



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Golden Beach Public Campground

Unit Management Plan

DRAFT

Hamlet of Raquette Lake, Hamilton County, New York

August 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

**GOLDEN BEACH PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

NOTE: Unit management plans for the Department of Environmental Conservation 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.

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.

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 information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

SUMMARY
GOLDEN BEACH PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria 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 five-year operation of Golden Beach Public Campground.

Goals include: managing recreation programs to ensure protection of the natural resources 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 14 management actions are being proposed:

Proposed Management Actions*

- Replace former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.
- Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with single building.
- Replace bathhouses with a pavilion.
- Replace ticket booth.
- Rehabilitate campground roads.
- Replace trailered boat launch with hand launch.
- Replace trailer dump station.
- Rehabilitate water system.
- Rehabilitate campground sewage system.
- Replace overhead lines with underground system.
- Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area.
- Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.
- 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, 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 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.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Golden Beach Campground and Day-Use Area is located on the southeastern shore of the 5,935-acre Raquette Lake. The remote Central Adirondack setting of this facility offers a relaxing, quiet beauty all its own. The campsites offer privacy, they are large and well forested. Camping equipment from tents to 40' RVs can be accommodated. A picnic area is available adjacent to the swimming beach. Golden Beach boasts one of the largest natural beaches in the area for swimming.

Golden Beach Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Canoe and boat rentals are available in the hamlet of Raquette Lake. Good opportunities for fishing exist in this area. Major species in Raquette Lake are Brook Trout, Lake Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Whitefish, Bullhead, Yellow Perch, and Smelt. Hiking and bicycling are popular within the campground and on surrounding forest preserve lands and local roadways.

The Adirondack Park Visitors Interpretive Center at Newcomb is 30 miles east on N.Y.S. Route 28. The Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake is located 8 miles east on N.Y.S. Route 28 and features the History of the Adirondack Park.

The hamlet of Raquette Lake is 3 miles west on N.Y.S. Route 28, and offers Restaurants, Boat Rentals, Scenic Excursions on Raquette Lake with dining on board. Golf Courses are available in the Town of Indian Lake and the Town of Inlet.

1. Location

The campground is located on State Route 28, 6 miles west of the Hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake in the Hamlet of Raquette Lake, Hamilton County. Arietta Township, Totten and Crossfield's purchase, all or portions of Lot numbers 34 and 42.

2. History

In recognition of the ever-increasing demand for camping areas in the Adirondacks, the Conservation Department approved plans for the development of Public Campgrounds in 1897. Construction proceeded over the next few years with the Golden Beach Public Campground opening in 1931.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

| Year | Golden Beach Campground Improvements |
|------|--|
| 1931 | Campground opened to meet demand for public campsites in the area. |
| 1938 | Existing Caretaker’s cabin constructed. |
| 1947 | Existing bathhouses and vault toilet building #7 constructed. |
| 1967 | Existing lifeguard cabin, Ranger cabin, garage, and pumphouse constructed. Existing comfort stations #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 constructed. |
| 1968 | Existing ticket booth constructed. |
| 1979 | Existing shower building constructed. |
| 1988 | Campground roads reconditioned. |
| 1994 | Existing recycle center constructed. |

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

| Camping Area | Day-Use Area |
|--|--|
| 204 campsites | 8 picnic tables |
| 204 picnic tables | 5 hibachi grills |
| 204 fireplaces/rings | 2 spigots |
| 22 water spigots | |
| Design capacity – 1,224 persons (204 x 6/site) | Design capacity – 48 persons (8 x 6/table) |

2. Roads and Parking Areas

There are 2.25 miles of paved roads, for both two-way and one-way traffic. The average road width is 20 feet. The paved roads were last reconditioned in 1988. All roads are paved and in poor condition. Paved parking lots are located at the recycle center, day-use area, beach, and boat launch areas.

| Parking Lot Location | Approximate Capacity |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Recycle Center | 5 cars |
| Day-use Area/Beach | 30-45 cars |
| Boat Launch | 10-15 cars/trailer units |

3. Buildings

| Bldg. # | Bldg. Name/Function | Location/Description/Use | Size Sq. ft | Condition | Year Built |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| (001) | Ticket Booth | Near entrance | 80 | Fair | 1968 |
| (002) | Caretaker Cabin | Near entrance | 809 | Good | 1938 |
| (003) | Garage | Near entrance | 918 | Good | 1967 |
| (004) | Shower house | Near campsite 5 | 682 | Fair | 1979 |
| (005) | Comfort Station #1 | Near campsite 123 | 374 | Good | 1967 |
| (006) | Comfort Station #2 | Near campsite 27 | 374 | Good | 1967 |
| (007) | Comfort Station #3 | Near campsite 39 | 374 | Good | 1967 |
| (008) | Lifeguard cabin | Near Beach | 570 | Fair | 1967 |
| (009) | Women's bathhouse | Near Beach | 496 | Fair | 1947 |
| (010) | Men's bathhouse | Near Beach | 496 | Fair | 1947 |
| (011) | Pumphouse | Near boat launch | 480 | Fair | 1967 |
| (012) | Ranger Cabin | Near campsite #98 | 569 | Good | 1967 |
| (013) | Vault Toilet Building #7 | Near campsite#169 | 272 | Poor | 1947 |
| (014) | Comfort station #4 | Near campsite #78 | 374 | Good | 1967 |
| (015) | Comfort station #5 | Near campsite #70 | 374 | Good | 1967 |
| (016) | Comfort station #6 | Near campsite #110 | 374 | Good | 1967 |
| (017) | Refuse/Recycle Center | Near entrance | 320 | Good | 1994 |

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted October 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, with a reflective stop sign on both sides, and reflectors on each post. There is a gate at the entrance to the leach field road. All barriers are closed and well-marked during the snowmobile season.

5. Sewage System

All sewage disposal in the campground is by use of septic systems, utilizing septic tanks and effluent collector mains, with one pneumatic lift station pumping to a remote leach field, located approximately 1600 feet south of the campground on the opposite side of N.Y.S. Route 28. The Golden

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Beach Campground septic system, which is within the borders of the Blue Ridge Wilderness, was constructed in 1967 and should have been included within the campground intensive use area.

Toilet #7 is a sealed vault unit. This facility is in poor condition and used only in emergencies when electric power is interrupted to the campground. After use, the vault is pumped by septic tank pumper for licensed disposal. Soil percolation tests in 1967 indicate favorable soil conditions for ground disposal.

Septic tank content is periodically disposed by septic tank pumper, with effluent transported by licensed sewage disposal firms. (See exhibit 5a-5c.)

A NYS DEC SPDES permit #NY 0239356 was issued in 1991. The application covers the systems noted below:

| Building Type/Number | Toilets (T), Sinks (S) Showers (SH) | Septic Tank Size (gallons) | Leach Field/Seepage Pits | Construction Date |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Caretaker Cabin (2) | 1T, 2S, 1 SH | 500 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Dumping station | n/a | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Comfort station #1 (5) | M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Comfort station #2 (6) | M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Comfort station #3 (7) | M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Vault toilet building #7 (13) | M-4T, W-4T | 2,000 | Vault | 1967 |
| Comfort station #4 (14) | M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Comfort station #5 (15) | M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Shower Building (4) | M-1T,1U,4S,4SH W-2T,4S,4SH | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1982 |
| Comfort station #6 (16) | M-2T,1U,1S W-4T,2S | 2,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Rangers Cabin (12) | 1T,2S,1SH | 500 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Lifeguard Cabin (8) | 1T,2S,1SH | 500 | Centralized Leach Field | 1967 |
| Recycling Center (17) | 2S | 1,000 | Centralized Leach Field | 1995 |

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

6. Solid Waste

Annual refuse generated is estimated to be 240 cubic yards. At this time solid waste is transported via DEC garbage truck and is disposed of at the Indian Lake Transfer Station. A recycling program is operated at the campground. There is an estimated 2.5 tons of recyclables and C&D material transported by Department trucks to the Town of Inlet Sanitary Landfill.

This campground has a centralized recycling and refuse disposal facility with a staff person to manage. A brochure is available to instruct campers of its availability and required use. The Recycling Center is tied into the water and sewage systems.

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 (315) 354-4230, and 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 main campground has 1.1 miles of overhead primary electrical distribution with overhead and underground secondary distribution. National Grid Power Corporation provides electricity to the campground's primary lines. Average yearly electric consumption is 9,625 kWh. As part of the Dept's regular maintenance, the right-of-way receives annual hazardous tree removal and brushing. (See Exhibit #7a-c.)

10. Potable Water System

Two wells were drilled in 1992 and new pipelines were installed between drilled wells and the pump chlorination building.

There are five water storage tanks located in the pumphouse. Each tank has a capacity of 422-gallons. The tanks are hydro-pneumatic and chlorinated. From the hydro-pneumatic tanks, the chlorinated water flows through an above grade – serpentine pipe contact system which consists of 16” diameter pipe with a total length equivalent of 83’-10”. From the serpentine pipe contact system, the water flows to the distribution system.

| Well | Capacity |
|---------|--|
| Well #1 | 100 feet depth 45 g.p.m. yield capacity 49 g.p.m. pump capacity (5 hp) |
| Well #2 | 225 feet depth 25 g.p.m. yield capacity 30 g.p.m. pump capacity (5 hp) |

Water is distributed via 1.6 mile of waterlines to 24 spigots throughout the facility, 22 of which are in the camping area and 2 are in the day-use area. (See Exhibit #6a-6c.)

11. Fuel Systems

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

| Product Type | Tank Size Gal/Lb | Location | Annual Use |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Propane | 1,000 gal | Shower building | 1045 gal |
| Propane | 2- 120 gal | Caretaker’s Cabin | 312 gal |
| Propane | 120 gal | Assistant Caretaker’s Cabin | 35 gal |
| Propane | 120 gal | Lifeguard Cabin | 15 gal |
| Propane | 120 gal | Recycle Building | 85 gal |

12. Trails

There are no marked hiking trails within the campground, however, opportunities for hiking exist nearby. Death Brook Falls is a scenic spot about a quarter mile from Route 28, across the highway from Golden Beach Campground. Just across Route 28 from the Golden Beach Campground is the 47,000-acre Blue Ridge Wilderness, which offers several hiking opportunities. The Slim Pond trailhead is less than one mile north of the campground on Route 28 and the Shedd Lake trailhead is to the south.

Biking is another popular activity at the campground. Bikers can ride the campground roads as well as miles of surrounding public roadways.

13. Boating

The boat launch area is shallow and unusable for large boats. The draft Strategic Plan for Modernization of DEC Waterway Access Facilities in NYS, dated September 1987, recommended the removal of the “inadequate” boat launch and the installation of a new relocated boat launch. The concrete launch ramp was removed in 2021 due to its poor condition. The launch now consists of gravel and natural material with 2-degrees of pitch. The launch is currently used by small boats or car top boats and is 12 feet wide improved blacktop. There is one floating dock, 16 feet long x 8 feet wide, with two walk-on ramps 3 feet wide which is removed annually. There is a paved parking area surface, (8600) square feet, capacity 15 vehicles with trailers (75 vehicles with trailers/acre) According to.

14. Swimming

Golden Beach operates a staffed beach for the core of the camping season. The swim area is generally 150 feet wide with a capacity of approximately 420 bathers. Swimming is only permitted when a lifeguard is on duty.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

| Total | Position Title |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Parks and Recreation Aide 6 |
| 1 | Maintenance Assistant - Parks |
| 1 | Park and Recreation Aide 5 |
| 4 | Park and Recreation Aide 4 |

2. Fee Schedule 2022

| Daily Fees 2022 Open Dates: May 20 – Sept 5 | |
|--|---------|
| Camping/night – NYS Resident | \$20.00 |
| Camping/night – Non-resident | \$25.00 |
| Day Use - Auto | \$8.00 |
| Day Use - Walk In | \$2.00 |
| Day Use - Motorcycle | \$4.00 |
| Day Use - Bus | \$50.00 |
| Ice - Bag | \$2.00 |
| Firewood - Bag | \$9.00 |

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.

4. Off-Season Use

Department trucks plow roads to the campground maintenance garage. There are no formalized recreational uses of the facility in the off-season. However, roadside sites are sometimes used during the offas primitive sites. Additional campground use during winter months occurs from passive recreational pursuits such as cross-country skiing, hiking, and ice fishing.

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

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

may not be offered every year. Other programs and activities at the campground include the Campground Ambassador Program, which provides a campsite for a camper in return for aiding campground staff, and the I Love My Park Day, a volunteer cleanup activity. 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 heavily dependent on funding being available.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The average elevation of Golden Beach Campground is 1,790'. Campsites rise moderately from the lakeshore to a maximum elevation of 1,800'. (See Exhibit #2.)

b. Water

Raquette Lake is 5,395 acres in size with a maximum depth of 96 feet. There are 44 campsites located on the southeastern shore of the lake. The campground beach is also located on the southeast shore.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A total of 21 acres of palustrine wetland have been identified in several locations within the campground. In the Adirondacks, these wetlands are dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent vegetation, emergent mosses or lichens. These wetlands are generally defined by their low gradient or flow and where the substrate is mud or sand.

Wetlands were mapped by the Adirondack Park Agency staff after an on-site field investigation during the 1997 UMP and reviewed again in 2022. The map does not depict shallow or deep-water marsh within the lake.

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 #8.)

d. Soils

Soil associations consist primarily of:

- #015A - Loxley-Beseman Complex
- #017A - Beseman-Rumney-Loxley Complex
- #650C - Berkshire-Adams-Colton Complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes, bouldery
- #721D - Becket-Tunbridge complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very bouldery

The soils of Adams-Colton association are poorly suited to crops or pasture as they are droughty, strongly acid, and low in available plant nutrients. As they are susceptible to water and wind erosion, they are well suited for forest cover. In the Adirondacks, areas of this soil association are important for recreational use. Many of the public campgrounds operated by DEC are located on soils of this association. (See Exhibit #9.)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are several different forest types present in the campground. These include Northern Hardwoods, Mixed Woods, White Pine, Hemlock, Spruce, and Wetland Species. Vegetation in the immediate campsite area is affected by intensive use. 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.

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 Golden Beach Campground.

c. Wildlife

Wildlife communities found in and around Golden Beach Campground reflect those species commonly associated with northern hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forests that are transitional to the boreal forests of higher latitudes.

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. For a more complete description of wildlife species and habitats, refer to the Blue Ridge Wilderness and Moose River Plains Wild Forest unit management plans.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

d. Fisheries

Raquette Lake is 5,395 acres in size with a maximum depth of 96 feet. Fish species present include Smallmouth Bass, Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Landlocked salmon (rare), Brown Bullhead, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, Rainbow Smelt, Brook Trout. Trout species have been stocked in past years.

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 programs 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 an 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 numbers at this facility have been steady for the last five years with 87% of all campers visiting from New York State and the remaining 13% from other states and countries. Campers stay an average of 4.1 nights and 95% of campers arrive after making a reservation. Average

| Golden Beach Attendance | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Year | Camping | Day Use | Total |
| 2021 | 33,276 | 1,632 | 33,977 |
| 2020 | 29,571 | 1,505 | 31,076 |
| 2019 | 27,122 | 1,186 | 28,308 |
| 2018 | 31,501 | 1,796 | 33,297 |
| 2017 | 27,849 | 682 | 28,531 |
| Avg | 29,864 | 1,360 | 31,038 |

camping attendance at this facility is down approximately 15% from levels reported 20 years ago. Day-use attendance at this facility has fluctuated during the last five-year period. Day-Use attendance totals are about 65% those reported 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from passive recreational pursuits such as cross-country skiing, hiking, 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. (See Exhibit #10.)

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. Revenue reported from camping and day-use follows the same trends reported above in the attendance trends.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

| Five-Year Revenue Totals for Golden Beach | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Year | Camping | Day Use | Ice | Firewood | Total |
| 2021 | \$209,525 | \$3,734 | \$9,250 | \$8,826 | \$231,335 |
| 2020 | \$162,465 | \$3,716 | \$6,870 | \$0* | \$173,051 |
| 2019 | \$188,105 | \$2,982 | \$9,277 | \$8,565 | \$208,929 |
| 2018 | \$194,155 | \$4,320 | \$11,294 | \$4,094 | \$213,863 |
| 2017 | \$191,220 | \$1,262 | \$8,072 | \$4,364 | \$204,918 |
| Avg | \$189,094 | \$3,202 | \$8,952 | \$6,462 | \$206,419 |

Operating costs for Golden Beach average \$125,000 annually.

*Firewood was not sold at the facility in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has been excluded from average revenue calculation.

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 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. None of the comfort stations or shower amenities currently meet accessibility standards.

| Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Facility Description | Design Standard* | Calculated Need | Currently Available | Deficiency |
| Campsites (204) | 1,250 sf/site | 1,250 sf/site | 1,250 sf/site | None |
| Trailer dumping station | 1 for every 100 sites | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Potable water supply | 55 gal/day/site | 11,220 gpd | 101,800 gpd | None |
| 8 day-use picnic tables | 5 gal/day/picnicker | 240 gpd | | |
| Water spigots | 1/10 campsites | 21 | 22 | None |
| | 1/60 picknickers | 1 | 2 | |

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------|----|------|
| Lavatories (within 500') | 1 for every 15 campsites 1 for every 60 picnickers | 14 1 | 21 | None |
| Toilets/Urinals (within 500') | 2 for every 10 sites 2 for every 60 picnickers | 42 2 | 44 | None |
| Utility sinks | Conveniently located | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| Showers | 2 for every 25 sites | 17 | 8 | 9 |

*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes

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 Golden Beach 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 2022, sites #76, 116, 118, 178, and 184 were selected for restoration work and sites #32, 34, 49, 53, and 175 have been selected for 2023. 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.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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 below an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors. Concerns voiced by visitors included age and condition of facility infrastructure, particularly regarding the comfort stations and a lack of staff and lifeguards available on site. Campers noted issues with site conditions, including the need for grading and improved drainage and a lack of screening. This plan seeks to address these concerns in the proposed management actions.

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 | Number of Responses | # Good or Excellent | % Good or Excellent |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2021 | 284 | 193 | 68% |
| 2020* | - | - | - |
| 2019 | 57 | 36 | 63% |
| 2018 | 94 | 71 | 75% |
| 2017 | 240 | 177 | 74% |

**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 southwestern border of the campground is 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 consulted in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

e. Adjacent Lands

The campground encompasses 40 acres of lands classified as Intensive Use and the perimeter boundary totals 3.9 miles. The entire northern boundary of the Intensive Use area borders the Sargent Ponds Wild Forest. Directly across Route 28 is the Blue Ridge Wilderness, and to the southern end of the campground is the Moose River Plains Wild Forest.

The adjacent 82,339-acre Moose River Plains Wild Forest offers many recreational opportunities, including hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing, mountain biking, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. Popular hiking attractions include Black Bear, Rocky and Sawyer Mountains, and the Northville-Placid Trail.

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 when 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 2022 Program Report*. The 2022 report states that Bush honeysuckle is widespread throughout the campground and was not managed. Garlic mustard was mapped and removed from sites 14, 16 -18, 20, 22, 37, 39, 41, 43, 52 -54, 61, 65, 67, 78, 89, 93, 102, 104, 109, 130, 136, and the bathroom near site 119. In total 1,238 plants were removed from 21 sites. Garlic mustard management should remain the top priority, as the number of plants removed has fluctuated since 2018 and saw a sharp increase in 2022. Winged euonymus should continue to be a survey priority to ensure early management. Bush honeysuckle is

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

abundant throughout the campground and management is not recommended at this time as reintroduction is likely. Reed canary grass was observed in 2022 between sites 182 and 184. This campground should be monitored annually to document potential re-emergence or invasion by other species.

Variable-leaf milfoil has been documented in Raquette Lake at the Hamlet of Raquette Lake boat launch, staffed by a member of the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program with the objective of monitoring boats utilizing the waterway and to detect and document the distribution of aquatic invasive plant infestations. The boat launch area at Golden Beach Campground currently has signage and an invasive species disposal receptacle available for boaters.

DEC works cooperatively with Paul Smiths College and the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program to address the aquatic invasive species. In addition, 6 NYCRR Part 576 requires that all boaters clean, drain, and dry their boats before launching into public waterbodies including Raquette Lake. 6 NYCRR 59.4 also requires that boaters take preventive measures when retrieving their boats as well. Standard signage is intended to remind boaters of these requirements.

DEC also works cooperatively with the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation to assist efforts to control milfoil and its spread. The Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation has begun a long-term effort to remove variable leaf milfoil and create a Lake Management Plan that is supported by a DEC Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control Grant and private funding.

g. General Operations

Golden Beach Campground is a popular facility used during the spring through fall seasons for camping, fishing, and boating. The rest of the year, this campground experiences some informal visitation during the big game hunting season, snowshoeing, fishing, 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 services, programs, 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. Full 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 [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).

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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.

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

DEC continues to transition its facilities to be more accessible for people with disabilities. Based on a facility accessibility evaluation conducted in Summer 2022, the following facilities have been constructed to the relevant ADA/ABA accessibility guidelines at Golden Beach Campground: Campsites 5 and 120. These facilities will not be marked as accessible on public outreach materials (including maps, website, etc.), however, until a fully ADA-compliant restroom is available at this facility. Also, based on the same facility accessibility evaluation, the shower building is only ambulatory accessible and needs to be renovated in order to meet current ADA/ABA standards

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 former vault toilet building and comfort station #6. | \$750,000 each |
| 2. | Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with single building. | \$1,250,000 |
| 3. | Replace bathhouses with a pavilion. | \$200,000 |
| 4. | Replace ticket booth. | \$75,000 |
| 5. | Rehabilitate campground roads. | \$1,500,000 |
| 6. | Replace trailered boat launch with hand launch. | \$75,000 |
| 7. | Replace trailer dumping station. | \$250,000 |
| 8. | Rehabilitate water system. | \$700,000 |
| 9. | Rehabilitate campground sewage system. | \$700,000 |
| 10. | Replace overhead electric lines with underground system. | \$700,000 |
| 11. | Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area. | \$1,000 |

| | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 12. | Add utility sinks to all comfort stations. | \$50,000 |
| 13. | Tree and shrub plantings. | \$20,000 |
| 14. | Campsite restoration. | \$45,000 |

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 former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.

The average age of the six comfort stations is 55 years and none have been built since 1967. The toilet and sink fixtures are not as water efficient as modern designs and are not easily drained for off season. All comfort stations within the facility were rated as being in good condition when inspected in October 2020, however, none of the buildings meet current accessibility standards. Vault toilet #7 was built in 1947, has been closed, and is in poor condition. It needs to be replaced in order to meet Department of Health regulations. With only one central shower building, visitors must travel to utilize the facility, which contributes to congestion on the campsite roads as well as noise and air pollution. This management action proposes to replace the vault toilet building and comfort station #6 with new comfort stations and include showers at each of the new buildings.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

In conjunction with the building replacement, associated wastewater treatment systems will be evaluated for adequacy and code compliance. If found deficient, systems will be replaced and modernized as part of the comfort station replacement. These buildings will be constructed to meet modern design standards, comply with all codes, provide for ADA accessibility and accessible parking, and be more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. Standards for erosion and sediment control will be met in conformance with the [New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control](#), dated November 2016.

In addition, wash sinks for washing dishes will be added to the comfort stations. This will help address disposal of gray water that campers often toss at the edge of the campsites, leaving soap, food and grease on the ground. This is unsightly and draws in wildlife. At this time, no additional tree clearing is anticipated for the replacement of the bathhouses, as a single building would require a smaller footprint than what is currently being utilized. The replacement of the vault toilet and comfort station #6 may require some clearing as the building footprint may be enlarged by 50%. See Exhibit #14 for photographs of existing buildings and their surroundings.

2. Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with a single building.

In conjunction with the building replacement, associated wastewater treatment systems will be evaluated for adequacy and code compliance. If found deficient, systems will be replaced and modernized as part of the comfort station replacement. These buildings will be constructed to meet modern design standards, comply with all codes, provide for ADA accessibility and accessible parking, and be more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. Standards for erosion and sediment control will be met in conformance with the [New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control](#), dated November 2016.

3. Replace bathhouses with a pavilion.

The two bathhouses in the day-use area were built in 1947 and are in fair condition. Visitor needs for a bathhouse have changed over the years, and many utilize the nearby comfort station for toilet facilities. This has resulted in the bathhouse building being closed to the public and used for storage. This management action proposes to demolish both bathhouses and construct a pavilion in the same location, resulting in a smaller footprint for the new structure. Golden Beach receives an average of almost 1,200 day-use visitors each season. A pavilion will provide shelter for visitors during inclement weather, a location for nature recreation programming, and can be rented to provide additional revenue.

The pavilion will be constructed to meet current design and accessibility standards. The pavilion will be constructed with natural materials to blend in with the natural surroundings, and the removal of both bathhouses will open the view of Raquette Lake, and the natural sand beach offered at Golden Beach.

4. Replace ticket booth.

The existing ticket booth was constructed in 1968, before the need for computers, printers, and ADA requirements. The building is undersized for today's needs and cannot check in day-use visitors and campers at the same time, which leads to congestion near the entrance area. This management action proposes to construct a new ticket booth in the existing location that will meet current facility needs, improve customer service, and incorporate space for firewood and ice sales. The new booth will meet current accessibility standards.

5. Rehabilitate campground roads.

The 2.25 miles of campground roads are in poor condition with crumbling shoulders, potholes, and sections of broken pavement. All 2.25 miles of roadway needs to be repaved. Where possible, roads rehabilitation design should consider access for emergency response and maintenance vehicles.

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. 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: 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.

6. Replace trailered boat launch with hand launch.

The concrete launch ramp was removed in 2021 due to its poor condition and now consists of gravel and natural material with a 2-degree pitch. In addition, the area of the lake where the boat launch is located is very shallow. Opportunities for launching larger boats exist in the Hamlet of Raquette Lake, including two marinas and a boat launch. This management action proposes to replace the current

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

trailered boat launch with a hand launch for canoes and kayaks. This action would reduce the amount of environmental disturbance, including a decrease in erosion and turbidity. The hand launch area will be designed to meet current accessibility standards. User safety and ease of access would be improved, while maintenance required would be reduced. Hand launch parking will utilize the existing boat launch parking and may be resurfaced during launch replacement or the larger campground road replacement management action.

7. Replace trailer dump station.

This management action proposes to replace the existing trailer dump station to better accommodate modern camping trailers while meeting current standards for accessibility and design standards. The existing trailer dump station is inadequate for camper needs, and the single lane in its current location causes traffic to become congested near the entrance area. A two-lane trailer dumping station with an improved septic system is proposed to be placed near existing campsite #38 and where two-way traffic can be accommodated. This will result in the closure or relocation of 10 campsites. Tree clearing will be minimized, as the proposed location has already been impacted by camping use.

8. Rehabilitate water system.

The water system at Golden Beach is old, in poor condition, and needs rehabilitation. Staff rely on one system to service the campground and meet camper needs. While the water storage tanks are new, the waterlines and other system components should be replaced. Additional water spigots should be installed as necessary to meet health codes and current accessibility standards. This management action proposes to rehabilitate the existing water system to meet current design standards and Department of Health codes.

9. Rehabilitate campground sewage system.

The Golden Beach campground sewage system was constructed in the 1960s. Although still functioning, portions of the system do not meet current standards and are in need of rehabilitation. This action proposes to rehabilitate the system, including the 1.2 mile of sewer lines, to meet current standards. Due to logistics and proximity to both the water distribution system and road network, this project may be done in conjunction with those rehabilitation projects.

10. Replace overhead lines with underground system.

Golden Beach Campground has 1.1 mile of overhead power lines running through the facility. Both the water and sewer systems require electric power for pumps to operate. The overhead lines are in constant need of maintenance and have required emergency repairs resulting in the power being off in the facility for extended periods. This management action proposes to have the overhead power lines buried and the pole transformers moved to a ground pad location.

11. Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area.

Since the adoption of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan there has been a classification error around the entrance to the Golden Beach Campground. As a result, access to and parts of the pre-existing campground were classified as Wild Forest. A correction is needed to accurately delineate the Intensive Use Area to include all pre-existing infrastructure, campsites, registration booth, and caretaker's cabin. The Golden Beach Campground septic system, which is within the borders of the Blue Ridge Wilderness, was constructed in 1967 and should have also been included within the campground intensive use area. This reclassification will allow for the continued maintenance and operation of existing infrastructure. Reclassification of the aforementioned areas would result in approximately 5.7 acres of Sargent Pond Wild Forest and approximately 3.8 acres of the Blue Ridge Wilderness being classified as part of the Golden Beach Intensive Use Area and 31.1 acres of the Golden Beach IUA being classified as wild forest as depicted in Exhibit 13.

12. Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.

Section III.F.2.a of this Plan noted a deficiency of utility sinks at all comfort stations in the camping area. With no alternative for disposing of gray water, campers often toss wash and rinse water to the edge of the campsites, leaving soap, food, and grease on the ground. This is both unsightly and draws wildlife. A utility sink attached to the outside of each comfort station and tied to the campground's sewer system will provide a place for campers to either wash dishes or dispose of gray water. This management action proposes to install utility sinks at each comfort station in the camping area.

13. 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

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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.

14. Campsite restoration.

Management of visitor use at Golden Beach Campground began in the 1930s with the development of campsites to meet the increasing demand for camping accommodations in the Adirondacks. Today, the Golden Beach Campground includes 204 camping sites and is one of the largest and most popular campgrounds operated by DEC. With close to 35,000 camper days and day-use visitors to Golden Beach annually, striving to balance the protection of the physical, biological, and social resources with visitor enjoyment is a challenge. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) requires that campgrounds be of a rustic nature and each camping site retains the natural character of the surrounding forest. With proper planning and management, visitor enjoyment, resource protection and compliance with requirements can be achieved.

This management action includes DEC staff, in consultation with Agency staff, working to develop visitor use management and monitoring guidance to support the planning and management of Intensive Use Areas in the Adirondack Park. The approach will be consistent with the federal Interagency Visitor Use Management (VUM) planning framework, be complementary to the UMP planning process and will identify desired conditions, indicators, and standards for the management of Intensive Use Area campsites. Future unit management plans or amendment of existing plans will be consistent with the new VUM guidance and containing diverse design and management actions to balance resource protection and visitor enjoyment including revegetation, relieving soil compaction, replacing amenities, reducing erosion, integration with shoreline restoration efforts, and site relocation or closure. Deployment of an intensive use area VUM framework across the DEC campground system will be dependent on results of a pilot program at one or more Department campground facilities.

Until the visitor use management and wildlands monitoring guidance and accompanying protocol for camping sites within DEC Campgrounds is finalized, a minimum of five campsites per year at Golden Beach will be selected for temporary closure for the purpose of rehabilitation to render the site's character similar to the surrounding forest. Rehabilitation work will include stabilizing shorelines; maintaining the campsite surface to reduce erosion, soil loss and soil compaction; revegetating the site (between sites and along shorelines); and replacing fireplaces and picnic tables. Natural and boat-wake wave action on Raquette Lake result in erosive forces on the shoreline areas around the campground areas, particularly along the section where sites 185 to 207 are located. Shoreline stabilization and

erosion mitigation will be included as part of the Campsite Restoration project. Construction material and methods will be determined during the design phase and utilize [DEC Shoreline Stabilization Techniques](#), dated July 2010, or latest version. Grading and planting of vegetation will be compatible with the natural shoreline and utilize native species. Staff will develop site specific recommendations in consultation with the APA.

In situations where issues cannot be reasonably addressed, an individual campsite may be relocated or closed. 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.

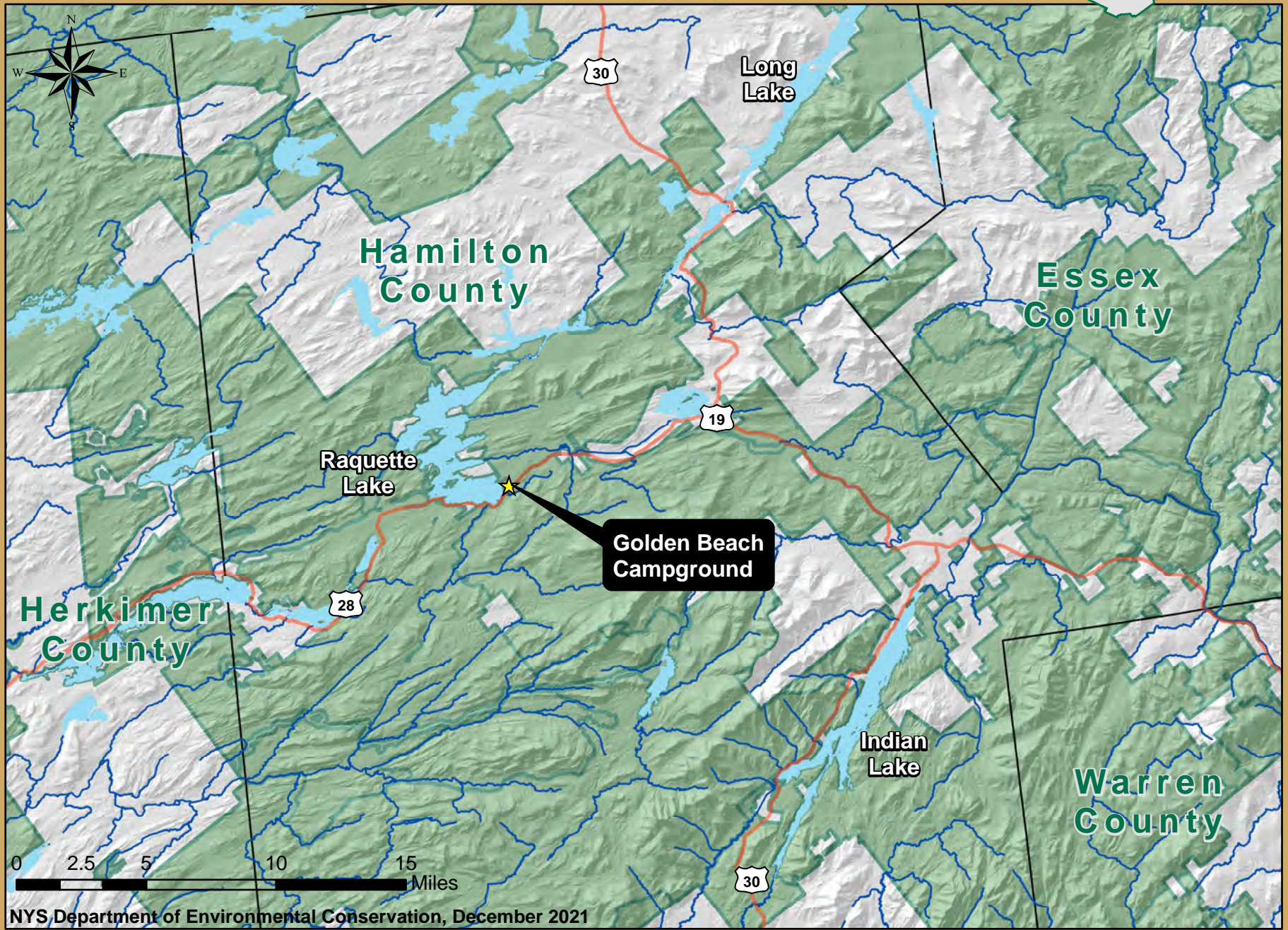
For more information on the Campsite Restoration project or which sites at Golden Beach Campground are currently being restored please visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/100146.html>.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

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| Exhibit #5a-5c | Sewer System Maps |
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| Exhibit #13 | Reclassification Lands Map |
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| Exhibit #15 | Typical Drawings |
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Golden Beach Campground

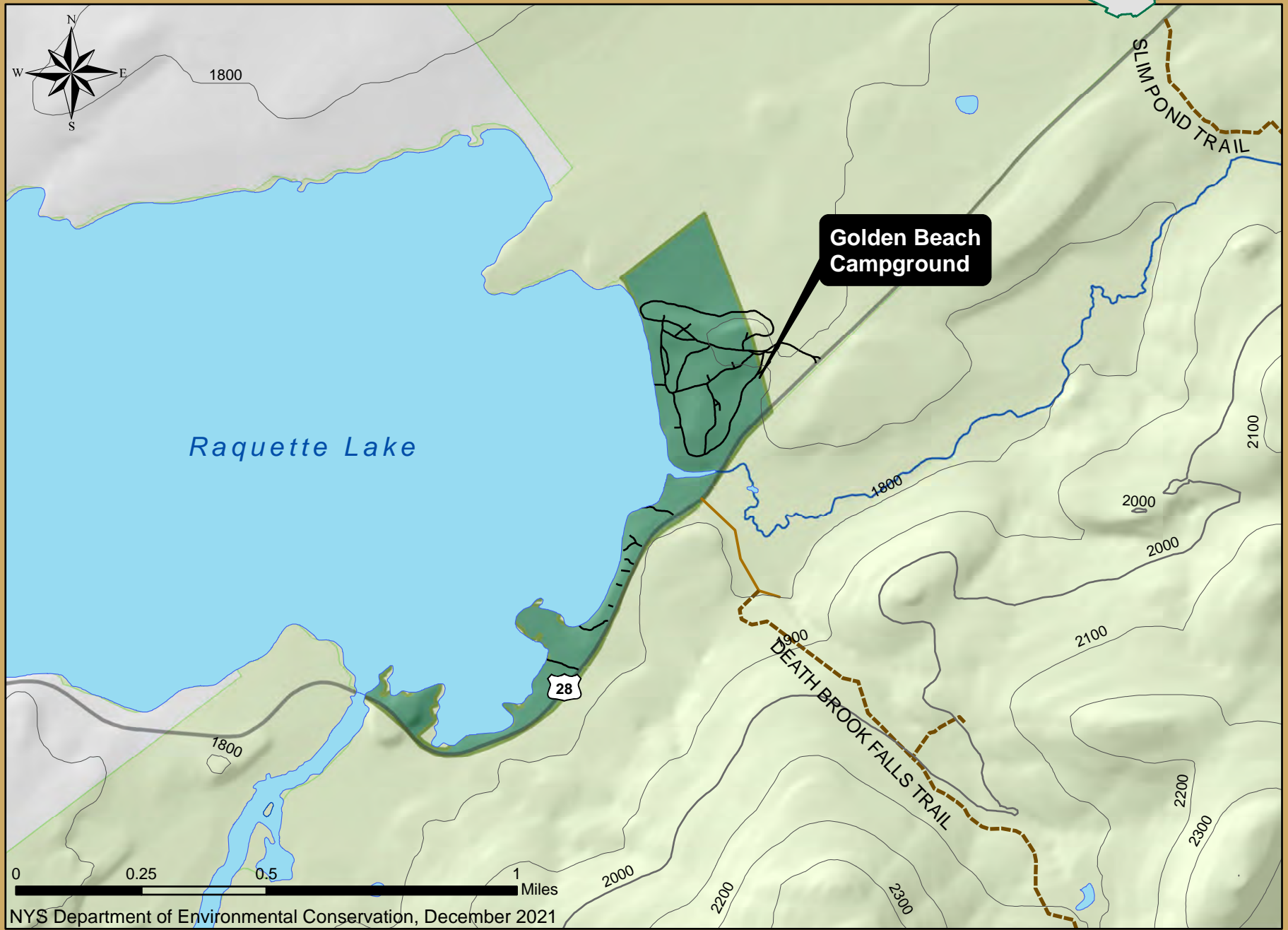
Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, December 2021

Golden Beach Campground

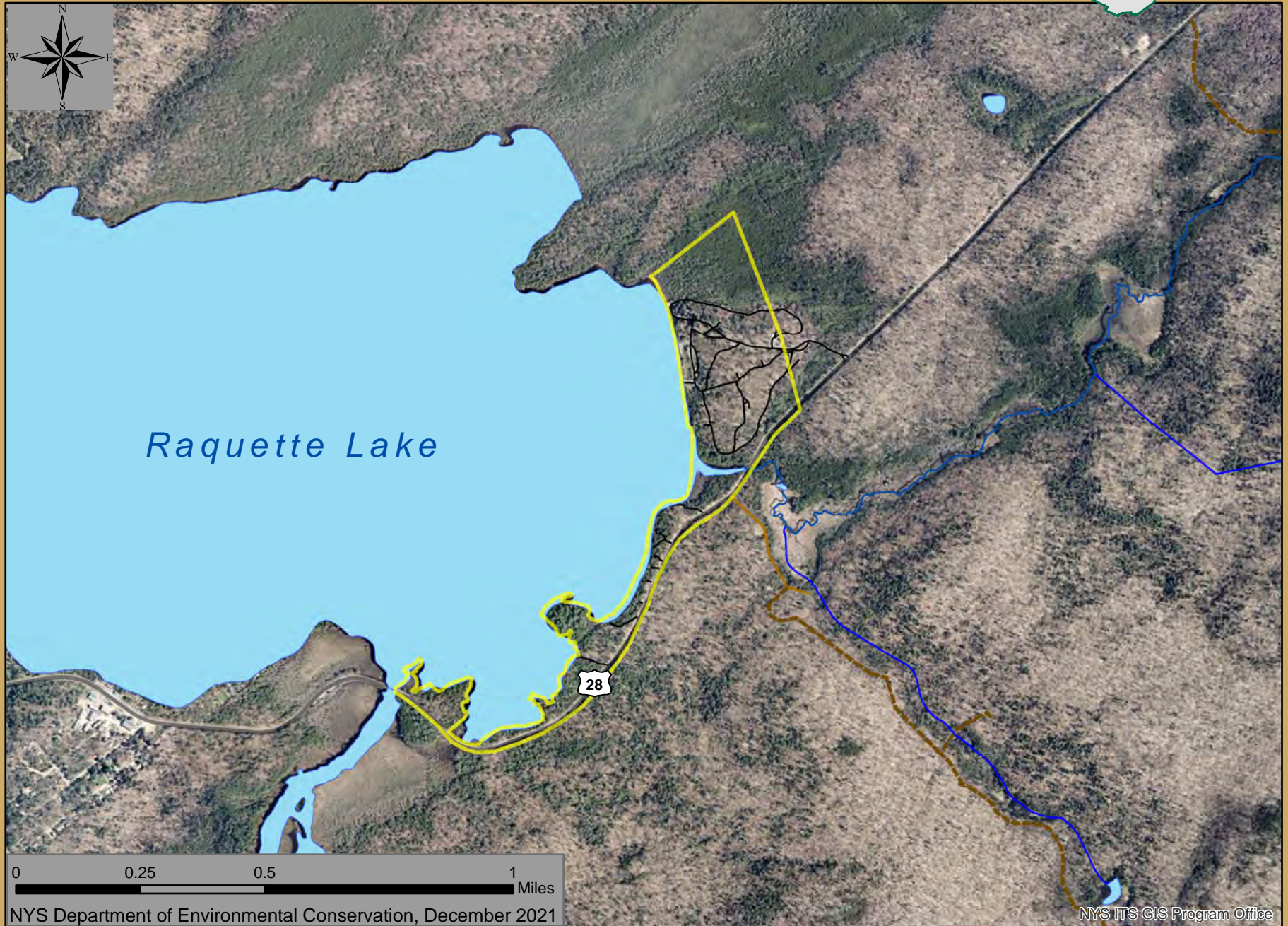
Exhibit # 2 - Topographic & Trail Map



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, December 2021

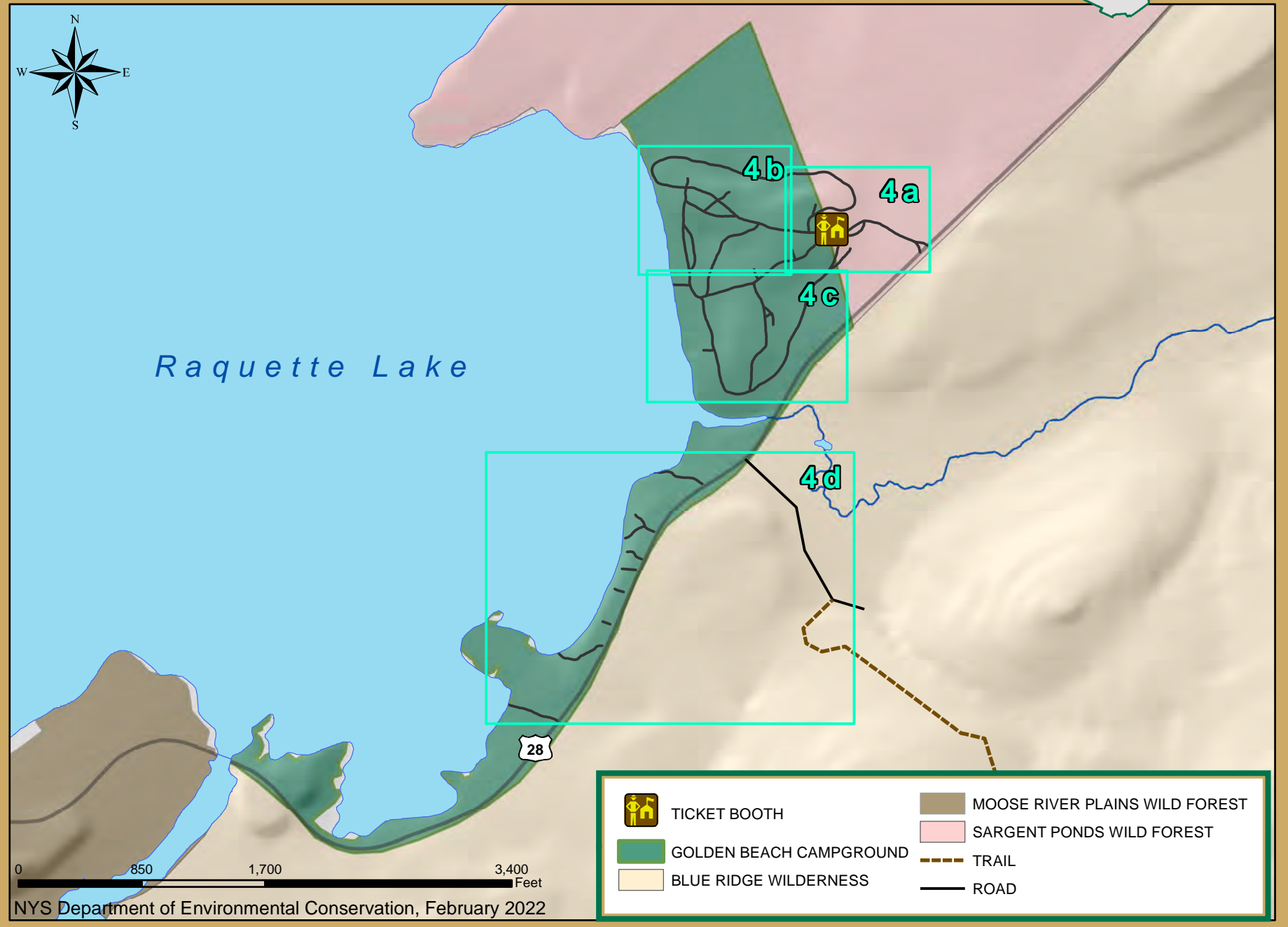
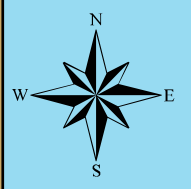
Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



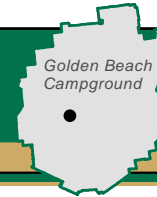
Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4 - Existing Facilities Map

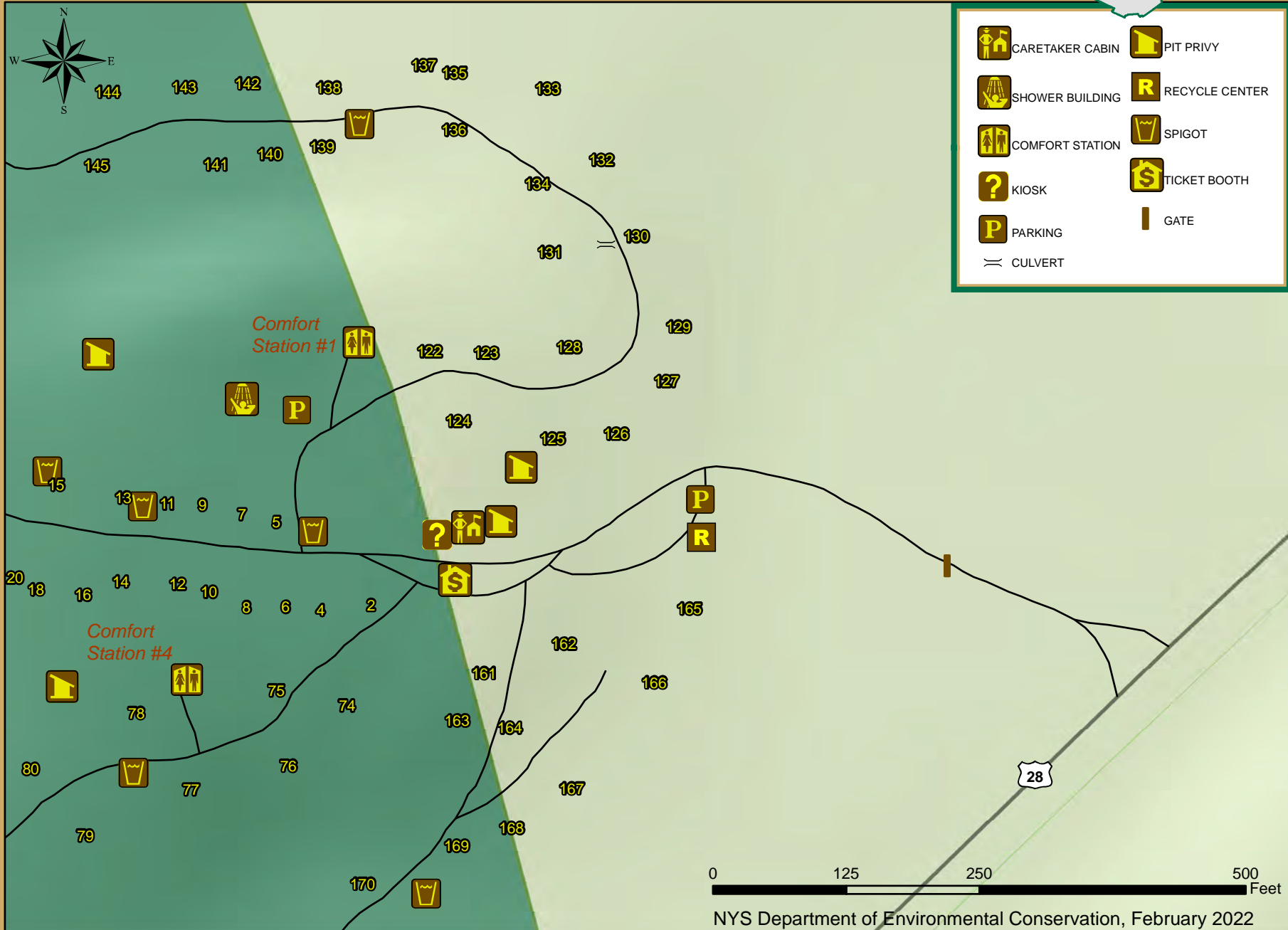


Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Entrance Area



Adirondack
Park



0 125 250 500 Feet

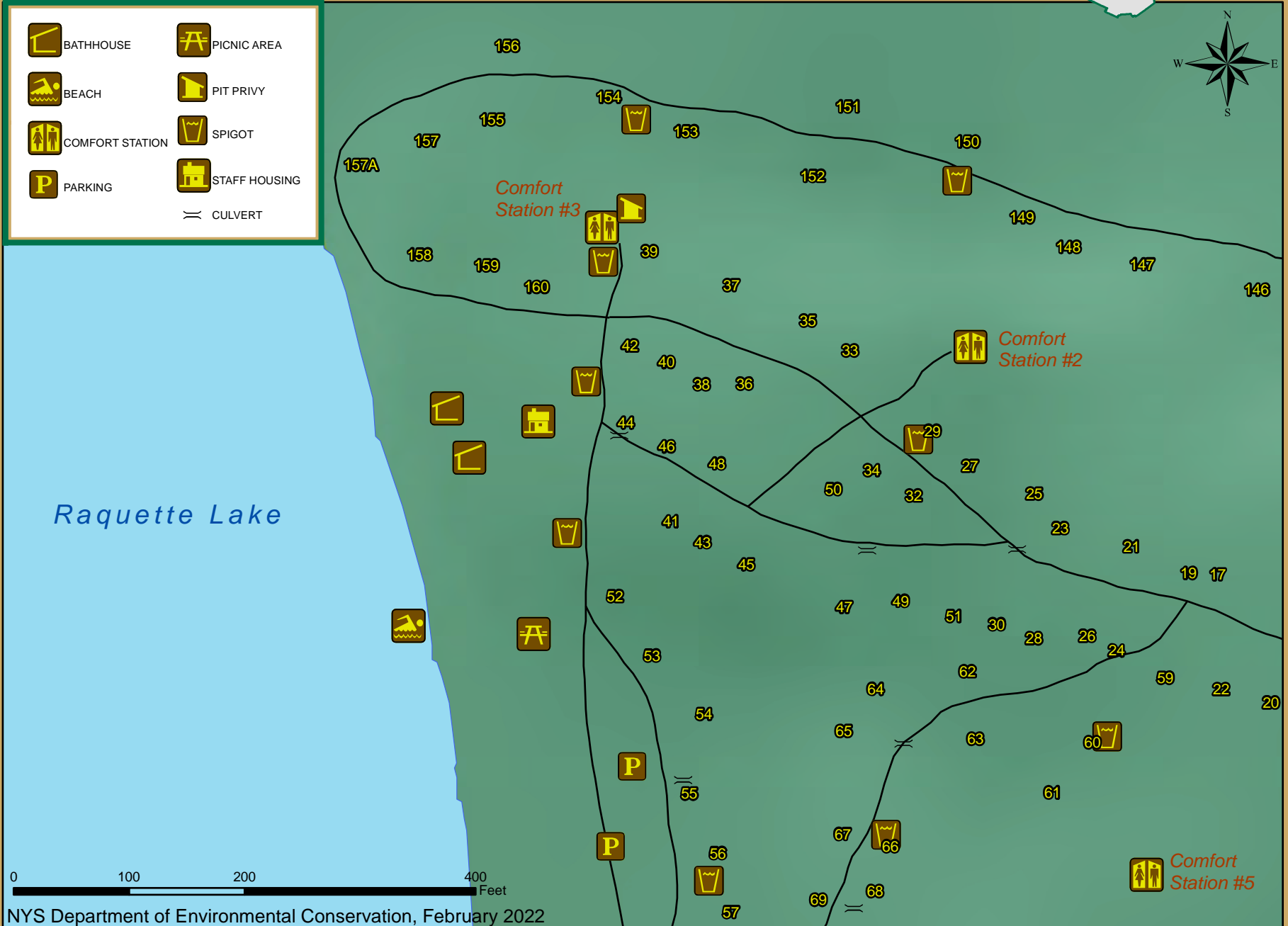
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, February 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4b - Campsites and Beach Area

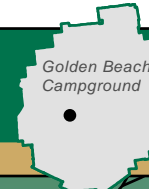


| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|---------------|
| | BATHHOUSE | | PICNIC AREA |
| | BEACH | | PIT PRIVY |
| | COMFORT STATION | | SPIGOT |
| | PARKING | | STAFF HOUSING |
| | | | CULVERT |

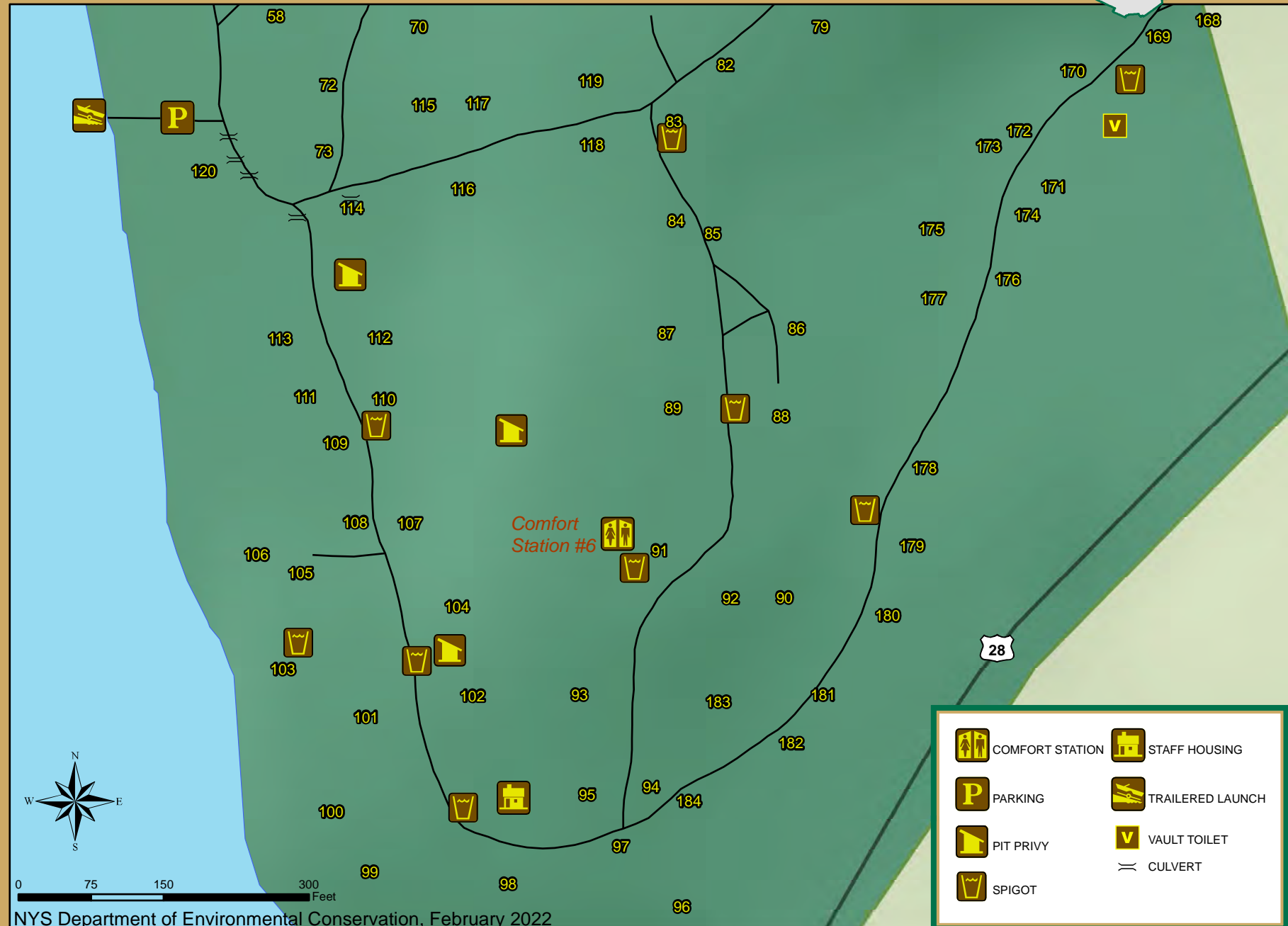


Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4c - Campsites and Boat Launch Area



Adirondack
Park

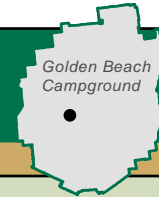


0 75 150 300 Feet

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|------------------|
| | COMFORT STATION | | STAFF HOUSING |
| | PARKING | | TRAILERED LAUNCH |
| | PIT PRIVY | | VAULT TOILET |
| | SPIGOT | | CULVERT |

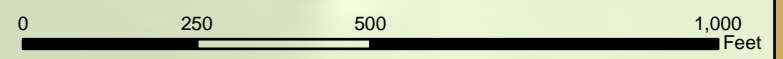
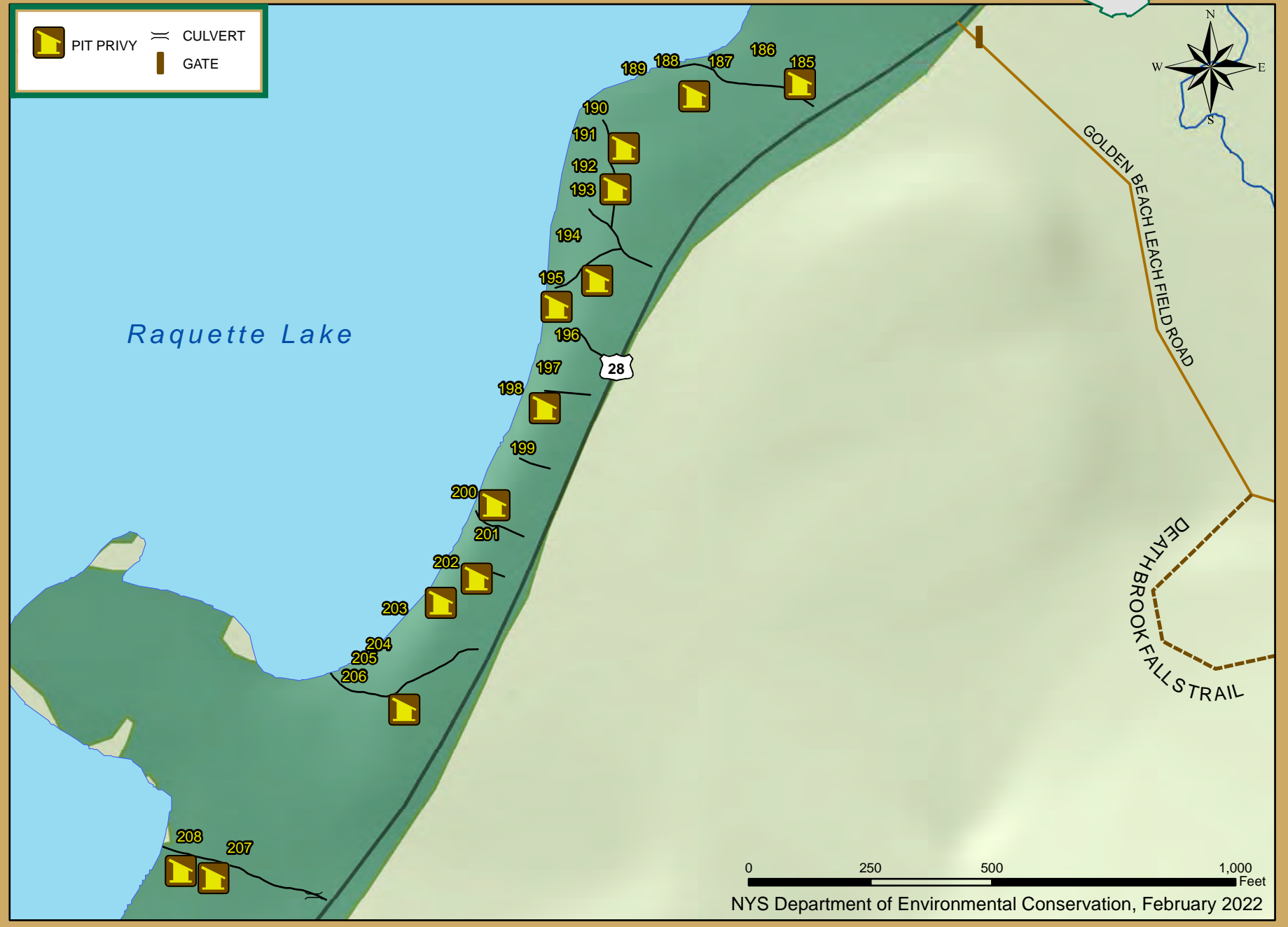
Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4d - Roadside Campsites



Golden Beach Campground
Adirondack Park

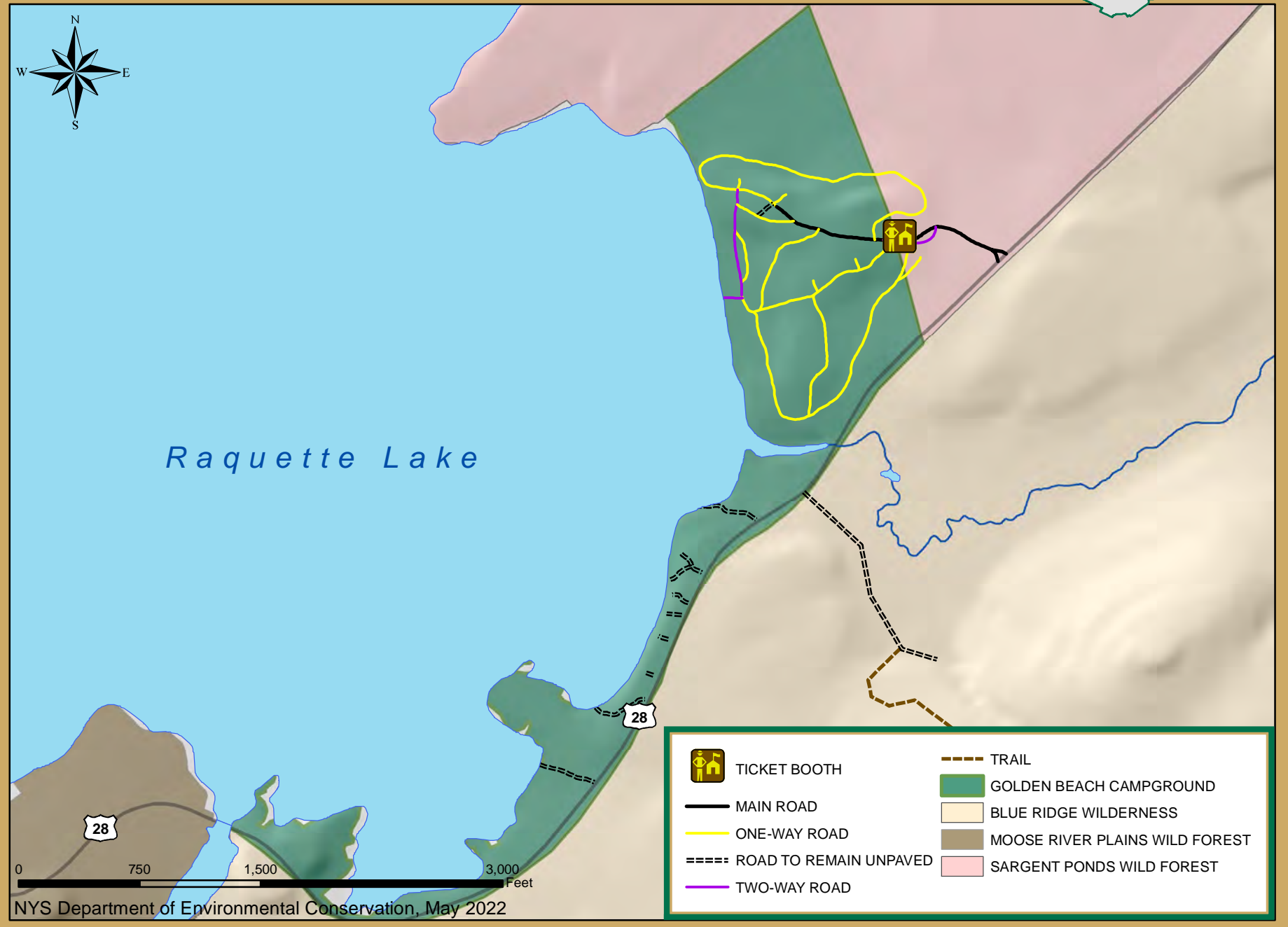
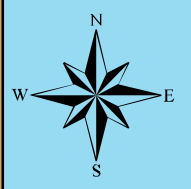
 PIT PRIVY  CULVERT
 GATE













NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, February 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 4e - Facility Road Map



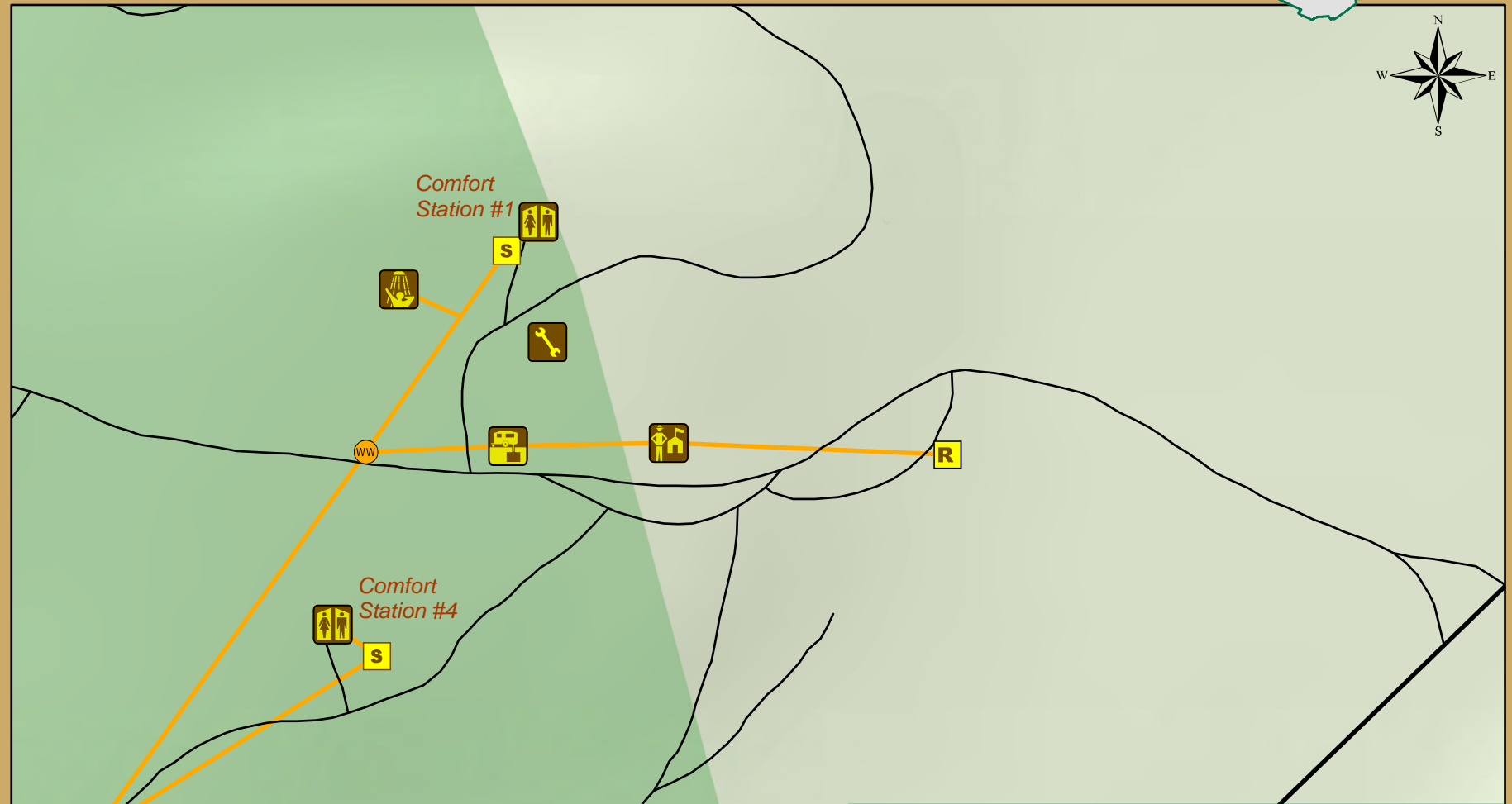
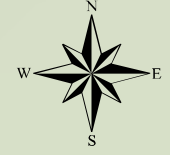
| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | TICKET BOOTH |  | TRAIL |
|  | MAIN ROAD |  | GOLDEN BEACH CAMPGROUND |
|  | ONE-WAY ROAD |  | BLUE RIDGE WILDERNESS |
|  | ROAD TO REMAIN UNPAVED |  | MOOSE RIVER PLAINS WILD FOREST |
|  | TWO-WAY ROAD |  | SARGENT PONDS WILD FOREST |

Golden Beach Campground

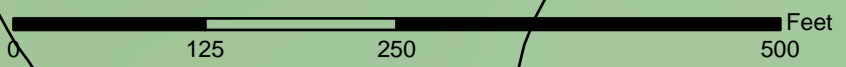
Exhibit # 5a - Sewer System Map



Adirondack Park



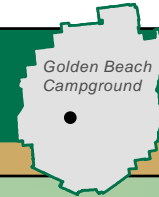
| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| | CARETAKER CABIN | | RECYCLE CENTER |
| | COMFORT STATION | | SEPTIC TANK |
| | GARAGE | | MANHOLE |
| | SHOWER BUILDING | | TRAILER DUMP STATION |
| | VAULT TOILET | | SEWER LINE |



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 5b - Sewer System Map



Golden Beach Campground
Adirondack Park









Raquette Lake

Comfort Station #3

Comfort Station #2

Comfort Station #5

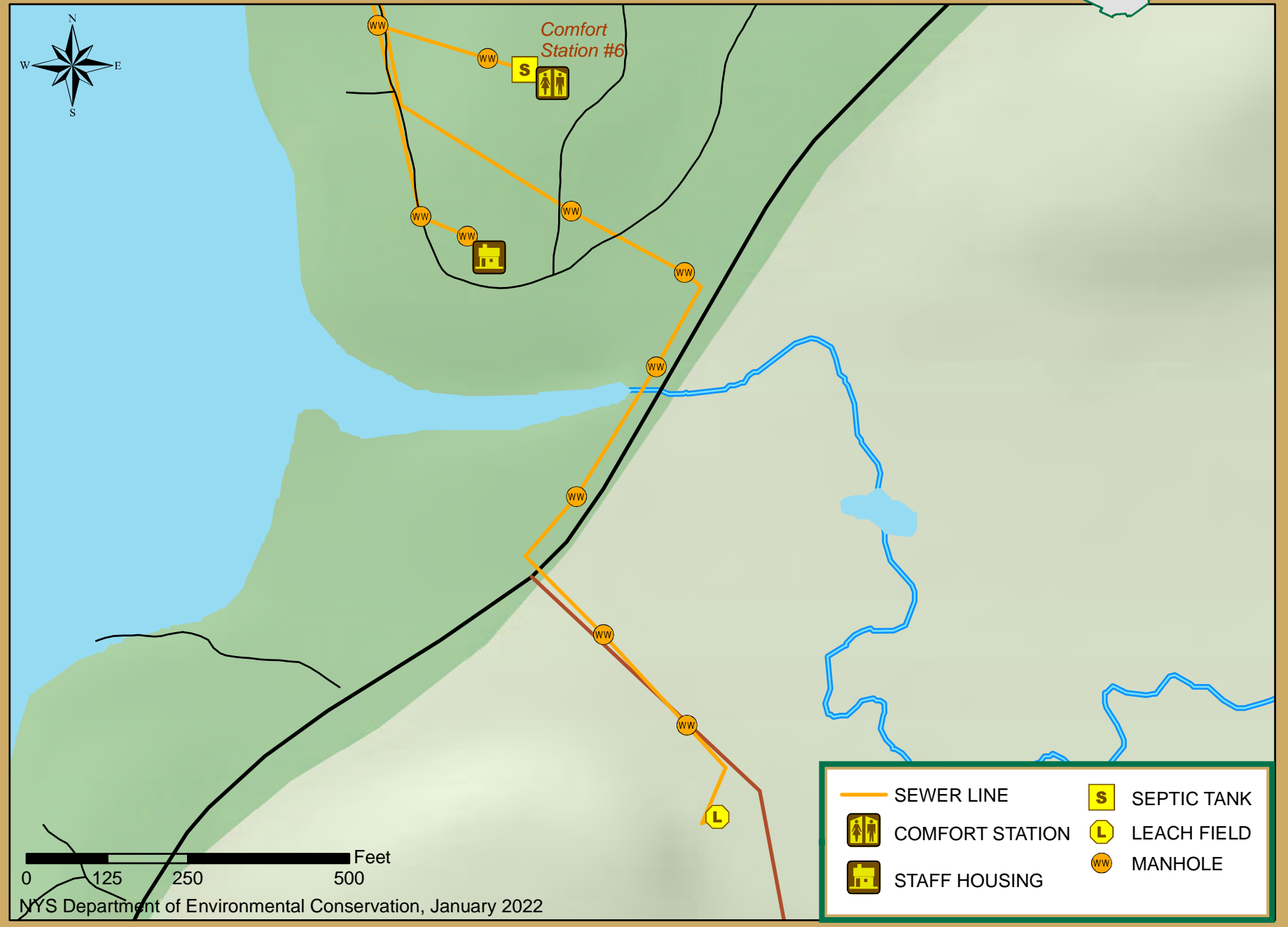
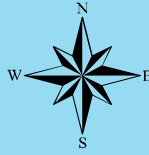
| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------|
|  | COMFORT STATION |  | SEPTIC TANK |
|  | LIFT STATION |  | STAFF HOUSING |
|  | MANHOLE |  | SEWER LINE |



NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 5c - Sewer System Map

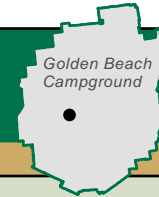


NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

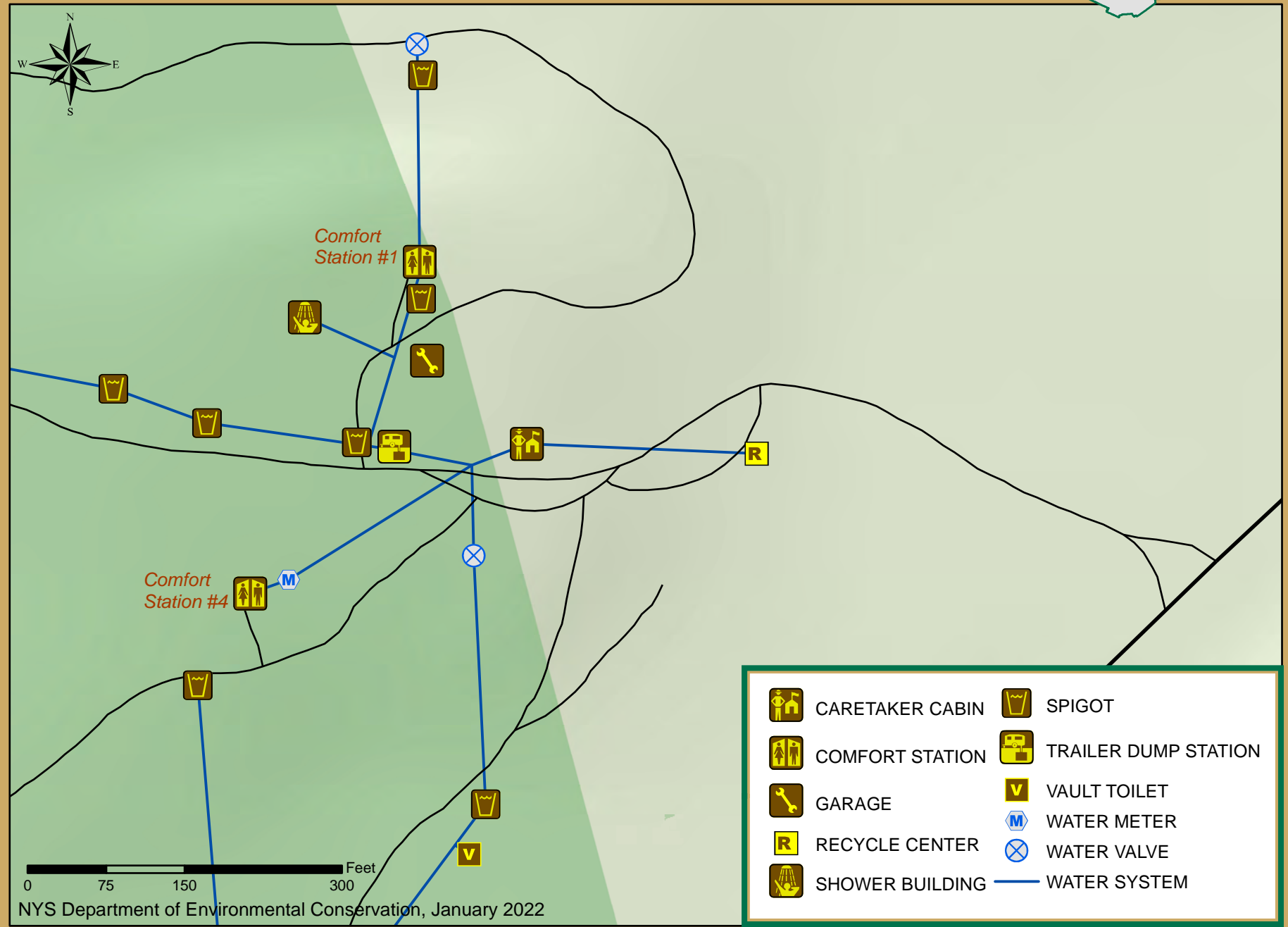
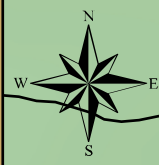
| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| SEWER LINE | SEPTIC TANK |
| COMFORT STATION | LEACH FIELD |
| STAFF HOUSING | MANHOLE |

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 6a - Water System Map



Adirondack Park



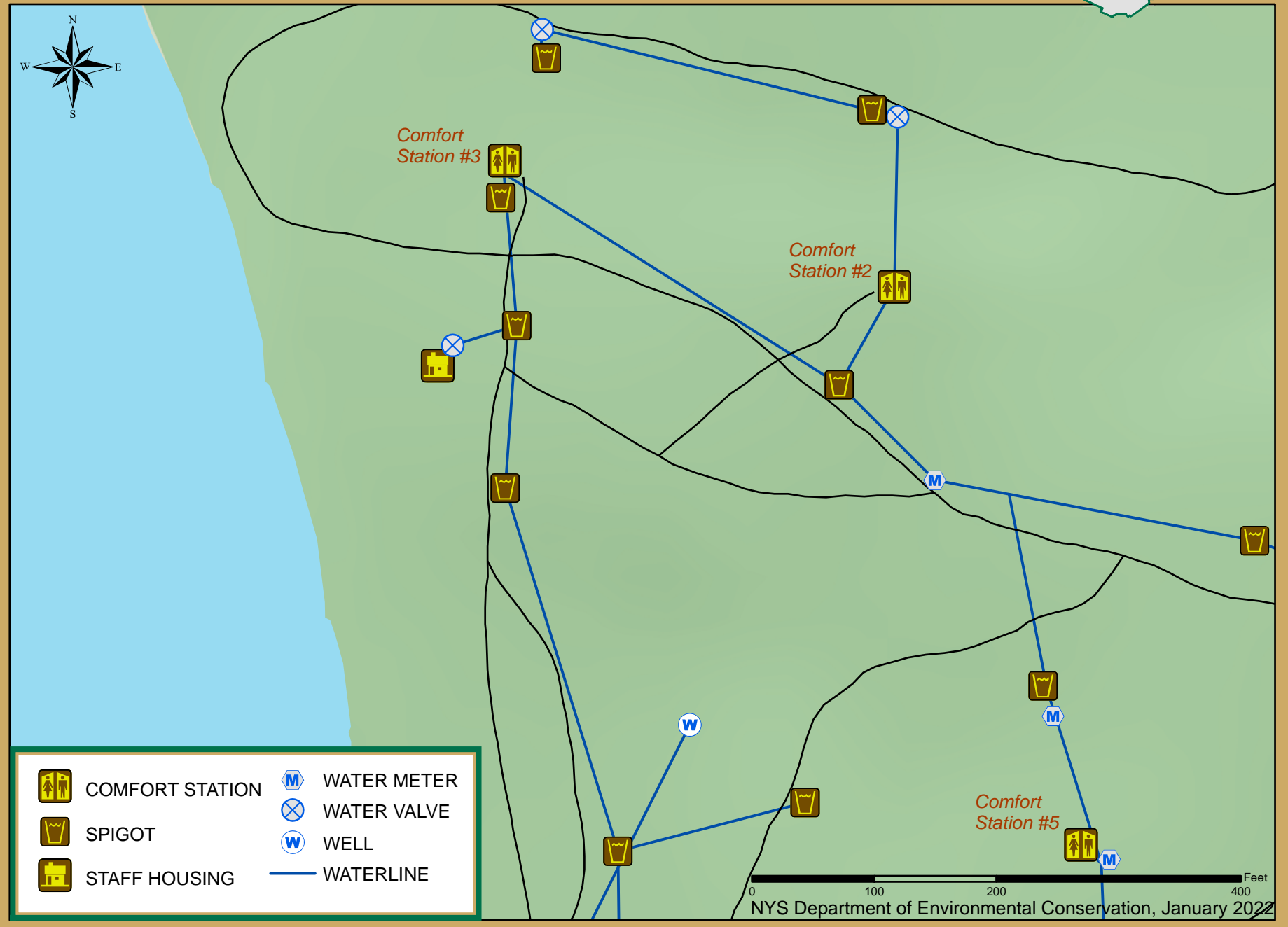
| | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| | CARETAKER CABIN | | SPIGOT |
| | COMFORT STATION | | TRAILER DUMP STATION |
| | GARAGE | | VAULT TOILET |
| | RECYCLE CENTER | | WATER METER |
| | SHOWER BUILDING | | WATER VALVE |
| | | | WATER SYSTEM |

0 75 150 300 Feet

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 6b - Water System Map

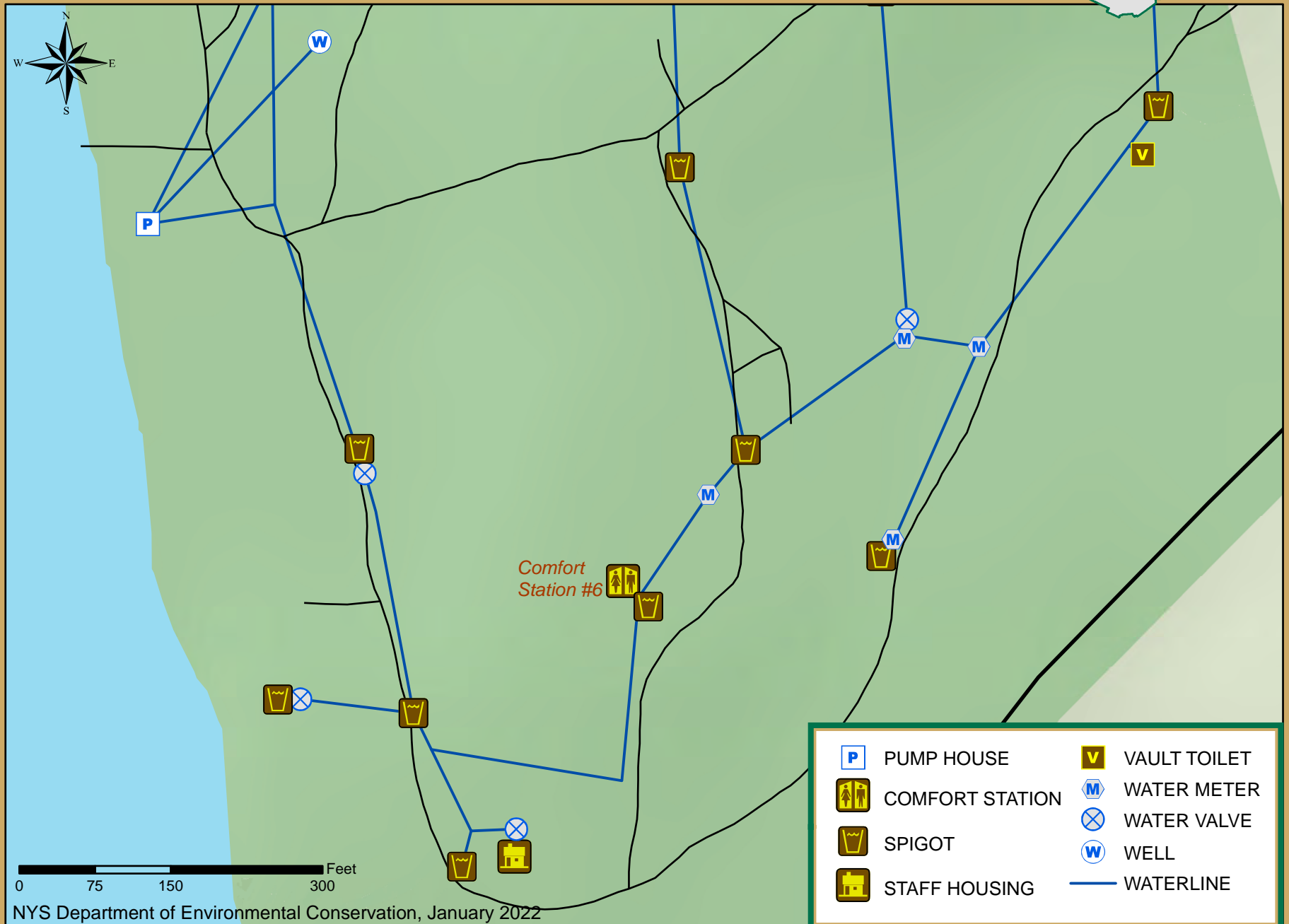


| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------|
|  | COMFORT STATION |  | WATER METER |
|  | SPIGOT |  | WATER VALVE |
|  | STAFF HOUSING |  | WELL |
| | |  | WATERLINE |

0 100 200 400 Feet
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 6c - Water System Map



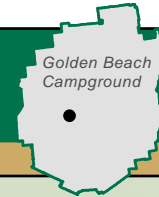
| | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--------------|
| P | PUMP HOUSE | V | VAULT TOILET |
| | COMFORT STATION | M | WATER METER |
| | SPIGOT | X | WATER VALVE |
| | STAFF HOUSING | W | WELL |
| | | | WATERLINE |

0 75 150 300 Feet

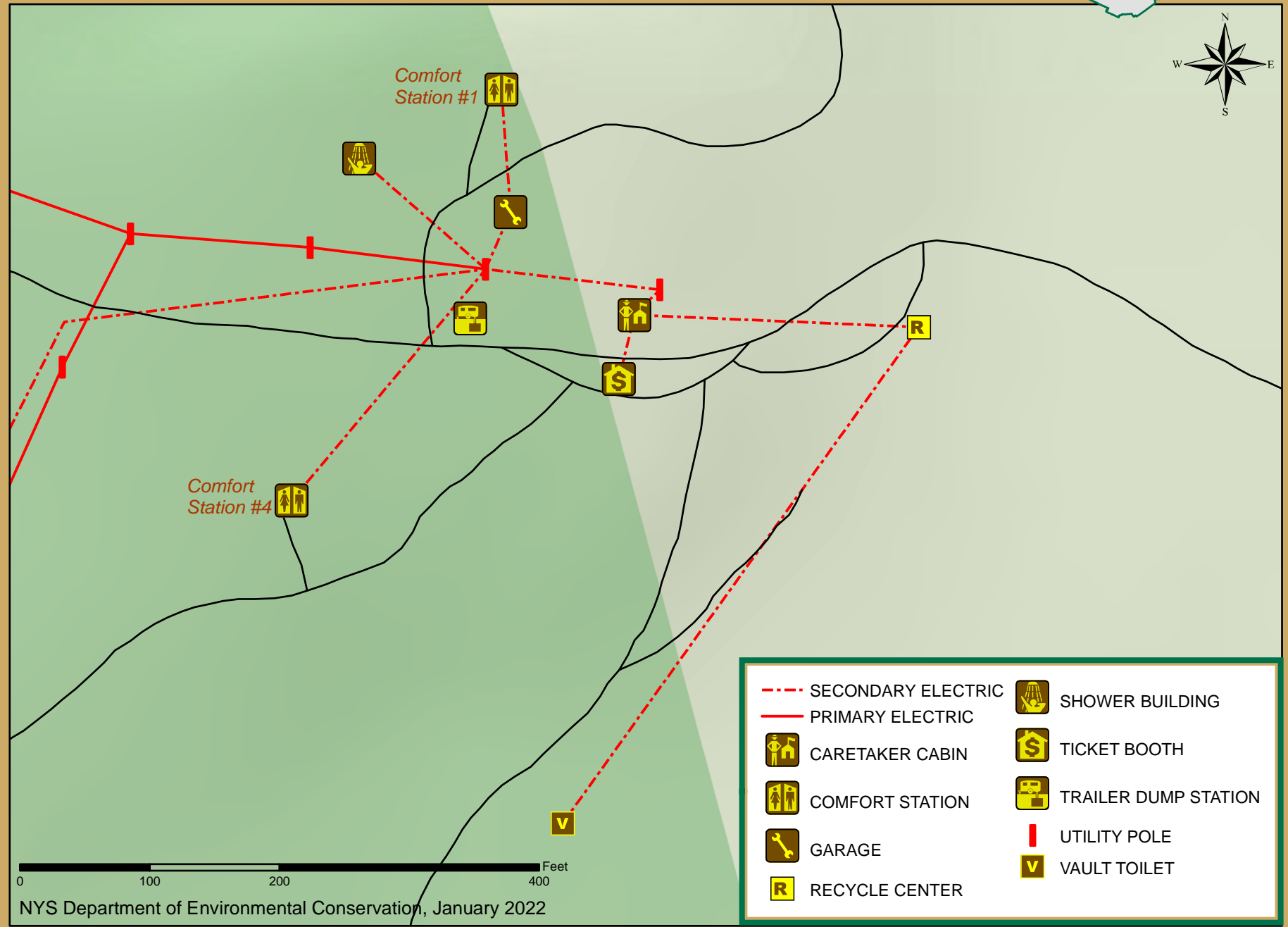
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 7a - Electric System Map














Adirondack
Park



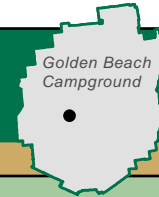
0 100 200 400 Feet

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

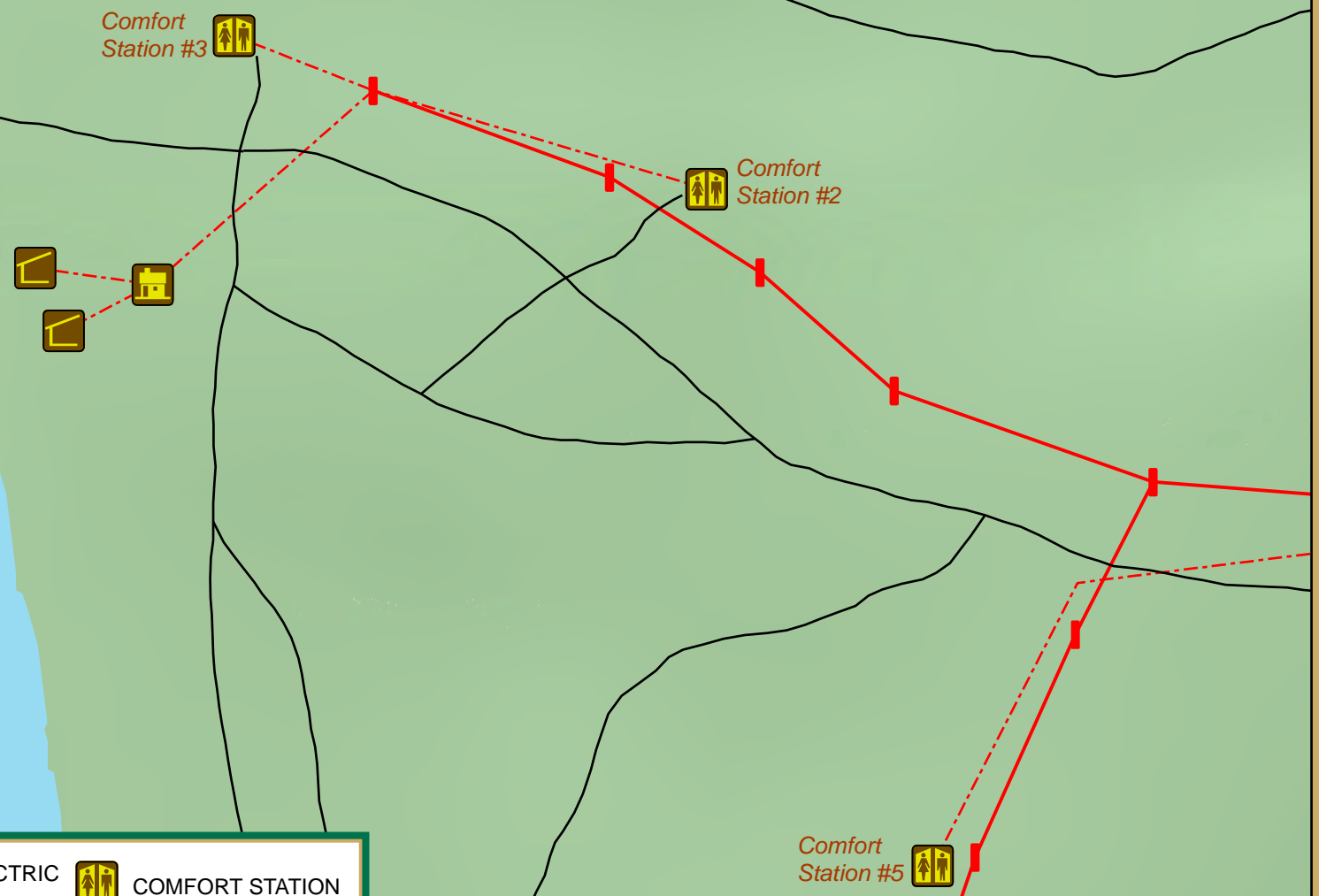
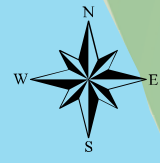
- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | SECONDARY ELECTRIC |  | SHOWER BUILDING |
|  | PRIMARY ELECTRIC |  | CARETAKER CABIN |
|  | COMFORT STATION |  | TICKET BOOTH |
|  | GARAGE |  | TRAILER DUMP STATION |
|  | RECYCLE CENTER |  | UTILITY POLE |
| | |  | VAULT TOILET |

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 7b - Electric System Map



Adirondack
Park



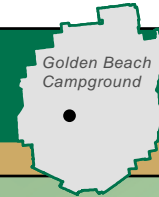
| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| SECONDARY ELECTRIC | COMFORT STATION |
| PRIMARY ELECTRIC | STAFF HOUSING |
| BATHHOUSE | UTILITY POLE |



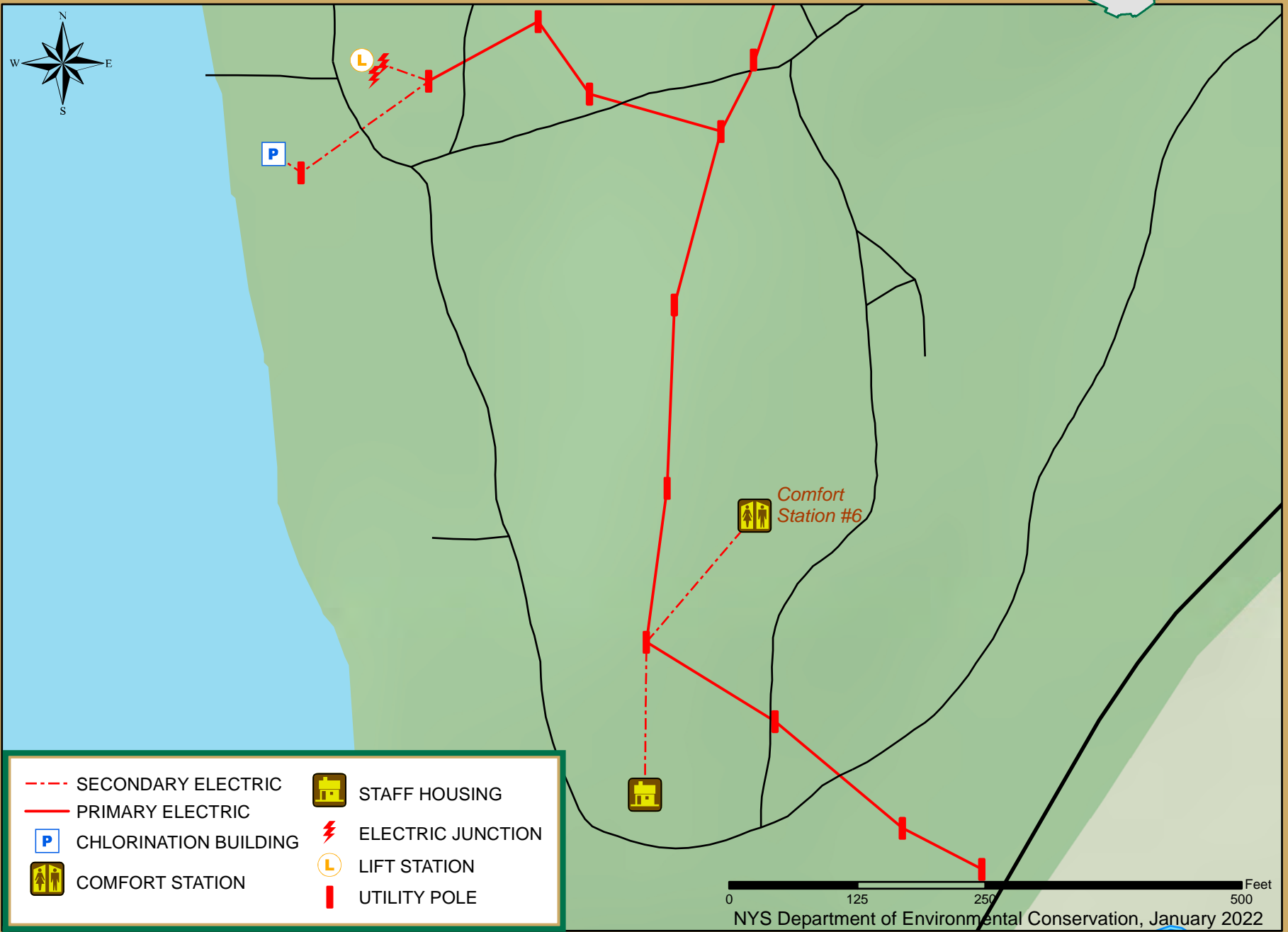
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 7c - Electric System Map



Adirondack
Park



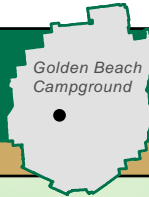
| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| SECONDARY ELECTRIC | STAFF HOUSING |
| PRIMARY ELECTRIC | ELECTRIC JUNCTION |
| CHLORINATION BUILDING | LIFT STATION |
| COMFORT STATION | UTILITY POLE |

0 125 250 500 Feet

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2022

Golden Beach Campground





Exhibit #8- Wetlands Map



Golden Beach
Campground
Adirondack
Park



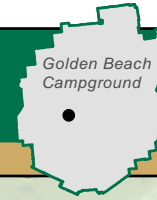
Raquette Lake

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
|  | Freshwater Emergent Wetland |
|  | Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |
|  | Lake |
|  | Riverine |

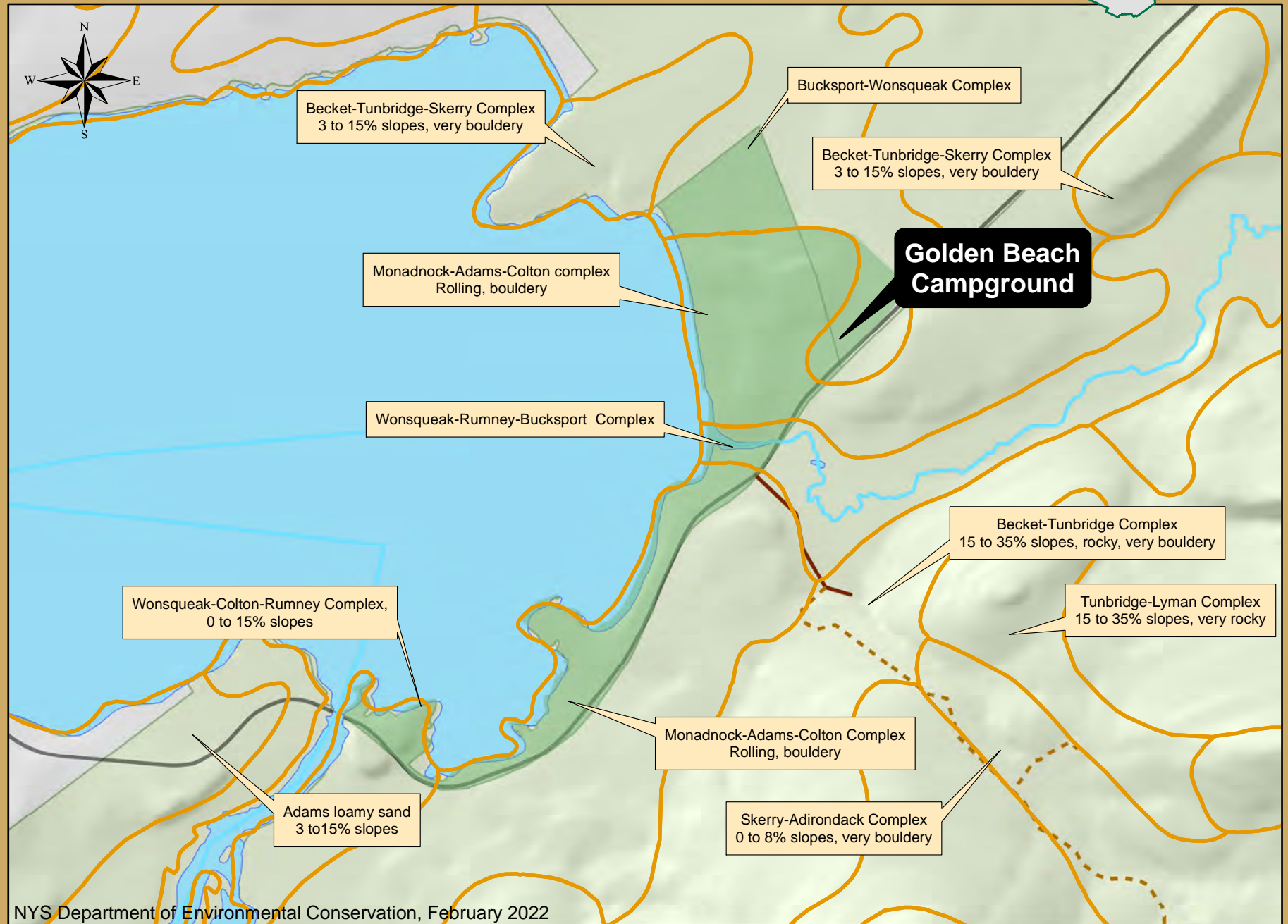
0 625 1,250 2,500 3,750 Feet
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, February 2022

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 9 - Soils Map

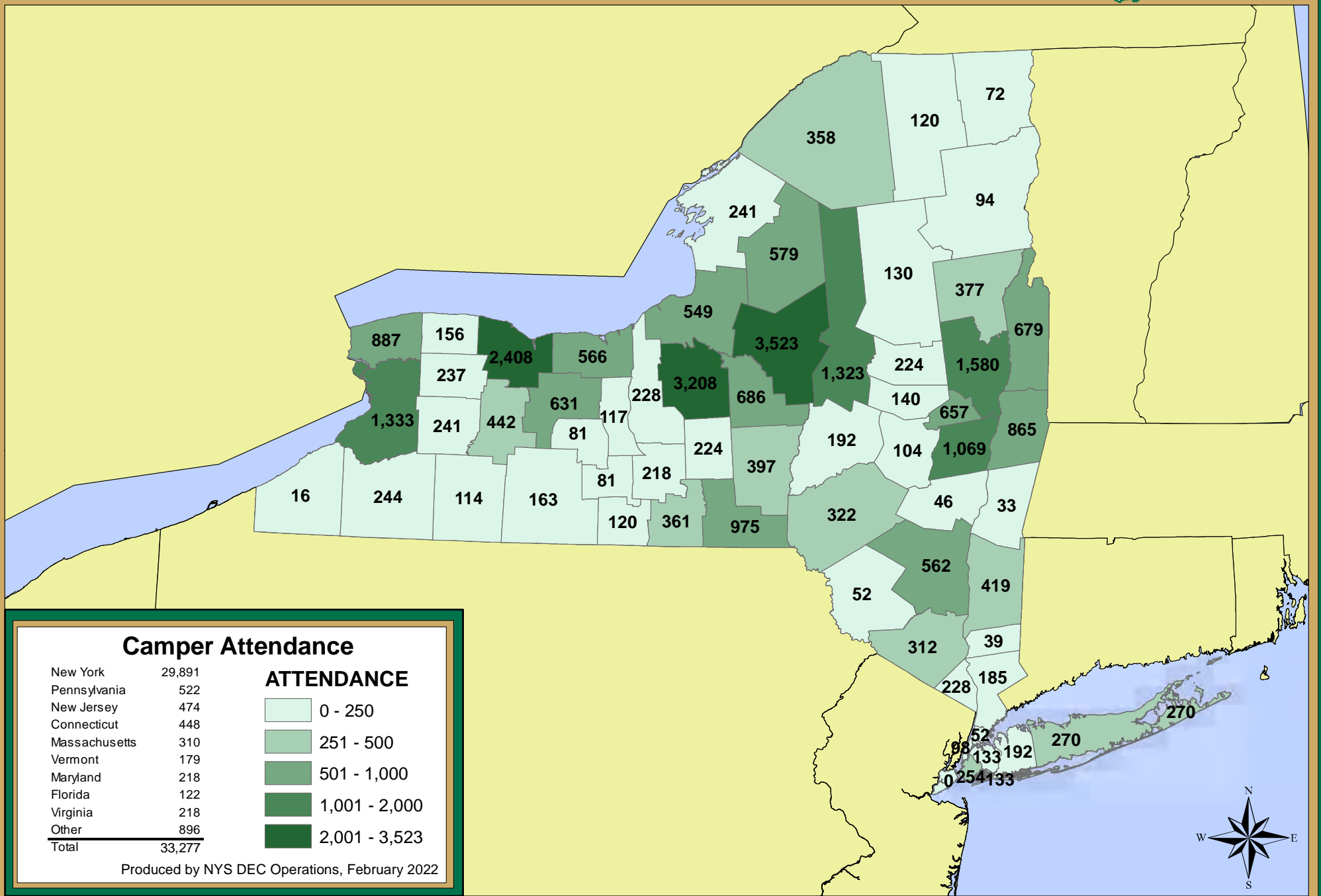


Adirondack
Park



Golden Beach Campground

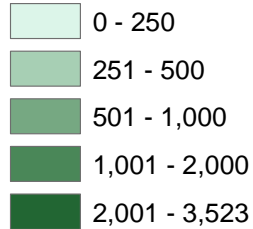
Exhibit #10 - 2021 Camper Demographics Map



Camper Attendance

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| New York | 29,891 |
| Pennsylvania | 522 |
| New Jersey | 474 |
| Connecticut | 448 |
| Massachusetts | 310 |
| Vermont | 179 |
| Maryland | 218 |
| Florida | 122 |
| Virginia | 218 |
| Other | 896 |
| Total | 33,277 |

ATTENDANCE



Produced by NYS DEC Operations, February 2022

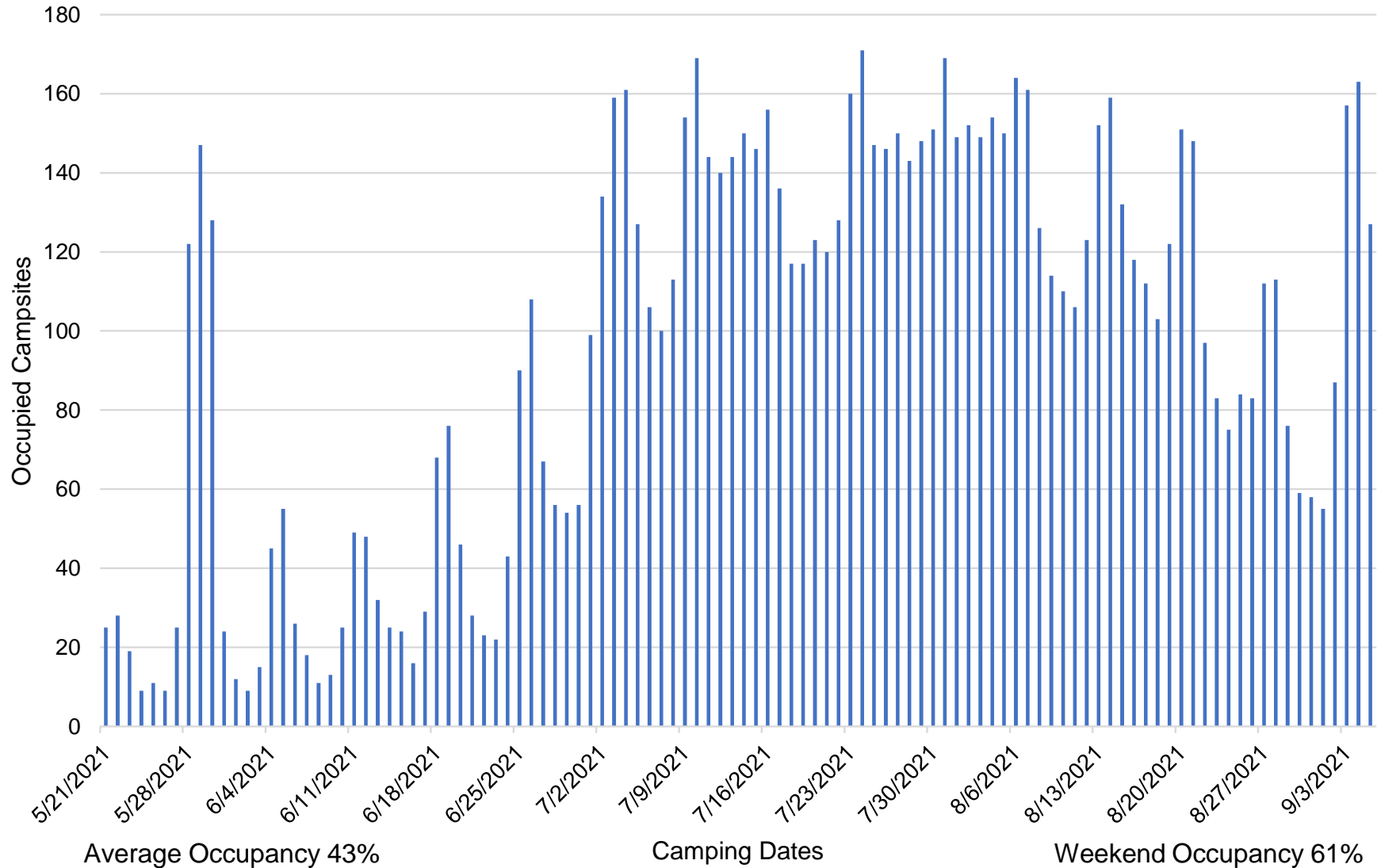


Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit #11 - 2021 Campground Occupancy Map



Golden Beach Campground Occupied Campsites 2021



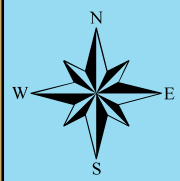
Average Occupancy 43%

Camping Dates

Weekend Occupancy 61%

Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 12 - Proposed Management Actions Map



Golden Beach Campground

Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.

Replace trailer dumping station.

Replace bathhouses with pavilion.

Replace trailered boat launch with hand launch.

Rehabilitate water system.

Replace former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.

Campsite Restoration.

Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with single building.

Replace ticket booth.

Replace overhead electric lines with underground system.

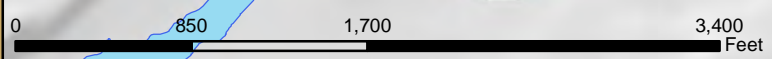
Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area.

Rehabilitate campground roads.

Tree and shrub plantings.

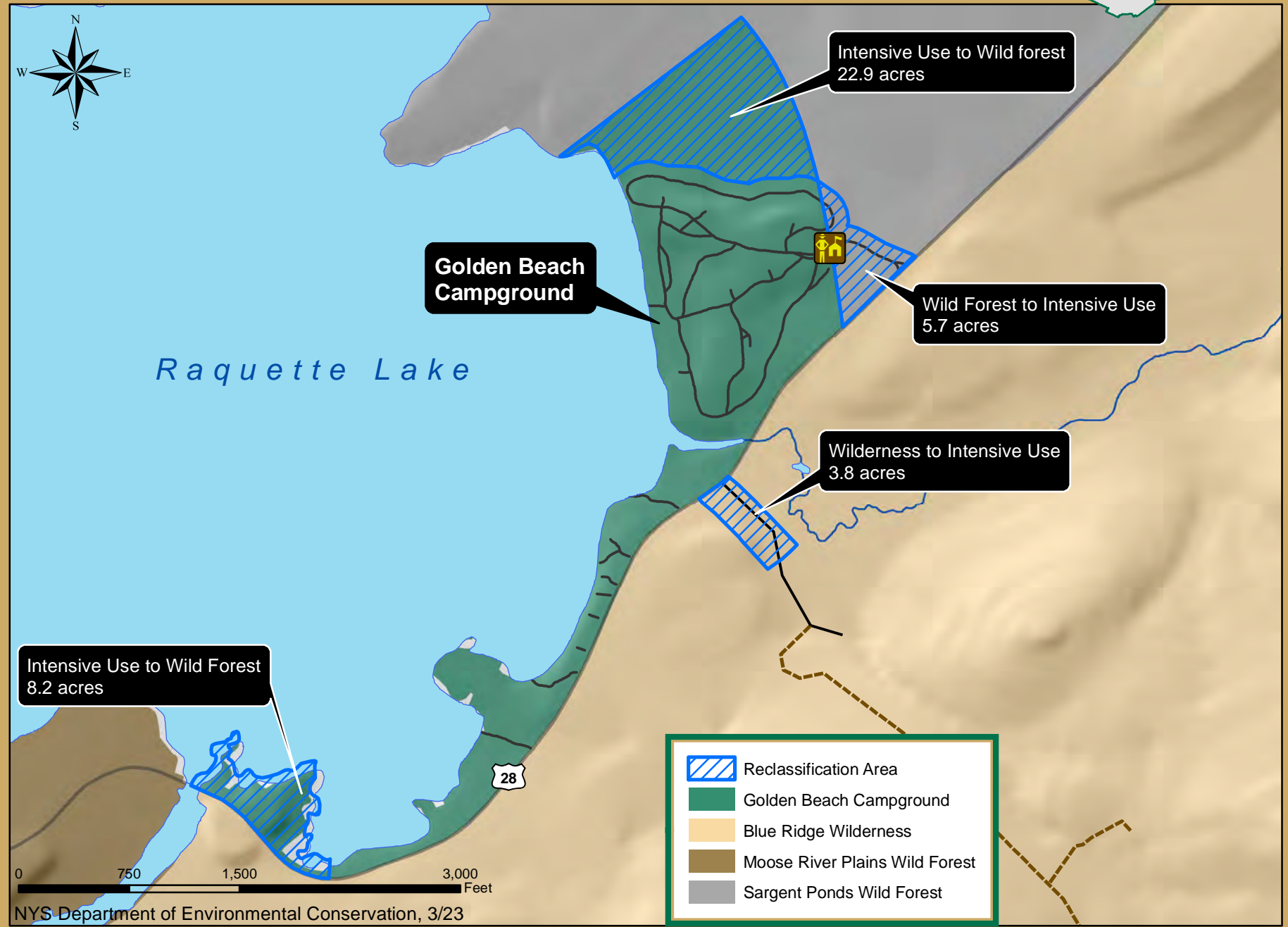
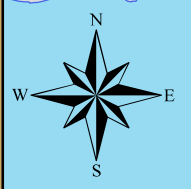
Rehabilitate campground sewage system.

Raquette Lake



Golden Beach Campground

Exhibit # 13 - Reclassification Lands Map



#14 Golden Beach Campground Photos





Entrance Sign



Ticket booth



Information Kiosk



Caretaker Cabin



Garage



Recycle Center



Trailer Dumping Station



Assistant Caretaker



Lifeguard Cabin



Pumphouse



Women's Bathhouse



Men's Bathhouse



Comfort Station #1



Comfort Station #2



Comfort Station #3



Comfort Station #4



Comfort Station #5



Comfort Station #6



Vault Toilet Building



Shower Building



Day-Use Area



Day-Use Area



Day-Use Area Parking



Beach

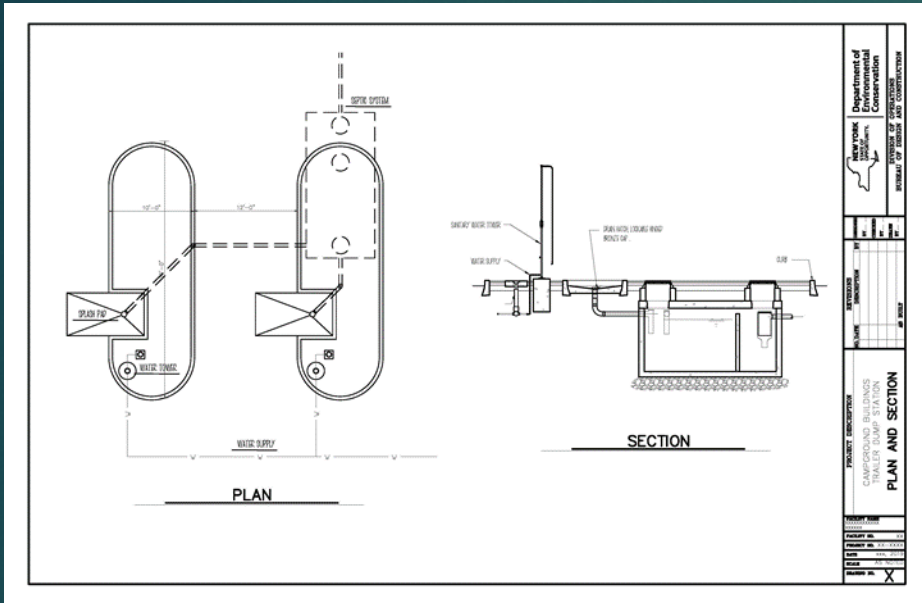


Boat Launch

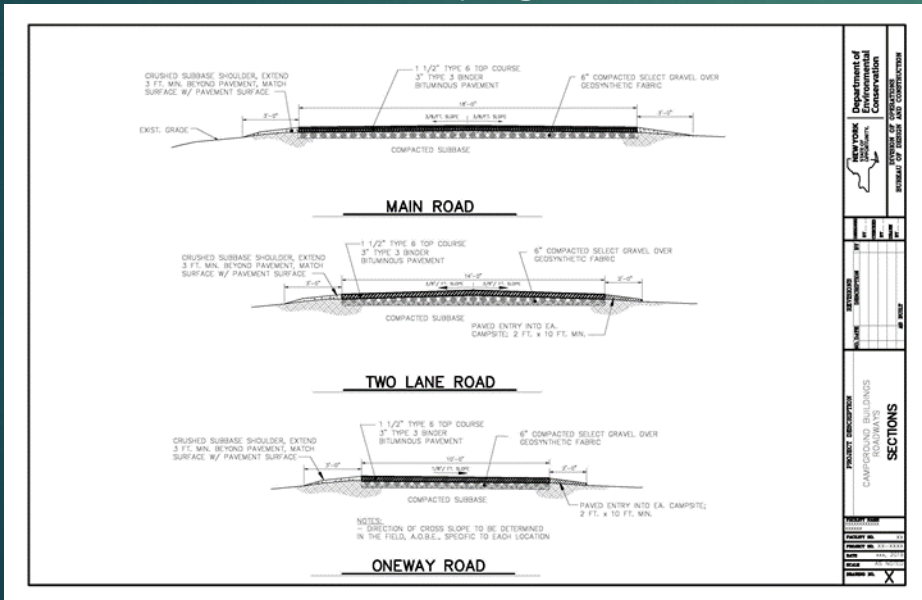


Boat Launch Area Parking

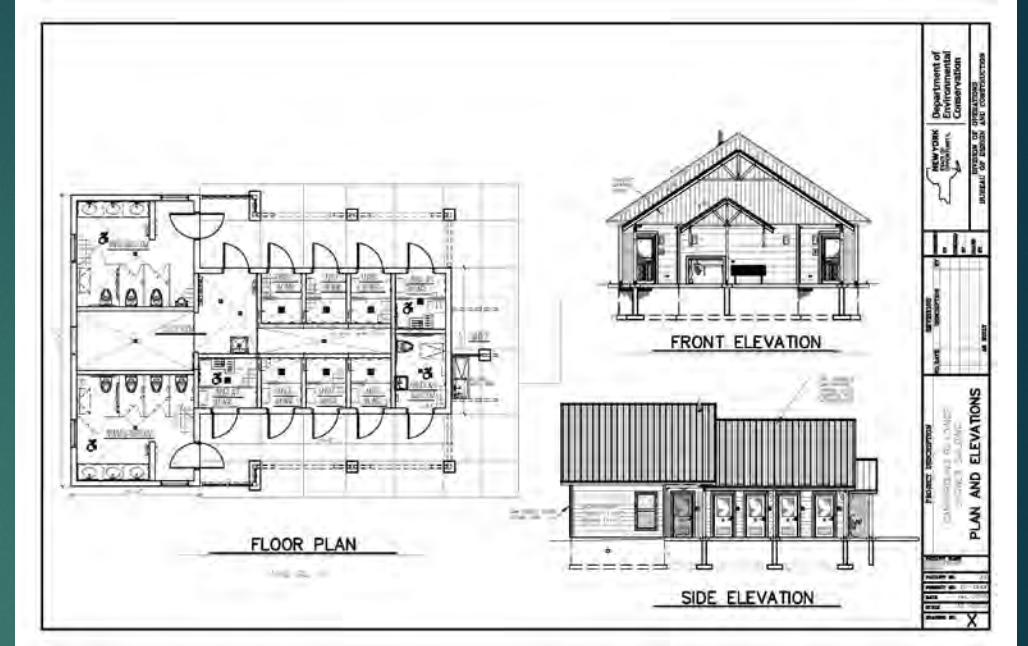
#15 Typical Drawings



Trailer Dumping Station



Road Section Profile



Comfort Station with Showers



