Division of Operations | Bureau of Recreation

Sharp Bridge Public Campground

Unit Management Plan

FINAL

Town of North Hudson, Essex County, New York

February 2023

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

Governor KATHY C. HOCHUL | Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record

FROM: Basil Seggos

SUBJECT: Sharp Bridge Campground

The Sharp Bridge Campground Unit Management Plan has been completed.

The UMP is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: 3/7/23

New York State
Adirondack
Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE 2022 UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SHARP BRIDGE CAMPGROUND AND DAY USE AREA

February 9, 2023

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (APA Act) directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (Agency), individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and requires such management plans to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP prescribes the contents of unit management plans (UMPs) and provides that the Agency will determine whether a proposed individual UMP complies with such guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, in August 1990, the DEC adopted the Final Generic UMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for campgrounds and day-use areas (1990 Generic UMP/EIS) which provides information on the environmental setting, inventory of facilities, organizational structure, issues, constraints, management objectives, and effects for campgrounds and day-use areas in both the Adirondack and Catskill Parks; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the DEC amended the 1990 Generic UMP/EIS to authorize firewood storage buildings in campgrounds and day-use areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the DEC amended the 1990 Generic UMP/EIS to authorize electric vehicle charging stations at campgrounds and day-use areas; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the DEC amended the 1990 Generic UMP/EIS to authorize watercraft decontamination facilities at campgrounds and day-use areas; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2022, DEC presented the Draft 2022 Unit Management Plan to the Agency and the Agency authorized a joint public comment period on the Draft 2022 Unit Management Plan from November 17, 2022, through December 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the DEC and Agency received no written comments during its public comment period and received thirty-four responses to the online feedback survey; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Final 2022 Unit Management Plan proposes to replace the caretaker cabin, rehabilitate roads, replace the trailer dumping station, rehabilitate the water system, bury overhead electric lines, and restore campsites; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Final 2022 Unit Management Plan proposes activities consistent with those contemplated in the amended 1990 Generic UMP/EIS such that no further SEQRA steps are needed; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2023, the DEC presented the Proposed Final 2022 Unit Management Plan to the Agency and Agency staff made a presentation recommending that the Proposed Final 2022 Unit Management Plan conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the Proposed Final 2022 Unit Management Plan, the November 17, 2022, and February 9, 2023, staff presentations, comments received by the public, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and designees at the Agency's February 9, 2023 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Agency finds that the Proposed Final Unit Management Plan for the Sharp Bridge Campground and Day-Use Area, dated February 2023, conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Ayes: Zoe Smith, Art Lussi, Joe Zalewski, Matt Tebo, John Ernst, Benita Law-Diao, Ken Lynch, Dan Wilt, Mark Hall

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Brad Austin

SHARP BRDGE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTE: Unit Management Plans for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) operated campgrounds and day-use areas located in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks are composed in three (3) volumes. Volume I is a generic plan and contains an overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertains universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day-use classified Intensive Use areas. This document is Volume II. It is a site-specific management document containing inventories of physical, biological, and human-made features, together with specific management actions for the individual site. Volume III contains support data in the form of an appendix to Volumes I and II.

DEC prepares UMPs to cover the next five-year management period. The final UMP is completed according to guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Central Office staff, in conjunction with Region 5 staff, prepared this UMP. Any comments and/or information may be forwarded to Josh Houghton, Division of Operations, Albany. For program information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

SUMMARY
SHARP BRIDGE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with guidelines and criteria for management and use referenced 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 next five-years of operation of Sharp Bridge 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 7 management actions are being proposed:

Proposed Management Actions*

- Replace caretaker cabin.
- Rehabilitate existing roads.
- Replace trailer dumping station.
- Rehabilitate water system.
- Replace overhead electric lines with underground system.
- Tree and shrub plantings.
- Campsite Restoration.

* Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available

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

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

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

Various alternative actions were considered. However, should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved, public dissatisfaction, an adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase. Existing care, custody, and control practices currently preclude choosing these alternatives.

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Sharp Bridge Campground and Day-Use Area is located on the western shore of Schroon River. Originally opened in 1920 as a single roadside campsite, Sharp Bridge Campground was further developed over the next several years. Improvements have been made over time, but the basic camping area remains mostly unchanged. The campground offers visitors private and wooded campsites. Camping equipment from tents to 25' RVs can be accommodated.

In addition to camping, Sharp Bridge Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities including hiking and fishing. Amenities include hot showers, flush toilets, trailer dumping station, firewood and ice sales, and a picnic area with pavilion.

Sharp Bridge Campground and surrounding areas offer many hiking opportunities for all levels of ability. The campground is surrounded by the 45,619-acre Hammond Pond Wild Forest which offers many hiking opportunities. The East Mill Flow Trail begins within the campground and provides hikers with access into the wild forest trail system. The Courtney Pond Trail and Courtney Pond are located to the south of Sharp Bridge, with a small parking area located in the campground entrance. The Lake Champlain region is located 15 miles to the east. Lake Placid and the Olympic venues are located 30 miles to the northwest.

1. Location

The campground is located on State Route 9, 15 miles north of Schroon Lake in the Town of North Hudson, Essex County. All lands are on Paradox Tract, all, or portions of, Lot numbers 206, 278, the southwestern corner of Lot 381, and a fractional portion of the southeasterly edge of Lot 426.

2. History

In 1920, the Conservation Commission began to establish camping sites throughout the Adirondacks. By 1924, it was realized that proper sanitary facilities and drinking water were required for those using these roadside campsites. Therefore, an effort began to concentrate the campsites at certain locations. The Commission determined that the campsite at Sharp Bridge had the potential for expansion, and the site was considered one of the most attractive due to the pine woods and partially secluded natural conditions. In 1924, ten additional fireplaces were erected, and a nearby spring was piped to install sanitary facilities and a well at the camp at Sharp Bridge in Essex County. The next year the Conservation Department more than doubled the size of the camping area. Running water was piped

in from the spring and faucets were distributed throughout the campground to make drinking water readily available for camping parties. By 1927, Sharp Bridge Campground had been expanded to 30 campsites. That same year a concrete reservoir with a cover was installed and improvements were made to the water system.

Today, Sharp Bridge Campground has 40 campsites and is one of the longest operating campgrounds managed by the Department. This facility is a component to achieving the program's management goals which are to manage recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resources base, 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, and manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the State.

Year	Sharp Bridge Campground Improvements
1920	Campground established as a single roadside site.
1924	10 additional sites are constructed. Sanitary facilities were installed.
1925	Campground area increased. Potable water is piped in.
1927	Campground expanded to 30 sites. Improvements made to water system and concrete reservoir installed.
1928	Additional campsites constructed to reach 37 total sites.
1948	Existing caretaker's cabin constructed. Six comfort stations constructed.
1961	Existing garage constructed.
1989	Comfort Stations 3 and 4 rehabilitated.
2001	Existing shower building constructed. Wastewater system rehabilitated. Comfort stations demolished.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
40 campsites	Pavilion
40 picnic tables	10 picnic tables
40 fireplaces	3 fireplaces
11 water spigots	1 water spigot
Design capacity – 240 persons (40 x 6/site)	Design capacity – 60 people (10 x 6/table)

2. Roads and Parking Areas

The campground has a combined total of 1.18 miles of roads, which consists of .28 mile of driveway and site access road and 0.9 mile of interior roads. The two-way entrance road is paved, 20 feet wide, and in fair condition. The remaining 0.8 mile of roads are gravel with an average width of 8 to 12 feet wide, and in poor condition. There is a small, paved parking lot for the Courtney Pond Trailhead located at the entrance. There is an unpaved parking lot with an approximate capacity of 26 cars available for campers and day-use visitors at the Day-Use area. Department of Transportation STOP and YIELD signs are placed at intersections.

3. Buildings

Bldg. #	Bldg. Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq. ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Caretaker Cabin	Near entrance	1,050	Fair	1948
(002)	Garage	Near Caretaker Cabin	512	Fair	1957
(009)	Toilet/Shower Building	Near campsite 24	975	Excellent	2001

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

4. Barriers

Barriers are used to control campground use and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. Department policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. There are two barriers in this facility. A gate at the entrance to the campground is a standard design, yellow, th

a reflective stop sign on both sides, and reflectors on each post. There is a barrier at the entrance to the Day-Use Area.

5. Sewage System

All sewage disposal in the campground is by use of septic systems, utilizing septic tanks and absorption beds or seepage pits. There is 304 feet of gravity sewer line utilized as part of this system.

Septic tank content is periodically disposed by a Department septic tank pumper, with effluent transported to the Lake Placid Wastewater Treatment Plant. A log is kept by "outfall number" indicating each tank inspection date, and pumping.

A NYS-DEC SPDES permit #NY 023-9402 was issued on September 1, 1991. The application covers the systems noted below.

Outfall Number	Building Type/Number	Toilets (T), Sinks (S) Showers (SH)	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/Seepage Pits	Construction Date
001	Caretaker Cabin (1)	1T, 2S, 1 SH	1,000	3-2' x 31' AB	2001
002	Dumping station	n/a	1,500	2-7'8" x4'4" x 4' SP	2001
003	Shower Building (9)	M-3T,1U,3S W-4T,3S Unisex- 2 SH	2,500	Black water Grey water 2-16' x 41' AB	2001

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

6. Solid Waste

Annual solid waste generated is estimated to be 8 tons. Solid waste and recyclables are taken to the Moriah Transfer Station.

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

7. Telephone

The main phone number for the campground is (518) 532-7538. Calls will be answered only when the campground is open.

8. Signs

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

9. Electric System

The campground has overhead secondary electrical distribution from the entrance to the caretaker cabin. The remaining electric line is buried. National Grid Power Corporation provides electricity to the campground's electrical lines. Average annual electrical consumption is 10,375 kwh at a cost of $1,460.

The electric lines within the campground total 861 feet and are owned by the Department. (See Exhibit #7.)

10. Potable Water System

One well water system services the campground. The system supplies the Caretaker cabins, the trailer dumping station, the centralized shower building, and spigots dispersed throughout the campground. The water from this well is chlorinated via a flow-based chlorination pump and a 2,500-gallon water storage tank is connected to this system.

Water is distributed to various buildings and 12 water spigots throughout the campground via 3,152 feet of buried waterlines. (See Exhibit #6a-b.)

11. Fuel Systems

There is one permanent fuel system used at the campground. A 48-gallon propane tank services the shower building. The average annual use is 235 gallons.

12. Trails

The campground is surrounded by the 45,619-acre Hammond Pond Wild Forest which offers many hiking opportunities. The East Mill Flow Trail begins within the campground and provides hikers with access into the wild forest trail system. The East Mill Flow-Round Pond Trail extends 5.2 miles between Round Pond Trailhead and East Mill Flow Trailhead in the campground. West of Round Pond the trail is known as the East Mill Flow Trail, and south of Round Pond the trail is known as the Round Pond Trail. The trail undulates gently over most of the distance, descending 295 feet in a 0.6-mile section before the last, flat 0.6 mile along Schroon Brook to the campground. Measuring from the Round Pond Trailhead the trail passes Trout Pond at 0.5-mile, Round Pond at 1.5 miles, and crosses East Mill Brook at 2.8 miles. Hikers using the East Mill Flow Trailhead are required to pay a day use fee when the campground is open.

The Courtney Pond trail is located adjacent to Route 9, just south of Sharp Bridge Campground. There is roadside parking and canoe access to Courtney Pond and a small trailhead lot in the facility entrance. The .8-mile trail traverses around Courtney Pond to a Northway (I-87) pedestrian underpass, which provides passage into a trailless area of the High Peaks Wilderness Area.

The East Mill Flow-Round Pond and Courtney Pond trails prohibit bicycle use; however, opportunities exist nearby in the Hammond Pond Wild Forest, including a connection to the Empire State Trail.

13. Boating

Opportunities for boating exist near the campground. Courtney Pond and Dead Water Pond are 3 miles away for kayaks and canoes. Schroon Lake and Paradox Lake are 10-20 miles away from the campground and can accommodate larger boats.

14. Swimming

There are no swimming facilities or a beach at Sharp Bridge Campground. There are several public beaches within driving distance from the facility, including a swimming beach at Lincoln Pond Campground.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

There is one seasonal, full time Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor I on staff at the facility.

2. Fee Schedule 2022

Daily Fees 2022 Open Dates: May 20 – Sept 5	
Camping/night – NYS Resident	$18.00
Camping/night – Non-resident	$23.00
Day Use - Auto	$6.00
Day Use - Walk In	$2.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	$3.00
Day Use - Bus	$35.00
Firewood - Bag	$9.00
Ice – Bag	$2.00

3. Permits

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

4. Off-Season Use

Department trucks may plow roads to the parking lot near the campground entrance during the winter months to accommodate visitors for snow shoeing and cross-country skiing, as resources allow.

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. Additionally, in an effort to restore the former Nature Recreation program, Environmental Educators will be hired in the Albany and Regional offices and be dispatched to the campgrounds to provide scheduled programming and educational opportunities for campers. This program is also dependent on the availability of funding.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The average elevation of Sharp Bridge Campground is 980’. The terrain of the campground is made up of three natural shelfs and can be defined as rolling hills. (See Exhibit #2.)

b. Water

The Schroon River Flows through the Intensive Use Area. The Day-Use Area is located along the western shore of the Schroon River, which is a 67.6-mile-long tributary to the Hudson River and the major tributary to Schroon Lake.

The Schroon River begins at the confluence of Crowfoot Brook and New Pond Brook near the Town of North Hudson in Essex County. The river flows 15 miles before its outlet into Schroon Lake within the Town of Schroon. The portion of the river north of Schroon Lake is referred to as the Upper

Schroon River. After flowing through Schroon Lake, the Lower Schroon River meanders an additional 27 miles to its confluence with the Hudson River in the Town of Warrensburg, Warren County.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A total of 4.6 acres of Freshwater Forested and Shrub wetland has been identified in several locations within the campground. In the Adirondacks, these wetlands are dominated by softwood or hardwood trees, shrubs, persistent emergent vegetation, emergent mosses or lichens. In addition, there are 1.7 miles of riverine wetlands within the intensive use area.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of them will require a permit from the APA. The APA will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to these designated wetland areas. (See Exhibit #9.)

d. Soils

Soil associations consist of 9 soils: Fluvaquents-Udifluvents Complex, Becket fine sandy loam, Colton gravelly loamy sand - 3 to 8% slopes, Colton gravelly loamy sand-8 to 15% slopes, Colton gravelly loamy sand - 15 to 35% slopes, Ricker-Lyman Complex, Tunbridge-Lyman complex - 15 to 35% slopes, and Tunbridge-Lyman complex - 35 to 60% slopes. Fluvaquents make up about 40 % of the unit and Udifluvents make up about 30% of the unit. These soils are susceptible to flooding and surface runoff is very slow. (See Exhibit #10.)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are four different forest types present in the campground. These consist of Northern Hardwoods, White Pine, Northern Hardwood-Pine Mix, and Old Scotch Pine and Balsam Fir Plantations. These large trees are succumbing to their age and mortality is common. A number of trees are removed annually to eliminate them as hazards to the campground visitors. Replanting is necessary to replace trees removed in heavy use areas. Vegetation in the immediate campsite area is affected by intensive use. In order for the site to have the ability to regenerate White Pine, raking should be limited to the edge of the roads and the immediate area around campsite fireplaces. The duff layer containing natural seed sources must remain undisturbed, where possible. There are wooded wetland areas as noted above in section 1c. (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. There have not been any rare plant species identified within or immediately near the Sharp Bridge Intensive Use Area.

c. Wildlife

Wildlife communities found in and around Sharp Bridge Campground reflect those species commonly associated with northern hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forests that are transitional to the boreal forests of higher latitudes. These lowland spruce-fir habitats are important for a variety of wildlife species with statewide distributions mostly or entirely within the Adirondacks (e.g., Spruce Grouse and other boreal birds, American marten). In addition to lowland boreal forest, aquatic habitats are abundant and include lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Together, these habitats support a diverse wildlife community, including rare animals and significant ecological communities.

Terrestrial fauna is represented by a variety of bird, mammal, and invertebrate species. Amphibians and reptiles also occur on the unit, although species diversity is relatively low as compared with other vertebrates. In 2019, there was a sighting of the rare species Eacles imperialis imperialis, commonly known as the Imperial Moth, near the campground entrance. For a more complete description of wildlife species and habitats, refer to the Hammond Pond Wild Forest UMP.

d. Fisheries

Schroon River is a 67.6-mile river that is a tributary to the Hudson River. Fish species present include Brown, Brook, and Rainbow Trout and Atlantic Salmon. All species are stocked annually.

For a more complete description of fisheries species and habitats, refer to the Hammond Pond Wild Forest unit management plan.

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

This UMP 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 facilities or visiting but not staying overnight). Camping attendance at this facility has been trending down for the last five years with 66% of all campers visiting from New York State, 33% from all other states, and the remaining 1% from Canada and other countries. Campers stay an average of 2.4 nights and 94% of campers arrive after making a reservation. Camping attendance at this facility has remained stable from levels reported 20 years ago. Day-Use attendance at this facility has been trending down during the last five-year period. Day-use attendance totals are about 20% of those reported 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits required or issued for off--season use, nor staff on site to monitor use. (See Exhibit #11.)

Sharp Bridge Attendance

Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2021	3,857	4	3,861
2020*	2,393	0	2,393
2019	4,371	23	4,394
2018	4,428	6	4,434
2017	4,860	23	4,883
Avg	***3,982***	***11***	***3,993***

**2020 Attendance impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic*

b. Revenue Trends

Revenues are used to offset annual operating costs of the campground. Operating budget allocations are based on revenues generated from camping fees, day-use fees, temporary revocable permits (TRPs), peddler permits, sales of Empire Passports, and sales of firewood and ice. Revenue reported from camping and day use follow the same trends reported above in the attendance trends.

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Sharp Bridge

Year	Camping	Day Use	Firewood	Ice	Total
2021	$ 29,768	$6	$432	$208	$30,414
2020*	$19,847	$0	$0	$0	$19,847
2019	$34,946	$20	$486	$340	$35,792
2018	$33,878	$14	$ 990	$288	$35,170

2017	$35,460	$28	$2,052	$296	$37,836
Avg	$30,780	$14	$792	$226	$31,812

Operating costs for Sharp Bridge average $18,000 annually. (**2020 Attendance impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.)*

2. Carrying Capacity

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

a. Physical Design

The following is an analysis of existing design capacities as compared to NYS Department of Health codes outlined in *Subpart 7-3 for Campgrounds* and NYS *Design Standards for intermediate sized wastewater treatment systems (2014)*. 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. No amenities within the campground meet current ADA or ABA accessibility standards.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis

Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (40)	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	2,200 gpd	7,500 gpd	None
Water spigots (within 250')	1/10 campsites	4	12	None
Lavatories (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	3	6	None**
Toilets/Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites	8	8	None**
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	1	1	None
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	4	4	None

*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.
**Current availability does not meet distance requirements. Pit privies may be used to meet deficiencies noted.

To design an effective, environmentally acceptable onsite wastewater treatment system, it is necessary to evaluate the physical characteristics of a site to determine whether adequate conditions exist or can be created to safely treat and discharge wastewater on a long-term basis. Points to be considered when evaluating a site for location of an on-site wastewater treatment system include identification of flood-prone areas; proximity of structures; location of nearby utilities; proximity to surface waters, wetlands, and other environmentally sensitive areas; terrain and other surface characteristics; subsurface conditions; and area for system replacement and/or expansion. Final site-specific planning for new or replacement on-site wastewater treatment systems at Sharp Bridge Campground will adhere to all requirements and guidance that should be met for treatment and dispersal systems.

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many of the 6,000 campsites operated by DEC have been in continuous use since the campgrounds opened. Depending on site design and level of occupancy, they are showing their age in terms of loss of vegetation screening, soil compaction, drainage issues and site amenity needs. To address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the condition and needs of each facility. Restoration work will include tree and shrub plantings, replacement of lost soils, regrading of sites, drainage improvements, evaluating the design and size of campsites, and replacement of deteriorated tables and fireplaces. In most cases, sites that require restoration work will be removed from inventory while work is being completed. In 2021, site #4 was selected for restoration work and site #39 has been selected for 2022. Signs have been posted at the campground and reservations will not be taken for these sites.

Hazardous trees are regularly removed in accordance with established policy and, in addition to natural regeneration, growth of residual trees and plantings as noted above compensate for any losses.

c. Social Carrying Capacity

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

Additional impacts associated with planned campground objectives and actions are identified and discussed in the Generic Unit Management Plan Volume I. The table below summarizes survey statistics over the past five years.

Year	# of Responses	# Good or Excellent	% Good or Excellent
2021	59	49	83%
2020*	-	-	-
2019	12	11	92%
2018	15	10	67%
2017	71	54	76%

** Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the annual Camper Survey was not conducted in 2020.*

d. Historical Assets

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that the 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 campground encompasses 19 acres of lands classified as Intensive Use and the perimeter boundary totals 2.58 miles. The entire boundary borders the Hammond Pond Wild Forest.

The adjacent 45,619-acre Hammond Pond Wild Forest offers many recreational opportunities, including hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing, mountain biking, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. Popular hiking attractions include the High Peaks Wilderness Complex, and Cascade and Hurricane Mountains. Many people enjoy boating and camping on the Schroon River and Schroon Lake.

f. Invasive Species

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

One common way insect pests are moved around the country—beyond their natural rate of spread based on biology and flight potential—is on firewood carried by campers, hunters, and other users of our forests. This firewood may come from trees killed by insect pests and taken down wherever visitors originated. DEC regulation 6 NYCRR Part 192.5 is in effect prohibiting the import of firewood into New York unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source. Staff share this information with registering campers.

DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, is to establish a documented inventory of species by location within the campground and to implement an active invasive species management program to help contain and possibly eradicate further growth of these species. It is through these continued efforts that a collaborative initiative among DEC, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry developed the *Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management 2020 Program Report*. The 2020 report states that Purple Loosestrife was observed in the campground along the Schroon River and monitoring should be a top priority and managed as resources become available. If possible, a release of biocontrol beetles should take place in 2022.

Management of 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, and others.

g. General Operations

Sharp Bridge Campground is a quiet facility used during the spring through fall seasons for camping, fishing, and hiking. The rest of the year, this campground experiences some visitation for 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 these campgrounds are guided by documents in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index of the manual is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D of the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan.

h. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504, has a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities, and use of public accommodations.

Consistent with ADA requirements, DEC incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into siting, planning, construction, and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them.

In addition, Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that services, programs, and activities of DEC, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. DEC is not required to take any action which would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the service, program, or activity, or would present an undue financial or administrative burden. When accommodating access to a program, DEC is not necessarily required to make each existing facility and asset accessible, as long as the program is accessible by other means or at a different facility.

This Plan incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities and assets on the unit or area, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities provided to determine the level of accessibility. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, include buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, and the transportation of and communication with individuals with disabilities.

In accordance with the US Department of Justice's ADA Title II regulations, all new DEC facilities, or parts of facilities, that are constructed for public use are to be accessible to people with disabilities. However, full regulatory compliance is not required where DEC can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements [28 CFR § 35.151 (a)]. Compliance is still required for parts of the facility that can be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable, and for people with various types of disabilities. In addition, all alterations to facilities, or part of facilities, that affect or could affect the usability of the facility will be made in a manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. [28 CFR § 35.151 (b) (1-4).

DEC uses the Department of Justice's 2010 Standards for Accessible Design in designing, constructing, and altering buildings and sites. For outdoor recreational facilities not covered under the current ADA standards, DEC uses the standards provided under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) to lend credibility to the assessment results and to offer protection to the natural resource (ABA Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas; Sections F201.4, F216.3, F244 to F248, and 1011 to 1019).

A record of accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities, or assets proposed in this plan, are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

An assessment of accessible amenities was conducted in September 2021. Currently, there are no accessible features or amenities at Sharp Bridge Campground. Management actions in this plan will emphasize the need for accessibility where possible throughout the facility. Upgrades to the shower building and egress should be prioritized by the program to meet current accessibility standards as noted above.

For further information, please contact the DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@dec.ny.gov

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

Proposed Management Actions	
Management Actions	**Cost**
1. Replace caretaker cabin.	$250,000
2. Rehabilitate existing roads.	$750,000
3. Replace trailer dumping station.	$150,000
4. Rehabilitate water system.	$300,000
5. Replace overhead lines with underground system.	$100,000
6. Tree and shrub plantings.	$15,000
7. Campsite restoration.	$25,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities to comply with health and safety codes and user needs. They will also provide universal access and increase the efficiency of the campground

management. New buildings will blend with the Adirondack environment and use natural materials where possible. Using the footprint of existing infrastructure and areas disturbed by past management will be a priority over construction in undisturbed areas. Prioritization of previously disturbed areas will assist in limiting the need for additional vegetative impacts, minimizing topographic alterations and preserving the scenic, natural, and open space resources of the campground. Site specific plans will be developed to include erosion and sediment control components and will address stormwater runoff. The goal is to minimize erosion and protect watercourses and wetlands from sediment and other pollutants. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). These plans will be prepared in accordance with the NYSDEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges, to inform construction personnel of measures to be implemented for controlling runoff and pollutants from the site during and after construction activities. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for DEC. Prioritization of management actions is based on the availability of funding and health and safety concerns.

1. Replace Caretaker Cabin.

Sharp Bridge campground requires a staff of one, who is on premises 24 hours a day. There is currently one building available to house employees who live beyond a reasonable commute. The existing caretaker cabin was built in 1948 and is in fair condition. The building should be replaced to accommodate staff and their family, if required. This management action proposes to replace the building with a four-bedroom home in the same footprint and will meet all codes. This will also be available for larger facilities nearby to house staff. Siting will prioritize the use of existing disturbed areas to limit clearing of existing vegetation and minimizing topographic alterations.

2. Rehabilitate Roads.

The .90 mile of interior campground road is in poor condition with crumbling shoulders and potholes. The entire .90 mile of roadway needs to be repaved, while the additional .28 mile of campsite driveway and access roads should be maintained as gravel. Where possible, roads rehabilitation design should consider access for emergency response and maintenance vehicles. Based on current and anticipated visitor use, most of the campground would require a typical one-way road. The entrance road will be a typical main road, paved, and measure 916 feet. The road beyond the trailer dump station continuing to the shower building and the junction near campsite 20 would require a two-way road to safely accommodate campers. In addition to the main road, a total of 1,236 feet of paved two-way road

and 2,954 feet of paved, one-way road will be required. See Exhibit #15 for typical design standards used for campground roadways.

Much of the campground road system rehabilitation will be within the existing road footprint or within the existing impacted road shoulders requiring little additional vegetative clearing and limited topographic alterations. Rehabilitation of roads will occur exclusively in areas identified as greatest concern to user safety and to meet DOT standards. Traffic speed limits will continue to be enforced by campground staff and signage. In addition, the rehabilitation will improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, assist in reducing impacts to wetlands and help alleviate stormwater erosion and sedimentation issues. The road rehabilitation will assist with addressing stormwater management through the following: 1) road crowning to maintain sheet flow to appropriate sites to avoid resource impacts, 2) adding check dams, where needed, to existing cross drainage, 3) providing adequate road and shoulder surface to limit adjacent soil compaction, 4) supplying permeable, granular shoulders, 4) adding vegetation as part of the campsite restoration project (detailed in Sec III.F.2.b). Other storm water management techniques may be incorporated as part of final detailed plans developed for the campground road rehabilitation. (See exhibit #4d).

3. Replace Trailer Dumping Station.

This management action proposes to replace the existing trailer dumping station to better accommodate modern camping trailers while meeting current standards for accessibility and design standards. A single-lane trailer dumping station with an improved septic system will be located in the existing site or an alternative site where design limitations allow. Siting will prioritize limiting vegetative clearing or topographic alteration. The final location for the trailer dump station will meet Master Plan guidance for setbacks in Intensive Use Areas. Additionally, setback requirements outlined in Wild, Scenic, and Recreation River permitting guidelines will be adhered to during the design process.

4. Rehabilitate Water System.

The water system at Sharp Bridge is old and needs rehabilitation to meet current DOH regulations. The buried waterlines, tanks, and well should be replaced. Additional water spigots should be installed as necessary to meet health codes and accessibility standards. Tree and shrub replanting will be required to replace any vegetative loss due to clearing. This management action proposes to rehabilitate the existing water system to meet current design standards and Department of Health codes.

5. Replace Overhead Electrical Lines with Underground System.

Sharp Bridge Campground has 861 feet of both overhead and buried power lines running through a facility that is heavily wooded in many locations. Both the water and sewer systems require electric power for pumps to operate. The 354 feet of overhead lines are in frequent need of maintenance. This management action proposes to bury the overhead power lines and to move the pole transformers to a ground pad location. Tree and shrub replanting will be required as part of this action to replace any vegetative loss. This action will improve system reliability, reduce maintenance cost and improve visual aesthetic of the area.

6. Tree and Shrub Plantings.

New trees and shrubs are required to replace those lost to hazardous tree removal and to establish trees in high-traffic areas where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Species will be selected that are natural to the area and will provide the needed shading and screening. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the Plan.

7. Campsite Restoration.

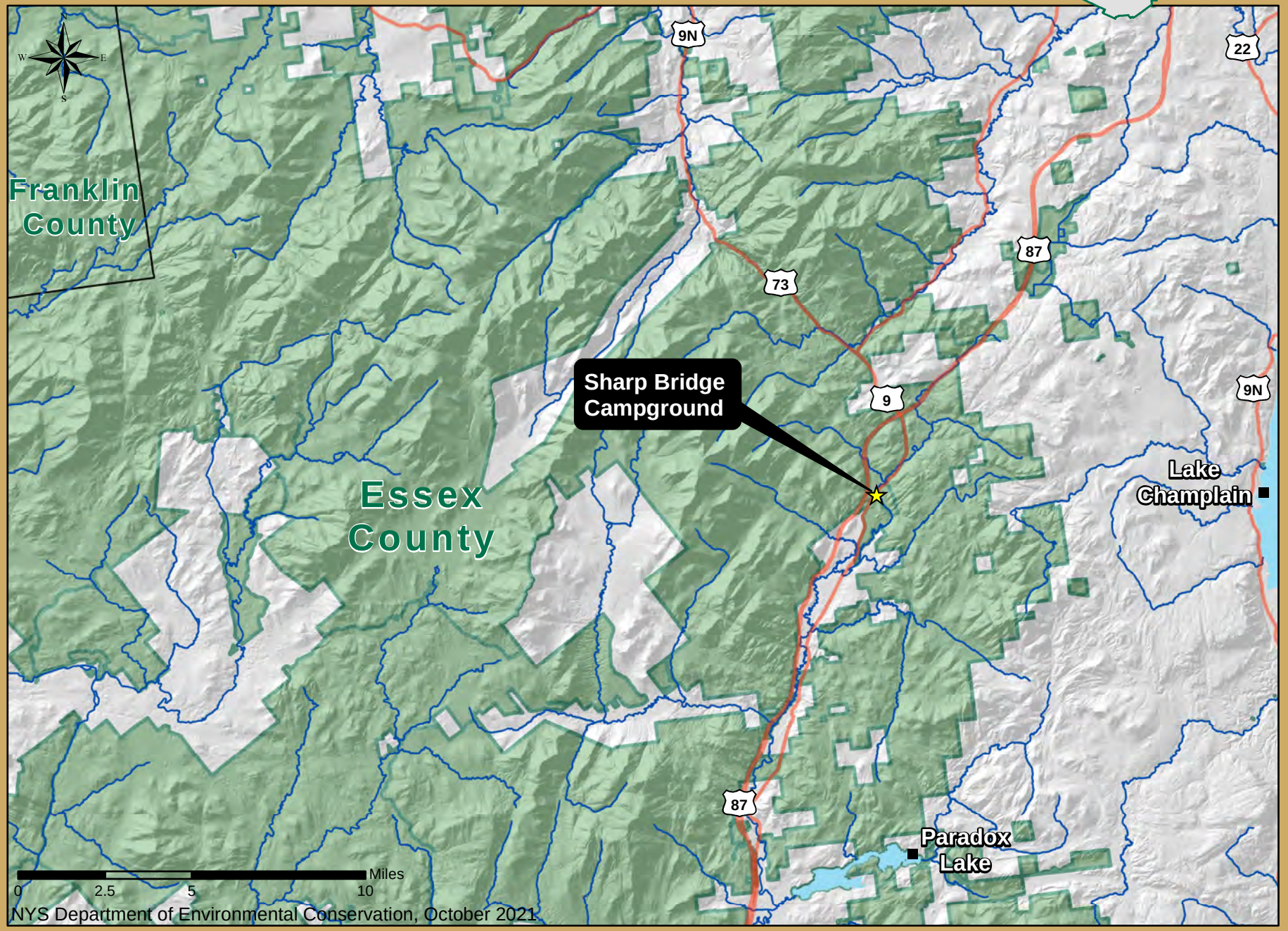
Each year, a minimum of one campsite at Sharp Bridge is selected for temporary closure to complete restoration work. Restoration work may include replacement of lost soils, surface grading, drainage improvements, and replacement of fireplaces and picnic tables. This management action proposes to perform restoration work with an emphasis on mitigation of environmental and user impacts. Furthermore, work to upgrade sites to meet current accessibility standards will be given priority to meet program goals. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the Plan. For more information on the Campsite Restoration project or which sites at Sharp Bridge Campground are currently being restored, please visit https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/100146.html.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Index	
Exhibit #1	Adirondack Park Location Overview Map
Exhibit #2	Topography & Trail Map
Exhibit #3	Orthoimage Map
Exhibit #4-4b	Existing Facilities Maps
Exhibit #5	Sewer System Map
Exhibit #6a-6b	Water System Maps
Exhibit #7	Electric System Map
Exhibit #8	Forest Type Map
Exhibit #9	Wetlands Map
Exhibit #10	Soils Map
Exhibit #11	Campground Demographics Map
Exhibit #12	Campground Occupancy Map
Exhibit #13	Management Action Map
Exhibit #14	Campground Photos
Exhibit #15	Typical Drawings
Exhibit #16	Public Comments

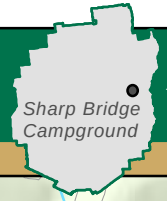
Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 2 - Topography and Trails Map



Adirondack Park

Sharp Bridge Campground Developed Area

Sharp Bridge Intensive Use Area

Lindsay Bk

Schroon River

COURTNEY POND TRAIL

EAST MILL FLOW TRAIL

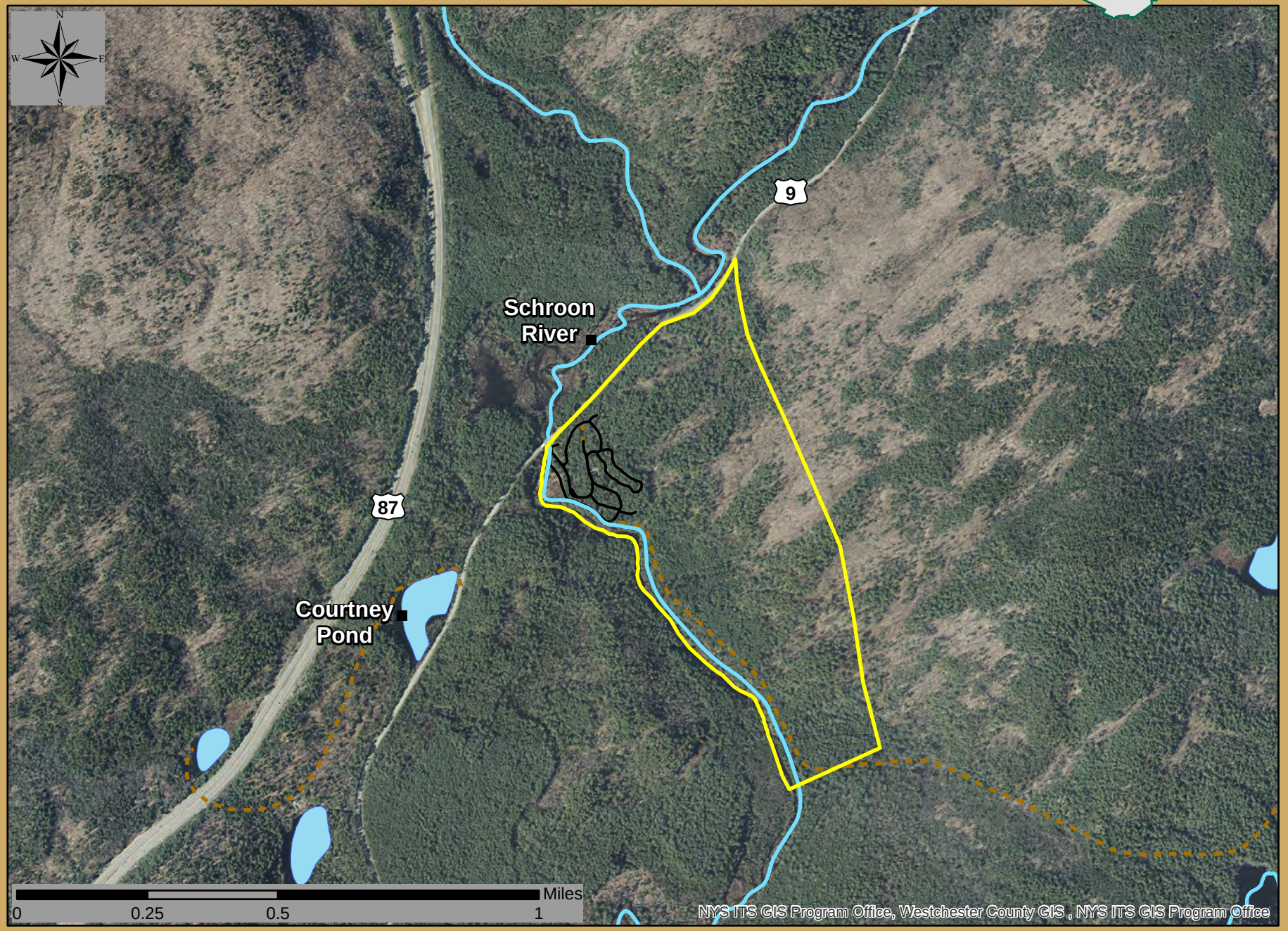
East Mill Bk

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, October 2021

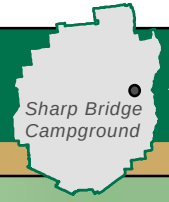
Sharp Bridge Campground

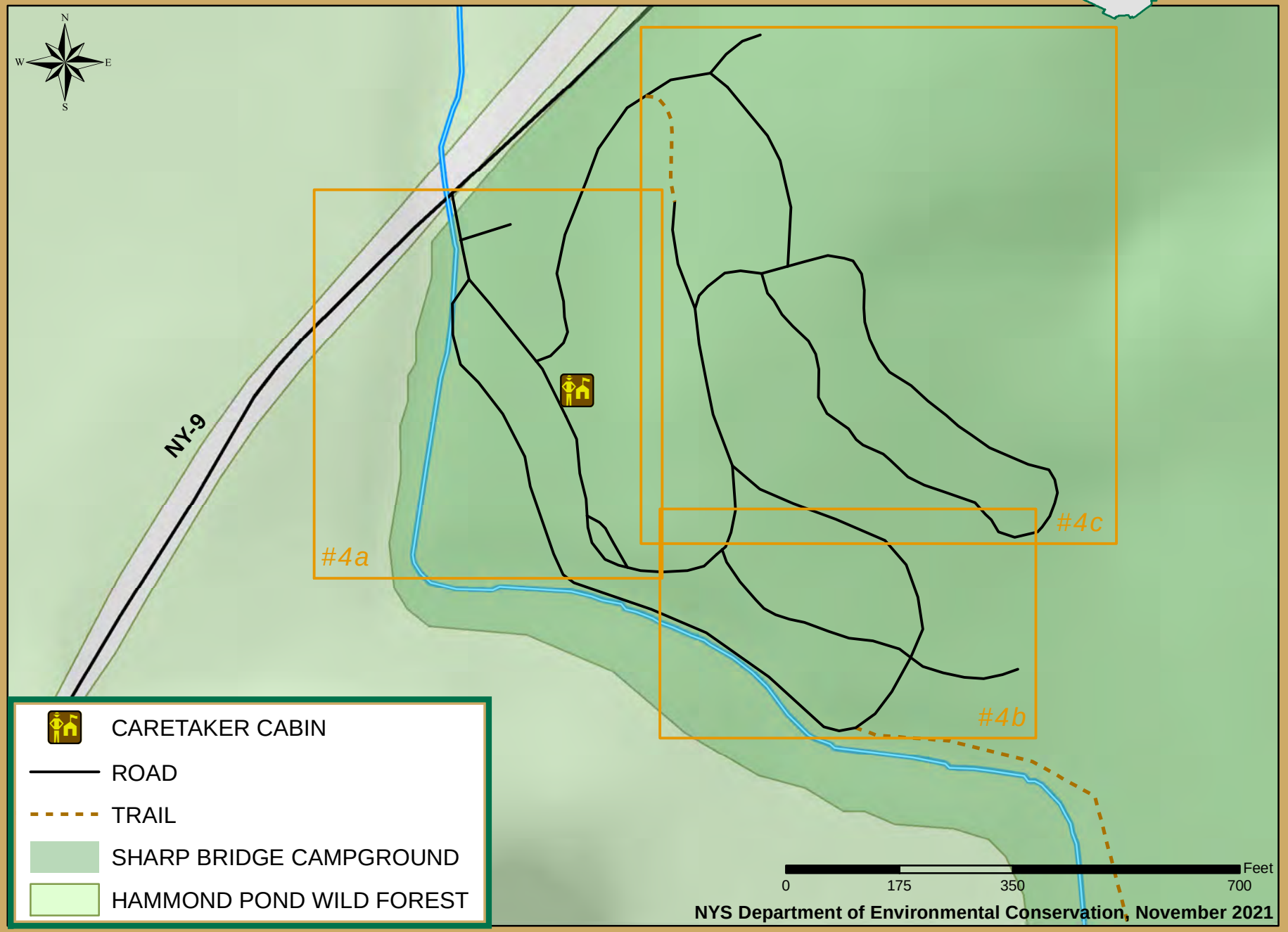
Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimage Map



Sharp Bridge Campground

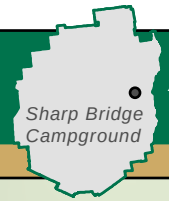
Exhibit # 4 - Developed Area Existing Facilities Map



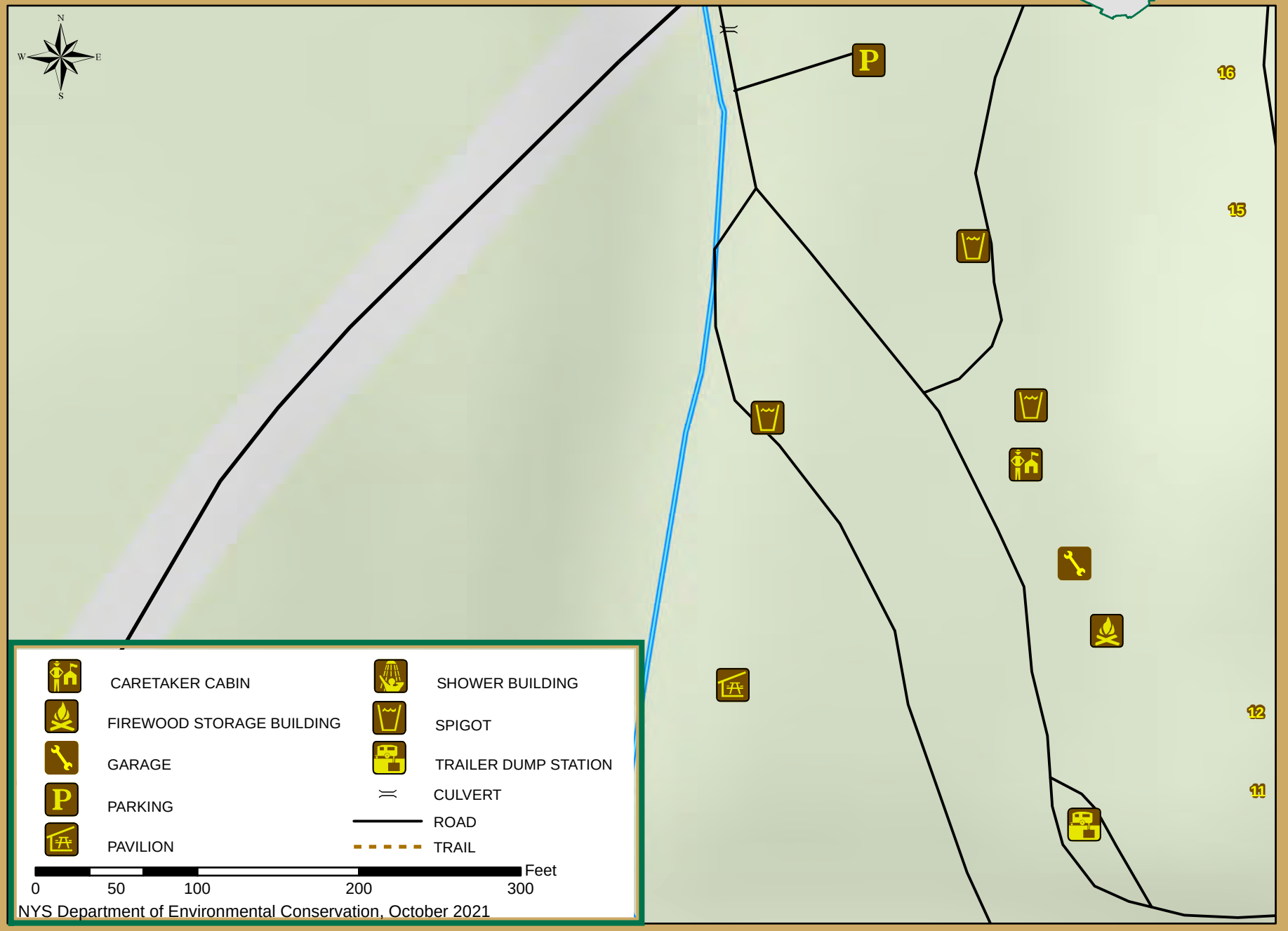


Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Facility Map of Entrance and Day-Use Area

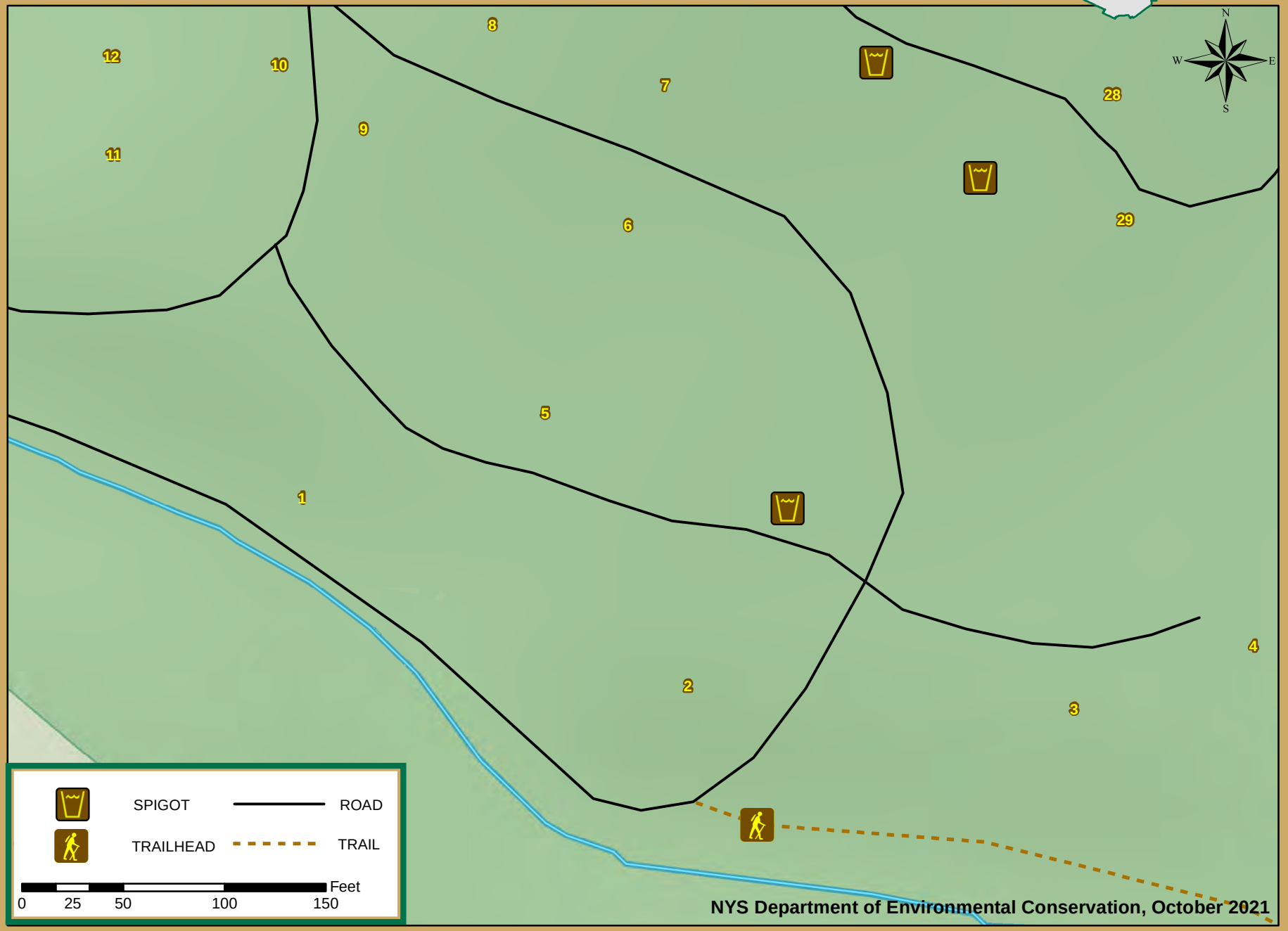


Adirondack Park



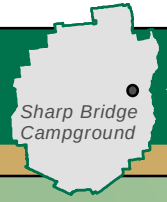
Sharp Bridge Campground

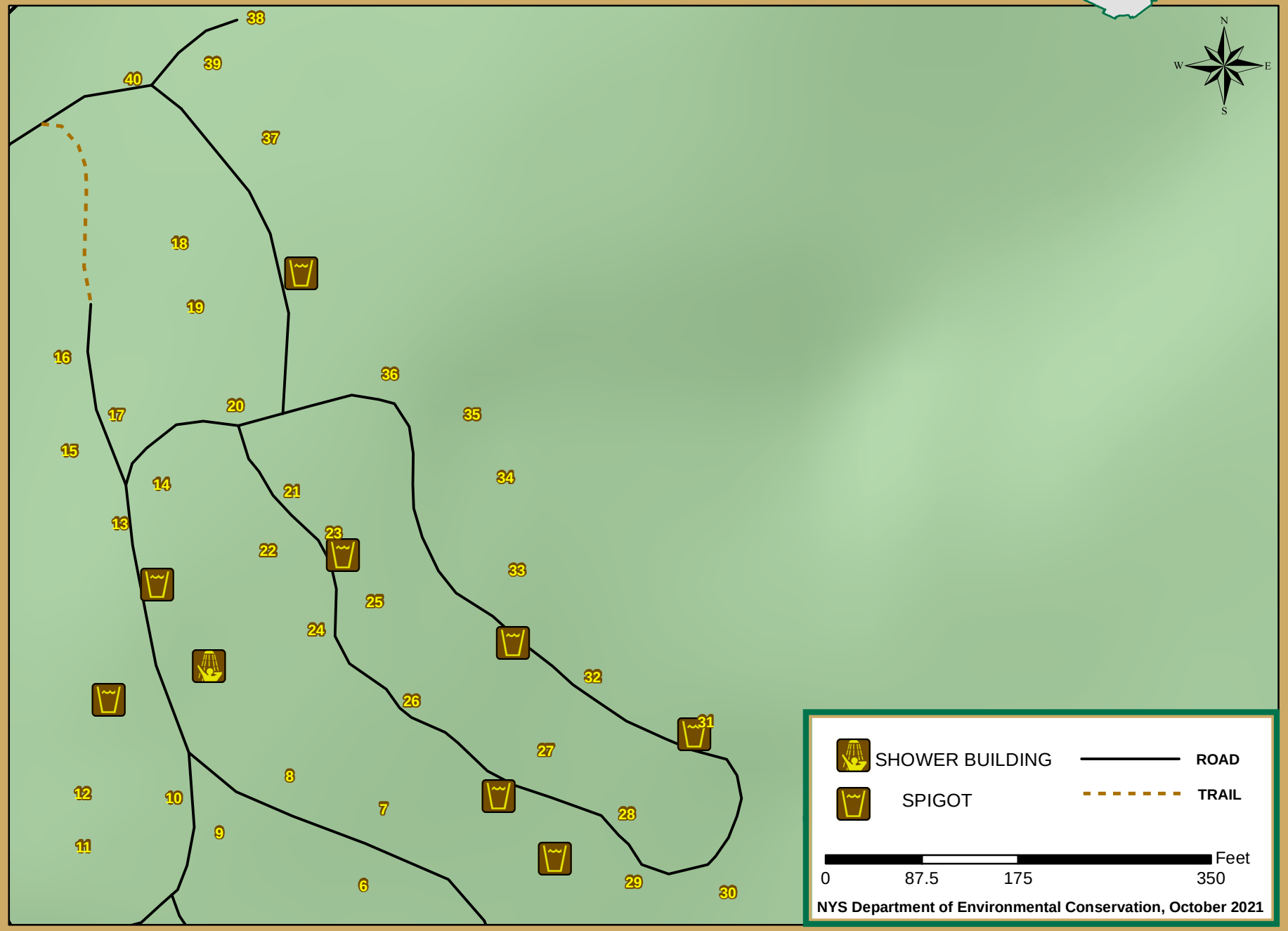
Exhibit # 4b - Facility Map of Sites #1-12



Sharp Bridge Campground

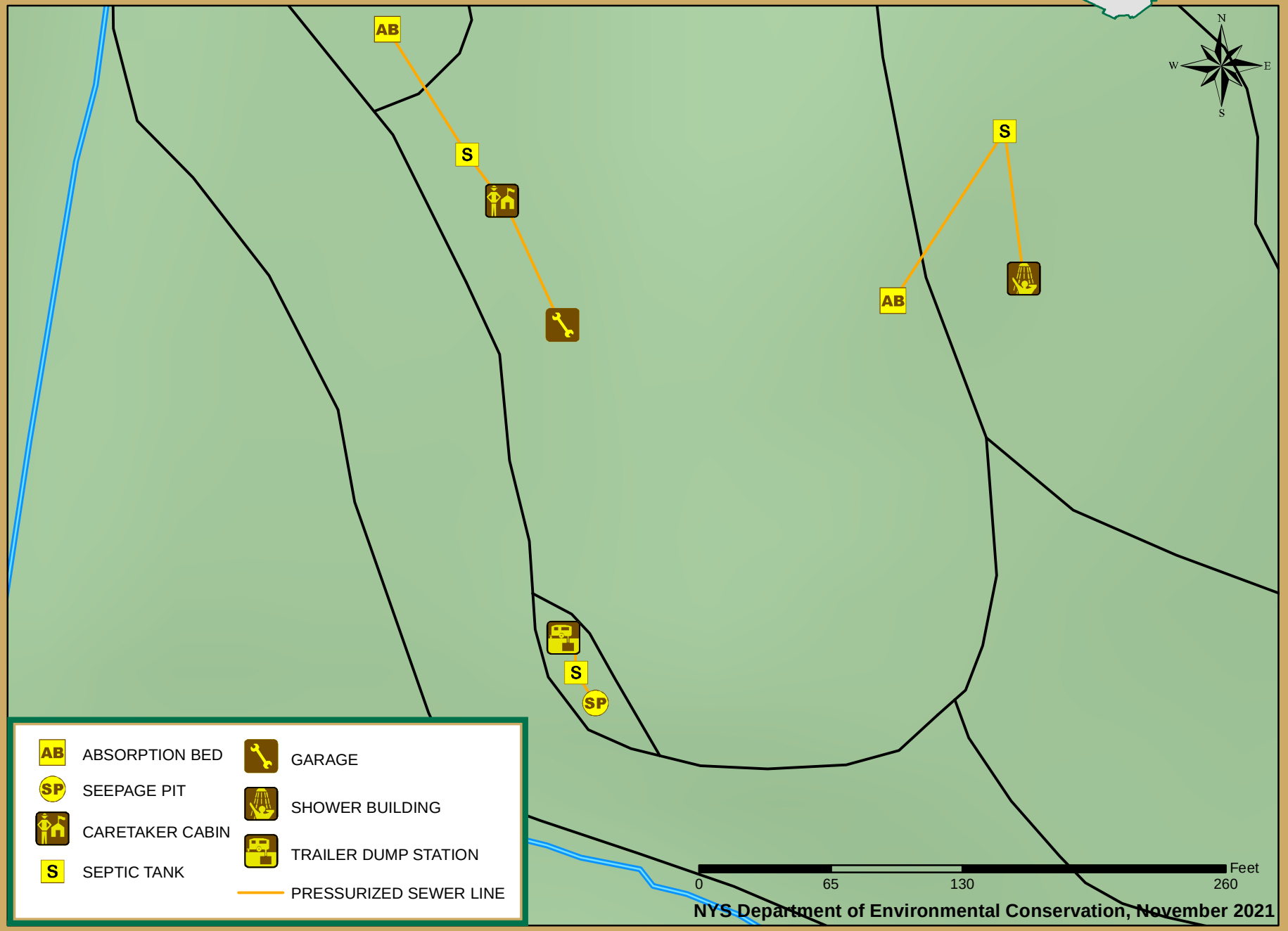
Exhibit # 4c - Facility Map of Sites #13-40





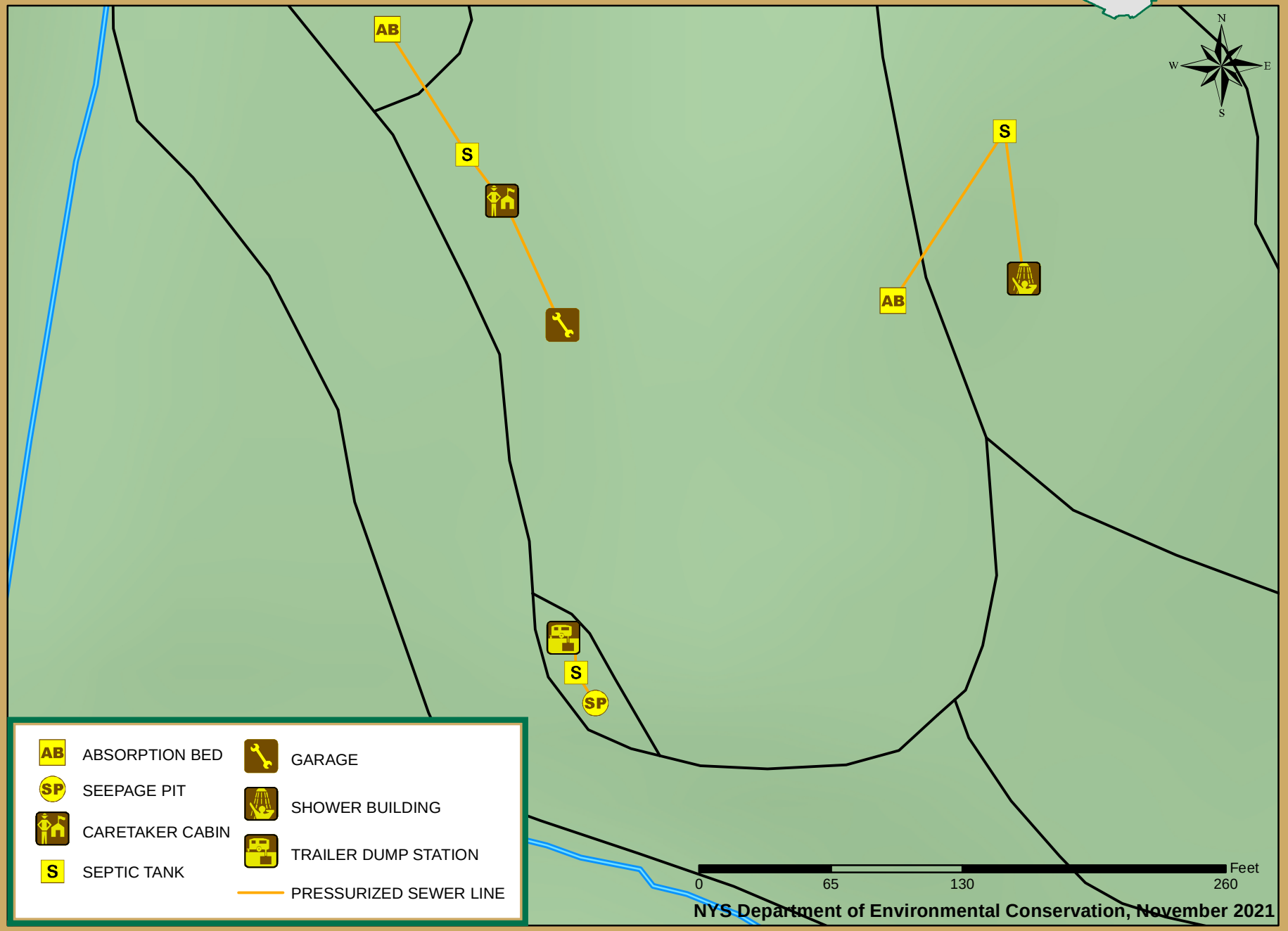
Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 5 - Sewer System Map



Sharp Bridge Campground

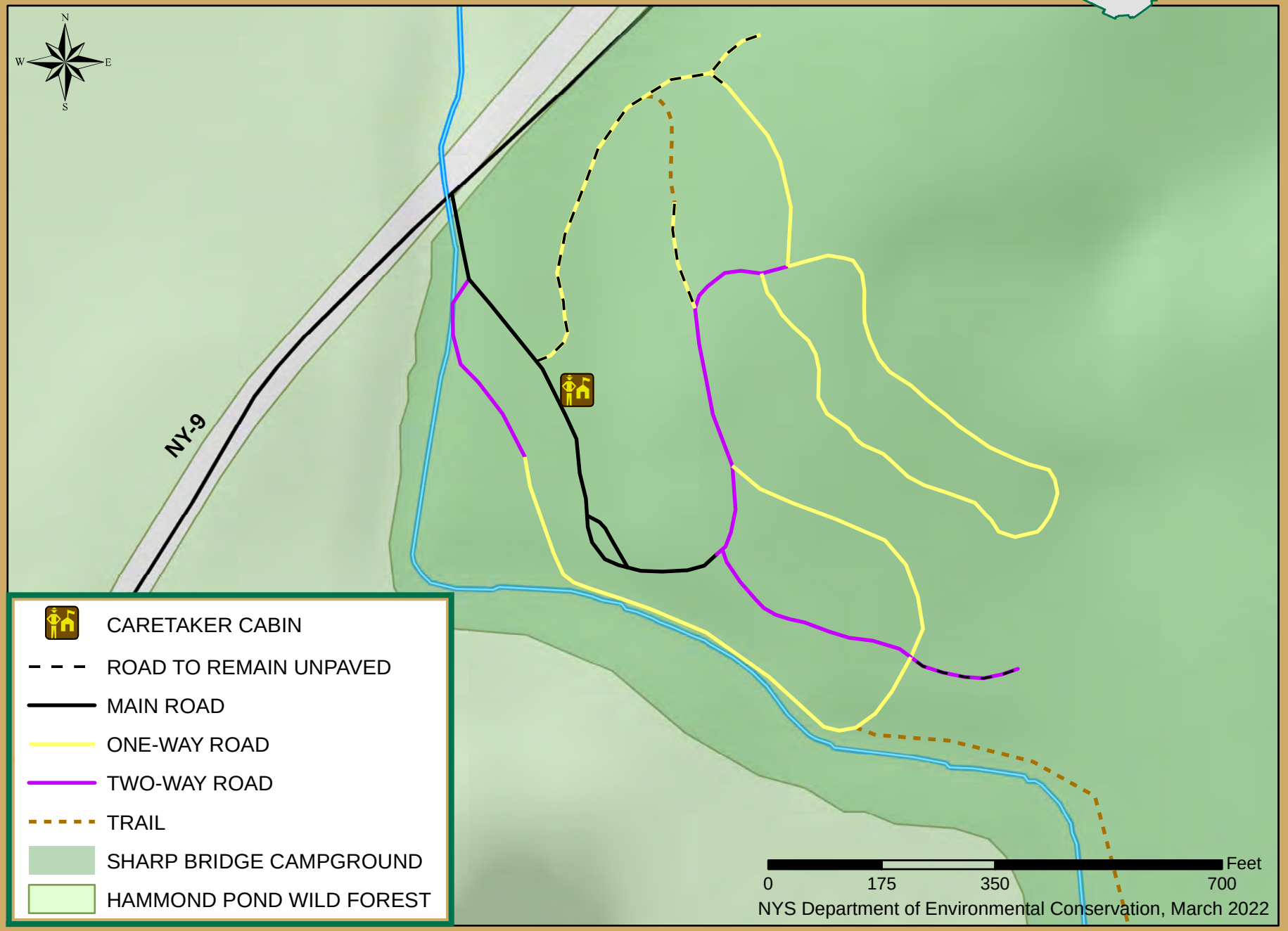
Exhibit # 5 - Sewer System Map



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2021

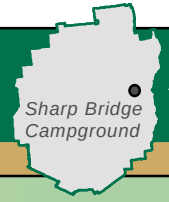
Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 4d - Facility Road Map



Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 6a- Water System Map



Adirondack Park

WATERLINE

CARETAKER CABIN

SPIGOT

WATER VALVE

RESERVOIR

WELL

Feet

0 65 130 260

N

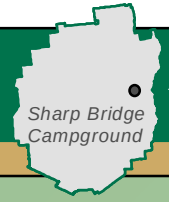
W E

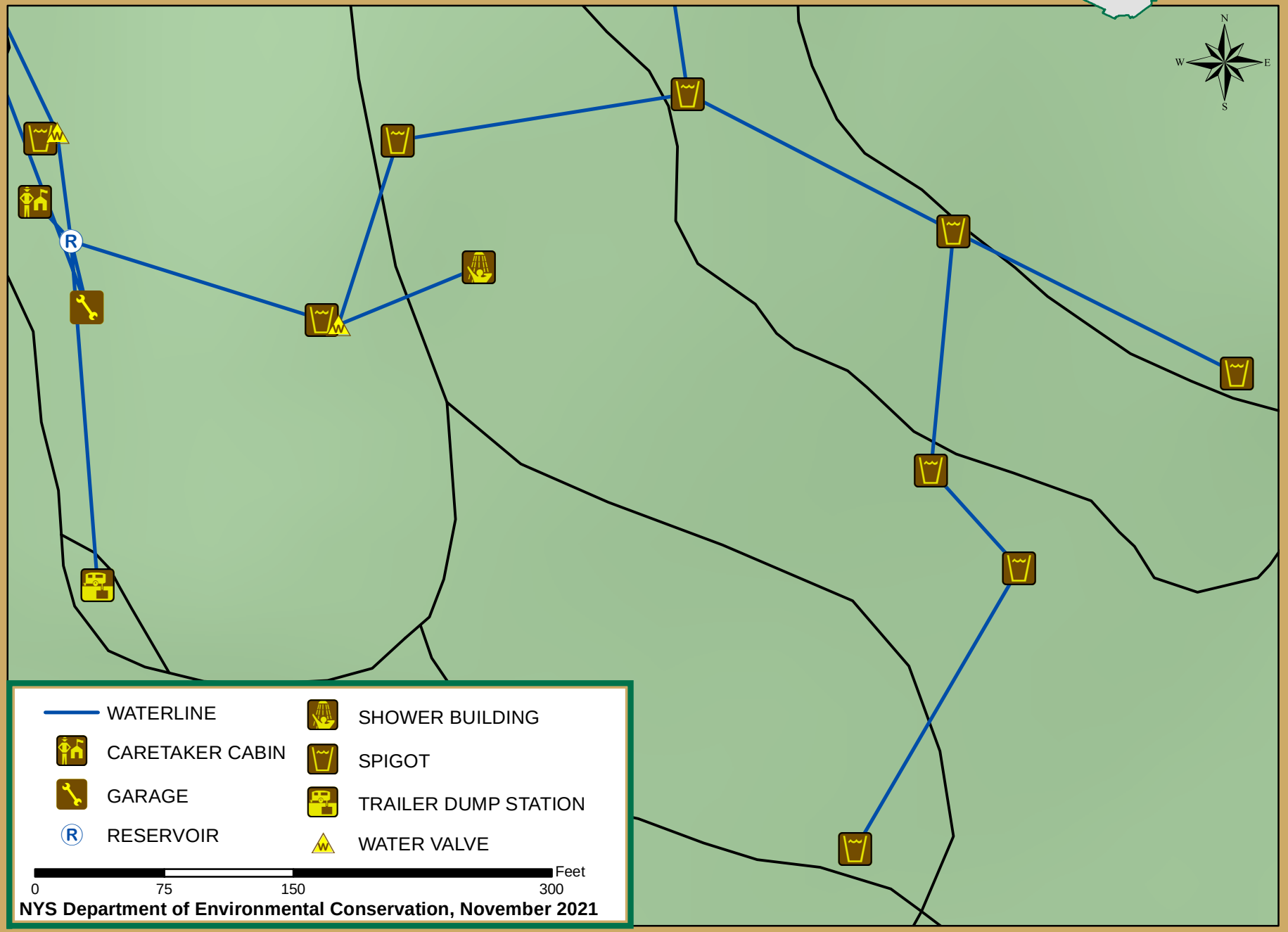
S

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2021

Sharp Bridge Campground

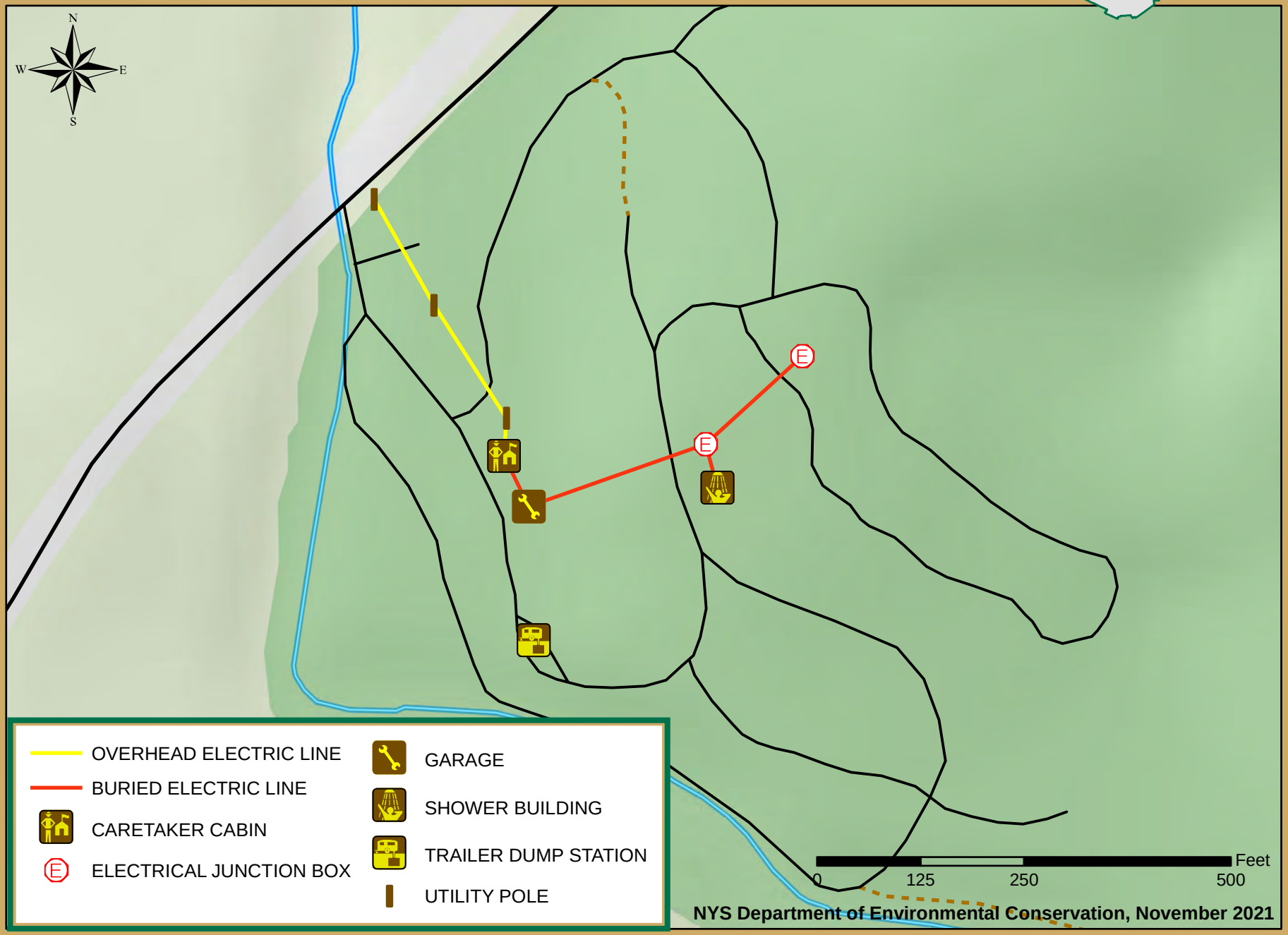
Exhibit # 6b- Water System Map





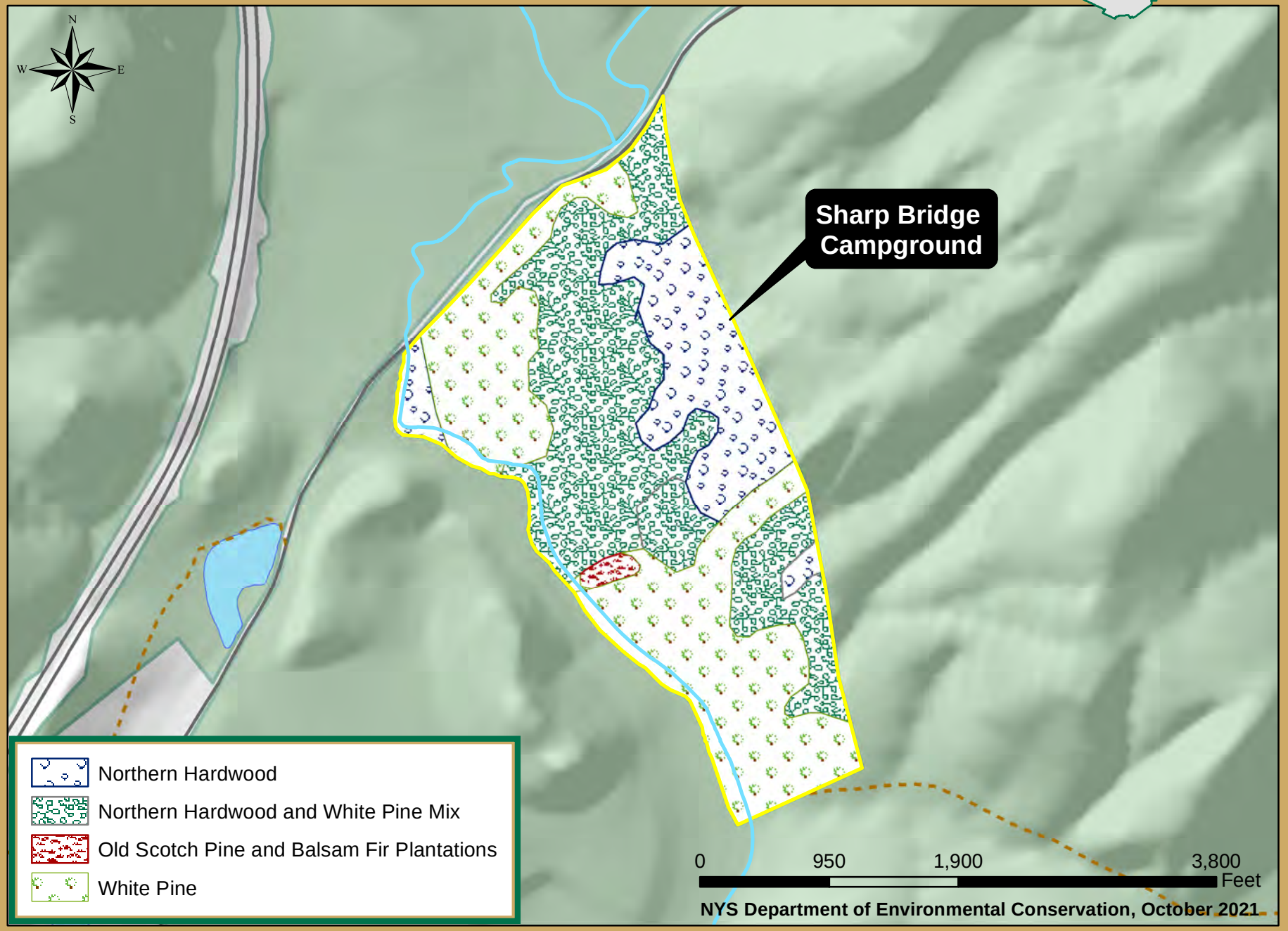
Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 7 - Electric System Map



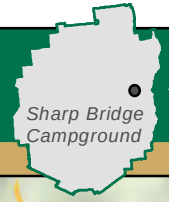
Sharp Bridge Campground

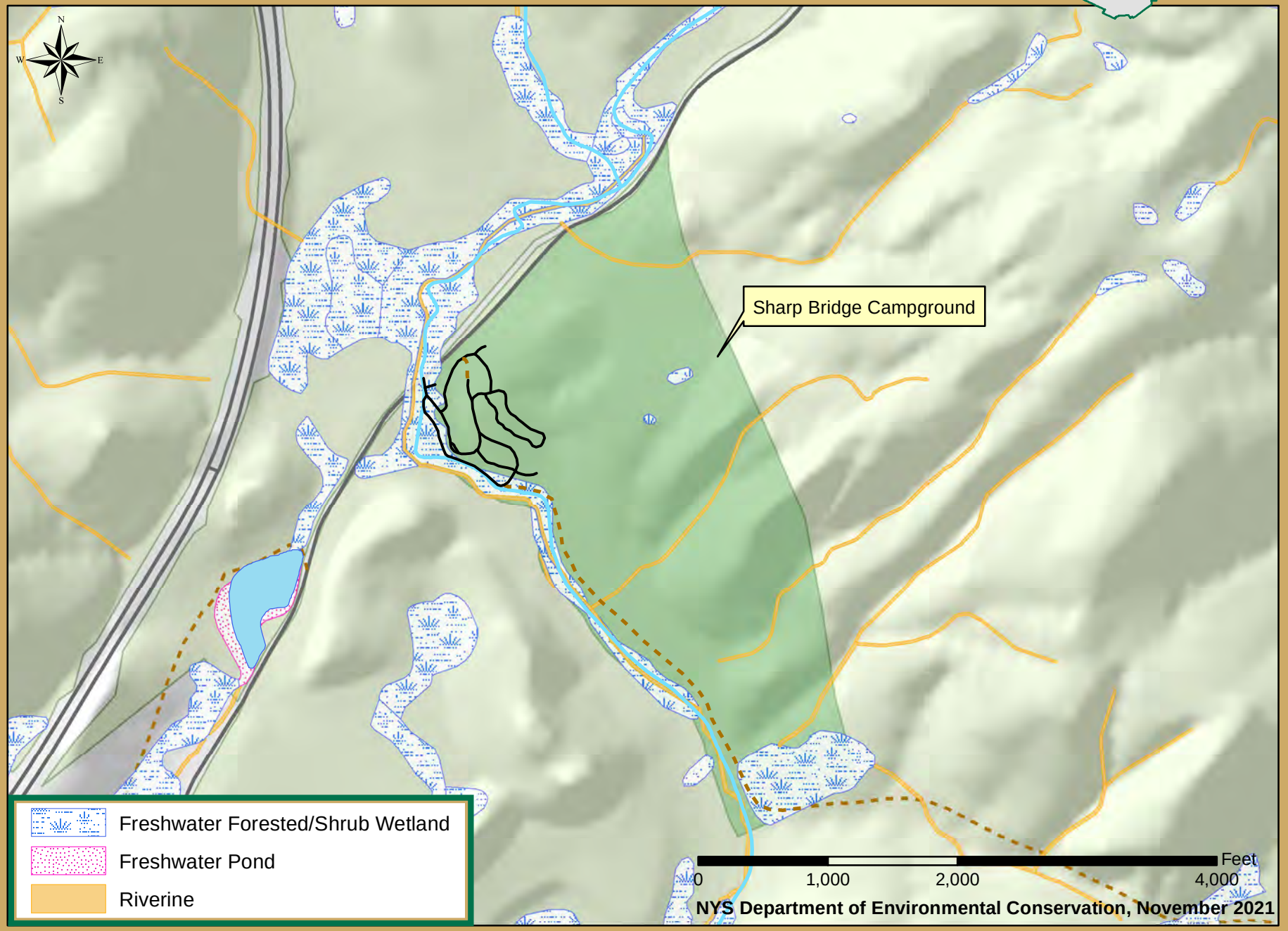
Exhibit # 8 - Forest Type Map



Sharp Bridge Campground

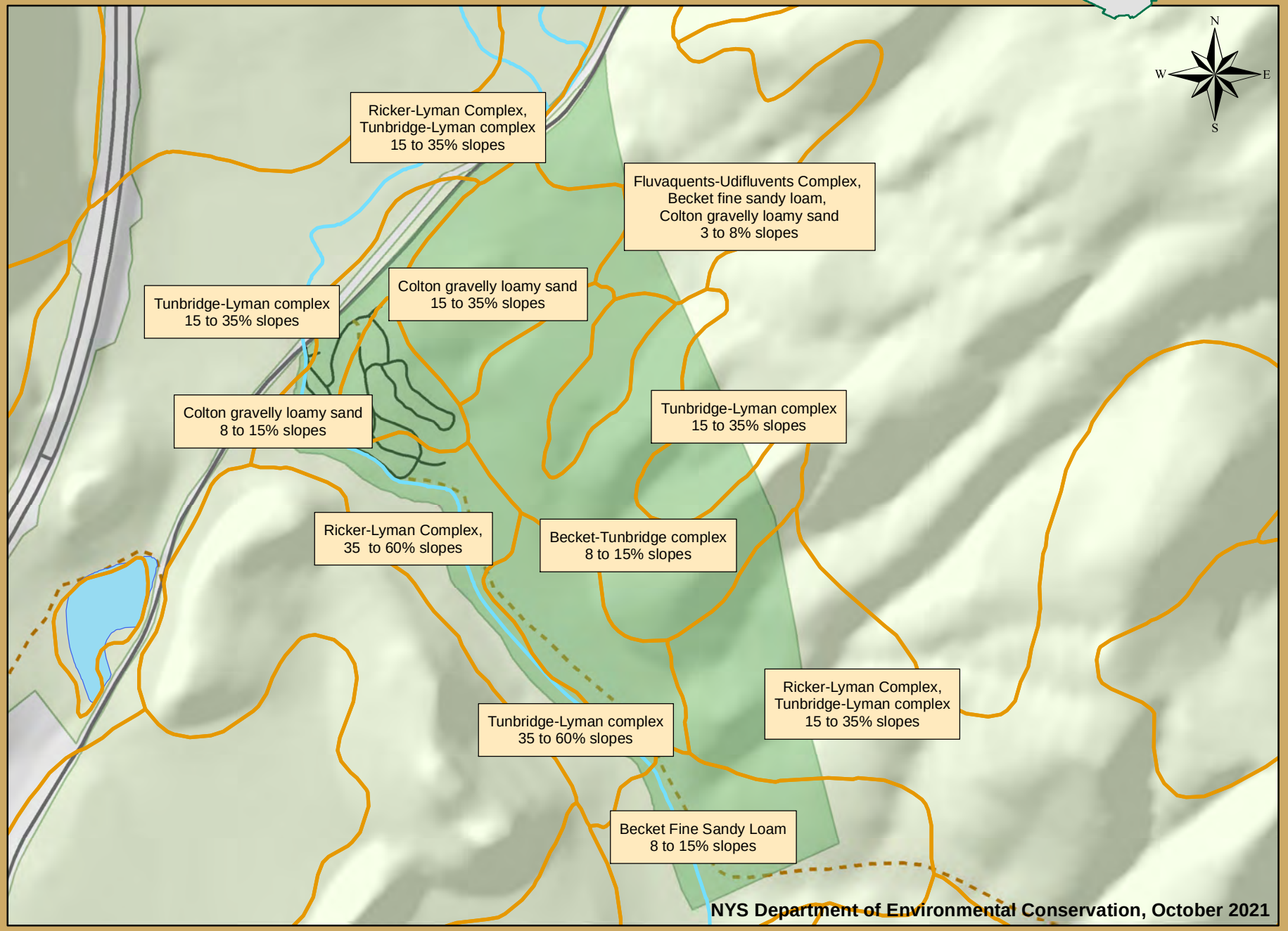
Exhibit #9- Wetlands Map





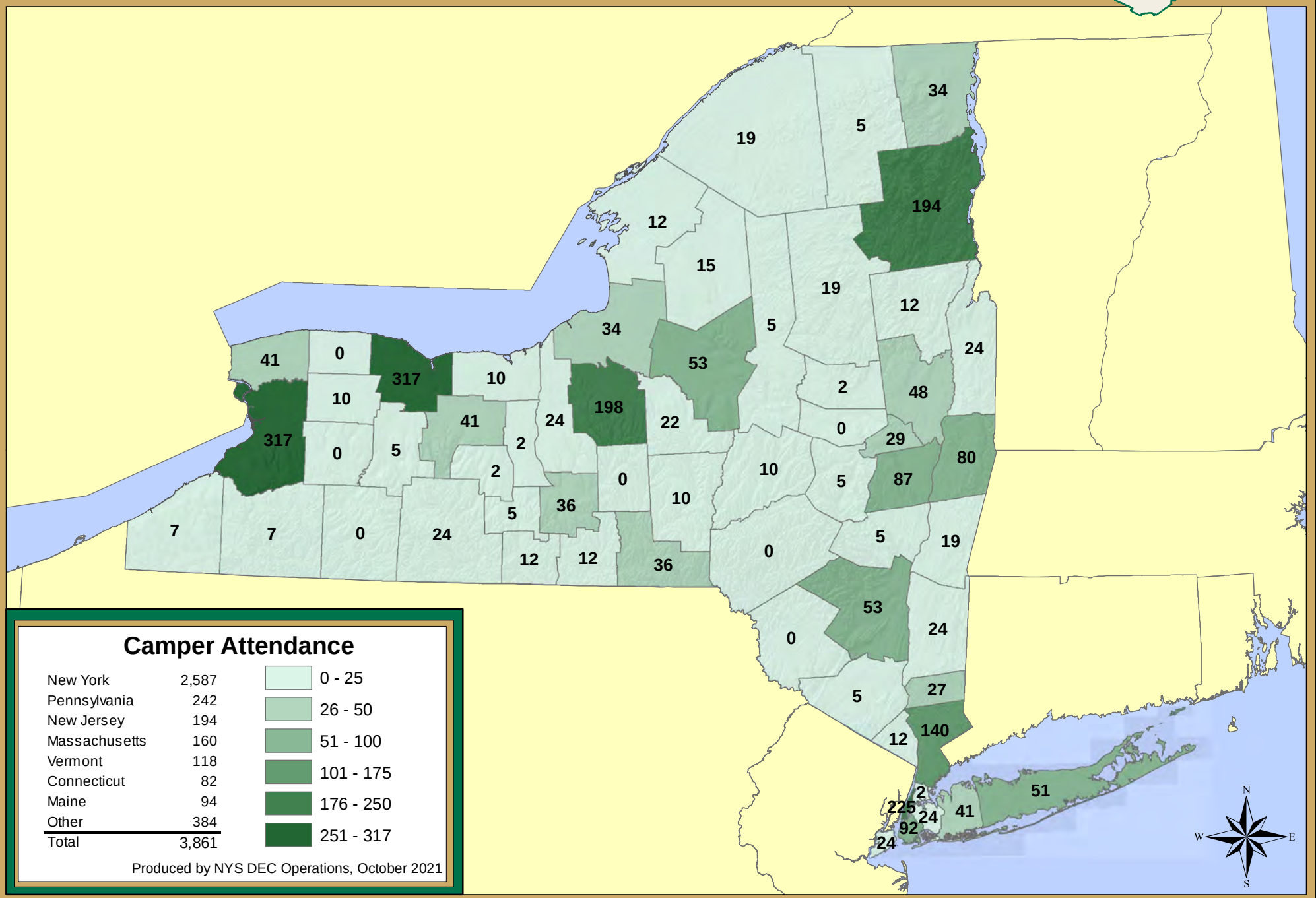
Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 10 - Soils Map



Sharp Bridge

Exhibit #11 - 2021 Camper Demographics Map



Camper Attendance

New York	2,587
Pennsylvania	242
New Jersey	194
Massachusetts	160
Vermont	118
Connecticut	82
Maine	94
Other	384
Total	3,861

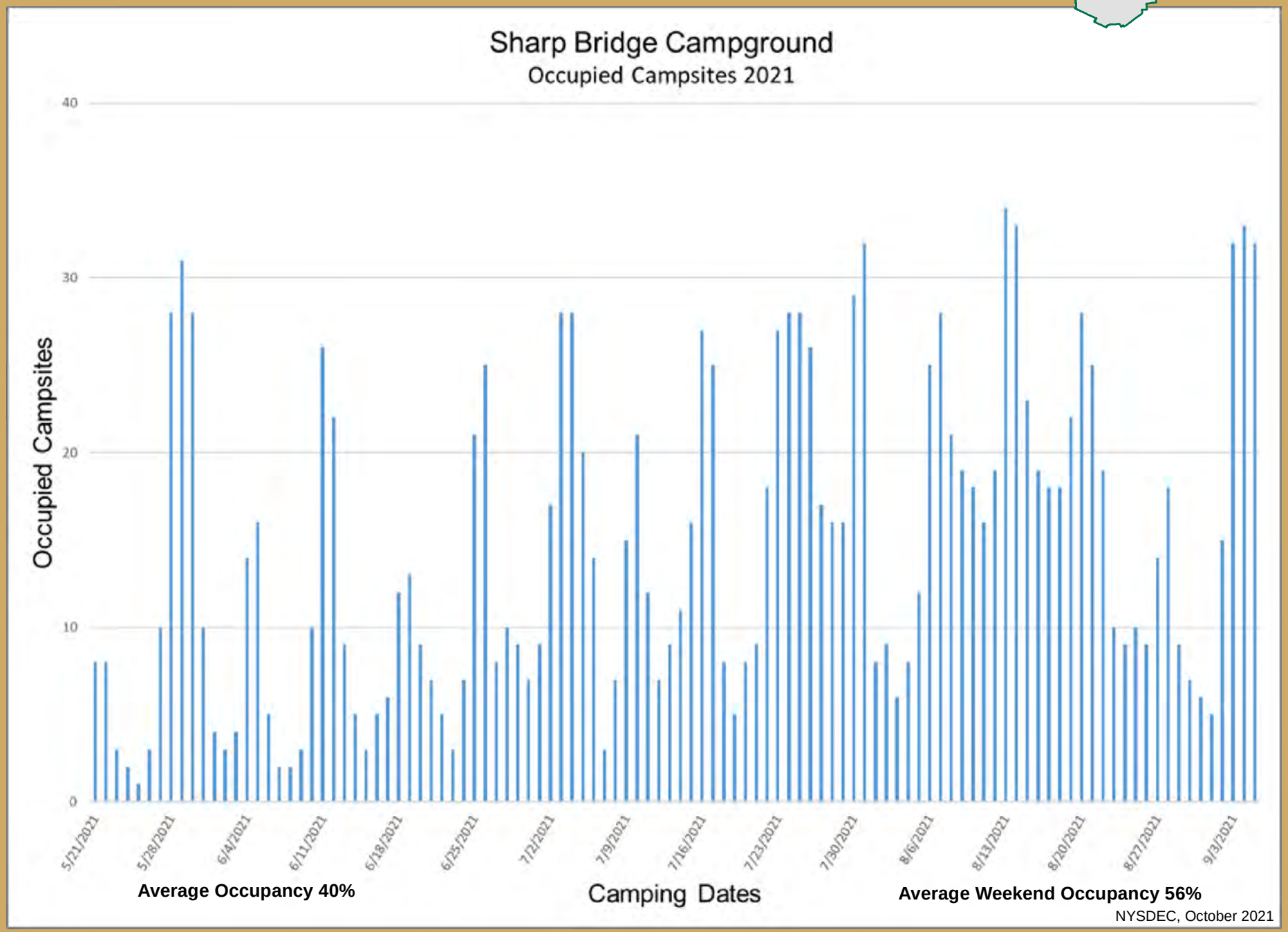
- 0 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 175
- 176 - 250
- 251 - 317

Produced by NYS DEC Operations, October 2021

Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 12 - Occupancy Map

Adirondack Park



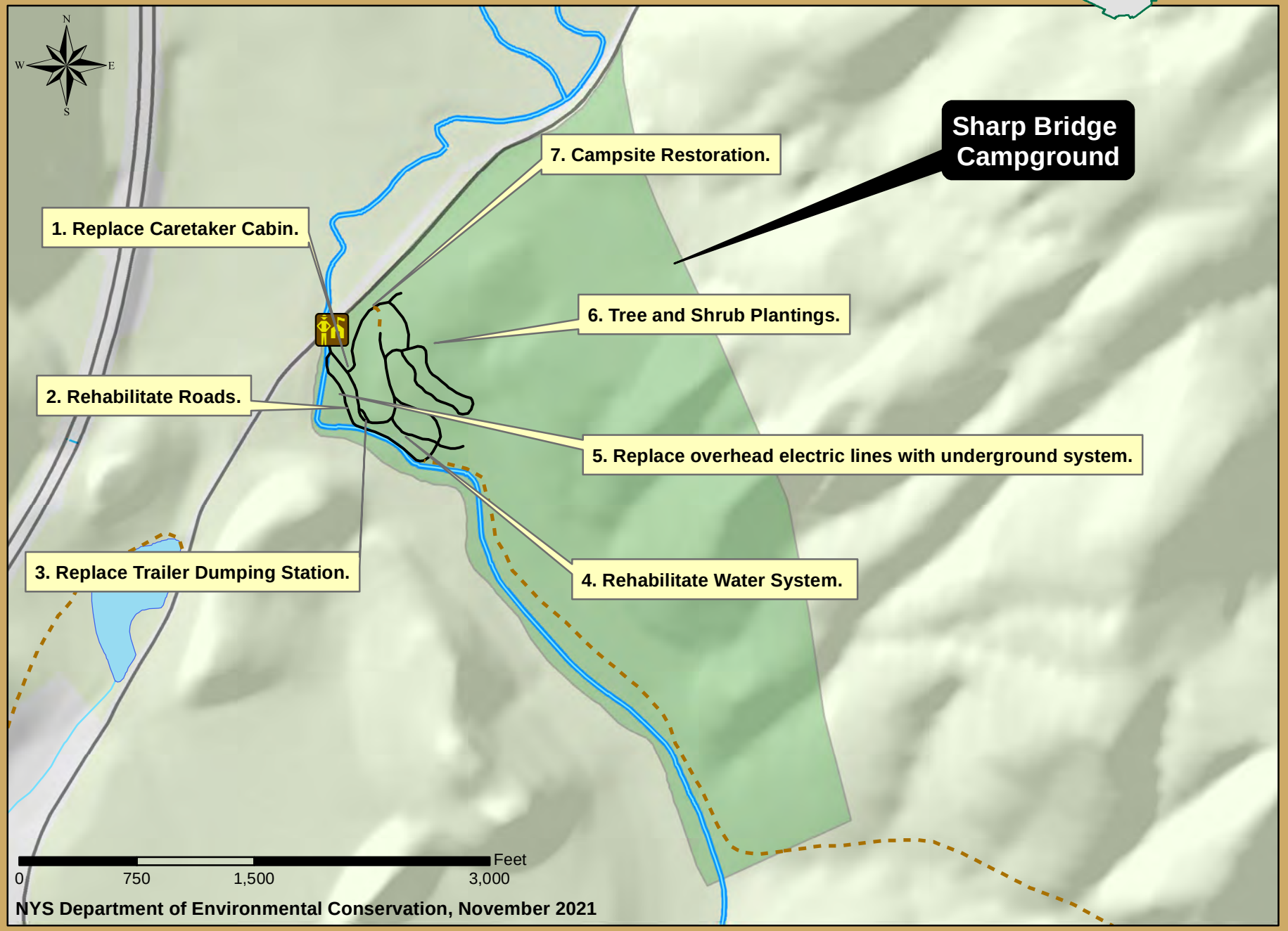
Average Occupancy 40%

Average Weekend Occupancy 56%

NYSDEC, October 2021

Sharp Bridge Campground

Exhibit # 13 - Management Actions Map



#14 Sharp Bridge Campground Photos

The Public Camp Site at Sharp Bridge Is in a Pine Forest on a Side Hill Camp on One of the Lower Levels.

Above photo taken from the Conservation Department's 1925 Report to the NYS Legislature.

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

Sharp Bridge Campground Entrance Sign

Parking Area near Entrance, Trailhead Parking for Courtney Pond Trail.

Garage with Trash and Recycling Area

Caretaker Cabin and Office.

Day Use Area

Pavilion

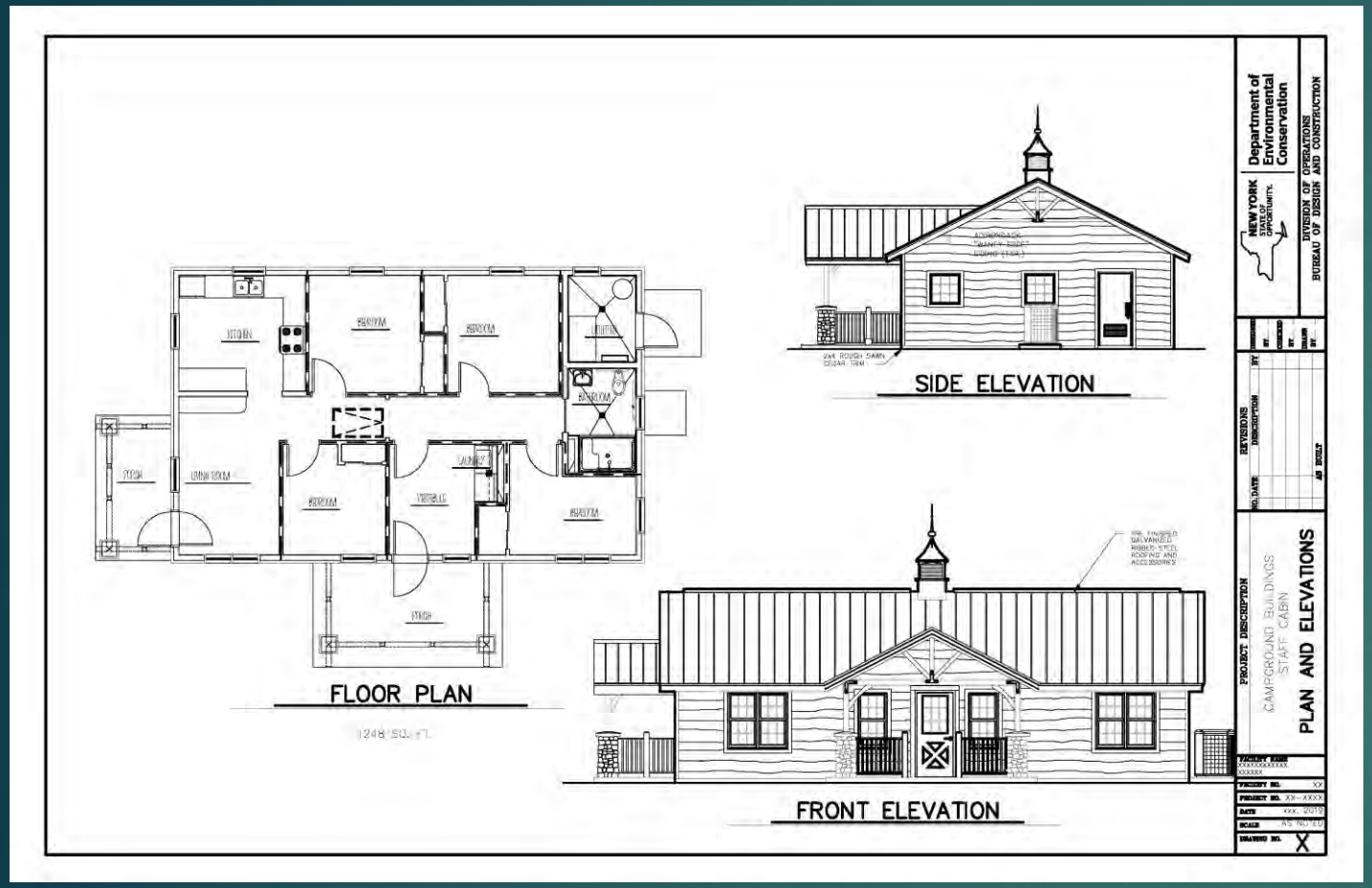
Day Use Area Entrance Gate

East Mill Flow Trailhead

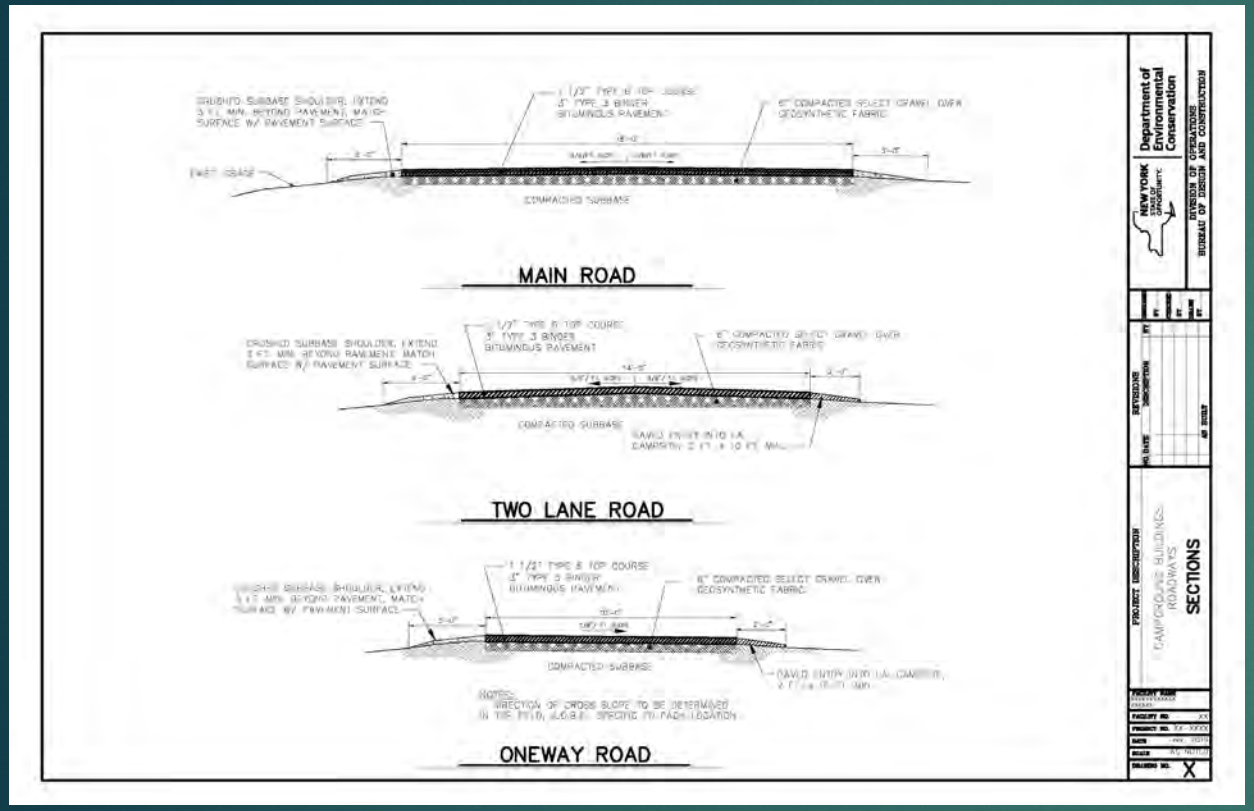
Paved Road with Guardrail into Camping Area.

Photos *(clockwise from top left)*: Shower Building, Trailer Dumping Station, Water Reservoir, Firewood Storage.

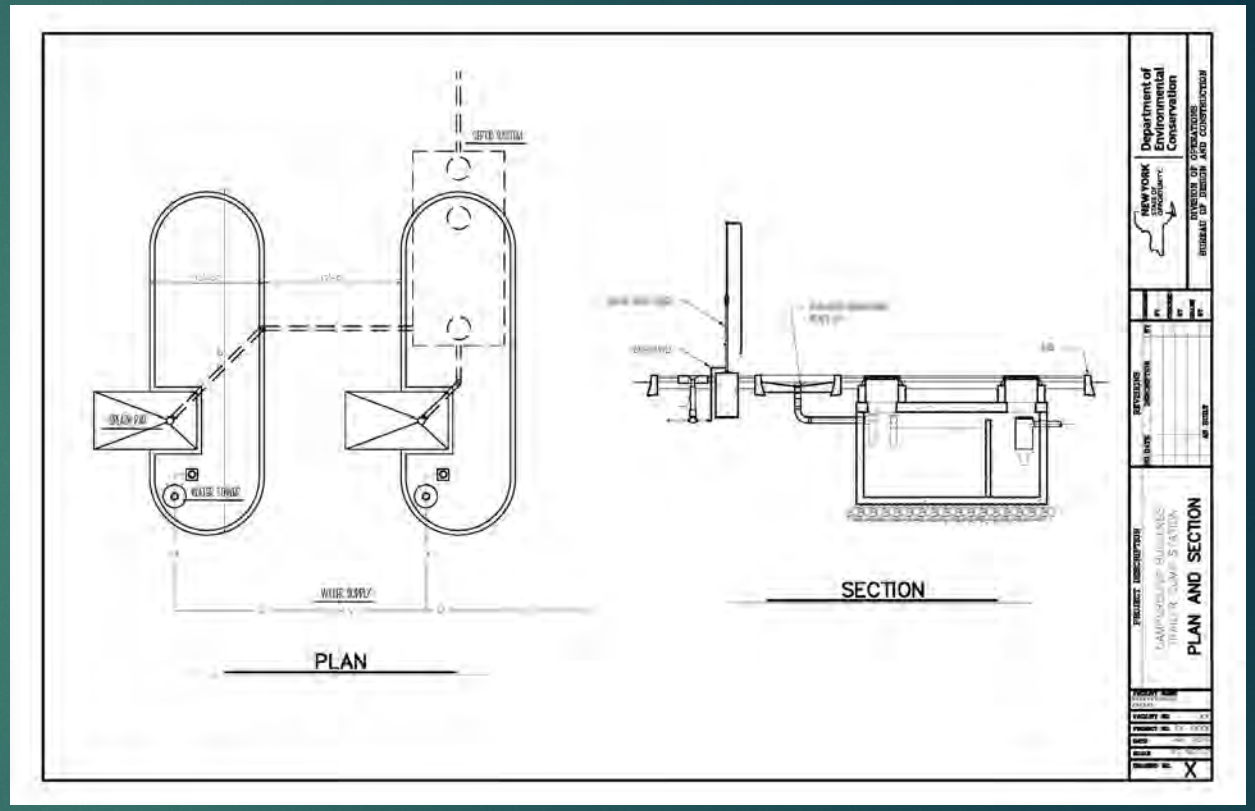
#15 Typical Drawings



Caretaker Cabin



Road Section Profile



Trailer Dump Station

Exhibit 16 Response to public comments

Both the Department and the Adirondack Park Agency held a concurrent public comment period from November 17 – December 19, 2022. During that time, no written comments we received by either agency. A total of 34 survey responses were received. Members of the public were not limited to one form of comment or from submitting multiple responses. All comments regardless of type are reviewed and considered as the final UMP is prepared.

In review, the majority of survey responses were in favor of the management actions proposed in the UMP. Emphasis on the retention of the facilities rustic character during infrastructure replacement was a common theme. Construction of additional campsites for both tent and or RV/Trailers were also requested by multiple survey respondents along with the inclusion of electrical hookups. At this time the Department does not plan to add any additional campsites nor install electrical hookups at any existing campsites.

Lastly, a request to convert the first .6 miles of the East Mill Flow trail to meet accessibility standards was submitted. At this time the Department has another approved accessible trail project in the area and the completion of that trail work will precede trail work at Sharp Bridge.