



Adirondack Park Agency

SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

DRAFT
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO PISECO LAKE PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUGUST 10, 2017

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan ("Master Plan") for management of State lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan conforms with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a site-specific unit management plan dated July 2017 for the Piseco Lake Public Campgrounds in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County consisting of Little Sand Point Campground, Point Comfort Campground and Poplar Point Campground (the Plan); and

WHEREAS, the Plan contains specific proposals for the rehabilitation of existing facilities at the Little Sand Point Campground and the Point Comfort Campground; the Plan also contains a proposal to redevelop Poplar Point Campground as a no-fee boat launch and close the campsites; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the final Plan; and

WHEREAS, the management actions proposed within the Plan are Type II Actions pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 618.2; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has found the Final Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Public Campgrounds and Day Use Areas complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the Plan is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the need to rehabilitate comfort stations, improve infrastructure such as water and power lines, and improve individual campsites degraded by intensive public use at the Little Sand Point and Point Comfort campgrounds according to the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's objectives include a proposal to close Poplar Point campground to camping and redeveloping the site as a no-fee boat launch; the Department of Environmental Conservation believes that a large percentage of the users of the boat launch are seasonal residents and by limiting the parking at the boat launch the amount of boat traffic on Piseco Lake will not increase significantly; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation recognize the practice of consultation with each other as set forth in a memorandum of understanding and will continue to review management proposals not detailed in this Unit Management Plan including joint efforts to develop carrying capacity criteria for water bodies in the Adirondack Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Piseco Lake Public Campgrounds Unit Management Plan, dated July 2017, conforms to the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan including the Guidelines for Management and Use of Intensive Use Areas and Campgrounds; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Resolution adopted on this date, August 10, 2017.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Piseco Lake Public Campgrounds

Unit Management Plan

Proposed Final

Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York

July 2017

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

Governor **ANDREW M. CUOMO**

Commissioner **BASIL SEGGOS**

PISECO LAKE PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTE: Volume I is a generic plan and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day-use classified intensive-use areas. Volume II is a site-specific 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) prepares unit management plans (UMP) 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.

Region 5 staff has prepared this UMP. Any comments and/or information should be forwarded to Brett Blanchard, copy to Tom Folts, Division of Operations, Albany. For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

SUMMARY
PISECO LAKE PUBLIC CAMPGROUNDS
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria referenced in the *Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan* (APSLMP) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) management policy for Forest Preserve state-owned lands, the department has established a plan for the five -year operation of the Piseco Lake Public Campground.

Goals include: managing recreation programs in a manner which ensures protecting natural resources in accordance with Environmental Conservation law, offering recreational opportunities for 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.

DEC's management of the Piseco Lake Public Campground will conform to the APSLMP. In addition, the actions proposed in this UMP will conform to the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the GUMP/EIS and do not require any separate site-specific environmental review (see 6 NYCRR 617.10[d]).

Any action DEC takes on this unit that is not addressed in this UMP and is not addressed in the GUMP/EIS may need a separate site-specific environmental review. To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the 14 management actions below are being proposed.

Proposed Management Actions	
•	Replace ticket booths at 2 campgrounds
•	Little Sand Point – Reconstruct comfort station #1
•	Little Sand Point – Convert 4 campsites to universal design
•	Little Sand Point – Pave and improve drainage on loop road
•	Little Sand Point – Improve camper experience with site closures
•	Little Sand Point – Relocate chlorination building
•	Little Sand Point – Replace water lines
•	Poplar Point – Redevelop area as no-fee boat launch
•	Point Comfort – Improve site separation with site closures
•	Point Comfort – Pave and improve drainage of loop road
•	Point Comfort - Convert 6 vault toilet buildings to 3 comfort stations with showers
•	Point Comfort – Remove building 11 (old pump house)

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Point Comfort – Construct garage |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replace overhead with underground powerlines |

*Prioritized projects are to be completed when funding becomes available.

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with state health codes, maintenance of physical plant investment, modernization of facilities which enhance visitors' recreational experience, upkeep of facilities that contribute to public safety, and providing conditions in a setting and on scale in harmony with the character of the Adirondack Park.

Determination of conformance to criteria established in the APSLMP includes: deciding whether proposed activities avoid alterations of wetlands and topography; limiting vegetative clearing; preserving the scenic natural resources of the area; and whether the plan contains an adequate assessment of actual and projected public use.

Mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts have been considered. All construction projects will limit tree removal to minimize clearing and maintain the facility's wooded appearance. Architectural designs will be selected to achieve a harmonious blending with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will readily reestablish vegetation, effectively stabilizing soils. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. Proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak-use periods rather than to accommodate increased population projections.

Various alternative actions were considered. Public unrest, adverse effects on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. Current precedents preclude selection of alternatives at this time.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

The Piseco Lake Campgrounds are located within the DEC Region 5 Northville working circle and consists of three separate facilities totaling 175 campsites on 50 developed acres. The campgrounds—Poplar Point, Little Sand Point and Point Comfort—are situated in stands of northern hardwoods on the northwest shore of 2,848-acre Piseco Lake. Their location, 50 miles inside the southern boundary of the Adirondack Park, offer visitors a wide selection of outdoor pursuits, including camping, picnicking, fishing, swimming, boating and hiking on nearby state land. Several restaurants, a golf course and lift-serviced mountain biking are located within a few minutes' travel in the hamlets of Piseco, Lake Pleasant and Speculator. Most of the 175 campsites are well forested and many are located near the lakeshore. Amenities range from more primitive pit-type toilets at Poplar Point and Point Comfort to modern flush toilets and hot showers at Little Sand Point. Poplar Point and Point Comfort offer a beach area with a bathhouse and picnic areas with tables and grills. All three campgrounds have boat-launching facilities. Little Sand Point and Point Comfort have kayaks and canoes for rent. Little Sand Point has firewood for sale.

Hiking opportunities exist close by, including Panther Mountain Echo Cliffs from a trailhead near Little Sand Point and the T Lake Trail, which begins at Poplar Point Campground.

1. Location

The three campgrounds are located on County Route 24, also known as Old Piseco Road, three to six miles west of the hamlet of Piseco. Piseco is on County Route 24, one mile north of the intersection with State Highway 8 and ten miles west of Speculator. The three campgrounds are a portion of the Oxbow Tract, purchased in 1897.

Campground Locations in the Oxbow Tract		
Campground	Lot #	Survey Map
Poplar Point	222	3080
Little Sand Point	221	3177
Point Comfort	219, 220	3706

2. History

Long before the first European settlers arrived, the abundance of fish and game here attracted tribes of the Iroquois nation by providing them with food, clothing and shelter. To the south near the Mohawk River were more fertile valleys and easier transportation, which is where they maintained their settlements, but artifacts and traces of temporary camps used for hunting have been found at various locations around the lake. When clothing made from the pelts of beaver, sable and mink became fashionable in Europe, both Europeans and Indians hunted and trapped in the region before transporting their pelts to Albany for sale and trade. The first white settler in the area was Shadrack Dunning, who settled at the east end of Piseco Lake in 1827. His son Alvah is probably better known as a skilled guide and hermit and is sometimes “credited” with exterminating wolves and moose in the Adirondacks. The three campgrounds on Piseco Lake are located within an area defined by New York State that may contain archeologically sensitive sites and could hold items or remains of these early visitors.

Hamilton County was formed from Montgomery County in 1816, and the Town of Arietta was formed from the Town of Lake Pleasant in 1836. In 1841, the town was noted to have a population of 209. The lands upon which the campgrounds are situated are located in a portion of the Oxbow Tract. This tract was established by New York State in 1811, contained about 70,000 acres and was divided into 304 lots. Lots 219-222, in which the campgrounds are located, are in the northern portion of the Oxbow Tract. In the decades after the Revolution, the state was interested in selling its lands in the Adirondacks in hopes of harnessing the wilderness and making it productive. The land was sold for as little as a few cents an acre and many lands in the northern Adirondacks were given away to Revolutionary War veterans. In 1820, Duncan McMartin, Jr. surveyed the south part of the Oxbow Tract and estimated that the timber on it was worth from 10 to 50 cents an acre.

In 1835, Andrew K. Morehouse held over 9,000 acres in the Oxbow Tract. Already the founder of the community of Morehouse to the west and holding influence over a large portion of the southern Adirondack region, he planned a development at the north end of Piseco Lake by subdividing his lands and offering purchasers lots as long as they would be willing to meet his terms of contract. In 1841, the Village of Piseco boasted a hotel, blacksmith shop and sawmill and was described as flourishing. It had also been designated to become the county seat of Hamilton County. The soil turned out to be poor for farming, the growing season was short and the terms of Morehouse’s contracts turned out to be unreasonable, even controlling the size and shapes of residences and insisting on deadlines to complete intended projects. Most settlers could not meet the requirements or afford to stay, and by 1843 to 1845,

I. INTRODUCTION

the exodus of citizens from Piseco Village was in full swing. As late as 1848, Morehouse was still attempting to induce settlement on his lands by reproducing letters supposedly written by visitors to the area giving glowing accounts of how suitable it was for settlement and distributing these letters in New York City. One letter was written by a Mr. Burt who claims to have settled on acreage on Lots 220, 221 and 222, where the campgrounds are located today. He stated that the southern-facing slopes with a fine view of the lake would be well suited for farming. There is little evidence of farming ever occurring on these rocky and hilly slopes, and anyone who read these letters must not have been convinced. In 1860, the Village of Piseco was described as nearly deserted and contained but four families. The first wave of development in the area was over.

This region, like most of the Adirondacks, experienced the great timber harvest that grew slowly after 1850 and peaked in about 1880. The second wave of development brought the need for workers from outside the area along with improved transportation. In addition to work for loggers, jobs were created for processing logs at sawmills, tanning hemlock bark, growing hay and oats to feed horses and oxen, cooking to feed the loggers in lumber camps, cutting ice for refrigeration and many other related needs. This part of the Adirondacks held large stands of hemlock trees resulting in the construction of a number of tanneries close by, including the Silver Lake Tannery at Piseco. As a result, Hamilton County's population grew steadily from 2,188 in 1850 to 4,762 in 1890, and Piseco boasted a thriving tannery and sawmill business. After the timber was removed, much of the land fell into disuse, and, in the two decades between 1871 and 1890, the state began to acquire lands all through the Adirondacks through tax sales for unpaid taxes. Portions of lots 219-222 were purchased by New York State between 1892 and 1898 and became part of the newly protected Forest Preserve lands. Much of the state-owned forested areas in and surrounding the campgrounds today are second growth and have been growing since the timber harvests over 120 years ago. These areas have been protected from further cutting since 1894, when a constitutional convention approved what today is known as Article XIV of the State Constitution, the Forever Wild clause.

As timber supplies diminished and tanneries fell into decline, and just when the region needed another economic boost, an influx of vacationers in the late 1800s initiated a third wave of development. While the region had been well known for hunting and fishing for decades, the growing popularity of the automobile and improved roads greatly increased the ease of traveling to the area. Hotels were built to accommodate overnight visitors, private camps were constructed along lakeshores for seasonal use and the concept of roadside tent camping became popular. At first the use of state lands for camping was

completely unregulated. Before long, informal but popular campsites throughout the Adirondacks were quickly deteriorating from use, and the fear of forest fires prompted the state to take action to protect the forests. In the late 1920s, the first public campgrounds were developed. Most of these early campgrounds were located in areas where lots of informal camping was already occurring, usually right along the roads near a lake or stream. Poplar Point, which opened in 1927, and Point Comfort, which opened in 1931, are typical of what these early campgrounds looked like. At the time, Old Piseco Road was the only road connecting Piseco to Morehouse and settlements to the west. Due to the popularity of these two earlier campgrounds and the need for more campsites, Little Sand Point was opened to the public in 1953. In 1951, the state completed what we know today as Route 8 on the southern side of the lake, and the campgrounds as well as the Village of Piseco were no longer situated along the primary route through this area. Despite the tremendous increase in vehicle traffic since the early days of the campgrounds, a peaceful setting and several structures which have survived since the first years of operation can still be found. In 1994, the campgrounds were expanded to their current acreage through the reclassification of 81.1 acres of Ferris Lake Wild Forest and 32.8 acres of West Canada Lake Wilderness to Intensive Use.

The origin of the name Piseco Lake is not clear despite being one of the earliest named lakes in the Adirondacks. In his 1824 *Gazetteer*, Spafford says it bears the name of a singular Indian who lived alone on its shores. In Gordon's 1836 *Gazetteer*, the name appears as Piseco Lake, but no comment is made about the origin of the name. In an 1842 *Gazetteer*, the name Piseco Lake first appears. Some say it was named by the surveyor Joshua Brown for an Indian chief of his acquaintance. Others believed the name derived from the Latin word *pisces*, meaning fish.

Year	Poplar Point Campground Improvements
1927	Campground opened
1932	Supervisor's cabin constructed by Civilian Conservation Corp
1950	Storage and workshop building constructed
1951	Entrance booth constructed
1965	Bathhouse and lifeguard cabin constructed
1980	Comfort station constructed
1984	Potable water pump house constructed
1994	Potable water supply modified from lake to well, boat launch modernized

I. INTRODUCTION

Year	Little Sand Point Campground Improvements
1953	Campground opened
1960	Potable water pump house constructed
1965	Garage and workshop building constructed
1976	Comfort station 1 constructed
1981	Comfort station 3 constructed
1985	Comfort station 2 constructed
1994	Potable water supply modified from lake to well, boat launch modernized
2003	Well pump replacement
2009	Shower building constructed, two comfort stations converted from vault to flush toilets
2012	Wood storage building constructed

Year	Point Comfort Campground Improvements
1931	Campground opened
1975	Electric service extended to campground
1981	Refuse disposal building constructed and potable water system rehabilitated
1994	Potable water supply modified from lake to well, boat launch modernized

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

a. Poplar Point

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
21 campsites	Area – 1.6 acres
21 picnic tables	10 picnic tables
21 fireplaces	7 fireplaces
5 water spigots	6 grills
Design capacity – 126 persons (21 x 6/site)	4 water spigots
	Design capacity – 60 persons (10 x 6/table)

b. Little Sand Point

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
78 campsites	No day-use area currently
78 picnic tables	
78 fireplaces	
14 water spigots	
Design capacity – 468 persons (78 x 6/site)	

c. Point Comfort

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
76 campsites	Area – .23 acre
76 picnic tables	10 picnic tables
76 fireplaces	1 fireplace
10 water spigots	10 grills
Design capacity – 456 persons (76 x 6/site)	2 water spigots
	Design capacity – 60 persons (10 x 6/table)

2. Roads and Parking Areas

All three campgrounds are bordered on the northwest by County Route 24 (Old Piseco Road), and vehicular access to each is gained from this highway. Roads within the three campgrounds total 8,548' (1.6 miles).

a. Poplar Point

Paved roads within the campground total 1,692' (.32 mile) and are 10 feet wide. One wooden bridge crosses a small stream near campsite #7. Parking is adjacent to the day-use area and the caretaker's cabin. There is parking capacity for 10 vehicles and is shared by day users, hikers, visitors to the campsites and boat launch patrons.

b. Little Sand Point

Roads within the campground total 4,488' (.85 mile). 3,960' (.75 mile) are paved one way and are 12' wide. 528' (.1 mile) are unpaved, one way and are 12' wide. One stone arch bridge and six culverts provide drainage throughout the campground. This campground does not have a picnic day-use area. There is parking capacity for five cars shared by visitors to the campsites and boat launch patrons. The shower building has parking for 13 vehicles and includes two ADA spots.

c. Point Comfort

Roads within the campground total 3,696' (.7 mile). 2,896' (.55 mile) are paved, one way and are 12' wide. 800' are unpaved, one way and are 12' wide. Two culverts provide drainage. Parking is adjacent to the day-use area, in front of the bathhouse and pump house and near the entrance booth. There is parking capacity for 10 vehicles and is shared by day users, hikers, visitors to campsites and boat launch patrons.

3. Buildings

a. Poplar Point

Bldg #	Bldg Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Facility supervisor's cottage	Near entrance	694	Fair	1932
(002)	Comfort station #1	Near site 6	254	Fair	1965
(003)	Entrance booth	Near entrance	63	Fair	1951
(004)	Lifeguard cabin	Near beach	564	Fair	1965
(005)	Bathhouse	Near beach	532	Fair	1965
(007)	Pump house #1	Near beach	105	Fair	1984

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted Oct 2014. Comfort station has 8 vault toilets (4 per sex) and 2 sinks (1 per sex).

b. Little Sand Point

Bldg #	Bldg Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Facility supervisor's cottage	Near entrance	1,025	Fair	1951
(002)	Entrance booth	Near entrance	60	Fair	1951
(003)	Garage/Recycle center	Near entrance (across road)	875	Good	1965
(005)	Comfort station 1 (6-unit vault)	Near Site 12	195	Fair	1981
(006)	Comfort station 3 (6-unit flush)	Near Site 59	185	Fair	1985
(007)	Comfort station 2 (6-unit flush)	Near Site 33	285	Good	1985
(008)	Pump house	Near site 43	100	Poor	1960
(009)	Shower building	Near site 12 (across road)	1,092	Excellent	2009
	Lift station	Near shower building	130	Excellent	2009
	Wood storage building	Next to recycle center	864	Excellent	2012
	Lift station	Near comfort station 2	64	Excellent	2009

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted Oct 2014. Comfort station 5 is a vault unit with 6 toilets (3 per sex) and 2 sinks (1 per sex). Comfort station 6 is a flush unit with 3 toilets (2 per sex), one urinal and 2 sinks (1 per sex). Comfort station 7 is a flush unit with 6 toilets (3 per sex), one urinal and 4 sinks (2 per sex). The shower building has 8 unisex showers (2 ADA). The men's shower has 2 toilets (1 ADA), 1 urinal and 3 sinks; the women's shower has 3 toilets (1 ADA) and 3 sinks. There is also an ADA unisex bathroom with 1 toilet and 1 sink. Total for campground: 25 toilets, 15 sinks and 8 shower units.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

c. Point Comfort

Bldg #	Bldg Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Facility supervisor's cottage	Near entrance	6	Fair	1951
(002)	Entrance booth	Near entrance	60	Fair	1951
(003)	Comfort station 3	Near site 39	134	Fair	1930
(004)	Comfort station 4	Near site 37	134	Fair	1930
(005)	Comfort station 5	Near site 56	134	Fair	1930
(006)	Comfort station 6	Near site 57	134	Fair	1930
(007)	Comfort station 1	Near site 24	134	Fair	1930
(008)	Comfort station 2	Near site 24	134	Fair	1930
(009)	Bathhouse	Near beach	669	Fair	1930
(011)	Old pump house	Near site 36	151	Poor	1930
(012)	Storehouse	Near site 35	162	Fair	1950
(013)	Recycle building	Near entrance	120	Good	1993
(014)	Well pump house	Near site 51	48	Excellent	1993

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted Oct 2014.

Comfort stations 3-8 each have 4 vault toilets and 1 sink. Total for campground: 32 toilets, 8 sinks and no shower units.

4. Sewage System

a. Poplar Point

The comfort station is a vault-style toilet and waste from the eight toilets is held in an 800-gallon holding tank. The two comfort station sinks discharge into a sub-surface leaching system. Wastewater from the caretaker's cabin and lifeguard cabin discharges into 500-gallon septic tanks and then to approx.700-gallon cesspools. Each building contains one toilet, one shower and two sinks. These tanks will be pumped periodically by a department-owned pumping vehicle and transported to the Speculator or Johnstown wastewater treatment plant.

b. Little Sand Point

Comfort station 1 is a vault unit, and waste from the six toilets is held in a holding tank. The two sinks discharge into a sub-surface leaching system. Comfort stations 2 and 3 are flush units. The waste from these 12 toilets and 6 sinks flows into 1,000-gallon septic tanks at each building and then flows through .49 mile of gravity sewer to the lift station at the shower building. Waste from the eight showers, seven toilets and seven sinks at the shower building flows into a 6,000-gallon septic tank and

then to the lift station. A bio-filter at the shower building also flows to the lift station. All liquid waste is then pumped through .47 mile of force main to where it passes through a dosing chamber before entering the four central absorption beds. Waste from the shower, sink and toilet in the caretaker's cabin flows into a 500-gallon septic tank and then into a sub-surface leaching system. All tanks are pumped periodically by a department-owned pumping vehicle and transported to the Speculator or Johnstown wastewater treatment plant. A NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit #GP-0-05-001 was issued in 2008 permitting the sub-surface discharge of up to 5,010 gallons per day.

c. Point Comfort

The six comfort stations have vault-style toilets, and waste from the 24 toilets is held in six holding tanks. The gray water from the six sinks is discharged into three gray wells. Wastewater from the caretaker's cabin is discharged into a 500-gallon septic tank and sub-surface leaching system. All tanks are pumped periodically by a department-owned pumping vehicle, and approximately 30,000 gallons are transported to the Speculator or Johnstown wastewater treatment plant annually. A sink in the recycle building drains to a gray water well.

Bldg #	Bldg #/Type	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Pumped to Field	Year Built
Poplar Point				
(001)	Facility supervisor's cottage	500*	Yes	1932
(002)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1965
(004)	Lifeguard cabin	500*	Yes	1965
Little Sand Point				
(001)	Facility supervisor's cottage	500*	Yes	1951
(005)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1981
(006)	Comfort station	1,000	Yes	1985
(007)	Comfort station	1,000	Yes	1985
(009)	Shower building	6,000	Yes	2012
Point Comfort				
(001)	Facility supervisor's cottage	500*	Yes	1951
(003)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1930
(004)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1930
(005)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1930
(006)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1930
(007)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1930
(008)	Comfort station	Vault	No	1930

*These tanks flow by gravity to individual sub-surface leaching systems.

5. Solid Waste

Annual refuse generated is approximately 29 tons. Poplar Point campers are directed to dispose of garbage and recyclables at Little Sand Point, located 1.2 miles west on Old Piseco Road. At Little Sand Point and Point Comfort, garbage is dropped off at the recycle centers and compacted and bagged by campground staff. Garbage is picked up weekly by the Town of Arietta. A recycling program is operated at Little Sand Point and Point Comfort. About 1,000 lbs. of recyclables are collected annually. Returnable containers are collected at the campground and picked up by local not-for-profit organizations by permit.

Beginning with the 1992 season, all the day-use areas have been under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public, and a brochure was produced by the Albany Office.

6. Barriers

Barriers 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. The current inventory is shown below.

Location	Type	Function
<i>Poplar Point</i>		
Entrance	Pipe gate	Control access to campsites
End of Road by Site 21	Pipe gate	Control access to campsites
<i>Little Sand Point</i>		
Entrance	Pipe gate	Control access to campsites
<i>Point Comfort</i>		
Entrance	Pipe gate	Control access to campsites

7. Telephone

The main phone number for Poplar Point is 315-548-8031; for Little Sand Point, 315-548-7585; and for Point Comfort, 518-548-7586. When the campgrounds are closed, the phone lines are disconnected.

8. Signs

The messages conveyed to the public by means of standard (yellow on brown) signs include directions to or information about entry, the supervisor's office, the bulletin board, traffic control, commemorations, regulations, the picnic area, comfort stations and campsites.

9. Electric System

a. Poplar Point

The campground receives primary electrical distribution to a pole and transformer on Old Piseco Road and overhead secondary is distributed into the campground servicing the caretaker's cabin, ticket booth and lifeguard cabin. Service is underground to the comfort station and well house. National Grid provides power and distribution to the campground. DEC owns and maintains all utility lines on the campground. There are meters located at the caretaker's cabin and at the well house. Average yearly electric consumption is 3,000 kWh at a cost of \$900. (See Exhibit #7a.)

b. Little Sand Point

The campground receives primary electrical distribution from a pole and transformer located on Old Piseco Road near the campground entrance and a second pole and transformer located on Old Piseco Road near site 42. Secondary power is distributed overhead to the caretaker's cabin, ticket booth, recycle center, well house and comfort stations 5 and 7. Service is underground to the wood storage building, shower house, lift stations, well and comfort station 6. National Grid provides power and distribution to the campground. DEC owns and maintains all utility lines on the campground. There are meters located at the caretaker's cabin and at the well house. Average yearly electric consumption is 7,800 kWh at a cost of \$1,600. (See Exhibit #7b.)

c. Point Comfort

The campground receives primary electrical distribution from a pole and transformer located on Old Piseco Road near the campground entrance. Secondary power is distributed overhead to the caretaker's cabin. Service is underground to the recycle center, ticket booth, well, garage, pump house and comfort stations. National Grid provides power and distribution to the campground. DEC owns and maintains all utility lines on the campground. There is a meter located at the caretaker's cabin. Average yearly electric consumption is 7,250 kWh at a cost of \$1,300. (See Exhibit #7c.)

10. Potable Water System

The following features are common to all three campgrounds. All systems:

- Are separate supply systems not interconnected because of distances separating the facilities
- Are drilled well water supply systems
- Pump water to storage reservoirs before distribution to building and water spigots
- Are chlorinated prior to reaching the storage reservoirs and tested daily for chlorine content

a. Poplar Point

There is a 197'-deep drilled well located near the day-use area that supplies water to the campground. The well yields 15 gallons per minute and has a 3/4-HP pump with a pumping capacity of 16 gallons per minute. The water is treated by chlorine injection at the chlorination building and pumped to a 6,500-gallon reservoir. From the reservoir, it is gravity fed through .38 mile of waterline to the water spigots, comfort stations, staff housing, bathhouse and recycling center. (See Exhibit 5a.)

b. Little Sand Point

There is a 295'-deep drilled well located near site 44 that supplies water to the campground. The well yields 12 gallons per minute and has a 1/2-HP pump with a pumping capacity of 7 gallons per minute. The water is treated by chlorine injection at the chlorination building and pumped to a 6,400-gallon reservoir. From the reservoir, it is gravity fed through 1.1 miles of waterline to the water spigots, comfort stations, staff housing, bathhouse dump station and recycling center. (See Exhibit 5b.)

c. Point Comfort

There is a 295'-deep drilled well located near the main gate that supplies water to the campground. The well yields 7 gallons per minute and has a 3/4-HP pump with a pumping capacity of 5 gallons per minute. The water is chlorinated at a building near the well and pumped to a 7,500-gallon reservoir. From the reservoir, it is gravity fed through .57 mile of waterline to the water spigots, comfort stations, staff housing, bathhouse and recycling center. (See Exhibit 5c.)

11. Trails

The Echo Cliff – Panther Mountain Trail starts at a parking area on Old Piseco Rd. near site 65 at Little Sand Point Campground. The trail to this popular destination is well worn and steep and eroded

in several locations. An open rocky area and ledges provide spectacular views across Piseco Lake to Spy Lake and the Silver Lake Wilderness. The hike is 1.7 miles round trip.

The T Lake Trail starts at Poplar Point Campground 100 yards south of the entrance. The trail climbs 1,670 feet over 3.5 miles to the shore of T Lake where there is a lean-to. The fire tower on T Lake Mountain was removed in 1977. The trail once continued from here to T Lake Falls but has been closed due to safety concerns.

12. Fuel Systems

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

	Product Type	Tank Size Gal	Campground	Location	Annual Use gal
1	Propane	420	Poplar Point	Caretaker Cabin	92
2	Propane	100	Poplar Point	Lifeguard Cabin	
3	Propane	420	Little Sand Point	Caretaker Cabin	899
4	Propane	2,000	Little Sand Point	Shower Building	
5	Propane	420	Point Comfort	Caretaker Cabin	78
	Avg gallons used 1,1220		Avg annual Cost		\$2,000

13. Swimming

In most years, the beaches at Poplar Point and Point Comfort were operational for the core of the camping season and staffed by lifeguards. Since 2013, a lack of qualified lifeguards in the area has forced the closure of these beaches for the season. It is DEC's intention to continue to recruit and test lifeguard candidates and open these beaches if qualified staff become available.

14. Boating

A boat launching site is located at each of the three campgrounds and enhance fishing and other water-related recreational opportunities on Piseco Lake. Many private camp owners also use these facilities to launch and remove their boats for the season. These sites are listed in the New York State Directory of State Access and Boat Launching Areas as having a hard surface launching ramp, meaning they are trailer-launch capable. Each launch was reconstructed in 1993 and consists of a cast-in-place concrete approach slab abutting a 15'-wide concrete push slab ramp. Each has a floating dock to assist patrons with launching. Parking is limited at all three sites, with room for 12 vehicles and trailers at Poplar Point and for six vehicles and trailers each at Little Sand Point and Point Comfort. Exhibit 11 of Volume I of the *Final Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for*

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas shows the facility to have a pre-existing and improved ramp which provides for the only public access to the launching of trailered boats. Currently there are no private launch areas on the lake. During the 2016 season, the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program staffed stewards at Poplar Point 113 days, Little Sand Point 39 days and Point Comfort 79 days. For the season 1,390 boats were inspected. 73% of the boats inspected were motorboats, 16% kayaks and canoes, 8% personal watercraft and 2% sail boats. Visitors were asked to provide the name of the last body of water the boat was launched on. While 72% responded none or Piseco Lake, 38% listed 67 other bodies of water. According to the report, the average number of boats launched per day was 6.4 at Point Comfort, 4.2 at Little Sand Point and 6.7 at Poplar Point. For information on what aquatic species were found on boats being launched, see section III-2-F.

15. Dams

A dam is located at the outflow of Big Bay near where it passes under a bridge on State Route 10. The Town of Arietta controls the level of the lake to provide a stable water level from June through September through the use of adding and removing splashboards.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

Poplar Point	
Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor I
2	Park and Recreation Aide
2	Life Guards

Little Sand Point	
Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor II
1	Conservation Security Worker
3	Park and Recreation Aide
2	Life Guards

Point Comfort	
Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor I
3	Park and Recreation Aide
2	Life Guards

2. Fee Schedule 2016

Daily Fees 2016 Open Dates: May 20 - Sept 5*	
Camping/night – NYS Residents	\$20.00
Camping/night – Non-Residents	\$25.00
Day Use - Auto	\$8.00
Day Use - Walk In	\$2.00
Day Use - Bus	\$75.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$4.00
Wood – per bag	\$9.00
Empire Passport - season	\$65.00

*Little Sand Point Open Dates May 20 – Sept 11

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 2016, there were no permits issued.

4. Off-Season Use

During the winter, these campgrounds are closed. At Poplar Point, the road to the boat launch is plowed to provide access for ice fishing.

5. Junior Naturalist Program

The Junior Naturalist Program offers an activity book that gives children the opportunity to test their environmental knowledge while teaching them more about New York State's environment. Children 5 through 12 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 season. In 2016, the program was offered at all three campgrounds.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The elevation of Piseco Lake is 1,661'. All three campgrounds rise moderately from the lake shore to a maximum elevation of 1,830' in Poplar Point and Little Sand Point and 1,908' in Point Comfort. (See Exhibit 2.)

b. Water

Piseco Lake is 2,765 acres with 21.3 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 129' feet. It has a watershed area of 35,000 acres or 55 square miles. The outlet is known as Piseco Lake Outlet and flows through Big Bay before entering the West Branch of the Sacandaga River and the Sacandaga River and reaching the Hudson River at Hadley. There are 18 waterfront campsites at Poplar Point, 48 at Little Sand Point and 14 at Point Comfort. There is .39 mile of shoreline at Poplar Point, .69 mile at Little sand Point and .67 mile at Point Comfort Campgrounds.

c. Wetlands

Wetlands are inventoried, mapped, and protected under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law, by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency. Within Poplar Point Campground, there is .50 acre of Palustrine wetland and two streams flowing through the campground, totaling .3 mile of linear intermittent riverine wetland. Within Little Sand Point Campground, there is .64 acre of Palustrine wetland and one stream flowing through the campground, totaling .16 mile of linear intermittent riverine wetland. Within Point Comfort Campground, there are 6.8 acres of Palustrine wetland and one stream flowing through the campground, totaling .25 mile of linear intermittent riverine wetland and one stream flowing through the campground, totaling .19 mile of upper perennial riverine wetland.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of the wetland 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 8.)

d. Soils

Soil associations consist of:

- Skerry-Becket complex, 3-15% slopes, very bouldery
 - Adams loamy sand, 3-15% slopes
 - Becket-Turnbridge complex, 15-35% slopes, very bouldery
 - Lyman-Ricker complex, 35-60% slopes, very rocky
- (See Exhibit 8.)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

The forest in the vicinity of the shoreline of Piseco Lake is primarily a Beech-Maple mesic forest—a hardwood forest with American beech and sugar maple co-dominating. These forests occur on moist, well-drained, usually acid soils. Common associates are basswood, American elm, white ash, yellow birch, hop hornbeam and red maple. There are relatively few shrubs and herbs. Eastern hemlock and red spruce may also be present at low densities.

Past events such as fire, wind and logging have strongly influenced present conditions. During the early 1900s, this area was affected when great fires swept across most of the Adirondacks. Logging in the immediate vicinity of the campgrounds ceased in the later part of the 19th century as evidenced in the mature forest stands today. On November 25, 1950, a severe hurricane laid waste to hundreds of thousands of acres of privately owned and Forest Preserve lands. Some areas in the vicinity of Point Comfort Campground were impacted. Road deicing agents spread on Old Piseco Road may exhibit evidence of salt damage from this activity, especially in eastern white pines. Due to long-term camping on these sites, soil compaction and erosion has occurred resulting in the loss of some trees and shrubs. There are wetland areas both along the shore and upland.

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. No rare plants or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within the three campgrounds on Piseco Lake.

c. Wildlife

The *Ferris Lake Wild Forest Wildlife Unit Management Plan* contains extensive inventories of wildlife species that DEC and other individuals conducted on a broad ecosystem-type basis. Most species listed in that plan could be present in or near the campgrounds. Some larger mammals include

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, river otter, beaver, mink, varying hare, striped skunk, gray squirrel, porcupine, red fox, gray fox, muskrat, fisher and marten. The smaller mammals include a variety of bats, shrews, moles and mice, along with ermine, long-tailed weasel, eastern chipmunk and red squirrel.

The *New York State Breeding Bird Atlas* compiled by DEC and the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs lists 145 bird species as occurring in *Breeding Bird Atlas* blocks that lie wholly or partially within the Ferris Lake unit: 17 possible breeders, 18 probable breeders and 110 confirmed breeders. Birds associated with marshes, ponds, lakes and streams are numerous and include the common loon, American woodcock, great blue heron, green heron, Canada goose and a variety of ducks. The most common ducks include the mallard, black duck, wood duck, common merganser and hooded merganser. Birds of prey common to the unit include the barred owl, great horned owl, red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, broad-winged hawk and northern goshawk. Songbirds present include various species of woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers, blackbirds, finches, grosbeaks and sparrows. Common upland game species include wild turkey and ruffed grouse.

The relatively short summers and long cold winters limit the number of species of reptiles and amphibians within the FLWF. Four species of turtles, eight species of snakes, seven species of salamanders, one species of toad, and eight species of frogs have been documented in the unit. Species found in marshes or ponds and along wooded streams include: turtles—snapping, painted and Blanding's; snakes—northern water, northern red belly, eastern garter and, northern brown; toads—American; salamanders—spotted, Jefferson, red-spotted newt, spring, two-lined and northern dusky; frogs—bullfrog, pickerel, green, wood, mink, northern leopard, gray tree frog and spring peeper.

The Indiana bat is the only species listed on the New York State Endangered Species List that may be found in the FLWF. The only threatened species known to inhabit the unit is the northern harrier. More detailed information on wildlife species can be found in the *2006 Ferris Lake Unit Management Plan*.

d. Fisheries

Piseco Lake offers 21.3 miles of shoreline and has traditionally received lake trout stockings. In recent years, landlocked salmon have been added to these annual stockings. Because of abundant populations of lakery and landlocks, Piseco Lake sees heavy angling pressure, especially during winter. Ice fishing actually comprises 80 percent of the pressure here. In spring, the best catches of trout and

salmon are taken by trolling near creeks. Piseco Lake has good numbers of whitefish. A detail of the Piseco lake fisheries, including proposed objectives, can be found in the *Ferris lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan*.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution

Article XIV of the *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 in construction to the fullest extent possible so as to blend with the Adirondack environment. These constraints are further described in Volume I of the generic plan.

C. Environmental Conservation Laws

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 the administration of the lands involved.

D. Recreation Program Goals

- Management of recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of natural resources according to 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 state residents.
- 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 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 times the number of nights spent) and day use (the number of people using the beach or day-use areas or visiting campers) but not staying overnight. Camping attendance at these facilities for the latest five years is nearly twice the levels experienced 20 years ago, and day use is about half compared to the same period. . None-the-less, camping attendance declined 1% and Day Use declined 23% from 2012-2016. Campground use during winter months occurs from use of snowmobile trails, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing 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.

	Poplar Point			Little Sand Point			Point Comfort		
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total	Camping	Day Use	Total	Camping	Day Use	Total
2016	1,697	1,652	3,349	11,866	612	12,478	6,899	1,608	8,507
2015	1,949	1,577	3,614	10,563	531	11,094	6,044	1,804	7,848
2014	2,083	1,365	3,369	10,814	342	11,156	6,042	1,056	7,098
2013	2,177	1,672	3,924	10,992	296	11,288	6,134	1,380	7,514
2012	2,145	2,164	4,406	11,268	667	11,935	7,302	2,195	9,497
Avg	2,010	1,644	3,654	11,101	490	11,590	6,484	1,609	8,093

Poplar Point

Camping attendance at Poplar Point from 2012-2016 dropped 20% while day use dropped 23% in the same period. The drop in camping attendance for 2014 and 2015 is a greater decrease than average for all facilities and may be due to the closing of the beach because of unavailability of lifeguards. Day-use attendance shows similar trends to camping attendance. Most Poplar Point campers are from New York State (86%) with strong representation from Onondaga, Oneida, Herkimer, Fulton and Saratoga counties. Relatively few New York campers visit Poplar Point from south and east of the New York State Thruway (See Exhibit 9a). The average stay for campers is 2.3 nights, and overall campground occupancy for the season is 26%.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Little Sand Point

Camping attendance at Little Sand Point from 2012-2016 increased 5% while day use dropped 8% in the same period. Day-use attendance is small compared to camping attendance due to the lack of a picnic area and a staffed beach, and is mostly limited to usage of the boat launch. Most Little Sand Point campers are from New York State (89%) with strong representation from Oneida, Herkimer and Fulton counties and to a lesser extent, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo. Relatively few New York campers visit Little Sand Point from south and east of the New York State Thruway (See Exhibit 9b). The average stay for campers is 2.9 nights, and overall campground occupancy for the season is 34%.

Point Comfort

Camping attendance at Point Comfort from 2012-2016 declined 5% while Day Use declined 27% for the same period. Day-use attendance has been irregular over the last five years, most likely due to impacts of weather and the inability to recruit lifeguards. Most Point Comfort campers are from New York State (86%), with strong representation from Oneida and Fulton counties. Relatively few New York campers visit Point Comfort from south and east of the New York State Thruway (See Exhibit 9c). The average stay for campers is 2.6 nights, and overall campground occupancy for the season is 22%.

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 and sales of Empire Passports, boat rentals and firewood.

Poplar Point

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Poplar Point

Year	Camping	Day Use	Empire Passports	Firewood	Total
2016	\$12,155	\$2,912	\$975	\$9	\$16,051
2015	\$13,795	\$2,918	\$845	\$0	\$17,558
2014	\$11,640	\$2,976	\$1,170	\$0	\$15,786
2013	\$12,660	\$3,364	\$845	\$0	\$16,869
2012	\$12,820	\$3,792	\$975	\$0	\$17,587
Avg	\$12,614	\$3,192	\$962		\$16,770

Operating costs for Poplar Point average \$17,000 annually. A camping fee increase in 2014 partially offset the drop in camping attendance. Revenue for day use is consistent with attendance fluctuations but is partially offset with the increase in Empire Passport sales. Customers at Poplar Point drive to Little Sand Point to purchase firewood.

Little Sand Point

5 Year Revenue Totals for Little Sand Point

Year	Camping	Day Use	Boats	Empire Passports	Firewood	Total
2016	\$70,760	\$1,356	\$6,015	\$650	\$6,516	\$85,297
2015	\$69,470	\$1,144	\$5,815	\$585	\$5,733	\$82,747
2014	\$61,680	\$804	\$5,070	\$0	\$5,220	\$72,774
2013	\$61,740	\$712	\$3,585	\$0	\$6,400	\$72,437
2012	\$62,800	\$1,536	\$0	\$0	\$5,904	\$70,240
Avg	\$65,290	\$1,110	\$5,121	\$618	\$5,955	\$76,699

Operating costs for Little Sand Point average \$80,000 annually. Camping revenue jumped 23% in 2012 after a new shower building opened and it has been static since. Revenue is consistent with attendance at this facility with a large increase in 2012 which then returned to static levels. Boat rentals were introduced in 2013, and staff report that all boats are rented on busier days. Firewood sales remain static.

Point Comfort

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Point Comfort

Year	Camping	Day Use	Boats	Empire Passports	Firewood	Total
2016	\$35,925	\$2,708	\$2,180	\$325	\$0	\$41,138
2015	\$40,755	\$3,278	\$2,510	\$325	\$0	\$46,868
2014	\$34,100	\$2,480	\$1,805	\$390	\$0	\$38,775
2013	\$35,580	\$2,618	\$1,705	\$350	\$0	\$40,253
2012	\$41,620	\$4,018	\$0	\$1,105	\$0	\$46,743
Avg	\$38,014	\$3,039	\$1,755	\$615	\$0	\$41,632

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Operating costs for Point Comfort average \$70,500 annually. Camping and day-use revenue jumped in 2012 after a new shower building opened nearby at Little Sand Point, but it has dropped to previous levels and been static since. Revenue is consistent with attendance at this facility. Boat rentals were introduced in 2013 and have been popular. Campers must go to Little Sand Point for firewood.

2. Carrying Capacity

DEC campgrounds should be operated within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of each site. Operation within these limits will grant continued character and integrity to intensive recreational use and will assure that public use is conditioned within the capacity of the physical, biological and social resources to withstand such use.

a. Physical Design

The following is an analysis of existing design capacities compared to NYS Department of Health codes and DEC design standards. The existing campsite design capacity 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, and the following deficiencies are noted. Utility sinks are needed in each camping loop to provide a sanitary and convenient location for cleaning and disposing of waste water. Showers are needed at Point Comfort and should be located conveniently within the facility. A trailer dumping station is needed at Point Comfort. No comfort stations within the facilities meet current accessibility standards.

1. Poplar Point

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (21)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites	1	0	None (1)
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	1,155 gpd	21,600 gpd	None
10 day-use picnic tables	5 gal/day/picnicker	300 gpd		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	2	5	None
	1/60 picnickers	1	4	None
Sinks (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	1	1	None
	1 for every 60 picnickers	1	1	None

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Toilets/Urinals	2 for every 10 sites	2	6	None
(within 500')	2 for every 60 picnickers	2	2	None
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	1	0	1
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	2	0	None (2)
*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.				

(1) Trailer dumping station at Little Sand Point is adequate to serve both campgrounds.

(2) Shower building at Little Sand Point is adequate to serve both campgrounds.

2. Little Sand Point

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (78)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites	1	1	None
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	4,290 gpd	10,080 gpd	None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	8	13	None
Sinks (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	5	15	None
Toilets/Urinals	2 for every 10 sites	8	25	None
(within 500')				
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	4	1	3
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	6	8	None
*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.				

3. Point Comfort

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (76)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites	1	0	1
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	4,180 gpd	7,200 gpd	None
10 day-use picnic tables	5 gal/day/picnicker	300 gpd		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	8	14	None
	1/60 picnickers	1	2	None
Sinks (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	5	6	None
	1 for every 60 picnickers	1	2	None
Toilets/Urinals	2 for every 10 sites	8	24	None
(within 500')	2 for every 60 picnickers	2	8	None

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Utility sinks	Conveniently located	3	0	3
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	3	0	3
*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes.				

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many of the campsites 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. In an effort to address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the conditions and needs at all DEC campgrounds, which will include all 6,000+ campsites. Restoration work will include tree and shrub plantings, replacement of lost soils, regrading of sites, drainage improvements, evaluation of 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 use for two camping seasons. The restoration work may be put on a temporary hold at Little Sand Point and Point Comfort so that the sites remain available until the impacts of the site closures at Poplar Point have stabilized.

Additional sites for restoration, approximately three per season, will be selected each year. In some cases, sites will be considered for permanent closure or reconstruction. Sites permanently closed may be evaluated for relocation to another facility in future unit management plans.

During winter, these campgrounds are closed and access for ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing is off the main road. Hazardous trees are removed on a regular basis, (according to established policy) and, in addition to natural regeneration, growth of residual trees and plantings as noted above compensate for any losses.

c. Social Carrying Capacity

Annual camper surveys have been conducted since 1996. Campers have been asked to rate their 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.

As part of the UMP process at Piseco Lake campgrounds, a review of the condition of the 175 campsites was made to insure compliance with the requirements of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, the Generic UMP for Campgrounds and Environmental Regulations. This review noted several concerns. Some sites are undersized. Several sites lack adequate vegetation screening between them, from the road and from the lakeshore. Some sites are located in a naturally wet area and have little

opportunity to dry during extended wet periods. Some sites are on excessive slopes lacking a level place to erect a tent. As a result, many have low occupancy. The camper survey results below also indicate a significant number of campground visitors' experiences fell short of expectations. A further review will result in designating some sites for permanent closure, along with restoration of adjacent sites, which is expected to improve the conditions noted above.

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.

Camper Survey Results						
	Poplar Point		Little Sand Point		Point Comfort	
	# of Responses	Good or Excellent	# of Responses	Good or Excellent	# of Responses	Good or Excellent
2016	44	75%	177	86%	101	78%
2015	2	(1)	43	79%	25	64%
2014	29	76%	98	81%	31	97%
2013	18	83%	93	82%	50	82%
2012	2	(1)	20	90%	30	77%

(1) Insufficient responses for valid result

D. Unique Ecosystems, Historical

The New York Natural Heritage Program maintains a comprehensive database on the status and location of rare species and natural communities found throughout the state. No significant unique ecosystems have been identified or are known to exist at these campgrounds.

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that all three campgrounds are 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 beneficial or adverse changes in the quality of any historic or archaeological property, all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered, together with feasible plans to avoid and/or mitigate adverse impact on the property. The agency preservation officer has been so informed in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

E. Adjacent Lands

1. Poplar Point

The campground is bordered on the south for 2,475' by the shoreline of Piseco Lake, on the east for 685' by one private parcel, on the north for 2,348' by state lands that are part of the West Canada Lakes Wilderness Area and on the west for 710' by two private parcels. Old Piseco Road bisects the campground parcel from east to west.

2. Little Sand Point

The campground is bordered on the south for 4,010' by the shoreline of Piseco Lake, on the east for 637' by two private parcels, on the north for 3,842' by state lands that are part of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest and on the west for 512' by state lands that are part of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest and for 411' by one private parcel. Old Piseco Road bisects the campground parcel from east to west.

3. Point Comfort

The campground is bordered on the south for 4,448' by the shoreline of Piseco Lake, on the east for 639' by one private parcel and for 660' by state lands that are part of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest, on the north for 4,142' by state lands that are part of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest and on the west for 652' by state lands that are part of the Ferris Lake Wild Forest. Old Piseco Road bisects the campground parcel from east to west.

The adjacent Ferris Lake Wild Forest and West Canada Lakes Wilderness Area offer many recreational opportunities, including hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, canoeing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding and primitive camping. Miles of marked trails and numerous lakes and ponds make this unit an ideal destination for recreationists looking for options in addition to what's available at the campground. As stated above, there is also access to trails directly from the campground. For more information, refer to the Ferris Lake Wild Forest and West Canada Lakes Wilderness Area webpages at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/105391.html>.

F. Invasive Species

The threat of invasive species at campgrounds concerns DEC because of the destructive effect of invasives on our environment and the associated financial drain on revenue and resources.

One common way many 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 the visitors came from. A regulation in effect prohibits the import of firewood into New York unless it has

been heat treated to kill pests. It also limits the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source.

It is DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, to establish a documented inventory of species by location within the campground and to implement an invasive species management program to help contain and possibly eradicate them. 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 2014 Program Report*. The report finds the following for the Piseco Lake campgrounds.

In collaboration with the Piseco Lake Association and the Town of Arietta; the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program staffed stewards at all 3 campground boat launches to perform inspections and provide information to visitors launching boats. Reported results of these inspections include that 46% of visitors had taken spread prevention measures and 92.7% of boats passed the inspection. Three aquatic invasive species were intercepted and removed. Spiny waterflea was the only aquatic invasive species detected in Piseco Lake.

1. Poplar Point

Invasive Species Present: purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, Japanese barberry and Japanese knotweed

Locations: Garlic mustard was removed from site 10. Purple loosestrife was found and removed from the marshy area in front of the parking lot and a marshy area near the outlet of a stream that runs behind site 4. Japanese barberry and Japanese knotweed were found on the beach below site 21.

Management Totals: A total of 9 purple loosestrife plants and 9 garlic mustard plants were removed from the campground this year. No management was completed on the barberry due to the size of the plants.

Recommendations: This campground should be monitored annually to address any reoccurring purple loosestrife or garlic mustard plants. Japanese knotweed was found at this campground for the first time and should be treated with herbicide to prevent its continued spread and establishment on Piseco Lake. The Japanese barberry plants are too large for mechanical management, but any new, smaller plants should be pulled to prevent further spread.

2. Little Sand Point

Invasive Plant Species: garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, bush honeysuckle

Locations: Garlic mustard was found and removed from site 24. Two patches of Japanese knotweed are present just behind the registration booth near the campground entrance. The first patch borders site 4, while the second borders sites 5 and 6 and extends down a stream towards the lake. Bush honeysuckle is scattered throughout the campground.

Management Totals: A total of 12 garlic mustard plants were removed from the campground.

Recommendations: This campground should be monitored annually to combat, and hopefully locally eradicate, the small garlic mustard infestation. The Japanese knotweed infestations should be treated with herbicide next year, if possible, to minimize their growth and spread throughout the campground and surrounding areas. Knotweed was detected for the first time in 2016 at another campground on Piseco Lake, reiterating the need for management. Japanese barberry was found for the first time at this campground in 2015, but was not detected in 2016. Annual monitoring should be conducted to detect any reemerging plants. This species presents a potential health hazard to campers due to its thorns and ability to improve tick habitat. Monitoring for purple loosestrife should also be conducted along the shoreline on an annual basis as it has been found at nearby campgrounds on Piseco Lake.

3. Point Comfort

Invasive Plant Species: garlic mustard

Locations: Garlic mustard was found and removed from site 49.

Management Totals: A number of rosettes were removed from the campground this year, but no second year plants were observed.

Recommendations: This campground should be monitored annually to combat and hopefully locally eradicate the current infestation of garlic mustard. Monitoring for purple loosestrife should be conducted along the shoreline on an annual basis, as it has been found at other campgrounds on Piseco Lake

G. General Operations

Poplar Point, Little Sand Point and Point Comfort campgrounds are popular facilities used by visitors during the summer season (mid-May through Labor Day) for camping, swimming, boating and hiking. The rest of the year, these campgrounds see little activity, with some visitation for ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The hiking trails are popular, especially in the fall. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the campgrounds for both

visitors and employees. A well-maintained facility promotes increased interest in camper's use of these campgrounds and their amenities for continued recreation. Daily operations of these campgrounds are guided by policy set forth in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D of the *1990 Generic Unit Management Plan*.

H. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) will be used in assessing existing facilities or assets to determine compliance with accessibility standards. Management recommendations will be suggested in accordance with the proposed ADAAG for outdoor developed areas and other appropriate documents. Until such time as the proposed ADAAG becomes an adopted rule of the Department of Justice, DEC will use the best information available to comply with the ADA, including the current and proposed guidelines. Current ADA standards and guidelines will be considered in the design of all new projects and will be implemented where feasible. In June 2014, an accessibility assessment was conducted at the Piseco Lake campgrounds by the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland. They assessed various areas in the campground, including the beach, shower building and comfort stations and suggested improvements to provide accessibility. For example, increase the height of the fire-building surface at the designated accessible campsite to nine inches. This will make the fire-building surface easier for visitors to reach. More info on inspections and recommendations can be found at <http://colfax.cortland.edu/nysirrc/resources.html>.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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

Proposed Management Actions		
	Management Actions	Cost
1.	Replace ticket booths at 2 campgrounds	\$50,000
2.	Little Sand Point – Reconstruct comfort station #1	\$400,000
3.	Little Sand Point – Convert 4 campsites to universal design	\$20,000
4.	Little Sand Point – Loop road paving and drainage work	\$275,000
5.	Little Sand Point – Site closures to improve camper experience	\$50,000
6.	Little Sand Point – Relocate chlorination building	\$20,000
7.	Little Sand Point – Replace water lines	\$220,000
8.	Poplar Point –Redevelop as a no-fee boat launch	\$10,000
9.	Point Comfort – Site closures to improve site separation	\$50,000
10.	Point Comfort – Loop road paving and drainage work	\$400,000
11.	Point Comfort - Convert 6 vault-toilet buildings to 3 comfort stations with showers	\$1,200,000
12.	Point Comfort – Remove building 11 (old pump house)	\$5,000
13.	Point Comfort – Construct garage	\$80,000
14.	Replace overhead with underground powerlines	\$130,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities and comply with health and safety codes and satisfy user needs. They will also provide universal access and increase the efficiency of campground management. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for DEC. Prioritization of management actions was based on the availability of funding, health and safety concerns.

1. Replace ticket booths at 2 campgrounds

The existing ticket booths were all constructed in 1953, prior to the need for computers, printers, and ADA design requirements. The buildings are undersized for today's equipment to check in campers and day users efficiently. This management action proposes to construct a new ticket booth at Little Sand Point and Point Comfort in the same location that will meet the needs of today's operations.

2. Little Sand Point – Reconstruct comfort station

In 2009, comfort stations 2 and 3 were converted from vault to flush units. Comfort station 1 is the only remaining vault unit in the campground, and no comfort stations currently meet accessibility design standards. This management action proposes to construct a new comfort station that will comply with current design standards and will be located adjacent to proposed universal campsites.

3. Little Sand Point – Convert 4 campsites to universal design

Currently there are no campsites in any of the Piseco campgrounds which meet all accessibility design standards. Along with the proposed comfort station in management action #2, this management action proposes to convert 4 campsites to universal design.

4. Little Sand Point – Loop road paving and drainage work

The existing roads at Little Sand Point are a combination of old pavement and graveled surfaces, both of which are in poor condition. Many sections of broken pavement, poor drainage and road dust create an annoyance to campers during dry periods. Paving the .85 mile of road in the camping area will reduce maintenance and improve safety for driving, cycling and walking. Potholes, wet areas and dust issues will also be mitigated.

5. Little Sand Point – Campsite closures to improve visitor experience

As noted in section III-F-2 in this plan, several campsites lack adequate vegetation screening between sites, from the road and from the lakeshore. Some sites are located in a naturally wet area and have little opportunity to dry during extended wet periods. Some sites are on excessive slopes and lack a level place to erect a tent. As a result, many of these sites have low occupancy. This management action proposes to evaluate each campsite and determine which sites, if permanently closed, would contribute to an overall improved camping experience on remaining sites. It is expected that overall campground occupancy and revenues will improve as a result. These site closures will not be implemented until the impacts of the site closures at Poplar Point have been evaluated.

6. Little Sand Point - Relocate Chlorination Building

The existing pump house was constructed in 1960 when drinking water was drawn from the lake. When the water system was converted to a well supply, the original pump house was converted to a chlorination building. This management action proposes to construct a new chlorination building in the vicinity of the well (near site 44) and demolish the existing building. This will result in a reduction of

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

the requirement to maintain 450' of waterline and the removal of a building that is difficult to access because of steep grades and its location on the shoreline.

7. Little Sand Point - Replace waterlines throughout campground

While the original comfort stations and water spigots have been replaced over the years, much of the waterline system at Little Sand Point was installed prior to 1953 and is constantly in need of repairs due to broken lines, frost damage and corroded valves and drains. This management action proposes to replace approximately 4,000' of water line and associated valves and drains.

8. Poplar Point - Redevelop as a no-fee boat launch

Most campsites at Poplar Point are located close to the highway with poor separation between each site. The only comfort station contains vault-style toilets, and campers must travel to Little Sand Point Campground for most services. Staff report that most of the day-use activity is for the boat launch. To address this situation, the following alternatives were considered.

Alternative 1: No change in Poplar Point Campground operations. This alternative would leave the facility open to paid camping and day use as it has been previously. Staffing and operating costs would remain relatively consistent.

Alternative 2: Close Poplar Point Campground completely. This alternative would shift public use to the Little Sand Point and Point Comfort campgrounds. Staff and operating budget could be shifted to surrounding facilities.

Alternative 3: Redevelop Poplar Point Campground as a day-use only facility. This alternative would close the facility to camping while still continuing to provide day-use facilities and a boat launch. As part of the redevelopment, the boat launch and parking area could be redesigned to better accommodate vehicles with trailers and facilitate improved access and traffic flow. At that time, design specifics and layout would be done in consultation with the APA. Operating Poplar Point as a day-use facility where fees would be collected would require slightly less staffing and operating funds, which could be shifted to other surrounding facilities.

Alternative 4: Redevelop Poplar Point Campground as a no-fee picnic and boat launch facility. This alternative would close the facility to camping while still continuing to provide free boat launch access to Piseco Lake. As part of the redevelopment, the picnic area, boat launch and parking area could be redesigned to better accommodate vehicles with trailers and eliminate boat

launch users from having to drive through a picnic area resulting in improved safety, access and traffic flow. At that time, design specifics and layout would be done in consultation with the APA. The redesign would accommodate for better traffic flow and any changes in quantity of parking spots would be based on but not limited to carrying capacity of the site as well as the lake, APA consultation and funding. A porta john or vault style toilet would be available for users. Operating Poplar Point as a no-fee–boat launch facility would require minimal staff and operating budget, which could be shifted to other surrounding facilities resulting in a significant reduction in staffing and maintenance costs at this facility.

Alternative 5: Redevelop Poplar Point Campground as a no-fee boat launch facility. This is the preferred alternative. This alternative is the same as alternative 4, but in addition, the Department will seek collaborative/cooperative partnerships with community stakeholders to provide additional stewardship opportunities at Poplar Point day use area.

9. Point Comfort – Site closures to improve site separation

As noted in section III-F-2 of this plan, several campsites lack adequate vegetation screening between sites, from the road and from the lakeshore. Some sites are located in a naturally wet area and have little opportunity to dry during extended wet periods. Some sites are on excessive slopes lacking a level place to erect a tent. As a result, many of these sites have low occupancy. This management action proposes to evaluate each campsite and determine which sites, if permanently closed, would contribute to an overall improved camping experience on remaining sites. It is expected that overall campground occupancy and revenues will improve as a result. These site closures will not be implemented until the impacts of the site closures at Poplar Point have been evaluated.

10. Point Comfort – Loop road paving and drainage work

The existing roads at Point Comfort are a combination of old pavement and graveled surfaces, both of which are in poor condition. Many sections of broken pavement, poor drainage and road dust create an annoyance to campers during dry periods. Paving the 1.25 miles of road in the camping area will reduce maintenance and improve safety for driving, cycling and walking. Potholes, wet areas and dust issues will also be mitigated.

11. Point Comfort - Convert 6 vault toilet buildings to 3 comfort stations

All comfort stations at Point Comfort were built in 1930, are of vault style and do not meet ADA design guidelines. Campers must travel several miles to Little Sand Point to use the shower facility. This

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

management action proposes to remove the six existing vault toilet buildings and construct three comfort stations with flush toilets and showers similar to those being constructed at other DEC campgrounds. Buildings will be sized according to the number of campsites they serve after site closures described in management action #9 have been determined.

12. Point Comfort – Remove building 11 (old pump house)

Building 11, once the pump house supplying water to the campground, is no longer used, and this management action proposes to remove it.

13. Point Comfort – Construct garage

The seasonal nature of campgrounds requires a space to perform maintenance activities on equipment, plumbing and electrical repairs, and to paint and repair signs, picnic tables, etc. during foul weather. During the off season, space is needed to store items such as boats, mowers and tools. Point Comfort currently does not have a garage, and this management action proposes to construct an approximately 400 sq. foot building in the vicinity of the recycle center.

14. Replace overhead with underground powerlines

The three campgrounds on Piseco Lake have 1.2 miles of powerlines. As part of several past modernization projects, a little more than half of these lines have been replaced with underground lines. Currently, there are 460 feet of overhead lines at Poplar Point, 2,050 feet at Little Sand Point and 92 feet at Point Comfort. Like all campgrounds in the forest preserve, they are subject to heavy storms with strong winds and lightning strikes. The overhead lines are in constant need of maintenance and have required emergency repairs several times resulting in the power being off at the facilities for extended periods. Additionally, over time the lines have had many splice repairs that further weaken their durability. This management action proposes to have the remaining 2,600' of overhead power lines buried.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

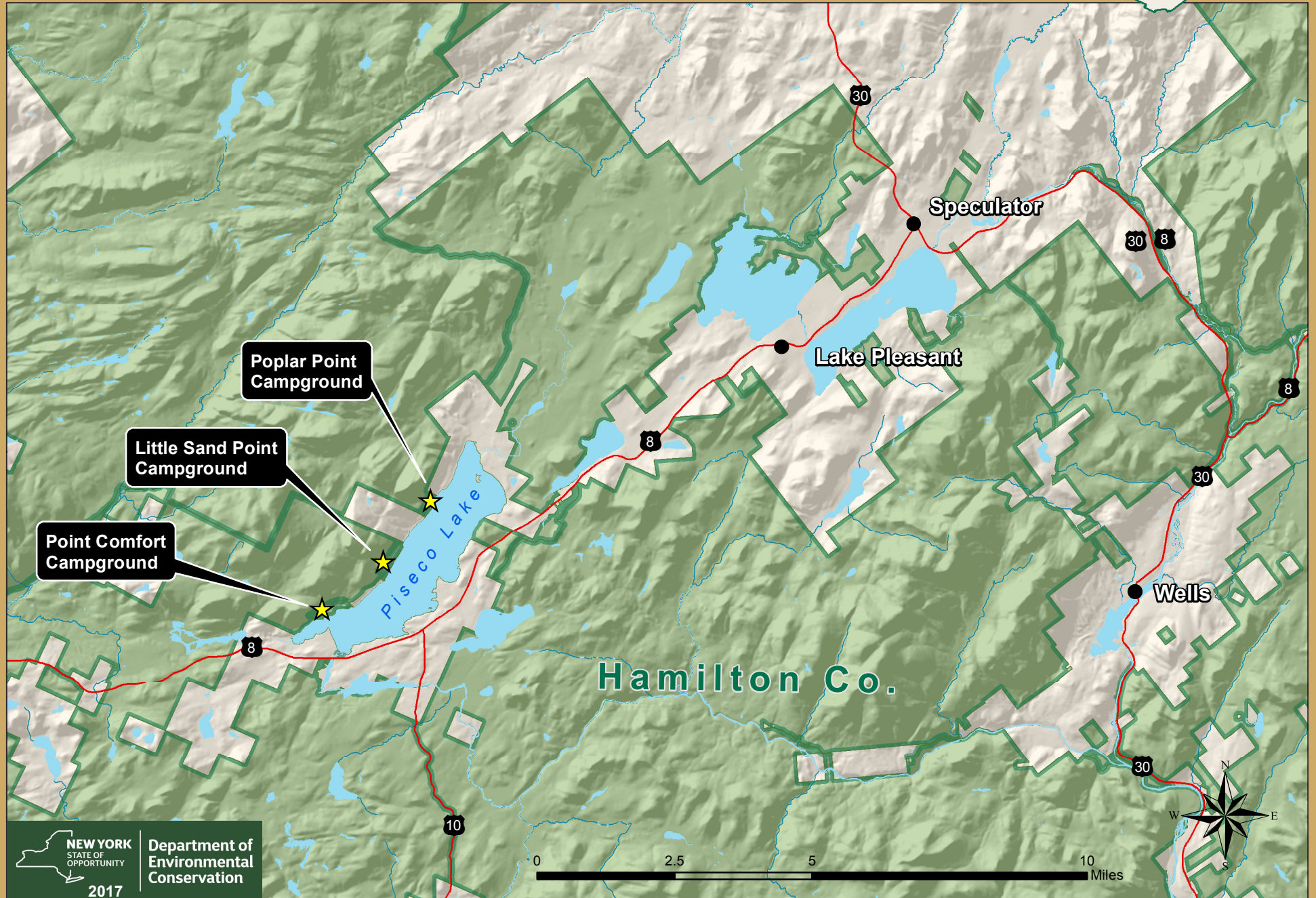
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Exhibit #2 –	Piseco Lake Campgrounds Contour Map
Exhibit #3a –	Poplar Point Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #3b –	Little Sand Point Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #3c –	Point Comfort Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4a –	Poplar Point Facility Map
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Exhibit #5a -	Poplar Point Water System Map
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Exhibit #12 -	Campground Photos
Exhibit #13 –	Response to public comments

Piseco Lake Campgrounds

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



Adirondack
Park



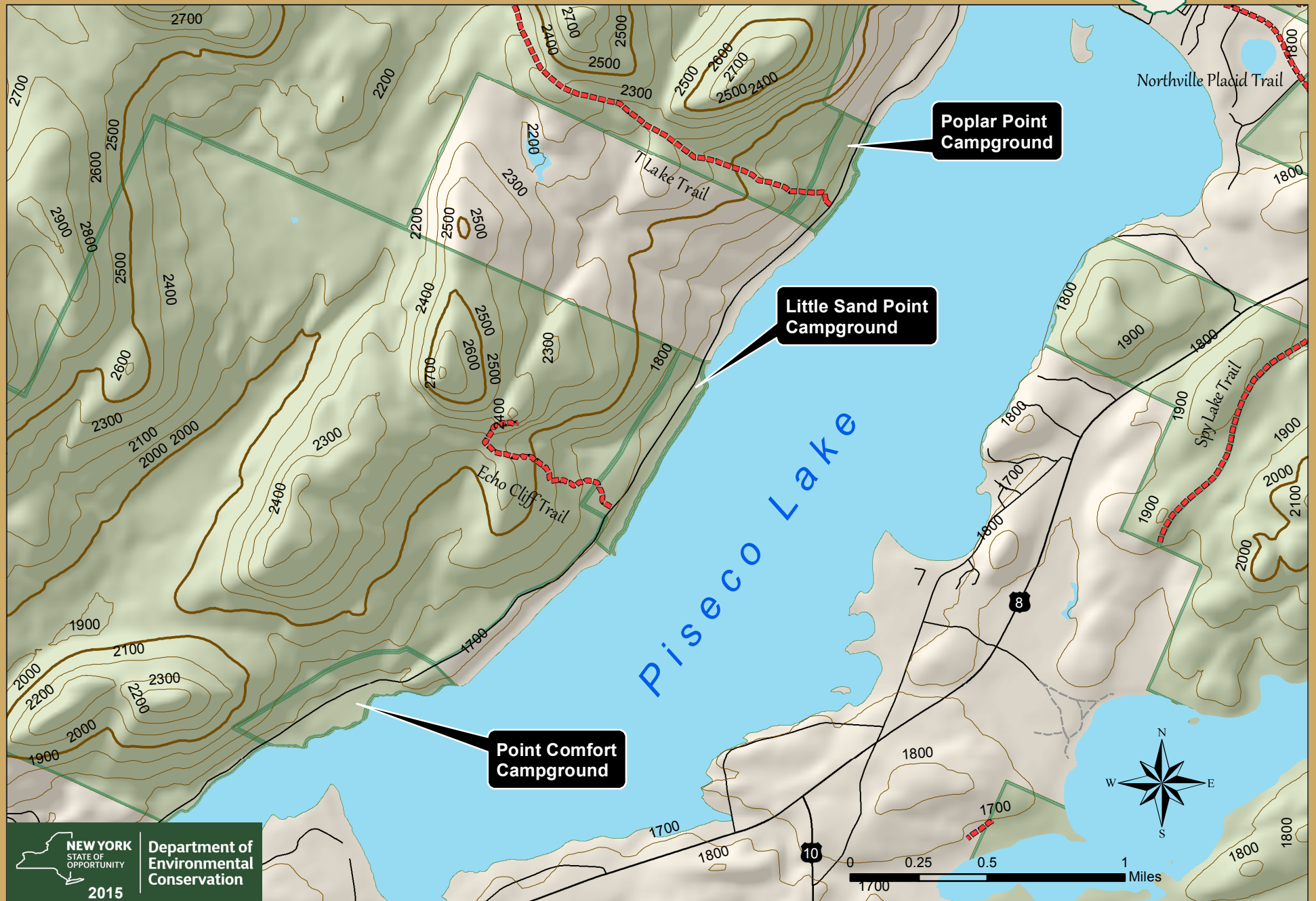
Department of
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Conservation

Piseco Lake Campgrounds

Exhibit # 2 - Topography and Trail Map



Adirondack
Park



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY
2015

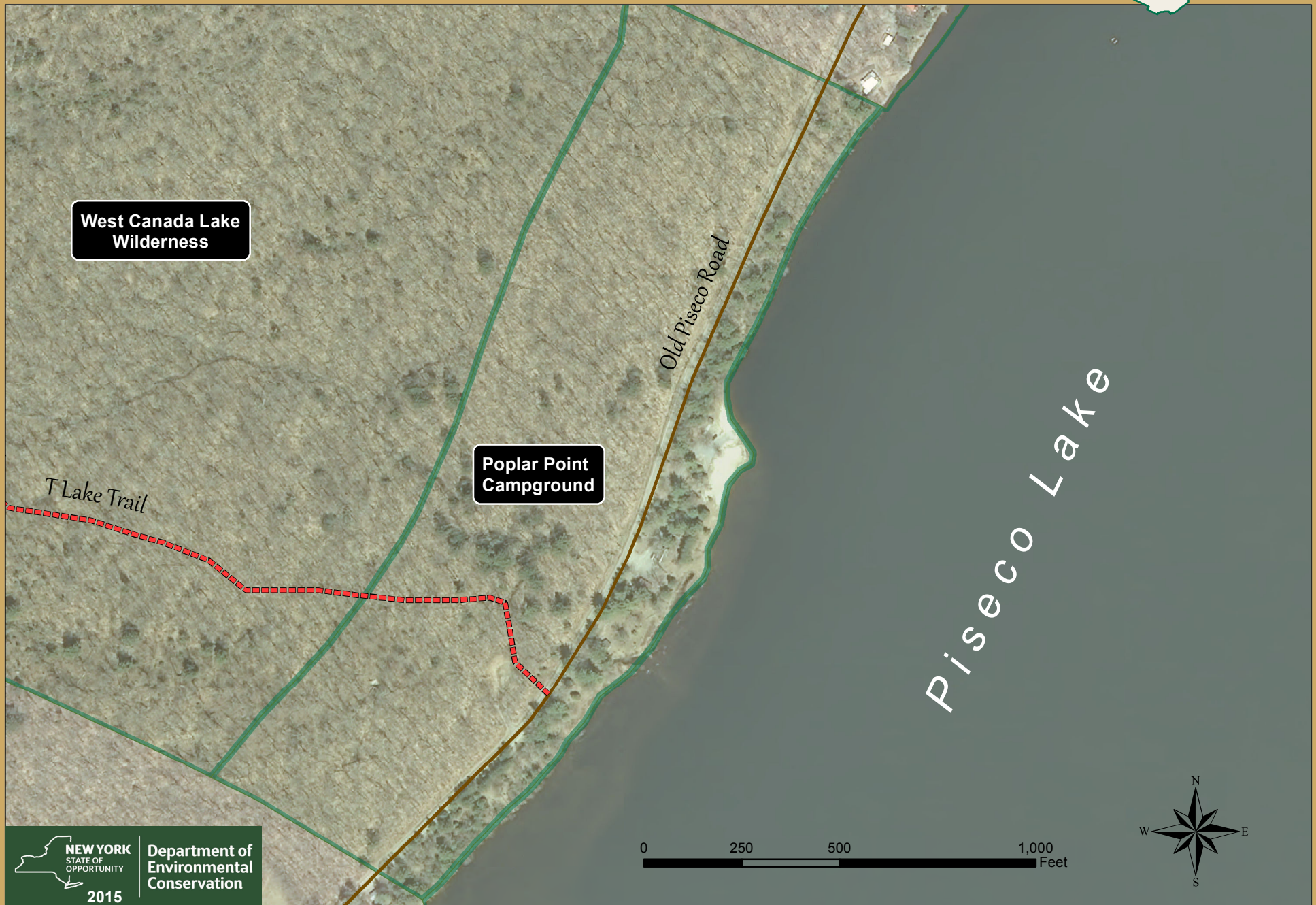
Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Piseco Lake Campgrounds

Exhibit # 3a - Poplar Point Orthoimagery Map



Adirondack
Park



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

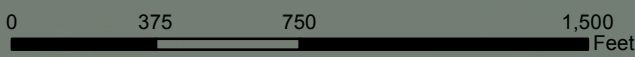
0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Piseco Lake Campgrounds

Exhibit # 3b - Little Sand Point Orthoimagery Map



Adirondack
Park



Piseco Lake Campgrounds

Exhibit # 3c - Point Comfort Orthoimagery Map



Adirondack
Park

Ferris Lake
Wild Forest

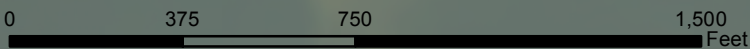
Point Comfort
Campground

Old Piseco Road

Piseco Lake

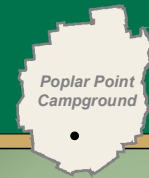


Department of
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


Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Existing Facilities Map



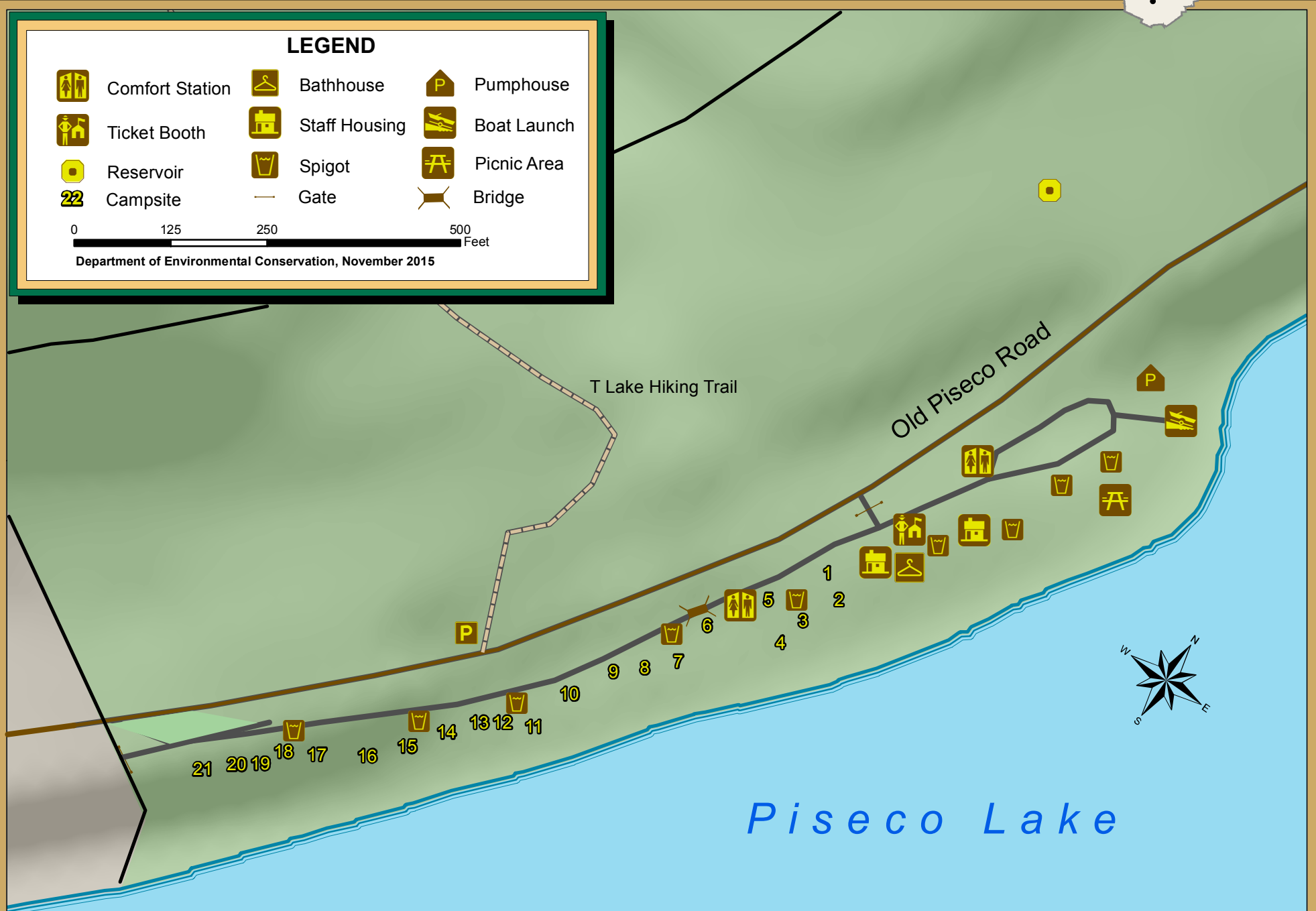
Adirondack
Park

LEGEND

	Comfort Station		Bathhouse		Pumphouse
	Ticket Booth		Staff Housing		Boat Launch
	Reservoir		Spigot		Picnic Area
	Campsite		Gate		Bridge

0 125 250 500 Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015



Little Sand Point Campground

Exhibit # 4b - Existing Facilities Map



Adirondack
Park













Ferris Lake Wild Forest

Echo Cliff - Panther
Mountain Trail

Old Piseco Road

P i s e c o
L a k e

LEGEND

	Garage		Ticket Booth		Trailer Dump Station
	Recycle Building		Shower Building		Staff Housing
	Reservoir		Parking Lot		Boat Launch
	Leach Field		Spigot		Comfort Station

0 250 500 1,000
Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015

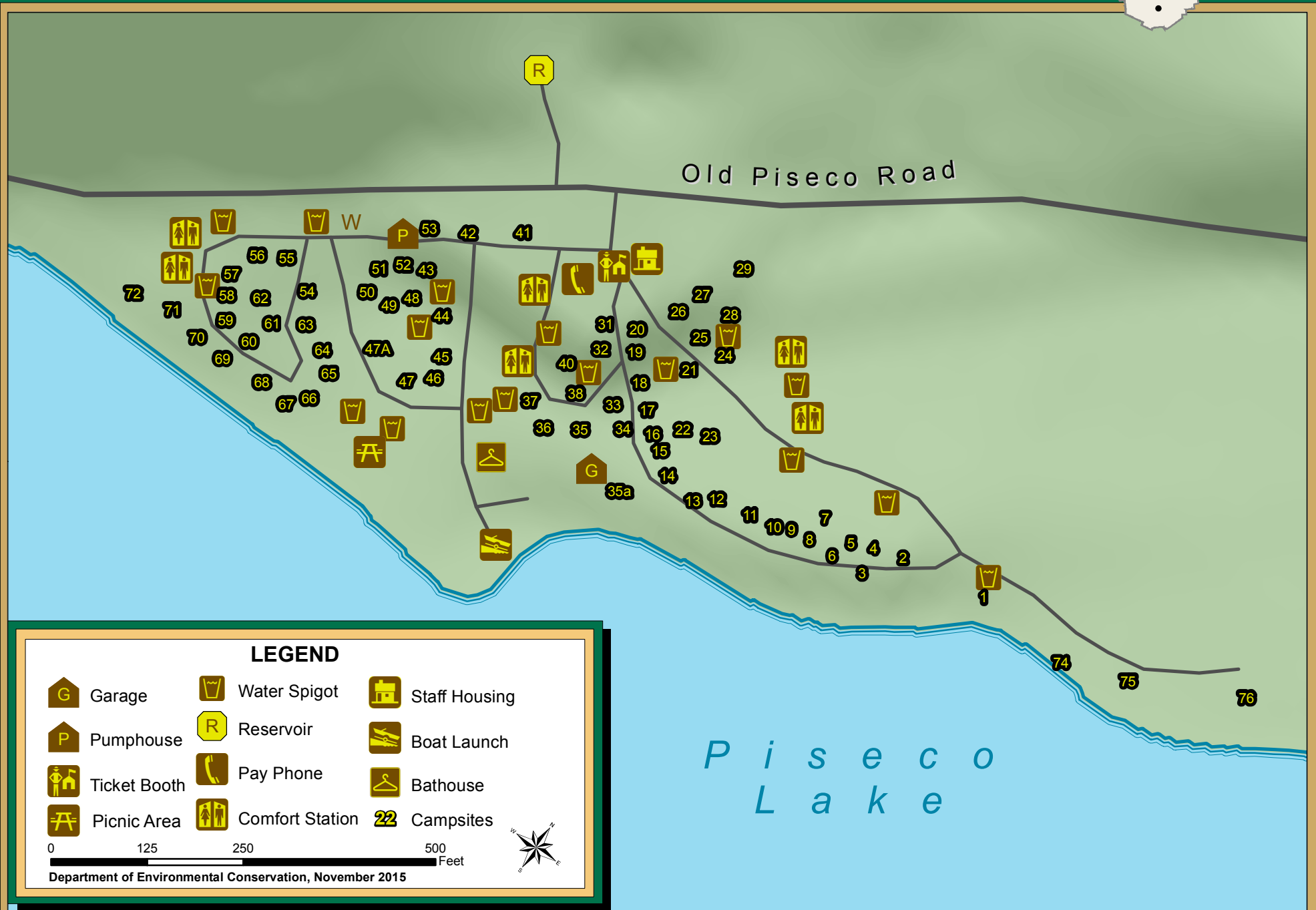


Point Comfort Campground

Exhibit # 4c - Existing Facilities Map

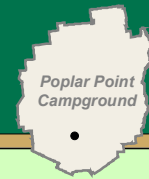


Adirondack
Park



Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 5a - Water System Map



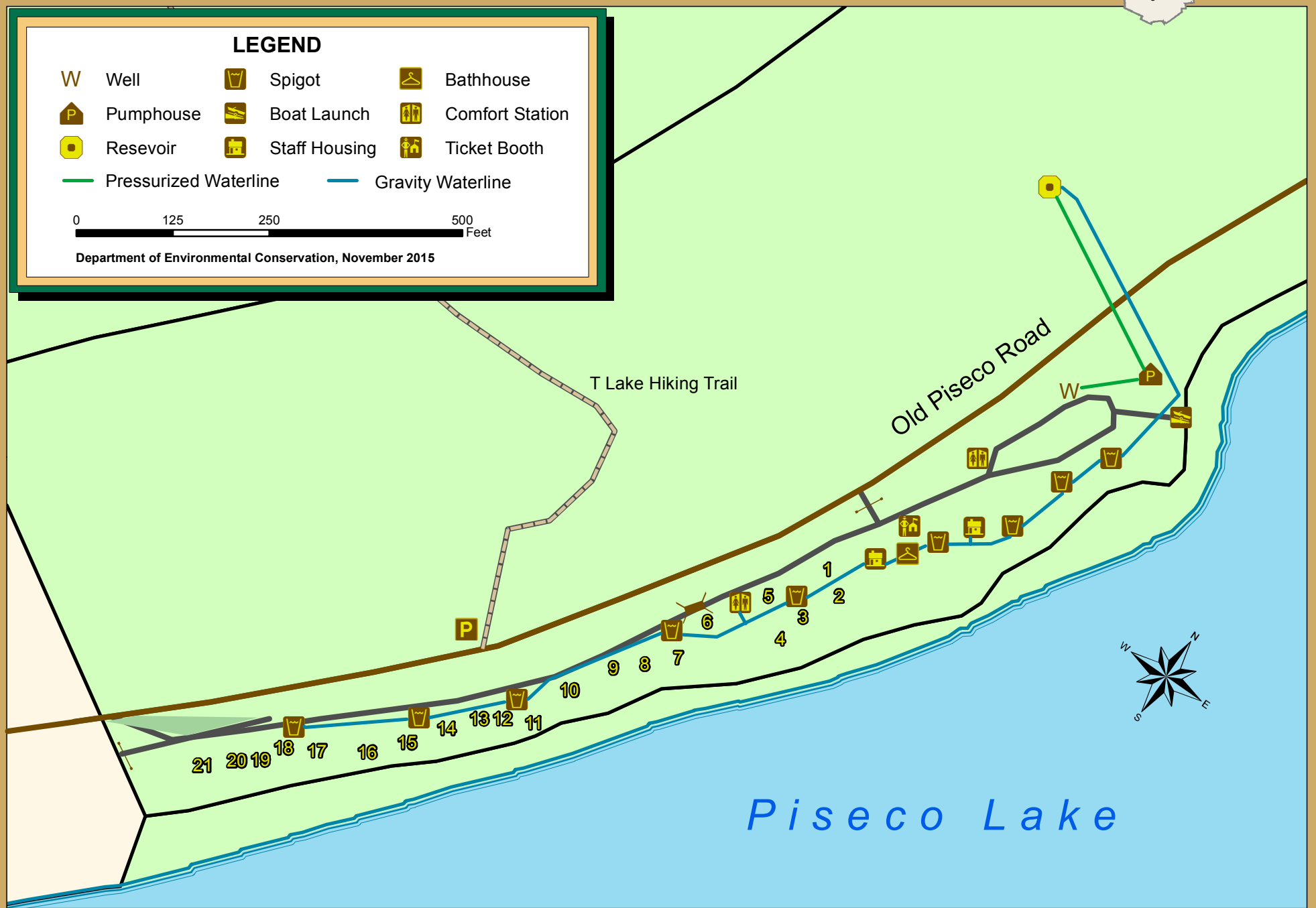
Adirondack
Park

LEGEND

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| W Well | Spigot | Bathhouse |
| Pumphouse | Boat Launch | Comfort Station |
| Reservoir | Staff Housing | Ticket Booth |
| Pressurized Waterline | Gravity Waterline | |

0 125 250 500
Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015



Little Sand Point Campground

Exhibit # 5b - Water System Map



Adirondack
Park













Ferris Lake Wild Forest

Echo Cliff - Panther
Mountain Trail

Old Piseco Road

P i s e c o
L a k e

LEGEND

 Well	 Recycle Building	 Staff Housing
 Pumphouse	 Shower Building	 Comfort Station
 Reservoir	 Spigot	 Pressurized Waterline
 Garage	 Trailer Dump Station	 Gravity Waterline

0 250 500 1,000
Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015

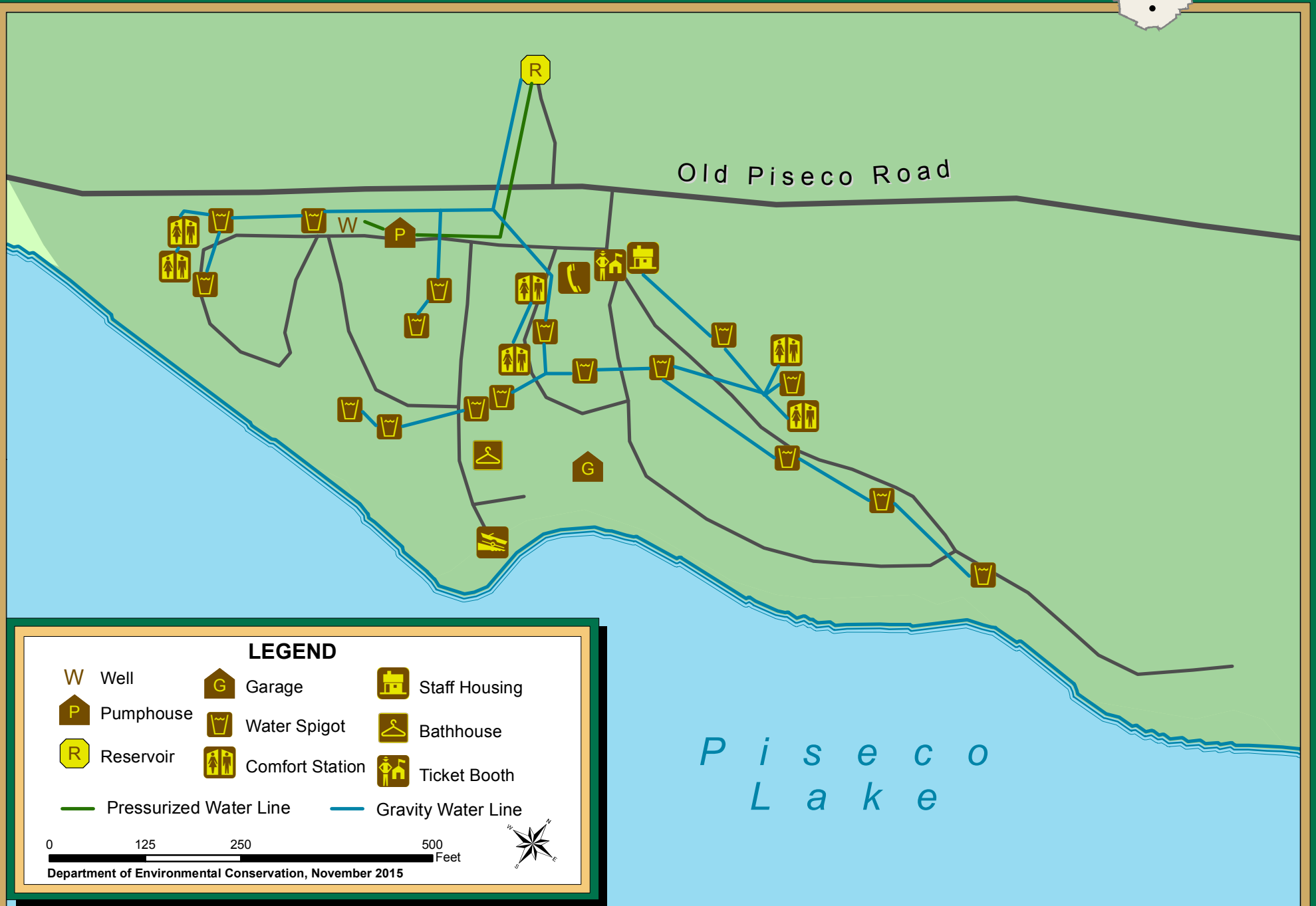


Point Comfort Campground

Exhibit # 5c - Water System Map

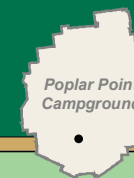


Adirondack
Park



Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 6a - Sewage System Map



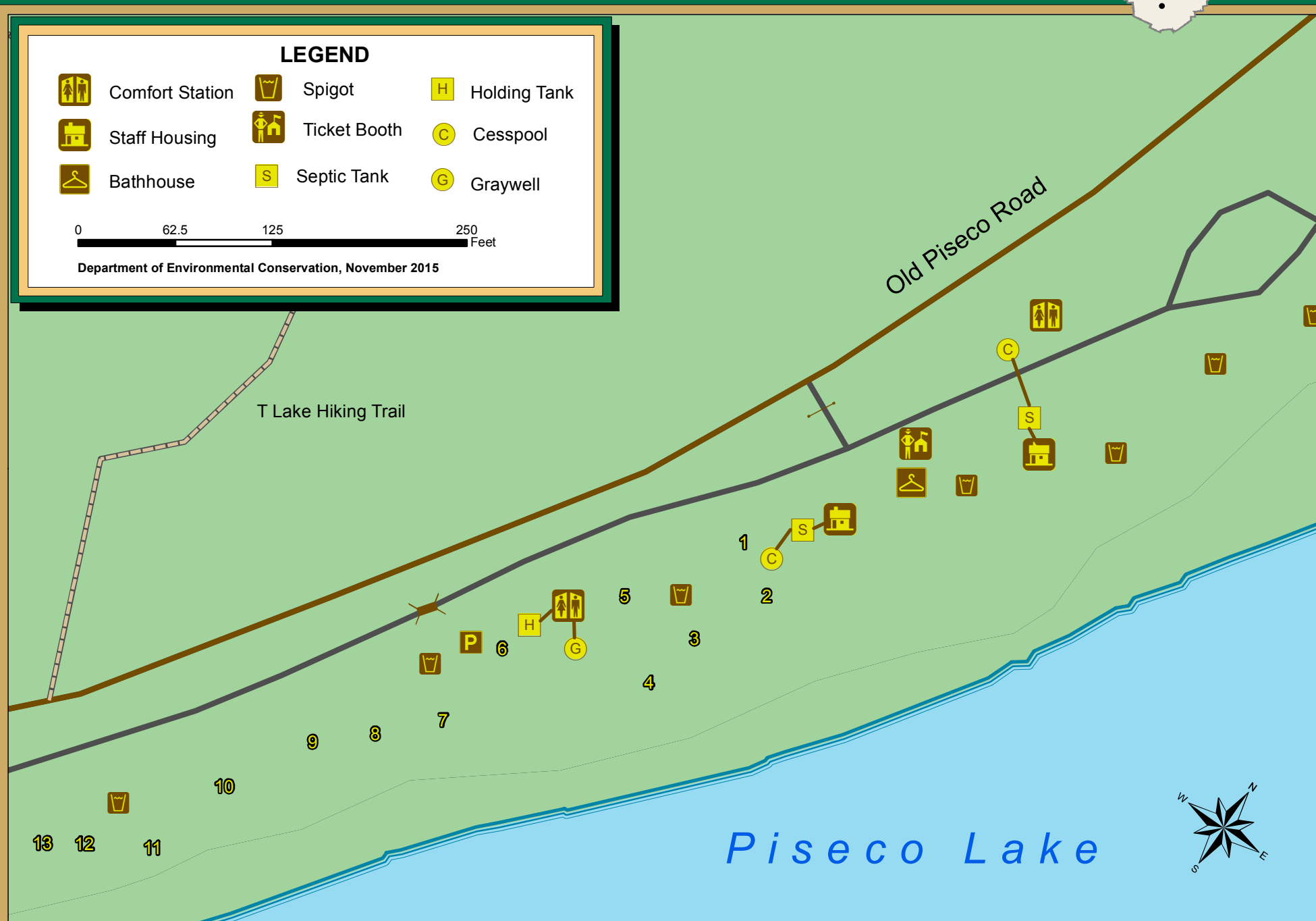
Adirondack
Park

LEGEND

	Comfort Station		Spigot		Holding Tank
	Staff Housing		Ticket Booth		Cesspool
	Bathhouse		Septic Tank		Graywell

0 62.5 125 250 Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015



Little Sand Point Campground

Exhibit # 6b - Sewage System Map



Adirondack
Park















Ferris Lake Wild Forest

Echo Cliff - Panther
Mountain Trail

Old Piseco Road

P i s e c o
L a k e

LEGEND

	Recycle Building		Shower Building		Staff Housing
	Leach Field		Trailer Dump Station		Comfort Station
	Pump Station		Septic Tank		Forced Sewer Main
	Dosing Tank		Holding Tank		Gravity Sewer Line
	Cleanout		Dry Well		

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015



Point Comfort Campground

Exhibit # 6c - Sewage System Map



Adirondack
Park



Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 7a - Electric System Map



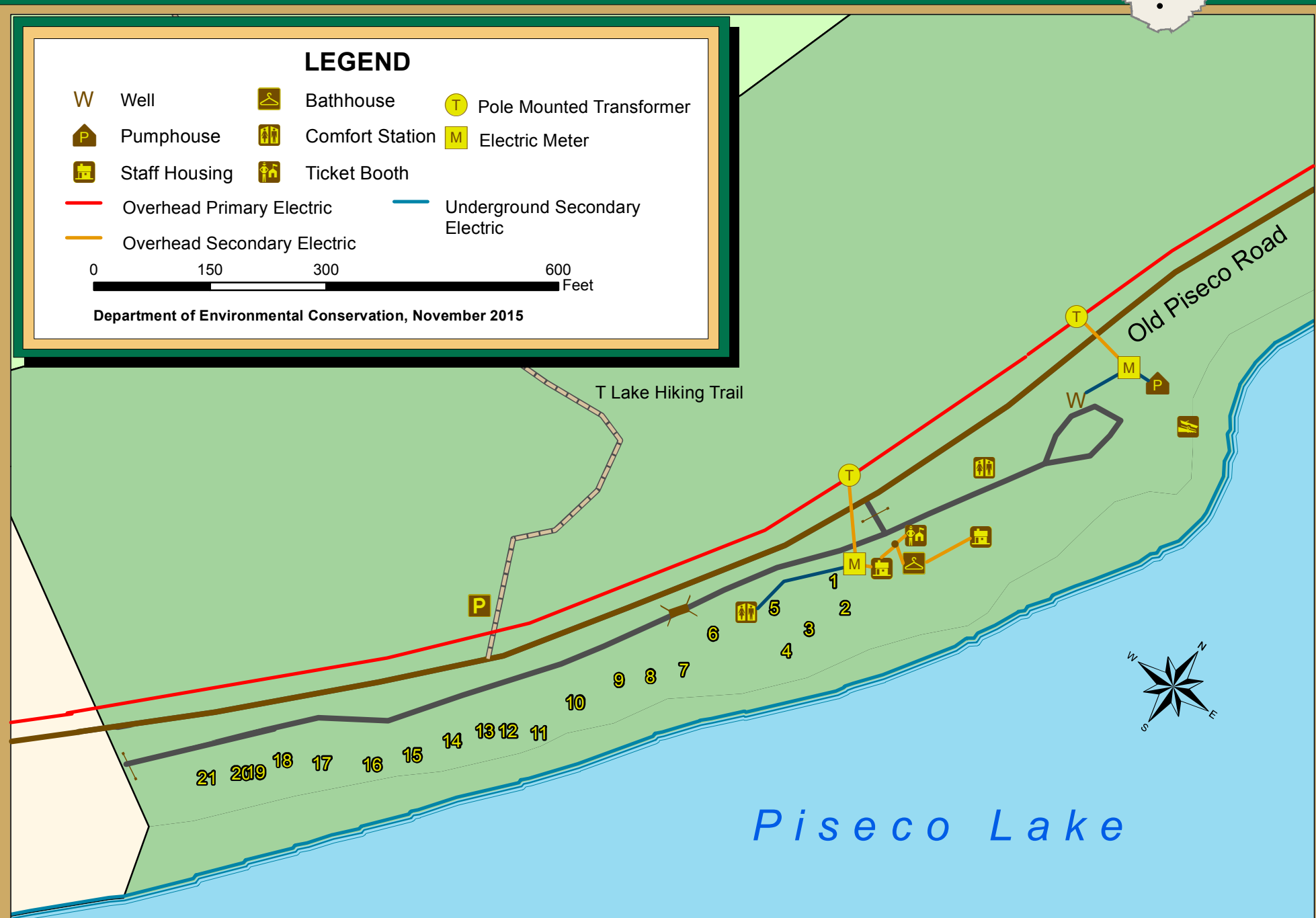
Adirondack
Park

LEGEND

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| W Well | Bathhouse | Pole Mounted Transformer |
| Pumphouse | Comfort Station | Electric Meter |
| Staff Housing | Ticket Booth | |
| Overhead Primary Electric | Underground Secondary Electric | |
| Overhead Secondary Electric | | |

0 150 300 600 Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015



Little Sand Point Campground

Exhibit # 7b - Electric System Map



Adirondack
Park















Ferris Lake Wild Forest

Echo Cliff - Panther
Mountain Trail

Old Piseco Road

P i s e c o
L a k e

LEGEND

	Comfort Station		Staff Housing		Pumphouse		Well
	Shower Building		Recycle Building		Ticket Booth		Garage
	Pump Station		Transformer		Meter		
	Overhead Secondary		Buried Secondary		Overhead Primary		

0 250 500 1,000
Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015



Point Comfort Campground

Exhibit # 7c - Electric System Map



Adirondack
Park













Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 8a - Soils and Wetlands Map



Adirondack
Park

LEGEND

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-------------------------------|
|  | Comfort Station |  | Reservoir |  | Palustrine Wetland |
|  | Staff Housing |  | Pumphouse |  | Intermittent Riverine Wetland |
|  | Ticket Booth |  | Boat Launch | | |
|  | Campsite |  | Picnic Area | | |

0 125 250 500 Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015

All Soils:
Becket-Tunbridge complex
15 to 35 percent slopes
very bouldery

T Lake Hiking Trail

Old Piseco Road

Piseco Lake

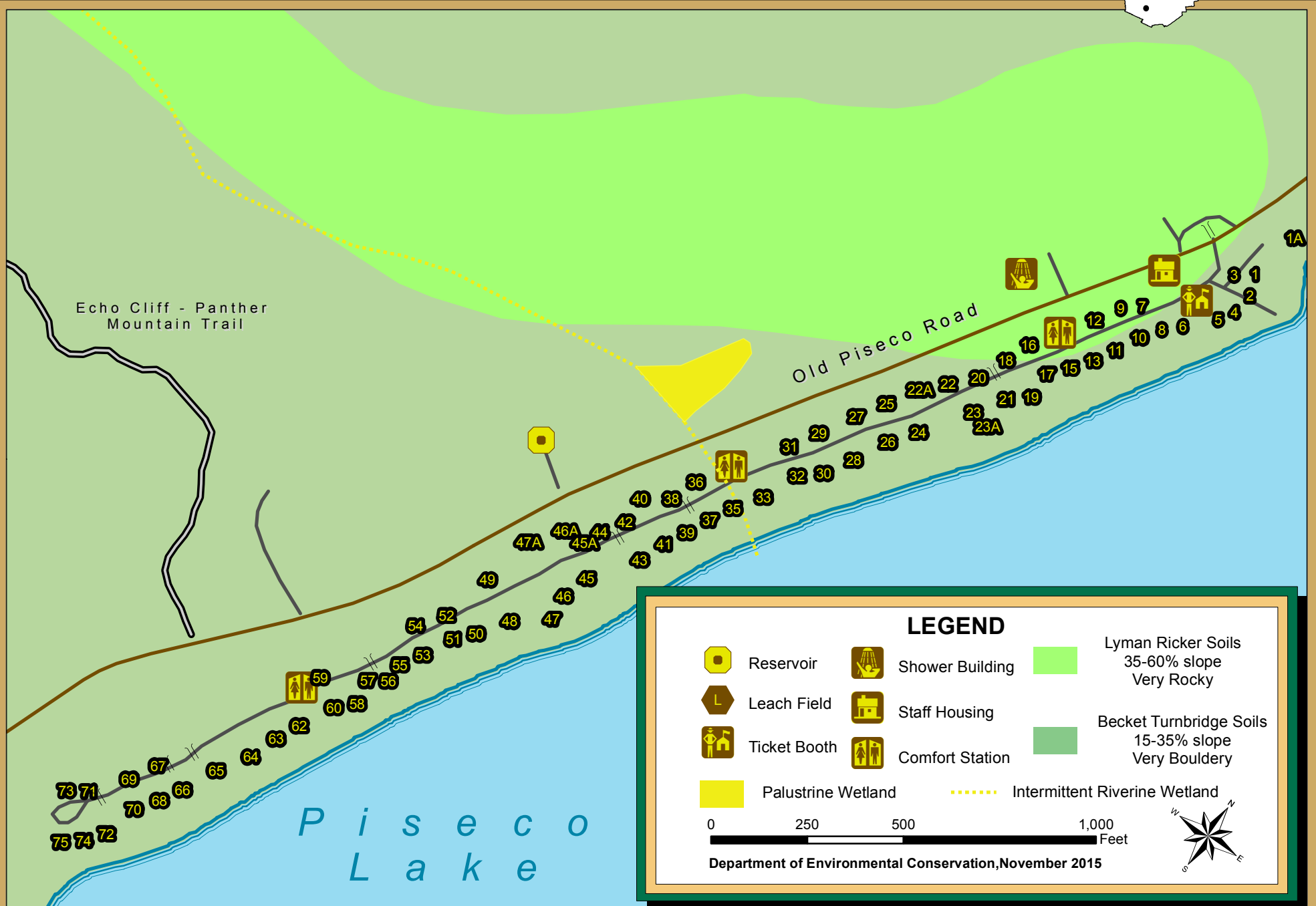


Little Sand Point Campground

Exhibit # 8b - Soils and Wetlands Map



Adirondack
Park



LEGEND



Reservoir



Shower Building



Leach Field



Staff Housing



Ticket Booth



Comfort Station



Palustrine Wetland



Intermittent Riverine Wetland

Lyman Ricker Soils
35-60% slope
Very Rocky

Becket Turnbridge Soils
15-35% slope
Very Boulderly

0 250 500 1,000
Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, November 2015



Point Comfort Campground

Exhibit # 8c - Soils and Wetlands Map



Adirondack
Park

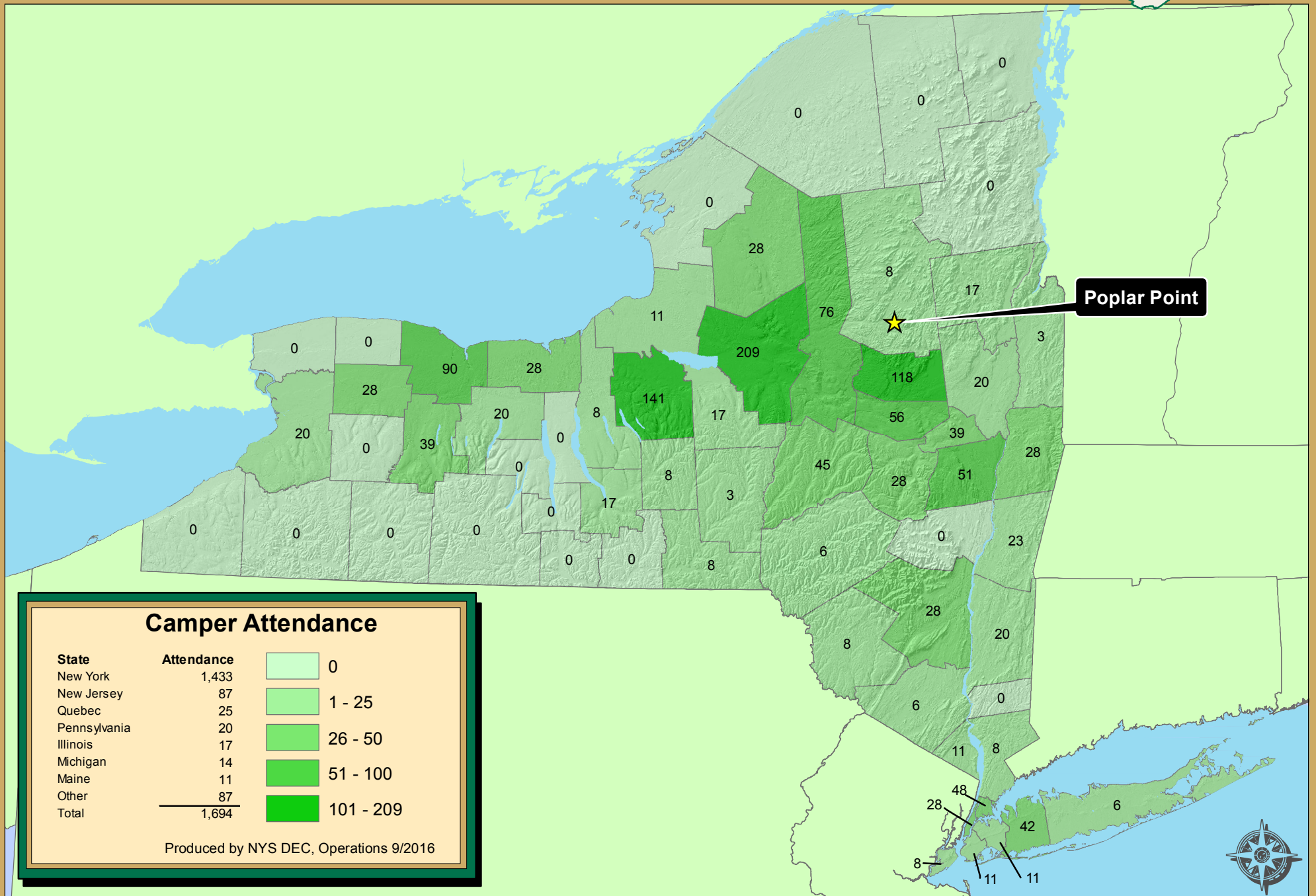


Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 9a - Camper Demographics 2016



Adirondack
Park

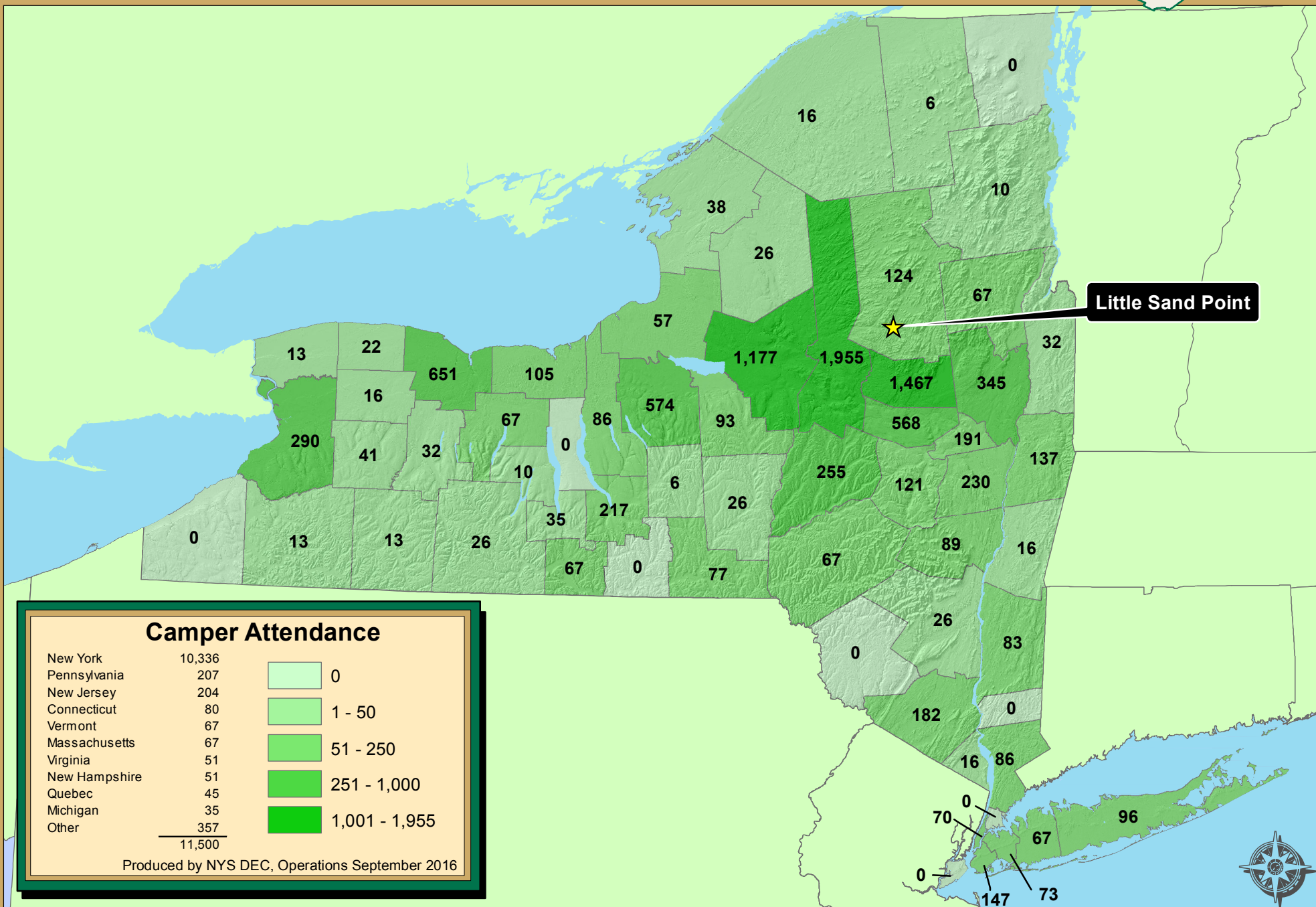


Little Sand Point

Exhibit # 9b - Camper Demographics 2016



Adirondack
Park

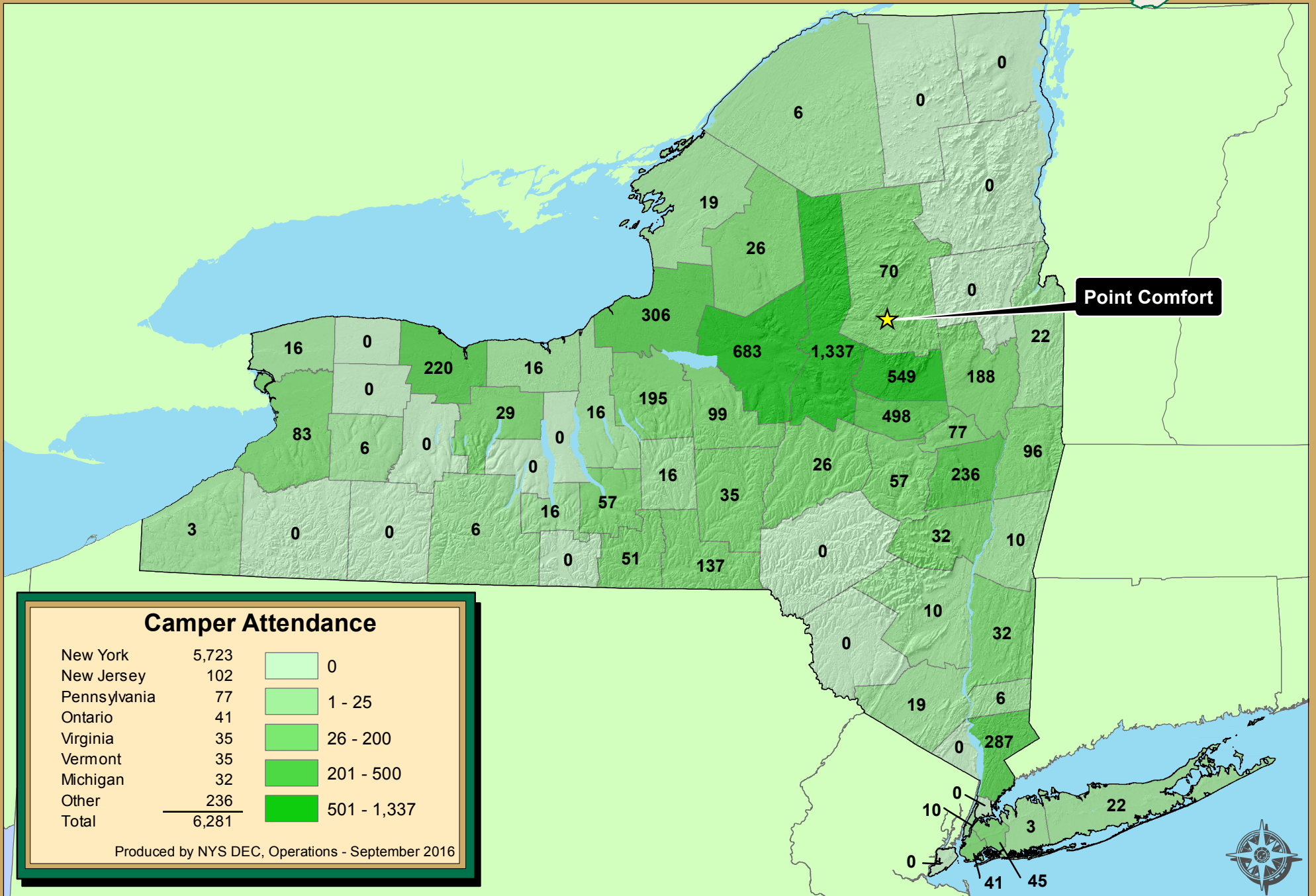


Point Comfort

Exhibit # 9c - Camper Demographics 2016



Adirondack
Park



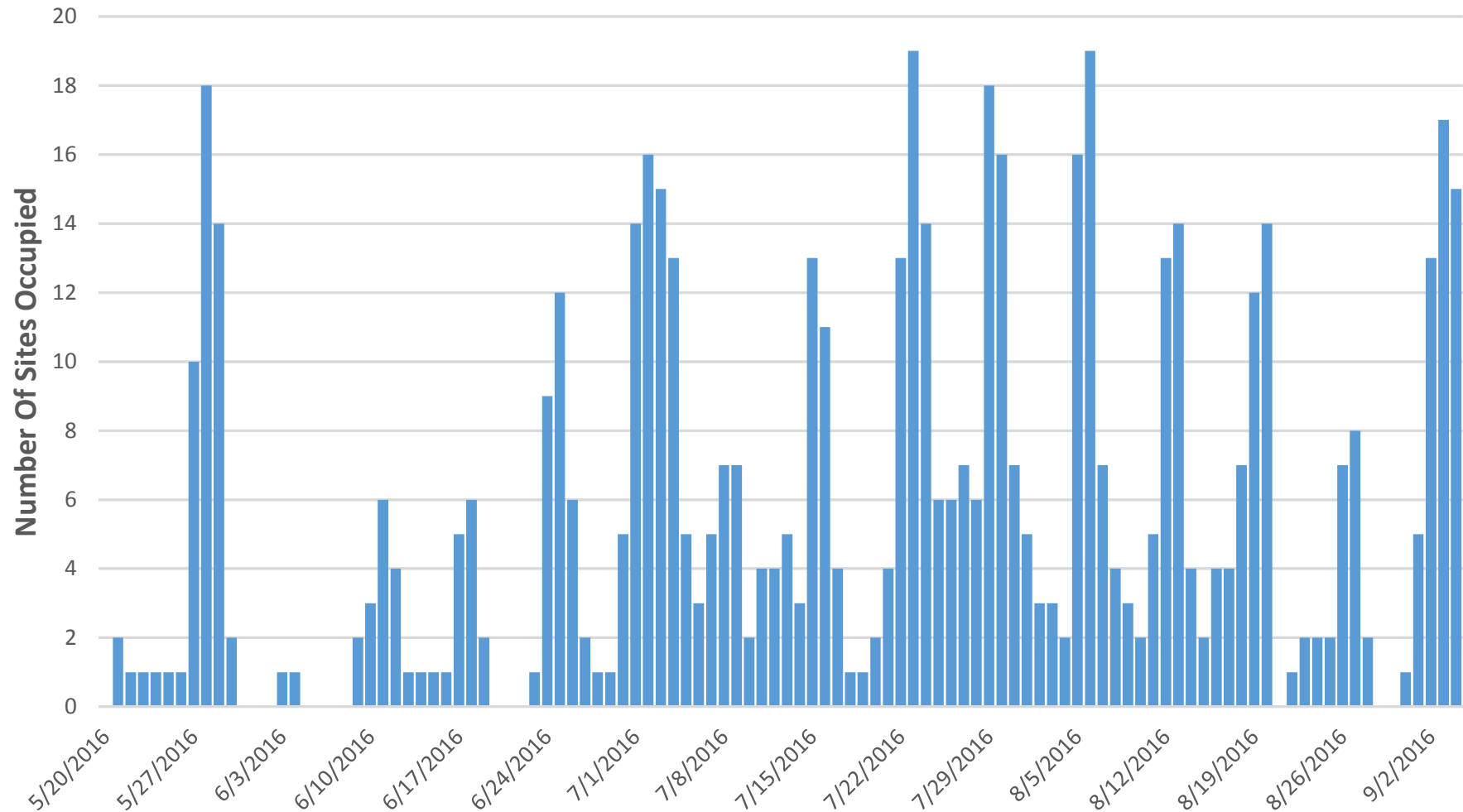
Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 10a - Campsite Occupancy 2016



Adirondack
Park

Poplar Point Campground 2016
of Sites Occupied

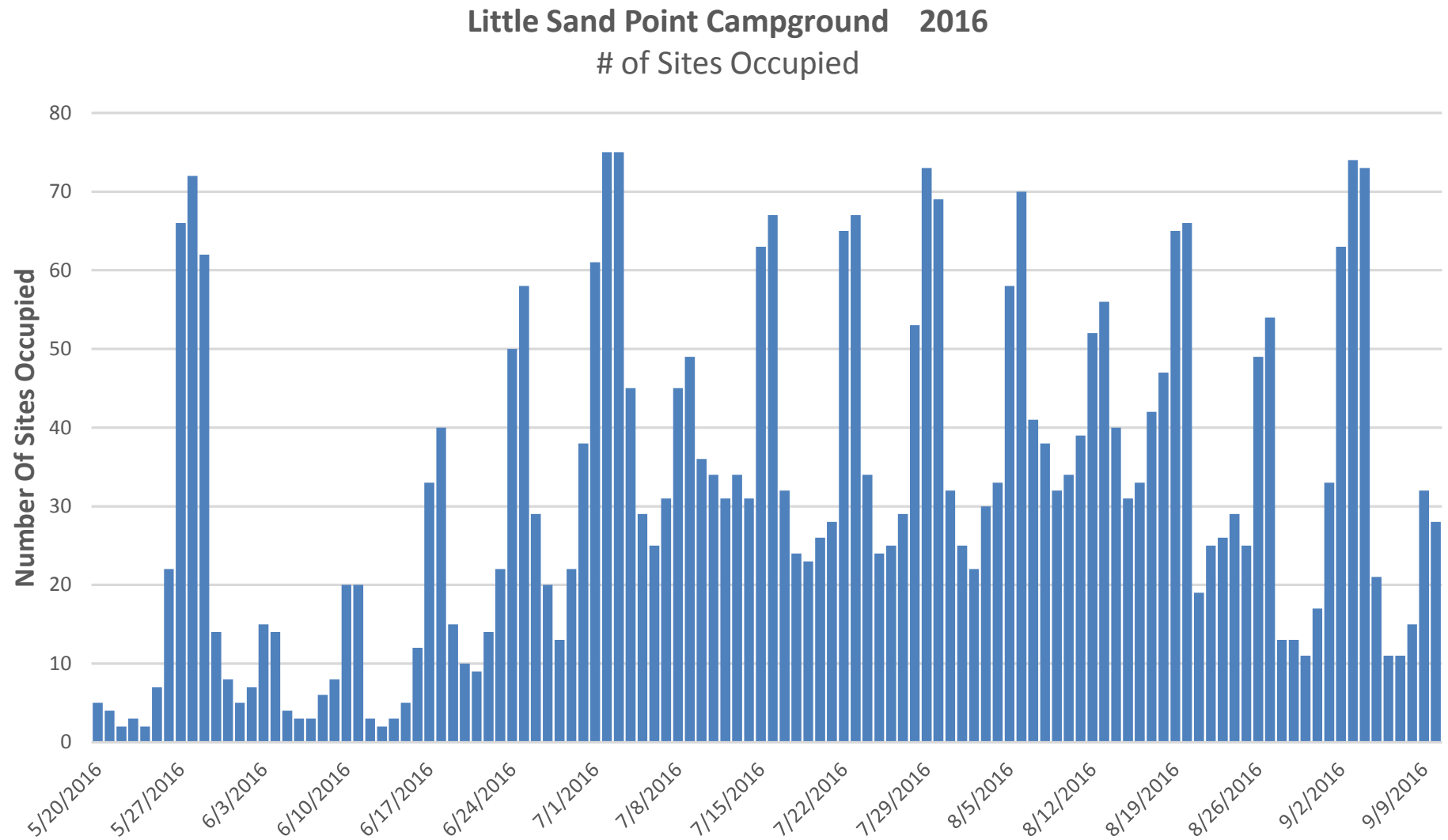


Little Sand Point Campground

Exhibit # 10b - Campsite Occupancy 2016



Adirondack
Park



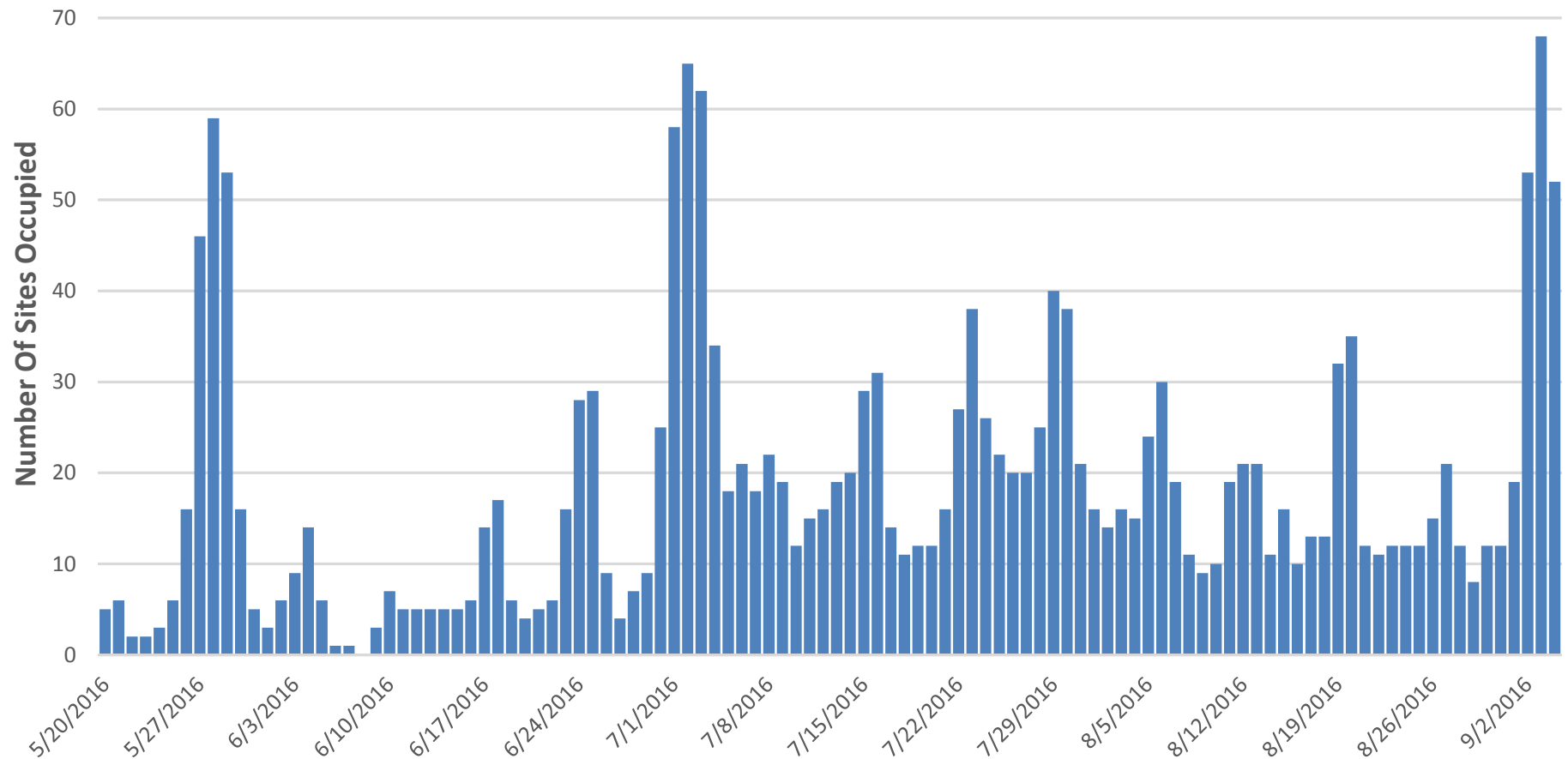
Point Comfort Campground

Exhibit # 10c - Campsite Occupancy 2016



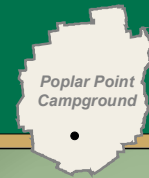
Adirondack
Park

Point Comfort Campground 2016
of Sites Occupied



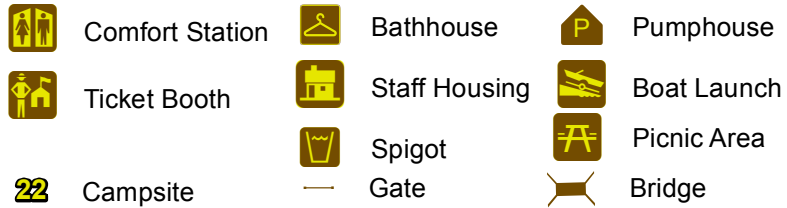
Poplar Point Campground

Exhibit # 11a - Proposed Management Actions



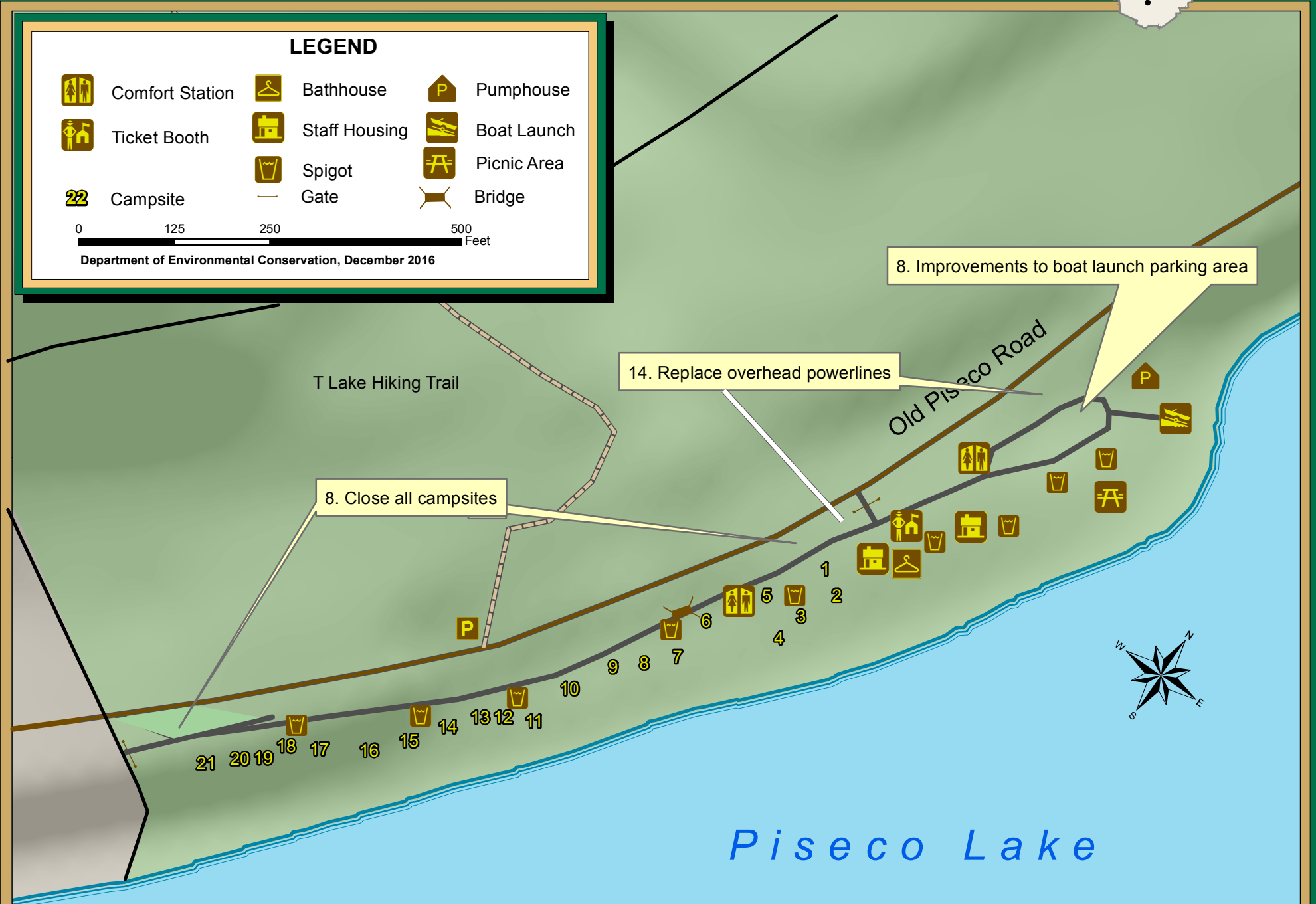
Adirondack
Park

LEGEND



0 125 250 500 Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, December 2016



Little Sand Point Campground

Exhibit # 11b - Proposed Management Actions



Adirondack
Park

Ferris Lake Wild Forest

14. Bury overhead powerlines

3. Convert 4 sites to universal design

6. Relocate chlorination building

4. Loop road paving

7. Replace waterlines

1. Replace ticket booth

2. Reconstruct comfort station #1

LEGEND

	Garage		Ticket Booth		Trailer Dump Station
	Recycle Building		Shower Building		Staff Housing
	Reservoir		Parking Lot		Boat Launch
	Leach Field		Spigot		Comfort Station

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Department of Environmental Conservation, December 2016



P i s e c o
L a k e



Point Comfort Campground

Exhibit # 11c - Proposed Management Actions



Adirondack
Park



Exhibit 12

Piseco Lake Campground Photos



Poplar Point Picnic Ground



Poplar Point Caretaker Cabin



Poplar Point Ticket Booth



Poplar Point Lifeguard Cabin



Poplar Point Bath House



Poplar Point Comfort Station



Poplar Point Pump House



Poplar Point Reservoir



Poplar Point Boat Launch



Poplar Point Day Use Area



Poplar Point Beach Area



Poplar Point Bridge



Poplar Point Entrance Area



Little Sand Point Caretaker Cabin



Little Sand Point Ticket Booth



Little Sand Point Garage



Little Sand Point Wood Storage Building



Little Sand Point Comfort Station #1



Little Sand Point Comfort Station #2



Little Sand Point Comfort Station #3



Little Sand Point Shower Building



Little Sand Point Water Pump Station



Little Sand Point Sewage Lift Station



Little Sand Point Reservoir



Little Sand Point Recycle Center



Little Sand Point Boat Rentals



Little Sand Point Boat Launch



Little Sand Point Dump Station



Little Sand Point Entrance



Point Comfort Caretaker Cabin



Point Comfort Ticket Booth



Point Comfort Bath House



Point Comfort Storehouse



Point Comfort Old Well House



Point Comfort Recycle Center



Point Comfort Pump House



Point Comfort Reservoir



Point Comfort Comfort Station #1



Point Comfort Comfort Station #2



Point Comfort Comfort Station #3



Point Comfort Comfort Station #4



Point Comfort Comfort Station #5



Point Comfort Comfort Station #6



Point Comfort Day Use Area



Point Comfort Boat Rentals



Point Comfort Boat Launch



Point Comfort Beach Area



Point Comfort Entrance

Exhibit #13 – Response to public comments

Comments on the Piseco Lake Campgrounds Draft Unit Management Plan were initially received until May 15, 2017. A meeting was subsequently scheduled for June 14, 2017 at the Town of Arietta offices to present an overview of the plan receive comments. The comment period was then extended until June 16, 2017. All public comments were reviewed and the Department responses are posted here as part of the Final Unit Management Plan.

Comments regarding the closure of Poplar Point to camping:

Comment: Closing Poplar Point to camping makes sense, as the camp sites are too close to the road and not as attractive as the sites at the other two campgrounds. Being able to concentrate resources on these other sites seems reasonable and cost effective.

Comment: I am a full time resident here and agree that closing the Poplar Point site to camping is the right thing to do... We use the boat launch every year (and the dock needs to have the cleats replaced, as an aside)...and would like to still be able to use it.

Comment: Agree with the plan to close Poplar Point to camping. Would like to see the continuation of use of picnic facility and boat launch by utilizing resources from the Town of Arietta. The lake will benefit by having staff at Poplar Point to monitor day use activities. Residents of the Town of Arietta will benefit by having the beach and picnic area available for the summer season.

Comment: The campground should not be closed now because the UMP has not been approved yet.

Comment: I have enjoyed Poplar Point for decades as a primitive campground with sites near the water. Maintenance has declined in recent years, with swimming no longer allowed and the need to borrow a lawn mower from staff to mow my site before setting up campsite. I believes staff can be shared between the three campgrounds. Keep campground open (alternative #1)

Comment: I am very disappointed in DEC for not opening Poplar Point again this year. I opened the store this last weekend and have been told by 8-10 people that they are very disappointed because the campgrounds are full and they could not get to Piseco Lake for Memorial Day weekend. Having that campground open would have been a great thing.

Comment: Campgrounds were free until the 50s or 60s. Closing the campground is foolish for the little funds that will be saved.

Comment: Do not dismantle any of the infrastructures that are essential to the long term use of Poplar Point as a recreational day use area.

Comment: Has DEC done any analysis of the impacts of raising fees, of not modernizing facilities or closing beaches to swimming? These actions made the campgrounds less of a good place to bring a family.

Comment: Provide regularly scheduled staff that would be able to keep the site clean, maintain order and ensure parking is done safely and consistent with capacity;

Comment: Please do not close the beach and picnic area at Poplar Point on Piseco Lake.

New York taxpayers deserve a clean, quiet beach. Don't take away even more access to our beaches.

Comment: Why not leave Poplar Point open for all facilities while you are renovating the other 2 campsites? You will have less camping areas at both sites while this is occurring and on Holiday weekends all three locations are at their max.

Comment: The loss of hiking trails such as to T-Lake Falls, the closing of beaches to swimming and aging waste water systems has resulted in loss of campers.

Comment: If you are going to be doing maintenance at Poplar Point even if it's closed, why not keep it open?

Comment: If utilization at all 3 campgrounds is low, why would DEC keep all 3 open?

Comment: I do not approve of the closure of the campsite. I suggest keeping it open this year and more until a complete study and proposal has been completed. Leave it the way it is and update the other two as planned.

Comments: Other alternatives that should be considered and evaluated include redevelopment of the campground as a fee based day use facility with staffing only during high use periods (Holidays, Fridays-Sunday in the summer).

Comment: In view of the proximity of Poplar Point campsites to the road, it is certainly the least attractive of Piseco Lake's three campsites for campers. Its beach, however, is excellent, so the proposal to make it a day-use facility makes good sense.

Comment: consider please keeping Poplar Point open and do the changes needed to the other two campsites and then take a look at Poplar and make a decision on that. If this is a 5 year UMP things change in 5 years and the last 2 years that I have owned the store near the campgrounds I have seen an increase in people camping again

Comment: We were VERY saddened by the closing of Poplar and would like you all to re think this. Our daughter spoke the other night and she had looked at the occupancy and Poplar was not far off from the other site it was compared to. If you share staff from with the other site at night, man the booth for boaters during the day and leave the camp ground open I do not see where it is going to cost that much more. We do not have electric or running water to our campers.

Comment: We have a hard time thinking that you would save that much money by closing that camp ground. There are not that many services that are provided there as it is, less than when we first came. I realize that you probably have insurance or something on it, which if you have a boat launch and humans there you would still need.

Comment: I have been camping at Poplar Point Campground on Piseco Lake all my life. I love that low key camping of that it provides and gives me a lovely couple of weeks away from technology. For the past 30 plus years my family and I have been camping numerous times throughout the year at Poplar Point. I have only ever camped once at Point Comfort (during Columbus Weekend) and now are forced to go to Moffitt Beach for that. We have come to make many life long friends and new ones every trip. Please consider keeping it open as we do not like

the larger campgrounds because there are too many people and the sites are not all waterfront. In the past five plus years we have been registering at Little Sand Point as the staff is usually there. Please consider keeping the campground open. It was and is a wonderful place to continue growing and making new friends.

Comment: Proximity to the road makes camping places at Poplar Point less attractive than those at the other campsites on Piseco Lake. The excellent beach, though, is very attractive for day use. Thus the planned change in use at Poplar Point makes good sense.

Comment: While the Council supports the overall goals stated within the UMP, we are concerned with specific elements of the plan regarding the carrying capacity related to the conversion of the Poplar Point campground to a day use area and ask the DEC and APA to address these issues before this amendment is made final. The issue of carrying capacity is significant, from both a natural resource and recreational management perspective, as well as in meeting the guidance of the State Land Master Plan (SLMP) and need to be addressed before the Council can support this effort fully.

Response:

The average occupancy at all 3 of the Piseco Lake campgrounds is well below the average of other DEC campgrounds. The reasons for low visitation include aging infrastructure, the lack of a guarded swimming beach, proximity to the road and small sites with poor site separation. In particular, the pit toilet restrooms at Point Comfort are over 80 years old and there are only a couple of sites at Poplar Point more than 100' from the highway. It is the intent of the management actions in this UMP to focus improvements of these deficiencies at two of the campgrounds. This should improve the overall visitor experience and in turn raise the average occupancy. The closure of Poplar Point and the loss of 21 campsites still retains enough campsites to stay within a comfortable occupancy range on all but a couple of the busiest days each season. The closure of Poplar Point will also reduce operating costs that are difficult to justify when occupancy is so low. This plan calls for stabilizing the existing buildings and facilities for the five-year period. Any demolition or dismantling of infrastructure will be considered in future plans. This plan calls for minimal staffing at Poplar Point campground which includes maintenance activities such as mowing and litter pickup. Enforcement of rules and regulations will be done by periodic visits of Department staff. It is DEC's intention to continue to recruit and test lifeguard candidates and re-open the beach at Point Comfort if qualified staff become available.

Comments regarding Poplar Point open to public without DEC staff present.

Comment: Concern that people will camp in Poplar Point even if facility is closed because no one will be patrolling.

Comment: Poplar Point already has more invasive species present than the other two campgrounds. Won't it be worse if there aren't staff there to monitor?

Comment: The potential for vandalism will be increased when no staff are present at Poplar Point.

Comment: I would also like Poplar Point to be available as a no fee area for residents to be able to use, as well as visitors. As you stated last night, the savings could be used to improve the other campsites. Further, personnel from those sites could be available to check Poplar point for any issues, I would hope.

Comment: The design of an "improved" Poplar Point launch must take into consideration basic safety and hygienic issues. Improved signage and designated parking areas would be helpful. Designating a specific launch area for non-motorized boats (canoes, kayaks) that do not require the launch ramp would also be helpful. A source of potable water and bathroom are essential. And while you may not want to encourage picnicking, people have for years spread out blankets and picnicked on the beach or benches. This should not be discouraged. A few benches near the launch would be helpful for waiting boaters and for people who just drop by to enjoy the view.

Comment: Some DEC presence at the site should be maintained, even if it consists only of periodic inspections. The sight of a patrol vehicle and uniform would do wonders to keep the site orderly and beneficial to the general public and local community.

Comment: Free entry may cause greater demand for parking than in the past. The Town has concerns about unsafe, illegal parking which may occur.

Comment: People often travel hours to arrive at Poplar Point. Can restroom facilities be available visitors?

Comment: Closure of bathroom facilities at Poplar Point will result in no female stewards being assigned to boat launch.

Comment: People will swim at Poplar point if the facility is unstaffed.

Comment: If the beach area is left open and no lifeguard, is the state leaving themselves open for a law suit?

Comment: While all law enforcement agencies work well together, the sheriff's department is the first line of defense as it can take quite a while for DEC law enforcement to respond. The sheriff's department is expecting an increase in number of calls to respond.

Response: The Department will post the beach area that no swimming is allowed. This is similar to several locations throughout the forest preserve.

Comment: While I fully support your plans for both Little Sand Point and Point Comfort I find there are many flaws with the proposal for Poplar Point. The thought of leaving this wonderful stretch of beachfront on the shore of pristine Piseco Lake "wide-open" and free to the general public is simply baffling and disturbing. You must certainly be aware of events like Log Bay Day on Lake George and the Shipwreck and Sand Island events on Great Sacandaga? Then surely you can appreciate in today's environment how quickly word would travel and there would be a growing out of control crowd at this location on a weekly basis.

Comment: The preferred alternative which would convert this campground to a no fee day-use area with a boat launch would seem to offer little in the way of cost savings while creating an incentive (no fee) to use this facility.

Comment: one issue that was not brought up was we are seeing more usage especially if the summer is warm and there is very little water in Hinkley and any other lake for that matter, they are coming this way to be able to use their boats so collect their money and not give them a free boat launch, the empire pass like I said our son takes his boat in and out and he gets his moneys worth, it is a nice thing to have and now with the pass being able to be given to the babysitter so the kids can go to the beach and play is even a nicer idea. There is a beautiful sand beach at poplar why not utilize it with the fee's that would be gotten from it.

Comment: As drafted, the DEC's preferred alternative to convert Poplar point to a no-fee boat launch facility lacks the type of analysis required within the SLMP and is missing important details spanning a wide spectrum of potential impacts such as parking, natural resource impacts to the lake, social impacts on the recreational experience, and other important details. Although the Council does not oppose the closure of Poplar Point's campsites, nor its conversion to a no-fee, day-use only facility, we believe these carrying capacity studies must be completed before the removal of infrastructure and campsites occurs at Poplar Point.

Response:

The use of Poplar Point as a no-fee use facility is being proposed for the next 5 years. During this period, any issues will be monitored and evaluated. Interim measures such as closing the facility or staffing the facility can be undertaken if it is deemed necessary for the protection of the natural resources, infrastructure or the public. All 3 campgrounds are already unstaffed most of the off season and site control is managed by periodic visits by law enforcement, other day users and monitoring by nearby residents. Additional signage directing no swimming, parking restrictions and no camping will be posted. This plan will be edited to note the provision for providing a toilet facility for use by boat launch and picnic area users. (see pg 42 of plan).

Comments regarding the free and unstaffed boat launch at Poplar Point

Comment: DEC is shooting itself in the foot trying to sell Empire passports and then offering free boat launching on Piseco Lake.

Comment: Last night it was mentioned that the lake stewards would be there to monitor boats during the busy times.. that would be critical in my view.

Comment: The boat launch at Poplar Point is by far the best of the three launches and should be maintained. It has better access and a larger area for parking trailers. The extra space provides boaters time to prepare their boats for launching, inspection, and securing their boats. The launch itself is located in a small cove which shelters boats from adverse winds. And with a prevailing SW wind launches can be hassle free. The sandy beach to the west of the launch also enables several boats to pull up to the beach and await their turn or for boaters to pick up passengers or equipment without blocking the dock itself.

Comment: Our lake is not overly crowded with boats but that will change. We, at Piseco Lake, do not have enough patrols on the water to stop speeders and drunk boating, let alone illegal practices, dogs loose on Pine Island (eagle nesting site), bathing and dog shampoo; and this from people who live here, vacation here. It can only get worse with free launching. As a member of the Piseco Lake Association I support its purposes of boat decontamination stations and the Boat Steward Program to promote the reduction of boat launches on the lake and increased involvement of the DEC.

Comment: I feel the lake does not need to offer a free launch. If boaters really want to boat here, they can do so at inspected sites with a small fee. The boat launch is free but takes a little time. These boaters want to be here because the water is quite clean and they care.

Comment: Each boat launch/location was covered a different number of total days. Using the # of days of coverage, we arrive at the following averages for numbers of boats inspected per day: Piseco/Point Comfort: 506/79 days of coverage = 6.4 boats per day. Piseco/Poplar Point: 761/113 = 6.7 bpd. Piseco/Sand: 162/39 = 4.1 bpd. Piseco Decon station; 171/65 = 2.6 bpd.

Based on this information, it appears that Poplar is the busiest, followed closely by Point Comfort. Locating a decontamination station at either of these locations appears to make sense. The comparative sizes of the parking lots is an important consideration. (The larger the better.) Ideally, we would retain the roadside decon station at the Piseco common school and add one on the lake. I feel that the roadside decon station offers service to drive by customers, and as such provides a more visible advertisement for the program to passing motorists than would a station located ONLY on Piseco Lake. Of course, to protect Piseco Lake and to increase the number of exit decontaminations (to contain the spiny water flea currently in the lake), a decon station on the lake is the best choice. Remember that we have to balance both local (Piseco Lake) and region - wide (entire Adk Park) AIS spread prevention goals.

Comment: I am concerned about the proposal for turning Poplar Point into a no-fee boat launch. Between all of the private camps, associations and the other two campgrounds, there is an abundance of watercraft on the lake. Are there any statistics of where this has been done and how much more watercraft if brought to the lake? Also, what would stop people from partying and trashing that campground? I understand that a steward would probably be placed there to check boats, but that person would have no authority to prevent destructive things from happening.

Comment: Do not agree with a no fee boat launch.

Comment: On the 4th of July, it takes ½ hour or longer to bring your boat in to the ramp. More use of boat ramp will increase wait time.

Comment: Facility should be staffed and a fee should be charged to provide control.

Comment: The lake will be busy with boaters and there are no facilities for visitors on lake.

Comment: The UMP will boil down to more boats, more invasives and more problems.

Comment: There will be no boat steward on lake in the shoulder seasons.

Comment: Unstaffed and free parking at Poplar Point will result in parking issues preventing access to the lake for the Sheriff's boat.

Comment: As the previous supervisor of the boat stewardship program, there were many times last season when there were no stewards at the boat launches and often no one charging for entry fee at the facility. This did not result in a lot of problems. We need to trust the people that come up here to boat to make it work.

Comment: DEC should perform a study to determine what effect a free boat launch will have on level of boat use on lake.

Comment: Concerns about the need to have staff located at the launch site to insure users tie up the launch for the minimal time needed and to not result in unnecessary backups.

Comment: Comment regarding converting the boat launch to no-fee would result in greater demand than experienced in the past and concerns of unsafe, illegal parking day users need additional parking spaces.

Comment: The costs associated with improving and or maintaining the use of the boat launch at Poplar Point would be better spent improving the two boat launches at the other campgrounds.

Comment: In regard to the Draft Management Plan (UMP) for Caroga and Piseco Lake Campgrounds I wish to comment specifically regarding the future of Poplar Point Campground boat launch facility. I would like to see this launch remain open, ideally staffed by New York State, or by the Town of Arietta, but staffed. In either case a bathroom should be available for users and for boat inspectors. If it is not possible to staff the launch, I would still like the ramp to remain accessible, as it is the launch most convenient for many lake residents, the marina proprietors that service Piseco Lake clients, and for the DEC and Hamilton County Sheriffs lake patrols.

Comment: The SLMP is clear in providing the following guidance on the development of Unit Management Plans, especially with regard to waterbodies, "A comprehensive study of Adirondack lakes and ponds should be conducted by the Department of Environmental Conservation to determine each water body's capacity to withstand various uses, particularly motorized uses and to maintain and enhance its biological, natural and aesthetic qualities. First emphasis should be given to major lakes and ponds totally surrounded by state land and to those on which state intensive use facilities exist or may be proposed. The importance of the quality of these resources cannot be overemphasized"

Comment: As APA Board member Dr. Chad Dawson noted at the May 2017 meeting, its time that these comprehensive studies are undertaken and that these issues are addressed. We agree with him that these are both complex problems but ones that have a workable solution and if these kinds of studies have been done in other places, than they certainly can be done here in the Adirondacks. We look forward to supporting these kinds of efforts and when appropriate changes are made to this UMP, backing what is otherwise a practical and well-designed plan.

Response:

According to data collected by the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program, a large percentage of users of the Piseco Lake boat launches utilize the sites seasonally to launch and retrieve boats that will be docked at their homes and camps for the summer. A change in the fee will not have an impact on the use of the launch sites by this user group. The goal of any redevelopment of the boat launch and parking area would be to better accommodate the vehicles with trailers and facilitate improved access and traffic flow but not to increase the number of parking spots available. (see pg 42 of the plan) The design specifics and layout will be done in consultation with the APA. Signage and enforcement will insure that the design capacity of the launch is not exceeded. There is currently efforts underway between APA and DEC to develop carrying capacity criteria for water bodies located in the Adirondack Park.

Comments specific to invasive species concerns

Comment: DEC has transferred the responsibility for environmental protection to others such as Paul Smiths College. What happens if funding for the steward program runs out ?

Comment: Making Poplar Point a "free boat launch" does that mean the state is going to be watching the boats for "invasive species"?

Comment: The proposed Management changes for all three campgrounds should include washing and disposal stations for boat launch improvements specifically to prevent and mitigate the potential that aquatic invasive species are introduced to Piseco Lake. The Draft UMP clearly shows that the recreational users of the facilities are from the places where aquatic invasive species are a dangerous problem and environmental concern.

Comment: Suggest training campground staff to monitor boat usage at Point Comfort and Little Sand Point to free up steward at Poplar Point.

Comment: It is important to keep boat inspectors at the boat launch to minimize the chance of introducing invasive plants and organisms into Piseco Lake.

Comment: Unless they put in a invasive monitor 24/7 there will only be part time coverage.

Comment: Increased largely unsupervised usage at this facility greatly raises the risk that the aquatic invasive species would be introduced to Piseco Lake.

Comment: The proposed management actions for all three campgrounds should include boat launch improvements (washing and disposal stations) intended to prevent/mitigate the potential that aquatic invasive species are introduced into Piseco Lake. The Draft UMP clearly demonstrates that the recreational users of the facilities are from areas where aquatic invasive species are a serious environmental concern and problem.

Comment: The UMP should adopt a more aggressive approach to mitigate and eliminate the terrestrial invasive species found at each of three campgrounds.

Comment: Increased, largely unsupervised, usage at this facility increases the risk that aquatic invasive species would be introduced into Piseco Lake.

Comment: My major concern is boat inspection for invasive-plant material. I urge that last year's inspection regime be continued

Comment: You should not have an unsupervised launch for motor boats unless you have a way to determine the boats are not carrying invasive species into Piseco Lake. Possible Solutions:

- a. close the ramp to accommodate motor-less boats only.
- b. allow only motor boats already on the lake to dock.
- c. allow the town of Arietta to supervise the launching of motor boats and allow them to charge a fee to cover the cost involved.

Comment: My only real concern here is establishing a way to control contamination of the lake & shores from the introduction of invasive life forms, plant or animal.

Comment: I urge, though, that however the facility is operated, the regime of boat inspection for invasive-plant material continue or, preferably, be strengthened for protection of the lake.

Response:

The Department will continue its coordinated efforts arrest the spread of both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. The agreement with the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program provides specialized staff with the knowledge and time to dedicate to conducting boat inspections, provide public education and conduct field inspections. Campground staff will not be trained in the specialized knowledge to conduct these activities or have the ability to monitor all boat launchings at the facilities. DEC generally does not provide staff to oversee the launching activities at any of its locations.

Comments regarding expansion of parking for boat launching.

Comment: Recommended the expansion of the parking capacity, possibly into the area previously used for overnight camping.

Response:

This plan does not anticipate the need for the expansion of parking and will limit it to the vicinity of the picnic area and boat launch. (see page 42 of plan)

Comments regarding the Town to operate some functions at Poplar Point

Comment: The Town of Arietta Plan speaks to enhancing and maintaining our recreational resources. Towards that end the comprehensive plan indicates that the Town will negotiate with the State to allow the Town to own and/or manage Poplar Point. The acquired land would be used for expanded public recreational purposes and public lake access.

Comment: The Town would propose that the UMP combine some of the elements of both alternatives 3 and 4 as follows:

1. Provide regularly scheduled staff that would be able to keep the site clean, maintain order and ensure parking is done safely and consistent with capacity.
2. Continue the availability and supply of sanitation facilities and potable water for day users.
3. Keep the supervisors cottage or lifeguard cabin open and available to boat stewards.
4. Periodically pump septic tanks.
5. Do not dismantle any of the infrastructure that are essential to long term use as a day use area.

Comment: If, ultimately, the State and the Town agree to Town use and management of Poplar Point, responsibility for the above mentioned activities and resources would, of course, be subject to negotiation.

Comment: Have concerns about problems resulting from lack of staff at Poplar Point. Recommend looking at Town proposal as it may help reduce problems.

Comment: As a member of the Piseco Lake Association board, I support the Town proposal to operate facilities at Poplar Point.

Comment: The Piseco Lake Association has a close relationship working with the Town of Arietta. The DEC should consider talking to the Town about assistance with operating some functions at Poplar Point.

Comment: Would like to endorse the Town plan to protect Piseco Lake

Comment: I am a summer resident on Piseco Lake and was unable to attend the meeting on June 14. I share the concern expressed by the PLA and Town of Arietta representatives in regarding the DEC proposal to convert Poplar Point to unsupervised no fee Day Use area. The town proposal to allow them to operate this site as supervised Day Use Launch and Beach would achieve your objective of eliminating cost of operating it as a camping site.

I also noted that the DEC plan addresses land based invasive species but not the threat to the lake. I am aware that a separate state program handles this activity, the town proposal would allow moving the boat cleaning station currently operated at the Town Office on Route 8 to Poplar Point which is much closer to the Inspection points on the campsites.

Comment: As a director of the PLA and a lake resident I strongly urge the DEC to consider the option of contracting The Town of Arietta to assume the management of this campground for use as a "day use area" and boat launch. The Town has the resources, both fiscally and people wise to operate the facility with the proper supervision to insure the protection of the lake and safety of the people using the facility. The current DEC proposals do neither!

Comment: Other alternatives that should be considered and evaluated include: redevelopment of the campground to a day use facility managed by the Town of Arietta and redevelopment of the campground as a fee based day use facility with staffing only during high use periods such as holidays and Friday - Sunday during the summer season.

Comment: Other alternatives that should be considered and evaluated include: redevelopment of the campground to a day use facility managed by the Town of Arietta

Comment: I would like to see the state deed Poplar Point to the town of Arietta or sell it to them at a reasonable price (the town willing). The town surrounds Piseco Lake. It has always needed and deserved its own property on the Lake. And, it appears that the state is no longer interested in maintaining it. Or even owning it??

Comment: I would like to express my support for the Town of Arietta's proposal to run the beach and restrooms on a day use basis, making the beach and restrooms available during the day. I urge you to consider our proposal and include it in the UMP.

Response:

The DEC may use a stewardship agreement for activities it approves for the preservation, maintenance, or enhancement of state-owned natural resources. The agreement must be consistent with the NYS Constitution, Adirondack State Land Masterplan and all other laws and regulations. An agreement with the Town for assistance in operating some functions at Poplar Point could be beneficial and is encouraged but will be developed outside the scope of the UMP.

Comments regarding the lack of opportunity for public input

Comment: There were “no press releases or local meetings” prior to the release of the Draft plan! In other UMP’s, DEC reached out to local Officials and concerned groups to get their input, the process worked. The release of this UMP was not on anyone’s radar in Town.

Comment: Has DEC ever thought about giving camper survey to the business owners? We are in communication with a lot of the campers.

Comment: One hearing was held from 10am to 2pm in Northville on the May 3rd, this was an inconvenient time for working people. Other UMP’s have hearings at night and around the state to give working people a chance to participate.

Response:

It is DEC’s goal to give everyone the opportunity to provide input into UMPs in written or oral format. A press release announcing the plan and comment period was issued on April 6th. It was posted on the DEC website and noticed in the Environmental News Bulletin on April 12th. A public comment meeting was conducted in Northville on May 13th to permit oral comments on both Caroga lake and Piseco Lake Campground UMPs. Due to concerns about the ability of the public to attend this meeting, a second public meeting was conducted in the Town of Arietta on June 14th and the public comment period was extended until June 16th.

Comments regarding lack of specific information in plan

Comment: Nowhere in the UMP is there a plan on what sites are to be closed or restored although this information can be found on the DEC websites under campsite restoration page.

Response: The specific sites slated for restoration are noted in section III-F-2 of the plan. The evaluation to determine site closures has not been completed at this stage of the plan. The criteria or reasons to consider the closure of a site are listed in IV-4 and 5 of the plan.

Comment: There is no detail provided regarding what is meant by minimal staffing or improved parking at Poplar Point.

Response: Minimal staffing will include periodic visits by campground staff required to manage grass, trash, sanitary facilities and inspection. Law enforcement will also make periodic inspections. Management Action # 8 of the UMP notes that when funding is secured, design specifics and parking lot layout will be done in consultation with the APA.

Comment: The plan is not clear about what potable water and sanitation facilities will be available at Poplar Point.

Response: The plan calls for minimal bathroom facilities such as a porta-john but no potable water.

Comments regarding implementing the UMP

Comment: Concerned that trees will need to be cut down

Response: The minimum cutting of trees required to insure public safety and provide public facilities is restricted by Article XIV of the NYS Constitution.

Comment: Why do you want to put the powerlines underground?

Response: The frequency of wind storms, downed trees and power outages is disruptive to the operation of the water, sewer, lighting and computer systems at the campground. The ability to get a contractor to make the needed repairs is made more difficult by the remote locations of the facilities and the contracting procedures required for the State. Underground powerlines improve the aesthetic quality of the facility and can reduce the number of power outages and repairs.

Comment: Construction activities such as new bathrooms will disrupt the camping season like at Caroga Lake. Existing vault toilets works just fine.

Response: DEC schedules, as much as possible, construction projects outside the core camping season to minimize the impacts on visitors.

Other Comments:

Comment: Suggest giving incentives to prospective lifeguards such as a tuition credit so help get beaches staffed and open.

Response: DEC has expanded its efforts to recruit lifeguards by offering free training and on site housing.

Comment: Poplar Point has twice as many boaters as the other two boat launches yet the cleats on the dock are broken and there is sand built up on the ramp. There is a drop off at the end of the launch at Point Comfort that needs to be repaired.

Comment: The boat launches need to be looked at, and some changes need to be to each one, they have a ton of sand on two of them (Poplar and Little Sand) and some people have not been able to pull their boats out because of that and we have helped many because we have a 4-wheel drive. Point Comfort the end pad in the water you drop off of especially if it is a low water year and than end up damaging a tire

Comment: State has an unclosed landfill at the south end of the lake that needs to be addressed.

Comment: Last year there was a leak at one of the spickets and we measured the amount of water that was being wasted each day, reported that to the camp ground as well as we called the DEC office, when we returned in the fall it was unchanged, still running.

Response: These 4 comments are items that can be addressed outside the scope of the UMP. The information is being shared with appropriate department staff.

Comment: I'd like to say first that I am thrilled that the state will be upgrading two of the campgrounds. DEC has two gems on Piseco Lake and upgrading periodically is necessary to having people coming back year after year.

Comment: The Council believes the proposed management actions to improve the infrastructure within the PLC complex are well-designed, SLMP compliant, and an appropriate use of resources.

Comment: Comment noting a more recent court ruling on Town's ability to utilize its dam to control the level of the lake during the summer months.

Response: The UMP has been edited to reflect the most recent court ruling.

Comment: At a minimum, the Piseco Lake Campgrounds UMP should incorporate the following guidance as specified with the SLMP, "These management objectives will address, on a site-specific bases as may be pertinent to the area, such issues as:

- Actions to minimize adverse impacts on the resources of the area;
- The rehabilitation of such portions of the area as may suffer from overuse or resource degradation;
- The regulation or limitation of public use such that the carrying capacity of the area is not exceeded and the types of measures necessary to achieve that objective;"

Response: Volume I is a generic plan and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day use classified intensive-use areas. Actions to minimize adverse impacts general to all campground UMPs is addressed in Volume 1 of the plan.