



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Luzerne Public Campground Unit Management Plan PROPOSED FINAL

TOWN OF LUZERNE, WARREN COUNTY, NY

NOVEMBER 2025

Kathy Hochul, Governor | Amanda Lefton, Commissioner

LUZERNE 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 Josh Houghton, 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
LUZERNE PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

In keeping with constitutional provisions criteria referenced in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and DEC Management Policy for Forest Preserve state-owned lands, DEC developed a unit management plan (UMP) for the five-year operation of Luzerne 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 eleven management actions are proposed:

Proposed Management Actions

- Replace Restrooms #00, #1, #8, #9, and #10
- Rehabilitate Campground Roads
- Rehabilitate Kiosks, Trails, and Barn in the Equestrian Area
- Rehabilitate Water System
- Replace Overhead Lines with Underground System
- Add Utility Sinks to All Restrooms
- Tree and Shrub Plantings
- Remove Boat Launch Northeast of Day Use Area
- Remove Volleyball Court and replace with Playground and Pavilion
- Bridge Reconstruction
- Campsite Restoration

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with state health codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act, maintenance of campground investment, 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; 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. Public dissatisfaction, an adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. Existing care, custody, and control practices preclude choosing these alternatives currently.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Luzerne Campground and Day-Use Area is a medium sized facility operated by DEC. This recreational facility offers camping, swimming, picnicking, and non-motorized boating on the 51-acre Fourth Lake. The campground also features a system of horseback riding trails and a horse camping area. The campsites are large and well-forested, offering privacy. Camping equipment from tents to 40-foot RVs can be accommodated. A picnic area is available adjacent to the swimming beach.

Canoe and boat rentals are available at the campground as well as opportunities for fishing. Major species in Fourth Lake are Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Rock Bass and Brown Bullhead.

Hiking and bicycling are popular within the campground and on surrounding local roadways. There is an equestrian camping area with paddocks and a system of horse trails within the facility.

Nearby Lake George and many area attractions are a major influence on the public use of the campground and day-use area.

1. Location

The campground is located on Route 9N, eight miles southwest of Lake George Village in the Town of Luzerne, Warren County. File Warren 54 and 54A, easterly part of Jessup's 2,000-acre patent Warranty deed, Joseph and Jennie Brunetti- December 19, 1963, Book 437, page one. Luzerne Tract, northwest 1/3 lot, 37 appropriation, December 8, 1966, 837.42 acres.

2. History

Indigenous use of this land was considered part of the territories of the Abenaki, Mohican, and Mohawk tribes. While there was no known permanent settlement in this area, indigenous peoples traveled through the region for hundreds of years to get from the Mohawk Valley to the Champlain Valley.

In December 1963, 727.61 acres of the easterly part of Jessup's 2,000-acre tract was purchased from Joseph and Jennie Brunetti. During the early 1800s it was known as the Abyah Adam Farm and by the late 1800s it was known as the Porteous Farm. Starting in the early 1900s, it was owned by different owners who farmed and cut timber. In the 1940s, Fourth Lake Lumber Company, subsequently known as Cotton and Hanlon, ran a sawmill on Mill Lot, which was located on both sides of Steward Creek and

I. INTRODUCTION

included an open field south of State Route 9N. The area was extensively logged during the late 1940s and early 1950s, and in 1952 the land was sold to the Brunetti's. In December 1966, 109.81 acres of Lot 37, Luzerne Tract (known as Towner Farm), was purchased.

Construction was started in 1966 and the campground opened to the public the following year with 166 campsites. Seven additional campsites opened in the horse area in 1987, bringing the total number of campsites to 173.

Federal monies were involved in improvements at the campground under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Department of Interior, through the National Parks Service, requires that this facility is inspected every five years. This inspection, conducted by the grant administrator in the DEC Central Office, is to ensure that the facilities continue to be properly maintained and utilized in conformity with the grant award. A Land and Water Conservation Fund sign is posted at each campground where federal funds have been disbursed.

Year	Luzerne Campground Improvements
1966	Campground construction begins. Existing caretaker cabin, lifeguard cabin, bathhouse, and garage constructed. Pumphouse constructed. Existing restrooms #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, and #10 constructed. Horse corral constructed.
1967	Campground opens to the public with 166 campsites available.
1972	Assistant caretaker cabin constructed.
1973	Existing shower building constructed.
1987	Seven additional sites added in horse area, expanding the campground to 173 campsites. Additional horse corral constructed.
1992	Existing ticket booth and recycle center constructed.
2005	Existing pumphouse constructed, both shower buildings redone.
2012	Existing horse stud stall constructed.
2017	Existing boat supply building constructed.
2023	Recycling center leach field replaced.
2024	Municipal water provided to frontside of the facility.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Camping Area	Day-Use Areas
173 campsites	38 picnic tables
173 picnic tables	14 hibachi grills
173 fireplaces/rings	7 fireplaces
45 water spigots	7 spigots
Design capacity – 1,044 persons (204 x 6/site)	Design capacity – 228 persons (38 x 6/table)

2. Roads and Parking Areas

There are six miles of paved roads, for both two-way and one-way traffic. The average road width is 11 feet. All roads are paved and in poor condition. A bridge consisting of four culverts spans an opening of 32 feet over a brook on the campground entrance road. Paved parking lots are located at the entrance, recycle center, day-use area, beach, and boat launch areas.

Parking Lot Location	Approximate Capacity
Entrance Area	5 cars
Recycle Center	2 cars
Day-use Area/Beach	80 cars
Day-use Area/Old Beach	5-10 cars
Boat Launch	5 cars

3. Buildings

Bldg. #	Bldg. Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq. ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Caretaker Cabin	Near entrance	950	Good	1966
(002)	Assistant Caretaker Cabin	Near entrance	864	Fair	1972
(003)	Lifeguard Cabin	Near campsite #39	528	Fair	1966
(004)	Garage	Near Caretaker cabin	925	Good	1966
(006)	Horse Barn	Near campsite #H1	640	Good	1966
(008)	Bathhouse	Day-use Area	1,050	Fair	1966
(010)	Restroom #1	Near campsite #28	336	Good	1966
(011)	Restroom #2	Near campsite #76	336	Good	1966
(012)	Restroom #3	Near campsite #60	336	Good	1966

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

(014)	Restroom #5	Near campsite #88	130	Good	1966
(015)	Restroom #6	Near campsite #113	130	Fair	1966
(016)	Restroom #7	Near campsite #121	130	Good	1966
(017)	Restroom #8	Near campsite #150	130	Good	1966
(018)	Restroom #9	Near campsite #136	130	Good	1966
(019)	Restroom #10	Near campsite #H10	130	Fair	1966
(020)	Restroom #00	Near campsite #3	130	Fair	1966
(021)	Booth Restroom	Near entrance	176	Excellent	1966
(022)	Beach Restroom	Beach area	160	Fair	1966
(023)	Recycle Center	Near trailer dump station	640	Fair	1992
(024)	Ticket Booth	Near entrance	176	Good	1992
(025)	Pumphouse	Near lifeguard cabin	728	Good	2005
(026)	Shower Building	Near campsite #112	1,060	Good	2013
(027)	Shower Building	Near lifeguard cabin	1,060	Good	2012
(028)	Boat Supply Building	Beach area	80	Good	2017
(029)	Telephone Building	Near caretaker cabin	9	Fair	1966
(030)	Horse Stud Stall	In horse area	200	Good	2012

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted November 2020.

4. Barriers

Barriers are used to control campground use and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. DEC policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. There are four barriers in this facility. A gate at the entrance to the campground is a standard design and yellow, with a reflective stop sign on both sides, and reflectors on each post. The other barriers are intended to keep the public out of administrative areas. There is a gate at the entrance to the leach field road. All barriers are open and well-marked during the snowmobile season.

5. Sewage System

All sewage disposal in the campground is by use of septic systems, utilizing septic tanks and effluent collector mains.

Septic tank content is periodically disposed of by a certified septic waste transporter to a permitted facility. (See exhibit 5-5b.)

A NYS DEC SPDES permit #NY 067965 was issued in 1991. The application covers the systems noted below:

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

Outfall Number	Building Type/Number	Toilets (T), Sinks (S) Showers (SH)	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/Seepage Pits	Construction Date
001	Caretaker Cabin	1T,2S,1SH	1,322	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
002	Assistant Caretaker Cabin	1T,2S,1SH	982	4.5' x 6' SP	1972
003	Lifeguard Cabin	1T,2S,1SH	617	4' x 5' SP	1966
007A & B	Shower Building #7	M-3T,1U,3S W-4T,3S Unisex-1T,1S,8SH	5,000	3-15' x 85' LF	2012
008	Bathhouse	M-2T,2S W-2T,2S	1,322	14' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
010	#1 Set Toilets	M-3T,1U,1S W-3T,1S	1,496	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
011	#2 Set Toilets	M-3T,1U,1S W-3T,1S	1,346	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
012	#3 Set Toilets	M-3T,1U,1S W-3T,1S	982	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
013	Shower Building #4	M-3T,1U,3S W-4T,3S Unisex-1T,1S,8SH	5,000	3-15' x 85' LF	2013
014	#5 Set Toilets	2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	589	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
015	#6 Set Toilets	2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	800	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
016	#7 Set Toilets	2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	589	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
017	#8 Set Toilets	2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	589	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
018	#9 Set Toilets	2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	589	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
019	#10 Set Toilets	2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	589	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
020	#00 Set Toilets	M-2T,1U,1S W-2T,1S	1,322	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
021	Front DUA	M-2T,1S W-2T,1S	1,322	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
022	Beach Restroom	M-2T,1S W-2T,1S	1,322	9' x 11' x 6' SP	1966
050	Trailer Dumping Station	n/a	1,500	Black Water Grey Water	

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

6. Solid Waste

Annual refuse generated is estimated to be 320 cubic yards. Solid waste is transported via DEC garbage truck and is disposed of at the Wheelabrator Facility in Hudson Falls. A recycling program is operated at the campground. There is an estimated eight tons of single stream recyclables transported by Ace Carting to Hudson Falls.

This campground has a centralized recycling and refuse disposal facility with a staff-person to manage. A brochure is available to instruct campers of its availability and required use. The Recycling Center is tied into the water and sewage systems.

All day-use areas are carry-in, carry-out and appropriate signage has been erected to inform the public.

II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

7. Telephone

The main phone number for the campground is (518) 696-2031, 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, bulletin board, traffic control, regulations, restrooms, and camping sites.

9. Electric System

The main campground has 2.73 total miles of overhead primary electrical distribution and overhead and underground secondary distribution. National Grid Power Corporation provides electricity to the campground's primary lines. Average annual electric consumption is 21,930 kWh. As part of DEC's regular maintenance, the right-of-way receives periodic hazardous tree removal and brushing. The width of this cleared utility right-of-way is 25 feet for overhead. (See Exhibit #7-7b.)

10. Potable Water System

There are three water storage tanks located in the facility. A 30,000-gallon water tank is located at the garage services the front of the campground. A 30,000-gallon water tank and a 2,000-gallon water tank service the back side of the campground. All the storage tanks are hydro-pneumatic and chlorinated.

Well		Capacity
Well #1	420 feet depth	
	10 g.p.m. yield capacity	
	10 g.p.m. pump capacity (1.5 hp)	
Well #2	400 feet depth	
	18 g.p.m. yield capacity	
	7 g.p.m. pump capacity (.75 hp)	

Water is distributed via 3.4 miles of waterlines to 52 spigots throughout the facility, 45 of which are in the camping area and seven are in the day-use area. (See Exhibit #6-6b.)

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	2x 120 gal	Caretaker's Cabin	77 gal
Propane	120 gal	Assistant Caretaker's Cabin	35 gal
Propane	57 gal	Lifeguard's Cabin	n/a

Propane	29 gal	Recycle Building	85 gal
Propane	500 gal	Shower Building #4	215 gal
Propane	500 gal	Shower Building #7	320 gal

12. Trails

There are no marked hiking trails within the campground, however opportunities for hiking exist nearby. The 72,508-acre Lake George Wild Forest is located in the southeastern portion of the Adirondack Park and contains miles of marked trails available to explore, allowing the public to easily access a variety of natural attractions such as Black Mountain, Shelving Rock, and Prospect Mountain. The Prospect Mountain trail starts in nearby Lake George Village and ascends 1,570 feet and 1.7 miles to the top of Prospect Mountain in the Prospect Mountain Veterans Memorial Highway Day Use Area.

The facility contains a system of horse trails to support the equestrian camping area and connects through private land to the Berry Patch trail system that allows horseback riding. Biking is another popular activity at the campground. Bikers can ride the campground roads as well as miles of surrounding public roadways.

13. Boating

Motorboats are not allowed on Fourth Lake. A cartop boat hand launch is available for campers and day-use visitors; however, the launch is in poor condition and has limited usability. As a result, this UMP includes a management proposal to decommission the launch. Since there are no real pieces of infrastructure at the current boat launch, no work outside of putting up signs needs to be done to close it. It should be removed from all maps as well. Signs need to be constructed to designate the area as no longer in use, and the road to the launch can remain unpaved rather than be folded into the larger resurfacing project.

Non-motorized boats may still be launched from the beach. Rowboat, canoe, and kayak rentals are available at the facility's ticket booth and obtained at the unsupervised swim area.

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 7
2	Parks and Recreation Aide 5
2	Park and Recreation Aide 3
4	Park and Recreation Aide 2
2	Conservation Security Worker

2. Fee Schedule 2024

Daily Fees 2024 Open Dates: May 17 – Sept 7	
Camping/night – NYS Resident	\$22.00
Camping/night – Non-resident	\$27.00
Day Use - Auto	\$10.00
Day Use - Walk In	\$2.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$5.00
Day Use - Bus	\$50.00

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

There are no formalized recreational uses of the facility in the off-season.

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 in the 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.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Elevation

The average elevation of Luzerne Campground is 637 feet, with a maximum elevation of 1,000 feet.

b. Water

Fourth Lake is 51 acres in size with a maximum depth of 41 feet. Motorboats are not allowed on the lake.

c. Wetlands

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. A total of 120 acres of palustrine wetland has been identified in several locations within the campground, primarily in the center and northwestern corner. In the Adirondacks, these 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 will require a permit from the APA. The APA will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to these designated wetland areas. (See Exhibit #9.)

d. Soils

Soil associations consist primarily of Hinckley cobbly sandy loam, Hinckley-Plainfield complex, and Oakville loamy fine sand. These soil associations are well drained to excessively drained. Other soil associations include Middlebury fine sandy loam, Fluvaquents-Udifuvents complex, Wareham and Walpole soils, Saprist and Aquepts inundated, and Carlisle muck. These soils are generally very poorly drained to somewhat poorly drained. Additionally, Bice-Woodstock very bouldery fine sandy loam, and Bice very bouldery fine sandy loam are found in the unit and are well drained. All soils have a deep depth to bedrock. Oakville loamy fine sand and Middlebury fine sandy loam are classified as prime farmland. (See Exhibit #10.)

2. Biological

a. Forest Type

There are several different forest types present in the campground. These include Northern Hardwoods, Mixed Hardwoods, White Pine, Hemlock, and Oak. Vegetation in the immediate campsite area is affected by intensive use. A number of trees are removed annually to eliminate them as hazards to the campground visitors. Replanting is necessary to replace trees removed in heavy use areas. (See Exhibit #8.)

b. Unique Vegetation

The New York Natural Heritage Program keeps track of the status of the state's rare flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern allies, and mosses. No rare plants or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Luzerne Campground.

c. Wildlife

Wildlife communities found in and around Luzerne Campground reflect those species commonly associated with northern hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forests that are transitional to the boreal forests of higher latitudes. In 2004, the threatened bird *Ixobrychus exilis* was found in a marsh on the northeast side of Fourth Lake at the Luzerne Campground.

Terrestrial fauna is represented by a variety of bird, mammal, and invertebrate species. Amphibians and reptiles also occur on the unit, although species diversity is relatively low as compared with other vertebrates. Recent observations have found 73 species of birds near this location. More information on specific species can be found at [Bird List - Luzerne State Campground and Fourth Lake](#).

[Warren, New York, United States - eBird Hotspot](#). For a more complete description of wildlife species and habitats, refer to the Lake George Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

d. Fisheries

Fourth Lake is 51 acres in size with a maximum depth of 41 feet. Fish species present include Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Pumpkinseed, Bluegill, Rock Bass, and Brown Bullhead.

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 UMP/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 for the last five years with 82% of all campers visiting from New York State and the remaining 18% from all other states and countries. Campers stay an average of three nights and 96% of campers arrive after making a reservation. Average camping attendance at this facility

Luzerne Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2024	21,239	1,952	23,191
2023	22,671	2,017	24,688
2022	22,978	2,582	25,560
2021	24,280	1,495	25,775
2020*	17,978	1,650	19,628
Avg	21,829	1,939	23,768

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

has stayed relatively the same from 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from recreational pursuits such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice fishing. Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits 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 boat rentals. Revenue reported from camping and day-use follows the same trends reported above in the attendance trends.

Five-Year Revenue Totals for Luzerne in Dollars						
Year	Camping	Day Use	Boat Rental	Firewood and Ice Sales	Miscellaneous	Total

2024	143,991	5,647	6,734	0*	200	156,572
2023	153,172	6,384	6,834	0*	151	166,541
2022	160,949	8,395	8,490	0*	200	178,034
2021	161,308	6,432	7,595	0*	150	175,485
2020	105,219*	7,286*	0*	0*	0*	112,505*
Avg	154,855*	6,715*	7,413*	n/a	175*	169,158*

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

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. The two shower buildings within the facility meet current accessibility standards.

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (173)	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	1,250 sf/site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites	2	1	1
Potable water supply	55 gal/day/site	9,570 gpd	24,480 gpd	None
38 day-use picnic tables	5 gal/day/picnicker	1,140 gpd		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	18	45	None
	1/60 picknickers	4	7	None
Lavatories	1 for every 15 campsites	12	20	None
(within 500')	1 for every 60 picnickers	4	8	None

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Toilets/Urinals	2 for every 10 sites	36	47	None
(within 500')	2 for every 60 picnickers	8	12	None
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	12	2	10
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	14	16	None
*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 Luzerne 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, sites #8, 15, 18, 32, 52, 53, 61, 68, 70, 107, 137, 138, and 142 were selected for restoration, with sites #6, 14, 74, and 136 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 campground is operating below the acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our

visitors. The main criticisms of the facility involve the maintenance and quality of bathrooms and roads, as well as the age of the bathrooms.

Additional impacts associated with planned campground objectives and actions are identified and discussed in the Generic Unit Management Plan Volume I. The table below summarizes survey statistics over the past five years.

Year	Number of Responses	Great or Excellent Rating
2024*	4	75%
2023	155	68%
2022	338	73%
2021	454	58%
2020*	44	64%

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

d. Historical Assets

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that the campground is located where archaeological resources may be present. Prior to site disturbance for construction of any facility affiliated with this management plan, the nature and extent of archaeological resources in the project area, if any, will be investigated. If it appears that any aspect of the project will cause any 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 so informed in keeping with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

e. Adjacent Lands

The campground encompasses 837 acres of lands classified as Intensive Use and the perimeter boundary totals 5.8 miles. The entire boundary of the Intensive Use area is bordered by private land.

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.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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 (APIPP) and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry developed the *Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Species Steward 2024 Survey & Management Report*. The 2024 report states that Bush honeysuckle was observed throughout the campground and oriental bittersweet was located near the horse paddock. Management of either species is not recommended at this time as reintroduction is likely. Garlic Mustard was documented at this campground in 2021 and 87 plants were removed from one location; it was not found in 2024, but was observed again in 2025. Management of garlic mustard should remain a priority at this facility. Reed canary grass was also identified in different locations throughout the campground. Purple loosestrife was first identified in the campground in 2020 and was still present in 2021. It was not managed in 2023 or 2024 due to not having watercraft access at this time. Early detection shoreline surveys should be done along the swimming area and the creek that runs through the campground. This campground should be monitored annually to document potential re-emergence or invasion by other species.

DEC works cooperatively with Paul Smiths College and the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program to address the aquatic invasive species. 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 Fourth Lake. 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.

g. General Operations

Luzerne Campground is a popular facility used during the spring through fall seasons for camping, swimming, fishing, and boating. Continued maintenance and upkeep of these facilities help ensure safe operation of the campground for both visitor and employee use. 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.

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 to ensure that programs are accessible for the transportation of and communication with individuals with disabilities. Accessibility in terms of architecture and design across buildings, facilities, and vehicles is ensured to comply with these guidelines.

III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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, shower building #4 and shower building #7 meet 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 released 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 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 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 (DACs). Furthermore, DEC shall prioritize actions that look to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and 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

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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 varies 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 or 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

The management actions below are being proposed for the forthcoming five-year period and will be completed as staffing and funding allow.

Proposed Management Actions	
Management Actions	Cost
1. Replace Restrooms #00, #1, #8, #9, and #10	\$650,000 each
2. Rehabilitate Campground Roads	\$3,950,000
3. Rehabilitate Kiosks, Trails and Barn in the Equestrian Area	\$100,000
4. Rehabilitate Water System	\$895,000
5. Replace Overhead Electric Lines with Underground System	\$725,000

6.	Add Utility Sinks to all Restrooms	\$30,000
7.	Tree and Shrub Plantings	\$20,000
8.	Remove Boat Launch Northeast of Day Use Area	\$15,000
9.	Remove Volleyball Court and Replace with Playground and Pavilion	\$125,000
10.	Bridge Reconstruction	\$425,000
11.	Campsite Restoration.	\$40,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities to comply with health and safety codes and user needs. They will also provide universal access in accordance with ADA standards 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 activities, 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. Replace Restrooms #00, #1, #8, #9, and #10.

The average age of the 13 restrooms is 56 years and none have been built since 1966. The toilet and sink fixtures are not as water efficient as modern designs and are not easily drained for the off-season. There are two centralized shower buildings in the facility that require visitors to drive through the facility to utilize them, causing increased congestion on the roads and air pollution. All the

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

restrooms within the facility were rated as being in fair to good condition when inspected in October 2020, however, none of the buildings meet current accessibility standards. This management action proposes to replace restrooms #00, #1 and #10 with restrooms and include showers at each of the new buildings. In addition, restrooms #8 and #9 should be replaced with a single restroom.

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 restroom 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, wash sinks for washing dishes will be added to the restrooms. This will help address disposal of gray water that campers often toss at the edge of the campsites, leaving soap, food and grease on the ground. This is unsightly and it draws wildlife. At this time, no additional tree clearing is anticipated for the replacement of restrooms #8 and #9, as a single building would require a smaller footprint than what is currently being utilized. Restrooms #00, #1, and #10 may require an increased footprint of 25-50%. See Exhibit #14 for photographs of existing buildings and their surroundings. Finally, restroom #6 should be demolished, as it is no longer in use.

2. Rehabilitate Campground Roads.

The six miles of campground roads are in poor condition with crumbling shoulders, potholes, and sections of broken pavement. All six miles need to be resurfaced and roads should be widened where possible to accommodate two-way traffic and emergency vehicles.

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.

3. Rehabilitate Kiosks, Trails and the Barn in the Equestrian Area.

The two kiosks with included trail maps, equestrian trails, and the barn need to be rehabilitated. The kiosks need to be replaced along with the trail maps attached to them. They should be a bit brighter and easier to read by the general public utilizing the horse trails. The few trails surrounding the equestrian area that are already designated as trails need new signage and markings, and better consistent maintenance to encourage equestrian riders on the trails. The large eight stall barn needs to be stripped down and rebuilt in the same location as it is falling apart. It can be rebuilt with the same area, but stall size should be widened slightly to decrease it to six stalls for more room for the horses.

4. Rehabilitate Water System.

Staff rely on two water systems to service the campground and meet camper needs. Both water systems at Luzerne are old, in poor condition, and in need of rehabilitation. The 3.4 miles of waterline should be replaced, and additional water spigots should be installed as necessary to meet health codes and current accessibility standards. 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 project also includes the linking of the back camping loops with the local municipal water system, as the front loops were previously.

5. Replace Overhead Lines with Underground System.

Luzerne Campground has 2.73 miles of overhead power lines running through the facility. Both the water and sewer systems require electric power for pumps to operate. The overhead lines are in constant need of maintenance and have required emergency repairs resulting in the power being off in the facility for extended periods. This management action proposes to have the overhead power lines buried and the pole transformers moved to a ground pad location.

6. Add Utility Sinks to all Restrooms.

Section III.F.2.a of this Plan noted a deficiency of utility sinks at all restrooms in the camping area. With no alternative for disposing of gray water, campers often toss wash and rinse water to the edge of the campsites, leaving soap, food, and grease on the ground. This is both unsightly and attracts nuisance wildlife. A utility sink attached to the outside of each restroom and tied to the campground's

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

sewer system will provide a place for campers to either wash dishes or dispose of gray water. This management action proposes to install utility sinks at each restroom in the camping area.

7. Tree and Shrub Plantings.

New trees and shrubs are required to replace those lost to hazardous tree removal and to establish trees in high-traffic areas where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Species will be selected that are natural to the area and will provide the needed shading and screening. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the Plan.

Besides erosion prevention and screening, tree and shrub plantings should also be done in the Field of Dreams area to transition the recreation area into a more natural area in the future, as the ground is no longer stable enough and too overgrown to be managed by the campsite staff. Previously, this area was used as a recreational field for campers. The area will remain intensive use, but the Field of Dreams portion will not see any major recreation.

8. Remove Boat Launch Northeast of Day Use Area.

The hand launch to the northeast of the day use area is in disrepair and needs to be decommissioned and revegetated. Since there are no real pieces of infrastructure at the current boat launch, closing the launch will only require the posting of signs and the updating of campground maps. The road leading to the launch will remain unpaved and a barrier will be installed to discourage parking in the former launch area. The area will remain accessible by foot.

The unsupervised swim area will serve as the new boat launch. Since no boats with motors are allowed on the lake, the flat sandy swim area will be conducive to launch small non-motorized watercraft from. Boat rentals are also stored at the unsupervised swim area, so they can be launched from the same location.

9. Remove Volleyball Court and Replace with Playground and Pavilion.

The current volleyball court near the day-use area receives little to no visitor use. This existing cleared area is well suited to be repurposed for a playground and small picnic pavilion. It is next to the day use area, and as a result will not require the construction of new parking. The pavilion and playground will be placed nearby each other, behind trees near the day use area. Both structures should be invisible from the lake shore and be of a rustic quality. In addition, construction will require minor tree pruning and removal. The playgrounds and pavilions at Lincoln Pond, Mongaup Pond, and Fish Creek Campgrounds provide good examples as to the rustic qualities and lack of view impeding nature

of these buildings. Cost estimates are based on the day-use area playground and pavilion at Frontier Town Campground. Both buildings also need to conform to current ADA standards for accessibility. The pavilion should be constructed in the same style and materials as other pavilions at DEC campgrounds.

10. Bridge Reconstruction.

The bridge that currently links the front and back half of the campground is sagging on the right side and needs to be replaced to ensure safety. The goal is to engineer a traditional bridge, as the current one is made of culverts and frequently gets clogged with debris and beaver dams. This project would be engineered in consultation with APA to ensure the proper conformance and minimal environmental impact to the area.

11. Campsite Restoration.

Management of visitor use at Luzerne Campground began in the 1960s with the development of campsites to meet the increasing demand for camping accommodations in the Adirondacks. Today, the Luzerne Campground includes 173 camping sites. With close to 22,000 camper days and over 2,000 day-use visitors to Luzerne annually, 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 amendments of existing plans will be consistent with the new VUM guidance and contain 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.

Until the VUM guidance and accompanying protocol for camping sites within DEC Campgrounds is finalized, a minimum of 2.5% campsites per year at Luzerne will be selected for temporary closure for the purpose of rehabilitation to render the site's character similar to the surrounding forest. Rehabilitation work will include maintaining the campsite surface to reduce erosion,

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

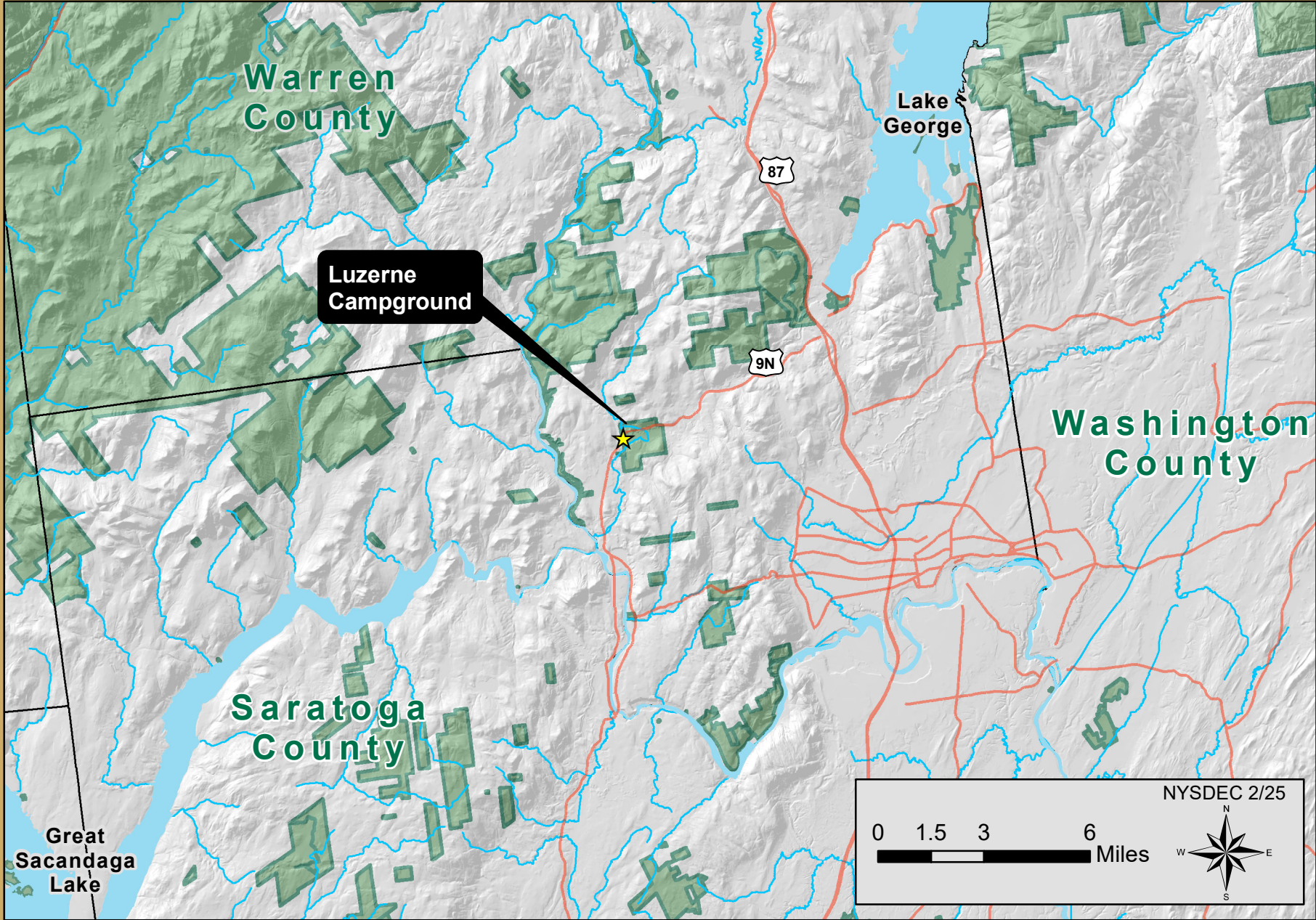
soil loss and soil compaction; revegetating the site (between sites); and replacing fireplaces and picnic tables. In situations where issues cannot be reasonably addressed an individual campsite may be relocated or closed. Furthermore, work to upgrade sites to meet current accessibility standards will 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 Luzerne Campground are currently being restored please visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/camping/campsite-restoration-project>.

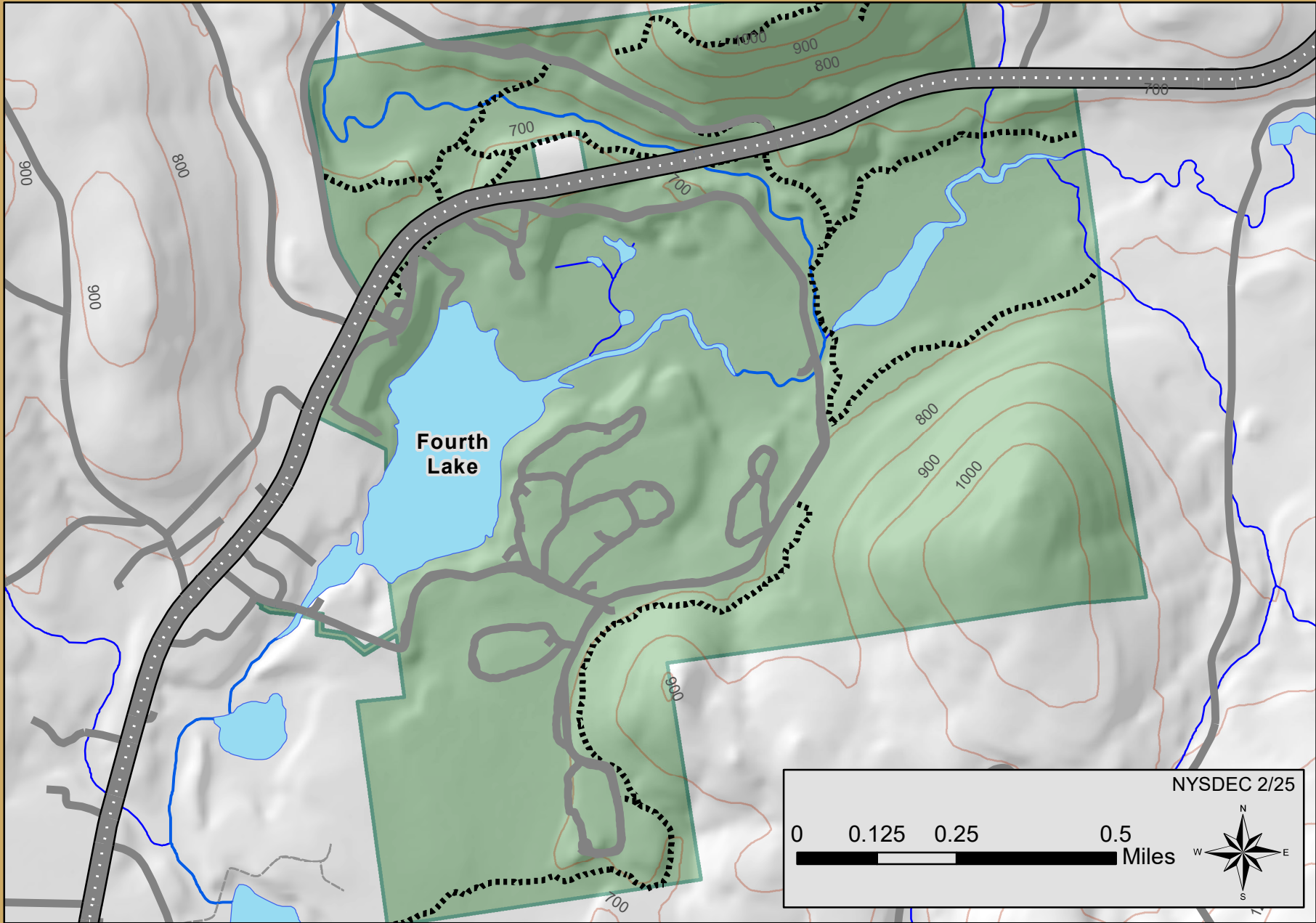
V. EXHIBIT INDEX

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Exhibit #2	Topography & Trail Map
Exhibit #3	Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4-4d	Existing Facilities Maps
Exhibit #5-5b	Sewer System Maps
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Exhibit #13	Management Action Map
Exhibit #14	Campground Photos
Exhibit #15	Typical Drawings
Exhibit #16	Public Comments

Luzerne Campground
Exhibit # 1 - Location Map

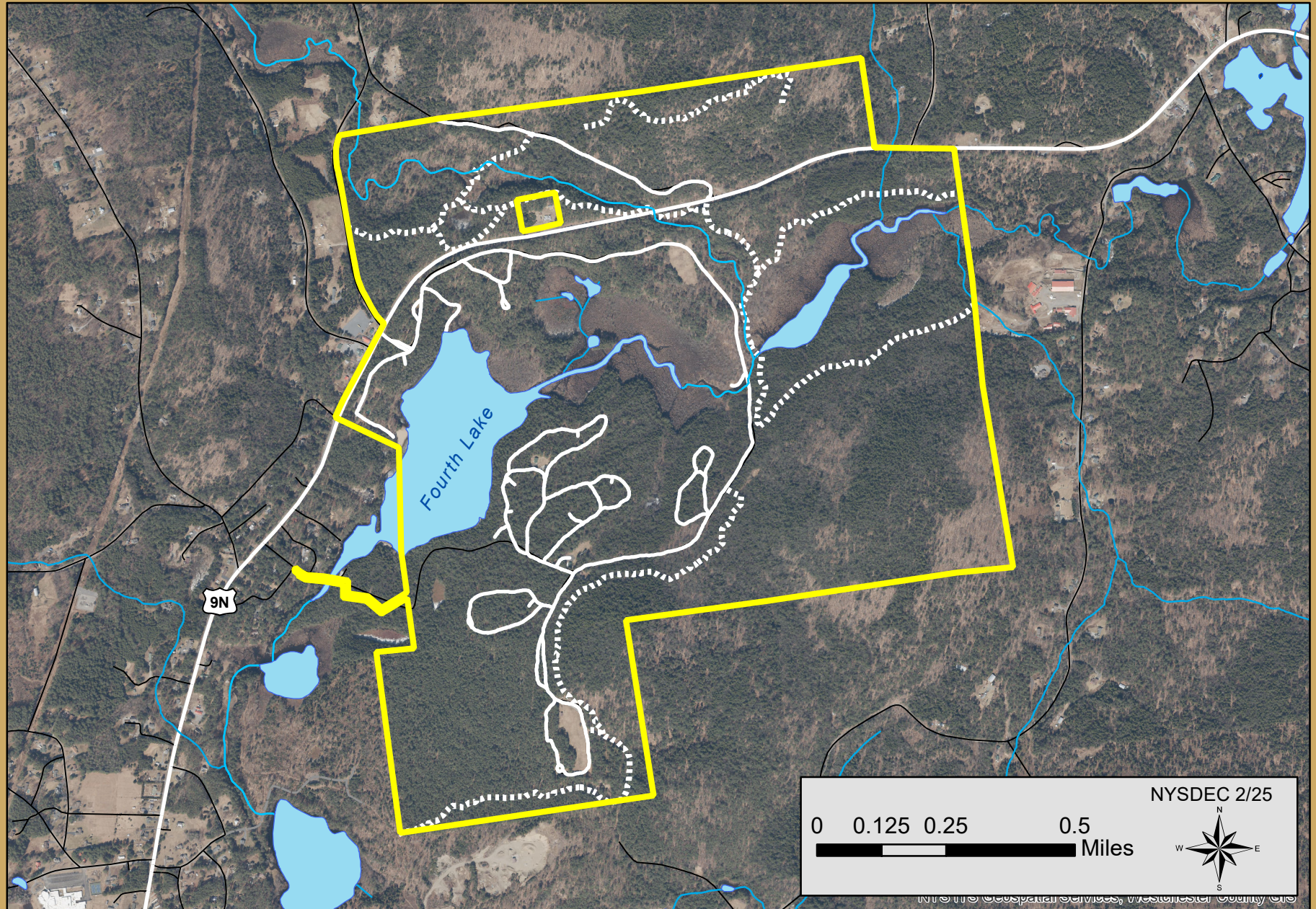


Luzerne Campground
Exhibit # 2 - Topography & Trail Map



Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



Luzerne Campground

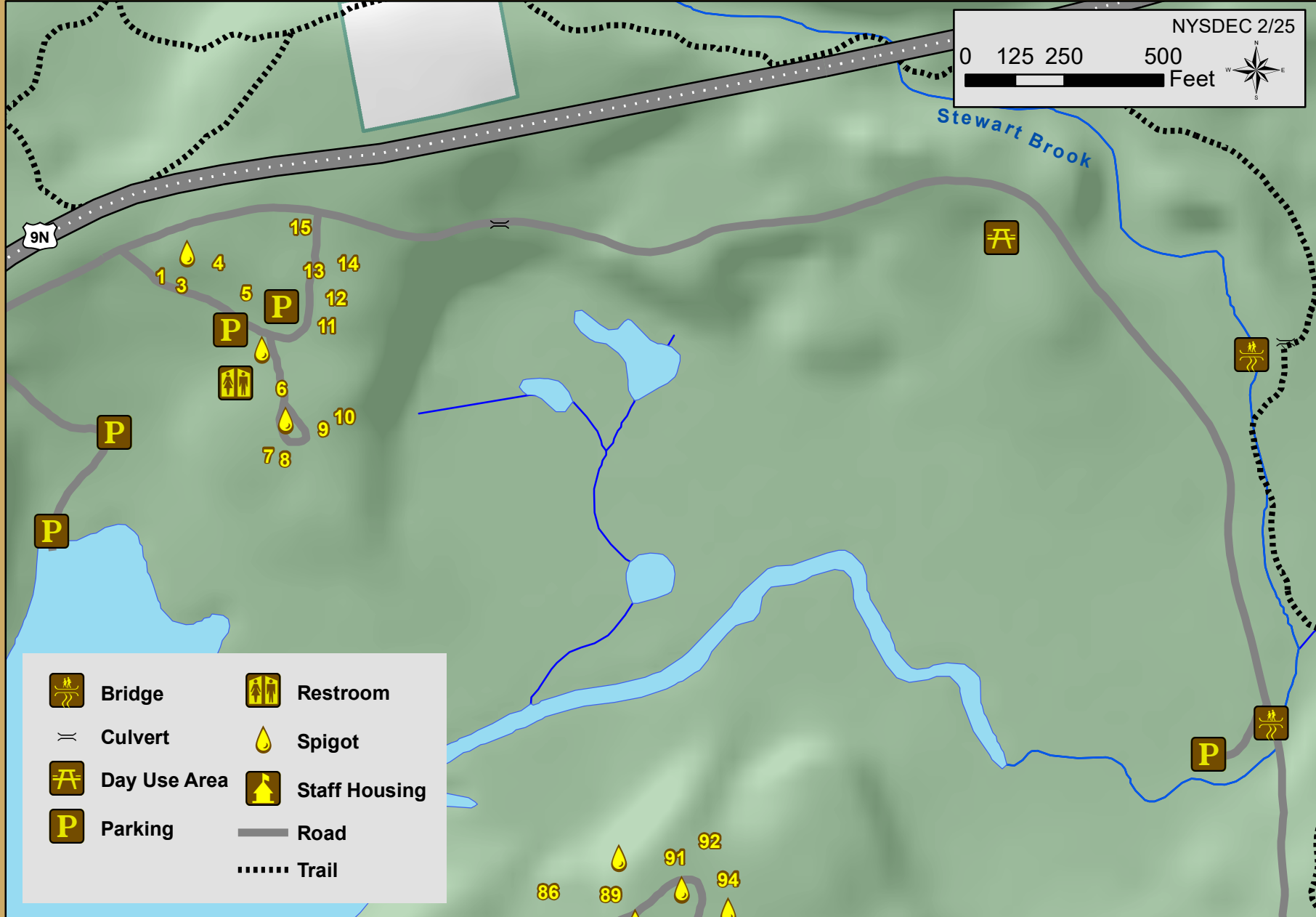
Exhibit # 4a - Facility Map

Adirondack
Park

Luzerne
Campground

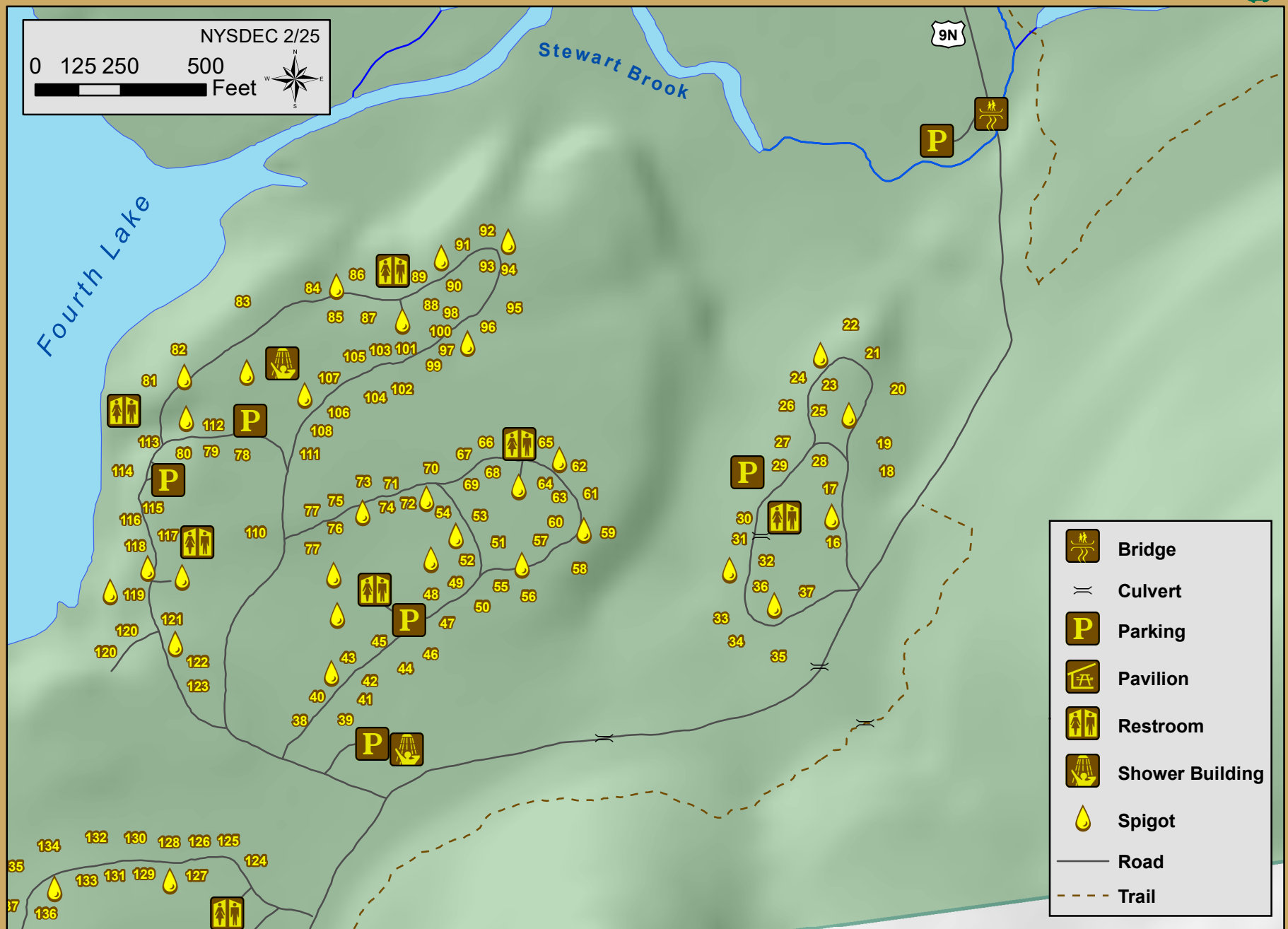


Luzerne Campground
Exhibit # 4b - Facility Map



Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 4c - Facility Map

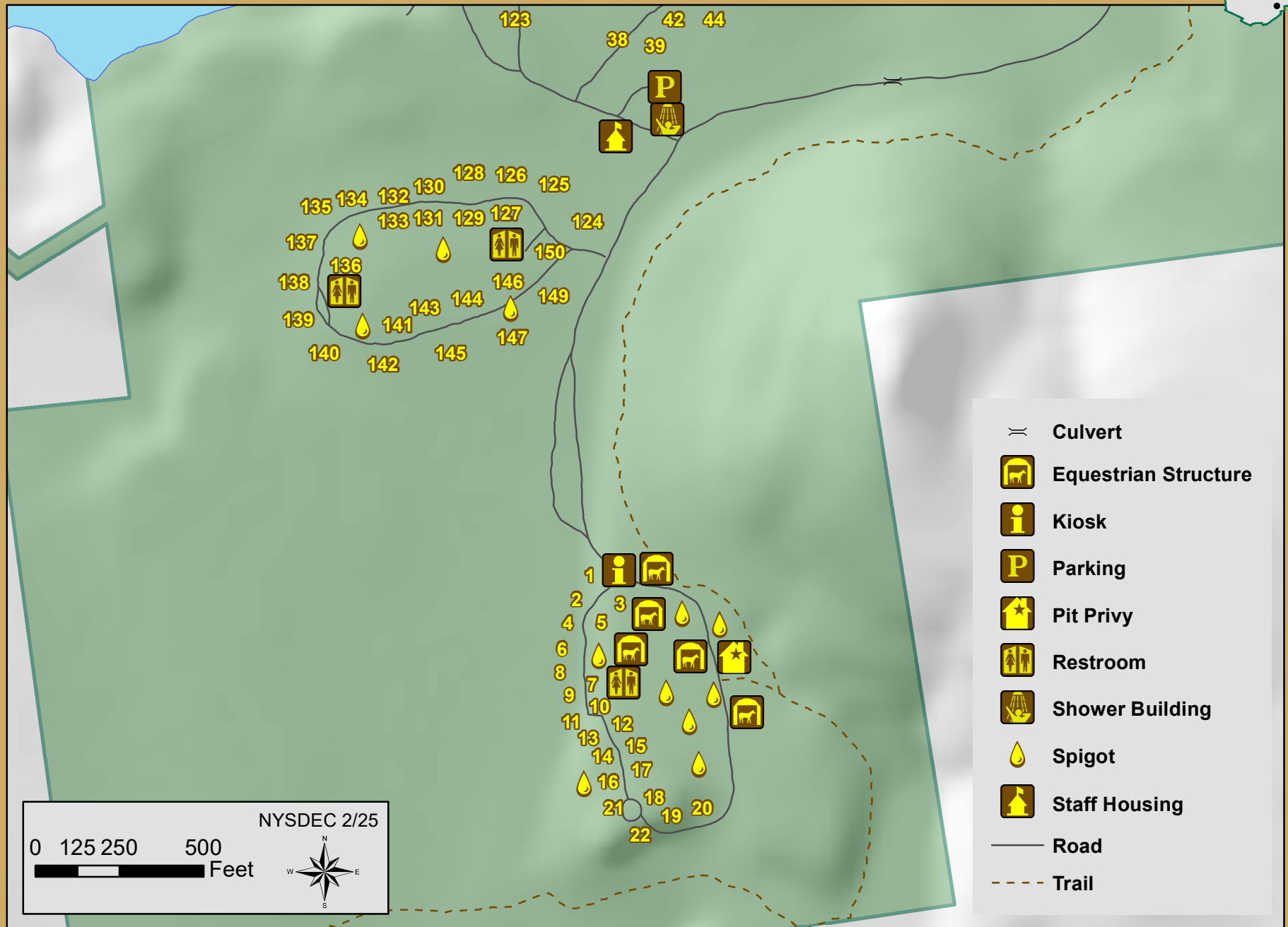


Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 4d - Facility Map

Adirondack
Park

Luzerne
Campground

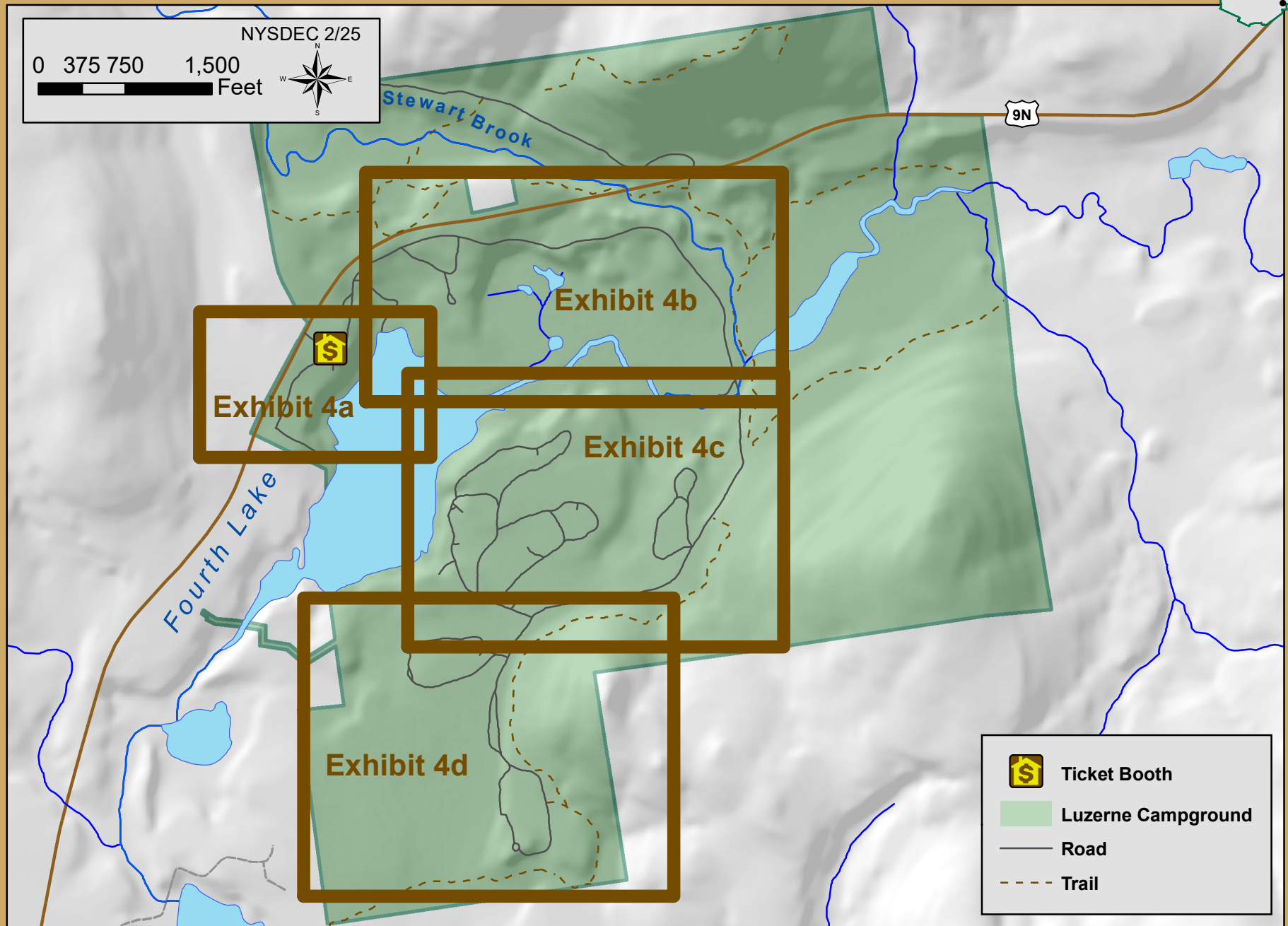


Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 4 - Facility Map Extent

Adirondack
Park

Luzerne
Campground

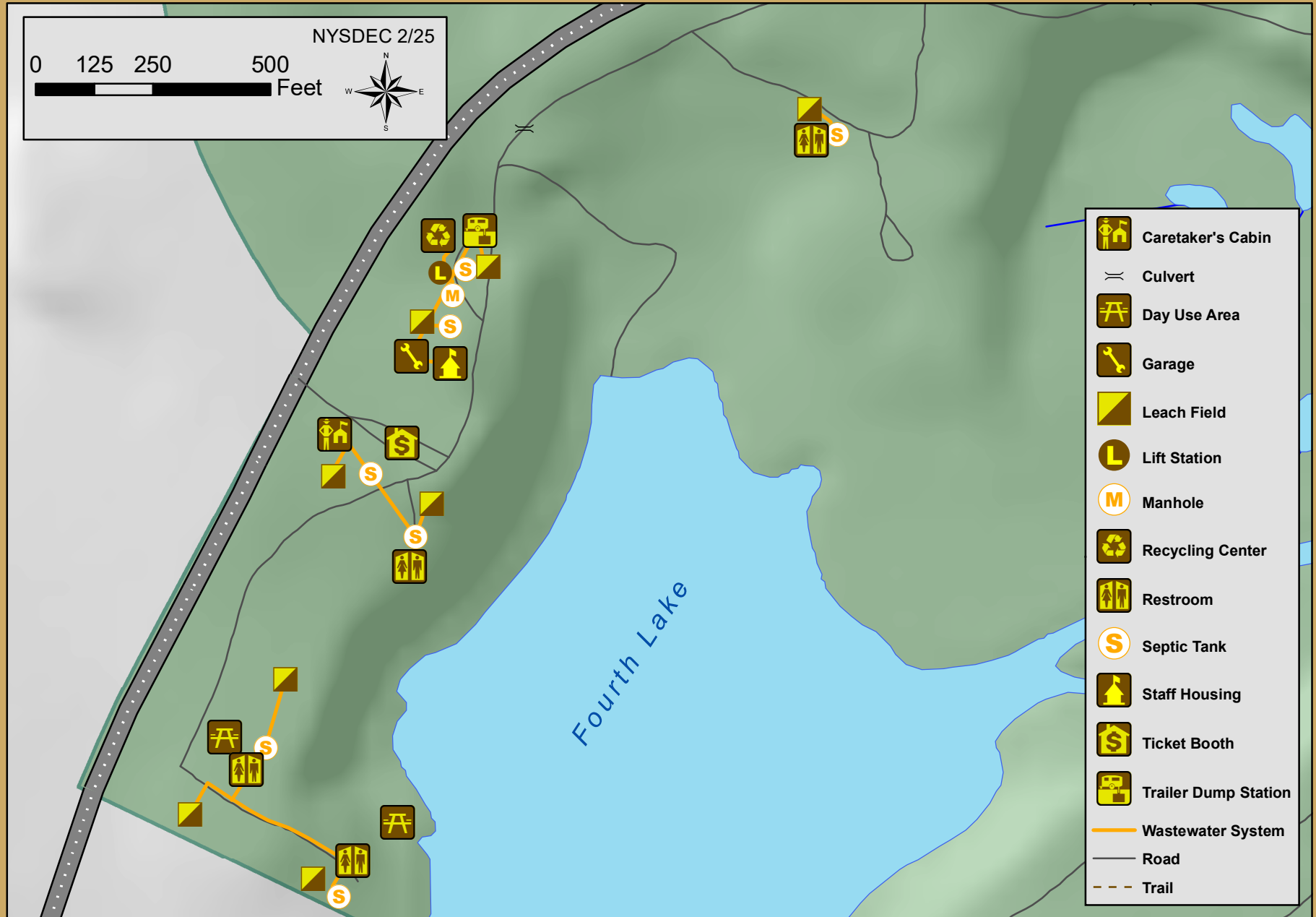


Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 5a - Sewer Map

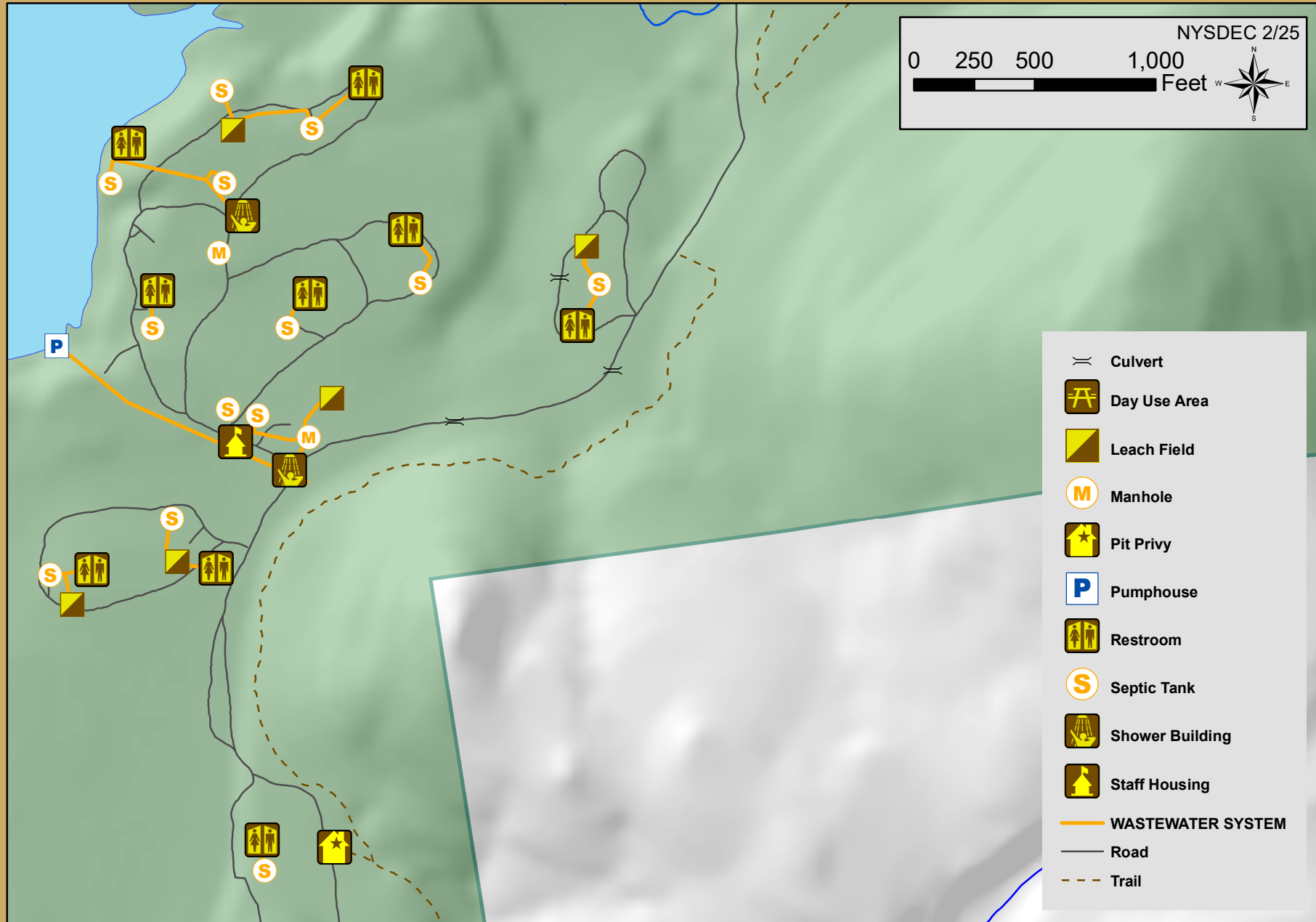
Adirondack
Park

Luzerne
Campground



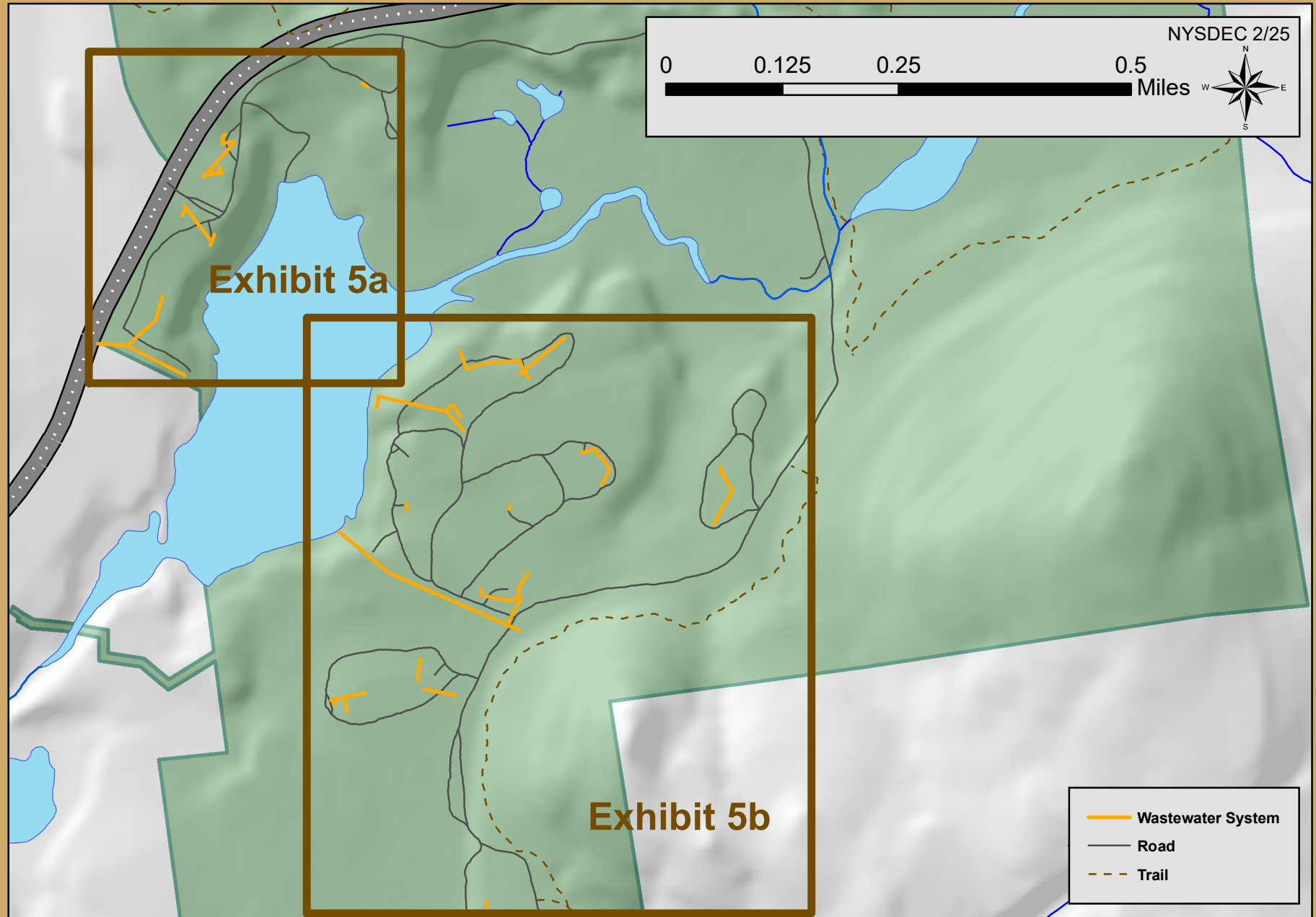
Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 5b - Sewer Map



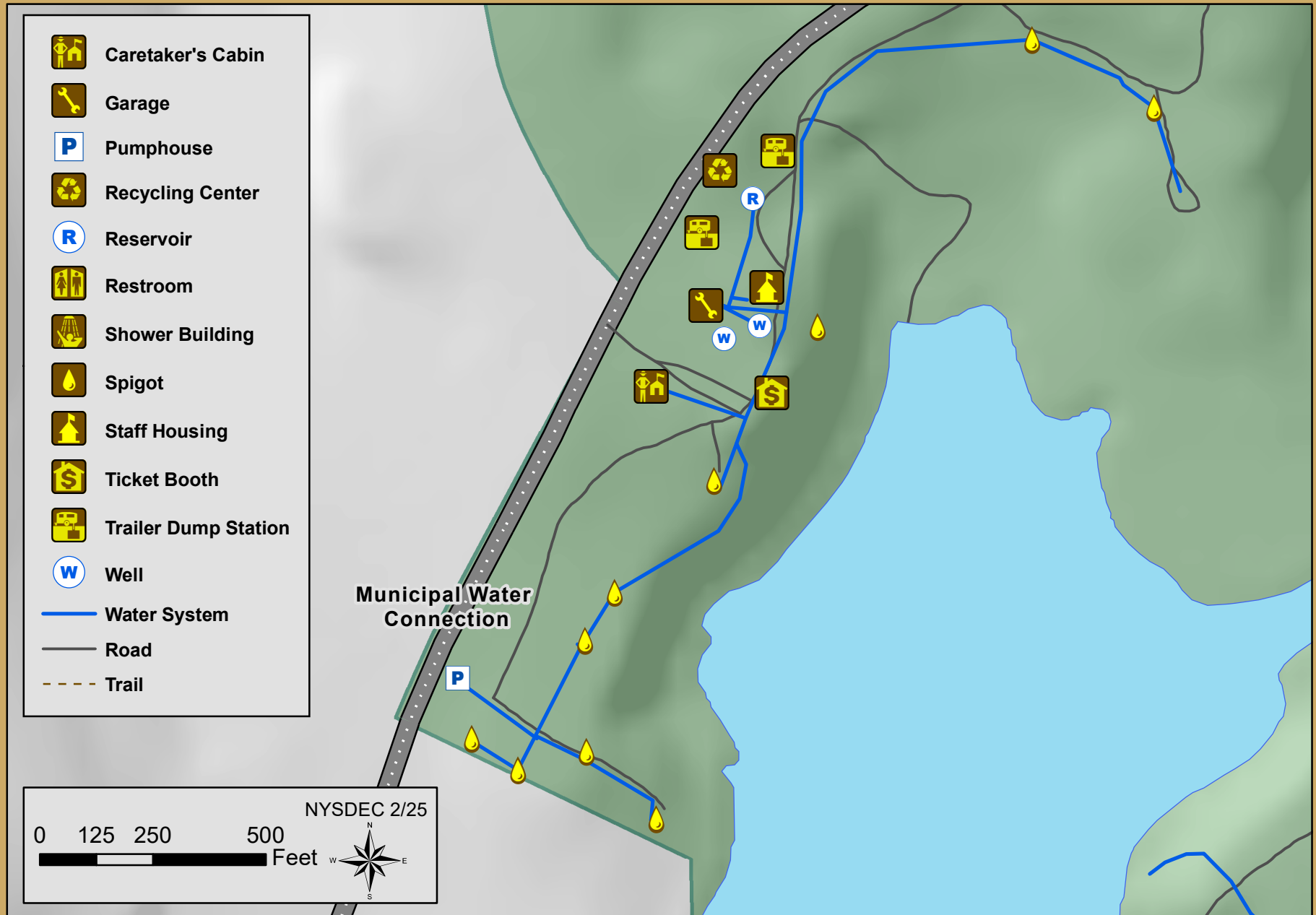
Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 5 - Sewer Map



Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 6a - Water Map

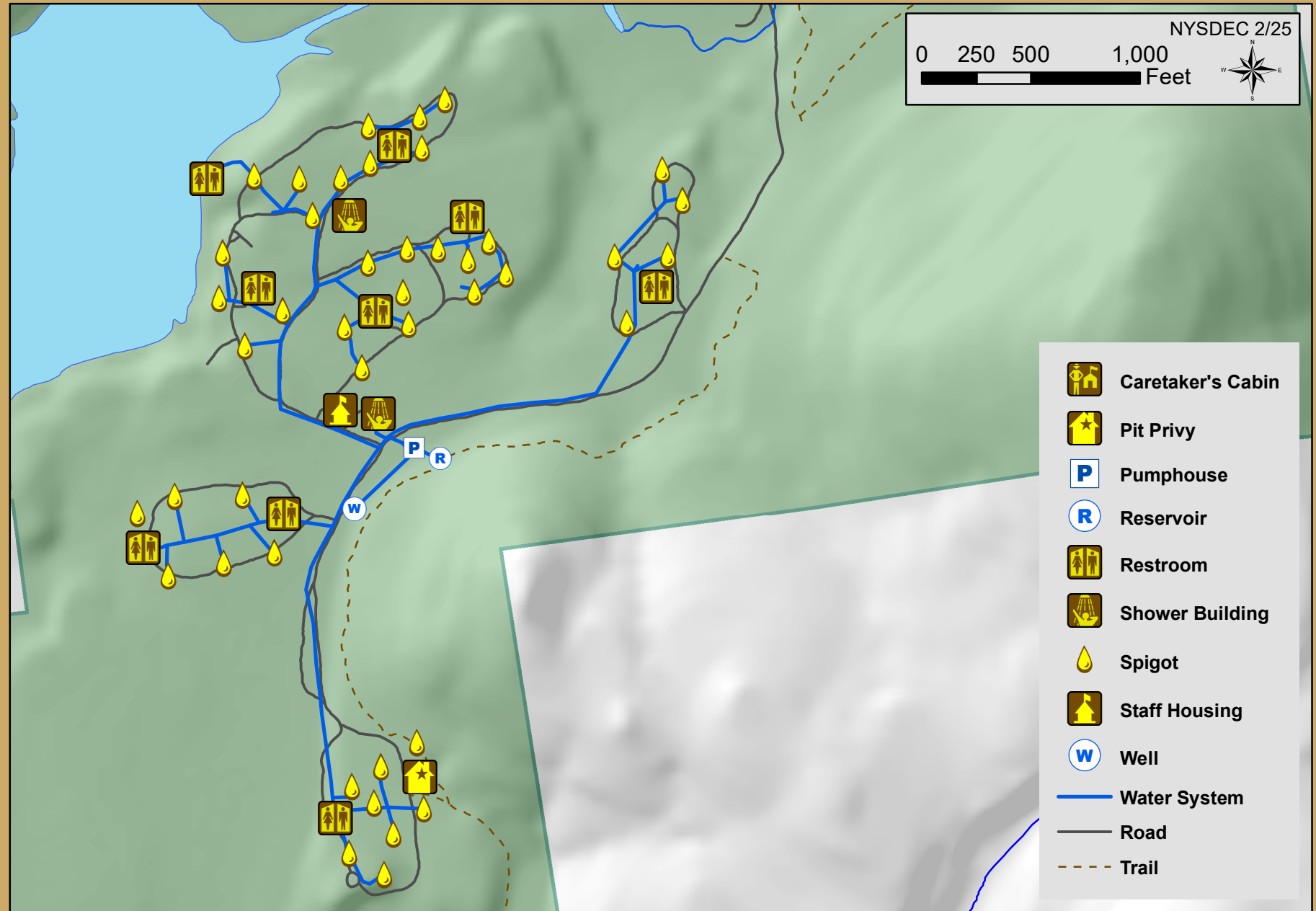


Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 6b - Water Map

Adirondack
Park

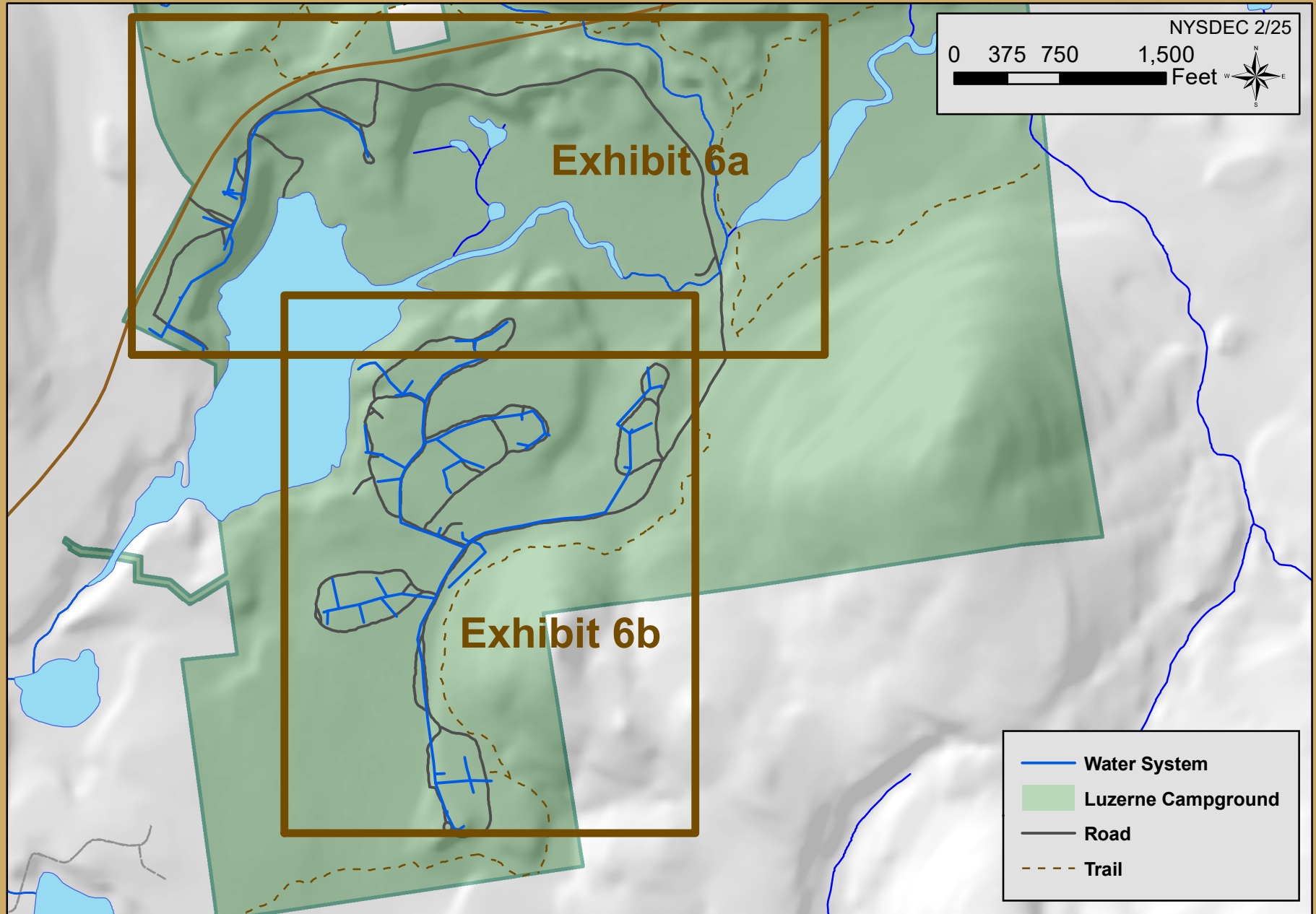
Luzerne
Campground



Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 6 - Water Map

Adirondack
Park



NYSDEC 2/25

0 375 750 1,500
Feet



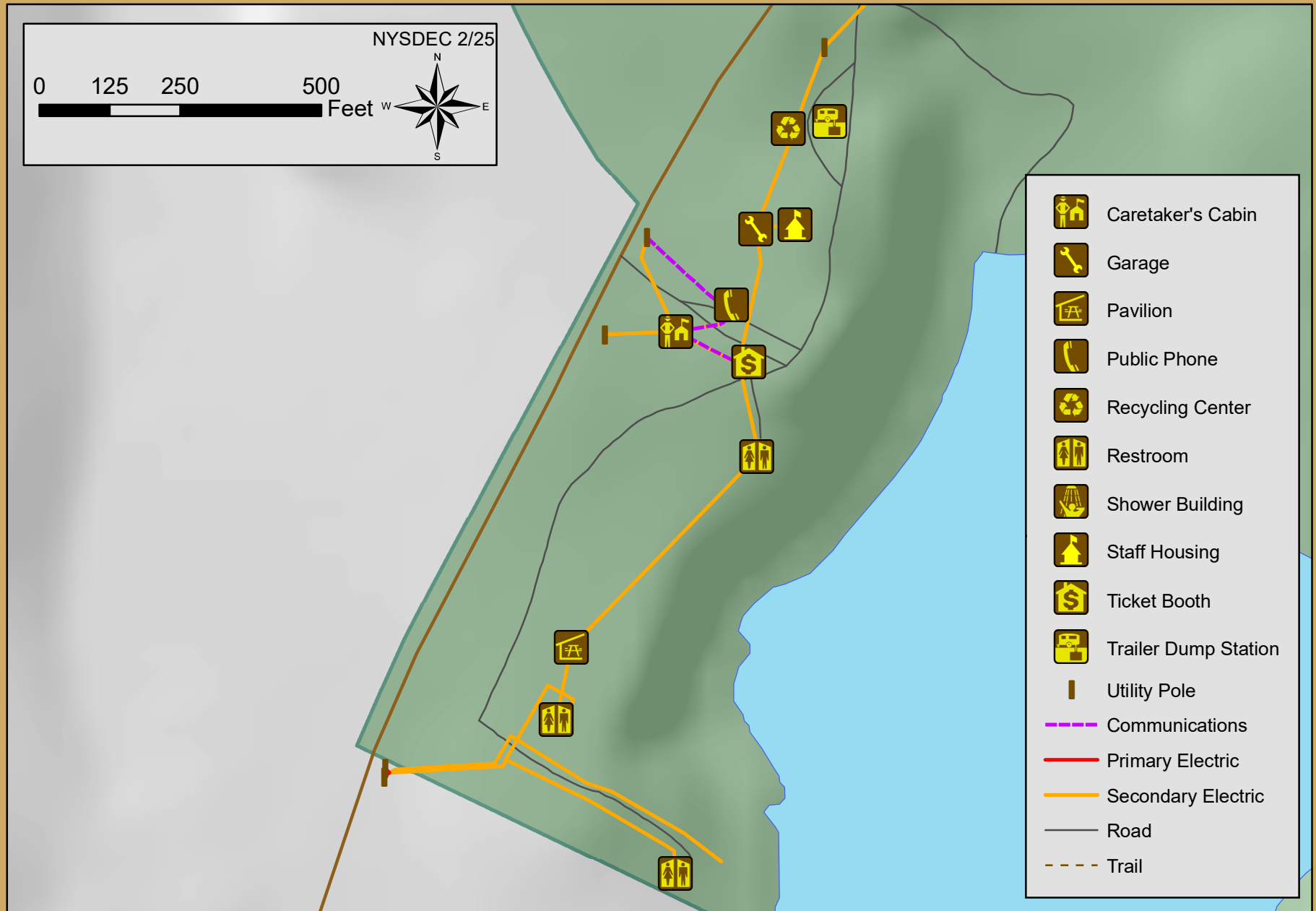
Exhibit 6a

Exhibit 6b

- Water System
- Luzerne Campground
- Road
- - - Trail

Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 7a - Electric Map

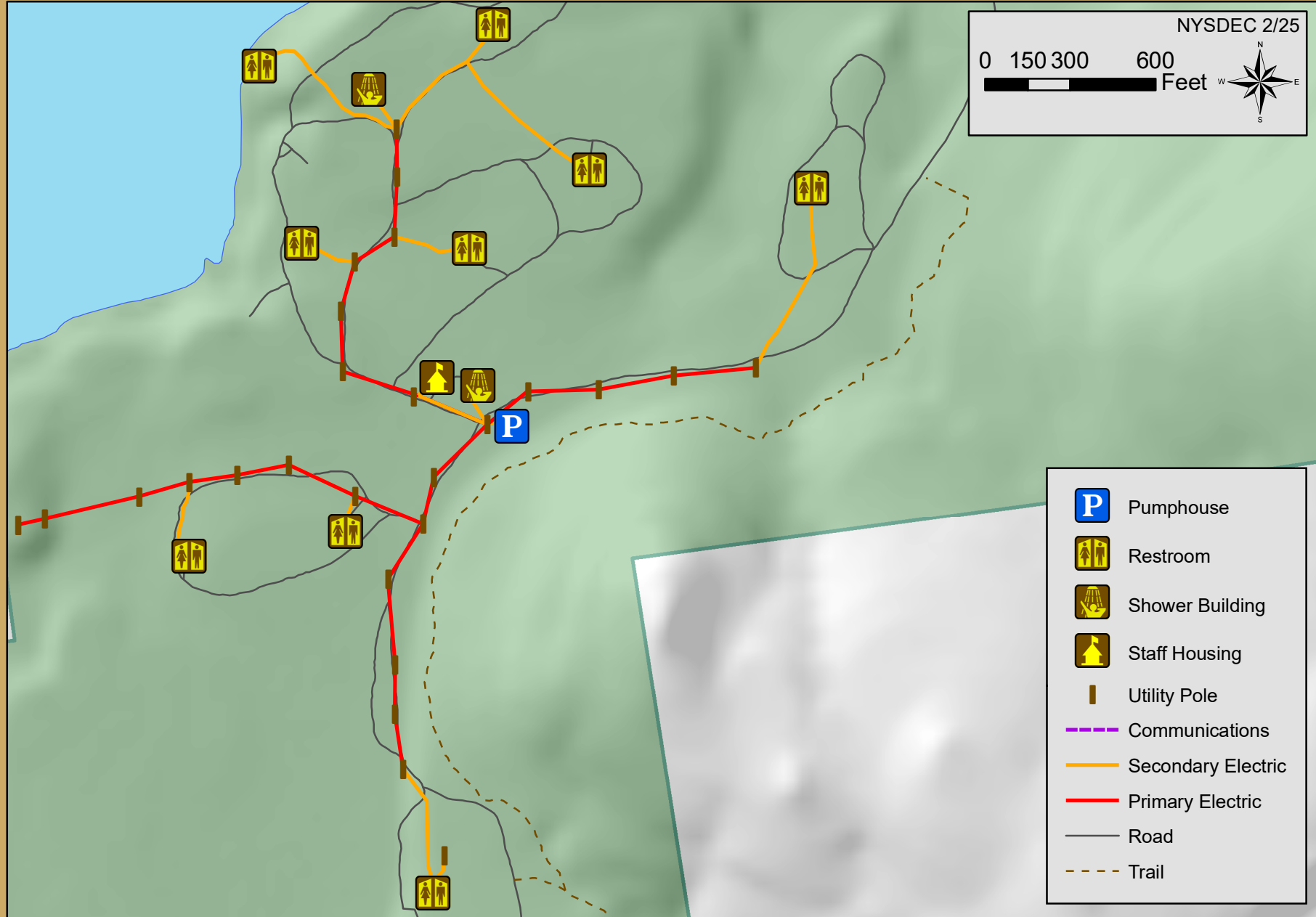
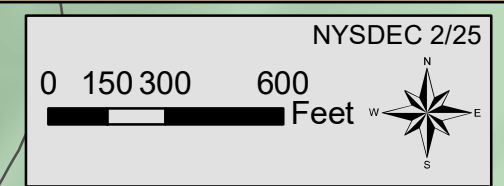


Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 7b - Electric Map

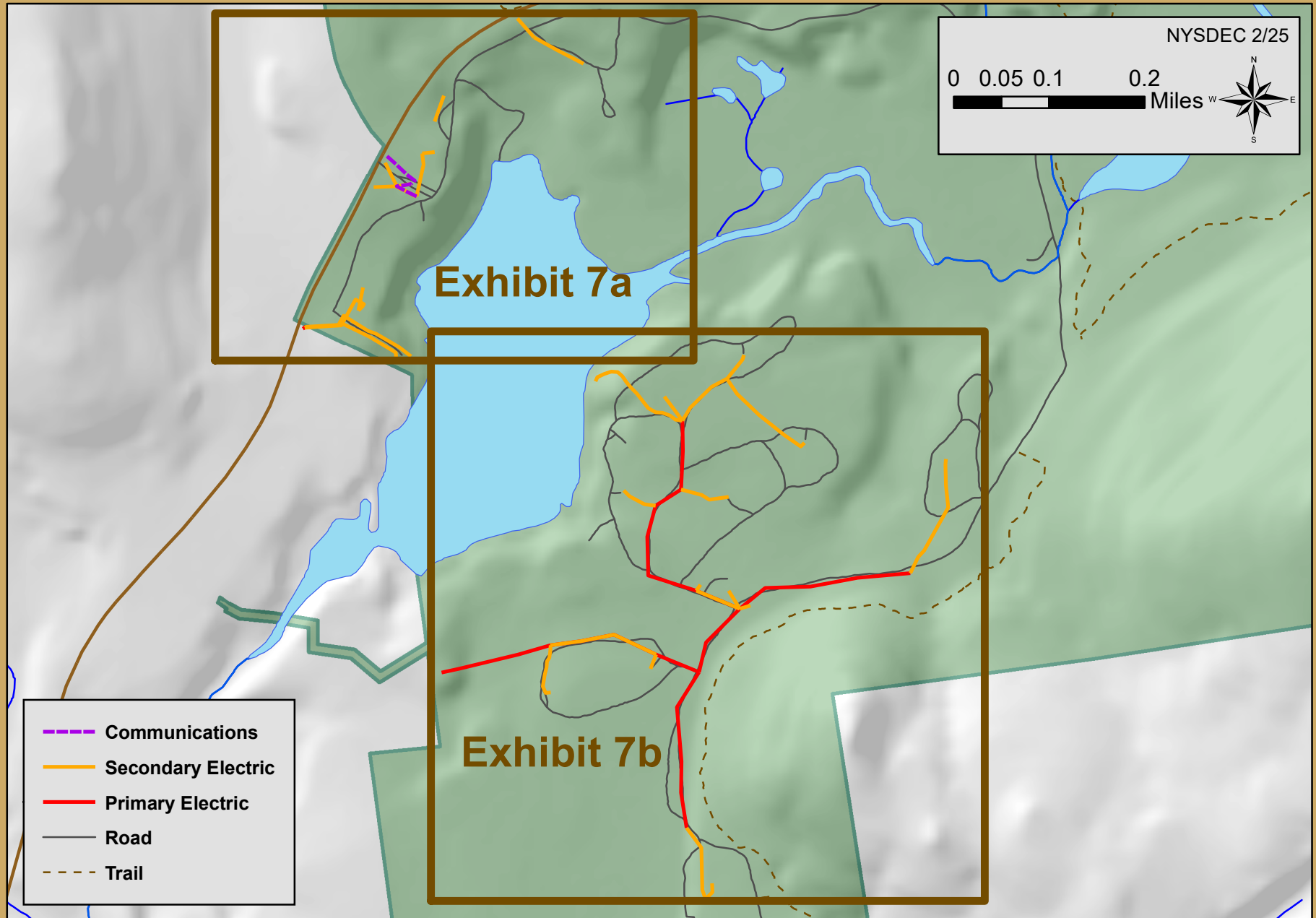
Adirondack
Park

Luzerne
Campground



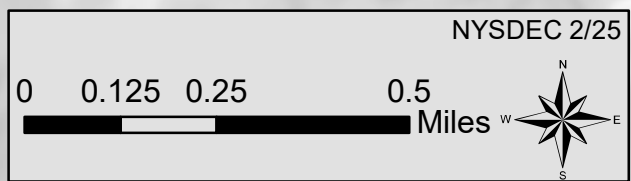
Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 7 - Electric Map

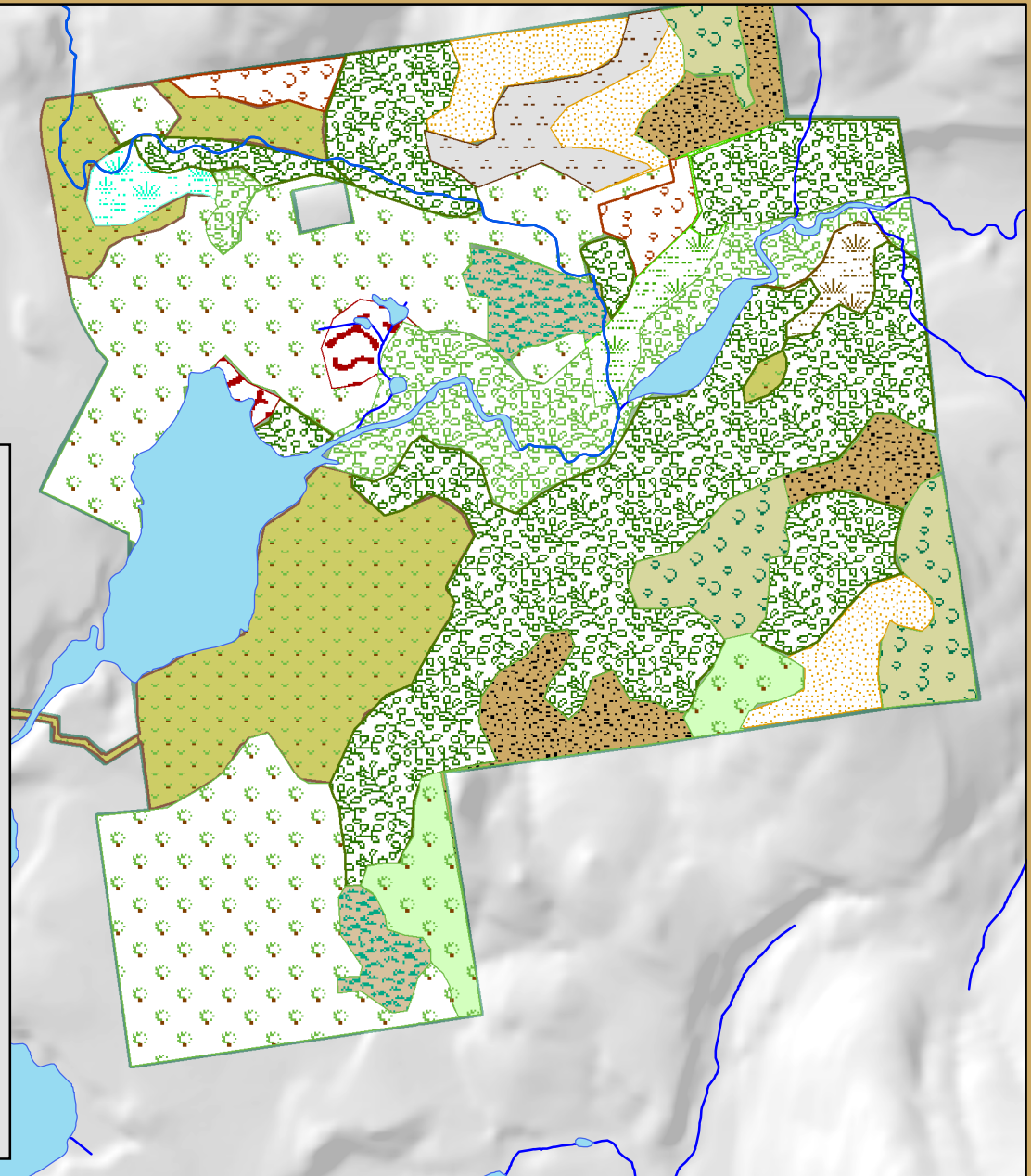


Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 8 - Forest Map



- White Pine
- Oak
- Hemlock-White Pine-Mixed Hardwood
- Hemlock-Mixed Hardwood
- Northern Hardwood-Oak
- Northern Hardwood
- Oak-Hemlock
- Northern Hardwood-Hemlock
- Open Fields (Pioneer Hardwood-White Pine)
- Mixed Hardwood
- Open Swamp (Alders-Grass)
- Swamp Hardwood
- Swamp Hardwood-White Pine
- Swamp Hardwood-Hemlock
- Bog (Black Spruce, Tamarack, White Pine)

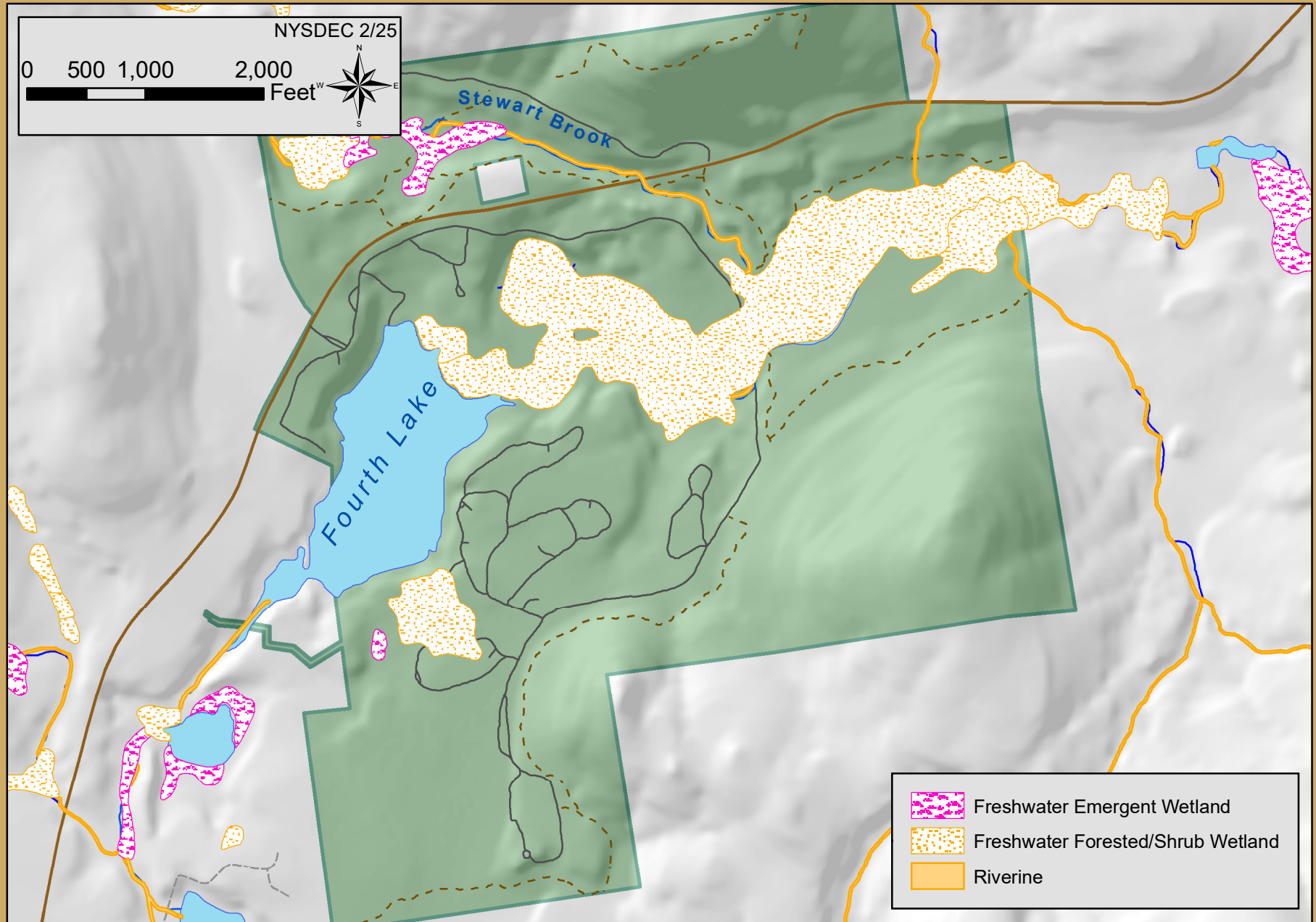


Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 9 - Wetlands Map

Adirondack
Park

Luzerne
Campground



Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 10b - Soils Map Description



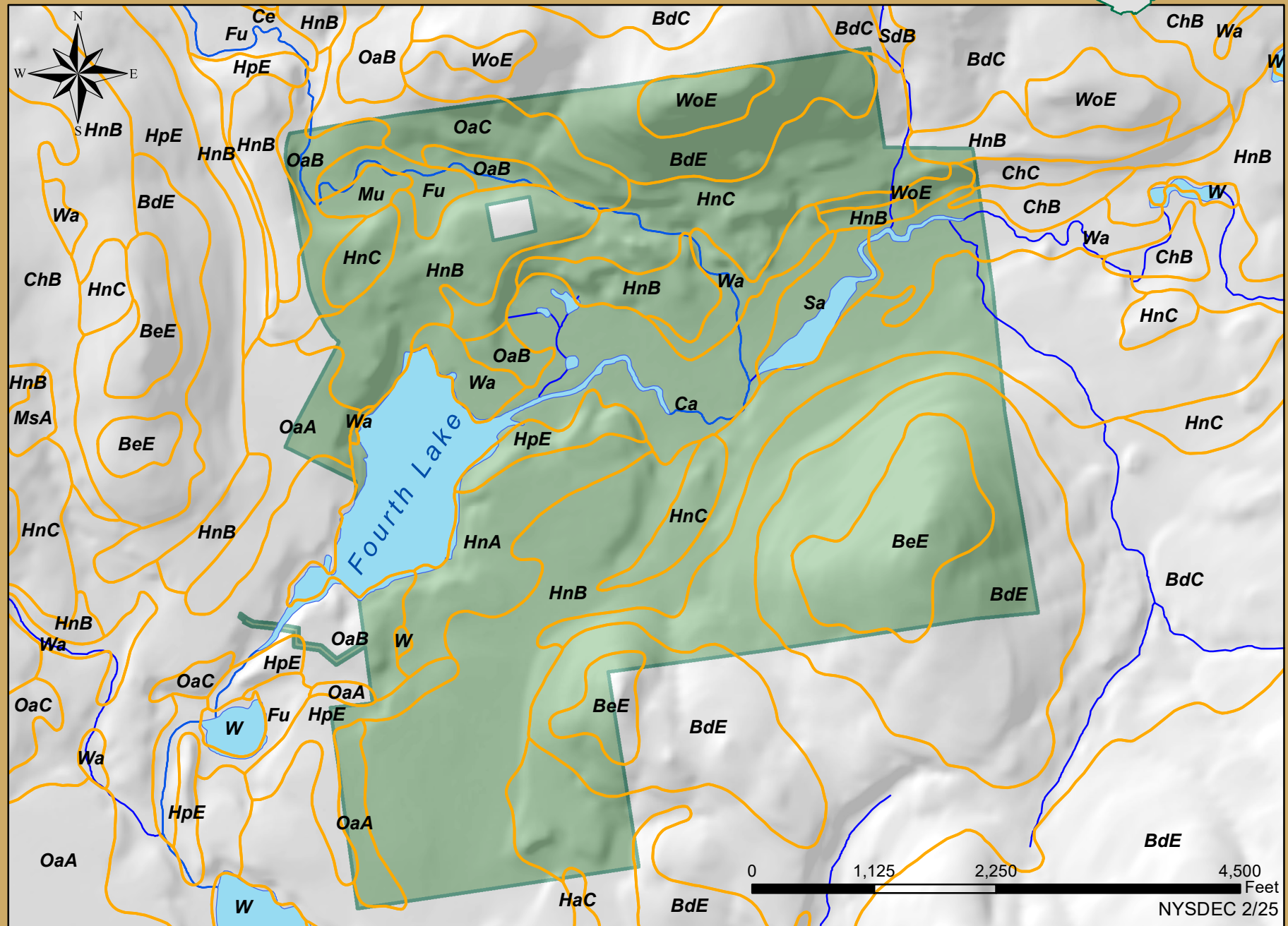
Publication Symbol	Map Unit Name	Slope Range	Depth to Bedrock	Drainage Class	Other Notes
OaA	Oakville loamy fine sand	Nearly level (0-3%)	Deep	Well drained	Prime farmland
Mu	Middlebury fine sandy loam	Nearly level (0-3%)	Deep	Moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained	Prime farmland soil, common flooding
Fu	Fluvaquents-Udifuvents complex	Nearly level to gently sloping (0-3%)	Deep	Excessively drained	Frequent flooding
HnA	Hinckley cobbly sandy loam	Nearly level (0-3%)	Deep	Excessively drained	
HnB	Hinckley cobbly sandy loam	Gently sloping (3-8%)	Deep	Excessively drained	
HnC	Hinckley cobbly sandy loam	Sloping (8-15%)	Deep	Well drained	
OaB	Oakville loamy fine sand	Gently sloping (3-8%)	Deep	Excessively drained	Prime farmland
HpE	Hinckley-Plainfield complex	Steep (15-45%)	Deep	Excessively drained	Sandy and gravelly soils
Wa	Wareham and Walpole soils	Level (0-3%)	Deep	Somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained	Sandy soils
OaC	Oakville loamy fine	Sloping (8-15%)	Deep	Well drained	
Sa	Saprist and Adupts inundated	Level Sapriata (0-2%)	Deep	Very poorly drained	Frequent flooding more than 16" of organic over mineral soil
Ca	Carlisle Muck	Level (0-2%)	Deep	Very poorly drained	Frequent flooding ponded, 51" or more
BeE	Bice-Woodstock very bouldery fine sandy loam	Steep (15-45%)	Bice/Deep Woodstock/shallow	Well drained	
BdE	Bice very buldery fine sandy loam	Steep (15-45%)	Deep	Well drained	

Luzerne Beach Campground

Exhibit # 10 - Soils Map



Adirondack
Park



0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Miles

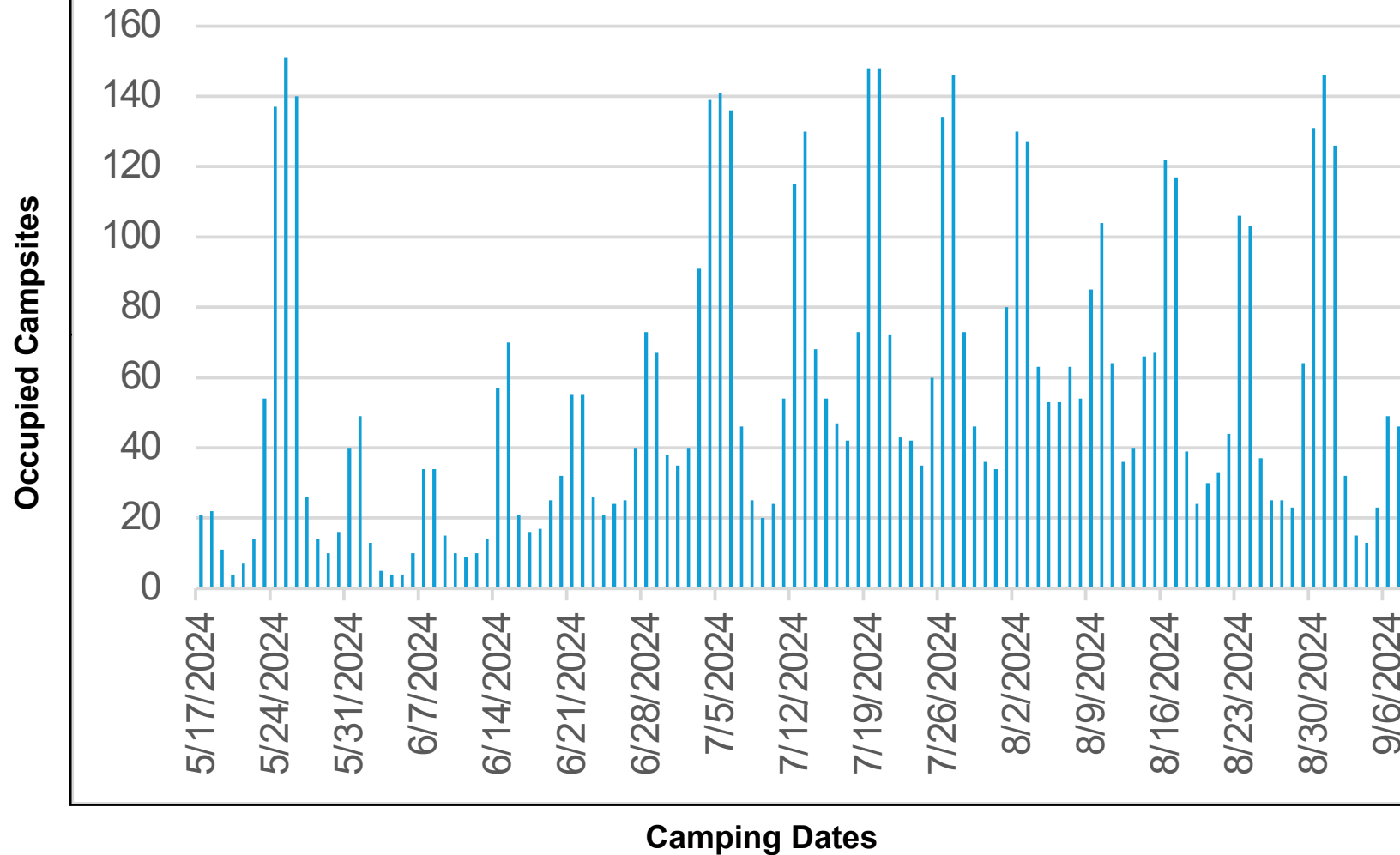
N
W E
S

State	Nights
New York	5,350
New Jersey	135
Massachusetts	128
Vermont	128
Quebec	105
Connecticut	84
Pennsylvania	63
New Hampshire	49
Florida	46
Rhode Island	30

Attendance

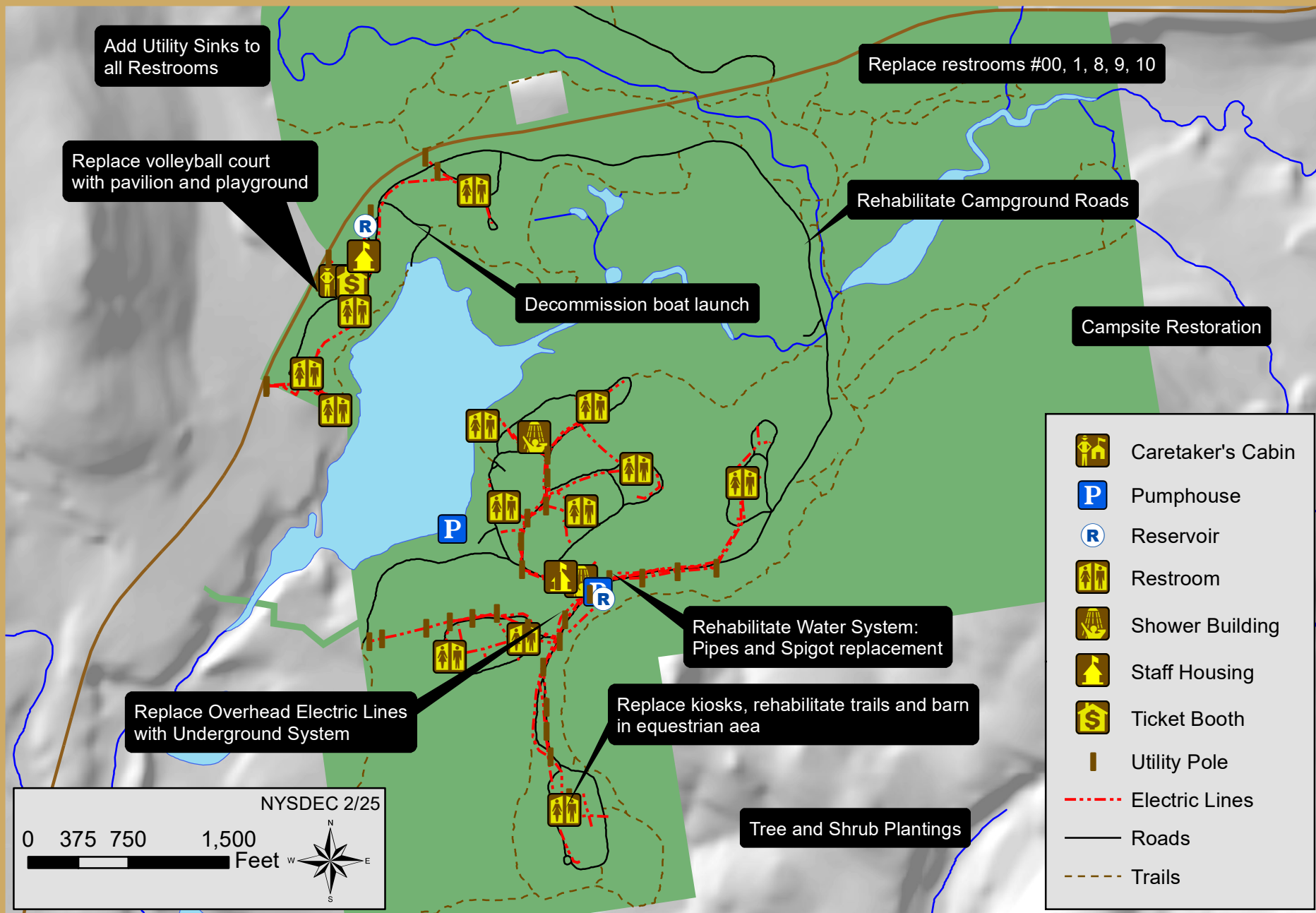
- 0-75
- 75-150
- 150-500
- 500-2000
- 2000-4157

Luzerne Daily Occupancy 2024



Luzerne Campground

Exhibit # 13 - Proposed Management Actions Map



#14 Luzerne Campground Photos



Hand Launch



Boat Rental Storage



Boat Rental



Unsupervised Swim Area



Entrance Sign



Ticket Booth



Information Kiosk



Caretaker Cabin



Garage



Recycle Center



Trailer Dumping Station



Assistant Caretaker



Lifeguard Cabin



Pumphouse



Shower 1



Shower 2



Restroom #1



Restroom #2



Restroom #3



Restroom #4



Restroom #5



Restroom #6



Restroom #7



Restroom #8



Restroom #9



Restroom #10



Restroom #11



Restroom #12



Restroom #13



Upper Day-Use Area #1



Upper Day-Use Area #2



Field of Dreams Day-Use Area



Beach Day-Use Area



Pavilion



Paved Day-Use Area



Volleyball Court



Shower Parking



Unsupervised Swim Area Parking



Horse Stud Stall



Equestrian Area w/ Picnic Tables



Horse Mounting Station



Kiosk w/ Horse Trails

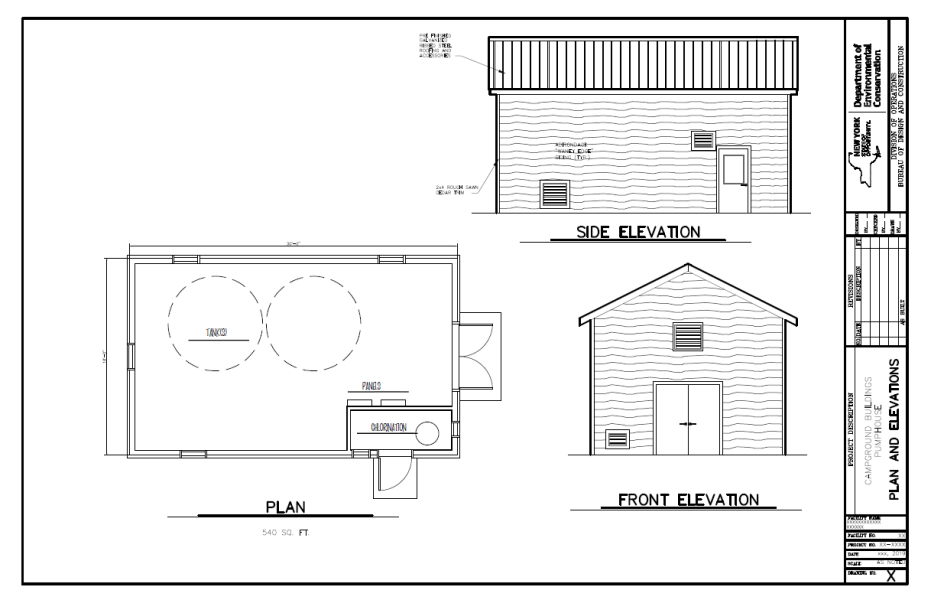


Horse Tie Stall (8 Stalls)

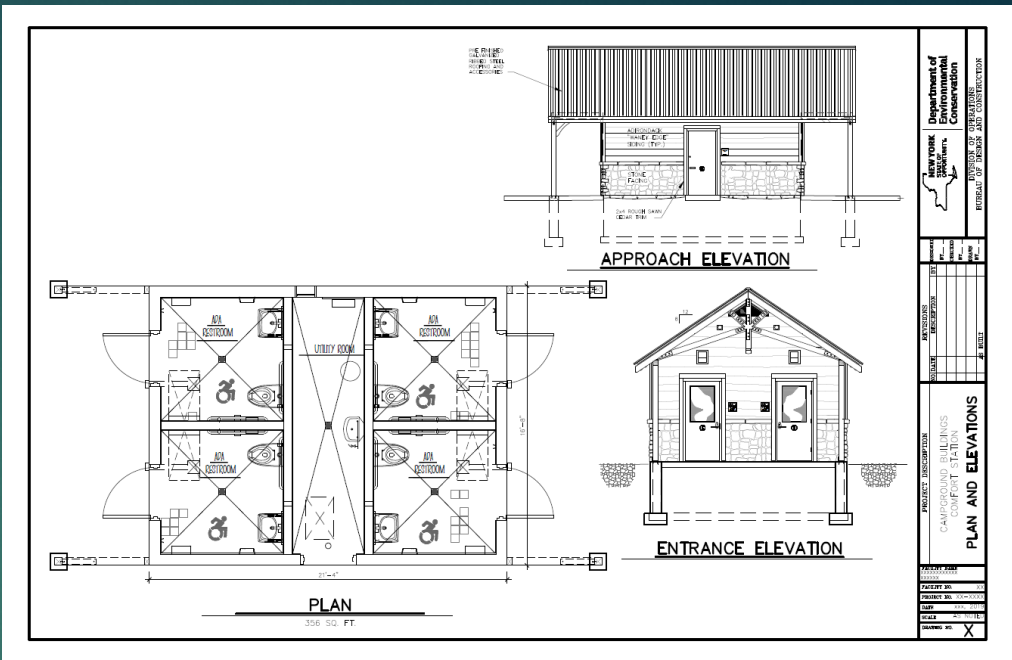


Horse Tie Stall (18 Stalls)

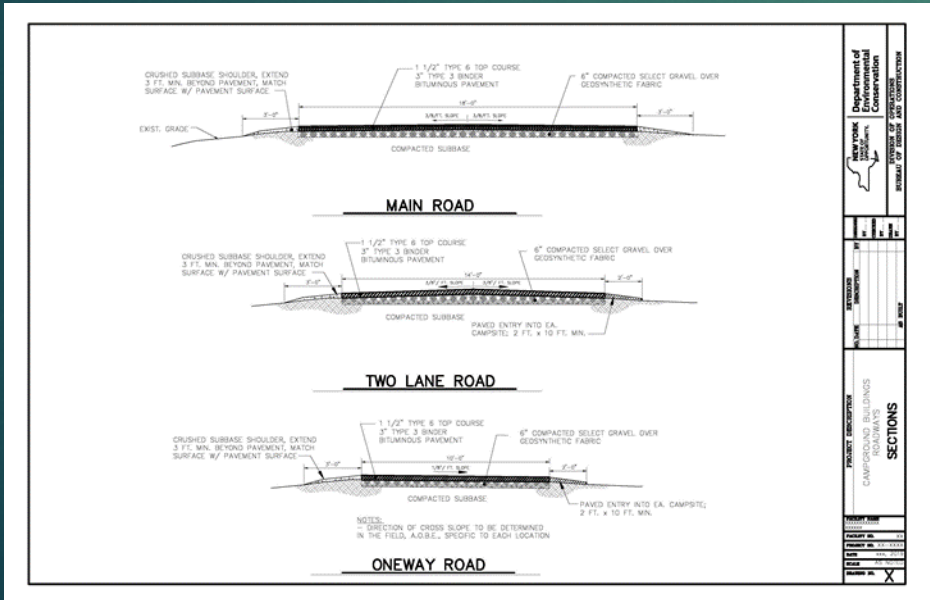
#15 Typical Drawings



Water System Overhaul



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



Road Section Profile – Camp Roads Renovation



Exhibit 16 Response to public comments

DEC held a public comment period from August 15 - September 15, 2025. During that time, 2 written comments and 3 survey responses were received for Luzerne Campground and Day-Use Area Unit Management Plans (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, several common themes emerged. DEC's and APA's responses are grouped by each theme below.

Public comments regarding Invasive Species monitoring, prevention, and potential impacts to waterbody.

Summarized Public Comments- The threat of invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial. Requests for access to boat washing stations, signage, and enhanced mitigation efforts are some of the issues related to aquatic invasive species voiced by the public.

DEC response- DEC currently has no plans to include a boat wash at this facility. While the threat of invasive species does exist, they are monitored consistently throughout the year and mitigated when necessary. Motorboats, the primary vector of aquatic invasive species, are also not allowed at Fourth Lake, and will continue to not be allowed at Fourth Lake. DEC has no plans to allow the use of motorboats in the future at this facility.

DEC's designation of sites for decontamination stations is dependent upon the presence of small-bodied AIS and boater traffic patterns. The risk of AIS introduction and spread at Fourth Lake will be reviewed for future contracts.

In addition, signage will be added at the fishing and waterway access site 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 currently contracts with the Adirondack Watershed Institute to provide boat inspection and decontamination services for aquatic invasive species at numerous locations throughout the

Adirondack Park. Mitigation efforts, if needed, are expected if the size and scale of the invasives are deemed necessary for mitigation.

Public comments regarding plan to rehabilitate campground roads.

Summarized Public Comments- One comment was received related to potential impacts of the proposed paving and resurfacing at Luzerne 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 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. 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 1990 FGEIS does. The FGEIS discusses management objectives and actions pertaining to campground roads. The FGEIS states as a management objective 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.) Finally, 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 construction of a playground.

Summarized Public Comments: Luzerne Campground 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. This comment also discusses potential SLMP problems.

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 FGEIS states: “Childrens **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 proposed rustic playground structure consists 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. Proposed construction activities avoid material alteration of wetlands, do not require extensive topographic alterations, limit vegetative clearing, and will utilize existing developed areas to preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the IUA. Finally, the proposed location of the playground is set back greater than 150 feet from the mean high-water mark of Fourth Lake 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 include playgrounds of a similar nature and have been approved by the Agency: Cranberry Lake, Fish Creek Ponds, Ausable Point, Rollins Pond, Hinckley, and Meacham Lake.

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 Luzerne Campground, DEC believes the existing infrastructure has the capacity to accommodate for this program.

Public comments regarding the addition of EV Charging Stations:

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

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

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 throughout the campground, as well as in the Field of Dreams area as part of a rewilding effort.

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 of DEC's sustainability efforts.

Public comments regarding the reduction of campsites:

Summarized Public Comments: DEC received a comment suggesting eliminating approximately 75 sites from Luzerne, due to perceived non-compliance with the SLMP's limit of 150 campsites in Intensive Use Areas.

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

The APSLMP does not mandate closure of campsites or the campground as a whole. The Luzerne facility was opened prior to the adoption of the APSLMP in 1972. On page 43, the APSLMP reads “[t]he 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.”