

MEMORANDUM

TO: Barbara Rice, Executive Director

FROM: Mitchell Jones, Environmental Program Specialist 1

DATE: November 14th, 2025

RE: Staff Review of the November 2025 Proposed Final UMP for
Luzerne Public Campground.

Staff have completed review of the November 2025 Proposed Final Unit Management Plan for the Luzerne Public Campground (2025 UMP). The 2025 UMP proposes the following management actions: replace existing infrastructure; rehabilitate roads kiosks, trails, the barn in the equestrian area, water systems; bury overhead electric lines; add utility sinks to all restrooms; plant trees and shrubs; remove the fishing and waterway access site northeast of the day use area; replace the volleyball court with a playground and pavilion; reconstruct a bridge; and restore campsites.

In August 1990, the DEC adopted the Final Generic UMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for campgrounds and day-use areas (1990 Generic UMP/EIS) which provides information on the environmental setting, inventory of facilities, organizational structure, issues, constraints, management objectives, and effects for campgrounds and day-use areas in the Adirondack Park. In May 1994, the DEC adopted the Luzerne Public Campground Final UMP (1994 UMP). The 2025 UMP will supersede the 1994 UMP.

Agency staff worked with DEC staff to assure compliance with the APSLMP.

On August 14th, 2025, the Agency Board authorized staff to proceed with a joint public comment period with the Department for the proposed 2025 UMP. The public comment period ran from August 14th, 2025 through September 15th, 2025. The Department received two comment letters and three survey responses and the Agency received five letters during the public comment period.

Luzerne Public Campground is classified as an Intensive Use Area (IUA). IUAs are facilities for intensive forms of outdoor recreation. Two types of IUAs are identified in the APSLMP: day use areas and campgrounds. The APSLMP includes Luzerne Public Campground in its campground inventory (APSLMP at 119).

The APSLMP outlines requirements for construction and development activities in Intensive Use Areas. The proposed management actions conform to these requirements. The proposed projects avoid material alteration of wetlands. Proposed topographic alterations are minimal and little to no vegetative clearing is proposed. Construction activities will take place in already disturbed areas where existing infrastructure will be replaced. This will help ensure the scenic, natural and open space resources of the area are preserved.

The APSLMP offers guidelines and criteria specific to campgrounds. The 2025 UMP is consistent with these guidelines, including the directive that “older, existing campgrounds will be rehabilitated and reconstructed as soon as possible to reflect modern site planning principles that will better blend the facilities with the environment and will comply with the provisions of this master plan” (APSLMP at 43). Pages 20-26 of the 2025 UMP provide a thorough justification for how the proposed management actions comply with the aforementioned APSLMP requirements.

For the reasons set forth above, it is the opinion of staff that the proposed final draft of the 2025 UMP amendment for Luzerne Public Campground conforms to the general guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP.