



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Rollins Pond Public Campground

Unit Management Plan

DRAFT
Proposed Final

Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County, New York

~~May 2023~~
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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Operations, 3rd Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233

Governor KATHY C. HOCUL

Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS

**ROLLINS POND 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.

~~The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)~~ 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 ~~518-457-18457~~-2500-~~2500~~.

SUMMARY
ROLLINS POND 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 Rollins Pond 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 ~~15~~16 management actions are being proposed:

~~Proposed Management Actions*~~

- ~~• Replace four comfort stations: #5, #15, #18, #22.~~
- ~~• Reconstruct roads and include bike lane.~~
- ~~• Replace caretaker and assistant caretaker cabins.~~
- ~~• Construct additional staff housing.~~
- ~~• Make improvements at the boat launch.~~
- ~~• Construct additional vehicle parking.~~
- ~~• Replace trailer dump station.~~
- ~~• Rehabilitate water system.~~
- ~~• Construct a playground near the shower building.~~
- ~~• Extend internet connection from Fish Creek Campground to Rollins Pond.~~
- ~~• Re-class area between campgrounds to intensive use area.~~
- ~~• Construct accessible trail.~~
- ~~• Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.~~
- ~~• Tree and shrub plantings.~~
- ~~• Campsite Restoration.~~
- ~~• Make seasonal camping permits available to campers.~~

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- Construct a playground near the shower building.
- Extend internet connection from Fish Creek Campground to Rollins Pond.
- Reclassify area between campgrounds to intensive use area.
- Construct accessible trail.
- Construct trail bridge to connect to Adirondack Rail Trail.
- Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.
- Tree and shrub plantings.
- Campsite restoration.

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. Public unrest, an adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. Current care, custody, and control practices preclude choosing these alternatives currently.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Rollins Pond Campground is located on the eastern shore of 442-acre Rollins Pond. Originally opened in 1955 to meet the increasing need for campsites at neighboring Fish Creek Pond Campground, it was expanded again in both 1958 and 1960 to meet public demand. Rollins Pond is now considered by many to be a quiet alternative to the larger Fish Creek Campground. The campground offers visitors private and wooded campsites along a natural sand shoreline with water access from many of the campsites. Camping equipment from tents to 40' RVs can be accommodated. Visitors can enjoy pristine rivers and ponds accessible to both motorized and non-motorized boats. There is a ~~25hp~~25 hp limit for motorized watercraft using the DEC boat launch on Rollins Pond. Additionally, boaters and anglers can access Whey Pond from the campground. There is no regulation prohibiting motorized boats on Whey Pond.

In addition to camping, Rollins Pond Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, bicycling, educational programs, hiking, and boating. Amenities include a boat launch, hot showers, flush toilets, trailer dumping station, firewood sales, and a volleyball area. Boat and canoe rentals are available at Rollins Pond ~~campground~~Campground.

Rollins Pond Campground and surrounding areas offer many hiking opportunities with two of the most popular trails being the Otter Hollow Loop and Floodwood Loop. ~~A beach with a designated swimming area is available at Rollins Pond when lifeguards are on duty.~~ The Wild Center (the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks) is 11 miles to the southwest in Tupper Lake. The Adirondack Park Visitors Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths is 18 miles north on NYS Route 30. Saranac Lake Village is located 15 miles to the east. Lake Placid and the Olympic venues are located 25 miles to the southeast.

1. Location

The campground is located on State Route 30, 12 miles northeast of Tupper Lake in the Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County. Campground access is through Fish Creek Pond Campground. All lands are a portion of Great Tract #1 of Macomb's Purchase. It includes a northerly portion of the west 1/2 of Township 23. In Township 20, it includes the easterly 2/3 of Lot 37, the southeasterly 1/4 of Lot 38, the southerly 1/4 of Lot 36, the southerly 1/3 of Lot 25 and the southwesterly corner of Lot 24.

I. INTRODUCTION

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. In 1926, 20 campsites, sanitary facilities and a well were constructed at Fish Creek Ponds in Franklin County. The next year the Conservation Department doubled the size of the camping area and doubled it again in 1928. Although continually expanding the campground, it proved difficult to keep up with the demand for campsites. During the Great Depression, there were few funds available for recreational development. This was overcome by the creation of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps. On June 3, 1933, CCC Camp #8 was established at Fish Creek Pond. The main purpose of this camp was the extension of Fish Creek Pond Campsite and the CCC camp operated until October 26, 1935. The total work accomplished by the workers for the NYS Conservation Department was valued at \$9,000,000 in 1935 dollars.

With funds provided by the Campsite Capital Construction Program, Rollins Pond Campground was first opened in 1951 to meet the ever-increasing demand for campsites at Fish Creek Pond Campground. Original construction of thirty-five campsites was completed in 1955. The campground was expanded to 200 campsites by the 1956 camping season. In 1951, there were 2,808 campers registered at the campground and by 1955, a total of 16,144 campers used the 200 sites. Today, Rollins Pond ~~campground~~Campground is one of the largest and most popular campgrounds operated by DEC in terms of the number of campsites, annual visitation, and annual revenue collected. This facility is a key 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.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Year	Rollins Pond Campground Improvements
1951	Campground opened to meet demand for sites at Fish Creek Campground.
1955	Campground original construction plan completed with 35 campsites.
1956	Campground increased from 35 sites to 200 sites.
1957	Existing comfort stations #14 and #16 constructed.
1958	Additional 35 campsites constructed.
1960	Campground expanded again with an additional 65 campsites. Existing pump house #3 and garage constructed. Existing comfort stations #3, #5, and #17 constructed.
1962	Existing comfort stations #4, #10, and #23 constructed.
1964	Existing comfort stations #9 and #18 constructed.
1965	Existing comfort station #20 constructed.
1966	Existing comfort station #22 constructed.
1968	Existing comfort station #24 constructed.
1973	Existing caretaker's cabin constructed. Existing pump house #1 constructed.
1979	Old pump house #2 constructed.
1982	Existing comfort station #12 constructed.
1988	Existing entrance ticket booth constructed.
1993	Existing recycle center constructed.
1995	Central shower building constructed.
1996	New pumphouse #2 constructed.
2008	Electric System replacement project completed.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
286 campsites	N/A
286 picnic tables	
286 fireplaces	
56 water spigots	

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Design capacity – 1,716 persons (286 x 6/site)

There is no Day-Use Area at Rollins Pond. Campers may use day-use facilities and the swimming beach at adjoining Fish Creek Pond Campground.

2. Roads and Parking Areas

The campground has a total of 4.2 miles of two-way interior roads with an average width of 14 to 20 feet wide. All roads are paved and in poor condition. Paved parking lots are located at the boat launch, recycling center, and shower building. There is an

Parking Lot Location	Approximate Capacity
Boat Launch	10 cars/trailer units
Recycle Center	5 cars
Shower Building	42 cars
Whey Pond (unpaved)	10-15 cars/trailer units

unpaved parking lot available for campers and day users at Whey Pond. Department of Transportation “STOP and YIELD” signs are placed at intersections. Additionally, there are numerous unpaved informal pull-offs along the campground roads.

3. Buildings

Bldg. #	Bldg. Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq. ft	Condition	Year Built
(002)	Caretaker Cabin	Near entrance	3,036	Fair	1973
(003)	Comfort Station #3	Near campsite A25	288	Poor	1960
(004)	Comfort Station #4	Near campsite A16	288	Poor	1962
(005)	Comfort Station #5	Near campsite A7	288	Poor	1960
(006)	Pumphouse #1	Near Assistant Caretaker Cabin	168	Poor	1973
(007)	Garage	Near Boat Launch	612	Fair	1960
(008)	Assistant Caretaker Cabin	Near Boat Launch	3,182	Poor	1950
(009)	Comfort station #9	Near campsite #5	320	Fair	1964
(010)	Comfort station #10	Near campsite #16	320	Poor	1962
(011)	Old Pumphouse #2	Near campsite #26	196	Poor	1979
(012)	Comfort station #12	Near campsite #50	440	Poor	1982
(014)	Comfort station #14	Near campsite #84	288	Poor	1957
(016)	Comfort station #16	Near campsite #122	432	Poor	1957
(017)	Comfort station #17	Near campsite #158	288	Poor	1960
(018)	Comfort station #18	Near campsite #185	360	Poor	1964

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

(019)	Comfort Station #19	Near campsite #196	360	Poor	1968
(020)	Comfort Station #20	Near campsite #206	360	Poor	1965
(021)	Pumphouse #3	Near campsite #220	360	Poor	1960
(022)	Comfort station #22	Near campsite #219	360	Poor	1966
(023)	Comfort station #23	Near campsite #240	360	Poor	1962
(024)	Comfort station #24	Near campsite #256	360	Poor	1968
(025)	Recycling Center	Near shower building	320	Poor	1993
(026)	Ticket Booth	Rollins Pond entrance road	132	Poor	1988
(027)	Shower Building	Near campsite #53	2,947	Poor	1995
(028)	New Pumphouse #2	Near campsite #96	52	Good	1996

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted November 2018.

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 three 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 Old Dump Road. A barrier is used at the Old Sand Pit Road. Movable, well-marked barriers are at various locations in the campground during partial or temporary closure of the facility. All barriers are opened or 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 absorption beds or seepage pits. Effluent from comfort station #3 is pumped by a lift station to a combined seepage pit also utilized by comfort station #4. Effluent from comfort station #9 is pumped by a lift station to a pressure dosed absorption bed. Two lift stations and 1700 feet of pressurized sewer line are utilized as part of this system.

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

A ~~NYS-DEC~~ NYSDEC SPDES permit #NY-0239461 was issued in February 1997. The application covers the systems noted below.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Outfall Number	Building Type/Number	Toilets (T), Sinks (S) Showers (SH)	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/Seepage Pits	Construction Date
001	Caretaker Cabin (2)	1T, 2S, 1 SH	1,000	1-15' x 22' AB	1995
002	Dumping station	n/a	4,000	3-15' x 60' AB	1995
003	Comfort station (3)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	1,500	1-15' x 50' AB	1995
004	Comfort station (4)	M-2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	1,500	1-15' x 45' AB	1995
005	Comfort station (5)	M-1T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	1,500	1-15' x 45' AB	1995
006	Assistant Caretaker Cabin (8)	1T,2S,1SH	1,000	1-10' x 27' AB	1995
007	Comfort station (9)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	1,500	1-15' x 45' AB	1995
008	Comfort station (10)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	2-15' x 34' AB	1995
009	Comfort station (12)	M-3T,1U,2S W-4T,2S	2-1,000	4-10' x 5' x4' SP	1985
010	Shower Building (27)	M-2T,1U,6S,12SH W-3T,6S,12SH	3,000 4,000	Black water Grey water 10-15' x 68' AB	1995
011	Vault Toilet (14)	n/a		Outfall Closed	1957
012	Vault Toilet (15)	n/a		Outfall Closed, Building demolished 2019	1953
013	Comfort station (16)	M-4T,1U,2S W-5T,2S	3,000	2-15' x 56' AB	1995
014	Comfort station (17)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	3,000	2-15' x 56' AB	1995
015	Comfort station (18)	M-3T,1U,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	2-15' x 36' AB	1995
016	Comfort station (19)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	2-15' x 32' AB	1995
017	Comfort station (20)	M-3T,1S W-3T,1S	1,500	1-15' x 45' AB	1995
018	Comfort station (22)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	2-15' x 35' AB	1995
019	Comfort station (23)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	2-15' x 36' AB	1995
020	Comfort station (24)	M-4T,1S W-4T,1S	2,000	2-15' x 36' AB	1995
021	Recycling Center (25)	n/a	2,000	1-15' x 75' AB	1992

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 40 tons. Cash deposit/returnable containers are collected by a local non-profit organization. Solid waste and recyclables are taken to the Franklin County Transfer Station in Lake Clear. A single source recycling program is operated on contract with Casella Waste Management.

This campground has one staffed centralized refuse/recycling facility. A brochure is distributed to instruct campers of its availability and required use. The recycling center is tied into the water system and has its own sewage system.

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

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

7. Telephone

The main phone number for the campground is (518) 891-3239, 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

Since 2009, the campground has underground primary and secondary electrical distribution. National Grid Power Corporation provides electricity to the campground's primary lines. Average annual electrical consumption is 60,000 kwh at a cost of \$8,400. One entrance meter serves both this facility and the Fish Creek Pond Campground. A separate meter should be installed for Rollins Pond Campground.

The electric lines within the campground total 5.2 miles and are owned by ~~the~~ ~~Department-DEC~~. As part of the Dept's regular maintenance, the right-of-way receives annual hazardous tree removal and brushing. (See Exhibit #7a-d.)

10. Potable Water System

Three water systems service the campground.

System #1 supplies the Caretaker and Assistant Caretaker cabins, the trailer dumping station, the A-section, and sites 1-25 and utilizes a pumphouse was built in 1973. The water from this well is chlorinated via a flow-based chlorination pump and a 2,100-gallon water storage tank is connected to this system.

System #2 supplies water for sites 26 to 182, the shower building and recycling center. In 1994, a well was drilled that is 300' deep with a casing depth to 95 feet and has a yield of 27 gpm. The water from this well is chlorinated via a flow-based chlorination pump to a storage tank with a total capacity of 19,600 gallons.

System #3 supplies water to sites 183 to 258 and utilizes a pumphouse built in 1960. The well has a 15 feet depth, a yield capacity of 15 gpm and a 30 gpm (5hp) pump capacity. The water from this well is chlorinated via a flow-based chlorination pump.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Water is distributed to various buildings and 56 water spigots throughout the campground via 4.3 miles of buried waterlines. (See Exhibit #6a-d)

11. Fuel Systems

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

Product Type	Tank Size Gal/Lb	Location	Annual Use
Fuel Oil	2,000 gal	Shower building	2700 2,700 gal

12. Trails

Many hiking trails begin right from the campground, with an abundance of other hiking possibilities nearby. The Otter Hollow trailhead is located near comfort station #24 and provides access to a network of hiking trails. The trail connects across from site 104 in Fish Creek Pond campground, with a total distance of 4.2 miles between trailheads. This trail intersects with the 8.5-mile Floodwood Pond Loop, a trail with trailheads in the Fish Creek Pond Campground and on Floodwood Road. Both trails are relatively flat with some ascents and descents.

Both the Saranac Lake Wild Forest UMP and the Remsen Lake Placid Travel Corridor UMP reference plans to develop a Lake Tupper to Lake Placid trail, which would connect to trails in the Rollins Pond intensive use area and potentially increase visitation. There is no designated parking at the Otter Hollow trailhead and DEC would reserve the right to construct an entrance booth which ~~will~~would be staffed to ensure users ~~are paying~~register and pay the required fee, the facility complies with the required design capacities and the attendance reported is accurate. In addition, an adjacent parking lot would be constructed to meet current design and accessibility standards.

Biking is another popular activity at the campground. Bikers can ride the campground roads as well as the bike path in Fish Creek Pond Campground.

13. Boating

A man-made facility which enhances fishing and other water related recreational opportunities at the Rollins Pond Campground are the boat launching sites on both Rollins Pond and Whey Pond. The boat launch sites are important as they provide the only public access to the lakes. The Rollins Pond site is listed in the New York State Directory of State Access and Boat Launching Areas as consisting of a hard surface launching ramp and parking for 10 car and trailer units. There is a 25 hp limit for motorized boats launching from the public boat launch on Rollins Pond. Boat and canoe rentals are available at the

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

~~Rollins Pond campground facility.~~ Private camps are on the opposite shore of Rollins Pond and are not subject to the motorized boat limits.

Whey Pond is a long, narrow body of water with a surface area of 107.7 acres and a maximum depth of 20 feet. The Whey Pond site has an unpaved parking area and a footpath to accommodate hand launching car-top boats. Although not regulated, there is no access for motorized boats on Whey Pond.

The Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program has conducted studies on 103 lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park including Rollins Pond. Data collected in 2018 indicates that there is no presence of invasive species in the pond.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor 3
2	Conservation Security Worker
1	Maintenance Assistant
1	Park and Recreation Aide 6
2	Park and Recreation Aide 4
8	Park and Recreation Aide 3

2. Fee Schedule

Daily Fees	
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
Firewood - Bag	\$11.00

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 2019, 5 permits were issued for camper rentals, boat rentals, coffee, ice cream, ice and firewood. A canoe/boat livery is also operated at the boat launch site in the campground. As stated in the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan, [and 6 NYCRR](#)

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Part 190-~~Title 6NYCRR~~, DEC may elect to permit seasonal camping at Rollins Pond. ~~The Department~~DEC₄ will explore this as a proposed management action.

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4. Off-season Use

Department trucks plow roads to the Fish Creek Pond Campground boat launch and day use area during the winter months and barriers in Rollins Pond are opened to accommodate snowmobiling, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing.

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. 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~~Day, a volunteer cleanup activity. Additionally, in an effort to restore the former Nature Recreation program, ~~DEC plans to hire additional~~ Environmental Educators ~~who 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~~However, this effort will be dependent on ~~funding being available~~availability of funds.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The elevation of Rollins Pond is 1,585'. Campsites rise moderately from the lakeshore to a maximum elevation of 1,670'. (See Exhibit #2.)

b. Water

The Intensive Use Area encompasses the eastern shore of Rollins Pond and borders the Northwestern shore of Whey Pond. Rollins Pond is 442 acres in size with a maximum depth of 77 feet. Whey Pond has a surface area of 107.7 acres in size with a maximum depth of 20 feet. There

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

are campsites located along the eastern shore of Rollins Pond. Private camps line the remaining shoreline.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A total of 13 acres of palustrine wetland has been identified in several locations within the campground. In the Adirondacks, these palustrine wetlands are dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent vegetation, emergent mosses or lichens. ~~These~~The wetlands are generally defined by their low gradient or flow and where the substrate is mud or sand.

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 primarily of Hermon-Becket, a glacial till soil that occupies areas of steep to moderately steep relief, and Adams-Colton, a glacial outwash soil. 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~~the soils are susceptible to water and wind erosion, they are well suited for forest. 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 #10.)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are six different forest types present in the campground. Vegetation in the immediate campsite areas 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. In areas of northern hardwoods, immature hardwoods or over-mature pioneer species are evident. There are wooded wetland areas as noted above in section 1c. (See ~~exhibit~~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. A 3,400-acre upland terrestrial community commonly referred to as a balsam flat has been identified in the vicinity of Deer Pond Marsh, of which a portion

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

extends into Rollins Pond ~~campground~~[Campground](#). This area is described as a very large, well recovered, second growth forest with possible old growth patches. Outside of existing infrastructure there are few disturbances other than from historical logging. The flats are in a moderately large, forested landscape. (See exhibit #11).

c. Wildlife

Wildlife communities found in and around Rollins Pond Campground reflect those species commonly associated with northern hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forests that are transitional to the boreal forests of higher latitudes. The bordering Saranac Lakes Wild Forest contains significant lowland boreal forest which represents 10% of all such forests within the Forest Preserve. 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. For a more complete description of wildlife species and habitats, refer to the Saranac Lake Wild Forest ~~unit management plan~~[Unit Management Plan](#).

d. Fisheries

Rollins Pond is a 442-acre waterbody that eventually drains into Fish Creek Ponds via a winding route that includes Floodwood and Little Square Ponds. Fish species present include smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, northern pike, lake trout, Atlantic salmon, and pumpkinseed.

Whey Pond is a 108-acre waterbody east of Rollins Pond, with access from the campground. Fish species present include brown bullhead, rainbow trout, and brook trout.

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

[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

The management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by the GUMP/EIS and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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 had been trending down but has seen a post pandemic bump. 65% of all campers are visiting from New York State, 18% from the Canadian provinces and the remaining 17% from all other states and countries.

Rollins Pond Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2022	57,054	423	57,477
2021	58,398	368	58,766
2020	44,697	87	44,784
2019	49,592	376	49,968
2018	53,654	418	54,072
<i>Avg</i>	<i>52,679</i>	<i>334</i>	<i>53,013</i>

Campers stay an average of 4.2 nights and 92% of campers arrive after making a reservation. Camping attendance at this facility is down approximately 15% from levels reported 20 years ago. Day Use attendance at this facility had been trending down but like camping has seen a post pandemic bump. Day use attendance totals are about 50% those reported 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing. Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits required or issued for off-season use, nor staff on site to monitor use. (See Exhibit #12.)

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 follow the same trends reported above in the attendance trends.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Rollins Pond				
Year	Camping	Day Use	Firewood	Total
2022	\$348,000	\$2,668	\$15,845	\$366,513
2021	\$415,225	\$2,426	\$4,930	\$422,581
2020	\$301,255	\$432	\$0	\$301,687
2019	\$362,439	\$2,124	\$21,126	\$385,689
2018	\$398,685	\$1,764	\$14,287	\$414,736
Avg	\$365,120	\$1,882	\$11,237	\$378,239

Operating costs for Rollins Pond average \$215,000 annually.

2. Facility Capacity and Visitor Use Management Direction

The laws and policies summarized above in paragraphs A-E provide the basis for how the Rollins Pond facility is managed. “Desired Conditions” as outlined in the Visitor Use Management Framework are meant to be a distillation of how these relevant laws and policies will shape the character of the facility with a focus on the unique and special resources found within a specific management area or with a managed use. The following Desired Conditions Statement is provided for the Rollins Pond Management Unit.

Rollins Pond Campground will offer limited-service rustic drive-in camping sites close to Rollins Pond, the Adirondack Rail Trail, and a wide variety of other recreation and cultural resources found in adjacent communities and the Forest Preserve. Campers and day use visitors of all ages and abilities will have direct access to fishing, biking, paddling and nature observation opportunities that are simultaneously safe for participants and immersive in the Forest Preserve setting. While opportunities for solitude may be limited within this Intensive Use facility while it is operational in the warmer months, a visit to Rollins Pond Campground will still provide respite from the tribulations of modern life through active and passive engagement with the surrounding wild forest in a manner that preserves wild forest resources in their natural state. Rollins Pond Campground will continue to be closely associated with and collectively managed with the adjacent Fish Creek Campground and its associated facilities. Providing for non-motorized modes of travel within and between Rollins Pond and Fish Creek

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III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Campgrounds is uniquely important due to the opportunity for direct access to the Adirondack Rail Trail and the need to limit motor vehicle traffic within this popular and often busy facility. Existing non-motorized recreation pathways throughout Fish Creek Campground have served as a valuable attraction for visitors to both campgrounds.

The capacity of the Rollins Pond Campground to support visitor use while upholding the Desired Conditions provided above has physical, biological, and social dimensions. The following three sections (a, b and c) ~~outlines~~outline indicators and thresholds within each of these categories which are used to determine if the Desired Conditions for the facility are being met. Additionally, certain issues such as invasive species management and ~~providing accessible~~improving access have such significant implications for all three of these dimensions that they have been given their own sections here (sections f and h respectively). In addition to routinely monitoring the identified indicators and thresholds, certain specific management actions are proposed which are meant to uphold the Desired Conditions statement above. Those management actions are covered in Part IV of this plan.

a. Physical Design Capacity

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. Comfort station #20 is the only comfort station within the facility that is wheelchair accessible.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (286)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites	3	1	2
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	15,785 gpd	82,080 gpd	None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	29	56	None
Lavatories (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	20	42	None

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Toilets/Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites	58	106	None
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	15	0	15
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	23	24	None

*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 Rollins Pond Campground will adhere to all requirements and guidance that should be met for treatment and dispersal systems.

b. Biological 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 2020, sites #34, 50, 72, 163, 185, 239, and A031 were selected for restoration work and sites #145, 153, 166, 184, 199, 200, and 214 have been selected for 2021. 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 Capacity

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

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
2019	210	192	91%
2018	173	157	91%
2017	448	376	84%
2016	680	637	94%
2015	646	602	93%

*Due to the pandemic camper comment have not been collected for several years.

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 [of this Unit Management Plan](#) in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

e. Adjacent Lands

The campground encompasses 519 acres of lands classified as Intensive Use and the perimeter boundary totals 5.75 miles. The entire boundary borders the Saranac Lake Wild Forest.

The adjacent 75,000-acre Saranac Lake Wild Forest offers many recreational opportunities, including hiking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing, mountain biking, canoeing, hunting, and fishing.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Popular hiking attractions include Scarface and Panther Mountains, Fernow Nature Trail, and the Lake Placid Peninsula Nature Trails. Many people enjoy boating and camping on Upper, Middle, and Lower Saranac Lakes.

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 2019 Program Report*. The 2019 report states that Bush honeysuckle was observed throughout the campground and should be managed as resources become available. Garlic Mustard was documented at this campground in 2014 but has since been considered locally eradicated. This campground should be monitored annually to document potential re-emergence or invasion by other species. Purple Loosestrife should be a high priority for monitoring, as it has been documented nearby at Fish Creek Pond Campground. No aquatic invasive species were documented at Rollins Pond in either report but should be monitored annually. The boat launch at Fish Creek is staffed by a member of the Adirondack Aquatic Regional Response Team with the objective of monitoring boats utilizing the waterway and to detect and document the distribution of aquatic invasive plant infestations. In 2019, the report noted the presence of Eurasian and variable leaf water milfoil at nearby Fish Creek Ponds.

DEC works cooperatively with Paul Smiths College and the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program to address the aquatic invasive species. Watercraft Inspection Stewards work to

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

prevent the introduction of AIS into Fish Creek and to prevent users from spreading Eurasian watermilfoil and variable leaf milfoil to other waterbodies. ~~In addition, 6 NYCRR Part 576 requires that all boaters clean, drain, and dry their boats before launching into public waterbodies including Fish Creek. 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.~~ Beginning in 2022, all boaters operating any kind of motorized watercraft in the Adirondack Park and within ten miles of the Blue Line are required by law to possess certification that, before launching, their vessel has undergone measures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by following the “Clean.Drain.Dry.” standards described in NYS Regulation (6 NYCRR Part 576). These certificates can be acquired by visiting a DEC designated aquatic invasive species inspection station where boat stewards are present to inspect or decontaminate vessels and to provide boaters with a certification card. Alternately, boaters may perform “Clean.Drain.Dry.” steps themselves and then complete a self-issued certificate.

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

g. General Operations

Rollins Pond Campground is a popular facility used during the spring through fall seasons for camping, fishing, boating, and hiking. The rest of the year, this campground experiences some visitation for ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the campground for both visitor and employee use. Day-to-day operations of 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

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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. 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](#)).

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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

Inventory of Accessible Features	
Accessible Campsites for People with Disabilities*	Campsites #36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 204, 207, 208, 209, and 210
Wheelchair Accessible Comfort Stations	Building #20 (Near Campsite #207)
Wheelchair Accessible Shower Buildings	Campground Shower Building (Near Campsite #53)

Accessibility evaluation conducted October 2020.

*DEC campsites with mobility features have a picnic table, fireplace, and paths with accessible amenities.

G. The Climate Act and Climate Mitigation Efforts on Forest Preserve Lands

In the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act), New York State committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state and to ultimately achieve net zero emissions. In accordance with Section 7(2) of the Climate Act, DEC’s CP-49 Climate Change and DEC Action, and the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan), the management actions proposed in this UMP have taken climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and the entirety of the Climate Act into consideration.

A key element of the Climate Act is achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions across New York State by 2050. Section 7 of the Climate Act requires all New York State Agencies to consider climate change in management decision making and approvals processes. The Scoping Plan, which was based on strategies developed by sector-specific advisory panels, forms a framework for how the State as a whole would address the Climate Act’s objectives. Following best management practices on Forest Preserve lands helps continue to ensure that management actions release minimal greenhouse gas emissions, and that the Forest Preserve continues to effectively sequester and store carbon – contributing to climate mitigation and the Climate Act’s 2050 requirement of 85% reduction in GHG emissions from

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

1990 levels, with a goal of net-zero emissions. The Scoping Plan’s Chapter 15 on Agriculture and Forestry continues by mentioning, “Management of New York’s forests, to promote tree health, recreation, wildlife habitat, and wood products, among other reasons, also has many implications for long-term carbon storage and sequestration” (pg. 274). Forests are the only natural, large-scale, and continuous means (on land) for removing CO2 from the atmosphere; and they have the greatest potential for storing that carbon long-term, as the sequestered carbon stays locked up in the standing trees and the durable wood products that come from the timber harvested from non-Forest Preserve lands. The value of carbon sequestration and storage is additive - it is a benefit that forests naturally provide, in addition to all other social, health, environmental, and economic benefits. This means the total value of healthy forests is much higher than any one unique aspect. It also means the same strategies that preserve healthy forests are strategies for maintaining carbon sequestration and storage. Protecting the long-term health of the Forest Preserve will continue to be critical for adapting to climate change, mitigating its effects, producing resilient ecosystems and fulfilling the objectives of the Climate Act. DEC will continue to look for ways to maintain and expand the forest cover across the State through public land ownership and supporting responsible forest management practices on private lands and the State Forest system outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Section 7(3) of the Climate Act requires the Agency to consider whether its decisions disproportionately burden identified disadvantaged communities (DACs). Furthermore, DEC shall prioritize actions that look to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutants in DACs. Since DEC does not expect overall greenhouse gas emissions or co-pollutants to change due to the implementation of this plan, and the plan overall benefits users of the Forest Preserve by providing increasing access to safe outdoor recreational spaces, drinking watershed protection, and healthier overall ecosystems through the removal of invasive species, there should be no disproportionate impacts to DACs expected. As has been previously highlighted throughout the plan, the New York’s Forest Preserve will continue to provide varied and invaluable services to the ecosystems and communities across a diverse landscape.

While the climate trends and projections for the Adirondack region paint a clear picture of a changing climate, they do not require DEC to significantly modify the nature of recreational opportunities and facilities it provides on Forest Preserve lands. Natural resource preservation has and will continue to be of utmost importance, and recreational uses should be encouraged as long as they can occur in harmony with existing and projected site conditions, including seasonal fluctuations.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Although long-term use projections are challenging, we can expect that the popularity of cooler, northern tourist and recreation destinations such as the Adirondacks will increase due to warming temperatures at lower elevations and southern latitudes.

If anything, the combined likelihoods of growing use and higher rainfall events underscores the importance of developing recreational infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather conditions, particularly rainfall, in combination with heavy public use. Trails, bridges, roads, and parking areas (to name a few) should be designed in a manner that reduces annual maintenance that arises from high use and and/or high rainfall events. Design standards for these types of facilities have existed for some time and should become the standard when DEC constructs or upgrades facilities. Where facilities cannot be built and maintained to these standards in certain locations, alternative locations will be sought or the need for recreational uses in these locations will be reconsidered.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

Proposed Management Actions	
Management Actions	Cost
1. Replace four comfort stations #5, 15, 18, 22.	\$400,000 each
2. Reconstruct <u>Rehabilitate</u> roads and include bike lane.	\$1,100,000
3. Replace caretaker and assistant caretaker cabin.	\$250,000 each
4. Construct additional staff housing.	\$250,000
5. Make improvements at the boat launch.	\$75,000
6. Construct additional vehicle parking.	\$40,000
7. Replace trailer dump station.	\$70,000
8. Rehabilitate water system.	\$1,250,000
9. Construct playground near shower building.	\$75,000
10. Extend internet connection from Fish Creek Campground to Rollins Pond.	\$6,000
11. Re-class <u>Reclassify</u> area between campgrounds to intensive use area.	\$1,000
12. Accessible trail construction.	\$200,000
13. Construct trail bridge to connect to Adirondack Rail Trail.	\$1,800,000
13 <u>14</u> . Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.	\$30,000
14 <u>15</u> . Tree and shrub plantings.	\$15,000
15 <u>16</u> . Campsite Restoration <u>restoration</u> .	\$35,000
16 . Make seasonal camping permits available to campers.	n/a

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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

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IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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, health and safety concerns.

1. Replace four comfort stations: #5, 15, 18, 22.

The average age of the 16 comfort stations is 60 years and none have been built since 1982. The toilet and sink fixtures are not as water efficient as modern designs and are not easily drained for off season. All but one of the comfort stations within the facility were rated as being in poor condition when inspected in November 2018 and do not meet current accessibility standards. Vault toilet #15 was demolished in 2019 and needs to be replaced in order to meet Department of Health regulations. Additionally, comfort station #20 is the only wheelchair accessible comfort station within the campground. With only one central shower building, visitors must travel as far as 2.5 miles 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 four comfort stations and include showers at each of the new buildings.

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 the comfort station replacement. Building locations will be dispersed throughout the campground to spread improvements and minimize travel distance to new shower facilities. 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.

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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. Once all comfort stations have been constructed, ~~the Department~~DEC will evaluate the feasibility of decommissioning the existing centralized shower building to repurpose or demolish the building. The area would provide an additional parking area and a potential day-use area within the facility.

In addition, wash sinks for washing dishes will be added to each comfort station. 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 it draws wildlife. The tree cutting required to construct the replacement buildings will vary for each building. Three of the comfort stations are connected to tile fields adjacent to buildings. After analyzing existing fixture count, future needs, calculated design flows and soil percolation rates, these existing tile fields may need to be enlarged. All new comfort station building footprints may be enlarged up to 50%. See Exhibit #16 for photographs of existing buildings and their surroundings.

2. ~~Reconstruct~~Rehabilitate roads and include bike lane.

The 4.2 miles of campground roads are in poor condition with crumbling shoulders, potholes, and sections of broken pavement. Areas of concern include the A-Loop turn-around and the two-way approach to the shower building. Where possible, ~~roads~~road rehabilitation should ~~be widened to accommodate today's modern trailers~~consider access for emergency response and maintenance vehicle and a bike lane. All 4.2 miles need to be repaved.

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.

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3. Replace caretaker cabin and assistant caretaker cabin.

Rollins Pond ~~campground~~Campground requires a staff of 15 or more. There are staff on duty 24 hours a day and a broad spectrum of skills are required to ensure a safe and enjoyable stay for visitors. There are currently two buildings available to house employees who live beyond a reasonable commute. The existing caretaker cabin was built in 1973 and is in fair condition and the assistant caretaker cabin was built in 1950 and is in poor condition. Both need to be replaced to accommodate staff and their families, if required. Each building is equipped with two bedrooms and one bathroom. This management action proposes to replace both buildings with three bedrooms homes in the same footprint and will meet all codes. Siting will prioritize the use of existing disturbed areas to limit clearing of existing vegetation and minimizing topographic alterations.

4. Construct additional staff housing.

As a 24 hour a day facility, it's imperative there are staff in the campground to deal with occurrences such as maintenance emergencies, severe weather events and a variety of visitor issues. It has also become increasingly difficult to staff campground facilities in these remote locations without providing housing for staff who must relocate for the season. Additional housing is needed to help recruit the number of employees with the skill sets needed to operate this facility. A staff housing facility located within the campground will help with the recruiting of qualified staff and provide additional oversight of the campground. A four-bedroom facility with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities is being proposed at an appropriate location.

5. Make improvements at the boat launch.

The existing boat launch is a single lane steel mat ramp with floating docks that are removed annually. This management action proposes to replace the steel mat launching ramp with a concrete push-in ramp with integral aluminum docks on both edges. This action would be a replacement in kind with improved materials and cause the least amount of environmental disturbance, including a decrease in erosion and turbidity. The upgraded boat 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.

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) provides management guidelines for boat launching sites within Intensive Use areas. The state provides boat launching sites for the launching of trailered boats. Boat launching sites are typically only considered appropriate for

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waterbodies exceeding approximately 1,000 acres in size. Existing boat launch sites on waterbodies less than approximately 1,000 acres such as the one located in the Rollins Pond Campground "...will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual conversion to fishing access sites is appropriate." (APSLMP at p. 44). The Visitor Use Management Framework, a tool for adaptive management, provides the means to conduct this review. The last time a periodic review of the boat launch site at Rollins Pond was conducted was within the 1998 Unit Management Plan (UMP).

Current Conditions

Rollins Pond is a 453-acre impoundment with a maximum depth of 75 feet and a mean depth of 35 feet. It is classified as "AA" pursuant to Article 15 Title 5 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) meaning the waterbody is potentially suitable for use as a water supply. Rollins Pond is almost 2 miles long with 8.5 miles of primarily undeveloped shoreline and many interesting bays, fringe wetlands, small islands, and steep embankments along the wooded shoreline. Portions of the western shoreline consist of ballast placed along the Remsen Lake Placid Travel Corridor, and the entire eastern shoreline is occupied by over 250 developed campsites that are a part of the campground.

Public access to Rollins Pond is provided from the Rollins Pond Intensive Use Area Campground and via the Remsen Lake Placid Travel Corridor. Approximately 2 miles of the Rollins Pond Shoreline is held in private ownership and used for seasonal residences and a scout camp. Types of public use known to occur at Rollins Pond include fishing (all seasons), developed camping, canoeing/kayaking, boating, picnicking, swimming, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, and hunting. The Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP notes that Rollins Pond Campground hosts approximately 63,000 guests annually at the facility with high rates of visitor satisfaction overall.

Newly developed access to the western shoreline of Rollins Pond via the Adirondack Rail Trail (within the Remsen Lake Placid Travel Corridor) may become a significant visitor use factor once the trail is fully opened in 2025. Previous access along the rail corridor has been mostly limited to the winter months when it serves as a snowmobile route between Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake.

Data on boater visits to Rollins Pond is limited. Anecdotally, campground staff estimate that 3-5 trailered boats enter the campground on any given week during the summer months. A formal boater survey conducted in 1990 on Rollins Pond placed the total number of boater visits for one season at just under 1,000 including hand launched and trailer launched vessels. This same survey found that approximately 10% of vessels were trailer launched motorboats while the remainder were hand

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launched. In more recent years, the campground hosts a boat rental concession at the boat launch site within the campground that offers canoes and rowboats. The popularity of this offering has allowed it to return for several seasons and it is expected to continue if a willing vendor is available to offer it.

Lake surveys have occurred at Rollins Pond at various times and in various formats over the years. The most recent survey occurred in 2020 as a part of early detection surveys undertaken by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). Prior to that, a survey was done in 2014 as a part of the Lake Classification and Inventory (LCI) Survey in the Lake Champlain Basin. Citizen science survey work and monitoring through the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) has not been conducted at Rollins Pond in the past but has been routinely collected at other nearby waterbodies.

Desired Conditions

From the Visitor Use Management Framework: A Guide to Providing Sustainable Outdoor Recreation, desired conditions are defined as statements of aspiration that describe resource conditions, visitor experiences and opportunities, and facilities and services that an agency strives to achieve and maintain in a particular area. Such statements are often built on the foundational language that legally established the area. Desired conditions describe what conditions, outcomes, and opportunities are to be achieved and maintained in the future, not necessarily what exists today. Descriptions of desired conditions paint a picture of what the particular area will look like, feel like, sound like, and function like in the future. The following is a desired condition statement for Rollins Pond.

Rollins Pond will provide opportunities for visitors of every age, gender, race, ethnicity, background, and ability to experience a primarily natural and lightly developed waterbody free of aquatic invasive species. Visitors to the pond will have reliable access to front country amenities found in a DEC Campground during the operating season. Visitors can engage in a variety of recreational activities on Rollins Pond, including paddling, boating in small motorized craft (<25 horsepower), fishing, camping, swimming, wildlife viewing, and star gazing. Visitors experience connections to the water, wildlife, vegetation, and the company they share the waterbody with. Visitors experience inspiration, discovery, and appreciation for a setting where nature and rustic recreational development are in harmony. Visitors have opportunities to realize physical and mental health benefits from spending time in nature and leave feeling rewarded, relaxed, and rejuvenated from their experience.

Visitors to the pond can expect to encounter and see other groups at the adjacent facilities and on the pond. Even with the other groups present, the sights and sounds of nature predominate the

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experience once visitors are on the water. During the operational season for the campground, opportunities to experience solitude on Rollins Pond may be limited. However, the off-season will continue to provide occasional opportunities to experience nature without the sights and sounds of other visitors on the pond.

Facilities are provided to encourage safe and sustainable visitor use of the pond and uphold best practices for the design and management of accessible recreation features consistent with all relevant laws and policies. Limited public motorboat access does not intrude on the natural character of the pond. DEC staff are present at the site while the campground is operational in the summer months and occasional patrols are conducted during the off season when campground facilities are closed but public access remains available.

Indicators and Thresholds

Indicator: Number of trailered motorboats entering the campground on a weekly basis while the campground is open.

Threshold: Doubling the average number of trailered motorboats per week for four consecutive weeks.

Associated Management Action: Conduct a trailered motorboat survey at the Rollins Pond entrance booth during the 2024 season. The survey will be used to determine an average weekly number of trailered motorboats potentially using Rollins Pond during the campground operating season. Trailered motorboat surveys will continue in future seasons to determine consistency with this threshold.

Trigger: A 100% or greater increase in the initial average number of trailered motorboats per week for three consecutive weeks.

Indicator: Number boats with motors exceeding 25 horsepower.

Threshold: No more than five boats with motors exceeding 25 horsepower per year found to have launched from the campground.

Associated Management Action: Continue to track compliance with the horsepower limitation.

Trigger: 1 over 25 horsepower boat per month found to be launched from the campground.

Indicator: Aquatic invasive organisms

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Threshold: Presence of aquatic invasive organisms in Rollins Pond.

Associated Management Action: Continue to monitor for aquatic invasives.

6. Construct additional vehicle parking.

Many campers bring additional vehicles resulting in a need for additional parking spots. Parking in the campsites is limited to a single vehicle with trailer and parking along campground roads is prohibited. Currently, additional car parking is permitted at the shower building parking lot as well as at smaller designated sites near the boat launch. However, additional parking space is still needed. This management action proposes formalizing parking areas by the Whey Pond access site and other appropriate, impacted areas. In addition, this management action proposes adding three to five parking spots at the proposed reconstructed comfort stations. ~~Due to the fact that much of the~~The proposed locations are heavily impacted by existing informal parking. ~~As a result, it is anticipated that this management action will include minimal vegetative clearing of existing vegetation~~ and topographic alterations ~~will be minimized.~~

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. A two-lane trailer dumping station with an expanded septic system is proposed in the existing location.

8. Rehabilitate water system.

The water system at Rollins Pond is old and needs rehabilitation. System #1 is especially prone to failure, causing staff to rely on systems #2 and #3 to meet camper needs. While the buried waterlines are in good condition, the tanks and wells should be replaced. Additional water spigots should be installed as necessary to meet health codes and accessibility standards. This management action proposes to rehabilitate the three existing water systems to meet current design standards and Department of Health codes.

9. Construct playground near the shower building.

There is no formal day-use area at Rollins Pond Campground, so visitors must travel to the adjacent Fish Creek Pond Campground to utilize the day-use area in that facility. To increase the number of recreational opportunities within the facility for families, this management action proposes to

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construct a playground near the shower building. The structure will meet modern design standards, provide accessible elements, and will be constructed of natural materials to blend into the surroundings to the greatest extent possible. Playground equipment provided close to the Rollins Pond Campsites will help reduce motor vehicle traffic between the Rollins Pond and Fish Creek facilities.

10. Extend internet connection through Fish Creek Campground to Rollins Pond.

Adjacent Fish Creek Pond Campground has a high-speed internet connection at the entrance that facilitates ~~administrative needs including staff reporting requirements,~~ the camping reservation, day use, ~~and point of sale transactions for visitors as they check in and for staff to complete the required reporting procedures.~~ It also provides weather information which is used to inform campers of impending serious storms in a timely manner. Rollins Pond campground operates with a satellite connection that is slower, less reliable, and often fails at the critical time weather data is most valuable. This management action proposes to extend the high-speed data wiring ~~through from~~ Fish Creek Pond Campground to the entrance of Rollins Pond along the utility corridor that connects the two facilities. The high-speed data wiring would then extend out to service administrative buildings in the Rollins Pond Campground. This is for use by staff for ~~official~~ administrative purposes, not for use by campers.

Additionally, Fish Creek Pond Campground and Rollins Pond Campground share an electrical meter. Concurrent to this action, a separate meter should be installed at Rollins Pond to better calculate utility usage at each facility. New services will be co-located with existing utilities wherever possible.

11. ~~Re-class~~Reclassify area between campgrounds to Intensive Use area.

Since adoption of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan there has been a classification error around the entrance to the Rollins Pond Campground. As a result, access to and parts of the pre-existing campground and a capped landfill 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, dump station, caretaker's cabin, and old sand pit. In addition, the utility corridor and the road connecting Rollins Pond and Fish Creek Campgrounds will need to be reclassified as Intensive Use. This reclassification will allow for the continued maintenance and operation of existing infrastructure. See Exhibit 15.

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12. Construct an accessible foot trail between Fish Creek Campground and Rollins Pond Campground.

This management action proposes to construct an accessible foot trail that highlights the forest, water, and wetland landscape in close proximity to the campground while offering a safe off-road connecting route between the two campgrounds. The trail will be designed to avoid wetlands and areas of sensitive vegetation, conform with DEC design standards for accessibility, and minimize tree cutting, vegetation clearing, and topographical changes. See ~~exhibit~~Exhibit 17 for trail design specifications.

This action proposes that the trail be constructed in the vicinity of the road connection between Rollins Pond and Fish Creek Pond Campgrounds and within the area to be reclassified as intensive use area. While this trail connection between Rollins Pond Campground and Fish Creek Campground will be designed to meet accessibility standards for foot trails, the site manager may allow other compatible non-motorized modes of travel such as bikes and Nordic skiing/snowshoeing. Equestrian use is not recommended for this trail due to the lack of other equestrian opportunities nearby and the likelihood of high levels of pedestrian use that would make user conflicts difficult to avoid. Snowmobile use will continue ~~to be provided~~ on adjacent campground roadways ~~and~~but will not be permitted upon this trail. Portions of this trail may overlap with another trail proposal described in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Unit Management Plan(pp.119) which seeks to achieve a trail connection between Fish Creek and Rollins Pond Campgrounds and the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor through Wild Forest lands South of Rollins Pond Campground.

13. Construct an accessible foot trail to connect to Adirondack Rail Trail.

An accessible foot trail is proposed in the Saranac Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan with the intent to connect the Adirondack Rail Trail Corridor to the Northern end of Rollins Pond campground.

The connection will be roughly ½- ¾ mi total and will leave from the Otter Hollow Trail at the north end of the campground. The connection will require a bridge to be constructed over the outlet of Rollins Pond. This management action proposes to construct a bridge that will meet current design and accessibility standards. The bridge will also be built to provide sufficient clearance for paddlers utilizing the stream. The Otter Hollow Trail should be reconditioned in conjunction with the bridge construction. Additionally, ~~the department~~DEC may seek to construct a registration booth and parking lot near the beginning of the trail in Rollins Pond campground to manage increased use from the rail trail connection

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and to meet regulatory requirement for patron registration. The booth and parking lot may require the closure of up to three campsites.

14. 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.

15. 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. Planting will also be used for mitigation of shoreline erosion. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the Plan.

16. Campsite restoration.

Each year, a minimum of seven campsites at Rollins Pond are selected for temporary closure in order 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 in order 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 Rollins Pond Campground are currently being restored please visit

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/100146.html><https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/100146.html>.

17. Make seasonal camping permits available to campers.

~~Currently, campers can book up to a 14 night stay through the reservation system. As stated in the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan, Part 190 Title 6 NYCRR Part 190, DEC may elect to permit~~

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~~seasonal camping at Rollins Pond. This management action proposes to formalize the process for issuing seasonal camping permits and make information available to campers in the reservation system. Current program guidelines limit camping stays to two week periods during the peak season. Rollins Pond had an average occupancy of 71% during the 2019 camping season, which indicates the ability to administer seasonal camping permits without creating an inequitable situation for other campers.~~

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