



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

**Department of
Environmental Conservation**

Broadalbin Boat Launch Unit Management Plan

**Summary of Public Comments & Changes
Responses to Board Member Q's**

August 16, 2023

Presentation Outline

- Share summary of public comments received and changes to the initial draft
- Address outstanding board member questions from December 2022 meeting
- Share staff analysis and recommendation regarding SLMP conformance

Public Comments - Summary

- APA and DEC offered a joint public comment period from December 15, 2022, through January 16, 2023
 - Extended through February 16, 2023
 - Public presentation on 4/18/23
- 72 total comments received
 - 59 received during public comment period
 - 11 written from public presentation
 - 2 direct phone calls to DEC
- Change.org petition asking DEC not to close the beach has 825+ signatures

Public Comments (Management Actions)

Public Comments – Topics

- Public notice process
 - Concern for lack of notice and method-request for public meeting
- Closure of the beach
 - Greatest volume of comments
 - Loss of swimming opportunity
 - Petition specific to this topic
- DEC's proposed alternative
 - Concern for increase in vessels on the lake and carrying capacity
 - Alterations to the boat ramp area
 - Walking path from beach area to ramp
- Miscellaneous comments
 - Comments about signs at the site
 - Plants and animals not described
 - Lack of plantings list for review

Public Comments (SLMP Conformance)

Public Comments – SLMP Conformance

- Need to implement carrying capacity analysis for this boat launch and waterbody (SLMP pg. 43)
- Need assessment of actual and projected public use and its impact on the resource, ecosystems, and public enjoyment of the area; no data on non-boater use (SLMP pg. 10)
- UMP must demonstrate how there will be no adverse impact by retaining the existing boat launch and adding a new dock on the car-top side of the facility (SLMP pg. 43)
- Need more info about surrounding lands and how they may impact the boat launch site (SLMP pg. 43)
- Insufficient inventory of natural, scenic, cultural, fish and wildlife resources onsite (SLMP pg.10)

Response to SLMP-Related Comments

- Total number of parking spaces at the site will not increase
- Alleviate illegal parking within the boat launch area and on Lakeview Road
- Provide better access for hand-launch vessels
- Relieve competition amongst users for limited parking
- Reduce congestion at the boat ramp
- No proposed changes to the boat launch facility that will significantly increase or decrease boat traffic on the lake

- The lands adjacent to this facility are in private ownership
- The classification of State lands elsewhere on the lake is outside the scope of this proposed UMP

- The EIS for the development of this boat launch details the flora and fauna associated w/ the site, including fisheries resources
- Proposed mgmt actions do not materially change the use of the facility as a boat launch, therefore DEC has not re-evaluated these factors in this plan

Changes to Initial UMP

New Management Actions Added

- Pedestrian pathway between car-top and trailered launching facilities
- Redesign decontamination station area for better traffic flow
- Relocate lost vehicle with trailer parking spaces to non-motorized parking area

Board Member Inquiries

Past Management of Site

Use and Occupancy Permit issued in June 1992

- Site developed in 1998
- Renewed and extended through 2009
- No agreement from 2010 through 2018
- New agreement signed in 2019 for one year
- Extension signed in 2020 through 2025
 - Beach not operated in 2020, 2021
 - Town vote to not operate beach in April 2022
- Termination letter dated May 10, 2022

Past Management of Site

Beach associated issues due to lack of on-site attendant

- No control of illegal parking
- No coordination of Town and County Sheriff
- No operation of beach gate
 - Un-regulated swim beach
- Site use increased over time
 - Significant amount of trash at site
 - Illegal activities
- Increased site enforcement in 2017
 - Install heavy duty gate at beach

Water Quality Testing

- There is a coliform monitoring program led by the Great Sacandaga Lake Assoc. that has been ongoing since 1991 (no sampling in 2020 due to COVID)
- Program is focused on public bathing beaches, recreational areas, and feeder streams
 - Sampling locations change from year to year, >50 locations in total since 1991
- Parameters include fecal coliform and e. coli, which indicate the presence of human or animal waste
- 2022 sampling indicated that GSL meets standards for recreational contact

Boat Wash Station & Traffic Flow

- Usage was unusually high in 2020 due to COVID
 - 2020 – 5,674 boats inspected
 - 2021 – 2,080 boats inspected
- DEC added a mgmt action to address traffic flow around the boat wash station, any vehicle with trailer parking spots lost will be relocated
- New AIS spread prevention regulations have increased demand for boat wash station operations Park-wide

Carrying Capacity

- UMP does not propose to alter current usage levels – no new access or use is being provided for
- Deterring beachgoers will ameliorate illegal parking issues, such as parking on the shoulder of the Town road and in spots marked for vehicles with trailers only
- Vehicle with trailer parking spots lost due to reconfiguration of decontamination station traffic will be provided in the former beach parking area
- Car-top access will be improved for non-motorized users

Proximate Bathing Beach Opportunities

- There are at least four other public bathing beach opportunities on GSL:
 - Northampton Campground & Day Use Area
 - Northville Town Beach
 - Saratoga County Park (Town of Day)
 - Mayfield Town Beach
- Private beaches are also available



State Land Master Plan Conformance

Master Plan Basic Guidelines for IUAs

- Primary management guideline for IUAs will be to provide:
 - public opportunities for recreation
 - in a setting and scale in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park
- All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed:
 - to blend with the Adirondack environment
 - to have minimum adverse impact on surrounding state and private lands

Master Plan Basic Guidelines for IUAs

- Construction and development activities will:
 - Avoid material alteration of wetlands;
 - Minimize extensive topographic alterations;
 - Limit vegetative clearing;
 - Preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the intensive use area.

Boat Launching Site Guidelines & Criteria

Sites will only be provided on large lakes where:

- Current public and private launching opportunities do not meet demand
- Carrying capacity is not exceeded
- Site or attendant water uses are compatible with surrounding land classifications and mgmt. guidelines
- No adverse impacts to nearby state and private lands
- Appropriate motor size limitations are provided
- There are no material adverse impacts on physical, biological, or scenic resources of the water body and surrounding land

Staff Recommendation

It is the opinion of staff that the proposed final 2023 unit management plan for the Broadalbin Boat Launch conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Questions?

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