



Adirondack Park Agency

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Barbara Rice, Executive Director

FROM: Matthew McNamara, Environmental Program Specialist 1

DATE: February 7, 2024

RE: Staff Review of the February 2024 Proposed Final UMP for Rollins Pond Public Campground

Staff have completed review of the February 2024 Proposed Final Draft Unit Management Plan for the Rollins Pond Public Campground (Proposed Final) and recommend the Agency Board determine that the Unit Management Plan (UMP) complies with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP).

The UMP proposes the following management actions:

- replace four comfort stations: #5, #15, #18, #22
- rehabilitate 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
- 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
- plant trees and shrubs
- restore campsites.

On August 17, 2023 the Agency Board authorized staff to proceed to public comment for the proposed UMP. Public comments regarding management proposals and SLMP conformance considerations were requested simultaneously. The public comment period ran through September 18, 2023. As part of the public comment period, DEC provided an online survey to solicit comments. Twenty-three written comments and 684 survey responses were received indicating significant public interest in the management program at Rollins Pond.

Comments received regarding boat launch improvements included concerns about the capacity of Rollins Pond to support public motorboat use. The need for an assessment of carrying capacity was also expressed in the public comments. DEC Division of Operations staff and Division of Lands and Forests staff coordinated with Agency staff to utilize the Visitor Use Management Framework (VUMF) to address these comments and the SLMP's requirement for a "periodic review" of boat launch sites on smaller waterbodies. Staff developed Desired Conditions, Indicators, and Thresholds for Rollins Pond and included these within the Proposed Final. The VUMF is "intended to provide a legally defensible, transparent decision making process that meets law and policy requirements, ensures agency accountability, and provides sound rationale upon which to base management decisions and actions" (Visitor Use Management Framework, pg. 3).

As part of ensuring the preservation of the area's natural resources, Agency staff evaluated management steps identified in the UMP to address aquatic invasive species (AIS) including partnerships, regulations, signage and education, funding, and infrastructure.

The UMP notes the partnerships that are instrumental in the DEC's effort to monitor and prevent the spread of invasive species, including work with Upper Saranac Lake Association, the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF), the Adirondack Watershed Institute and other organizations.

New York State regulations require all boaters clean, drain, and dry their boats before launching into public waterbodies including Rollins Pond. The UMP identifies that standard signage intended to remind boaters of regulatory requirements will remain in place at the boat launch. DEC has conveyed to APA staff that it is DEC's intent to provide a decontamination station at Fish Creek Pond. This improvement will serve both the Fish Creek and Rollins Pond facilities.

Agency staff worked with DEC staff to assure the protection of wetlands by providing the DEC with more accurate wetland mapping in the vicinity of the campground.

Agency staff worked closely with DEC Operations staff to address the need for safe pedestrian access between the Fish Creek and Rollins Pond facilities.

The UMP identifies as a management action the reclassification of lands in the vicinity of the Rollins Pond Campground. A classification package including necessary changes at the Rollins Pond facility is currently under review with the Agency.

Staff recommend adoption by the Agency Board of the attached resolution determining that the Proposed Final conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.