



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

**Department of
Environmental Conservation**

Golden Beach & Rollins Pond Campgrounds

Proposed Final Unit Management Plans

Presentation Outline

- Rollins Pond
 - Campground information and context (abbreviated)
 - Summary of management actions
 - Summary of public comments and state response
 - Changes made to proposed final plan
- Golden Beach
 - Campground information and context (abbreviated)
 - Summary of management actions
 - Summary of public comments and state response
- Master Plan conformance considerations for campgrounds
- Staff recommendation
- Board vote on Master Plan conformance





**Adirondack
Park Agency**

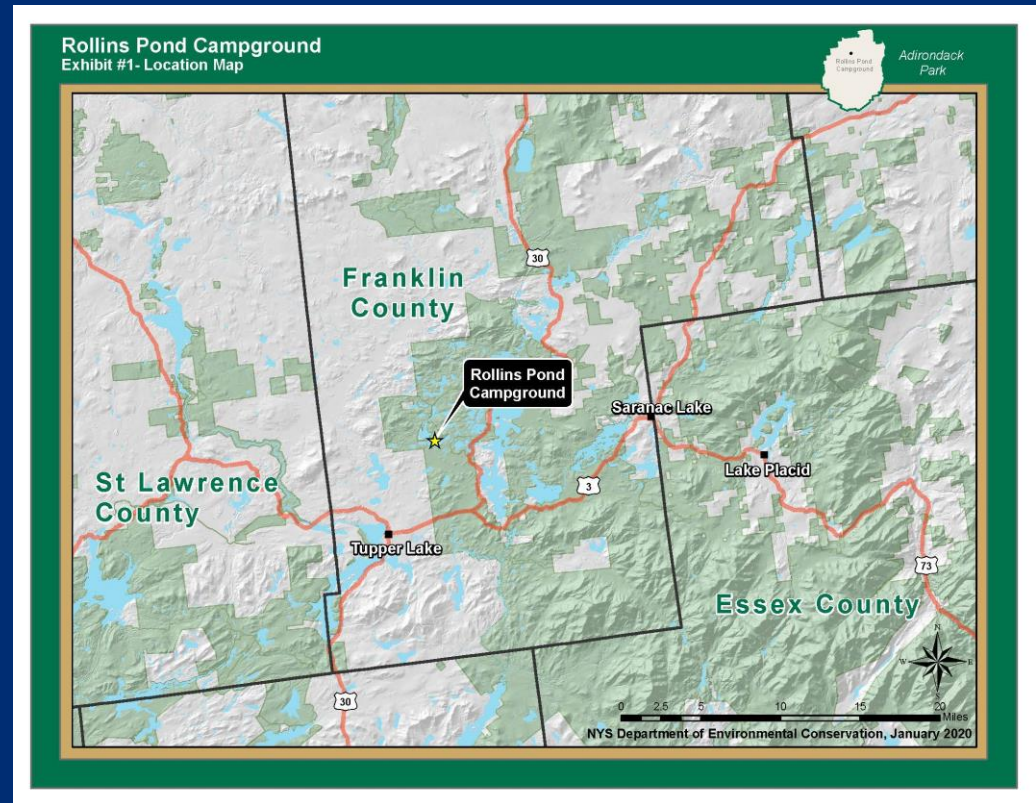
**Department of
Environmental Conservation**

Rollins Pond Public Campground ***Proposed Final Unit Management Plan***

February 8, 2024

Campground Location Overview

- Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County
- Opened in 1955
- 286 Campsites
- Camping capacity: 1,716 persons
- Day use area capacity: N/A
- 519-acre Intensive Use Area



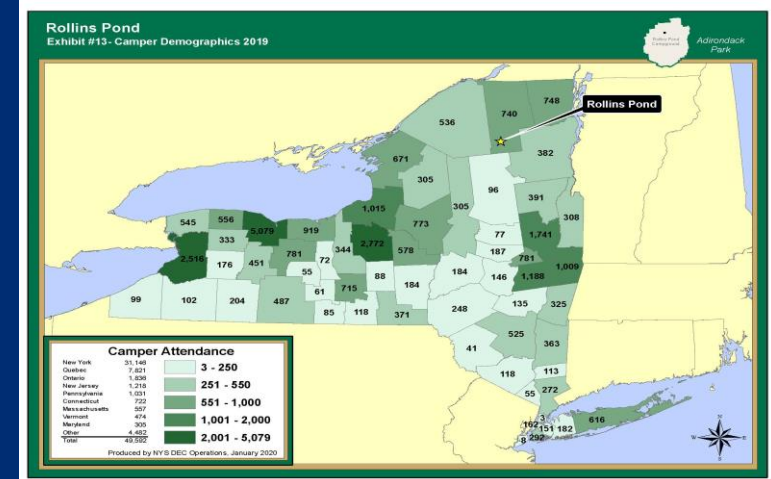
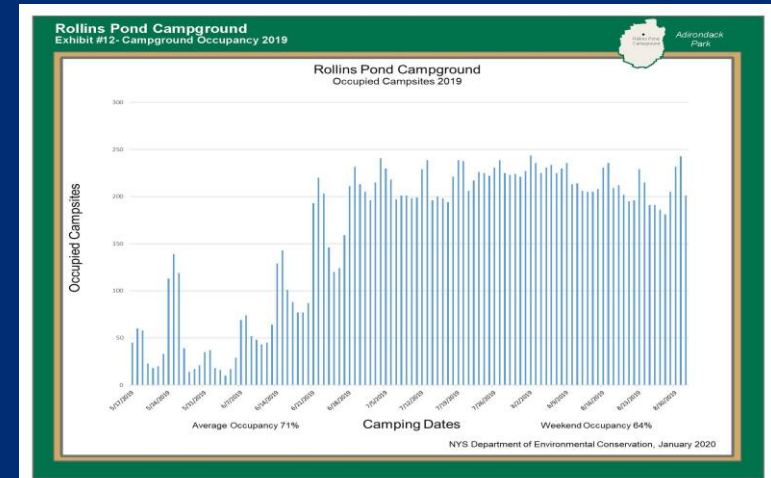
- On the Eastern shore of the 442-acre Rollins Pond
- (25hp or less)

Rollins Pond Public Campground



Rollins Pond Visitor Demographics

- Overall Site Utilization Rate 64%
Weekend 72%
Range 1% - 98%
- Average Length of Stay: 4.5 nights
- Camper Satisfaction Rate of 92%
- Occupancy Rate of 32%
(Actual occupancy x total sites rented)
- 65% NYS residents



Proposed Management Actions

Proposed Management Actions	
Management Actions	Cost
1. Replace four comfort stations #5, 15, 18, 22.	\$400,000 each
2. Rehabilitate roads and include bike lane.	\$1,100,000
3. Replace caretaker and assistant caretaker cabin.	\$250,000 each
4. Construct additional staff housing.	\$250,000
5. Make improvements at the boat launch.	\$75,000
6. Construct additional vehicle parking.	\$40,000
7. Replace trailer dump station.	\$70,000
8. Rehabilitate water system.	\$1,250,000
9. Construct playground near shower building.	\$75,000
10. Extend internet connection from Fish Creek Campground to Rollins Pond.	\$6,000
11. Reclassify area between campgrounds to intensive use area.	\$1,000
12. Accessible trail construction.	\$200,000
13. Construct trail bridge to connect to Adirondack Rail Trail.	\$1,800,000
14. Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.	\$30,000
15. Tree and shrub plantings.	\$15,000
16. Campsite restoration.	\$35,000

Comment Period Summary

- Public comment period 8/16-9/18
- Received 23 written comments
- Received 684 survey responses
- Public was not limited to one form of response or multiple submissions
- Comments submitted on behalf of Organizations/User groups
- In general, comments were in favor of overall management direction in the UMP

Comment Topics

- General condition of campsites, infrastructure and associated amenities within the facility
- Extended stay camping
- Increased access to recreational amenities
- General / other public concerns
- Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) Conformance
- Trailered boat launch & the carrying capacity of Rollins Pond to support visitor use
- Aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitoring, prevention, and potential impacts to waterbody

Comments regarding general condition of campsites, infrastructure and associated amenities within the facility

Summarized Comments-

- Responses were in favor of rehabilitating campsites, their amenities and improving site layout and screening.
- In addition, the public was in favor of rehabilitating campground infrastructure such as restrooms, administrative buildings, roads, and utilities.

DEC Response-

- Management actions are consistent with the *1990 Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas*.
 - Requirement to rehabilitated, upgrade and/or stabilize infrastructure or resources that are found to be contributing to the degradation of physical, biological and sociological resources of the recreation area.
- Campsite restoration project, 2.5% of campsites per year are removed from inventory for rehabilitation to address:
 - Screening
 - Erosion
 - Aesthetics
 - Site access
 - Accessibility.

Comments regarding extended stay camping

Summarized Comments-

- A significant number of comments were received in opposition to “Extended Stay Camping”
- Concerns over campsite supply, difficulty securing desired reservations and misuse of the existing inventory
- In addition, comments on resource impacts, user conflict and demands on staffing were raised.

DEC Response-

- Generally, comments reflect public frustration on campsite availability, reservation system functionality and the misconception that campsite preference is afforded to specific user groups.
- Many of these concerns cannot be directly attributed to, nor caused by, the proposed implementation of extended stay camping on a select number of sites.
- That said, the Department will forgo the implementation of extended stay camping to afford more time to address the concerns raised by the public.
- The management proposal has been dropped from the final plan.

Comments regarding increased access to recreational amenities

Summarized Comments-

- Support for the proposed recreational trail connection between Fish Creek Ponds and Rollins Pond
- Support for the connection to the Adirondack Rail Trail.
- Requests for additional trail network development
- Playground

DEC Response-

- Proposed trail connections will be valuable recreational amenities when completed.
- Afford safe and scenic opportunities for patrons to enjoy the natural surroundings.
- In conjunction with the Fish Creek Ponds loop trail UMP, these trails will form a recreational destination much of which will be accessible for people of all abilities.
- Access to other recreational amenities like playgrounds, amphitheaters, fishing piers etc will be enhanced by the proposed management actions.

Comments regarding general/ other public concerns

Summarized Comments -

- Comments on the reservation system, website issues, limiting access to the website, out of state campers, and changing cancellation policies.
- Comments regarding season dates, pricing, check-in times and procedures.
- Comments regarding varying topics such as building configuration and amenities, Wi-Fi availability, generator/dog free areas etc.

DEC Response - These comments have been noted, however, they refer to administrative matters that are outside of the scope of this UMP.

Summarized Comments - Comments expressed need for more staff in the campground.

DEC Response - Staff levels are determined administratively based on availability of funding, access to qualified employees, and programmatic need. Staffing issues are not included in the scope of this plan.



Summary of Public Comments for Rollins Pond (SLMP Related)

Comment: Electric Vehicle charging stations should be located at certain campsites.

The 2018 amendment to the Generic Unit Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day Use Areas states that: “Charging stations will not be associated with individual campsites.” (pg. 4)

Comment: Include a more comprehensive inventory of resources at the site.

- Rollins Pond Campground is embedded within the broader Saranac Lakes Wild Forest (SLWF) management area
- The SLWF UMP resource inventory adequately addresses natural resources at Rollins Pond
- The Rollins Pond Campground UMP references the SLWF plan for more information in this regard.

Comment: The number of campsites must not exceed the 150-site limit identified in the SLMP.

“The maximum size of **future** campgrounds in the Park will be in the range of 75-150 individual camping sites depending on site constraints, resource considerations and impacts on nearby lands.” APSLMP, page 43

Comment: More needs to be done to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Efforts to control AIS at Rollins Pond are sufficient.

Comment: Carrying Capacity for Rollins Pond must be addressed. Also, the trailered boat launch within the Rollins Pond Campground should be converted to a hand launch.

Agency and Department staff agree that the capacity of Rollins Pond is a critical consideration for this UMP and efforts to improve the plan with more detailed information on how capacity of the pond will be addressed is included in the Proposed Final and outlined in the next section of this presentation.

Changes to Rollins Pond Campground Proposed Final UMP

Summary of Changes:

- Minor editorial changes
- Clarifying language regarding the “Clean, Drain, Dry” requirement for boaters in New York
- Clarifying language regarding the application of the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
- Removal of extended stay camping permits
- **Incorporation of the Visitor Use Management Framework(VUMF) in order to address the SLMP requirement for a “periodic review” of the boat launch for potential conversion to a hand launch site.**

SLMP Intensive Use Basic Guidelines for Boat Launching Sites

- Waterbody is regularly used by motorboats and over 1,000 acres in size
- Boat launch fulfills a demonstrated need
- Carrying capacity is not exceeded
- Motorboat use is compatible with surrounding land use
- Boat launch and the associated use avoids impacts on adjacent lands
- Sufficient motor size limitations are provided
- No material adverse impacts to physical, biological or scenic resources occurs

SLMP Context for use of the VUMF to evaluate a boat launch site

“...will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual conversion to fishing access sites is appropriate.”
(SLMP pp. 44)

Using the VUMF to uphold SLMP requirements

- VUMF is applied to fulfill “periodic review” requirement for a boat launch site and the associated waterbody (Rollins Pond)
- Other plans have contemplated it’s use as well, and the framework is meant to be scalable
- Addressing Visitor Use in the High Peaks is an example of the VUMF being used at a larger scale and with a larger dedication of resources



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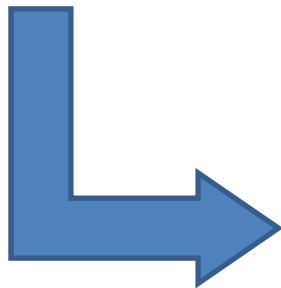
Sliding Scale Decision Support Tool

Decision Support Tool	RATING QUESTIONS	RATIONALE	HIGH MODERATE LOW
Project: _____			
1	What is the likelihood that the situation involves sensitive, rare, or irreplaceable natural resources?		
2	What is the likelihood that the situation involves sensitive, rare, or irreplaceable cultural resources?		
3	What is the likelihood of imminent and significant changes to the natural or cultural resources?		
4	What is the likelihood of imminent and significant changes to visitor experience ?		
5	How will the issue affect other aspects of land management in the area or surrounding areas?		
6	What is the geographic extent of the issue's impacts? Scales of impacts include: national, regional, state, local/county, and site or project.		

Decision Support Tool	RATING QUESTIONS	RATIONALE	HIGH MODERATE LOW
7	What is the relative interest of stakeholders affected by the action? Stakeholders may include: local communities, general public, special interest groups, recreational visitors, commercial users, traditional-subsistence users, tribes, and others.		
8	Is the impact temporary (low) or long lasting (high)?		
<p>CRITERIA - Use the ratings assigned to questions 1-8 to evaluate the following 4 sliding scale criteria. Combine those criteria into a single qualitative rating (high, moderate, or low) of the project's appropriate location on the sliding scale.</p>			
	CRITERIA	RATIONALE	HIGH MODERATE LOW
A	Issue Uncertainty		
B	Impact Risk		
C	Stakeholder Involvement		
D	Level of Controversy		
	Location on the Sliding Scale		

The Sliding Scale: Placing the problem in context

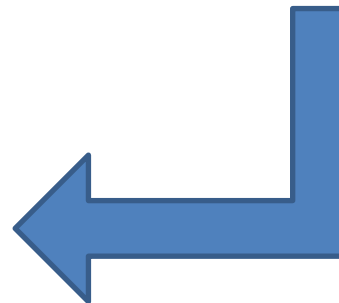
CRITERIA - Use the ratings assigned to questions 1-8 to evaluate the following 4 sliding scale criteria. Combine those criteria into a single qualitative rating (high, moderate, or low) of the project's appropriate location on the sliding scale.

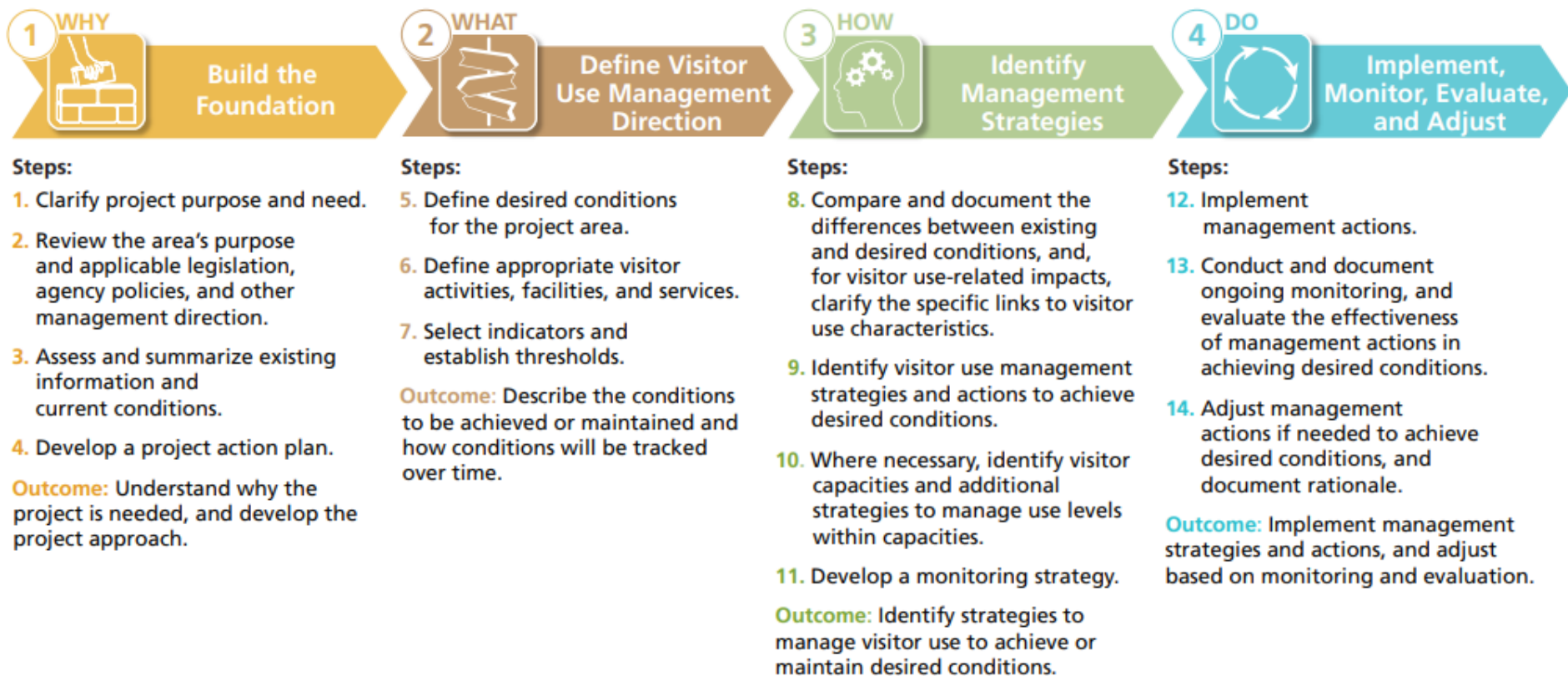


1 What is the likelihood that the situation involves sensitive, rare, or irreplaceable natural resources?

Key Criteria

- Issue Uncertainty
- Impact Risk
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Level of Controversy





VUMF Elements One, Two and Desired Conditions



Steps:

1. Clarify project purpose and need.
2. Review the area's purpose and applicable legislation, agency policies, and other management direction.
3. Assess and summarize existing information and current conditions.
4. Develop a project action plan.

Outcome: Understand why the project is needed, and develop the project approach.

Steps:

5. Define desired conditions for the project area.
6. Define appropriate visitor activities, facilities, and services.
7. Select indicators and establish thresholds.

Outcome: Describe the conditions to be achieved or maintained and how conditions will be tracked over time.

Desired Conditions

Visitors to the pond will have reliable access to front country amenities found in a DEC Campground during the operating season.

Visitors can engage in a variety of recreational activities on Rollins Pond, including paddling, boating in small motorized craft (<25 horsepower), fishing, camping, swimming, wildlife viewing, and star gazing.

Visitors experience connections to the water, wildlife, vegetation, and the company they share the waterbody with.

VUMF Elements One, Two and Desired Conditions



Steps:

1. Clarify project purpose and need.
2. Review the area's purpose and applicable legislation, agency policies, and other management direction.
3. Assess and summarize existing information and current conditions.
4. Develop a project action plan.

Outcome: Understand why the project is needed, and develop the project approach.

Steps:

5. Define desired conditions for the project area.
6. Define appropriate visitor activities, facilities, and services.
7. Select indicators and establish thresholds.

Outcome: Describe the conditions to be achieved or maintained and how conditions will be tracked over time.

Indicators and Thresholds

Indicator: Number of trailered motorboats entering the campground on a weekly basis while the campground is open.

Threshold: Doubling the average number of trailered motorboats per week for four consecutive weeks.

Elements Three, Four and where the rubber hits the road



Steps:

- 8. Compare and document the differences between existing and desired conditions, and, for visitor use-related impacts, clarify the specific links to visitor use characteristics.
- 9. Identify visitor use management strategies and actions to achieve desired conditions.
- 10. Where necessary, identify visitor capacities and additional strategies to manage use levels within capacities.
- 11. Develop a monitoring strategy.

Outcome: Identify strategies to manage visitor use to achieve or maintain desired conditions.

Steps:

- 12. Implement management actions.
- 13. Conduct and document ongoing monitoring, and evaluate the effectiveness of management actions in achieving desired conditions.
- 14. Adjust management actions if needed to achieve desired conditions, and document rationale.

Outcome: Implement management strategies and actions, and adjust based on monitoring and evaluation.

It all goes back to upholding Desired Conditions.



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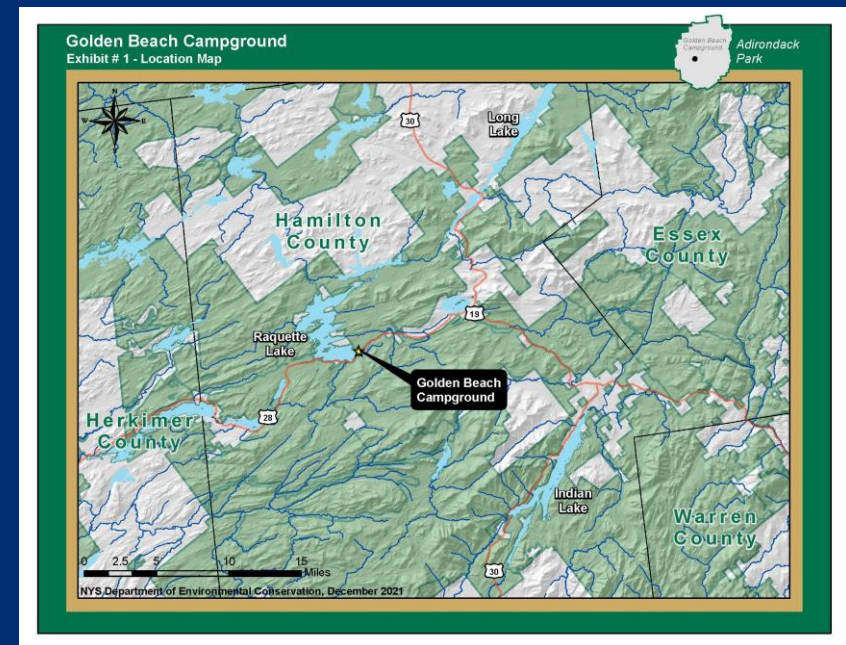
Golden Beach Campground & Day Use Area

Proposed Final Unit Management Plan

February 8, 2024

Campground Location Overview

- Hamlet of Raquette Lake, Hamilton County
- Opened in 1931
- 204 Campsites
- Camping capacity: 1,224 persons
- Day use area capacity: 48 persons
- 106-acre Intensive Use Area
- ~50 acres Developed
- On the shores of the 5,935-acre Raquette Lake



Golden Beach Public Campground Mgt. Actions

Proposed Management Actions		
	Management Actions	Cost
1.	Replace former vault toilet building and comfort station #6.	\$750,000 each
2.	Replace shower building and comfort station #1 with single building.	\$1,250,000
3.	Replace bathhouses with a pavilion.	\$200,000
4.	Replace ticket booth.	\$75,000
5.	Rehabilitate campground roads.	\$1,500,000
6.	Replace trailered boat launch with accessible hand launch.	\$75,000
7.	Replace trailer dump station.	\$250,000
8.	Rehabilitate water system.	\$700,000
9.	Rehabilitate campground sewage system.	\$700,000
10.	Replace overhead electric lines with underground system.	\$700,000
11.	Reclassify area with pre-existing infrastructure to intensive use area, reclassify intensive use acreage to Wild Forest where applicable.	\$1,000
12.	Add utility sinks to all comfort stations.	\$50,000
13.	Tree and shrub plantings.	\$20,000
14.	Campsite restoration.	\$45,000

Golden Beach Public Campground



Comment Period Summary

- Public comment period 8/16-9/18
- Received 10 written comments
- Received 192 survey responses
- Public not limited to one form of response or single submission.
- Comments submitted on behalf of Organizations/User groups
- In general, comments were in favor of overall management direction in the UMP

Comment Topics

- Specific management actions
- Accessibility
- Natural resources and potential impacts stemming from proposed management actions
- Campsites
- Campground operations
- Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) Conformance

Comments regarding specific management actions

Summarized Comments:

- Comments regarding the location, impacts and need for the proposed addition of a pavilion, trailer dump station and utility sinks were received.
- Several comment regarding the removal of the closed bathhouses.
- Concerns regarding the road system condition.

DEC Response:

- It is through the UMP process that the Department evaluates the existing infrastructure's condition, its need for removal, rehabilitation or replacement.
- Management actions are consistent with the *1990 Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas*.
 - Required to rehabilitated, upgrade and/or stabilize infrastructure or resources that are found to be contributing to the degradation of physical, biological and sociological resources of the recreation area .

Comments regarding accessibility

Summarized Comments: Campground should provide more accessible features for individuals with disabilities.

DEC Response:

- The Department works to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by incorporating accessibility for individuals with disabilities into the siting, planning, construction, and alteration of its recreational facilities.
- The UMP contains various management actions to offer more accessible features such as:
 - Accessible restroom/shower facilities and associated parking
 - Construction of an accessible pavilion near the beach area
 - Replacement of the ticket booth (to be built to accessible standards)
 - Replacement of the existing trailered boat launch with an accessible hand launch

Comments regarding natural resources and potential impacts stemming from proposed management actions

Summarized Comments: The UMP should assess and describe climate impacts.

DEC Response: The Department and Agency have added language regarding the State's commitments under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act under "Inventory of Issues and Constraints."

Summarized Comments: The UMP is missing the necessary species and habitat inventory.

DEC Response: Because the Golden Beach Intensive Use Area is surrounded by state lands with existing unit management plans, this plan references the wildlife and habitat inventories for the neighboring Blue Ridge Wilderness and Moose River Plains Wild Forest areas.

Comments regarding natural resources and potential impacts stemming from proposed management actions cont.

Summarized Comments: Mitigate stormwater flow off roads into campsites.

DEC Response:

- The management action to rehabilitate 2.25 miles of campground roads will help to alleviate stormwater impacts, erosion and sedimentation issues through techniques such as:
 - Road crowning to maintain sheet flow to appropriate sites to avoid resource impacts,
 - Adding check dams, where needed, to existing cross drainage,
 - Providing adequate road and shoulder surface to limit adjacent soil compaction,
 - Supplying permeable, granular shoulders,
 - Adding vegetation as part of the campsite restoration project.

Comments regarding campsites

Summarized Comments: Questions regarding campsite restoration and why campsites are being closed and no work is being done.

DEC Response:

- At present, a minimum of five campsites are selected for temporary closure per year.
- Rehabilitation work may include:
 - Shoreline stabilization
 - Maintaining campsite surface to reduce erosion, soil loss, and compaction
 - Revegetating areas between campsites and along the shoreline
 - Replacing fire rings and picnic tables.
- Work is completed as staff resources allow and the campsites will remain closed until work is completed.

Comments regarding campground operations

Summarized Comments -

- Comments on the reservation system, website issues, limiting access to the website, out of state campers, and changing cancellation policies.
- Comments regarding season dates, pricing, check-in times and procedures.
- Comments regarding varying topics such as building configuration and amenities, Wi-Fi availability, generator/dog free areas etc.

DEC Response - These comments have been noted, however, they refer to administrative matters that are outside of the scope of this UMP.

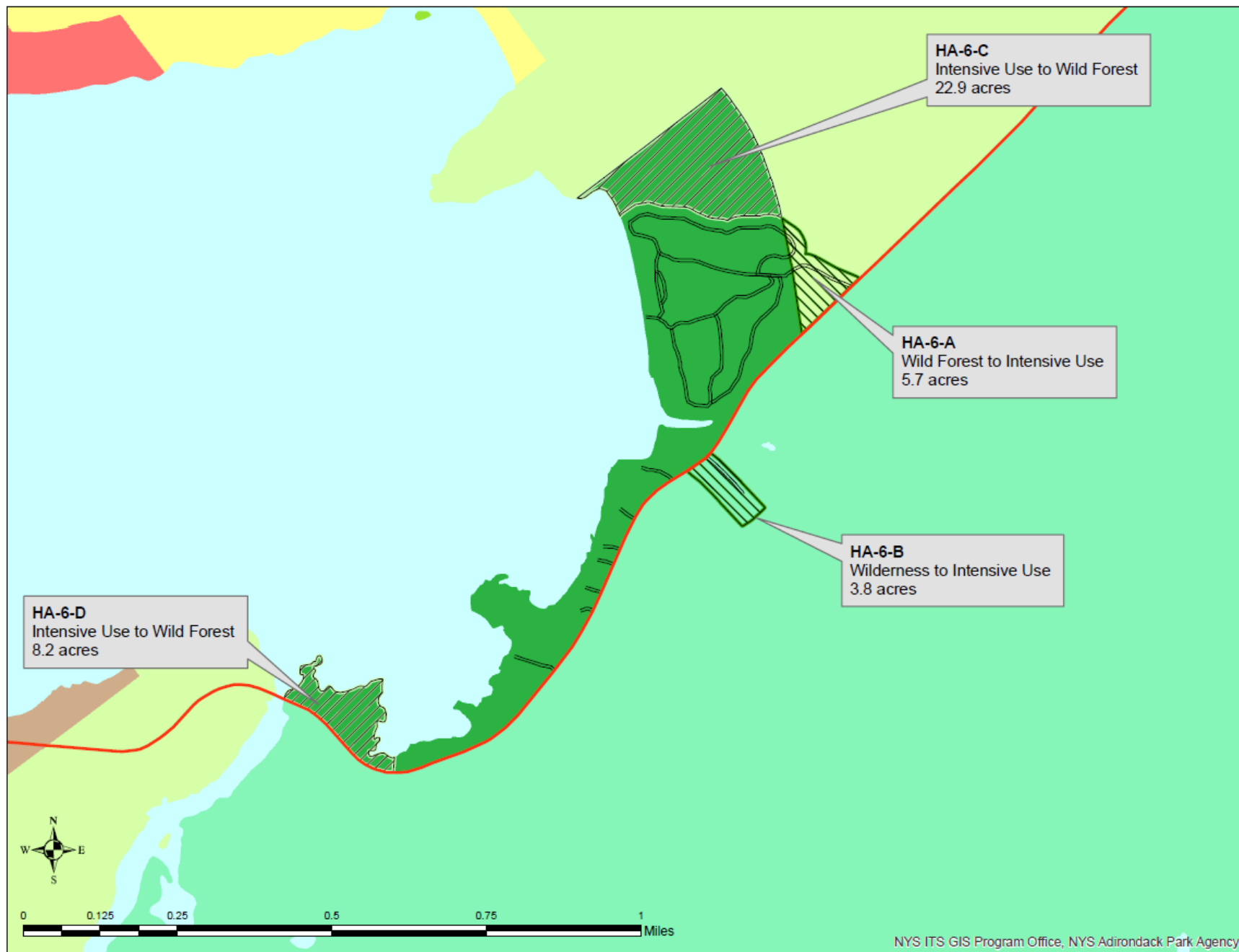
Summarized Comments - Comments expressed need for more staff/staff housing in the campground.

DEC Response - Staff levels are determined administratively based on availability of funding, access to qualified employees, and programmatic need. Staffing issues are not included in the scope of this plan. The need for additional staff housing at this facility was evaluated during the UMP process and was not included based on that analysis.

Summary of Public Comments for Golden Beach (SLMP Related)

Comment: Seeking more detailed information about the reclassification boundaries/buffers.

- HA-6-A: Reclassifying 5.7 acres from the Sargent Pond Wild Forest to Intensive Use to reclassify areas that contain pre-existing campground infrastructure such as the entrance road, ticket booth, and caretaker's cabin. The northern boundary follows a 100-foot setback from the campground entrance road and the road to campsites 122 - 156.
- HA-6-B: Reclassifying 3.8 acres from the Blue Ridge Wilderness to Intensive Use in light of a mapping error. This acreage contains components of the campground's pre-existing septic system. Boundaries are drawn to allow for minor expansion of the leach field when it has reached the end of its useful life.
- HA-6-C: Reclassifying 22.9 acres from the existing Intensive Use area to be added to the Sargent Pond Wild Forest. This area is characterized by freshwater forested and shrub wetlands, therefore future developments allowable in an Intensive Use area would not be appropriate on this acreage. This boundary is drawn with a 100-foot setback from the road.
- HA-6-D: Reclassifying 8.2 acres from the western end of the existing Intensive Use Area to be added to the Sargent Pond Wild Forest. The boundary is drawn roughly a quarter of a mile west of the last roadside campsite along NYS Route 28.



Comment: Previous reclassifications have followed a precedent of achieving a 2:1 or greater ratio for more restrictive classifications.

When the Agency considers classification and reclassification of land, the Master Plan requires that classification decisions are made based on the characteristics of the land and its capacity to withstand use. Several mapping errors were identified at Golden Beach, which prompted Agency staff to take a more holistic look at the facilities and surrounding lands to determine whether land classification boundaries were accurate based on pre-existing infrastructure and resource constraints. The Agency does not employ any specific ratio when considering potential reclassifications of state land.

Comment: It appears that the campground is not operating within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the site.

The carrying capacity analysis included in Part III.F.2 on page 12 determined that the campground would benefit from additional infrastructure, renovations, and campsite restoration. Management actions to address these deficiencies include, but are not limited to:

- rehabilitation of the sewage system
- replacement of the trailer dumping station
- rehabilitation of water system
- rehabilitation of campground roads
- tree and shrub plantings

The ongoing campsite restoration program enables land managers to temporarily close certain campsites when issues such as loss of vegetative screening, soil compaction, and drainage issues are observed.

The background image is a composite of two nature scenes. The top half shows a dense forest of green trees under a blue sky with light clouds. The bottom half shows a shoreline with a body of water on the left, a sandy beach in the center, and several large, weathered logs lying on the sand. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and trees. The overall tone is natural and serene.

Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Conformance Review

Guidelines for Management and Use - Basic Guidelines (SLMP pg. 41)

Primary management guideline will be to provide:

- public opportunities for recreation
- in a setting and scale in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park

Guidelines for Management and Use – Basic Guidelines (SLMP pg. 41)

- All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed:
- to blend with the Adirondack environment;
- to have minimum adverse impact on surrounding state and private lands



Guidelines for Management and Use – Basic Guidelines (SLMP pg. 41)

Construction and development activities will:

- avoid material alteration of wetlands;
- minimize extensive topographic alterations;
- limit vegetative clearing;
- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the intensive use area.

Guidelines for Management and Use: Campgrounds (SLMP pg. 42)

- Rustic nature
- Natural character
- Natural materials
- Shoreline setbacks

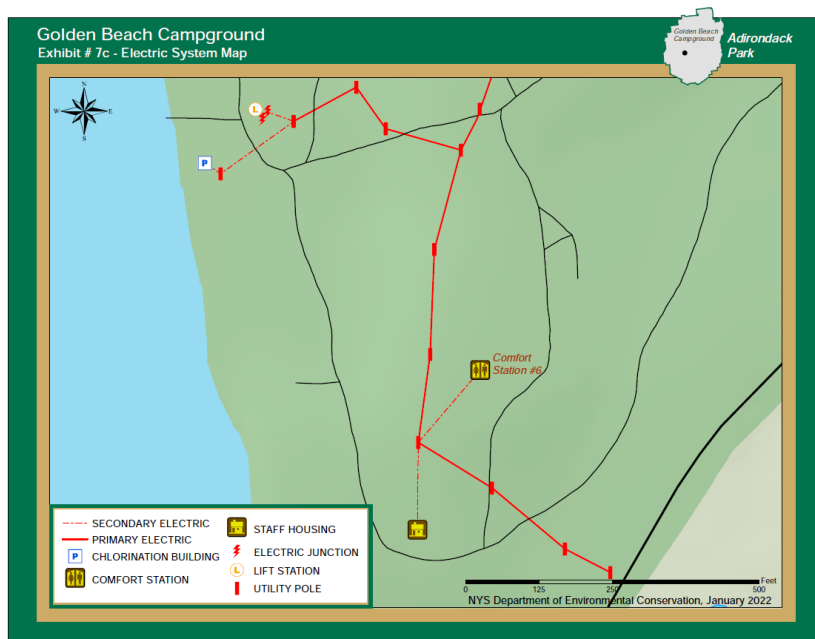


Guidelines for Management and Use: Campgrounds (SLMP pg. 43)



- The older, existing campgrounds will be rehabilitated and reconstructed as soon as possible to reflect modern site planning principles that will better blend the facilities with the environment and comply with the provisions of the SLMP.

Guidelines for Management and Use: Campgrounds (SLMP pg. 43)



- The older, existing campgrounds will be rehabilitated and reconstructed as soon as possible to reflect modern site planning principles that will better blend the facilities with the environment and comply with the provisions of the SLMP.

Staff Recommendation

It is the opinion of staff that the proposed final 2024 unit management plan for Golden Beach Campground & Day Use Area conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.



Staff Recommendation

It is the opinion of staff that the proposed final 2024 unit management plan for Rollins Pond Campground conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.

