

MEMORANDUM

TO: Barbara Rice, Executive Director

FROM: Mitchell Jones, Environmental Program Specialist 1 Trainee

DATE: September 12th, 2024

RE: Staff Review of the September 2024 Proposed Final Unit Management Plan Amendment for Cranberry Lake Public Campground.

Staff have completed review of the September 2024 Proposed Final Unit Management Plan Amendment for the Cranberry Lake Public Campground (2024 UMP Amendment). The 2024 UMP Amendment proposes a management action to construct a rustic playground.

The Adirondack Park Agency Board found the Cranberry Lake Public Campground Unit Management Plan to be in conformance with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) on August 12, 2016. The 2024 UMP Amendment's preferred location for the proposed playground is in an existing parking lot and amphitheater space.

Agency staff worked with DEC staff to assure compliance with the APSLMP.

On May 16th, 2024, the Agency Board authorized staff to proceed with a joint public comment period with the Department for the proposed 2024 UMP Amendment. The public comment period ran from May 17th, 2024 through June 17th, 2024. Three public comments were received during this period.

The Cranberry Lake Public Campground is classified as an Intensive Use Area (IUA). IUAs are facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation. Two types of IUAs are identified in the APSLMP: day use areas and campgrounds. Cranberry Lake Public Campground is listed as an existing campground and consists of 173 campsites according to the 2016 UMP.

The APSLMP outlines requirements for construction and development activities in IUAs. The proposed playground site conforms to these requirements. The proposed project location consists mainly of a paved parking lot and amphitheater. The proposal avoids material alteration of wetlands because there are no wetlands present in, or in close proximity to, the proposed rustic playground location. Proposed topographic

alterations are minimal as the area is relatively flat. No tree-cutting is proposed and little to no vegetative clearing is proposed. Furthermore, the plan proposes the use of natural materials to the fullest extent possible to help the site blend with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park. The project preserves the area's scenic, natural, and open space resources by proposing construction in an area previously disturbed and screened from the lake.

It is the opinion of staff that the proposed final draft of the 2024 UMP amendment for Cranberry Lake Public Campground conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.