



## Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

BARBARA RICE  
Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Barbara Rice, Executive Director

FROM: Megan Phillips, Deputy Director for Planning

DATE: January 30, 2024

#### **RE: Staff Review of the 2024 Proposed Final Unit Management Plan for Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area**

State land staff have completed review of the proposed final draft of the 2024 unit management plan (UMP) for Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) describes two types of intensive use areas – campgrounds and day use areas. The Golden Beach facility offers overnight accommodations and day use amenities on the southeastern shore of the 5,935-acre Raquette Lake in Hamilton County. Proposed management actions in the UMP include replacement of existing structures, rehabilitation of campground grounds, replacement of the trailered boat launch with a hand launch, rehabilitation of the water system and sewage system, replacement of overhead utility lines with an underground system, campsite restoration, vegetative plantings, and re-classification actions.

Intensive use areas (IUAs) are described in the APSLMP as well-developed sites that are designed to withstand intensive forms of outdoor recreation by the public. The proposed construction activities within the unit management plan minimize extensive topographic alterations and limit vegetative clearing. They will be carried out in a manner that preserves the scenic, natural and open space resources of the area. There are emergent and forested/shrub wetlands present within the planning area. Any proposed activity that may alter or adversely affect these resources will be the subject of consultation with the Agency.

The proposed final UMP includes several re-classification proposals, including: 31.1 acres from intensive use to wild forest; 5.7 acres from wild forest to intensive use; and 3.8 acres from wilderness to intensive use. Page 42 of the State Land Master Plan reads that “any request for classification of a new acquisition or reclassification of existing lands from another land use category to an intensive use area will be accompanied by a draft unit management plan for the proposed intensive use area that will demonstrate how the applicable guidelines will be respected.” The proposed re-

classification actions to intensive use are described in detail on pages 25 and 26 of the proposed final UMP and are necessary to accurately delineate existing infrastructure associated with the campground facility and provide for their continued operation and maintenance.

The APSLMP also offers guidelines and criteria specific to campgrounds. The proposed final UMP is consistent with these guidelines, including the directive that “older, existing campgrounds will be rehabilitated and reconstructed as soon as possible to reflect modern site planning principles that will better blend the facilities with the environment and will comply with the provisions of this Master Plan” (page 43). Pages 21-27 of the proposed final UMP provide a thorough justification for how the proposed management actions comply with the aforementioned APSLMP requirements.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) and the Agency received ten written comment letters and 192 camper survey responses during its joint public comment period. Survey responses indicate that the public is generally in favor of the management actions proposed within the plan. Agency staff responded to comments pertaining to APSLMP conformance in Exhibit 17 of the proposed final plan. Several minor changes were made to the proposed final draft based on feedback from the public; these changes can be readily viewed in the “redline” version of the plan, which is posted as a part of the February board mailing. Specifically, the Department added language regarding the State’s commitments under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act under “Inventory of Issues and Constraints” on page 18.

It is the opinion of staff that the proposed final draft of the 2024 unit management plan for Golden Beach Campground and Day Use Area conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.