

THIS IS A TWO-SIDED DOCUMENT

 <p><b>Adirondack Park Agency</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 99, 1133 NYS Route 86 Ray Brook, New York 12977 Tel: (518) 891-4050 www.apa.ny.gov</p>	<p>APA Permit <b>2024-0225</b></p>
<p>In the Matter of the Application of</p> <p><b>NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION</b> Permittee</p> <p>for a permit pursuant to 9 NYCRR Part 578</p>	<p>Date Issued: September 19, 2024</p> <p>To the County Clerk: Please index this permit in the grantor index under the following names:</p> <p><b>1. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</b></p>

**SUMMARY AND AUTHORIZATION**

This permit authorizes camping area improvements involving wetlands in an area classified Wild Forest on the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map in the Town of Ohio, Herkimer County.

This authorization shall expire unless recorded in the Herkimer County Clerk's Office within 60 days of issuance of a signed and notarized permit. The signed and notarized permit shall be recorded in the names of all persons listed above and in the names of all owners of record of any portion of the project site on the recordation date. The Agency will consider the project in existence when the permit has been recorded.

The project shall be undertaken in compliance with all conditions stated herein. Failure to comply with this permit is a violation and may subject the permittee, successors, and assigns to civil penalties and other legal proceedings.

This permit does not convey any right to trespass upon the lands or interfere with the riparian rights of others in order to undertake the authorized project, nor does it authorize the impairment of any easement, right, title or interest in real or personal property.

Nothing contained in this permit shall be construed to satisfy any legal obligations of the permittee to comply with all applicable laws and regulations or to obtain any governmental approval or permit from any entity other than the Agency, whether federal, State, regional, or local.

## **PROJECT SITE**

The project site is along Loop Road at the southern end of North Lake in the Town of Ohio, Herkimer County, in an area classified as Black River Wild Forest on the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map. The site is within Tax Map Section 57, Block 1, Parcel 1 and is owned by the State of New York.

The project site contains shoreline on North Lake and associated wetlands. Additional wetlands not described herein or on the Project Plans may be located on or adjacent to the project site.

The project site is improved by several designated campsites and associated fire rings and pit privies.

The project site is subject to the Black River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project as conditionally approved herein involves re-configuring the existing campsites to comply with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan by re-designing and hardening the sites that are to be retained, as well as properly closing un-desirable sites. The project includes converting Campsite 3 into a five-car parking area and construction of a gravel Carry-Down Craft Launch/Landing, 5 feet in width and approximately 60 feet in length, extending from the southern end of the parking lot down the bank to the shoreline of North Lake. The last 13 feet of the trail at the shoreline is located within wetlands.

The project is further described in the "North Lake (Black River Wild Forest) Campsite Maintenance Work Plan 2024," prepared by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (Work Plan), received by the Agency April 12, 2024, and shown on the following Project Plans prepared and provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation:

- "Site Plan Map for the Proposed Parking Lot / Access Trail conversion of Campsite #3" (Site Plan);
- "Campsite #3 – Conversion to Parking Area and Carry-Down Craft Launch / Landing" (Launch / Landing Plan); and
- "DEC Standard Accessible Designs for Outdoor Recreational Facilities, Outdoor Recreation Access Route" (Access Route Plan).

Copies of the Work Plan, Site Plan, and Launch/Landing Plan are attached as a part of this permit for reference.

## **AGENCY JURISDICTION**

Pursuant to Adirondack Park Agency regulations at 9 NYCRR Part 578, a permit is required from the Adirondack Park Agency prior to regulated activities involving wetlands in the Adirondack Park.

**CONDITIONS**

**THE PROJECT IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

1. The project shall not be undertaken until this permit has been recorded in the Herkimer County Clerk's Office.
2. This permit is binding on the permittee, all present and future owners or lessees of the project site, and all persons undertaking all or a portion of the project, for as long as the Carry-Down Craft Launch/Landing area within wetlands remains on the site.
3. In addition to complying with all terms and conditions of this permit, all future activities on the project site shall be undertaken in compliance with the requirements of New York State's Adirondack Park Agency Act, Freshwater Wetlands Act, and the Adirondack Park Agency's implementing regulations [9 NYCRR §§ 570-588].
4. This permit authorizes the construction of the Carry-Down Craft Launch/Landing in the location shown and as depicted on the Site Plan and Launch/Landing Plan. Any change to the location, dimensions, or other aspect of the Carry-Down Craft Launch/Landing shall require prior written Agency authorization.
5. Prior to construction, including clearing and grubbing, temporary erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed and maintained as depicted and described in the Project Plans. All silt fence shall be properly installed with the bottom buried at a depth of at least 4 inches. Once the site has been stabilized, silt fence and any other temporary erosion and sediment controls shall be completely removed.
6. When brought from off-site, all equipment, including but not limited to trucks, excavators, tractors, etc., and hand excavation tools such as shovels, rakes, and picks, to be used on the project site shall be clean and free of soil, mud, or other similar material. If washed on the project site, equipment shall be washed in one location to prevent the distribution of propagules among different wash sites. All construction equipment and vehicles operating in areas that may contain existing invasive species shall be thoroughly cleaned prior to moving to other areas.
7. All tree cutting and/or vegetation removal shall be limited to the area depicted and described on the Project Plans. All cut vegetation shall be immediately removed from the wetland and adjacent area upon completion of the activity.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Agency has considered all statutory and regulatory criteria for project approval set forth in the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act and 9 NYCRR Part 578 and 9 NYCRR Part 574. The Agency hereby finds that the project authorized as conditioned herein:

- a. will be consistent with the land use and development plan;
- b. will be compatible with the character description and purposes, policies, and objectives of the Wild Forest land use area;
- c. will be consistent with the overall intensity guidelines for the Wild Forest land use area;
- d. will comply with the shoreline restrictions of § 806 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act;
- e. will not have an undue adverse impact upon the natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational or open space resources of the Park or upon the ability of the public to provide supporting facilities and services made necessary by the project;
- f. will secure the natural benefits of wetlands associated with the project, consistent with the general welfare and beneficial economic, social, and agricultural development of the state; and
- g. will result in minimal degradation or destruction of the wetland or its associated values and is the only alternative which reasonably can accomplish the applicant's objectives.

PERMIT issued this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.

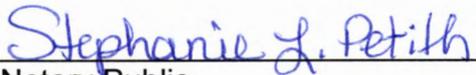
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

BY:   
David J. Plante, AICP CEP  
Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF ESSEX

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 2024, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared David J. Plante, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same in their capacity, and that by their signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

Stephanie L. Petith  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Reg. No 01PE6279890  
Qualified in Franklin County  
Commission Expires April 15, 2025

  
Notary Public



North Lake (Black River Wild Forest) Campsite Maintenance Work Plan 2024

The popularity, and high subsequent use of, the designated campsites along Loop Road at North Lake have led to numerous management issues. Beyond basic maintenance and administration, additional concerns raised include compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and the Primitive Tent Site Guidance. The objective of this work plan is to address these issues for those designated campsites on the Black River Wild Forest (southern) end of North Lake; a separate work plan will cover those sites (campsite #12 and up) located on the adjacent North Lake Conservation Easement Lands.



*Desired Conditions*

While reconfiguring these existing campsites to comply with the APSLMP is a main objective, the promotion of a camping experience more in line with the Wild Forest land classification, and in the process resource protection, are also being sought. Over time, camping at North Lake has gradually shifted to resemble more closely that of a campground in an Intensive Use area. Specifically, motorhomes, camping trailers, and similar recreational vehicles have come to dominate the designated campsites at this location, moving away from the more primitive tent sites that were originally intended to be provided. With this more developed, and intensive, use, coupled with the exponential rise in North Lake's popularity, most of the tent sites have seen negative impact in the form of tree cutting, vegetational loss, soil compaction, and erosion. Redesigning, and hardening, the sites that are to be retained, as well as properly closing undesirable sites, is proposed to help address these issues.

*Proposed Work*

Campsite #2: This site will be closed to camping. Closing this, or any other site, will involve, but not be limited to, the placement of rocks and woody debris to deter further use as a campsite. In addition to these physical barriers, signs, on-site education and, ultimately, enforcement will be necessary since these areas have been long used by the public, and some will likely assert their desire to continue camping at these locations. The respective pit privies for these to be closed campsites will be removed as well.

Campsite #3: This site will be closed to camping and converted into a five-car parking area. In the 2018 Black River Wild Forest UMP Amendment (page 17), a similar proposal was approved just a short distance to the south of this campsite. Installing this parking area at this originally planned location (across from the kiosk at the beginning of Loop Road) would necessitate greater site disturbance in the form of earthmoving and tree cutting than altering this campsite. To lessen these impacts, as well as reduce the

amount of work required for implementation, this parking area will instead be constructed at Campsite #3, effectively closing this site.

This five-car parking lot will have one ADA accessible space, to be located at the southern end of this area. In accordance with DEC accessible design standards (attached to this work plan for further reference), there will be an access aisle next to it (just to the south) where parking will be prohibited; both spaces will be signed accordingly. The other four parking spaces will lie in a row adjacent to the accessible parking space. With each space (including the access aisle) being around 10 feet in width, this parking lot will have a width of around 60 feet; the recommended 20-foot depth is also available and maintained in this open campsite.

Required site preparation includes disassembling/removing the fire ring, cutting/removing three trees (10", 12", and 13" DBH red maple trees), and building up the base of the parking area with rock and topping with a finer gravel, such as item #4. The Accessible parking space and access aisle will also need to be further surfaced with an accessible aggregate gravel defined as "*Material shall consist of crushed limestone or granite screenings. All materials furnished shall be well graded and free from unsuitable materials. All processing shall be completed at the source. Material shall have 100% passing the 1/2" sieve and 15 to 25% passing the No. 200 sieve.*".

Between this parking area and North Lake, a short trail, 5 feet in width and around 60 feet in length, will be installed from the southern end of the parking lot down the bank to the water's edge. Construction of this path will involve the removal of 7 trees (including five 1" DBH Red Maples, one 6" DBH yellow birch, and a 12" DBH yellow birch), minor grading of the site, the placement of geotextile filter fabric, coarse stone as a base and a fine gravel surface as specified above, all compacted into a firm surface. Universal design guidelines for slope are also met with this path since the first 25 ft. has a grade of 5%, a level (0%) resting interval for the next 5 ft., an 8% grade for the next 15 ft. and a level resting interval for the last 5 ft. to the edge of North Lake.

Installing this parking area, through repurposing this to-be-closed campsite, and the paddler trail will help improve access to the water thereby encouraging campers to seek out the tent sites on the far (Northeast) side of North Lake on the adjacent Conservation Easement Lands

It should be noted that the pit privy located adjacent to this to-be-converted campsite will be removed. However, in its place an accessible pit privy like what is proposed for campsite #4 (see below), will be installed. This pit privy will be a self-contained unit, capable of being pumped periodically (therefore, no waste will leach out, see attached design) and located near Loop Road. An identical access route (around 20 ft. long by 5 ft. wide) with level landing (5 ft. square) will lead up to this structure as well. Given the already clear path present, not much grading will be required to prepare the site. No tree cutting will be necessary for this privy either.

**CAMPSITE #3 - CONVERSION TO PARKING AREA AND CARRY-DOWN CRAFT LAUNCH/LANDING**

 NEW YORK STATE OF NEW YORK	Adirondack Park Agency
FINAL	
P2024-0225	



Note that the cross-hatched area was an earlier alternative that was considered but dropped due to increased impacts.



Site Plan Map for the Proposed Parking Lot/Access Trail conversion of Campsite #3.