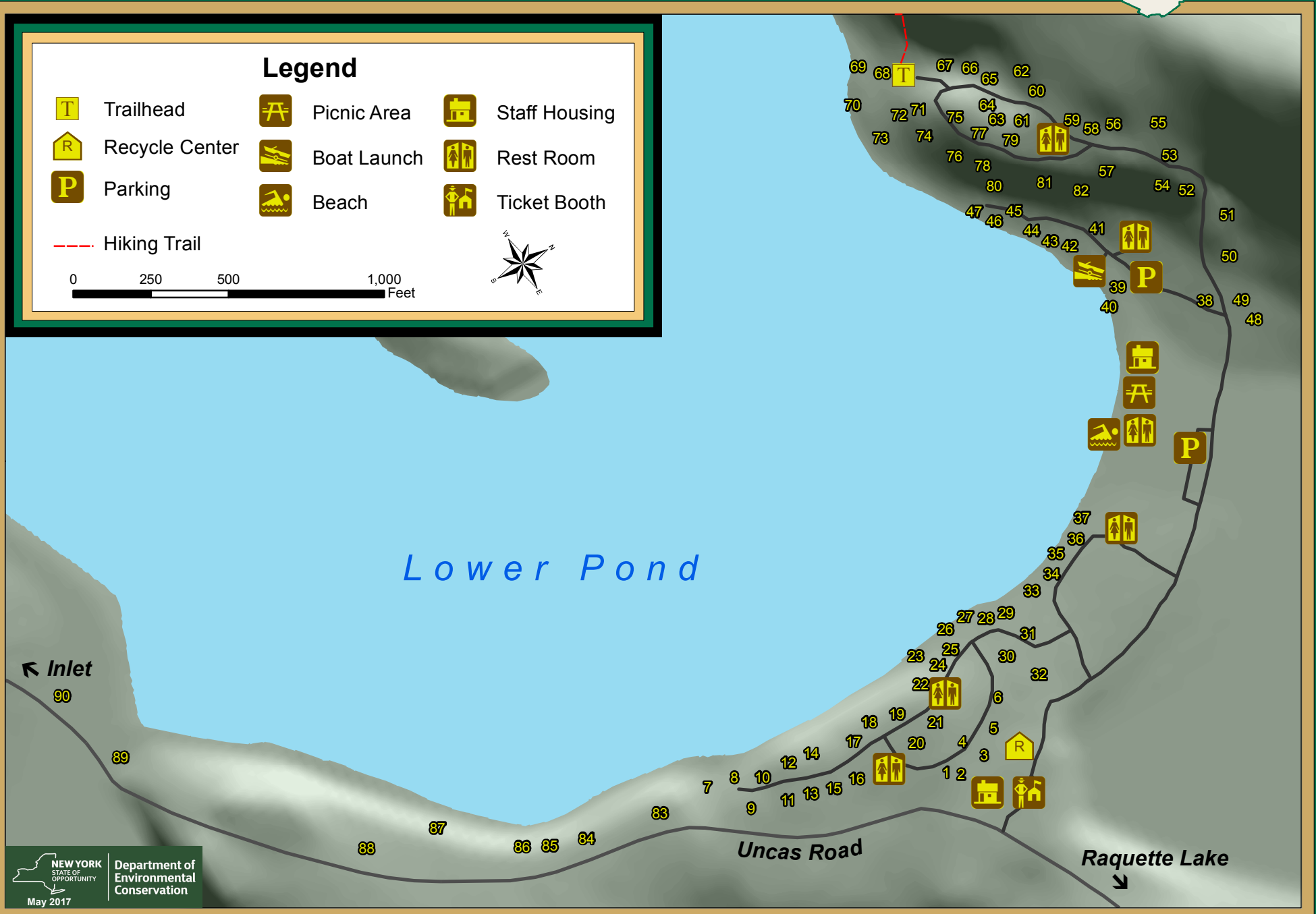
Adirondack  
Park

## Legend

- |  |                |  |             |  |               |
|--|----------------|--|-------------|--|---------------|
|  | Trailhead      |  | Picnic Area |  | Staff Housing |
|  | Recycle Center |  | Boat Launch |  | Rest Room     |
|  | Parking        |  | Beach       |  | Ticket Booth  |

Hiking Trail

0 250 500 1,000  
Feet



# Brown Tract Pond Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Sites 1 - 37 Facility Map

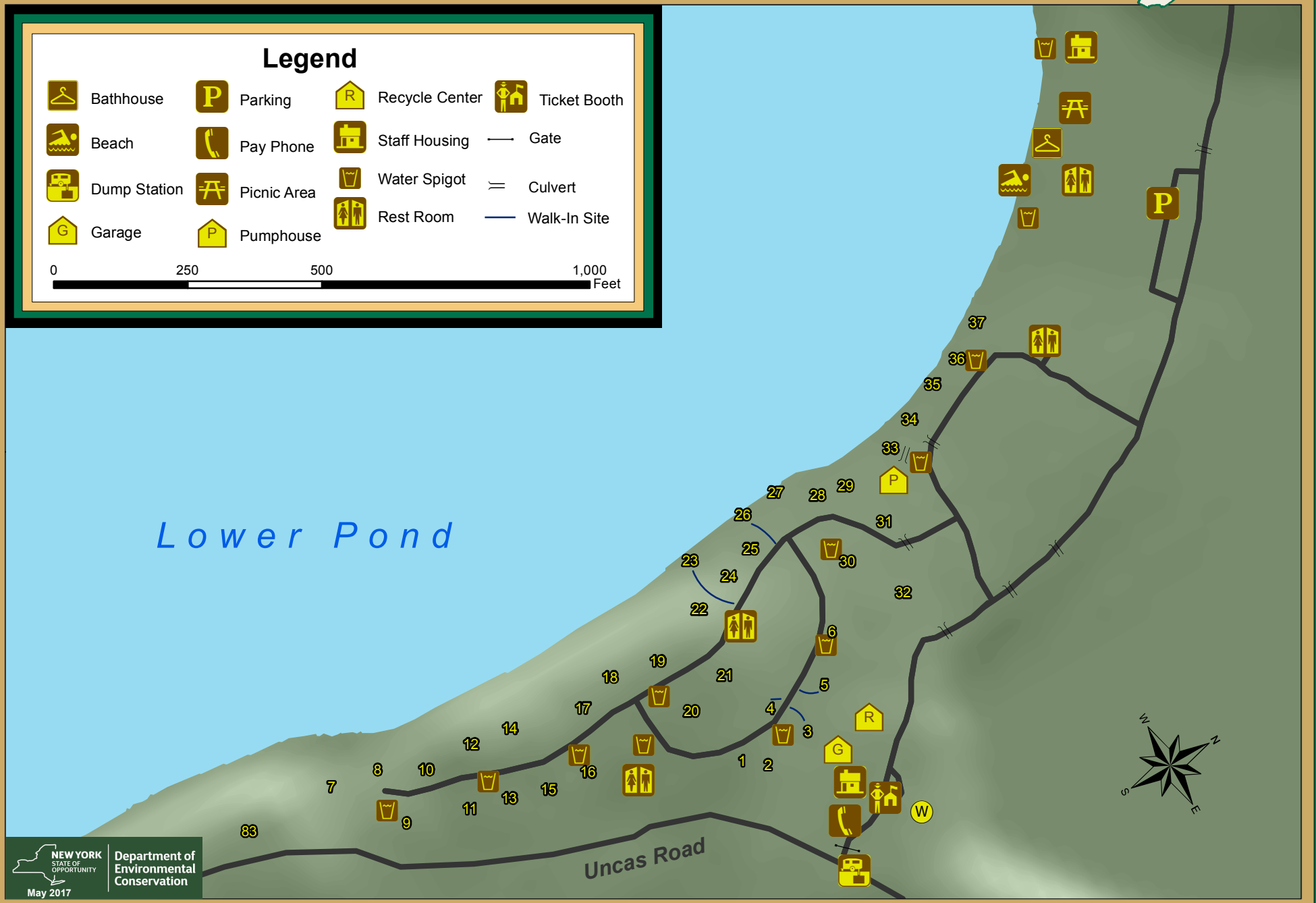


Adirondack  
Park

## Legend

- |              |             |                |              |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Bathhouse    | Parking     | Recycle Center | Ticket Booth |
| Beach        | Pay Phone   | Staff Housing  | Gate         |
| Dump Station | Picnic Area | Water Spigot   | Culvert      |
| Garage       | Pumphouse   | Rest Room      | Walk-In Site |

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

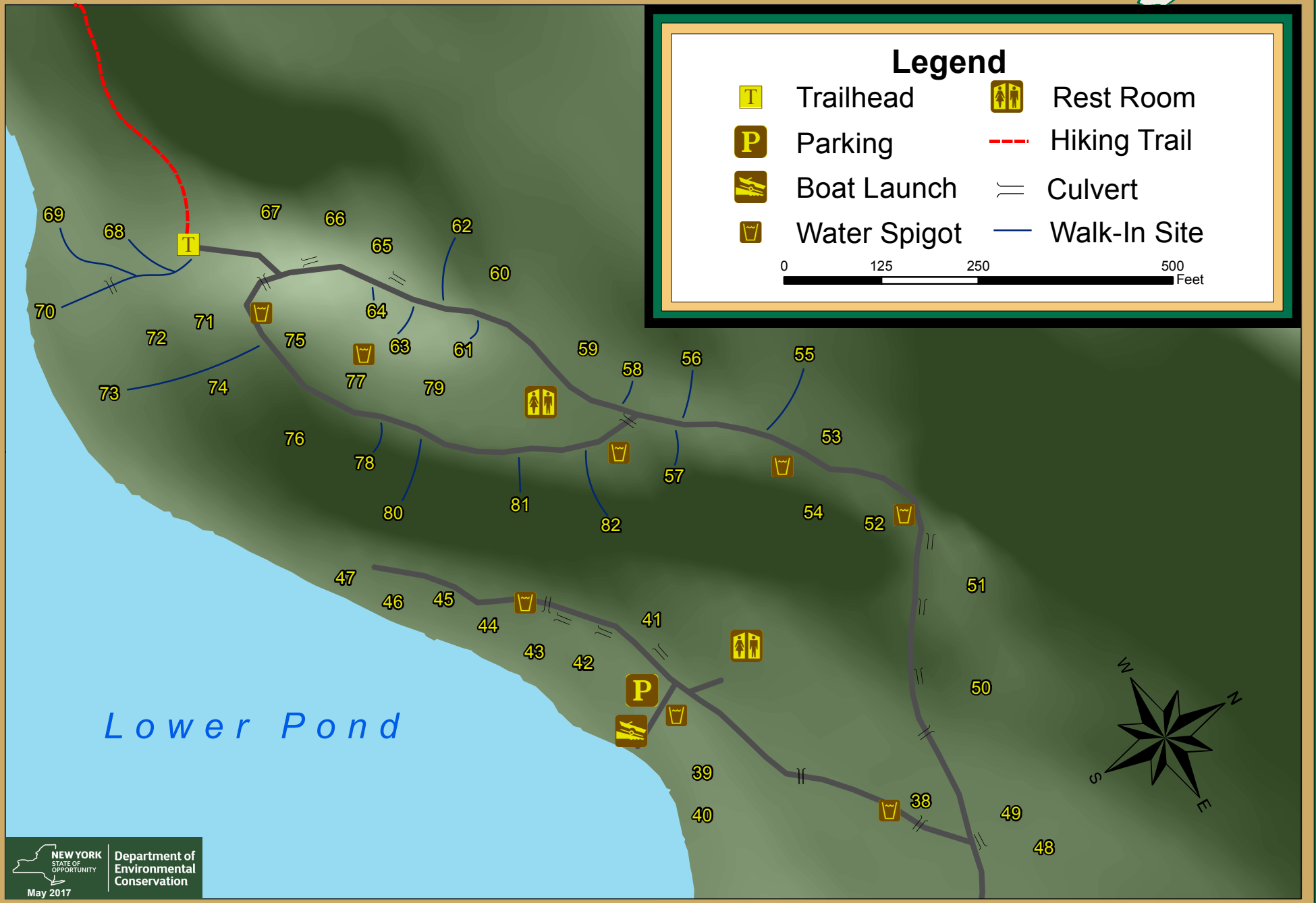


# Brown Tract Pond Campground

Exhibit # 4b - Sites 38 - 82 Facility Map



Adirondack  
Park



## Legend

- |  |              |  |              |
|--|--------------|--|--------------|
|  | Trailhead    |  | Rest Room    |
|  | Parking      |  | Hiking Trail |
|  | Boat Launch  |  | Culvert      |
|  | Water Spigot |  | Walk-In Site |

0 125 250 500 Feet

Lower Pond

# Brown Tract Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 5 - Sewage System Map



Adirondack  
Park

### Legend

Rest Room	Recycle Center	Gravity Sewer
Staff Housing	Beach	Pressurized Sewer
Dump Station	Well	
Septic Tank	Leach Field	Lift Station

0      250      500      1,000  
Feet

Lower Pond












# Brown Tract Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 6 - Water System Map



Adirondack  
Park

### Legend

 Bathhouse	 Recycle Center	 Water Spigot
 Beach	 Rest Room	 Well
 Dump Station	 Staff Housing	 Water Line

0      250      500      1,000  
Feet














# Brown Tract Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 7 - Electric System Map



Adirondack  
Park

### Legend

 Bathhouse	 Boat Launch	 Staff Housing	 Recycle Center
 Beach	 Rest Room	 Ticket Booth	 Buried Electric Line
 Garage	 Generator	 Lift Station	

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



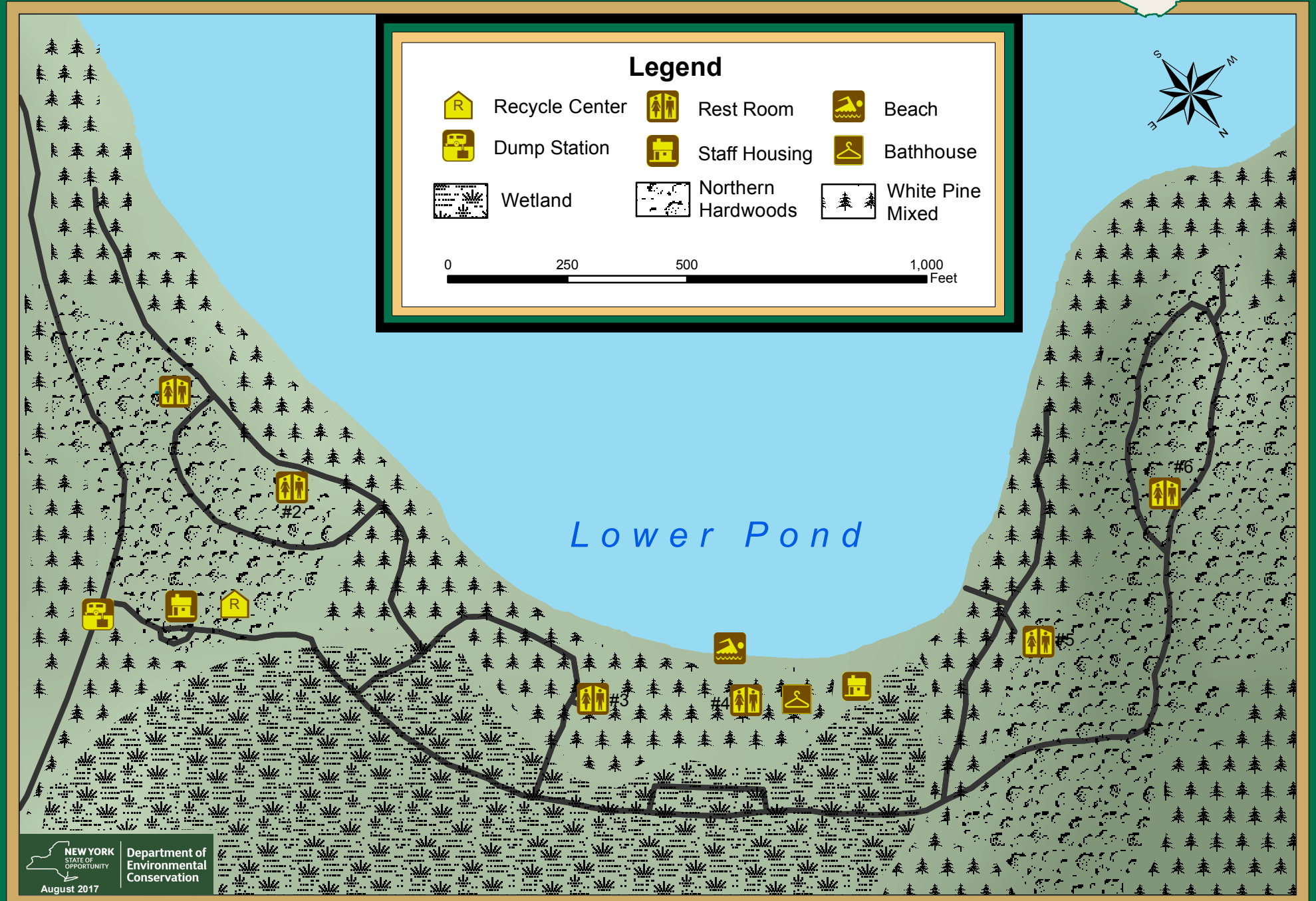


# Brown Tract Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 8 - Forest Vegetation Map

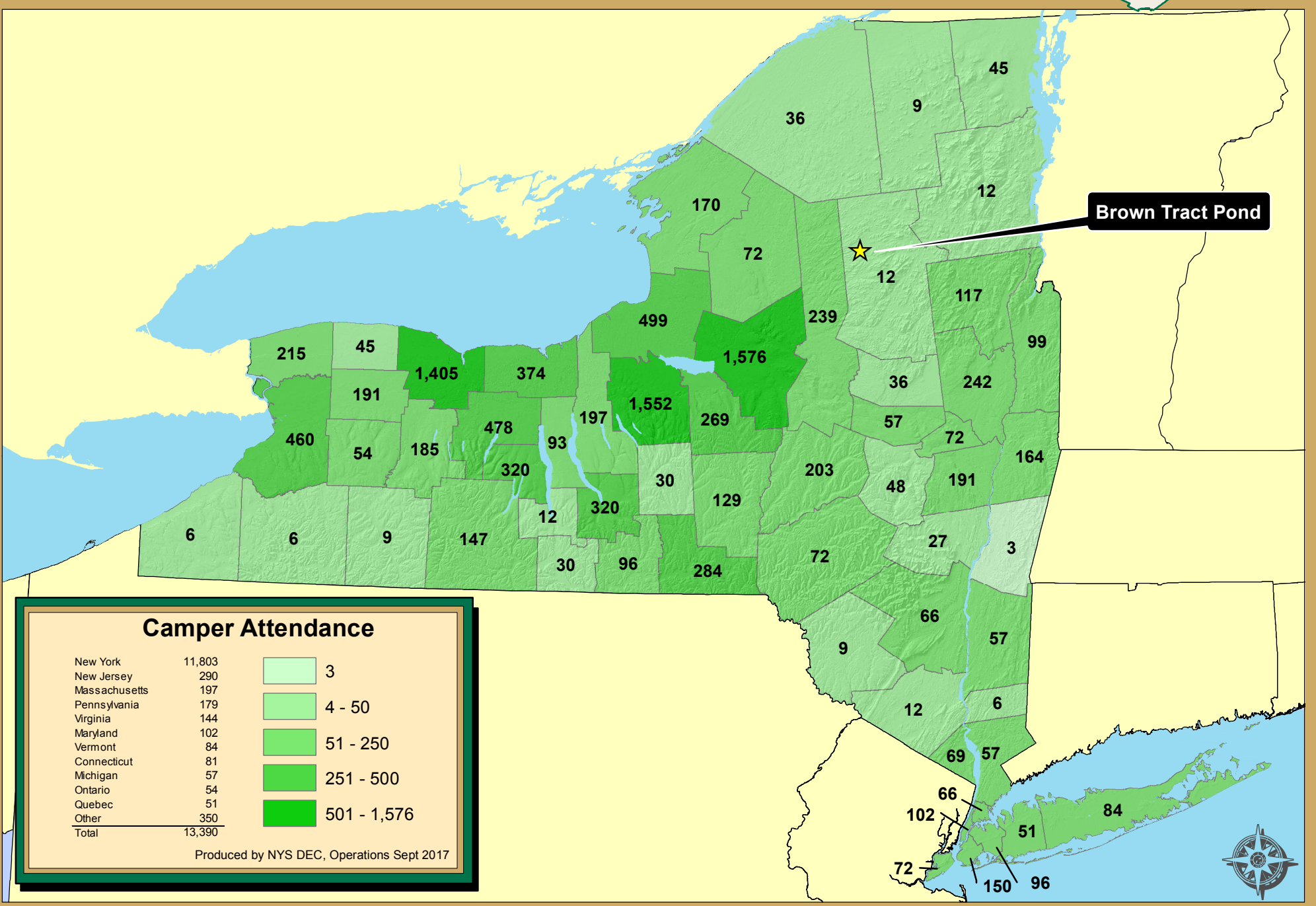


Adirondack  
Park



# Brown Tract Pond

Exhibit # 9 - Camper Demographics 2017



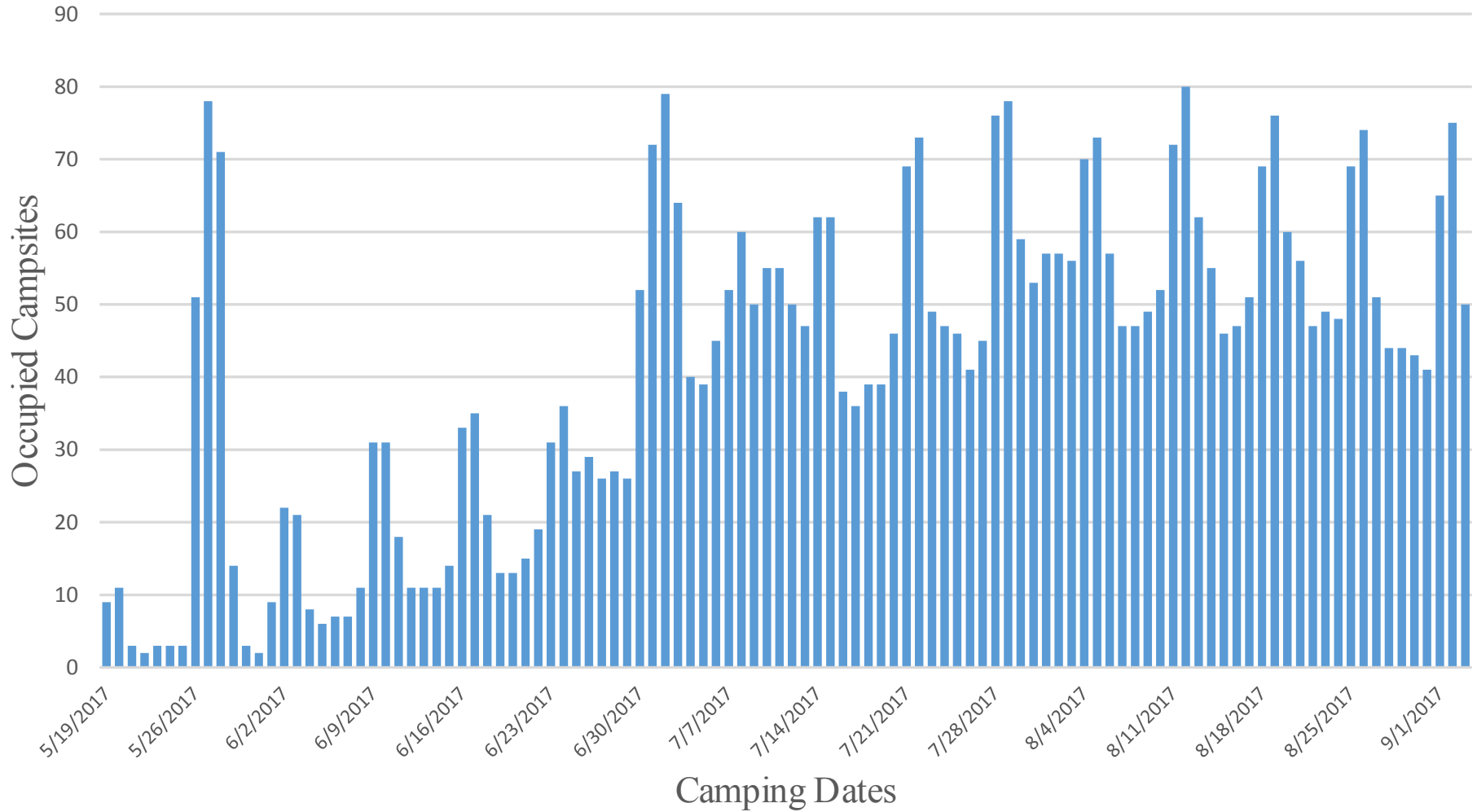
# Brown Tract Pond Campground

Exhibit # 10 - Campground occupancy 2017



Adirondack  
Park

## Browns Tract Pond Campground Occupied Campsites 2017



Average Occupancy 46%

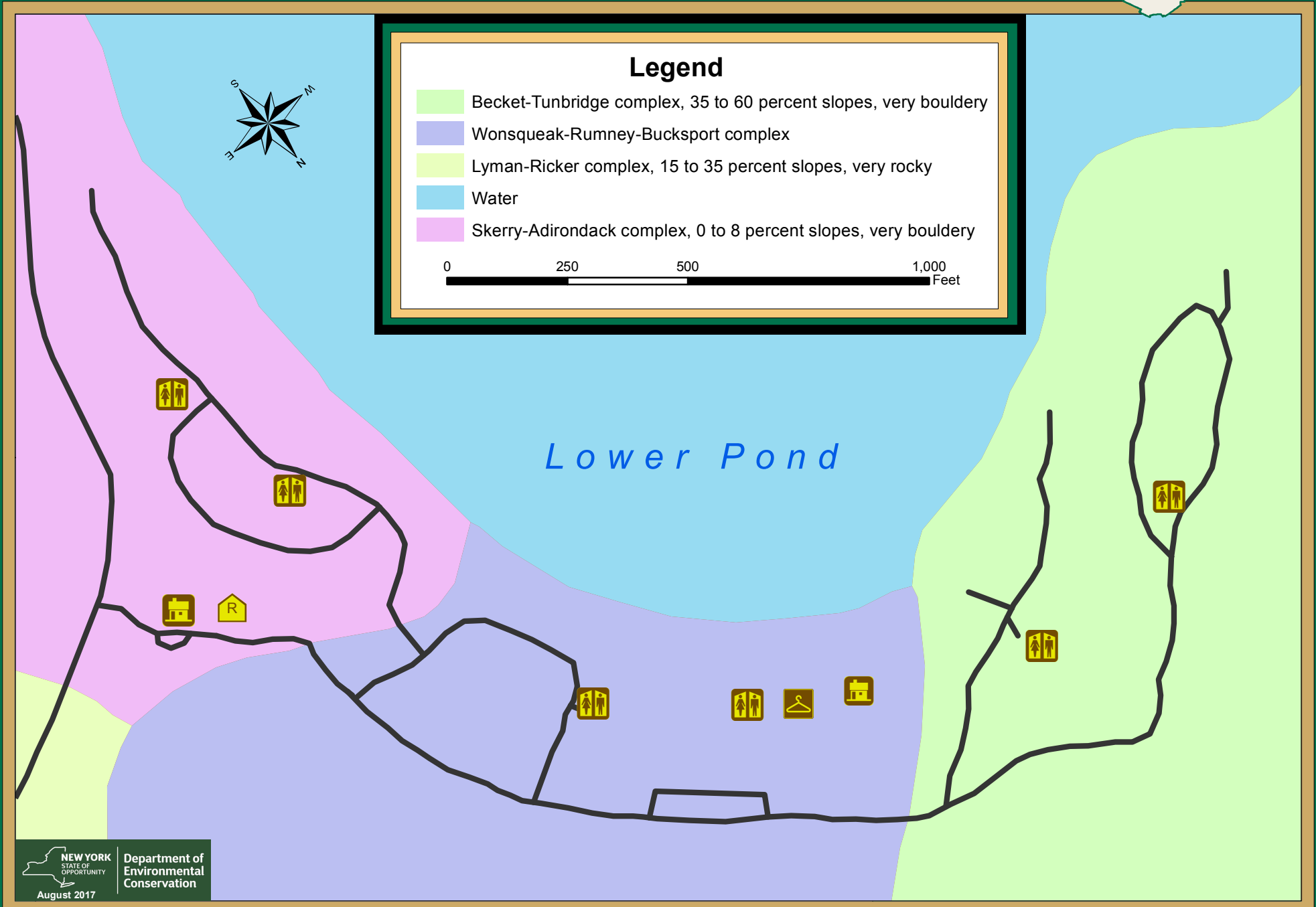
Average Weekend Occupancy 61%

# Brown Tract Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 11 - Soils Map



Adirondack  
Park

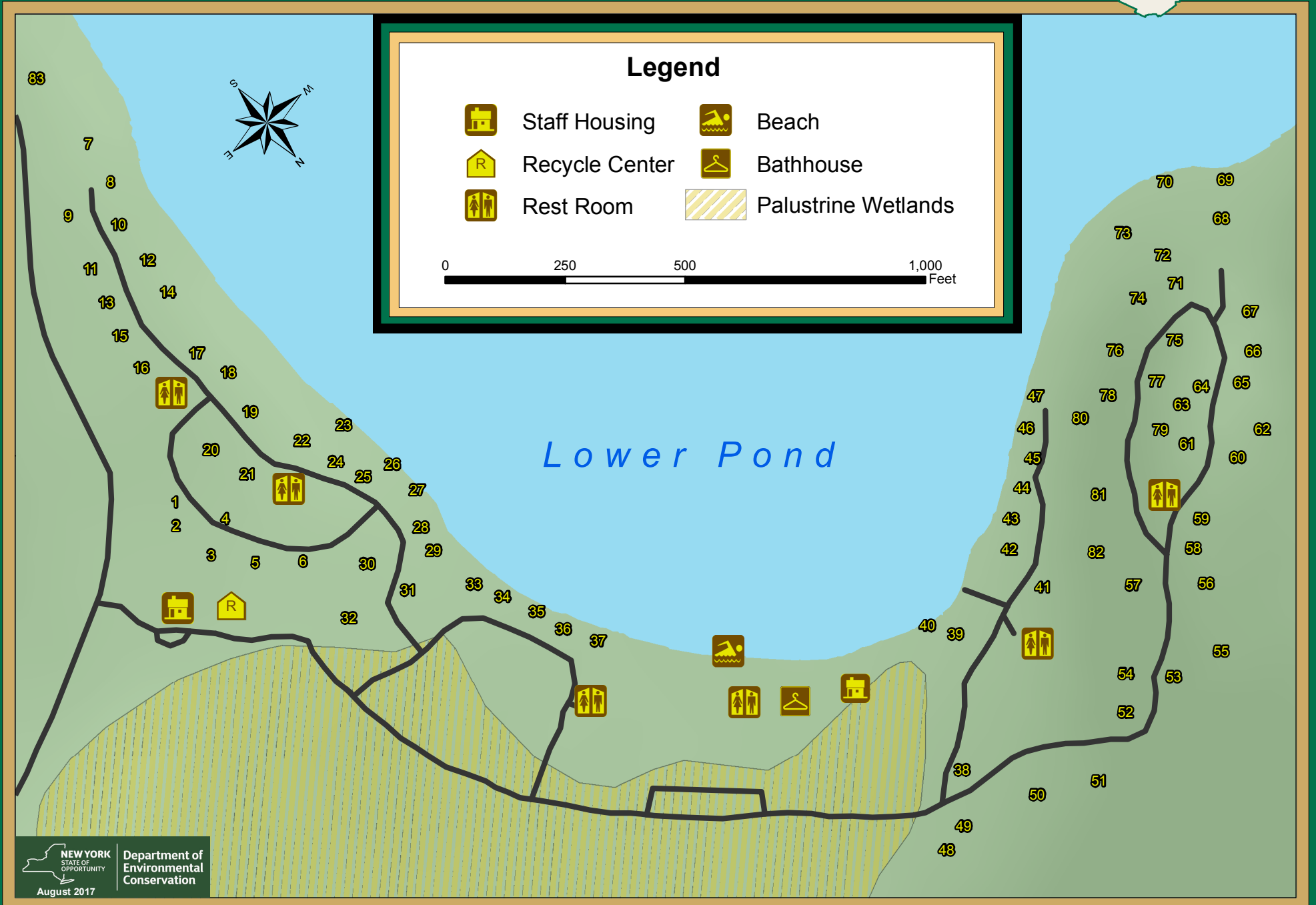


# Brown Tract Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 12 - Wetlands Map



Adirondack  
Park



# Brown Tract Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 13 - Management Actions Map



Adirondack  
Park

### Legend

- |                |               |              |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Reservoir      | Boat Launch   | Rest Room    |
| Recycle Center | Beach         | Ticket Booth |
| Parking        | Staff Housing | Campsites    |

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

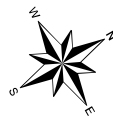


Exhibit # 14

# Photos of Brown Tract Pond Campground





Caretaker Cabin



Entrance Area



Registration Booth



Tool Shed





Toilet Building #1



Toilet Building #2



Toilet Building #3



Toilet Building #4 - Day Use Area



Toilet Building #5



Toilet Building #6



Interior of Toilet Buildings



Interior of Toilet Buildings



Pumphouse



Bathhouse



Lifeguard Cabin



Reservoir



Recycle Building



Boat Launch



Day Use Area



Day Use Area



Day Use Parking Area



Generator & Lift Station – Day Use Area



Information Booth



Trailer Dump Station

## Exhibit #15 – Response to public comments

A public availability session to receive input on the draft plan and answer questions about campground management was conducted on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Brown Tract Pond Campground in the Town of Arietta, NY. There were 19 people in attendance. Written comments were received until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Information regarding the draft plan and a survey was e-mailed to previous campers at Brown Tract Pond and 282 responses were received. All public comments were reviewed and the Department responses are posted here as part of the Final Unit Management Plan.

### Summary of comments and questions received at August 30th public session

#### Comments regarding management action to reconstruct comfort station #1 and #4 to include showers

Public – Lack of showers sets the campground apart from other campgrounds

Public - Showers are easy to get at Eighth Lake Campground

Public - Unnecessary expense

Public - Water and wetlands preclude most locations

Public- Small size will have people lining up outside

Public - Put money for proposed showers into the campsites and other amenities in the campground to improve the camping experience.

#### Comments regarding management action to install utility sinks at all toilet buildings

Public – Outside if they have hot water

Public - Inside if they only have cold water

#### Other questions and comments

Public – Campers enjoy the atmosphere of the campground (this was said often and passionately) including Primitive setting, Quiet, Rustic, Peaceful, Escape from the busy world

Public - Continue to prohibit motorboats on pond

Public – Campers appreciate DEC staff at the campground stating Staff are excellent, provide good information, interact with campers, One result is good food management and no nuisance bears do you think this process will expand?

Public - Need to publicize planning effort better and earlier in the planning process including Notices through Reserve America, Notices in the campground, More and earlier input from campers will provide better information for basing proposals in plan, Comment cards provide information from a very small fraction of the campers and information is skewed

Public – Campground Improvements, Comments included Put money for proposed showers into the campsites and other amenities in the campground to improve the camping experience, Fireplaces not

fire rings, Rehabilitate and restore sites, Plant vegetation between campsites to improve privacy, Maintain roads, Not necessarily paving, it just creates more impervious surfaces and more runoff, Improve dump station, Create a group campsite (Sites 44-47), Create additional universal access sites, Use solar panels, but without cutting any trees

## Comments received during public comment period and Department responses

### Comments regarding management actions to replace ticket booth, construct firewood storage building and construct garage/workshop.

Adirondack Council - The addition of a garage, firewood storage facility, and new ticket booth would serve to benefit the flow and efficiency of the campground for both the staff and visitors. Off season building and the use of materials that mirror the natural environment will eliminate any potential disruption and address aesthetic concerns. The Council supports these new facilities and the efforts to minimize cumulative impacts by siting in existing building footprints.

Public - Though I have no solid feelings toward the garage build to consolidate, I did notice it was assessed as "poor" condition. So, I think that would be great.

Department Response – 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.

### Comments regarding management action to construct 2 bathroom buildings including showers

Adirondack Council - The addition of showers complies with standards established in the 1990 Generic Campground UMP. The Generic UMP identified Brown Tract Pond Campground as a site that was in need of showers in 1990 and is still in need of showers today (p.8). The UMP further explained that "showers are no longer a luxury at campgrounds. They are demanded by the campers" (p. 76). This is reflected in the 18% of visitors who, in the 2016 survey of campground users, commented that they would like to see showers added to the facilities. The original language specified that "showers shall be provided at all campgrounds of 75 sites or more...and be available at a ratio of 2 showers for each 50 sites for each sex" (p.47). As a 90-site campground, Brown Tract fits the criteria for having shower facilities added to its comfort stations. To address the unique rustic quality of the BTPC, new comfort stations should be constructed using materials that match and reflect the surrounding natural aesthetic.

Public - We enjoy Brown Tract Pond just as it is, a small, quiet (yay!) and unique camping experience. Its crystal waters are all anyone needs to feel wonderfully washed. Flush toilets are great; non-motorized boating is mandatory; on-site showers are simply unneeded (and unwanted by people who have loved this remote site as it is!) Its remoteness makes this marvelous place excellent for stargazing because the night sky is uncontaminated by many artificial lights. If people really want showers, they can camp elsewhere. The swimming is superb here!

Public - Quick refresh of all comfort stations -hooks on doors, by sinks

Public - Upgrading all bathrooms is needed.

Public - Our family loves camping at Brown Tract Pond! Refreshing the bathrooms would be great but we don't want showers at this campground - it will change the culture of the experience.

Public - I definitely would love showers at Brown Tract. The new showers that have been built at other campsites are wonderful and designed perfectly. More important to me is the installation of sinks for wasting dishes. Having them available discourages campers from tossing dish water and food scraps into the woods near campsites thereby inviting bears as well as harming the environment with dish soap and chemicals.

Public - We love this place and part of what makes it great is that you are away from it all. Showers and other amenities will draw more people who want more amenities, -and result in less tranquility and less community spirit

Public - The rustic nature of this campground is its appeal. Too many improvements will ultimately ruin this little campground. Building showers will attract a different kind of camper than who is currently using this campground.

Public - Badly need showers and cleaning station for dishes.

Public - I vehemently disagree with building showers at the Brown Tract Pond. We have been camping there for over 40 years. The charm of Brown Tract is that it is one of the very last campgrounds that is still on the rustic side with very few amenities. Even the very bright automatic lights in the bathrooms intrude on the the darkness of the campground. People come to this campground for the exact opposite of idea of improvements like showers. Showers are available at nearby campgrounds with a short drive. You will be ruining an absolute jewel by turning it towards more of a resort than a primitive campground. People that come to Brown Tract want to get away from the comforts of the things they have on a daily basis. If you have been camping here for 40 years, like we have, you would understand how special this place is and how this will change one of my most favorite places in planet Earth.

Public - If you install hot water and showers then Brown Tract will become like every other camping facility in the Adirondacks. The demographics changed drastically when flush toilets were installed and not for the better. Showers will complete the process of destroying a unique camping experience. Brown Tract has gotten much noisier (get rid of the dogs) and less courteous (fellow campers) over the years. We have been coming over 20 years every summer. I am against any more "improvements".

Public - Brown Tract is one of the nicest campgrounds in the Adirondacks, but showers would be nice!

Public - Please add showers, this our favorite ADK campground, we frequent many, this is only one without showers.

Public - No showers! I love to camp and feel hardcore and not have a shower option. Swimming in the pond is just fine. Additionally, I like my fellow campers the way they are and would not like to be surrounded by people who would be drawn in by the showers. But I love Brown Tract! Definitely my favorite campground.

Public - A beautiful campsite off the beaten path. A shower and more electricity available would have been great. Better hiking maps available would have been nice as well.



Public - I've camped at BTP every summer for over 20 years. Most of the people I meet there also have been coming for many years. Everyone I talk to agrees that we should not install showers. I understand that some may want them, but most do not. It is already very difficult to get a decent site. Most people that camp there expect and appreciate the rustic camping experience. I fear with showers it will result in turning it into a mini Limekiln Lake. Nothing against Limekiln, its just a whole different clientele and camping style. Please no showers!

Public - The remote setting this campsite offers will be lessened with showers. Please don't install them!

Public - DONT ADD THE SHOWERS!! You can go Golden Beach if need be. Any improvements will bring the campers that don't appreciate this gem. It has already been downgraded by the addition of flush toilets. This has been campground for GENERATIONS of campers who KNOW how rough it is, please don't ruin it !!! If you are sitting in Albany making decisions on paper, you do not truly understand this campground.

Public - Adding showers and utility sinks will help contain water and waste helping to manage bears. The workshop is a good add allowing the continued upkeep of the camp.

Public - Love it, just need showers and a place to wash dishes. Our favorite aspect were the large wooded sites and overall quiet relaxed atmosphere, we plan on booking a hike in site as soon as availability opens up. Staff is very friendly and helpful, keep up the good work!

Public - I would rather see the funds for showers used to replace some of the crumbling fireplaces. Please replace with the same style not those awful fireplace rings. This is one of the few more primitive campgrounds left in the ADK and is why those of us that camp there choose BTP. I feel that bringing showers will change the demographic of the camping population there and not for the better. There are certainly other campgrounds in the area that have those amenities and cater to the crowd that comes with. I would rather not see that happen to BTP. Can't say enough about the staff there. They are the best. You might want to check the selection boxes in your survey. You have 2 Strongly agree choices and no strongly disagree otherwise my choice would have been Strongly Disagree for showers and utility sinks (sorry people are irresponsible and there are too many bears around).

Public - Showers, this is needed. The park and Beach area needs improvement, such as more grills, picnic tables, and openness. Too many pine cones and needles. Thin the trees.

Public - We have been camping at Brown Tract Pond for almost ten years and found that everyone we talk to feels that constructing a comfort station with showers will take away the rustic atmosphere that people look forward to. If you add showers, you will invite people who don't have a deep appreciation for the current atmosphere. BT is one of the only campgrounds left in New York State that offers this type of experience. Please don't change it.

Public - I've been camping at Browns tract since 1966 and have grown up at this Park. The beauty of this Park is the lack of showers and amenities. There are enough other campgrounds that offer those luxuries. I'm 57 years old and I visit BT at least 2 weeks a year and have noticed more loud and obnoxious campers. Browns Tract was billed as the best kept secret, well like all secrets that get exposed they lose what made them great.

Public - I camped here because of its positive reviews regarding how spread out the sites were and how quiet it was. The introduction of showers could pull a crowd that doesn't have peace and quiet in mind, and for me personally would make the site unattractive for future booking. Adding showers

would make it like every other site, eventually loud and crowded with people who are there for a party instead of peace and quiet. Thank you.

Public - I feel if you add showers to this facility it will open up a whole new issue of regular campers not being able to get sites.

Public - I am very much opposed to adding showers. Brown Tract is a very special and peaceful campground and I strongly believe that adding showers would change the character. Showers are at nearby campgrounds if necessary but should NOT be added to Brown Tract.

Public - SHOWERS!! PLEASE! I would go to this campground more if you just had showers. You are basically preventing all tent campers from staying more than one night. Unless it's people who just don't like to bathe.

Public - NO SHOWERS PLEASE! Brown Tract Pond has been camped at by generations of families who love it just the way it is. If patrons really need to shower there is already a system in place that grants them a free shower at nearby Golden Beach. Please consider the generations of patrons who may stop coming to Brown Tract if these completely unnecessary "upgrades" are added. It changes the entire atmosphere of the campground and would be totally devastating to see. The vast majority of people who love coming here do not want showers or other renovations.

Public - I would love showers! It's the only thing holding this fantastic place back a little!

Public - Lack of showers, oddly, is one of the things that makes Brown Tract Pond Campsite unique. There are plenty of NYDEC campgrounds with showers. Keep Brown Tract Pond shower-less.

Public - As long-time campers at Brown Tract Ponds, we are in favor of improvements other than the construction of showers, which is unnecessary. We have always been satisfied with the availability of showers at other locations, and feel this would invite a different clientele than the campground is suitable for. This is a unique, rustic campground, and other than a few minor improvements, such as new roofs on some buildings, new or repaired outhouses and updated bathrooms within the park, and a new garage, no other changes are necessary! Do not spoil what make Brown Tract so special!

Public - Please do not put showers in. We have been camping here for decades. It is already so very difficult to get select sites. Showers would make more people want to go here, and then it would be even harder.

Public - I was on site 76 and it had a very strong gas smell (like automobile gas). I like showers but I feel putting showers in on this campground will impact the quietness of the grounds. I also like that the trailer sites are limited.

Public - My family camps often and Brown Tract Pond Campground is hands down our favorite place to camp in New York. We love the serenity and all the activities around, especially canoeing and swimming. I would love to have onsite shower access and updated restrooms. Thank you for pursuing improvements to this and other campgrounds.

Public - There is not a need or any reason to install showers at Brown Tract. To do so will change the unique character of this delightful park. The \$800,000 can be better spent throughout the park system. Why would anyone want to make all parks in the system be alike? Spending approx. a year on these plans prior to holding a meeting to get public input is shameful. Basing the decisions described in the plan on very few comments is poor planning. At the meeting it was clear that all were opposed to showers and the replacement of fire places with fire rings. I could go on and on but bottom line is that

campers that have utilized Brown Tract for many many years (40 years for me) do not want showers or anything else that will change the great camping atmosphere at this great park!!!!!!!!!!!!

Public - Showers!!

Public - Would love to see this campground stay 'rustic', as that is what makes it so attractive to many of it's patrons - including me. Please - NO SHOWERS!

Public - definitely needs showers

Public - We have camped at Brown Tract Pond for 47 years. My children now bring their children to Brown Tract. We feel that bringing showers to this gem of a campground would change the overall camping experience for the negative. We love that there are no showers, no motorboats, no electricity, etc. It has become difficult to get a site there over the past few years and it will get worse. Please don't bring the showers - just spend a little money scraping and painting the floors in the bathrooms. Another suggestion would be to re-do the bathrooms /showers at Golden Beach and Eighth Lake.

Public - The addition of showers will make longer visits easier, a place to wash dishes is a great idea too. I'm glad to see some money being put into this campground. Our family enjoys going to Brown Tract Ponds.

Public - No showers! Keep it for serious campers

Public - I am not 100% in favor of showers. Please don't install electric outlets to encourage hair dryers. And why only two shower houses? Why not one on the upper loop above the boat launch too? That would cut down on traffic.

Public - We really, really don't want showers added. Also, you have two Strongly Agree options on every question, and no Strongly Disagree.

Public - To whom it may concern: I am completely against the installation of shower facilities at Brown Tract Pond Campground. This addition would detract from what makes this facility so unique and would detract from the rustic nature which sets it apart from the other DEC sites. I could see the potential for merit to such a proposal if there were overcrowding at the adjacent facilities (e.g., Eight Lake, Golden Beach) but there is not, so these specific improvements are not warranted. Again, the addition of shower facilities would detract from what makes this place so special, I describe it to people as being in a church, you have to whisper as it is so quiet there. I sincerely believe that a different type of 'camper' comes to Brown Tract Pond, one that is looking to get closer to nature and away from all of the creature comforts (e.g., hot water, etc.). We previously had camped at Eight Lake for many years before finding Brown Tract Pond and have now been camping there for the last eight years. If people have the need for such amenities, they are well provided for at the adjacent facilities, which are just a short drive away. If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss, please contact me at (716) 432-9289, or [jmccarthy14@verizon.net](mailto:jmccarthy14@verizon.net) Thank You~ John F. McCarthy

Public - Brown Tract Pond is one of the best campsites we have stayed at. We love how quiet and back woods the sites are. A hot shower would be the only thing I would suggest to add.

Public - I vehemently disagree with building showers at the Brown Tract Pond. We have been camping there for over 40 years. The charm of Brown Tract is that it is one of the very last campgrounds that is still on the rustic side with very few amenities. Even the very bright automatic lights in the bathrooms intrude on the the darkness of the campground. People come to this campground for the exact opposite of idea of improvements like showers. Showers are available at nearby campgrounds with a

short drive. You will be ruining an absolute jewel by turning it towards more of a resort than a primitive campground. People that come to Brown Tract want to get away from the comforts of the things they have on a daily basis. If you have been camping here for 40 years, like we have, you would understand how special this place is and how this will change one of my most favorite places in planet Earth.

Public - PLEASE DONT ADD SHOWERS. My family has been camping here for 40 years and we would be very dissapointed if showers were added. Let shower people drive to eighth lake, it's not that far away.

Public - Enjoyed time there but showers would be great

Public - Please leave the campground as rustic as possible, no showers or electric. We have been camping at Brown Tract Pond for over 35 years

Public - Please keep campground rustic.nice to have a grounds that do not have showers.

Public - Running hot water and showers would be a very welcome addition to park. I would stay more often if this was available.

Public - We thought the campground was PERFECT! It was quiet and peaceful (unlike many others). I feel if money is to be spent on improvements they should be those that make the visitors MORE SAFE and perhaps the employees more efficient. To spend large amounts for conveniences that could potentially degrade the sought-after atmosphere of the campground seems unnecessary on all fronts.

Public - The reason we've been camping at Brown Tract Pond for 60 years(4 generations), every single Summer, is because it draws folks who enjoy nature and quiet family time. Once showers are added, it will become more like Golden Beach and Limekiln, with rowdier louder people. If showers are installed, we will no longer return.

Public - There are many facilities with shower facilities. They are close to Brown's tract. Why can't Brown's Tract be a place where campers have a more authentic rustic experience. This is why people go there. I am all for handicap accessible facilities but making it like all the others? I am not for that at all. You will find out how much this appreciated when you read all the surveys. Also I have long wished that the park could be open later in the Fall. I think that would be a relatively cost free addition to the park.

Public - SHOWERS! We would camp here more often and for longer periods of time if there were showers with hot water.

Public - Brown tract pond is one of the most beautiful campgrounds we have ever been to. I think showers would be a fantastic addition given the remote location.

Public - NO SHOWERS!

Public - Showers sound great. The rest is good. We love it there!

Public - Been camping here for over 50 years. Would love showers, but please do not ruin the overall effect of the campground. Please leave it "the jewel".

Public - What makes Brown Tract special is that it out of way and quiet, what camping should be. Bringing in too many amenities like showers ruins the experience. I go there to appreciate nature, not party. too many state parks have become party locations

Public - There is no need to put in showers!

Public - Really enjoyed the campground, staff was really nice. A small shower building would be nice and the lights for the restroom working a bit better

Public - Please do not add showers to Brown Tract Pond. There are many campgrounds within the Adirondacks and/or our state which provide more amenities for camping for all. Brown Tract Pond is a unique area and one of a handful that do not offer showers. We chose Brown Tract Pond for our most recent camping trips because it is more primitive and natural. Here, we are able to enjoy the quiet and serenity of a primitive type camping experience with other likeminded people. People who camp to be surrounded by natural vegetation and creatures. People who camp to enjoy the natural gifts that abound at this site. If you add showers, you will change the essence of Brown Tract Pond. Please do not add showers to this site. We LOVE it without showers!

Public - We love this campground! The addition of showers would be a great bonus!

Public - No Showers- will change physical character and demographics, Been camping there for 30+ years with family, Doesn't like lights in bathrooms because they are on all night

Public - Less than ¼ of one percent (.242 percent) of BTP users have indicated a desire to have shower facilities at the campground; this is hardly "substantial demand". At the informational meeting on August 30, the 18 attendees were in unanimous agreement that the addition of showers to the BTP facility would degrade the rustic character of the campground. My statistical sample says 100% of campers are opposed to showers; 18 out of 18 campers. If I accepted this sample, I would be making the same faulty statistical judgment that is made in the UMP. In reality no public demand for showers has been demonstrated. I do find through my discussions with the other users of this facility, that there is considerable opposition to any change that would degrade the rustic character of the campground— notably, the addition of showers. I urge you to revise the draft UMP accordingly.

Public - A rustic campground is not for everyone. It is preferable to have various types of campground facilities that appeal to different types of campers. While I do understand the need for improvements at facilities that are as old as these campgrounds, the changes should not change the character of said campground. I feel that changes should be set in two categories: comfort (showers) and ecologically sound improvements (wash basins). I believe it would also make sense to categorize the current campgrounds by the level of comfort facilities. Campgrounds that are categorized as "rustic" are not eligible for "comfort" improvements.

Public - To my understanding the showers issue has been being researched for 2 years and was sparked by 14 comments on reader card surveys. The comment time period is towards the end of the decision process. Would it make more sense to, first of all, make the bar much higher than 14 comments to even warrant any follow through? Secondly shouldn't the DEC first reach out to the people who use the facility to see what your customers really want before any money is spent on the improvement process? Many of us are worried that because you have been working on this for two years that our comments are too little too late. I sincerely hope that this is not the case.

Public - I would like to submit my opposition to adding showers at Brown Tract Pond. I would appreciate regular updates regarding this issue if possible.

Public - My husband and three young children camped there for years and loved it. My husband and I still go there. Now, my adult children go there and I'm sure they will bring their children there too! We never needed the showers, and any changes at all to BTP are not needed or wanted. It is perfect the way it is. Please don't change a thing.

Public - I oppose the installation of showers at Brown Tract Pond campground. I feel the proposed \$800,000 for this project would be better utilized by replacing the generator that is located in the front of the park. It has been extremely loud for several years. Clean up and repair the current bathrooms. Remove the bathhouse located on the beach that cannot be used due to EPA violations. Remodel the current bathrooms at 8th lake campground. Those showers are in desperate need of repair. Instead of spending money on something that clearly is not wanted as stated by the campers that attended the UMP information meeting, use the funds to repair the structures that are currently in need.

Public - I am emailing you in regards to Brown Tract Pond and your interest in adding showers to the campground. I, personally, grew up in that area. My family has had camps on that lake and on Little Brown Tract as well. The addition of showers will not only modernize the campground, it will bring a different type of crowd to the campground. Having now showers gives the campground a quiet, rustic sense of being. The addition of them would create noise, and create a campground atmosphere such as Nick's Lake. Having now showers, having no modern additives, that's what draws people to this particular campground. Changing that atmosphere will only deter those loyal campers to come back.

Public - As an Adirondack park resident for over 30 yrs and former Guide I implore you to NOT continue with any modernization plan. Especially showers. The rustic sites give a relaxing and simple stay. Encouraging more RV traffic would take away from the experience, the quiet and the true camping experience. Adding to the already existing showers at Golden Beach would be more appropriate.

Public - I just wanted to add my comments regarding the UMP for this campground. My young family enjoys a weekend at Brown Tract once a year because of its rusticness and that it seems to attract campers that appreciate nature and solitude. I think the fact that it doesn't have showers helps keep it that way. To add showers will take away from the more primitive nature of the campground that we love.

Public - I just heard from my camping buddies that you are planning to put showers in Brown Tract Pond campground. I think that's a huge mistake. I was originally a city slicker, and still am in my normal daily life. I remember when my friend had me come join her for my first camping trip. Once I got there and got out of the car, my first question was, " I didn't see any power-lines near us, where do I plug in my hair dryer?". I was so lost without my modern conveniences. But after a really rainy, cold, muddy mini-vacation, I really didn't mind not having the showers. I spent my time having fun and not caring what I looked like for the first time since I can remember. Now I go with my friends to Brown Tract and don't even think about the showers not being there. I actually prefer it. I can relax and hang out and nobody is judging if I'm having a messy hair day. I don't think you should put showers in. I want it to stay that special hidden place that lets me be myself and hang out with real friends who accept me as I am.

Public - My camping buddy just told me that you guys at the DEC are planning to put showers in at Brown Tract. Not having showers there is the whole reason I like the place! I can go there and just hang out and relax and nobody is yelling at me to shave and shower. When we go to the parks with showers, they complain and make me shower and then I have to sit around and wait to do anything for hours while the girls shower and gab and do whatever takes them so long in there. I feel like I waste so much time waiting at the other parks, but at Brown Tract, I can get up and go, or just lounge around. There's no pressure. I hope you don't add showers. It will ruin the place.

Public - We camped at this facility this summer as Limekiln was unavailable for reservations when we booked. This is a great facility and we plan to return. It was inconvenient to drive to another campground to shower. We camp for 10 days and 9 nights so this was not convenient to drive to another facility to shower.

Public - I am recommending that Browns Tract Ponds camping area follow the same guidelines as the Moose River Plains primitive camping area, which has proven successful since the State acquired it in 1964.

Public - According to this plan, #4 Comfort Station will be reconstructed to include showers. However, that building currently appears to be non-conforming. The rear of the building is no more than 25-50 feet from wetlands. According to APA, buildings must be sited at least 100 feet from wetlands.

Public - Having to go to another campground, like Golden Ponds, to shower is very inconvenient. Showers would be a tremendous advantage.

Department Response – In keeping with the Department’s management goals, listed in section III.D. of this UMP, is the management objective to manage and operate facilities and systems in a manner which incorporates several kinds of capital improvements with emphasis on safety, health compliance, accessibility to visitors of all capabilities, quality recreation and balancing operating costs with revenues. Constructing shower buildings at facilities is specifically listed as an objective to meet these requirements. As part of this UMP process, a survey was sent to all registered campers who have visited Brown Tract Pond campground in the last three seasons. Despite concerns noted at the campground availability session conducted on August 30<sup>th</sup> and from many of the written comments, the majority of campers responding to the survey, 64% vs 34%, support the modernization of toilet buildings to include showers. In the same survey, campers were asked what type of camping equipment they utilized. At Brown Tract Pond, most campers, 64%, responded that they camp in a tent. This group, who are without alternative bathroom and shower options, are often the visitor who utilizes the Department bathroom and shower facilities. As noted in section III of the UMP, any management action will comply with the requirements of all applicable laws, which include protection of wetlands, accessibility requirements and use of natural materials to blend in with the Adirondack environment and provide sound natural resource stewardship.

#### Comments regarding management action to install utility sinks at all toilet buildings building

Public - Installation of sinks to wash dishes would potentially mitigate bear issues by getting rid of cooking scents.

Public - The installation of utility sinks would be welcome. After staying in many national parks this past summer that did have utility sinks for washing dishes and disposing of grey water I felt the lack of it at Brown Tract, one of my favorite places to camp!

Public - Educate people/create dishwashing rules. Grey water dumping on the sites can be unsanitary.

Department Response: 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 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.

## Other comments regarding keeping the campground amenities basic

Public - I like that it is a quiet campground with only basic services so that large groups and party people who are noisy are less likely to camp there.

Public - Keep it rustic. Do not make it into Disneyland. There are plenty of other amusement park-like camping facilities to choose from. Keep Brown Tract wild unspoiled.

Public - I understand the need to make the campground all accessible, but what I like best about this park is that it is more rustic and quiet. I don't need hot water to wash dishes. I can go for a swim instead of a shower. I wouldn't want the management plan to change the total atmosphere of what makes this place special.

Public - Energy requirements for the shower proposal would probably necessitate the generators to run nearly all the time generating too much noise. Love the campground the way it is.

Public - I've been camping at Brown's tract pond since I was a baby, I'm now 53. Changes to make the maintenance easier is for the folks that work there is a good idea, but, disturb as little as possible and with as low an impact on the environment and beauty of Brown's tract in my opinion is acceptable, but to change things to make it easier for us campers that go there isn't. I love the rustic appeal of the place, adding to much would disturb the appeal.

Public - Don't make it too nice...want to keep the place a secret

Public - Please leave it as it is. I go there because of the way it currently is. It is hard to get sites there because other people enjoy it as it is as I do. Been going there for years...may need to find a new place to go?

Public - keep BP semi rustic. sink tubs will keep water table cleaner. build whatever maintenance needs to do its job. firewood would be convenient, locals still would be selling to BP. Showers ok but too costly, nice to keep BP rates at lower level.

Public - Brown tract is our favorite place because it is primitive. No improvements are necessary. We love it just the way it is.

Public - The beauty of this park is that it is remote. Making it more accessible ruins this feature.

Public - Please provide only minimal upgrades the Park is a jewel in the Adirondacks. One of the most important aspects of the park is it attracts pure campers that want to enjoy what the park has to offer. I understand that improvements need to be made for campers with disabilities however the beauty of the park lies in what it is.

Public - We have been camping here for 30 years and appreciate the rustic atmosphere. If people want to have a more plush camping experience, they can go to one of the larger camping areas. It is hard to find rustic, quiet camping areas. The more developed this camp is, the less of a "forever wild" experience you have. We miss the quiet, rustic atmosphere and do not want to lose any more of it to showers, larger campers, larger groups, etc. We were happy with the pit toilets.

Public - We love the laid back camping brown tract provides, some of the suggested renovations will no doubt bring in a more roudy crowd as is at many of the other parks.



Public - Brown Tract Pond camping site should try to maintain its serene, peaceful, and quietness. Simple showers and a place to wash dishes would be a plus.

Public - We love the primitive aspect of this campground. It is exactly what we enjoy. If modernizing has to happen, please keep it as rustic as possible

Public - I like that the campground is small with adding all the amenities it will change the campground as a whole. For a campground, it's a quiet place.

Public - Love Brown Tract just as it is. I love it's semi-off-the-grid atmosphere (no motorized boats, no showers, no cell service, internet only at the front gate, etc.) Showers and other proposed amenities would be nice although not necessary. Other campgrounds nearby are available for showers.

Public - Because this special campground is not as "modern" as many others, it is quieter and more appreciated for remaining simple and basic. I think that is part of the draw that brings people back year after year.

Public - We love that this is a hidden gem and don't agree with a lot of change for updates.

Public - We love this campground and its simplicity. Too many restorations bring in the ones that think they know camping! I like it just the way it is.

Public - My wife and I have camped the past two years at Brown Tract and the drawing attraction for us is the primitive ambiance of the camp ground. We use a travel trailer (22') and enjoy the ability to camp on a water site and have the ability to put our kayak's in from our site. The lack of major facilities there is great as it limits the number and type of campers that will come to this facility. I do not wish to see anything change about the camp ground as it is beautiful the way it is.

Public - My concern about the changes proposed in the UMP is that it seems that the DEC has a goal of making all parks the same. Not all people are the same, nor do they all want the same type of experiences. By altering the park, you are decreasing the variation of experiences available to the public. DEC campgrounds should not be like a hotel chain that makes you feel like you know exactly what you are getting wherever you go. It should be a variety of different experiences that make you look forward to exploring new things and new places. The description of the facilities is given when you choose your location. This allows the traveler to choose the correct location for the type of experience they want. There are people who will not camp without full hook-ups, pools, playgrounds, party type environment, and planned activities. There should be campgrounds that accommodate them. There are people who want no hook-ups, no pools, no playgrounds, no noises, and natural habitats to refresh their souls. There should be campgrounds to accommodate them as well.

Department Response- In keeping with the Department's management goals, listed in section III.D. of this UMP, is the management objective to manage and operate facilities and systems in a manner which incorporates several kinds of capital improvements with emphasis on safety, health compliance, accessibility to visitors of all capabilities, quality recreation and balancing operating costs with revenues. These facility specific goals seek to blend with the unique character of a facility by tailoring size, scope, location and design of improvements rather than a standardized list applied across all facilities.

### Other comments regarding installing food storage boxes

Public - Install bear boxes at sites 70 and 73 or other sites where transferring food to/ from car is necessary. Making sure renovations for tents are large enough for modern family size tents and level.

Public - Food lockers at the walk to sites. Constantly opening and closing our car at site 23 felt disruptive to the people camping on either side of our car

Public - One of the greatest needs we've found when camping at some of the walk-in sites (69, 70, 71) is the need for bear boxes. It is very difficult to maintain the "no food in camp" rules, and wildlife (bears) are an inescapable result. I would be happy to forego the showers in lieu of the bear boxes, but I'm sure the showers are a very popular request. Also, since I suspect that washing dishes in the utility sinks would not be allowed, perhaps they could be eliminated in favor of bear boxes.

Public - Please add bear-proof food boxes at difficult carry-in sites! They are the most private sites, but not so accommodating!

Public - would love to see bear boxes at the walk in sites

Public - It would be GREAT to have bear boxes, particularly at the hike-in sites. Especially with small kids, making at least 4 round trips to the car to get all food supplies, was a drag.

Department Response: The lack of bear boxes at the walk-in sites has been noted and actions will be taken to install them at appropriate locations.

### Other comments regarding the trailer dump station

Public - A better way for trailers to swing out and pump out.

Public - Provide dump station that is more easily accessible. The current set up does not allow room to turn around and maneuver the campers safely

Public - Reconstruction dump station so waiting rv's are off the road.

Public - Better access to dumping station

Public - Would really like to see an improvement on the dumping station. Easier access to it from either direction.

Department Response – The concerns have been noted and a request for technical services will be sent to determine what actions might be taken.

### Other comments regarding the campsites

Public - Please level the sites. Each year I camp it seems harder to find a level spot to pitch my tent, especially the water sites.

Public - Camp sites are very close together maybe provide lesser sites and enlarge existing ones ?

Public - Great campground, sites are excellent!

Public - With a large travel trailer the dump station isn't the easiest to access when exiting the park.

Public - Beautiful campsites, I hope any changes would keep the remoteness, peace and serenity that it currently has!

Public - I loved the campground! Our site was very private and the environment was overall comfortable and relaxing! I would LOVE the addition of a shower house, that would definitely make me want to visit again. A shop for firewood and other essentials would also be helpful. Even though the general store down the street was close, it would be great to not have to leave the official campground to buy something you may need.

Public - Close sites #39 & #46 permanently. Why 39, have public trail access from beach area to and thru site#39 to boat launch. Why 46, way to small and tight.

Public - I know that the goal is to preserve the natural environment as much as possible, but many of the sites are difficult for maneuvering campers when it comes to the site entry point. The trees are wonderful on the sites but it would seem that the trees right on edge of site could be removed if so narrow an opening that people end up having to drive over plants/bushes on opposite side of road in order to back in.

Public - We love the road sites as is, please keep these the same!

Public - Loved the camp. Beautiful, peaceful, serene. Only complaint...our site, 78, didn't have a flat spot to put our tent.

Public - Eliminate site #46 as it seems to be way to tight and small especially if sites #45 & #47 are occupied.

Public - Please don't close on Labor Day. That forces us to drive on the holiday, ugh. Even a few more days or weeks as the park is still so beautiful then.

Department Response – The concerns regarding campsites have been noted. As part of the Department’s Campsite Restoration Project 2.5% of campsite per year are removed from inventory for rehabilitation. During this time aspects such as screening, erosion, aesthetics and accessibility are addressed. In situations where issues cannot be reasonably addressed an individual campsite may be relocated or closed.

## Other general comments

Adirondack Council - Invasive Species Monitoring and Prevention strategies at Brown Tract have so far succeeded in preventing aquatic invasive species from entering the Brown Tract Pond. The Council commends these efforts and suggests broadening this work to include an update on the status of the Brown Tract Pond fisheries. Given its location, the health of the surrounding landscape and its ecosystems should be the cornerstone of the campground management plan and understanding how visitor use will affect the Lower Brown Tract Pond would reflect this priority. In December 2017, a Supplement Final Environmental Impact Statement was added to the 1979 Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Habitat Management Activities of DEC's Division of Fish & Wildlife to update the existing management strategies. The purpose of these statements is to “to develop and carry out the programs and procedures which will in its judgment (a) promote natural propagation and maintenance of desirable species in ecological balance, and (b) lead to the observance of sound management practices for such propagation and maintenance on lands and waters of the state,” (FPEIS

I.A.1). Brown Tract Pond Campground would benefit from increasing the focus on habitat health by establishing a program that serves to catalogue and monitor the health of the wildlife.

Adirondack Council - Moving forward, further research on user impact, including carrying capacity studies, should be a component of future management, planning, and implementation activities. Improvements of campground infrastructure should complement efforts to mitigate visitor use impacts on both the land and waterbodies. Recent developments in carrying capacity language and wildland monitoring plans found in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wilderness and High Peaks Wilderness UMPs, highlight the importance of creating concrete implementation plans within UMPs as they are being drafted.

Public - Extend fresh water as far as site 90. Hire more help. Use brown tract and other receipts for each campgrounds use. NOT!!! To the general fund for political purposes. Enforce reservation rules. Computer savvy folk can literally have a site all summer. How? By using relatives names, paying for it themselves [the system cares not who pays], then saying my brother, sister, etc., couldn't make it but its paid for. Of course its usually the most desirable sites closing it out to other campers.

Public - Please maintain the no motorboat, no site utilities nature of Brown Tract Pond. I'd be even happier if generators were not allowed.

Public - We love the quiet and secluded nature of this campground and plan to continue visiting for an annual family trip. We appreciate that there are no motorized boats allowed on the pond. Our kids enjoy the beach area and going out on the lake with a kayak or canoe. The proposed showers and utility sinks for washing dishes will be very helpful improvements! We would love to see these amenities in place. These are the only additional items that we thought were missing from the campground.

Public - The cost estimates contained in this proposal are astronomical for the type of construction being proposed. You should be more mindful of NY taxpayers.

Public - When rebuilding fireplaces, place them perpendicular to prevailing wind. Love that you provided chopping stumps for splitting wood. Consider a lottery system for reservations of more popular sites especially during peak demand.

Public - Purchase of ice would be a nice and thoughtful idea for campers in need for coolers. Not all campers have big RV homes on wheels with refridgerators.

Public - Along with selling firewood, selling ice would also be an amenity we would love! And we truly appreciate the "chopping blocks" (stumps) provided at the sites, that's so great!

Public - Some 20Amp Elec hookup

Public - we like to camp at Brown Track because it is quiet, no motor boats, etc. PLEASE make quiet hours 9:00 am-9:00 pm and PLEASE stop loud parties. Generators are unnecessary as well, so loud! (Go to Golden Beach for that type of camping).

Public - Brown Tract is my favorite NYS campground. I have been coming here for 59 years. I love that no motors are allowed on the pond. I am in favor of improvements that would protect the water quality and natural environment.

Public - The campsite could use a few row boats for fishing on the pond.

Public - We have been camping here for 25 years and love it! The last 3-5 years, we have experienced more and more poor behavior by campers such as not observing quiet hours and loud arguments/fights, etc., so please continue to educate visitors as they arrive and monitor/police the campground so that we may all continue to enjoy the quiet and beauty of this special place.

Public - noise from the Generators disturbs the quit. Propose to inclose Gens in a inclosed building.

Public - I tried several ways to access the Brown Tract improvement plan. The links said the page didn't exist. I am highly interested in this as a camper at Brown Tract my entire 54 year life. Please DO NOT destroy Brown Tract by making it like every other state site. The rustic, quiet and simple nature of the place is its sublime charm. As more people discover this special place, please do not corrupt its many gifts by making it like every place else.

Public - We love BTP. Hopefully you can keep it innocent in the world of Reserve America. Com as you improve it. I am most concerned about the sold-out situation online. While we camped again this past July, we were surrounded by many EMPTY sites. The site we got we all downhill, many ruts. Keep it octane free, make some improvements and we'll see you soon. The Dunham's

Public - We love Browns Track. Have camped there for over 12 years, but not this year. However, a few have spoiled it for us. It seems two "families" spoil it for all. They lock in sites 89 and 90 for the whole season. They have a computer program with multiple hits per minute which allows them to monopolize use of these two sites for their personal use all season. Once 2016, we received a call stating they wouldn't be on site for a few days, did we want it? They relish in their cleverness to secure the sites like their own private camp, and have told us about it. Dorsen is very aware as we've discussed it, but he tells us the current NY reservation system allows this; if different names or credit cards are used. Park officials know which folks take advantage of the system unfairly. I hope this abuse can be addressed.

Public - The reservation system is rigged. I have spoken to the Caretaker, Dorsen Davis, and he admitted that he knew this is going on for site 89, and now site 90, for a number of years. Somehow the state needs to level the playing field, and give everyone a fair chance at making a reservation.

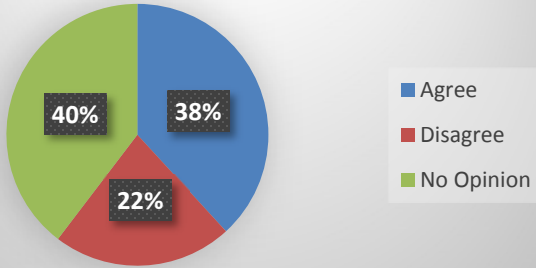
Public - The road in is atrocious

Public - It would be great to have a public access trail from the beach area to the boat launch area utilizing site #39. Many campers on site #40 and/or site #39 try to occupy and limit access to that right of way back to the road.

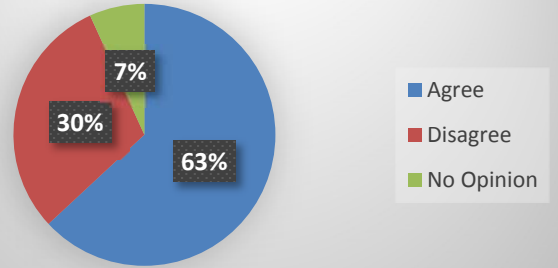
Department Response- These comments have been noted by the Department.

Summary of public comment results.

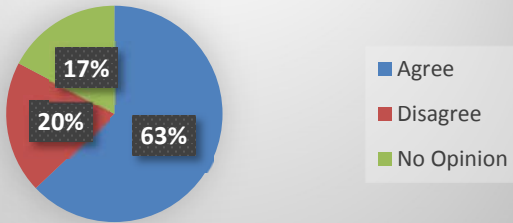
### Replace Ticket Booth



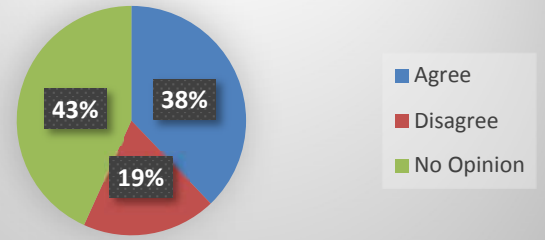
### Install Utility Sinks



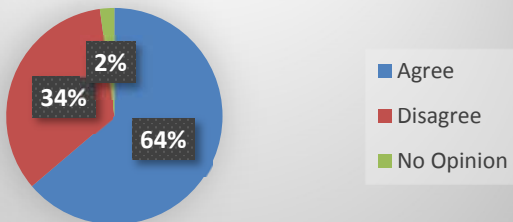
### Construct Firewood Storage Building



### Construct Storage/Workshop Building



### Reconstruct 2 Bathrooms To Include Showers



### Camping Equipment Types

