



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Eagle Point Public Campground

Unit Management Plan

~~PUBLIC DRAFT~~
FINAL

Town of Chester, Warren County, New York

~~July~~October 2018

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

**EAGLE POINT PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II
~~DRAFT~~ UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

NOTE: Volume I is a generic plan and contains an overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria that 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 (UMPs) to cover the next five-year management period. The final UMP is completed according to guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

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

**SUMMARY
EAGLE POINT PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
DRAFT**

In keeping with constitutional provisions, criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Department of Environmental Conservation Management Policy for Forest Preserve state-owned lands, DEC has established a management plan for the five-year operation of Eagle Point Public Campground.

Goals include: managing recreation programs to ensure protection of the natural resources base according to Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), offering recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of State residents, ensuring that revenues equal operating costs for that portion of the program covered by user fees, and managing the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the State.

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

Proposed Management Actions*

- Replace five existing comfort stations with three comfort stations.
- Replace shower building.
- Improve campsites including closures and combining sites.
- Repave roads and repair drainage structures.
- Initiate an asbestos abatement plan for retaining walls.
- Replace playground facilities in day-use area.
- Install plantings throughout campground.
- Replace fireplaces as needed.
- Install interpretive kiosk with historic information.
- Upgrades facilities to improve accessibility.

*Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with State health codes, maintenance of physical plant investment, modernization of facilities to provide a satisfactory recreational experience for users, upkeep of facilities to maintain to public safety, and providing conditions in a setting and on a scale that is harmonious with the character of the Adirondack Park.

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

Mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts have been considered. All construction projects will limit tree removal to reduce clearing and maintain the facility's wooded appearance. Architectural designs will be selected to blend with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will reestablish vegetation, which effectively stabilizes soil. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. Proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak-use periods rather than accommodating increased population projections.

Various alternative actions were considered. Public unrest, an adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of State lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. Current care, custody, and control practices preclude choosing these alternatives at this time.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Eagle Point Campground is located on the western shore of Schroon Lake. Amenities include campsites; hot showers; flush toilets; trailer dump station; recycling center; boat launch; picnic area with tables, fireplaces, and charcoal grills. Camping equipment from tents to 30' RV's can be accommodated with some sites designed to accommodate campers with physical disabilities. The campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, hiking and swimming. Schroon Lake covers approximately 4,107 acres and is nine miles in length. The Village of Schroon Lake, located seven miles to the north, has a quaint main street with shops and restaurants. Visitors can tour the Schroon-North Hudson Historical Museum, or visit the Seagle Music Colony which offers plays, operas and concerts. The Natural Stone Bridge and Caves is located four miles southwest of the campground.

1. Location

Eagle Point Campground is located on the western shore of Schroon Lake. The entrance is two miles north of Pottersville on US Highway 9 in the Town of Chester, Warren County. The campground is on a portion of Lot 89 of the Hoffman Tract.

2. History

The first users of the region of the Adirondacks surrounding Schroon Lake were the Haudenosaunee and Algonquin Indian Nations. While it is known that these Indian nations did use the lands for hunting and fishing, and as a thoroughfare to other areas of the State, it is unresolved whether either nation ever settled in the Adirondack mountains due to their harsh climate and rugged landscape. Beginning in the early 1600s, European explorers struggled for control over the region's waterways, valuable fur trade and plentiful timber. While the Europeans fought over the region's water routes in the Champlain Valley and Lake George regions further east, settlement here was delayed. When counties were established in colonial New York in 1683, the present Warren County was part of Albany County, an enormous area covering the northern part of New York State and all the present State of Vermont.

In May of 1775, 25,200 acres of land, partly in today's Essex and Warren counties, was granted equally to five grantees including Anthony Hoffman. This area was known as the Hoffman Township. At the end of the Revolutionary War, soon after the New York reclaimed all the lands once held by the British Crown, the state began auctioning off tracts of Adirondack forestland. Many of the deeds,

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vouchers and papers relating to earlier claims were lost or carried off after the war and the original owners no longer had proof of ownership. The State also established military tracts, which it offered up as bounty lands to soldiers who fought in the Revolution. But due to the remoteness of the Adirondacks, few people took up the offer. In March of 1788, the 11th NYS Legislature passed an act directing the settlement of multiple public accounts of claims by citizens for properties, monies and other compensations they felt were owed to them since the end of the Revolutionary War. Included in this settlement was entitlement to 24,000 acres of lands, where the deeds, vouchers and papers relating to these claims were lost. Those receiving the authorized lands again included Anthony Hoffman and others.

In 1799, the Town of Chester was formed, but there were only a few rudimentary roads. The main mode of travel was the Schroon River. By the 1830s, affordable land, abundant water, fish, game, and first-growth timber began to attract settlement. To the north, Schroon grew quickly, benefitting from the Old State Road, currently US 9, which ran through the town and on to Canada. Local saw and grist mills soon appeared as well as a tannery and a distillery.

In Pottersville, the nearest village to the campground, settlement was slower. An 1835 report states that there was nothing on the site of the village except a log house owned by James Danley. In 1839, James Potter, for whom the hamlet is named, built a store just south of the current Wells Hotel. Mr. Potter was appointed the first postmaster. There were never any extensive mills in the vicinity, but a tannery was built about 1849 and operated by at least three different owners before burning in 1882. According to Smith's History of Warren County, the piles of tan bark continued to smolder for 18 months after the fire was extinguished. By the 1860's, the Town of Chester had grown to two main settlements, Chestertown and Pottersville.

The tourist business started to develop in the 1870's, when guests would first travel by train to Riparius, then board a stagecoach to Pottersville, and then continue by lake steamer to various hotels that had sprung up along the shoreline of Schroon Lake. In 1872, the Leland House was built on a six acre parcel by Thomas Leland. It was one of the largest and grandest hotels on the lake, three stories high and able to accommodate nearly 300 guests. Schroon Lake was also the former home to the world class Scaroon Manor Resort, which opened in 1920. It was a luxurious resort catering to clientele interested in fine dining, quality entertainment and outdoor fun. It featured an amphitheater, white sandy beach, and over 300 acres of gardens and landscaped walkways. For outdoor recreation, it offered a golf course, tennis courts, baseball diamond, basketball courts and water sports. The Scaroon Manor was also

the site for the 1957 Warner Brothers movie *Marjorie Morningstar*, which starred Gene Kelly, Natalie Wood and Ed Winn. The Manor closed in 1962 and was sold in 1967 to New York State. Today, it is the site of Scaroon Manor Campground, located north of Eagle Point.

A 1907 survey of the Hudson River watershed concluded that an ideal site for a 70-foot-tall containment dam would be at Tumblehead Falls. Impounding the Schroon River at the 840-foot contour line would create a reservoir larger than Lake George. Brant, Paradox and Schroon Lakes would be combined into one lake with a shoreline five or six times larger than present day. Hoteliers and shoreline owners were opposed to the project, fearing that the dam would kill the thriving tourist industry that also supported boardinghouses, inns and village shops. The Schroon Lake Association, still in existence today, was formed to oppose the construction of the Tumblehead Falls dam. In the fall 1916, a public hearing was held at the conservation commissioner's Albany office to discuss the feasibility of the dam. The outcome was that the level of Schroon Lake was to remain at 807 feet.

In recognition of increasing demand for camping in the Adirondacks, in 1928 the Conservation Department purchased 21 acres of lot 89 of the Hoffman Tract, including approximately .96 miles of shoreline on Schroon lake. The 1928 Annual Report to the Legislature included the passage "The opening of Eagle Point Campsite on Schroon Lake, which was hoped to take place during the past summer, was held up by the failure to acquire title to the land. However much of the work as possible was done during the fall. This site on the International highway will be a valuable supplement to those on Lake George and Sharp Bridge. Construction of the campground started in the fall of 1928 and 64 sites were constructed. Eagle Point opened for business in 1929.

Additional annual reports to the legislature stated that registration at Eagle Point campground had been 4,017 in 1929 and 7,224 in 1930. The reports also note that life-saving instruction for the ranger force had been inaugurated in 1929. A connecting road had been completed between the campsite proper and the picnic area to the north, obviating the necessity of traversing the main state road in going from one to the other. The additional area of the lake frontage thus opened up was developed by grading and the construction of fireplaces, tables and benches. Another short cross road was constructed at the southerly end of the campground opening up a very desirable area close to the lake that was also developed. The two bathhouses, which had been little used, were moved to a new location that was more convenient to bathers. Eight additional campsites sites were added in ensuing years. The 1945 Annual Report to the Legislature noted the war years of 1944 and 1945 showed a continued decrease in the usage of the recreation facilities in the Forest Preserve. Prewar usage of Conservation Department

I. INTRODUCTION

campsites in 1941 was 994,426, dropping to 278,495 in 1944 and 307,439 in 1945. The report also stated that “now that the war was over, the demand for facilities will now increase far beyond pre-war years and preparations should be made to meet this increase”. The 1942 usage at Eagle Point was 16,800.

Prior to the construction of the Northway (I-87) in 1967, US Route 9 was the major north-south highway between Albany and Montreal, Canada, which made Schroon Lake a convenient stopping off point for travelers to purchase gas, lodging, and meals. Today, most travelers bypass US Route 9 but they now have the convenience of easily reaching the campground by exiting I-87 at exit 26 or 27.

The origination of the name "Schroon" is not precisely known though some believe it is derived from a Native American word for large lake. Others contend it was named by French soldiers in honor of the Widow Scarron (Françoise d'Aubigne) who was previously the wife of noted French author and playwright Paul Scarron and subsequently the second wife of King Louis XIV of France.

| Year | Eagle Point Campground Improvements |
|------|--|
| 1929 | Campground opened with 68 sites, eight more sites added later |
| 1944 | Toilet building #3 (beach road) constructed |
| 1953 | Toilet building #2 (south end) constructed |
| 1961 | Bathhouse constructed |
| 1965 | Sewer pump house and water pump house constructed |
| 1967 | Toilet building #4 (north end) constructed |
| 1969 | Caretaker cabin constructed |
| 1972 | Shower building constructed |
| 1980 | Registration booth constructed |
| 1988 | Garage/ lifeguard apartment constructed |
| 1992 | Recycle center constructed. |
| 1995 | Water pump house constructed |
| 2010 | Lift stations rehabilitated |
| 2012 | Ticket booth constructed, caretaker residence rehabilitated |
| 2014 | Rehabilitated bathhouse, storage room and bathroom added |
| 2017 | Asbestos abatement project of wall along beach access road completed |

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-use (Picnic) Areas

| Camping Area | Day-use Area |
|---|---|
| 72 campsites | Area – .6 acres |
| 72 picnic tables | 12 picnic tables |
| 72 fireplaces | 6 grills |
| 16 water spigots | 2 water spigots |
| | Playground |
| Design capacity – 432 persons (72 x 6/site) | Design capacity – 72 persons (12 x 6/table) |

2. Roads and Parking Areas

The campground has a total of 1.1 miles of interior roads 10' to 24' wide. There are two parking areas located near the day-use area, each 100' x 20' in size and accommodating 11 cars. There is also parking available near the shower building and recycle center.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

3. Buildings

| Bldg # | Bldg Name/Function | Location/Description/Use | Size Sq ft | Condition | Year Built |
|--------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| (001) | Caretaker cabin | Near entrance | 744 | Excellent | 1969 |
| (004) | Shower building | Near site #71 | 660 | Good | 1972 |
| (005) | Bathhouse | Near beach | 448 | Fair | 1961 |
| (006) | Sewer pump house | Near site #6 | 49 | Good | 1967 |
| (009) | Comfort station | North end near site #61 | 143 | Fair | 1967 |
| (010) | Comfort station (men's) | Beach road near site #53 | 110 | Fair | 1944 |
| (011) | Comfort station (women's) | Beach road near site #54 | 110 | Fair | 1944 |
| (012) | Comfort station (women's) | South end near site #18 | 132 | Good | 1953 |
| (013) | Comfort station (men's) | South end near site #18 | 132 | Good | 1953 |
| (014) | Garage/ staff apartment | Near entrance | 912 | Good | 1988 |
| (015) | Recycle Center | Near site #1 | 350 | Good | 1992 |
| (016) | Water pump house | Near site #59 | 308 | Good | 1995 |
| (017) | Ticket booth | Near entrance | 96 | Excellent | 2012 |

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted November 2016. The lower comfort stations have 8 toilets (4 each sex) and 2 sinks (one each sex). The beach road comfort stations have 6 toilets (3 each sex) and 2 sinks (one each sex). The north end comfort station has 4 toilets (2 each sex) and 2 sinks (1 each sex). The shower building has 6 toilets (3 each sex), 6 sinks (3 each sex) and 8 showers (4 each sex). The bathhouse has one toilet. The recycle center has one sink. The caretaker's cabin has a toilet, shower, sink and kitchen sink. The lifeguard apartment has a toilet, shower, sink and kitchen sink.

4. Sewage System

Effluent at each building flows by gravity to septic tanks and then by three lift stations to a centralized leach field located on Scaroon Manor Campground. There are approximately 3,375 feet of force main sewer line and 2,750 feet of gravity sewer line. Gray water from the shower building and recycle center is disposed of in dry wells. Septic tanks are periodically pumped and effluent transported under a contract arrangement. A NYSDEC SPDES permit #NY-024-8673 covers the systems listed below.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

| Bldg # | Outfall # | Building #/Type | Septic Tank Size (gallons) | Leach Field/ Dry Well | Construction Date |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| #001 | 050 | Caretaker cabin | 500 | Leach field | 1969 |
| #014 | 050 | Garage/staff apartment | Combined with above | Leach field | 1988 |
| #004 | 050 | Shower house | 2,500 | Leach field | 1972 |
| #004 | 004 | Shower house (gray water) | | (2) dry wells | 1972 |
| #005 | 050 | Bath house | 2,500 | Leach field | 1961 |
| #009 | 050 | Comfort station (north end) | 2,500 | Leach field | 1967 |
| #010 | 050 | Comfort station (men's) beach road | 2,500 | Leach field | 1944 |
| #011 | 050 | Comfort station (women's) beach road | Combined with above | Leach field | 1944 |
| #012 | 050 | Comfort station (women's) south end | 2,500 | Leach field | 1953 |
| #013 | 050 | Comfort station (men's) south end | Combined with above | Leach field | 1953 |
| #015 | 004 | Recycle center (gray water) | | (2) dry wells | 1992 |

5. Solid Waste

Annual refuse generated is approximately 6.5 tons. Waste is collected at the central recycling facility and hauled by staff in a DEC packer truck to a commercial disposal site. Annual cost for disposal is about \$60/ton or \$400. Approximately eight yards of recyclables are collected and removed from the campground by contract. Annual cost for disposal is about \$140. Returnable containers are the responsibility of campers and not collected at the facility. Approximately 12 yards of ashes are collected at a central facility and transported to Hiram Hollow recycling facility. Beginning with the 1992 season, all day-use areas have been under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public, and the DEC's Albany office have produced a brochure.

6. Barriers

Barriers are used to control campground use and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. DEC policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. Eagle Point has one pipe-gate barrier near the entrance which controls vehicle access. This gate will be opened in winter to permit passage of vehicles as far as the recycle center for ice fishermen, snowshoers and skiers.

7. Telephone

The main phone number for the campground is (518) 494-2220, and calls will be answered only when the campground is open. There is a pay phone for the public to use near the entrance booth.

8. Signs

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

9. Electric System

The campground receives primary electrical distribution from an overhead transmission line on U.S. Route 9. An overhead line feeds power from a transformer on a utility pole to a meter installed on the garage. Electricity is distributed via 3,200 feet of buried lines and 250 feet of overhead lines throughout the campground. Service is provided to comfort stations, staff residences, shower building, entrance booth, garage, pump house, chlorination building, bathhouse, recycle center and well. National Grid provides power and distribution to the campground. DEC owns and maintains all utility lines on the campground. Average yearly electric consumption is about 15,000 kWh at a cost of \$2,750. (See Exhibit #7.)

10. Potable Water System

There is a 198-foot-deep drilled well located near the boat launch that supplies water to the campground. The well yields 25 gallons per minute and has a 1/2 HP pump with a pumping capacity of 16 gallons per minute. The water is chlorinated and stored in an 8,400-gallon storage tank adjacent to the well and delivered to the campground with booster pumps. From the reservoir, water is pumped through 2.1 miles of waterline to the water spigots, comfort stations, staff housing, bathhouse, garage and recycle center. (See Exhibit #6.)

11. Trails

The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness and Hoffman Notch Wilderness are a short drive from the campground and offer hiking opportunities. Popular hiking trails include Pharaoh Mountain, Severance Hill, Pharaoh Lake and Hoffman Notch.

12 Fuel Systems

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

| Product Type | Tank Size Gal/Lb | Location | Annual Use |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Propane | 500 gal | Shower building | 1,920 gal |
| Propane | 120 gal | Caretaker's cabin | |

13. Swimming

In most years, the beach at Eagle Point was operational for the core of the camping season and staffed by lifeguards. Since 2000, a lack of qualified lifeguards in the area has prevented the campground from providing a staffed swimming beach. Since 2013, the facility established a series of safeguards known as Supervision Level IV to be followed by patrons. The swim area was delineated with ropes and buoys, and safety and first aid equipment was located at the site and rules regarding proper use of the swim area were posted.

14. Boating

Schroon Lake is approximately 4,107 acres in size and therefore meets the Adirondack Park Agency's criteria for allowing existing launches or for further analysis to determine additional boat ramp construction. Currently the launch is an unimproved trailer launch and lacks a hard surface ramp. This allows light trailered boats to reach the water, but does not provide float off or float on capability. Boats typically need to be hand carried from the trailer. There is room for about 4 vehicles or trailers adjacent to the launch area. Visitors are advised to launch trailered boats at the Horicon boat launch, located 2.5 miles south of the campground entrance.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

| Total | Position Title |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor II |
| 1 | Conservation Security Worker |
| 1 | Park and Recreation Aide 6 |
| 3 | Park and Recreation Aide 4 |

2. Fee Schedule 2017

| Daily Fees 2017 Open Dates: May 19 – Sep 9 | |
|---|---------|
| Camping/night – NYS Residents | \$22.00 |
| Camping/night – Non-residents | \$27.00 |
| Day Use - Auto | \$10.00 |
| Day Use - Walk In | \$2.00 |
| Day Use - Motorcycle | \$5.00 |
| Canoes – Day rental | \$20.00 |
| Kayaks – Day rental | \$15.00 |
| Kayaks (double) – Day rental | \$20.00 |
| Firewood | \$9.00 |
| Empire Passport - Season | \$65.00 |

3. Permits

Peddling permits may be issued annually for firewood, boat rentals and camper supplies. An annual fee of \$2.00 x number of campsites is charged for each vendor. In 2017, one permit was issued to an ice cream vendor.

4. Off-season Use

The entrance road gate is opened during the winter season so that ice fishermen, snowshoers and skiers can access the facility. The road is plowed as far as the recycle center.

5. Junior Naturalist Program

The *Junior Naturalist Journal* is an activity book that gives children the opportunity to test their environmental knowledge while teaching them more about New York State's environment. Children five through twelve years old can request a *Junior Naturalist Journal* from campground staff. When the journal is completed, children bring it to the appropriate DEC staff person, who reviews the journal and then gives the child a Junior Naturalist patch. This program is dependent on funding being available and may not be offered every year. It was offered for the 2017 camping season.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The elevation of Eagle Point varies from 807' at the shoreline of Schroon Lake to 850' at points near U.S. Route 9. The land rises steeply from the lakeshore and many campsites are graded with timber cribbing. (See Exhibit #2.)

b. Water

Schroon Lake is 4,107 acres (6.4 sq miles) in area, with a maximum depth of 152 feet. There are approximately 23.7 miles of shoreline, of which .94 miles border the Intensive Use Area. There are 25 campsites located along the shoreline of the lake. Schroon Lake's outlet enters Schroon River at the south end of the lake which joins the Hudson River after 27 miles slightly west of the village of Warrensburg.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency inventory, map and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Within Eagle Point Campground, there are no identified wetlands.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet 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.

d. Soils

Soil associations consist of Bice—very bouldery, fine, sandy loam, moderate sloping and Bice—very bouldery, fine, sandy loam, steep sloping. The moderate sloping soils are deep, well drained soils found in wooded areas on hillsides and hill crests on uplands. This soil is not suited to cultivated crops because of the short growing season and boulders and stones on the surface. This soil is suited to use as sites for campgrounds, picnic areas, paths, trails and dwellings. The steep sloping soils are also deep, well drained and found on wooded hillsides on uplands. This soil, if cleared of trees, can be suited to pasture. The slopes of the site limit the recreational use of this soil to hiking paths, trails and ski slopes. (See Exhibit #9)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are six different forest types present within the campground. The Bureau of Forest Preserve Management and SUNY ESF are working together to develop computerized GIS models of forested areas of the Adirondack Forest Preserve. (See Exhibit 8)

b. Unique Vegetation

The New York Natural Heritage Program keeps track of the status of the State's rare flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern allies, and mosses. No rare plants or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Eagle Point Campground.

c. Wildlife

The opportunity to encounter animals in the wild adds a dimension of excitement to a visitors' recreational experience. Visitors to Eagle Point Campground can enjoy wildlife from a number of perspectives, including wildlife observation, bird song identification and photography. A diversity of wildlife species may be observed in the campground or in the adjacent Vanderwacker Mountain Wild Forest. More detailed information about the wildlife in the region can be found in the Vanderwacker Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

d. Fisheries

Eagle Point Campground's proximity to Schroon Lake makes it a popular fishing location. DEC's publication New York Freshwater Fishing lists trout, lake trout and land-locked salmon as species which may be caught in Schroon Lake year-round. The use of bait fish is permitted in Schroon Lake. Brown trout and rainbow trout were stocked into the Schroon River downstream from Schroon Lake in 2017.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution

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

B. Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

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

C. Environmental Conservation Law

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

D. Recreation Program Goals

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

E. Campground Generic Plan/EIS

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

F. Public Use

1. Inventory of Public Use

a. Attendance Trends

Attendance numbers are a combination of camper days (the number of campers x the number of nights spent) and day-use visitors (the number of people using the beach, day-use areas or visiting but not staying overnight). Camping attendance for the latest five-year period is similar to the levels experienced 20 years ago while day use has decreased by nearly 65%. The drop-in day use is partially explained by an inability to staff the beach with lifeguards, but it is also part of a change in recreational trends where fewer families spend a day at the beach. For the latest five-year period, camping attendance remains fairly static while day-use is seeing a slight increase. Campground use during winter months primarily consists of cross-country skiing and ice fishing. Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits required or issued for off-season use, nor staff on site to monitor use.

| Eagle Point Attendance | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Year | Camping | Day Use | Total |
| 2017 | 12,113 | 1,077 | 13,190 |
| 2016 | 11,185 | 874 | 12,059 |
| 2015 | 13,518 | 749 | 14,267 |
| 2014 | 13,474 | 791 | 14,265 |
| 2013 | 10,513 | 620 | 11,133 |
| Avg | 12,161 | 822 | 12,983 |

Eighty two percent of campers are from New York State, with a strong representation from the Saratoga and capital region as well as the Hudson Valley and Long Island. The average overnight stay for campers is 2.9 nights, and overall campground occupancy for the season is 41%. (See Exhibit #11.)

b. Revenue Trends

Revenues are used to offset annual operating costs of the campground. Operating budget allocations are based on revenues generated from camping fees, day-use fees, boat rentals, sales of Empire Passports and firewood.

| Five-Year Revenue Totals for Eagle Point | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Year | Camping | Day Use | Boat Rentals | Empire Passports | Firewood | Total |
| 2017 | \$77,732 | \$2,015 | \$3,705 | \$260 | \$1,935 | \$85,647 |
| 2016 | \$78,318 | \$2,333 | \$4,670 | \$195 | \$1,881 | \$87,397 |
| 2015 | \$79,729 | \$2,760 | \$4,220 | \$130 | \$0 | \$86,839 |
| 2014 | \$73,310 | \$2,710 | \$2,085 | \$325 | \$288 | 78,718 |
| 2013 | \$68,009 | \$2,230 | \$1,825 | \$0 | \$288 | \$72,352 |
| Avg | \$75,420 | \$2,410 | \$3,301 | \$182 | \$878 | \$82,191 |

Operating costs for Eagle Point average \$70,000. The revenue at this facility falls short of the operating costs due to several factors: size of the facility, age of the infrastructure and the small size of many campsites. However, 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. Camping revenues have remained static along with attendance with no price increases in the last five years. Boat rental revenue continues to increase as more boats are added to the rental fleet. Firewood sales were initiated at Eagle Point in 2016 and revenues surpass those previously earned by peddler permit fees.

2. Carrying Capacity

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

a. Physical Design

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

The table below compares the calculated capacity needs for each campground with the currently available capacity, with deficiencies noted. A utility sink attached to the outside of each toilet building is needed to provide a place for campers to either wash dishes or dispose of gray water. No comfort stations within the facility meet current accessibility standards.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

| Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Facility Description | Design Standard* | Calculated Need | Currently Available | Deficiency |
| Campsites (72) | 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 | 3,960 gpd | 23,040 gpd | None |
| 6 day-use picnic tables | 5 gal/day/picnicker | 360 gpd | | None |
| Water spigots | 1/10 campsites | 8 | 16 | None |
| | 1/60 picnickers | 2 | 2 | None |
| Sinks (within 500') | 1 for every 15 campsites | 8 | 12 | None |
| | 1 for every 60 picnickers | 2 | 0 | None *1 |
| Toilets/Urinals (within 500') | 2 for every 10 sites | 15 | 23 | None |
| | 2 for every 60 picnickers | 2 | 1 | None *1 |
| Utility sinks | Conveniently located | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Showers | 2 for every 25 sites | 6 | 8 | None |
| *DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes | | | | |

*1 - The toilets and sinks at the beach road restrooms are within 500' of the beach and day-use area and service both campsites and day use facilities.

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many of the campsites here at Eagle Point and as well as at all DEC campgrounds have been in continuous use since the campground opened. Depending on site design and level of occupancy, they are showing their age in terms of loss of vegetation screening, soil compaction, drainage issues and site amenity needs. To address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the condition and needs of each facility, including all the 6,000 campsites at DEC campground facilities. Restoration work will include tree and shrub plantings, replacement of lost soils, regrading of sites, drainage improvements, evaluating the design and size of campsites and replacement of deteriorated tables and fireplaces. In most cases, sites that require restoration work will be removed from use for two camping seasons. Sites #21 and #61 have been selected for restoration work and for closure in 2017 and 2018. Sites #33 and #68 have been selected for restoration work and for closure in 2018 and 2019. Signs will be posted at the campground, and no reservations will be taken for these sites.

The entrance road gate is opened during the winter season so that ice fishermen, snowshoers and skiers can access the facility. Hazardous trees are regularly removed (in accordance with established

policy), and, in addition to natural regeneration, growth of residual trees and plantings as noted above compensate for any losses.

c. Social Carrying Capacity

Annual camper surveys have been conducted since 1996. Campers have been asked to rate their camping experience on a scale from unacceptable to excellent. At current attendance levels, this campground is operating within an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors. In 2017, campers were asked to provide any comments or suggestions they had about their stay at the campground and 73 comments were provided as follows:

20 responses complimented the friendliness and helpfulness of the campground staff

Eight responses recommended new or additional shower facilities be constructed

Seven responses complimented the maintenance of the facility

Five responses recommended new or additional bathroom facilities be constructed

Three responses noted firewood not being available to purchase

Other multiple responses noted that hazardous trees need to be removed, campsites are too close together, the facilities were dirty, the scenery was beautiful, and picnic tables need repair.

As part of the UMP process at Eagle Point, the condition of the 72 campsites was reviewed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, 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.

| | # of Responses | # Good or Excellent | % Good or Excellent |
|------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2017 | 147 | 139 | 95% |
| 2016 | 315 | 313 | 99% |
| 2015 | 270 | 259 | 96% |
| 2014 | 203 | 174 | 86% |
| 2013 | 103 | 89 | 86% |

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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 rare species or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Eagle Point Campground.

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

e. Adjacent Lands

The western boundary of the campground borders the 91,000-acre Vanderwacker Mountain Wild Forest unit for 4,600 feet, which is also delineated by U.S. Route 9. The northern boundary borders private lands for 290 feet. The eastern boundary of the campground borders Schroon Lake along its shoreline for 4,950 feet. The southern boundary of the campground borders private lands for 90 feet.

The adjacent Vanderwacker Mountain Wild Forest unit offers many recreational opportunities, including hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Popular destinations within the unit include Vanderwacker Mountain fire tower, Moxham Mountain and the Hudson and Boreas Rivers. Other popular activities are boating, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

f. Invasive Species

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

One common way insect pests are moved around the country—beyond their natural rate of spread based on biology and flight potential—is on firewood carried by campers, hunters and other users of our forests. This firewood may come from trees killed by insect pests and taken down wherever visitors originated. A regulation is in effect that prohibits the import of firewood into New York State unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source.

DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, is to establish a documented inventory of species by location within the campground and to implement an active invasive species management program to help contain and possibly eradicate further growth of these species. It is through these continued efforts that a collaborative initiative among DEC, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry developed the *Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management 2017 Program Report*. The report states that bush honeysuckle was found at this campground for the first time this year. Three bush honeysuckle plants were detected and removed from site 20. They were pulled up by the roots and hung upside down to dry and decompose on site. Extra care should be taken in future years to locate and remove small honeysuckle plants to prevent further establishment and spread. In the past, garlic mustard has been found in and around site 66. This was the first season that garlic mustard was not detected in the campground. This facility should be closely monitored to rapidly detect and control regrowth of the garlic mustard infestation. This campground should also be monitored annually for purple loosestrife, as it is located very close to the Champlain Valley where purple loosestrife is well established and widespread.

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

g. General Operations

Eagle Point Campground is a popular facility used during the summer season (mid-May through one weekend after Labor Day) for camping, swimming, boating and hiking. The rest of the year, the campground sees some visitation for ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the campground for both visitor and employee use. Day-to-day operations of this and other campgrounds are guided by policy set forth in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index of the handbook is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D of the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan.

h. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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, and use of public transportation, telecommunication facilities and 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 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 assets supporting them. This UMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

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

An accessibility assessment was conducted at Eagle Point Campground in 2014 by the New York State Inclusive Recreation Resource Center. The assessment results were reviewed during this

planning process. Certain accessibility improvements are proposed in the “Proposed Management Actions” section and other improvements will occur over the life of the plan as funding is provided.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

| Proposed Management Actions | |
|---|---------------|
| Management Actions | Cost Estimate |
| 1. Replace five existing comfort stations with three comfort stations | \$400,000 ea |
| 2. Replace shower building | \$650,000 |
| 3. Improve campsites including closures and combining sites. | \$30,000 |
| 4. Repave roads and repair drainage structures | \$350,000 |
| 5. Initiate an asbestos abatement plan for retaining walls. | TBD |
| 6. Replace playground facilities in day-use area | \$15,000 |
| 7. Install plantings throughout campground | \$5,000 |
| 8. Replace fireplaces as needed. | \$10,000 |
| 9. Install interpretive kiosk with historic information. | \$1,000 |
| 10. Upgrades to facilities to improve accessibility. | \$7,500 |

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

1. Replace five existing comfort stations with three comfort stations

All comfort stations were constructed between 1944 and 1967. None meet modern design or current accessibility standards. The toilet and sink fixtures are not as water efficient as modern fixtures and are not easily drained for off season. The roofing materials contain asbestos. This management action proposes to replace the two comfort stations at both the beach road and south end locations with one new building at each location. The comfort station at the north end will be replaced by one building. Buildings and fixtures will be sized to the number of campsites and day users they serve. All replacement buildings will fit in the general footprint of existing structures and a minimum of tree cutting will be required.

2. Replace shower building

The existing shower building was constructed in 1972. The building does not meet modern design or current accessibility standards. Toilet, sink and shower fixtures are not as water efficient as modern fixtures and are not easily drained for off season. This management action proposes to replace the existing shower building in the same location. The number of showers, sinks and toilets will be sized to the number of campsites and will comply with ADA requirements. No tree cutting is anticipated.

3. Improve campsites including closures and combining sites

As noted above in this plan, several campsites lack adequate vegetation screening between sites, from the road and from the lakeshore. Some sites are on excessive slopes lacking a level place to erect a tent. Several sites are undersized for modern day camping equipment. Thus, many of these sites have low occupancy. This management action proposes to evaluate each campsite and determine which sites, if permanently closed, would contribute to an overall improved camping experience on remaining sites. It is expected that the number of permanent campsite closures will fall between 3 and 8 sites. It is expected that overall campground occupancy and revenues will improve as a result of the improvements made.

4. Repave roads and repair drainage structures

The existing roads at Eagle Point are a combination of old pavement and graveled surfaces, both of which are in poor condition. Many sections of broken pavement, poor drainage and road dust create an annoyance to campers during dry periods. Paving the 1.1 mile of road in the camping area will reduce maintenance and improve safety for driving, cycling and walking. Potholes, wet areas and dust issues will also be mitigated.

5. Initiate an asbestos abatement plan for retaining walls.

The steep slopes in portions of Eagle Point Campground require terracing of some campsites with retaining walls. The existing walls are constructed of Transite asbestos sheeting, a composite fiber cement material. According to Department health and safety staff, these panels do not pose a health hazard as long as they are not disturbed. Staff at the facility will be instructed that the material contains asbestos and that they should not disturb it in actions such as scrapping for paint preparation, drilling, repairing adjoining wood cribbing, weed whacking in close proximity, etc. This management action proposes to incorporate an abatement plan during the life of this UMP

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

6. Replace playground facilities in day-use area

The existing playground facilities are weathered and worn and do not meet modern safety or universal design standards. This management action proposes to replace the existing structure with one that meets modern design standards and is constructed of natural materials to blend into the surroundings to the greatest extent possible.

7. Install plantings throughout campground

New trees and shrubs are required to replace those lost to removal of hazardous trees and to establish trees in high-traffic areas where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Species will be selected that are both native to the area and will provide needed shading and screening. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the plan. Particular attention will be to improve vegetative cover where campsites are being rehabilitated.

8. Replace fireplaces

Over time, fireplaces deteriorate due to use as well as some abuse by campers. This management action is also an ongoing process and it is expected that at least \$10,000 will be set aside to install new fireplaces that will replace deteriorated ones over the life of this UMP.

9. Install interpretive kiosk with historic information.

A kiosk will be installed that provides interpretive and historical information about the area.

10. Upgrades to facilities to improve accessibility

Over the life of this UMP, universal upgrades will be built into maintenance of sites and infrastructure when possible to provide a better experience for all campers.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

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