



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Lincoln Pond Public Campground Unit Management Plan PROPOSED FINAL

TOWN OF ELIZABETHTOWN, ESSEX COUNTY, NY

NOVEMBER 2025

Kathy Hochul, Governor | Amanda Lefton, Commissioner

LINCOLN POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTE: Unit management plans for the Department of Environmental Conservation operated campgrounds and Day-Use Areas located in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks are composed in three (3) volumes. Volume I is a generic plan and contains an overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertains universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special Day-Use classified Intensive Use areas. This document is Volume II. It is a site-specific management 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 (UMPs) 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.

Central Office staff, in conjunction with Region 5 staff, prepared this UMP. Any comments and/or information may be forwarded to Oliver Miller, Division of Operations, Albany. For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

SUMMARY
LINCOLN POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria referenced in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Department of Environmental Conservation Management Policy for Forest Preserve state-owned lands, DEC developed a unit management plan (UMP) for the five-year operation of Lincoln Pond Public Campground.

Goals of this UMP include managing recreation programs to ensure protection of the natural resources according to Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), offering recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of 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.

To help meet these goals, contingent upon funding, the following 10 management actions are proposed:

Proposed Management Actions*

- Construct 6-unit shower building. *
- Construct recycling building. *
- Pave main parking lot adjacent to Day-Use Area and 1.0 miles of road. *
- Construct new restroom.
- Replace existing water system.
- Rehabilitate existing sewage system.
- Replace trailer dump station.
- Tree and shrub plantings at specific sites.
- Construction of boat wash.
- Campsite Restoration.

* Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available.

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include compliance with state health codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act, maintenance of campground investments, modernization of facilities providing a satisfactory recreational experience for users, upkeep of facilities to contribute to public safety, and providing conditions in a setting and on a scale that is harmonious with the character of the Adirondack Park.

Determination of conformance to criteria established in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan includes evaluating whether proposed activities avoid alterations of wetlands and topography; limit vegetative clearing; and preserve the scenic, natural, and open space resources of the area; and whether the plan contains an adequate assessment of actual and projected public use.

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

Various alternative actions were considered. However, should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved, public dissatisfaction, an adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase. Existing care, custody, and control practices currently preclude choosing these alternatives.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Lincoln Pond Campground and Day-Use Area is located along the southern portion of the 572-acre impoundment which bears the same name. The remote Central Adirondack setting of this facility offers a relaxing, quiet beauty all its own.

The Intensive Use Area includes 28 campsites and a well-used Day-Use Area complete with a sandy beach. Of the 25 campsites in the main camping area, approximately half are lightly forested and located on the waterfront, with the remainder being semi-private, well-forested and uphill from the main waterfront area.

The sites in the main camping area accommodate equipment ranging from tents to 30' recreational vehicles. Three campsites also included in the Intensive Use Area are located approximately 1500 ft west of the main campground entrance, along the western shoreline of the pond. These sites accommodate tents and small recreational vehicles.

In addition, seven primitive tent sites known locally as "The Kingdom" are administered and maintained by the campground staff. These sites are situated on state lands that include parts of the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. Three of these sites are located on an island accessible only by boat, while the remaining four are accessed by using the Kingdom Dam Road about two miles west of the main campground entrance. These remote sites offer a pleasant camping experience with a sense of remoteness and receive consistent attendance throughout the entirety of the camping season. The boat launch in the Kingdom Dam sites will be decommissioned as well to prevent the launching of trailered boats into Lincoln Pond.

Lincoln Pond Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Canoe and boat rentals are available at the Lincoln Pond boat rental station. Good opportunities for fishing exist in this area. Major species in Lincoln Pond are Largemouth bass, Smallmouth Bass, Tiger Muskellunge, Northern Pike, Black Crappie, Pumpkinseed, and Yellow Perch. Several fishing spots are also within an easy commute from the campground. These include places like the Boquet River in Elizabethtown, as well as a thirty-minute drive to Lake Champlain.

I. INTRODUCTION

Hiking and bicycling are also popular within the campground and on surrounding forest preserve lands and local roadways. Bicyclists, joggers and walkers regularly use the approximately one mile of gravel road that runs through the main campground. Use of the Lincoln Pond Road (County Route Seven) or the Kingdom Dam Road for recreational purposes is not advised due to the amount of and speed of traffic on those roads.

1. Location

The campground is located on Lincoln Pond Road, seven miles south of the Town of Elizabethtown in the Town of New Russia, Essex County; Iron Ore Tract; Lot number 110, 112, 136, 137, 138; DEC Region 5, Ray Brook. The campground is administered by the Bureau of Recreation, Division of Operations.

2. History

Lincoln Pond Campground and this area of New York was inhabited by the Mohawk indigenous peoples prior to European contact.

The history of the area surrounding Lincoln Pond and its nearby communities was directly affected by the events which shaped the economic and industrial evolution of southern Essex County. Colonists, both French and British, began to exploit the resources surrounding the settlement at Crown Point as early as the 1750s.

Significant development of the area started moving westward from Crown Point and Lake Champlain in the early 1800s with the advent of the iron ore mining and forest products industries. Both industries were labor intensive, and as such required a sizeable workforce to conduct operations. Consequently, large numbers of people flocked to the area to settle the land and gain employment. The rapid rise of iron ore mining and timber products harvesting led to the founding of several towns in the Lincoln Pond area including: Ironville, Mineville, Moriah, Port Henry and Witherbee. However, by the later 1870s depletion of timber resources coupled with economic depressions led to the collapse of those industries. Timber and mining companies, faced with property taxes and maintenance costs on the land, sold off their holdings at low market prices, or allowed them to be foreclosed upon by the county for failure to pay taxes.

Faced with property unsustainable for commercial agriculture, the Lincoln Pond area changed its economic focus to outdoor recreation, allowing for tourism to flourish in the region. Lands foreclosed upon or sold were taken over by the State and added to the Forest Preserve for public use and

enjoyment. In response to the advent of the automobile, the then Conservation Department began to establish roadside camping areas.

Construction of a campground at Lincoln Pond began at the present location in 1971, and the facility opened the following year with 15 campsites, sanitary facilities, and a bathing beach complete with bathhouse. Subsequent development added 10 more campsites to the main area, and in 1991, 10 primitive campsites were added along the western shoreline of the pond and Kingdom Dam Road. Comprehensive planning and rustic surroundings have combined to make this one of the nicest campgrounds in the Adirondacks.

Year	Lincoln Pond Campground Improvements
1971	Existing Caretaker's cabin constructed, shower, restroom, ticket booth and garage all constructed.
1972	Campground opened to meet demand for public campsites in the area.
2010 - Present	Firewood shed, pavilion, playground obtained / constructed.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
35 campsites	20 picnic tables
35 picnic tables	17 hibachi grills
35 fireplaces/rings	One Playground
10 water spigots	Nine spigots
Design capacity – 210 persons (35 x 6/site)	Design capacity – 120 persons (20 x 6/table)
	One Pavilion

2. Roads and Parking Areas

There is one gravel surfaced parking area, located in the area immediately north of the shower and Day-Use area. The total area of this lot is 22,185 square feet, and it can accommodate 76 cars (based on 150 cars/acre).

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

The campground road system is gravel surfaced and comprised of four spur roads which have a total linear distance of one mile.

Road Section

Campground Entrance to Site 15: 0.6 Miles, 15 ft. wide

Site 14 to Ticket Booth: 0.2 miles, 12 ft. wide

Site 19 to Upper Parking Lot: 0.1 miles, 12 ft. wide

Ticket Booth to Caretaker Cabin: 0.1 miles, 10 ft. wide

3. Buildings

Bldg. #	Bldg. Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq. ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Ticket Booth	Near entrance	42	Fair	1971
(002)	Caretaker Cabin	Near entrance	1,584	Fair	1971
(003)	Garage	Near entrance	768	Fair	1971
(004)	Shower Building	Near Day-Use Area	1,320	Fair	1971
(005)	Restroom	Near campsite eight	340	Fair	1971
(006)	Firewood Shed	Near entrance	280	Fair	2010
(007)	Shed	Near ticket booth	40	Poor	1971

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted March 2024.

4. Barriers

A DEC standard double wide swing gate barricades the campground main entrance from County Route Seven. The gate is painted bright yellow and has reflective STOP BARRIER AHEAD signs posted 100 feet in front of the gate during periods when entry to the campground is restricted.

5. Sewage System

Campground wastewater disposal is accomplished using a septic tank and absorption area at each individual structure that provides a sanitary service. Septic tank content is periodically pumped and transported to the Village of Ticonderoga Sewage Treatment Plant for disposal.

An NYSDEC SPDES permit #NY 0239381 was issued in September 1996. The application covers the systems below:

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Building Type/Number	Toilets (T), Sinks (S) Showers (SH)	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/Seepage Pits	Construction Date
Caretaker Cabin (2)	1T, 2S, 1 SH	1000	Absorptive Trench	1971
Dumping station	n/a	1,500	Seepage Pit	1971
Restroom (5)	M-1S,1U,3T W-4T,1S	2,000	Seepage Pit	1971
Shower Building (4)	M-2S,2T,2U,2SH,6CH W- 2S,4T,2SH,11CH	2,000	Absorptive Trench	1971

Numbers in parentheses are building numbers assigned in the Building Inventory of Minor State Structures.

6. Solid Waste

This campground has a centralized refuse and recyclable collection area, which is located adjacent to the campground garage and registration booth. There is no central recyclable building, bins are used in a central area to hold recyclable materials. Brochures that detail the procedures for proper disposal of garbage and the proper procession of recyclables at the facility are made available to campers at the time of their registration.

Recyclables are inspected by the campground staff to ensure that they have been processed properly and are then periodically transported by DEC staff to a recyclable transfer station in the town of Moriah. A dumpster is provided on-site for the disposal of camper's refuse. All refuse is removed from the facility on a weekly basis and is transported by DEC staff to the transfer station in the town of Moriah.

Annual solid waste generated at this facility is estimated to be 10 tons. There is no accurate current estimate for annual recyclables because of how they are transported and disposed of. There is no refuse or recyclables collection at Day-Use facilities or campground picnic areas. Individuals or parties using those areas are responsible for the removal of their own refuse and recyclables under the "carry-in carry-out" policy. Appropriate signage is posted to inform the public of this policy.

7. Telephone

The main phone number for the campground is (518) 942-5292, and calls are answered only when the campground is open.

8. Signs

The messages conveyed to public users by means of standard yellow on brown signs include directions and information for the following: entrance, supervisor's office, traffic control, regulations, restrooms and camping sites.

9. Electric System

The main campground has underground primary and secondary electrical distribution. NYE&G provides electrical service to the campground. Electric consumption in 2024 was 12,960 KWH. The cost was \$3,178.87.

10. Potable Water System

One drilled well supplies potable water for distribution in the campground and Day-Use area.

Depth: 168 feet

Yield: 11 gallons per minute

Pump: One Horsepower – 10 gallons per minute pump capacity

Water Pump Velocity: 3450 RPM

Storage tank capacity is 3000 gallons of chlorinated water. This feeds 16 spigots (Nine camping, seven day-use), one shower building, one restroom, and the caretaker's cabin.

11. Fuel Systems

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

Product Type	Tank Size Gal/Lb	Location	Annual Use
Propane	2 -120 gal	Shower building	87 gal

12. Trails

There are no marked hiking trails within the campground, however, opportunities for hiking exist nearby. Rocky Peak is a scenic high peaks trail about six miles west from the campground. 2 miles south of the Town of New Russia is Split Rock Falls Preserve, with easy views of the falls. Just across Lincoln Pond Bridge adjacent to the campground is the 45,500-acre Hammond Pond Wild Forest, which offers several hiking opportunities.

Biking is another popular activity at the campground. Bikers can ride the campground roads as well as miles of surrounding public roadways.

13. Boating

While boat launching sites are typically only considered appropriate for waterbodies exceeding 1,000 acres in size, the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) states that launches "...will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual conversion to fishing access sites is appropriate."

(APSLMP p. 44). The Visitor Use Management Framework (VUM), a tool for adaptive management, provides the means to conduct this review.

a. Current Conditions

Lincoln Pond is 3.0 miles in length and 572 acres. The northern portion of the pond above the causeway is approximately 1.9 miles and does not exceed a depth of 10 ft. The southern portion of Lincoln Pond is separated from the northern portion by a chokepoint of land and a narrow (30 feet long by 10 feet wide) concrete causeway that allows Essex County Route 7 to cross the pond. This portion of the pond is approximately 1.1 miles and does not exceed a depth of 29 ft. The pond was created because of the Kingdom Dam impoundment, near the northern remote sites. Boat and canoe rentals are available at the campground.

The remote setting of the pond and its adjacent lands provides a great recreational experience to boaters and canoers. Two public access points, one located adjacent to site #15 and the other located about 500 feet west of the main entrance provide car top boats and smaller trailered craft with direct pond access. Both boat launches are important as they are the only two public access points on Lincoln Pond. The general public use the launches for both trailered and hand launching. The southern boat launch is available to day-users and guests of Lincoln Pond Campground while the northern launch is available at no fee for all users. Due to the causeway, larger boats cannot typically cross from the north to the south of the pond, so both launches serve to provide access to their respective sides of the pond. Both launches are on lands classified as intensive use.

Along the eastern shores of Lincoln Pond there are many private residences and camps, both north and south of the causeway. Lincoln Pond Campground hosts approximately 10,000 guests yearly. There are two launches at Lincoln Pond. One is the northern launch outside of the campground where DEC are proposing the boat wash station, the other is the southern launch inside the campground which will remain untouched.

Data on boater visits to Lincoln Pond is limited. Anecdotally, campground staff estimate that approximately 100 boats enter the campground to use the southern launch during the summer months, and over 1000 utilize the northern boat launch during the same time frame. The campground also hosts a boat rental station within the campground that offers canoes and kayaks. The popularity of this offering has allowed it to return for several seasons and it is expected to continue.

b. Desired Conditions

The *Visitor Use Management Framework: A Guide to Providing Sustainable Outdoor Recreation*, defines desired conditions as statements of aspiration that describe resource conditions, visitor experiences and opportunities, and facilities and services that an agency strives to achieve and maintain in a particular area. Such statements are often built on the foundational language that legally established the area. Desired conditions describe what conditions, outcomes, and opportunities are to be achieved and maintained in the future, not necessarily what exists today. Descriptions of desired conditions paint a picture of what the particular area will look like, feel like, sound like, and function like in the future. The desired conditions Lincoln Pond are as follows:

Lincoln Pond will provide opportunities for visitors of every age, gender, race, ethnicity, background, and ability to experience a primarily natural and lightly developed waterbody. 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 Lincoln Pond, including paddling, boating, fishing, camping, swimming, wildlife viewing, and star gazing. Visitors experience connections to the water, wildlife, vegetation, and the company they share the waterbody with. Visitors experience inspiration, discovery, and appreciation for a setting where nature and rustic recreational development are in harmony. Visitors have opportunities to realize physical and mental health benefits from spending time in nature and leave feeling rewarded, relaxed, and rejuvenated from their experience.

Visitors to the pond can expect to encounter and see other groups at the campground and on the water. Even with the other groups present, the sights and sounds of nature predominate the experience once visitors are on the water. During the operational season for the campground, opportunities to experience solitude on Lincoln Pond may be limited. However, the off-season will continue to provide occasional opportunities to experience nature without the sights and sounds of other visitors on the pond.

While boating as a practice is not new to Lincoln Pond, it is DEC's desire to employ the best environmental management practices to ensure continued public use of the pond and surrounding public lands while at the same time providing sound stewardship of the natural resource. Outside of the state administered boat launches there are many privately owned shoreline access points that private shoreline owners can launch boats from. As a result, the DEC is limited in its ability to manage all uses of Lincoln Pond. That said DEC will ensure the state-owned boat launches will remain protected from erosion, overuse, invasive species, and general environmental degradation.

DEC will continue to manage the Lincoln Pond Campground, and its associated boat launches to achieve the desired conditions described above.

Facilities are provided to encourage safe and sustainable visitor use of the pond and uphold best practices for the design and management of features consistent with all relevant laws and policies. Limited public motorboat access does not intrude on the natural character of the pond. DEC staff are present at the site while the campground is operational in the summer months and occasional patrols are conducted during the off season when campground facilities are closed but public access remains available. Facility staff will encourage the public to use the boat wash once constructed and signage will be provided to educate the public on aquatic invasive species management and as to the location of the boat wash.

c. Indicators & Thresholds

Indicator: Number of trailered motorboats entering the northern and southern boat launches on a weekly basis while the campground is open.

Threshold: A clear decrease in water quality, shore erosion, or overcrowding of the waterbody.

Associated Management Action: Conduct a trailered motorboat survey at the Lincoln Pond boat wash booth once it is constructed and staffed with a watercraft steward. The survey will be used to determine an average weekly number of trailered motorboats potentially using Lincoln Pond during the campground operating season. Trailered motorboat surveys will continue in future seasons to determine consistency with this threshold. The southern launch will also be part of this surveying, as campground staff will provide a tally of boats and their size / number of party members coming into the campground.

Trigger: A 100% or greater increase in the initial average number of trailered motorboats per week for three consecutive weeks at the new boat wash area, major erosion, major water quality issues, significant new complaints about overcrowding.

Indicator: New aquatic invasive organisms

Threshold: Presence of aquatic invasive organisms not previously observed in Lincoln Pond.

Associated Management Action: Allow for the mechanisms to exist to take action on invasive species management if deemed necessary.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

14. Swimming

Swimming at DEC campgrounds is unsupervised by lifeguards. DEC advises those wishing to swim to access the water from the designated beach area only. Beaches are maintained and patrolled by campground staff. Swimming is prohibited from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Parks and Recreation Aide 6
4	Park and Recreation Aide 2-4

2. Fee Schedule 2024

Daily Fees 2024 Open Dates: May 17 – Sept 2	
Camping/night – NYS Resident	\$18.00
Camping/night – Non-resident	\$23.00
Day Use - Auto	\$8.00
Day Use - Walk In	\$2.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$4.00
Day Use - Bus	\$35.00

3. Peddling 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 2024, no permits were issued.

4. Off-Season Use

The facility is gated and closed to formal visitors outside of camping season. Department trucks plow roads to the campground maintenance garage. There are no recreational uses of facility buildings in the offseason. In the off-season, some informal visitation occurs during big game hunting season, and for snowshoeing, fishing, and cross-country skiing. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the campground for both visitor and employee use.

5. Campground Programs

The *Junior Naturalist Program* is an activity book that gives children the opportunity to test their environmental knowledge while teaching them more about New York State's environment. Children five through twelve-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 year.

The *Campground Ambassador Program* provides a campsite for a volunteer who will introduce new campers to DEC facilities and other outdoor activities. Ambassadors also aid in maintaining DEC's existing customer base by connecting campers and day users to nature via environmentally-themed activities and programming.

DEC provides free *First-Time Camper* weekends throughout the summer. New York families that have never camped before will have the opportunity to see if they enjoy the great outdoors before investing in their own gear by registering for a fully stocked campsite at a select NYS campground for a designated weekend this summer. New campers will be provided with a family tent, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, camp chairs, camp stove, lantern, and even firewood. A Camping Ambassador will meet families at the campsite and help them get camp set up with a camping 101 lesson. To make the weekend getaway even more fun, campers will have an opportunity to learn from experts how to fish, hike, bird watch, paddle and more, all while having fun and making memories that last forever.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The average elevation of Lincoln Pond Campground is 1,031 ft. Campsites rise moderately from the lakeshore to a maximum elevation of around 1,100 ft. (See Exhibit #2.)

b. Water

Lincoln Pond is an impoundment formed as a result of the installation of the Kingdom Dam, located approximately two miles north of the concrete causeway where County Route Seven crosses the pond. The overall length of the pond is approximately three miles, and the total surface area amounts to 572 acres. The portion of the pond which lies south of the causeway is about 1.1 miles long and reaches depths of 29 feet. The overall length of the pond which lies north of the causeway is 1.9 miles long and not exceeding a depth of 10 feet. The lands surrounding the pond are divided between state and private ownership.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A total of approximately four acres of palustrine wetland has been identified in several locations within the campground. In the Adirondacks, these palustrine wetlands are dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent vegetation, emergent mosses or lichens. These wetlands are generally defined by their low gradient or flow and where the substrate is mud or sand.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of them may 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 primarily of:

- #MkD – Monadnock fine sandy loam
- #MnD – Monadnock-Tunbridge Complex
- #FnF – Fernlake loamy fine sand, 35 – 60 percent slopes, very steep
- #FnB – Fernlake loamy fine sand, 3 – 8 percent slopes, gently sloping

All major soils in Lincoln Pond Campground are not considered prime farmland due to sloping and draining qualities. Small portions of the campground land consisting of MhC (Monadnock fine sandy loam) and MhB (Monadnock fine sandy loam) soils are considered farmland of statewide importance and prime farmland respectively, but neither make up more than 5% of the intensive-use area. (See Exhibit #9.)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

The following nine forest types are present at Lincoln Pond Campground:

- Mixed Wood Northern Hardwoods and White Pine
- Mixed Wood Northern Hardwoods and Eastern Hemlock
- Mixed Wood Northern Hardwoods and Spruce/Fir
- White Pine
- White Pine Plantation
- Northern Hardwood

Vegetation in the immediate campsite area is affected by intensive use. A number of trees are removed annually to eliminate them as hazards to campground visitors. Replanting is necessary to replace trees removed in heavy use areas.

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 within Lincoln Pond Campground.

c. Wildlife

Prevalent wildlife species present in the area surrounding the Intensive Use Area include white-tailed deer, black bear, raccoon, and a variety of songbirds and waterfowl to name a few. Endangered Northern Long-eared Bat has been found nearby in the Lincoln Pond, Barton Hill, and Fisher Hill Mines, but none in direct conflict with the campsite location itself. No potential negative impacts on endangered species; threatened species; rare plant; animal or natural communities; or species of special concern have been identified for this area. Recent observations have found 90 species of birds near this location. More information on specific species can be found at [Bird List - Lincoln Pond, Elizabethtown, Essex, New York, United States - eBird Hotspot](#). No permanent irreversible damage to wildlife habitats is expected. Capacity to withstand non-consumptive use, such as birdwatching or sightseeing is unknown.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

d. Fisheries

Lincoln Pond is 572 acres in size with a maximum depth of 23 feet. Fish species present include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, tiger muskellunge, northern pike, black crappie, pumpkinseed, and yellow perch.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

A. Article XIV, New York State Constitution

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

C. Environmental Conservation Law

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 administration of the lands involved.

D. Recreation Program Goals

- Manage recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resources in accordance with the 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 leisure-time enjoyment for the people of the state
- 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 Generic Unit Management Plan/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 x the number of nights spent) and day-use visitors (the number of people using the facilities or visiting but not staying overnight). Camping attendance numbers at this facility have been steady with around 85% of all campers visiting from New York State and the remaining 15% from all other states and countries in 2024. Campers stay an average of 2.83 nights. Day Use attendance at this facility has fluctuated during the last five-year period but make up

Lincoln Pond Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2024	7,855	3,333	11,188
2023	9,552	1,497	11,049
2022	9,463	1,611	11,074
2021	7,427	626	8,053
2020*	7,398	1,071	8,469
Avg	8,339	1,628	9,967

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 has been excluded from average attendance calculation.

around 16% of total visitors. Day use attendance totals are about 65% of those reported 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from passive recreational pursuits such as cross-country skiing, hiking, 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. (See Exhibit #10.)

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, temporary revocable permits (TRPs), peddler permits, and sales of firewood. Revenue reported from camping and day-use follows the same trends reported above in the attendance trends with revenue spikes in 2021.

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Lincoln Pond				
Year	Camping	Day Use	Firewood and Ice	Total

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

2024	\$36,986	\$6,111	\$2,182	\$45,279
2023	\$45,280	\$3,796	\$1,964	\$51,040
2022	\$49,982	\$3,440	\$1,474	\$54,896
2021	\$47,996	\$2,656	\$1,102	\$51,754
2020*	\$31,566	\$2,396	\$0*	\$33,962
Avg	\$42,362	\$3,680	\$1,681	\$47,386

Operating costs for Lincoln Pond average \$52,000 annually.

**Firewood and ice were not sold at the facility in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has been excluded from average revenue calculation.*

2. Carrying Capacity

All DEC campground facilities should be operated within the physical, biological, and social carrying capacity of the site. Operation within these limits will ensure continued character and integrity to intensive recreational use at this location 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 as compared to NYS Department of Health codes and DEC design standards. The existing campsite design capacity is 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, with deficiencies noted. Only the shower building meets current accessibility standards.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (35)	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	1,925 gpd	14,400 gpd	None
20 day-use picnic tables	5 gal/day/picnicker	125 gpd		
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	4	10	None
	1/60 picknickers	2	9	
Lavatories	1 for every 15 campsites	3	6	None
(within 500')	1 for every 60 picnickers	2		

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Toilets/Urinals	2 for every 10 sites	8	16	None
(within 500')	2 for every 60 picnickers	4		
Utility sinks	Conveniently Located	n/a	1	n/a
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	4	4	0
*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes				

To design an effective, environmentally acceptable onsite wastewater treatment system, it is necessary to evaluate the physical characteristics of a site to determine whether adequate conditions exist or can be created to safely treat and discharge wastewater on a long-term basis. Points to be considered when evaluating a site for location of an on-site wastewater treatment system include identification of flood-prone areas; proximity of structures; location of nearby utilities; proximity to surface waters, wetlands, and other environmentally sensitive areas; terrain and other surface characteristics; subsurface conditions; and area for system replacement and/or expansion. Final site-specific planning for new or replacement on-site wastewater treatment systems at Lincoln Pond Campground will adhere to all requirements and guidance that should be met for treatment and dispersal systems.

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

Many of the 6,000 campsites operated by DEC 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. To address these concerns, a campsite restoration project is underway to evaluate the condition and needs of each facility. Restoration work will include tree and shrub plantings, replacement of lost soils, regrading of sites, drainage improvements, evaluating 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 inventory while work is being completed. In 2024, site #34R was selected for restoration work and site #5 was selected for 2025. Signs have been posted at the campground and reservations will not be taken for these sites.

Hazardous trees are regularly removed in accordance with 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 camping experience on a scale from unacceptable to excellent. At current attendance levels, this

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

campground is operating below an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors. Concerns voiced by visitors included age and condition of facility infrastructure, mainly with the width and quality of the roads. Multiple campers noted the steepness and low quality of the roads. Campers noted issues with site conditions, including the need for grading and improved drainage and a lack of privacy as well as degradation of certain camping amenities like fireplaces and picnic tables. The table below summarizes survey statistics over the past five years.

Year	Number of Responses	Great or Excellent Rating
2024*	3	66%
2023	33	81%
2022	69	63%
2021	77	61%
2020*	7	57%

**Circumstances outside The Department's control resulted in fewer survey results.*

d. Historical Assets

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map does not indicate that archaeological resources are present in the Lincoln Pond Campground area. 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 change, beneficial or adverse, in the quality of any historic or archaeological property, all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered together with reasonable plans to avoid and/or mitigate adverse impact on the property. The agency preservation officer has been consulted in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

e. Adjacent Lands

The lands surrounding Lincoln Pond are a 50/50 mixture of public and private holdings. State lands which contain the main campground area and remote sites 26 through 28 are classified as Intensive Use Area. Private property holdings around the pond are comprised of two land use classifications: Resource Management and Moderate Intensity Use.

State lands which contain the designated remote campsites 29 through 35, and the Kingdom Dam facility are part of the Hammond Pond Wild Forest. The daily administration, monitoring, and maintenance of the remote campsites and the Kingdom Dam are completed by the Division of Operations and the Bureau of Recreation as a service to the Division of Lands and Forests.

f. Invasive Species

DEC is concerned about the threat of invasive species at campgrounds, both for their destructive effect on our environment and the associated financial drain on revenue and resources.

One common way 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 visitors originated. DEC regulation 6 NYCRR Part 192.5 is in effect prohibiting the import of firewood into New York unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source. Staff share this information with registering campers.

DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, is to establish a documented inventory of species by location within the campground and to implement an active invasive species management program to help contain and possibly eradicate further growth of these species. 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 2024 Program Report*. The 2024 report states that Bush honeysuckle, Garlic mustard, Oriental bittersweet, purple loosestrife, and Reed canary grass are all distributed throughout the park. In the past, common buckthorn was observed but as of 2024, none was observed. It was possibly misidentified in 2019. Both Bush honeysuckle and Oriental bittersweet were left unmanaged due to size, but purple loosestrife is in the process of management. In 2024 it was not touched due to presence of biocontrol, because in 2023, 75 adult *Galerucella* beetles were released to curb the spread of the plant. 50 *Galerucella* beetles were also released in 2024 to continue the process of biocontrol. Garlic mustard in the past was a major problem around Lincoln Pond Campground but has since been almost curbed due to invasive species management practices.

Eurasian-water milfoil has been documented in Lincoln Pond by members of the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program with the objective of monitoring boats utilizing the waterway and to detect and document the distribution of aquatic invasive plant infestations.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

DEC works cooperatively with Paul Smiths College and the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program to address the aquatic invasive species. In addition, 6 NYCRR Part 576 requires that all boaters clean, drain, and dry their boats before launching into public waterbodies including Lincoln Pond. Regulations at 6 NYCRR §59.4 requires that boaters take preventive measures when retrieving their boats as well. Standard signage is intended to remind boaters of these requirements. The proposed management action of a boat wash will also help curb the spread of invasive species throughout Lincoln Pond and its surrounding lands.

g. General Operations

Lincoln Pond Campground is a popular facility used during the spring through fall seasons for camping, fishing, and boating. Day-to-day operations of these campgrounds are guided by documents in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index of the manual is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D of the 1990 Generic Unit Management Plan.

Campers purchase an assortment of goods from shopping centers in Elizabethtown and Port Henry. The campground provides employment for local residents on the staff. Wages from these individuals are largely turned over in the local business economy. Various supplies and materials needed for maintenance of the campground are frequently purchased locally.

h. ADA Accessibility Guidelines

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504, has a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities, and use of public accommodations.

Consistent with ADA requirements, DEC incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into siting, planning, construction, and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them.

In addition, Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that services, programs, and activities of DEC, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. DEC is not required to take any action which would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the service, program or activity, or would present an undue financial or administrative burden. When accommodating

access to a program, DEC is not necessarily required to make each existing facility and asset accessible, as long as the program is accessible by other means or at a different facility.

This Plan incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities and assets on the unit or area, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities provided to determine the level of accessibility. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, include buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, and the transportation of and communication with individuals with disabilities.

In accordance with the US Department of Justice's ADA Title II regulations, all new DEC facilities, or parts of facilities, that are constructed for public use are to be accessible to people with disabilities. Full compliance is not required where DEC can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements [28 CFR § 35.151 (a)]. Compliance is still required for parts of the facility that can be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable, and for people with various types of disabilities. In addition, all alterations to facilities, or part of facilities, that affect or could affect the usability of the facility will be made in a manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. [28 CFR § 35.151 (b) (1-4)].

DEC uses the Department of Justice's 2010 Standards for Accessible Design in designing, constructing, and altering buildings and sites. For outdoor recreational facilities not covered under the current ADA standards, DEC uses the standards provided under the [ABA](#) to lend credibility to the assessment results and to offer protection to the natural resource (ABA Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas; Sections F201.4, F216.3, F244 to F248, and 1011 to 1019).

A record of accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities, or assets proposed in this plan, are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

Based on a facility accessibility evaluation conducted in 2023, only the shower building meets current accessibility standards.

For further information, please contact the DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@dec.ny.gov

G. The Climate Act and Climate Mitigation Efforts on Forest Preserve Lands

In the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act), New York State committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the state and to ultimately achieve net zero emissions. In accordance with Section 7(2) of the Climate Act, DEC's CP-49 Climate Change and DEC Action, and the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan), the management actions proposed in this UMP have taken climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and the entirety of the Climate Act into consideration.

A key element of the Climate Act is achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions across New York State by 2050. Section 7 of the Climate Act requires all New York State Agencies to consider climate change in management decision making and approvals processes. The Scoping Plan, which was based on strategies developed by sector-specific advisory panels, forms a framework for how the State as a whole would address the Climate Act's objectives. Following best management practices on Forest Preserve lands helps continue to ensure that management actions release minimal greenhouse gas emissions, and that the Forest Preserve continues to effectively sequester and store carbon – contributing to climate mitigation and the Climate Act's 2050 requirement of 85% reduction in GHG emissions from 1990 levels, with a goal of net-zero emissions. The Scoping Plan's Chapter 15 on Agriculture and Forestry continues by mentioning, "Management of New York's forests, to promote tree health, recreation, wildlife habitat, and wood products, among other reasons, also has many implications for long-term carbon storage and sequestration" (p. 274). Forests are the only natural, large-scale, and continuous means (on land) for removing CO₂ from the atmosphere; and they have the greatest potential for storing that carbon long-term, as the sequestered carbon stays locked up in the standing trees and the durable wood products that come from the timber harvested from non-Forest Preserve lands. The value of carbon sequestration and its storage is additive – it is a benefit that forests naturally provide, in addition to all other social, health, environmental, and economic benefits. This means the total value of healthy forests is much higher than any one unique aspect. It also means the same strategies that preserve healthy forests are strategies for maintaining carbon sequestration and storage. Protecting the long-term health of the Forest Preserve will continue to be critical for adapting to climate change, mitigating its effects, producing resilient ecosystems, and fulfilling the objectives of the Climate Act. DEC will continue to look for ways to maintain and expand the forest cover across the State through public land ownership and supporting responsible forest management practices on private lands and the State Forest system outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Section 7(3) of the Climate Act requires the Agency to consider whether its decisions disproportionately burden identified disadvantaged communities (DAC's). Furthermore, DEC shall prioritize actions that look to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or co-pollutants in DACs. Since DEC does not expect overall greenhouse gas emissions or co-pollutants to change due to the implementation of this plan, and the plan overall benefits users of the Forest Preserve by providing increasing access to safe outdoor recreational spaces, drinking watershed protection, and healthier overall ecosystems through the removal of invasive species, there should be no disproportionate impacts to DACs expected. As has been previously highlighted throughout the plan, the New York's Forest Preserve will continue to provide varied and invaluable services to the ecosystems and communities across a diverse landscape.

While the climate trends and projections for the Adirondack region paint a clear picture of a changing climate, they do not require DEC to significantly modify the nature of recreational opportunities and facilities it provides on Forest Preserve lands. Natural resource preservation has and will continue to be of utmost importance, and recreational uses should be encouraged as long as they can occur in harmony with existing and projected site conditions, including seasonal fluctuations.

Although long-term use projections are challenging, we can expect that the popularity of cooler, northern tourist and recreation destinations such as the Adirondacks will increase due to warming temperatures at lower elevations and southern latitudes.

If anything, the combined likelihoods of growing use and higher rainfall events underscores the importance of developing recreational infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather conditions, particularly rainfall, in combination with heavy public use. Trails, bridges, roads, and parking areas (to name a few) should be designed in a manner that reduces annual maintenance that arises from high use and/or high rainfall events. Design standards for these types of facilities have existed for some time and should become the standard when DEC constructs or upgrades facilities. Where facilities cannot be built and maintained to these standards in certain locations, alternative locations will be sought or the need for recreational uses in these locations will be reconsidered.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The management actions below are being proposed for the forthcoming five-year period and will be completed as staff and funding allow. Cost is based on estimates of past projects.

Proposed Management Actions		
	Management Actions	Cost
1.	Construct 6-unit Shower Building	\$2,000,000
2.	Construct Recycling Building	\$250,000
3.	Pave main parking lot adjacent to Day-Use Area and one mile of road	\$750,000
4.	Construct new Restroom	\$400,000
5.	Replace existing Water System	\$650,000
6.	Rehabilitate existing Sewage System	\$500,000
7.	Replace Trailer Dump Station	\$350,000
8.	Tree and shrub plantings	\$25,000
9.	Construction of Boat Wash	\$50,000
10.	Campsite Restoration	\$15,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities to comply with health and safety codes and user needs. They will also provide universal access and increase the efficiency of the campground management. New buildings will blend with the Adirondack environment and use natural materials where possible. Using the footprint of existing infrastructure and areas disturbed by past management will be a priority over construction in undisturbed areas. Prioritization of previously disturbed areas will assist in limiting the need for additional vegetative impacts, minimizing topographic alterations and preserving the scenic, natural, and open space resources of the campground. Site specific plans will be developed to include erosion and sediment control components and will address stormwater runoff. The goal is to minimize erosion and protect watercourses and wetlands from sediment and other pollutants. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). These plans will be prepared in accordance with the NYSDEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from construction activity, to inform construction personnel of measures to be implemented for controlling runoff and pollutants from the site during and after construction activities. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for

DEC. Prioritization of management actions is based on the availability of funding and health and safety concerns.

1. Construct 6-Unit Shower Building.

Under this objective, a new 6-unit shower facility would be constructed on the northern edge of the existing Day-Use Parking Area, nearby the playground. Design considerations for the new shower building will include six unisex shower units, two units per sex, a family room to accommodate individuals requiring assistance, accessible parking, universal accessibility within the current ADA guidelines and an outdoor utility sink for public use.

In conjunction with the building replacement, associated wastewater treatment systems will be evaluated for adequacy and code compliance. If found deficient, systems will be replaced and modernized as part the comfort station replacement. These buildings will be constructed to meet modern design standards, comply with all codes, provide for ADA accessibility and accessible parking, and be more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable. Standards for erosion and sediment control will be met in conformance with the *New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control*, dated November 2016.

In addition, the Day-Use Parking Area will be paved in order to minimize erosion, maintenance, and safety hazards as well as to better accommodate accessible parking for people with disabilities. The current shower building would be demolished. Electrical tie-ins are located close currently so new electric hookups wouldn't be necessary.

2. Construct Recycling Building.

A recycling building will be constructed immediately adjacent to the new shower building. Construction of a recycling building will allow the campground staff to isolate garbage and recyclables during the evening and night hours in order to prevent the development of a nuisance wildlife problem. Design and planning for the recycling building will incorporate elements of Universal Design and as such will complement the accessibility features that accompany the shower building. Construction of these buildings in such close proximity will also introduce a higher level of convenience and customer service to facility users. The recycling building will be constructed adjacent to the shower building, and as a result would not need an extra parking lot or new electrical tie-ins once constructed. There is no old recycling building so nothing would have to be demolished.

3. Pave Main Parking Lot Adjacent to Day-Use Area and Road.

The entirety of the campground roads totaling one mile of gravel are in poor condition with crumbling shoulders and potholes. No roads or parking areas meet ADA compliance. The existing gravel roads and parking areas do not conform to ADA standards for surfacing. Furthermore, the sandy road shoulders are not considered a firm and stable surface within ADA requirements. In the spring season the gravel and sand make car travel along the roads very difficult, as the loose soil makes large divots within which cars can get easily stuck. The parking lot area that needs to be paved alongside the roads is approximately 22,000 square feet.

Much of the campground road system rehabilitation will be within the existing road footprint or within the existing impacted road shoulders requiring little additional vegetative clearing and limited topographic alterations. In addition, the rehabilitation will improve vehicular and pedestrian safety, assist in reducing impacts to wetlands and help alleviate stormwater erosion and sedimentation issues. The road rehabilitation will assist with addressing stormwater management through: 1) road crowning to maintain sheet flow to appropriate sites to avoid resource impacts, 2) adding check dams, where needed, to existing cross drainage, 3) providing adequate road and shoulder surface to limit adjacent soil compaction, 4) supplying permeable, granular shoulders, and 4) adding vegetation as part of the campsite restoration project (detailed in Sec III.F.2.b). Other storm water management techniques may be incorporated as part of final detailed plans developed for the campground road rehabilitation.

This paving project will also include the southern boat launch, as well as the northern launch as an erosion control measure. No improvements are proposed outside of the shoreline of the pond.

4. Construct New Restroom.

This restroom is in poor condition due to the long-term heavy use it has received over the years. Under the terms of this objective this structure would be reconstructed in the same spot as the previous restroom, while demolishing the old restroom. The current restroom can't be traced to an actual date, but it's likely that it was constructed between the 40s and the late 60s and has not been updated since then. It has severe wear and tear and needs to be replaced with a compliant design as well as low-flow toilets, a septic system, a new water system, and conform to current ADA standards.

5. Replace Existing Water System.

The water system at Lincoln Pond is old, in poor condition, and needs rehabilitation. Staff rely on one system to service the campground and meet camper needs. Water storage tanks, waterlines and

other system components should be replaced. Additional water spigots should be installed as necessary to meet health codes and current accessibility standards. The scope of this objective would include the complete replacement of all existing water distribution lines with a HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) pipe and standardized fittings. Systems valves and drains will be strategically located in order to isolate structures and park loops from main trunk lines in the interest of better accommodating routine and emergency maintenance. This management action proposes to rehabilitate the existing water system to meet current design standards and Department of Health codes, namely 10 NYCRR Section 7-3.13. This must be done in conjunction with surveying of all water and sewage lines because they have never been accurately mapped and are likely in poor condition.

6. Rehabilitate Existing Sewage System.

The Lincoln Pond campground sewage system was constructed in the 1970s. Although still functioning, portions of the system do not meet current standards and are in need of rehabilitation. Steel septic tanks currently in use at the caretaker's cabin and restroom are not compatible with the current industry standard. Under this objective, those steel tanks currently in use will be replaced with pre-cast concrete tanks of the size appropriate to the structure and population served. In addition, all sewage lines, distribution boxes, absorption trenches and seepage pits will be evaluated for structural integrity and effectiveness and replaced as necessary. Due to logistics and proximity to both the water distribution system and road network, this project may be done in conjunction with those rehabilitation projects. The current leach fields for a majority of the campground are older than 1971 and should be replaced. This must be done in conjunction with a survey of water and sewage lines because they have never been properly mapped and are likely in poor condition.

7. Replace Trailer Dump Station.

This management action proposes to replace the existing trailer dump station to better accommodate modern camping trailers while meeting current standards for accessibility and design standards. The existing trailer dump station is inadequate for camper needs and doesn't meet current standards. A one-lane trailer dumping station with an improved septic system is proposed to be placed where the older dumping station was. The one-lane would be around 20 x 50 ft. and off of the main road close to the Day-Use Area. The leach field and septic tank would need to be removed and replaced. This will not cause the relocation of any elements of infrastructure or campsites.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

8. Tree and Shrub Plantings.

To prevent further shoreline erosion, sites #1-15 require plantings of shrubbery and trees to both prevent erosion of the shoreline and to serve as screening between campsites. DEC staff will determine the best kinds of native trees and shrubs that can serve the dual purpose of erosion prevention and privacy between sites. Sites #1-15 are closest to the shoreline, and as a result should be the focus of this project.

9. Construction of a Boat Wash Station.

A boat wash station is proposed to be constructed close to the boat launch in the northeast portion of the intensive use area to prevent the spread of invasives. This will not impact nearby infrastructure or campsites. The boat wash station will remain free of charge and will be manned by a watercraft steward once the boat wash station improvements are made. Regardless of intended launch location, the public is required to comply with existing boat washing requirements pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 576. As part of this project, the parking lot will be paved and the launch resurfaced to ensure that erosion, runoff, and degradation of the surrounding area are controlled. Tree and shrubs plantings will also be placed around the northern launch to control erosion and ensure that the shoreline stays stable. No improvements are proposed outside of the shoreline of the pond.

10. Campsite Restoration.

Management of visitor use at Lincoln Pond Campground began in the 1970s with the development of campsites to meet the increasing demand for camping accommodations in the Adirondacks. Today, the Lincoln Pond Campground includes 35 designated camping sites. With close to 3,800 annual camper days, striving to balance the protection of the physical, biological, and social resources with visitor enjoyment is a challenge. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) requires that campgrounds be of a rustic nature and each camping site retains the natural character of the surrounding forest. With proper planning and management, visitor enjoyment, resource protection and compliance with requirements can be achieved.

This management action includes DEC staff, in consultation with Agency staff, working to develop visitor use management and monitoring guidance to support the planning and management of Intensive Use Areas in the Adirondack Park. The approach will be consistent with the federal Interagency Visitor Use Management (VUM) planning framework, be complementary to the UMP planning process and will identify desired conditions, indicators, and standards for the management of

Intensive Use Area campsites. Future unit management plans or amendment of existing plans will be consistent with the federal VUM guidance and containing diverse design and management actions to balance resource protection and visitor enjoyment including revegetation, relieving soil compaction, replacing amenities, reducing erosion, integration with shoreline restoration efforts, and site relocation or closure.

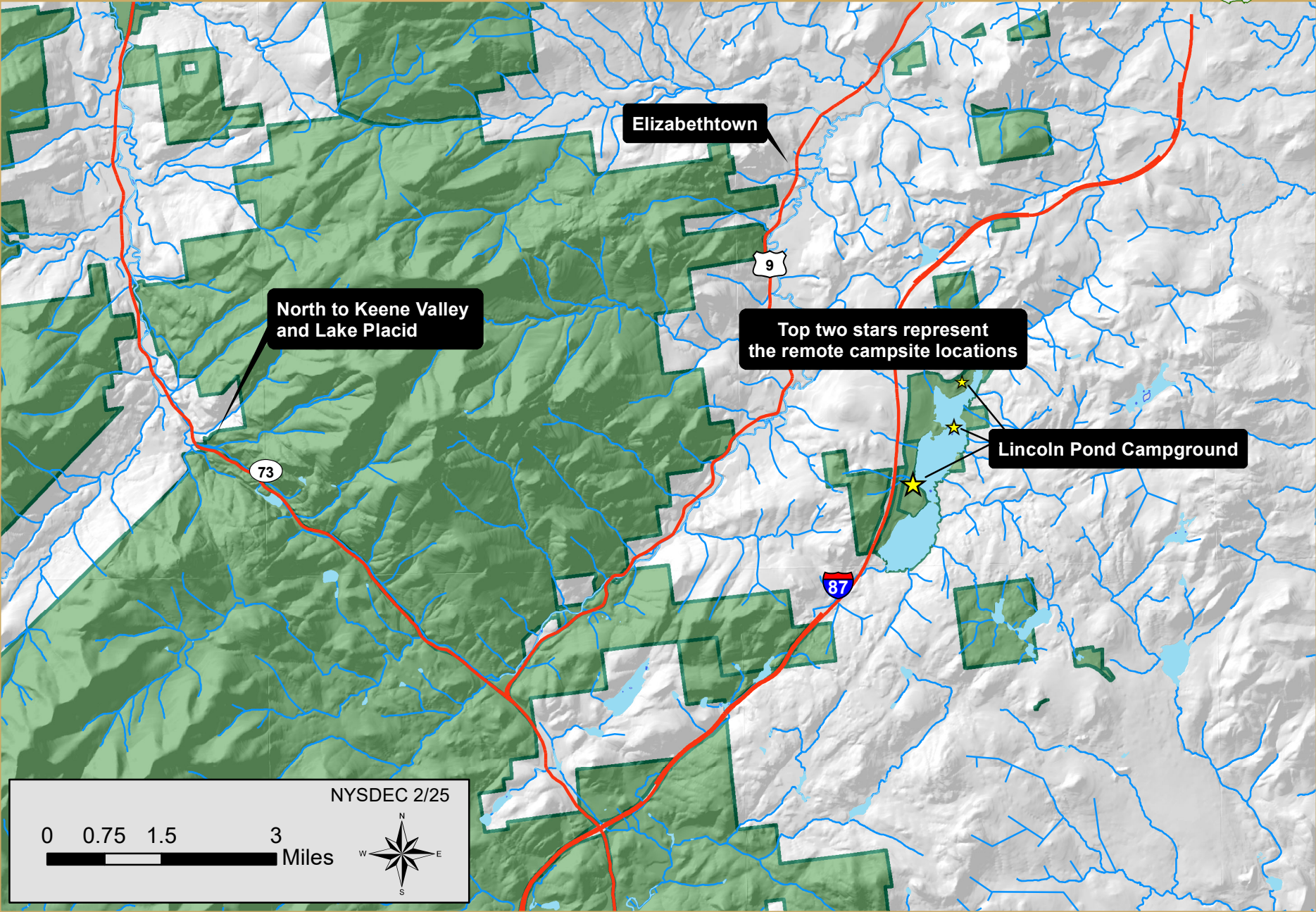
Rehabilitation work will include stabilizing shorelines; maintaining the campsite surface to reduce erosion, soil loss and soil compaction; revegetating the site (between sites and along shorelines); and replacing fireplaces and picnic tables. In situations where issues cannot be reasonably addressed an individual campsite may be relocated or closed. Furthermore, work to upgrade sites to meet current accessibility standards will be given priority to meet program goals. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the plan.

For more information on the Campsite Restoration project or which sites at Lincoln Pond Campground are currently being restored please visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/camping/campsite-restoration-project>.

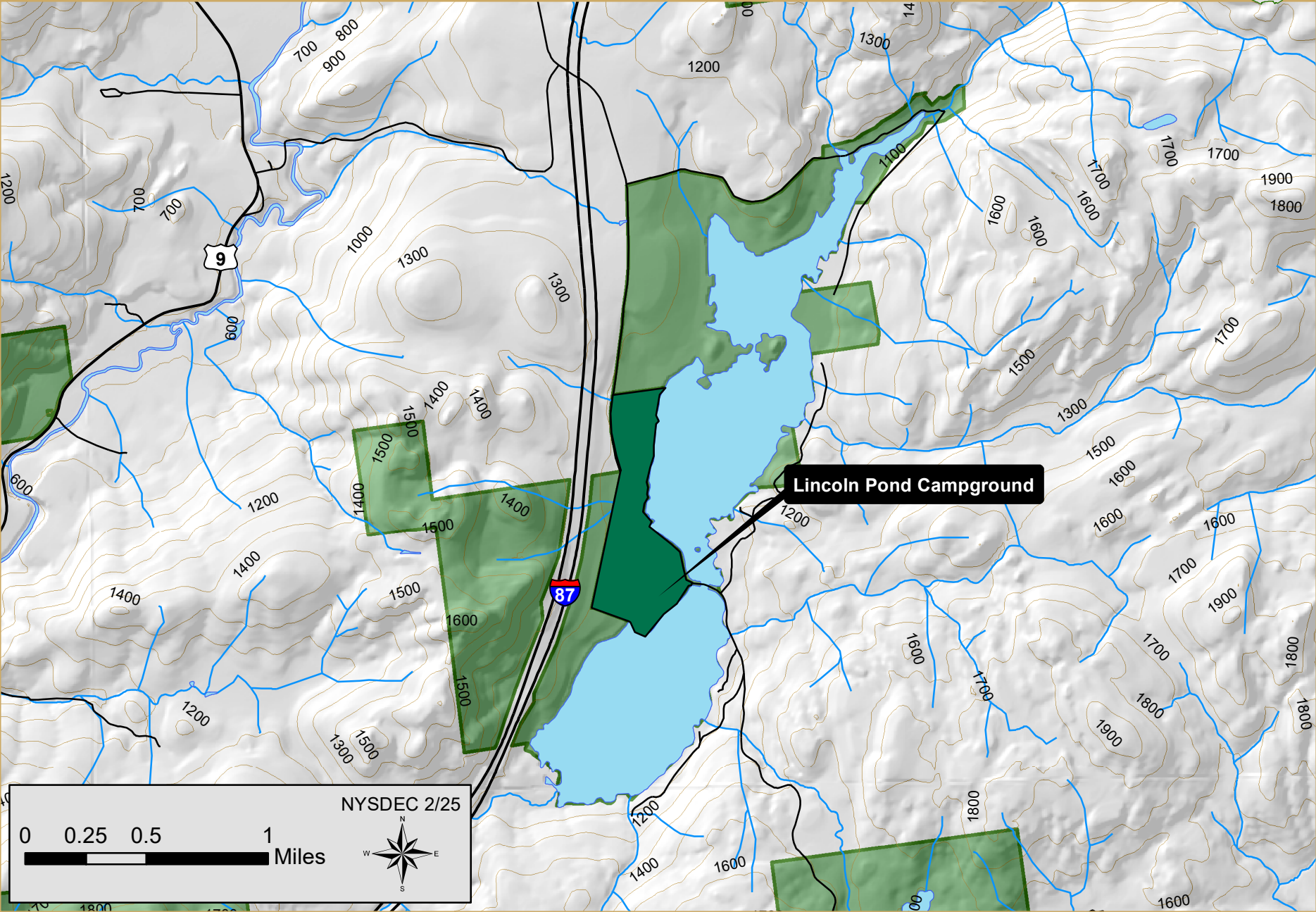
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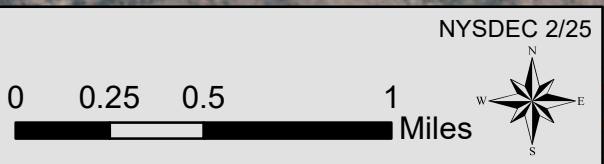
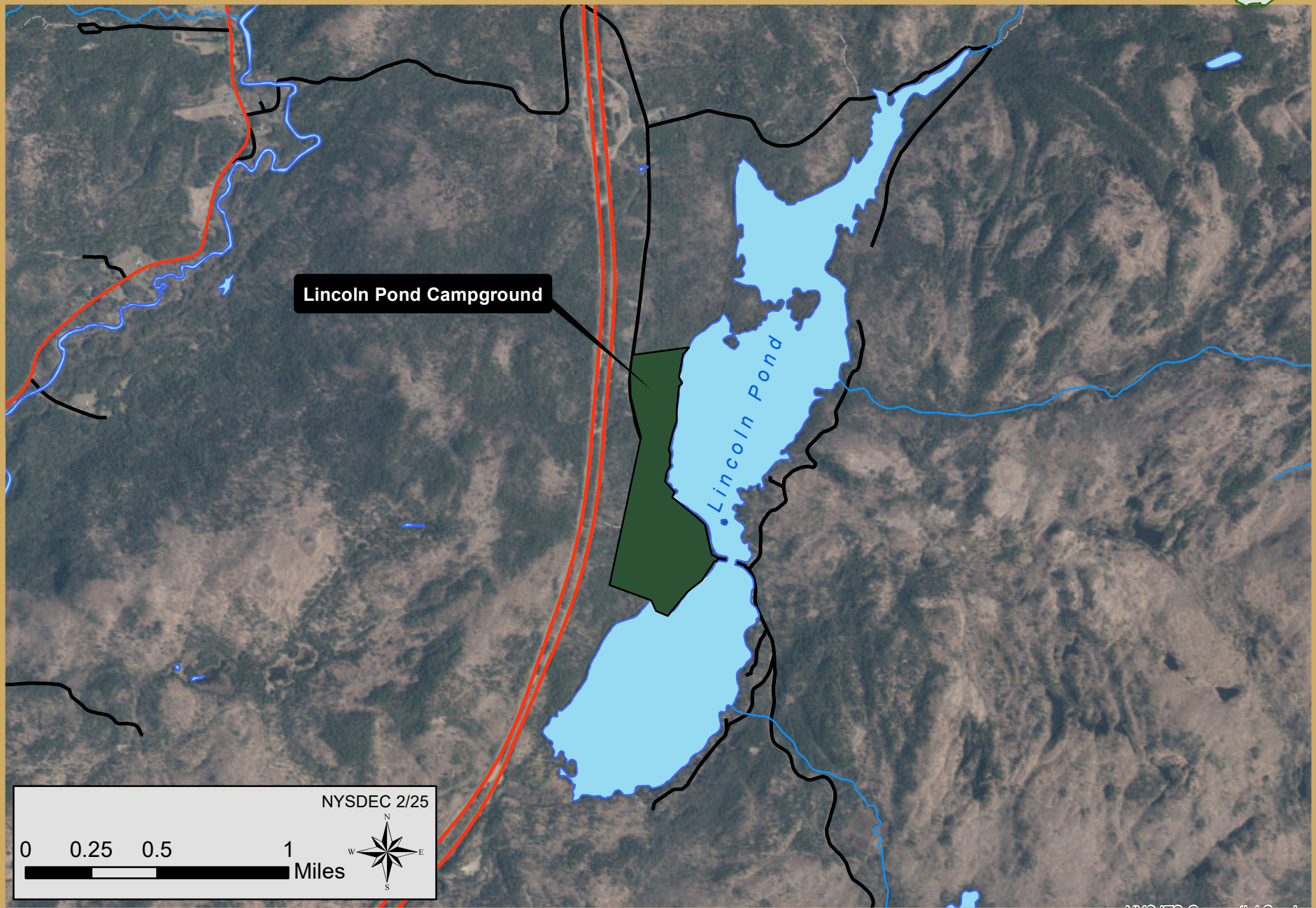
Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 1 - Location



Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 2 - Topographic Map



Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 3 - Orthographic Map



Lincoln Pond Campground

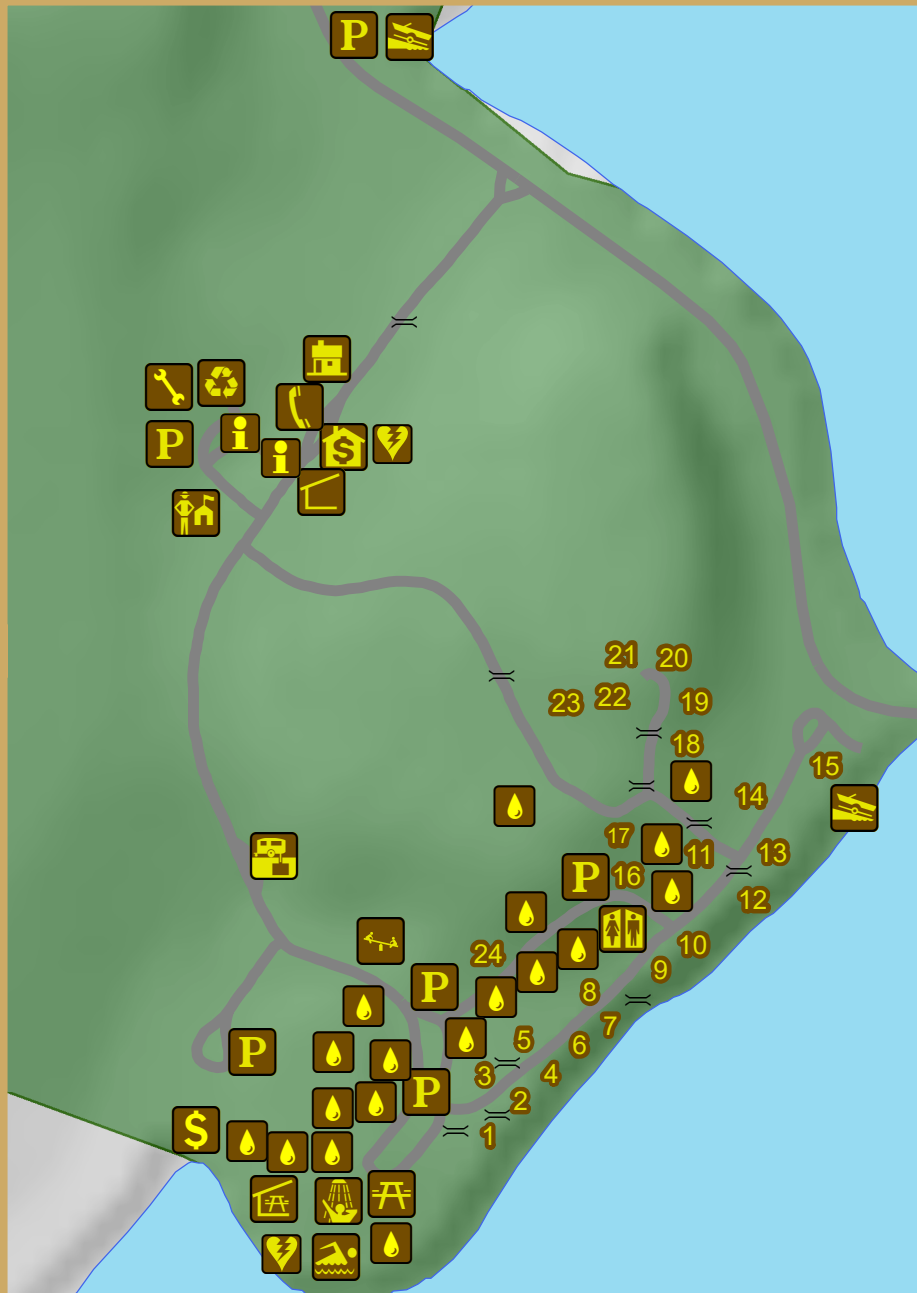
Exhibit # 4a - Facility Map

Adirondack
Park

Lincoln Pond
Campground

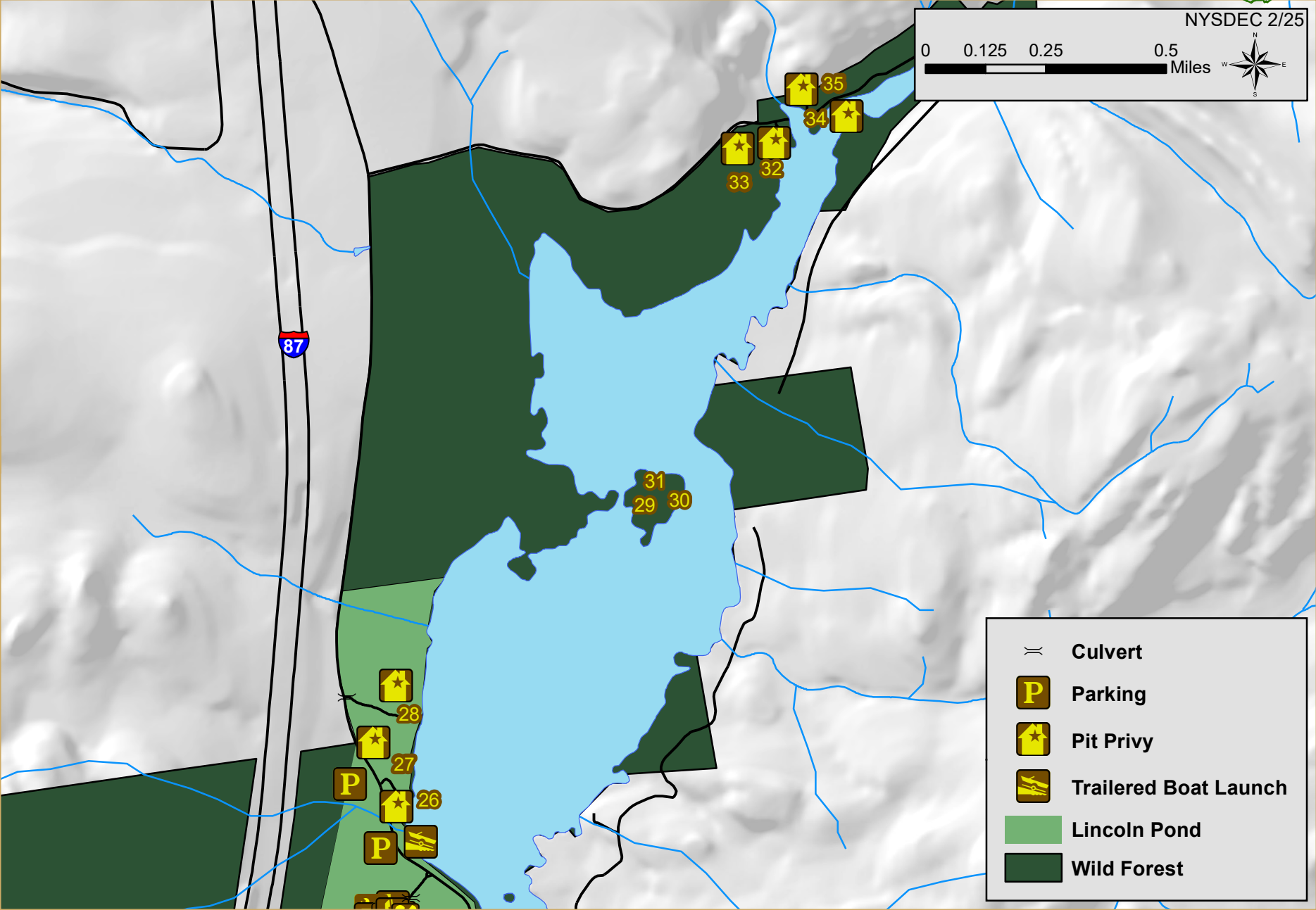
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Feet

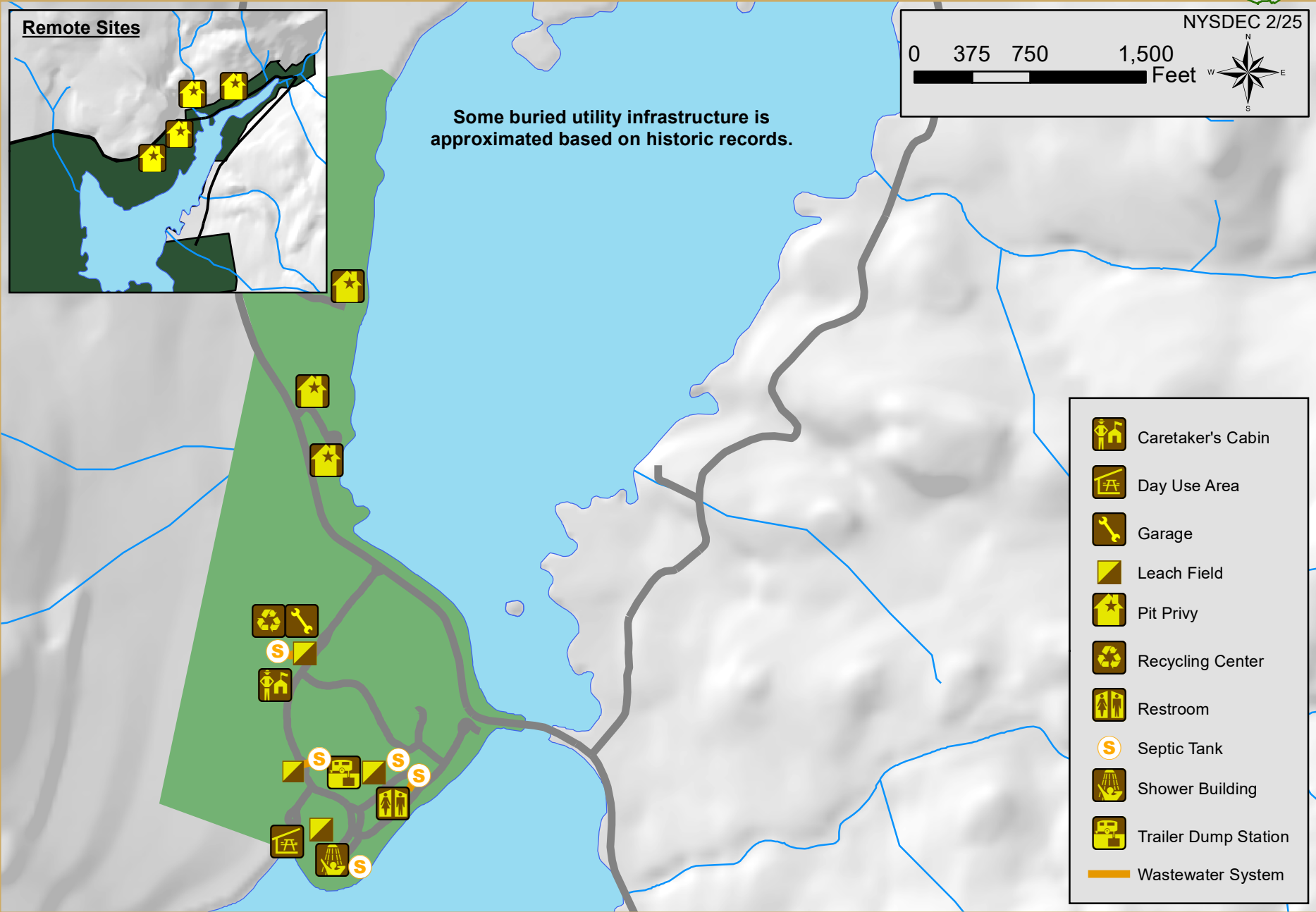


- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| AED | Playground |
| Boat Rentals | Public Phone |
| Building | Recycling Center |
| Caretaker's Cabin | Restroom |
| Culvert | Shower Building |
| Day Use Area | Spigot |
| Firewood Storage Shed | Ticket Booth |
| Garage | Trailer Dump Station |
| Kiosk | Trailered Boat Launch |
| Parking | Unsupervised Swim Area |
| Pavilion | |

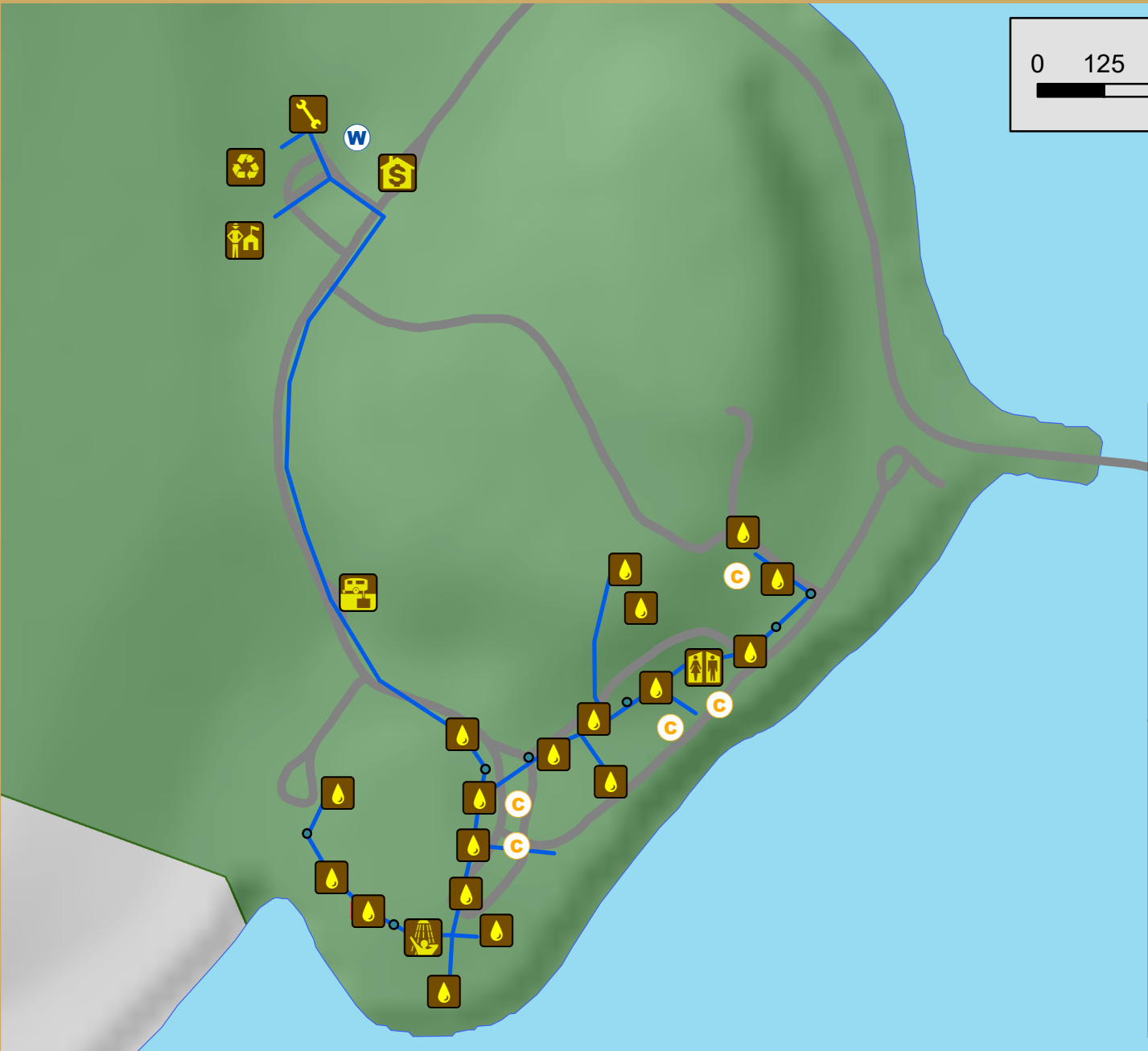
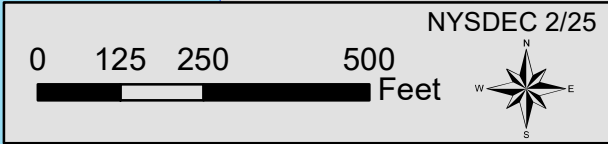
Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 4b - Facilities Map



Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 5 - Sewer Map



Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 6 - Water Map



- Caretaker's Cabin
- Catch Basin
- Garage
- Recycling Center
- Restroom
- Shower Building
- Spigot
- Ticket Booth
- Trailer Dump Station
- Water Valve
- Well
- Water System

Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 7 - Electric Map

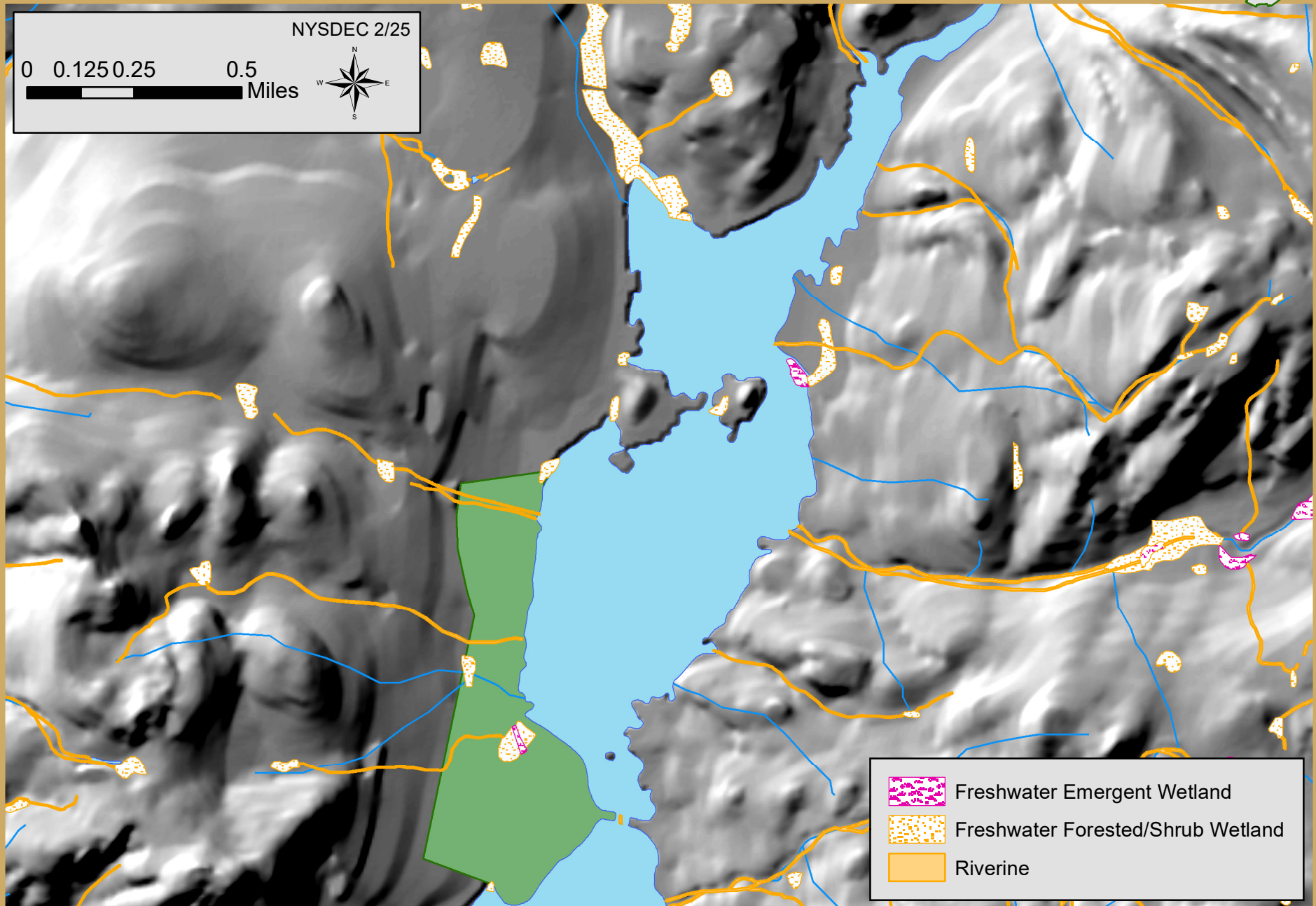


Lincoln Pond Campground

Exhibit # 9 - Wetlands Map

Adirondack
Park

Lincoln Pond
Campground

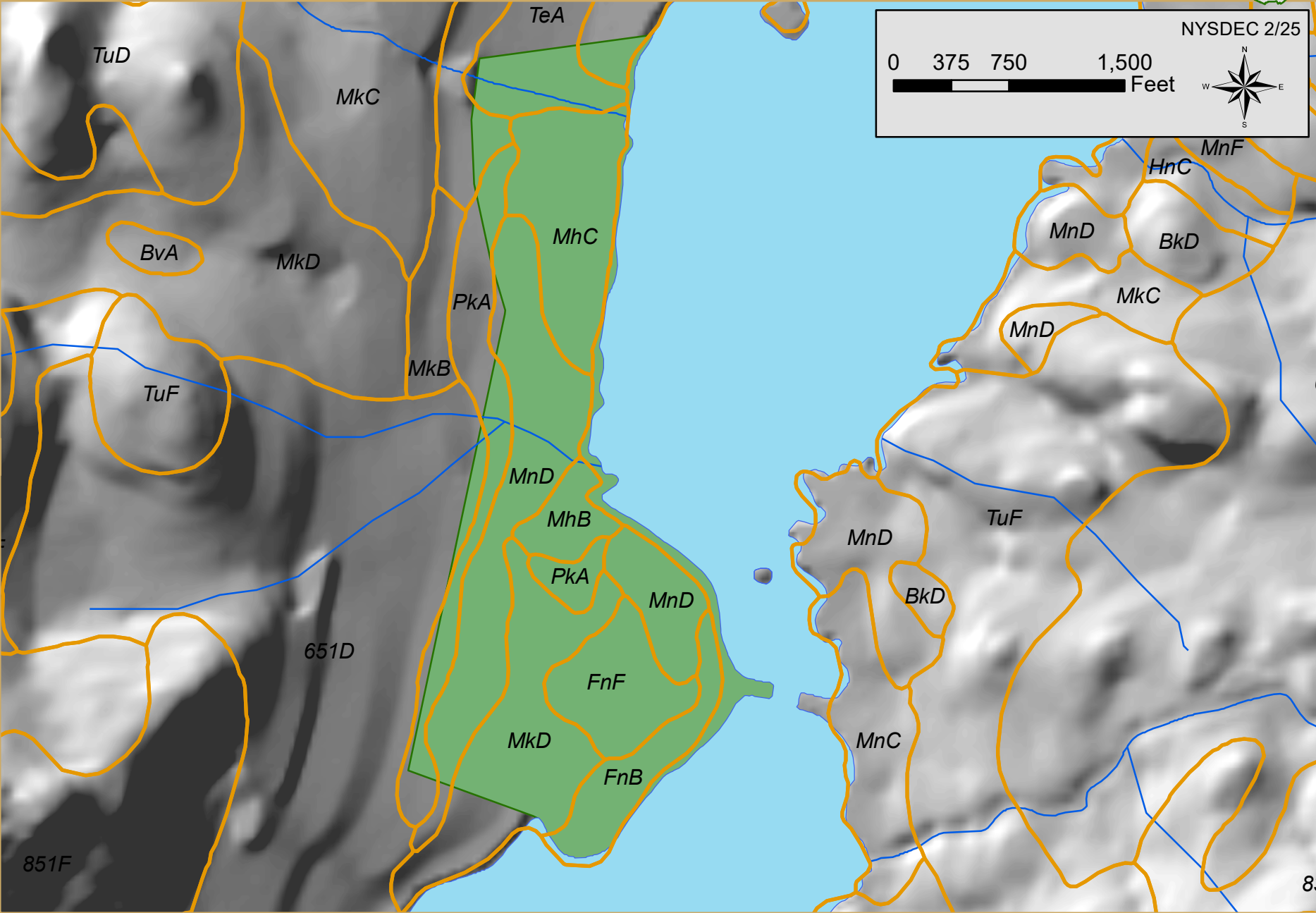


Lincoln Pond Campground

Exhibit # 9b - Soil Map

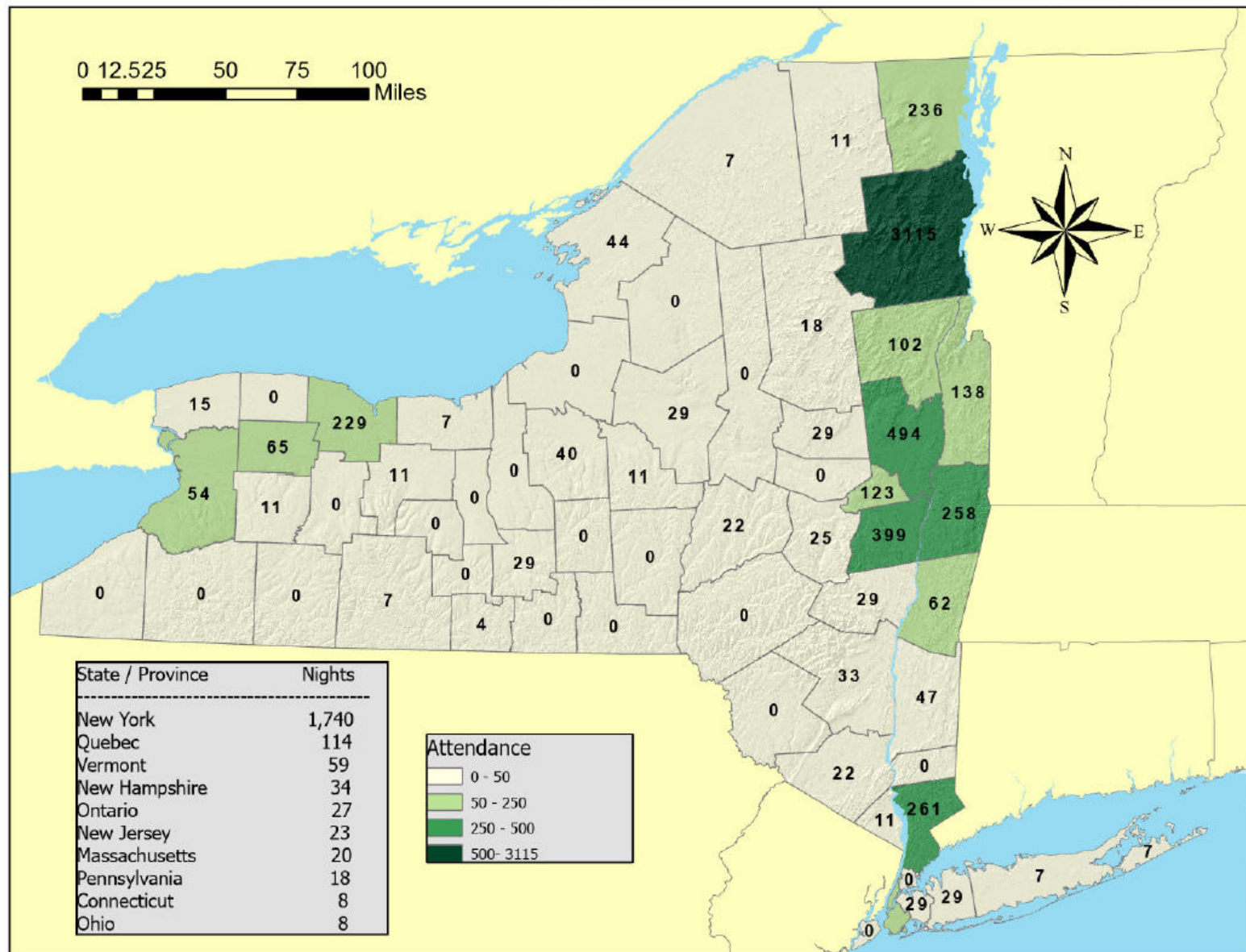
Publicaton Symbol	Map Unit Name	Slope Range	Depth to Bedrock	Drainage Class	Other Notes
TeA	Runeberg Soils	0-3 nearly level	Deep	Poorly Drained	Not Prime Farmland
MhC	Monadnock fine sandy loam	8-15 sloping	Deep	Well Drained	Farmland of Statewide Importance
MhB	Monadnock fine sandy loam	3-8 gently sloping	Deep	Well Drained	Prime Farmland
PkA	Pleasant Lake peat	0-2 nearly level	Deep	Very Poorly Drained	Not Prime Farmland
MnD	Monadnock-Tunbridge Complex	15-35 steep	Deep	Well Drained	Not Prime Farmland
FnF	Fernlake loamy fine sand	35-60 very steep	Deep	Somewhat Excessively Drained	Not Prime Farmland
FnB	Fernlake loamy fine sand	3-8 gently sloping	Deep	Somewhat Excessively Drained	Not Prime Farmland
MkD	Monadnock fine sandy loam	15-35 steep	Deep	Well Drained	Not Prime Farmland

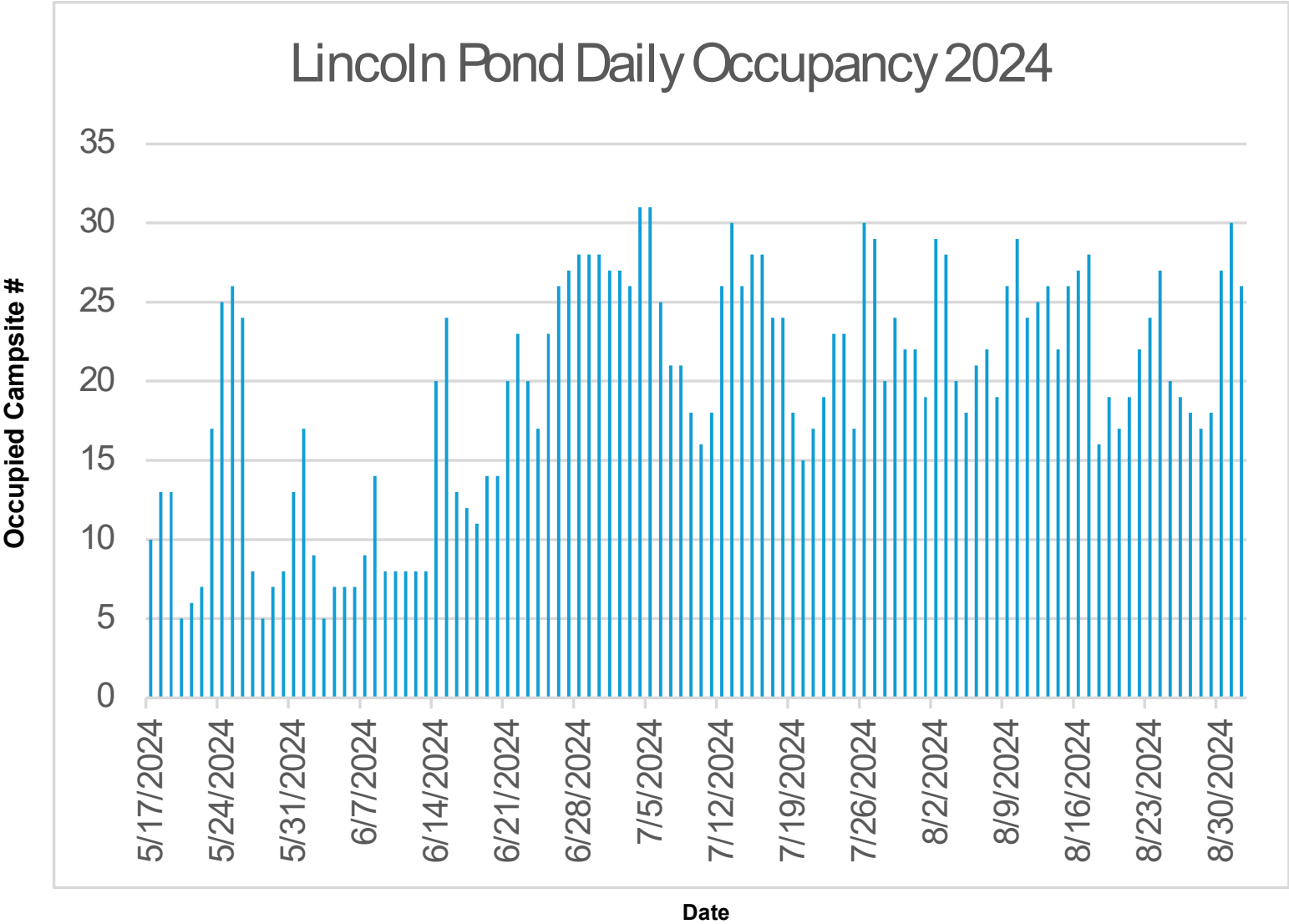
Lincoln Pond Campground
Exhibit # 10 - Soils Map



Lincoln Pond Campground

Exhibit # 11 - Demographics Map

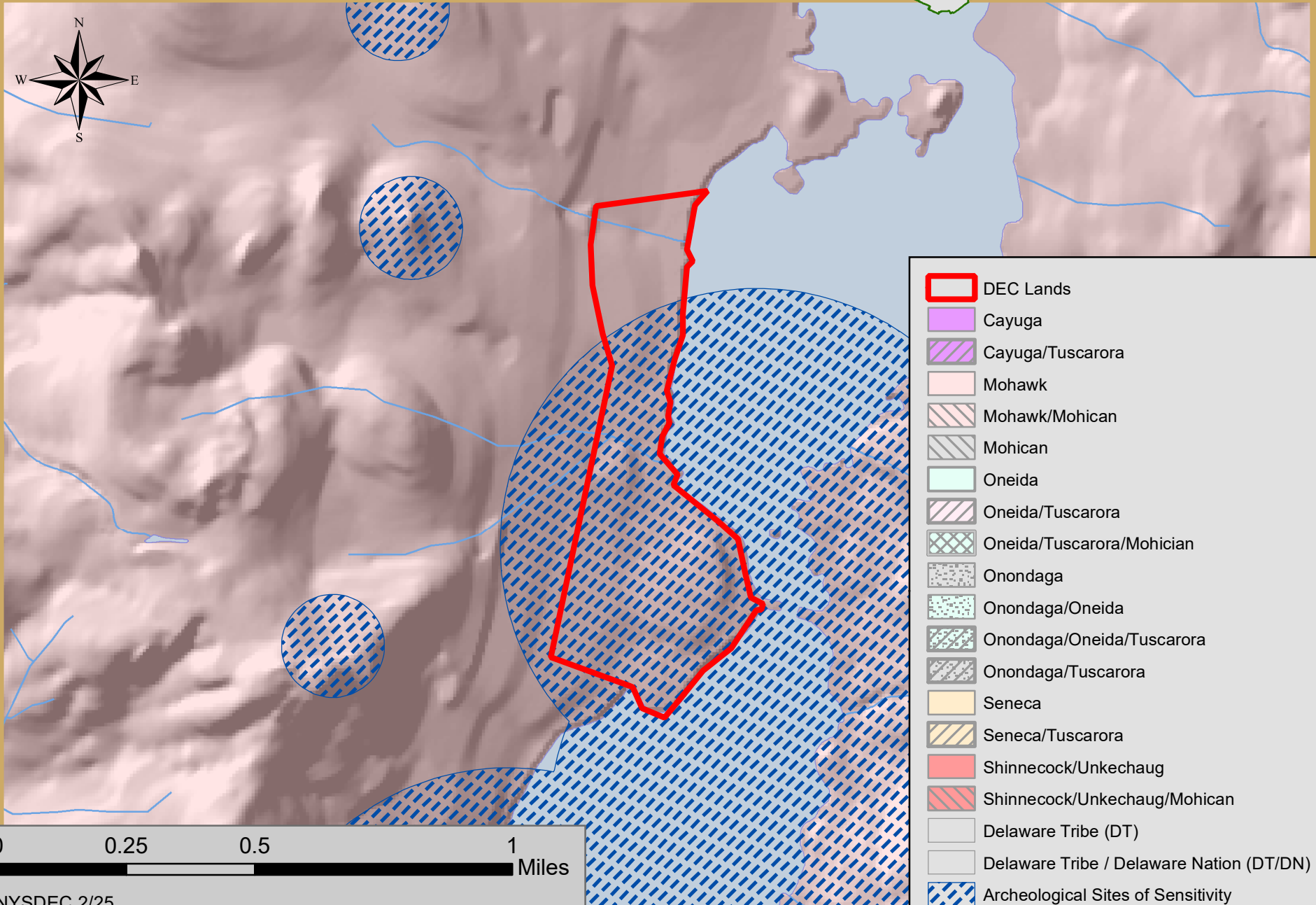




Lincoln Pond Campground Cultural Resources Map



Adirondack
Park

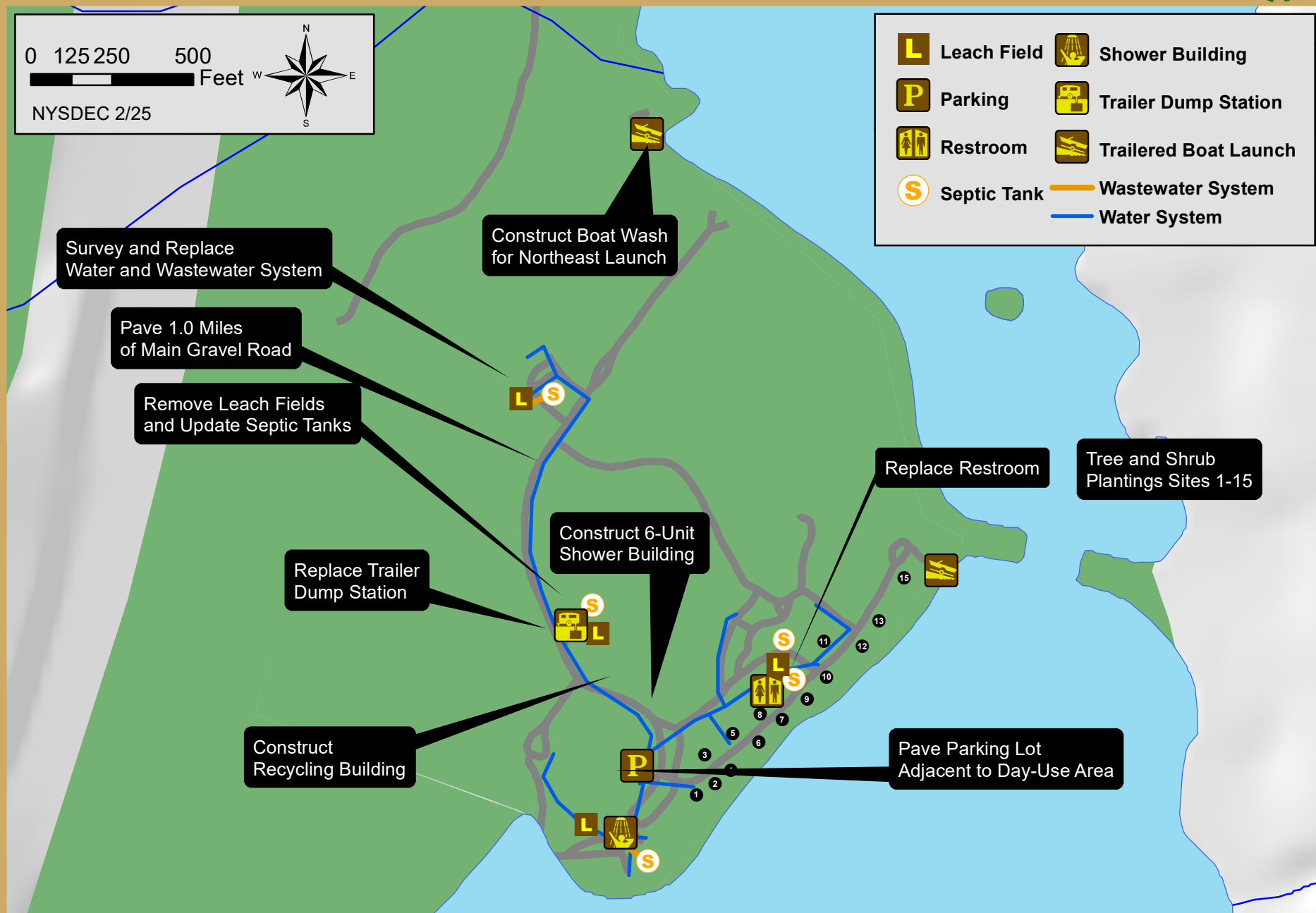
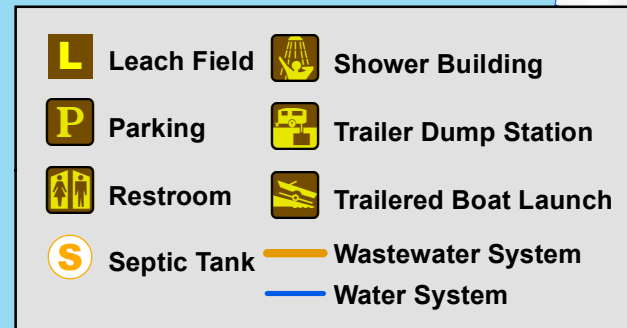
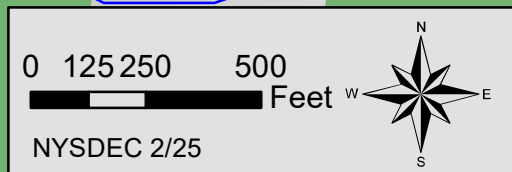


Lincoln Pond Campground

Proposed Management Actions Map

Adirondack
Park

Lincoln Pond
Campground



#14 Lincoln Pond Campground Photos



Boat Rental



Trailer Launch



Trailer Launch #2



Unsupervised Swim Area





Entrance Sign



Ticket booth



Information Kiosk



Caretaker Cabin



Maintenance Yard



Firewood Shed



Trailer Dumping Station



Restroom



Beach AED



Day Use Area



Shower 1



Picnic Area



Parking Lot #1



Public Phone



Example Spigot



Utility Pole



Catch Basin



Remote Campsite

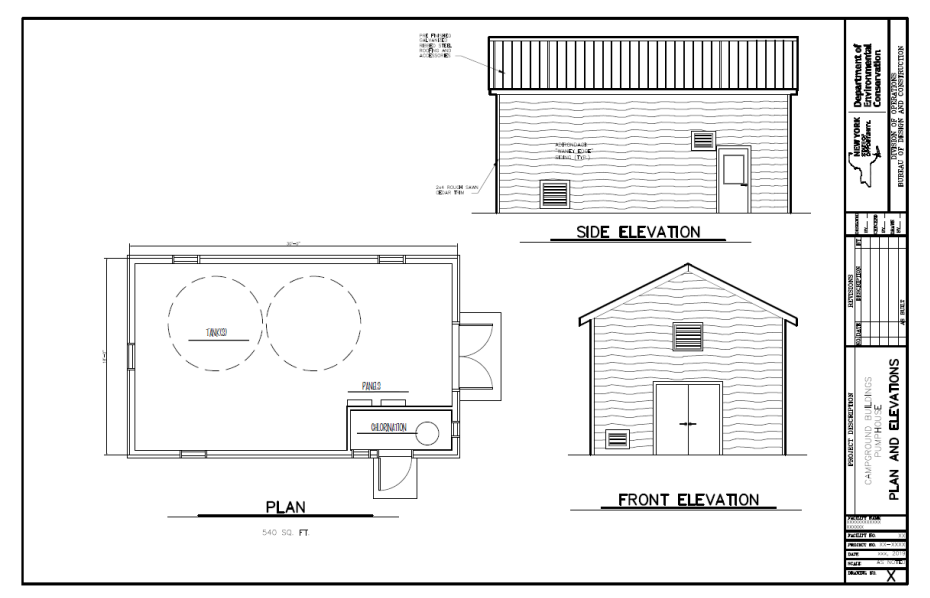


Remote Campsite Privy

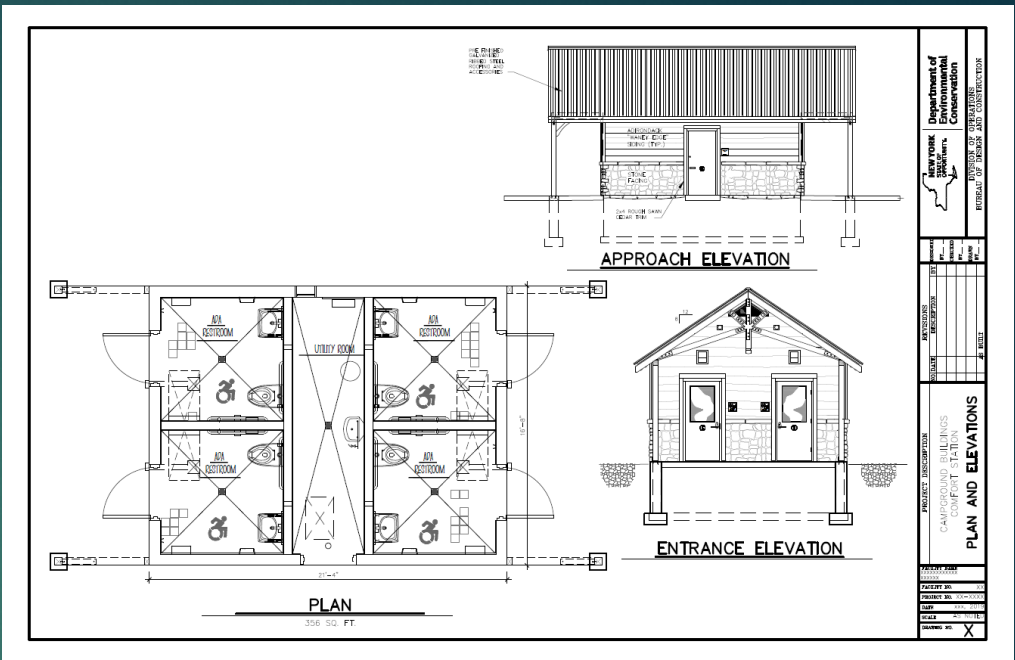


Island Campsite

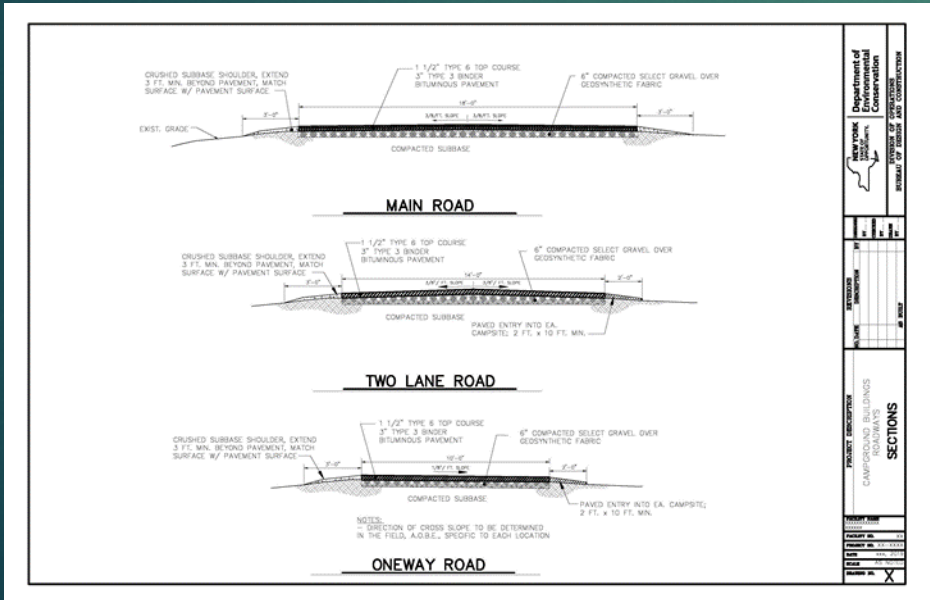
#15 Typical Drawings



Water System Overhaul



Restroom Renovations for #00, 1, 8, 9, 10 and Utility Sinks in all Restrooms



Road Section Profile – Camp Roads Renovation



Exhibit 17 Response to public comments

DEC held a public comment period from August 15 - September 15, 2025. During that time, 6 written comments and 7 survey responses were received for the Lincoln Pond Campground and Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan (UMP). Submission numbers can not be viewed as discrete individuals or weighed purely on numerical majority. Members of the public were not limited to one form of comment or from submitting multiple responses. In addition, some comments were submitted on behalf of organizations or user groups representing several members. All comments regardless of type will be reviewed and considered as the final UMP is prepared. In review, six common themes emerged. DEC's and APA's responses are grouped by each theme below.

Public comments regarding vehicle access to the northern boat launch:

Summarized Public Comment- DEC received one comment regarding the poor condition of the northern boat launch, which makes it difficult for vehicles to put boats in properly.

DEC response- DEC has amended the management action for the construction of a boat wash, which will now include the resurfacing of the northern boat launch.

Resurfacing of the northern launch will decrease shoreline impacts to the local environment of the pond. The desired conditions for this amended management action are to provide a safer, more durable launch for users, as well as to control erosion/sedimentation and any additional shoreline vegetation impacts. The parking and driving surfaces outside the water's edge will be resurfaced as part of this project. No improvements are being proposed on the pond bottom. With the launch area more formally defined, it will ensure impacts associated with the paved launch are contained entirely to the designated launch itself and do not permeate into adjacent areas.

Public comments regarding plan to rehabilitate campground roads:

Summarized Public Comments- Two comments were received related to potential impacts of the proposed paving and resurfacing at Lincoln Pond Campground. More specifically, comments questioned the overall need for resurfacing, negative impacts from the paving such as the potential for an increase in speeding, runoff, and increased light / heat reflectivity and suitability of alternative types of material that could be used for campground roads.

DEC response- DEC's goal with roadway rehabilitation is to minimize environmental impacts, provide for user safety and to efficiently operate the facility. Much of the campground road system rehabilitation will be within the existing road footprint or within the existing impacted road shoulders requiring little additional vegetative clearing and limited topographic alterations. The road rehabilitation will assist with addressing stormwater management through 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 and continuing shoreline stabilization.

Additionally, widening the road will occur in areas identified as the greatest concern to user safety. Widening the road will allow for two-way travel at the most congested area of the roadway. Traffic speed limits will continue to be enforced by campground staff and signage and there is not expected to be any increase in speeding as a result of campground road rehabilitation. Paving the facility with asphalt, which meets ADA standards for surface stability will further DEC's obligations for patron access to amenities under the ADA.

When reviewing alternative material for road resurfacing, asphalt has been chosen as the preferred alternative. Loose aggregate surfaces such as gravel, stone dust or tailings are considered impervious surfaces in terms of storm water pollution prevention, the same as asphalt. Although some asphalt alternatives can meet accessibility standards initially, many have proven too costly to maintain to an accessible surface standard. In addition, it has been DEC's experience that asphalt alternatives result in higher rates of erosion/sedimentation, dust and surface degradation under intensive use are campground roadway use patterns especially when coupled with the hilly topography of a facility like Lincoln Pond. Loose aggregate mixes have proven to be much more suitable as an alternative to asphalt in trail applications when applied in appropriate settings when site constraints and use patterns, such as vehicle weight, topography and number/type of users are controlled for.

APA Response- The Agency appreciates this feedback and offers the following response.

Although the APSLMP lists permitted structures and improvements for more restrictive classifications such as Wild Forest, the APSLMP does not list conforming structures or

improvements for IUAs. However, the FGEIS discusses actions pertaining to campground roads and states that a management objective is to “[p]rovide safe ingress and egress to public users by paving and resurfacing roads and parking at site specific intensive use areas.” (FGEIS at 71.) The FGEIS lists as a management action that “[r]oads and parking areas will be paved or resurfaced to maintain safe driving conditions. Locations where frost heaves have created hazardous bumps, they will be repaired. Locations where excessive dust causes clean air impacts on bordering camping sites will be paved. Locations where excessive dust impacts on motor vehicles and RV suspension systems will be paved or resurfaced. Locations where erosion and washouts cause continued costly maintenance or resource damage will be repaired. Grading, ditching, and culvert installation will be accomplished where required. Road rehabilitation which may affect classified streams below high-water mark or wetland locations, will require permits from DEC and APA respectively. Paving and resurfacing will be done by application of asphalt, cement or gravel. Construction will be completed using the force account and contract methods” (FGEIS at 77.)

Public comments regarding the addition of EV Charging Stations:

Summarized Public Comments: Lincoln Pond should add an EV charger to the facility with the underground electric replacement.

DEC Response: At this time, DEC has not established Lincoln Pond as a priority for public-facing EV chargers.

Public comments regarding the removal of the existing playground:

Summarized Public Comments: Lincoln Pond needs to remove the existing playground due to non-conformance with the SLMP, as well as that children should participate in other outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, fishing, and swimming. This comment states that this playground will receive little to no visitor use and will need to be eventually removed.

APA Response- The Agency appreciates this feedback and offers the following response.

Although the APSLMP lists permitted structures and improvements for more restrictive classifications such as Wild Forest, the APSLMP does not list conforming structures or

improvements for IUAs. However, the 1990 Final Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas Volume I (FGEIS) states: "DEC operated public campgrounds and day-use areas which have been inventoried, in this generic UMP document, demonstrate that classified intensive use areas afford to the public an opportunity for: family group camping; organized swimming; access to waterways for boating and fishing; non-consumptive and consumptive use of wildlife resources; facilitate hiking; **selective use of rustic playgrounds**, exercise courses, nature trails, and sports center areas; and picnicking." (FGEIS at 67.) The FGEIS also proposes the management objective to "[c]arry out a program which meets user desires; encourages park entries and returns by development of nature trails, **playgrounds**, picnic pavilions, bike paths, exercise courses, sports centers, attractive entryways, and amphitheaters." (FGEIS at 71.) Furthermore, when describing the proposed management action for playgrounds the GEIS states: "Children's **playground** equipment has been made available at some campgrounds for a number of years. Such locations will be inventoried for replacement as appropriate, with equipment of a more rustic design and fitting for the nature of DEC operated campgrounds. Other campground locations will be inventoried and scheduled for installation of playground equipment as may be appropriate." (FGEIS at 78.)

It is staff's opinion that the draft UMP is consistent with the guidelines set forth in the APSLMP for IUAs and with the FGEIS. The rustic playground structure consists mainly of natural materials to the greatest extent possible, uses natural colors, and is designed to blend with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park. Construction activities avoided material alteration of wetlands, did not require extensive topographic alterations, limited vegetative clearing, and utilized existing developed areas to preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the IUA. Finally, the location of the playground is set back greater than 150 feet from the mean high-water mark of Lincoln Pond and is reasonably screened from the water body avoiding intrusion on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof. The following UMPs which have been approved by the Agency include playgrounds of a similar nature: Cranberry Lake, Fish Creek Ponds, Ausable Point, Rollins Pond, Hinckley, and Meacham Lake.

Public comments regarding the planting of trees and shrubs:

Summarized Public Comments: DEC received a comment supporting the UMP's proposal to plant native trees and shrubs at sites 1-15, as well as continuing to support DEC Rehabilitation efforts to update sites and bring them to modern construction / layouts.

DEC Response: DEC plans to continue its sustained efforts to plant native trees and shrubs as part of the rehabilitation program. In addition, efforts to decrease mowing and install pollinator gardens are being evaluated in many Campground and Day Use Areas as part DEC's sustainability efforts.

Public comments regarding the composting of food waste:

Summarized Public Comments: One comment advocated for the recycling center to include a means of collecting food waste separate from regular solid waste, to allow the transportation of food waste to a compost facility.

DEC Response: Composting at DEC Campground facilities is on a facility-by-facility basis. Currently, only one campground facility has a contract for composting. Proximity to a permitted composting facility, hauling services and seasonality of the waste stream have been some of the impediments to wider implementation of a composting program at all DEC campground facilities. If in the future these challenges are overcome at Lincoln Pond Campground, DEC believes the infrastructure proposed in the UMP management plan will accommodate the inclusion of a compost program.

Public comments regarding the southern boat launch:

Summarized Public Comments: One comment adds that due to non-compliance with the SLMP as well as acreage limitations, the southern boat launch at Lincoln Pond campground should be eliminated and replaced with a hand launch. The comment also questions the thresholds set in the original UMP of a doubling of motorized boats, noting that the threshold should be reduced as it does not adequately protect the waterbody from overuse. This comment also questions the threshold of monitoring for invasive species, noting that it does not provide an adequate answer for management if a new invasive species is encountered.

DEC Response: Regarding the southern boat launch, the designation of a trailered launch in the Intensive Use Area will be retained, and the launch will be folded into the campground-wide

paving project. While Lincoln Pond is one impoundment, due to the causeway, the pond functionally exists as two independent waterbodies. This launch is currently the only publicly available launch for the southern portion of Lincoln Pond, and a mix of campground patrons and residents seeking access to private property use the launch regularly. Retaining and monitoring this launch will better allow for the management of erosion and invasive species monitoring. Discontinuing this launch will encourage private camps to create new independent launches which could introduce more shoreline erosion and invasive species into the lake.

DEC developed revised desired conditions, indicators, and thresholds using the Visitor Use Management (VUM) framework in cooperation with the Agency to further address the public comments received and has added those items into the final draft. These items are intended to uphold the APSLMP requirement that boat launches located on waterbodies under approximately 1,000 acres in size will be “periodically reviewed” for potential conversion to hand launch sites. DEC is satisfied that the current condition of Lincoln Pond is consistent with the desired condition for this waterbody, and using the VUM framework as outlined in the plan will assure that the condition of Lincoln Pond is protected and its capacity to support visitor use is not exceeded.

The threshold for invasive species has been updated to allow for the potential to take action if a new invasive species is encountered, rather than just providing for monitoring.

In addition, signage will be added at the boat launching area to promote Clean, Drain, Dry messaging and notify users that boat decontamination is necessary to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species to the lake.

DEC staff will continue to educate and provide guidance to the public on this important effort.

APA Response- The Agency appreciates this feedback and offers the following response.

The APSLMP offers guidelines for the management of intensive use area boat launching sites. Guideline 1 states: “Boat launching sites will only be provided on large lakes regularly used by motorboats. A large lake is defined as a lake approximately 1,000 acres or more in area.” (APSLMP at 43.) Guideline 2 offers criteria for intensive use area boat launching sites.

Guideline 3 offers an exception to guidelines 1 and 2 for existing trailered boat launching sites. Guideline 3 states: “Existing boat launching sites that do not meet the above guidelines may be retained but their status will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual conversion to fishing access sites is appropriate.” (APSLMP at 44.) For Lincoln Pond Public Campground, the federal Visitor Use Management Framework is being utilized to conduct this review.