



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Playground construction Amendment to 2016 Cranberry Lake UMP

Public Draft

May 16th, 2024

## Cranberry Lake - Facility Overview

171 campsites, one day-use area

Approximately 30,000 camper nights per season

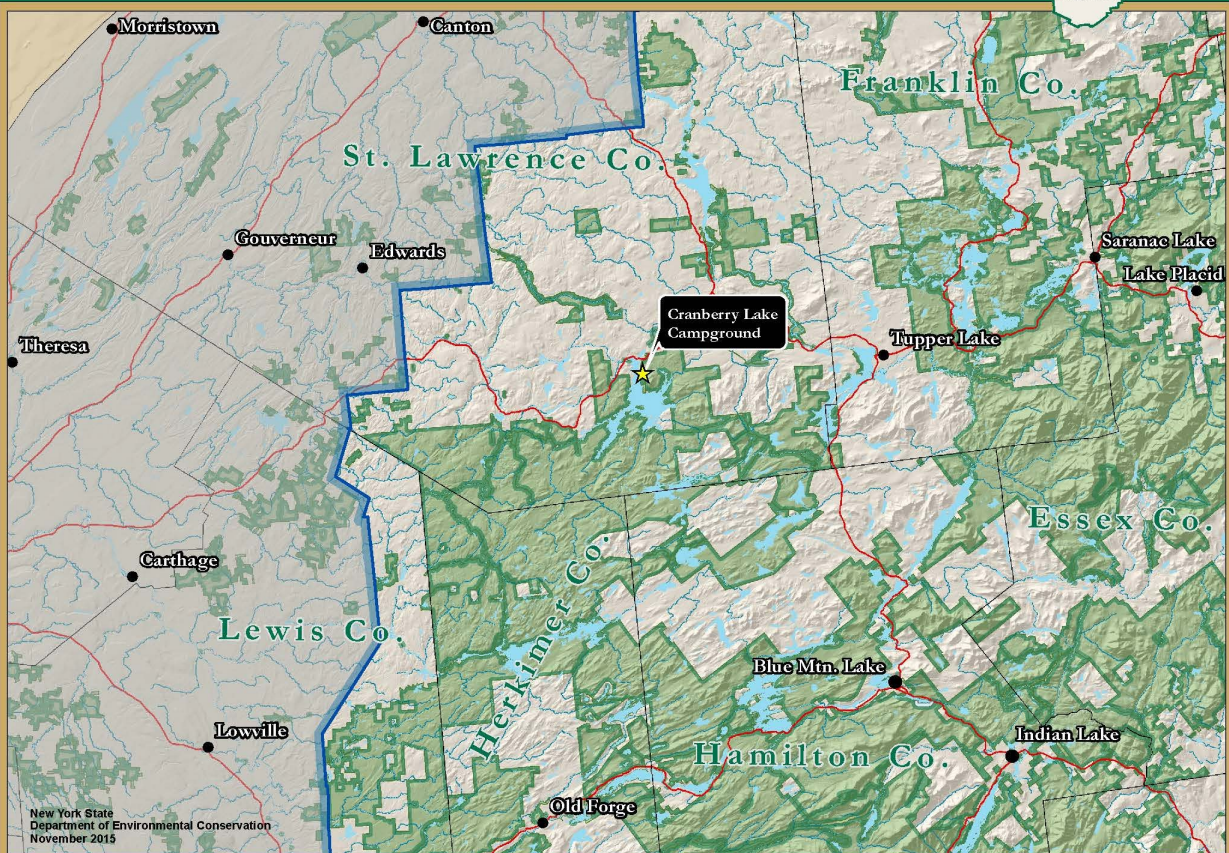
Approximately 3,000 day-use visitors per season

Over \$200,000 in revenue collected per season



# Cranberry Lake Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
November 2015

# Amendment Proposal

- The construction of a playground is not outlined in the initial 2016 Cranberry Lake UMP.
- This amendment seeks to allow the construction of a playground in the parking lot area, replacing the area where the amphitheater was previously.
- Natural materials will be used when possible, including cedar logs, mortise, and tenon joinery to conform to guidelines related to Intensive Use Areas.
- The goal of this project is to construct a playground that benefits camper recreation while maintaining the primitive aesthetic inherent to the Adirondack Park.



## Proposal for construction of a Playground

- This playground will increase recreational activities available and the enjoyment of people already planning to visit the facility.
- The current parking lot needs to be fully resurfaced, so a new playground in its place would require no new topographic alterations of the land.
- The proposed playground location is in an already cleared area so no additional tree cutting outside of general pruning would be necessary.
- The playground will be of a rustic/primitive nature intrinsic to the aesthetics of the Adirondack Park.
- The playground will be constructed in a location that is away from the beach, ensuring that views of Cranberry Lake from the water as well as the beach will not be impacted.





## Surfacing Alternatives

- Alternative 1: Poured Rubber. High cost, high maintenance, safe but high rate of degradation.
- Alternative 2: Shredded Rubber. Not fully ADA compliant, can cause leaching, gas-off, and runoff into local ecosystem.
- Alternative 3: Wood Chips. Inexpensive, high rates of decomposition as well as poor drainage.
- Alternative 4: Artificial Grass w/ Rubber Infill. Does not blend in with rustic qualities outlined for Intensive Use Areas. Turf could also be breeding ground for MRSA if not constantly tended.
- Alternative 5: No Surfacing. Dangerous, as well as breeding ground for ticks. Small rocks and pebbles can cause injury.
- Alternative 6: Rubber Mats / Tiles. Most expensive, but provides biggest benefit in terms of long-term maintenance, accessibility, and threat of leaching / gas-off.



# Surface Alternative Selection

The preferred alternative was based on several factors, including:

- Effectiveness of achieving stated project goals
- Project site held to highest possible ADA standards
- Future disturbance of surrounding site is unlikely
- Safety from falls for playground users
- Cost / benefit analysis in terms of initial cost and maintenance
- Minimization of environmental impacts and blending with the surrounding environment

Rubber mats / tiles is the conclusive choice, as it meets more of these factors than any other alternative.







# Playground Location

- The playground will be constructed in the current location of the amphitheater, replacing it.
- Other DEC Intensive Use Area campgrounds have playgrounds of similar rustic styles that will be used as the basis for the Cranberry Lake playground.



## Location Alternatives

### Alternative 1: Location adjacent to Cranberry Lake.

- This location is in the day-use area adjacent to the beach.
- No new vegetative clearing required, but topographic alterations will be required.
- Main problem is the view impediment and topographic alterations – Master Plan states that new shoreline structures are required to be 150 feet from water and adequately screened.
- A playground in this location could possibly impede the view of people on the beach looking to the lake and those on the lake looking inward.



## Location Alternatives

### Alternative 2: Location near campground loops.

- This location is in the developed area adjacent to campground loop V, as it has the most adjacent campsites for maximum use.
- Loop V is in walking distance from Loop I, and parts of loops II and IV. While it is located in a good spot for campers, it could potentially alienate day-users of the facility.
- Locating the playground in the camping loop also creates additional traffic, as well potential user conflict between pedestrians and vehicles.
- Construction of the playground in this location would require new infrastructure to build a parking lot, as well as renovation of the local restrooms and septic systems to accommodate additional use.



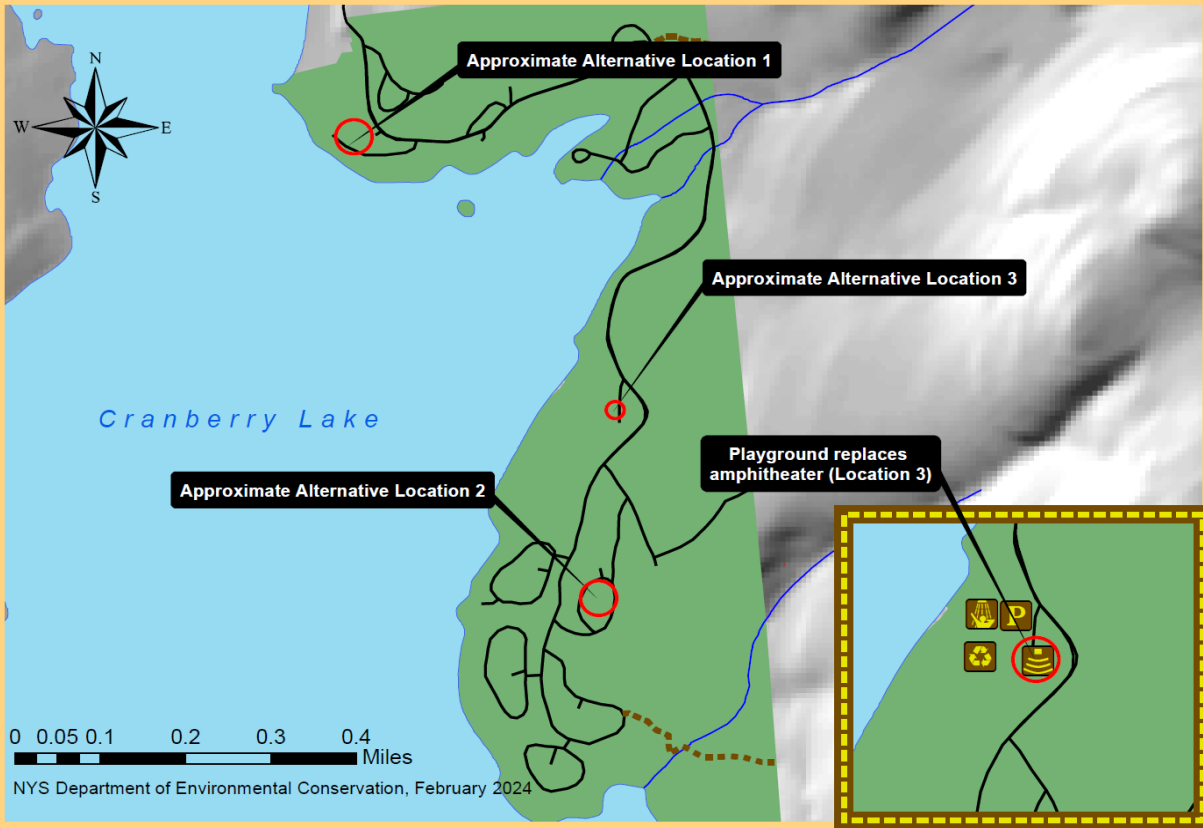
## Location Alternatives

### Alternative 3: Location in existing parking lot area.

- This location is in the older section of the parking lot that is set to be repaved, replacing the amphitheater which sees little use.
- This location is next to an already existing basketball and volleyball court, as well as close proximity to the day-use area.
- Vegetative clearing and topographic alterations are minimized because of this, and it doesn't require additional infrastructure such as parking. Since this location is centralized and located in close proximity to other facility amenities, it is expected that a playground in this location will get consistent use throughout the day and season. It also can not be seen from the beach or the water, thus no shoreline visual impacts will result.
- This is the preferred location for this project.



# Cranberry Lake Campground Playground Location Map



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, February 2024

### Cranberry Lake Campground Playground Location



# Location Alternative Selection

The preferred alternative was based on several factors, including:

- Low maintenance and high usage
- Low initial cost
- Low vegetative clearing and topographic alteration
- Wild and undeveloped quality of the Adirondack Park
- Aesthetics related to view of Cranberry Lake

Location 3 is the conclusive choice, as it meets more of these factors than any other alternative.





# Selection of Materials

A playground made of natural materials such as cedar wood is most appropriate for the area. The playground will be large enough to accommodate facility use / occupancy and made almost entirely of natural materials to blend in with the rustic character of the Adirondack Park. Other DEC Campgrounds (Limekiln, Meacham Lake, Fish Creek) have playgrounds in similar styles.







# Facility Maintenance and Construction

The construction and maintenance of this playground facility is outlined as such:

- Site leveling, according to proper installation requirements of accessible surfacing. Minimal with existing pavement.
- Minimal initial high pruning considering placement and best management practices.
- Playground structure to be installed by contractor under supervision of the department.
- Playground will be inspected and maintained according to department policy.
- Accessible aspects will be inspected for compliance annually by ADA coordinator.
- Area will be patrolled daily for general maintenance such as garbage removal, damage to structure/surfacing and cleanliness.



## Public Comment Periods

Amendment is posted on the NYS DEC web page at: <https://dec.ny.gov/places/cranberry-lake-campground-and-day-use-area>

### DEC

The Dept will be accepting public comments on the Cranberry Lake Playground amendment through June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Public comments can be submitted by mail or email to:

Oliver Miller, EPS1 (NR)  
 NYS DEC Bureau of Recreation  
 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-5253  
 Phone: (518) 457-2500  
 Email: [campinfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:campinfo@dec.ny.gov)

### APA

The Agency will be accepting public comments on Master Plan conformance of the UMP amendment from May 16<sup>th</sup> - June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Public comments can be submitted by mail or email to:

Megan Phillips, Deputy Director Planning  
 Adirondack Park Agency  
 P.O. Box 99  
 Ray Brook, NY 12977  
 Phone: (518) 891-4050  
 Email: [SLMP\\_UMP\\_Comments@apa.ny.gov](mailto:SLMP_UMP_Comments@apa.ny.gov)  
 (underscores between the words)

