



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# **CRANBERRY LAKE BOAT LAUNCH AMENDMENT**

to the

1996 Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Unit Management Plan  
St. Lawrence County

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Basil Seggos, Commissioner

**NYS DEC, Region 6, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Fisheries**

317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY 13601  
P: (315) 785-2263 | F: (315) 785-2242 | r6.ump@dec.ny.gov

This page intentionally left blank

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway, 14th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-1010  
P: (518) 402-8545 | F: (518) 402-8541  
www.dec.ny.gov

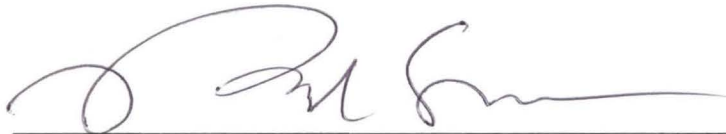
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Record  
**FROM:** Basil Seggos  
**SUBJECT:** Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Unit Management Plan Amendment

---

The Amendment to the 1996 Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Unit Management Plan has been completed. The Adirondack Park Agency has found the Amendment to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Amendment is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.



---

Basil Seggos  
*Commissioner*  
*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

Date: 7/9/18

This page intentionally left blank



**SHERMAN CRAIG**  
Chairman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
WITH RESPECT TO THE  
CRANBERRY LAKE BOAT LAUNCH  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

**June 7, 2018**

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

**WHEREAS**, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with such guidelines and criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, DEC prepared a unit management plan for the Cranberry Lake Boat Launch in 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, DEC has prepared an amendment to the 1996 Plan, dated April 2018 (Proposed Final 2018 Amendment), and

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to the 1996 Plan proposes to construct various improvements to the boat launch facility, including an accessible beach launch for hand-carry boats, and accessible parking spaces, paths and port-a-Johns; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, DEC determined that the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and filed notice thereof in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on May 2, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 12, 2018 DEC presented the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to the Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency established a public comment period on conformance of the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment with the APSLMP, which ran from March 22, 2018 through April 27, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency received three written comments during the public comment period regarding the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, none of the public comments received raised issues concerning the conformance of the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment with the APSLMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment, the May 31, 2018 Memorandum from Kathy Regan to Terry Martino, Agency staff's June 7, 2018 presentation, public comment, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's June 7, 2018 2018 meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Agency finds the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to the 1996 Cranberry Lake Boat Launch UMP, dated April 2018, conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

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

Ayes: Karen Feldman, Chad Dawson, John Ernst, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas, Dan Wilt, Lynne Mahoney, Brad Austin, Robert Stegemann

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Sherman Craig

## **UMP AMENDMENT #1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Site (BLS) is in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County, NY. It is approximately 70 miles east of Watertown and 30 miles west of Tupper Lake on NYS Route 3. The boat launch is in the Hamlet of Cranberry Lake about one-quarter mile south of NYS Route 3 on Columbian Road, which runs along the west side of Cranberry Lake. In 1963 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation acquired 2.9 acres of land through a transfer of jurisdiction from the Oswegatchie River – Cranberry Reservoir Commission located on the northern side of Columbian Road (Lower Lot). The Lower Lot was developed into a boat launch site, which included parking for 15 vehicles with trailers and sanitary facilities in the site plan layout soon after the transfer. In 1989 the boat launch site was upgraded by the removal of the existing timber bulkheads, which were replaced with steel sheet-piling. Seasonally removable floating docks were also added during the upgrade to this already functional, hard-surface launch ramp. This much-needed rehabilitation was recommended in the 1987 Strategic Plan for Modernization of Department of Environmental Conservation Waterway Access Facilities in New York State.

By the 1990's, the parking area for 15 vehicles with trailers became too small to adequately accommodate the volume of use this site was receiving. On February 5, 1993, an additional 2.07 acres (Upper Lot) was acquired from the Oswegatchie River – Cranberry Reservoir Regulating District Corporation for \$8,400.00. The acquisition of this additional parcel was classified as an Inland Waterway Access and purchased through the 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act.

A Unit Management Plan (UMP) was drafted in 1994 to provide written guidance for the development of the Upper Lot into a 40-vehicle with trailer overflow parking area, including overnight parking capacity to relieve the congestion and unsafe parking conditions that were beginning to occur in the Lower Lot and boat launching areas. In addition, the UMP recommended that the entire Cranberry Lake BLS be classified as Intensive Use pursuant to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). Also included in the UMP is a description of the natural resources, public use, economic importance and capacity to withstand use, along with the management plans and policy for this site.

On March 15, 1996, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) produced a resolution stating: “that the Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Unit Management Plan complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan including the Guidelines for Management and Use of the Intensive Use Areas and Boat Launching Sites.” The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was notified on March 27, 1996 of this determination which included a copy of the APA's resolution with the notification letter.

This proposed amendment to the Cranberry Lake BLS UMP is for the construction of an accessible beach launch for hand-carry boats, including canoes and kayaks. The construction will include two accessible parking spaces with an associated access aisle located next to an accessible port-a-John. This will also include a 5-foot wide accessible path connecting the parking area, the port-a-John, and the beach launch areas. In addition, two accessible parking spaces for vehicles with

trailers and an associated access aisle will be constructed in the lower lot of the Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Site. There will also be a 5-foot wide accessible path constructed to connect the accessible vehicle with trailer parking spaces to the launch facility.

### **MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES AND SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

No Action Alternative – This would leave the current UMP in place, resulting in a safety issue for paddlers and rowers (canoes/kayaks/car-top boats) who use the concrete motorboat launch ramp and floating docks for launching their watercraft. Some paddlers and rowers are using the existing beach area just to the east of the concrete launch site, which is causing some erosion of the shoreline and precludes the use by persons with disabilities, as this area does not provide an adequate, firm and stable surface as per accessibility guidelines.

Alternative 1 – Construct a beach launch area consistent with the accessibility guidelines to the southwest of the existing concrete launch area. This action would create more than one unsafe condition for paddlers and rowers. The first would have paddlers and rowers crossing in front of vehicles attempting to launch trailered watercraft, creating an additional unsafe condition and adding more congestion to a highly used site. The second would be allowing paddlers and rowers to launch closer to the dam and the warning buoys. The third would cause paddlers and rowers to cross in front of the motorboat launch as they go out into and return from the lake. The goal is to create a safe launch area for persons of varying abilities; therefore, this alternative will not be supported.

Alternative 2 – The Preferred Alternative – This alternative would require moving the existing accessible port-a-John and the kiosk, the cutting of thirteen (13) trees, and the construction of an accessible parking area along with an accessible path connecting the accessible parking area to the accessible beach launch. This would keep the paddlers and rowers to the east side of the existing motorboat launch ramp and well upstream of the dam and warning buoys. The addition of two accessible parking spaces for vehicles with trailers and an associated access aisle in the lower lot of the Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Site will also provide a much-needed improvement for persons with disabilities.



**IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED**

**A. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

1. Cut down and properly remove thirteen (13) trees to clear the area for construction.
  - a. The tree removal tally for site construction is as follows:

<b>DBH/Species</b>	<b>Yellow Birch</b>	<b>Hemlock</b>	<b>Sugar Maple</b>	<b>Beech</b>	<b>Black Cherry</b>	<b>Totals</b>
3 – 4"			4			4
5 – 6"	2	1	1	1		5
7 – 8"						0
9 – 10"		1				1
11 – 12"				1	1	2
13 – 14"	1					1
<b>Totals</b>	3	2	5	2	1	13

2. Move the current kiosk to the position depicted in the site plan drawings.
3. Move the currently accessible port-a-John to the position depicted in the site plan drawings.
4. Develop two (2) accessible parking spaces with an associated access aisle in the parking lot (see Figure 3) to be compliant with accessibility guidelines to the position depicted in the site plan drawings.
  - a. Develop an accessible outdoor recreation access route from the accessible parking spaces to the accessible beach launch and accessible floating docks as depicted in the site plan drawings.
  - b. Due to the terrain and existing drainage patterns, no other suitable alternative sites are present any closer to the existing boat launch site. To provide proper drainage and sloping consistent with the Accessibility guidelines some minor grading of the area will be required.
5. Develop two (2) accessible parking spaces for vehicles with trailers and an associated access aisle near the lower parking lot (see Figure 3) to be compliant with accessibility guidelines to the position depicted in the site plan drawings.
  - a. Develop an accessible outdoor recreation access route from the accessible parking spaces for vehicles with trailers to the accessible beach launch and accessible floating docks as depicted in the site plan drawings.
  - b. Due to the terrain and existing drainage patterns, no other suitable alternative sites are present any closer to the existing boat launch site. To provide proper drainage and sloping consistent with the accessibility guidelines some minor grading of the area will be required.
6. Shoreline and beach launch area construction will feature the following:
  - a. A turbidity curtain will be installed and secured.
  - b. A couple of large rocks near the beach shoreline will be relocated to increase safety in the launch area. The large rocks will be kept within the lake to maintain current habitat conditions.
  - c. The bank of the shoreline leading down to the beach area will require some minor sloping to achieve accessibility guidance standards.

- d. A self-adjusting, floating dock will be installed on the landward side of the east/northeast bulkhead to create a safe docking area for paddlers and rowers who are waiting to use the beach launch. The decking will consist of natural red cedar in order to blend with the surroundings as much as possible.
7. The site will be restored to its original condition as may be necessary, including seeding with native species and mulching with straw if necessary.
8. Spill kits will be on-site to be utilized in the event of any equipment failure.

## Attachment A. Maps, Photographs, and Site Plans

### UMP Amendment #1 – 1996 Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Unit Management Plan

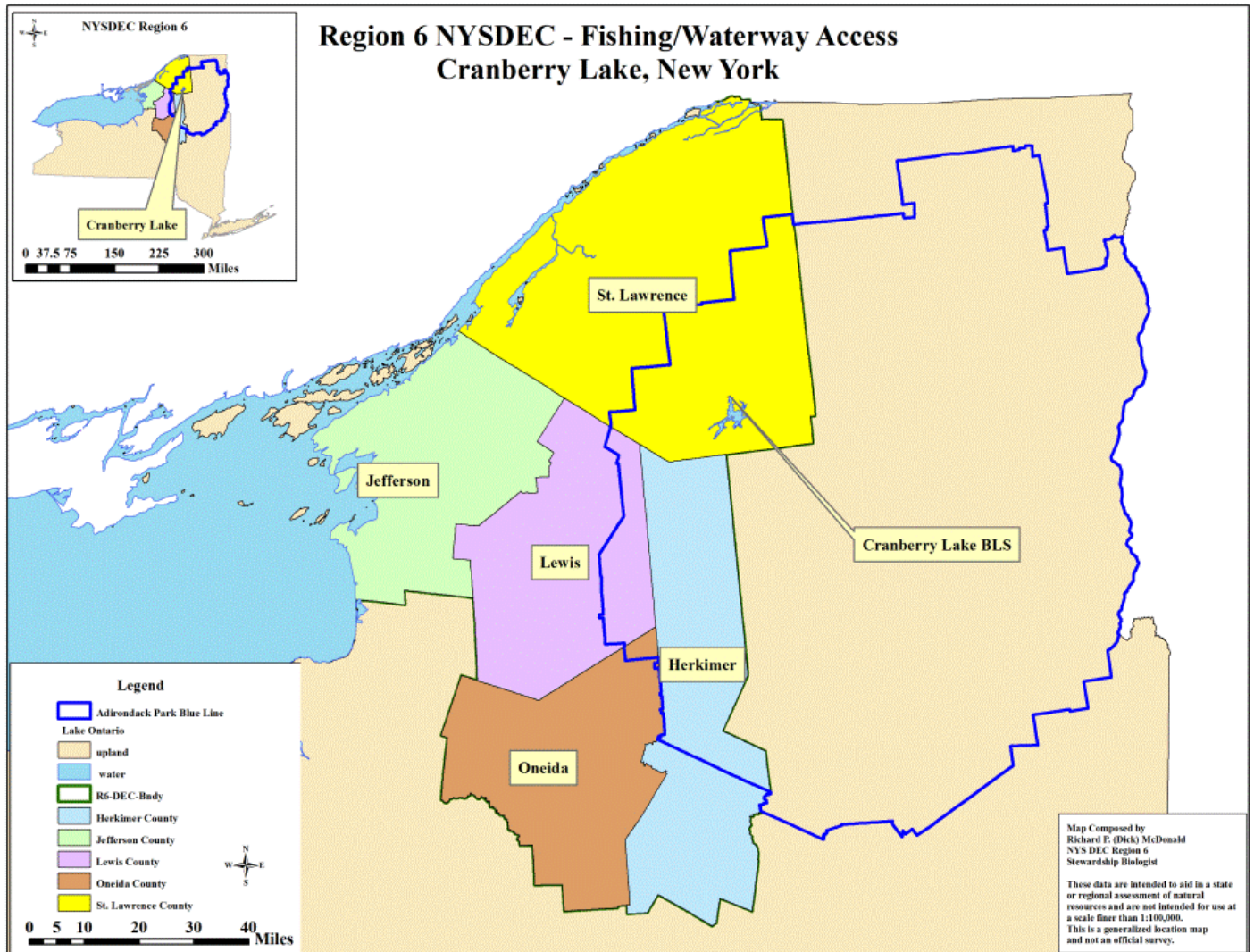


Figure 1. General location map for the Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Site, Town of Clifton in St. Lawrence County, New York.

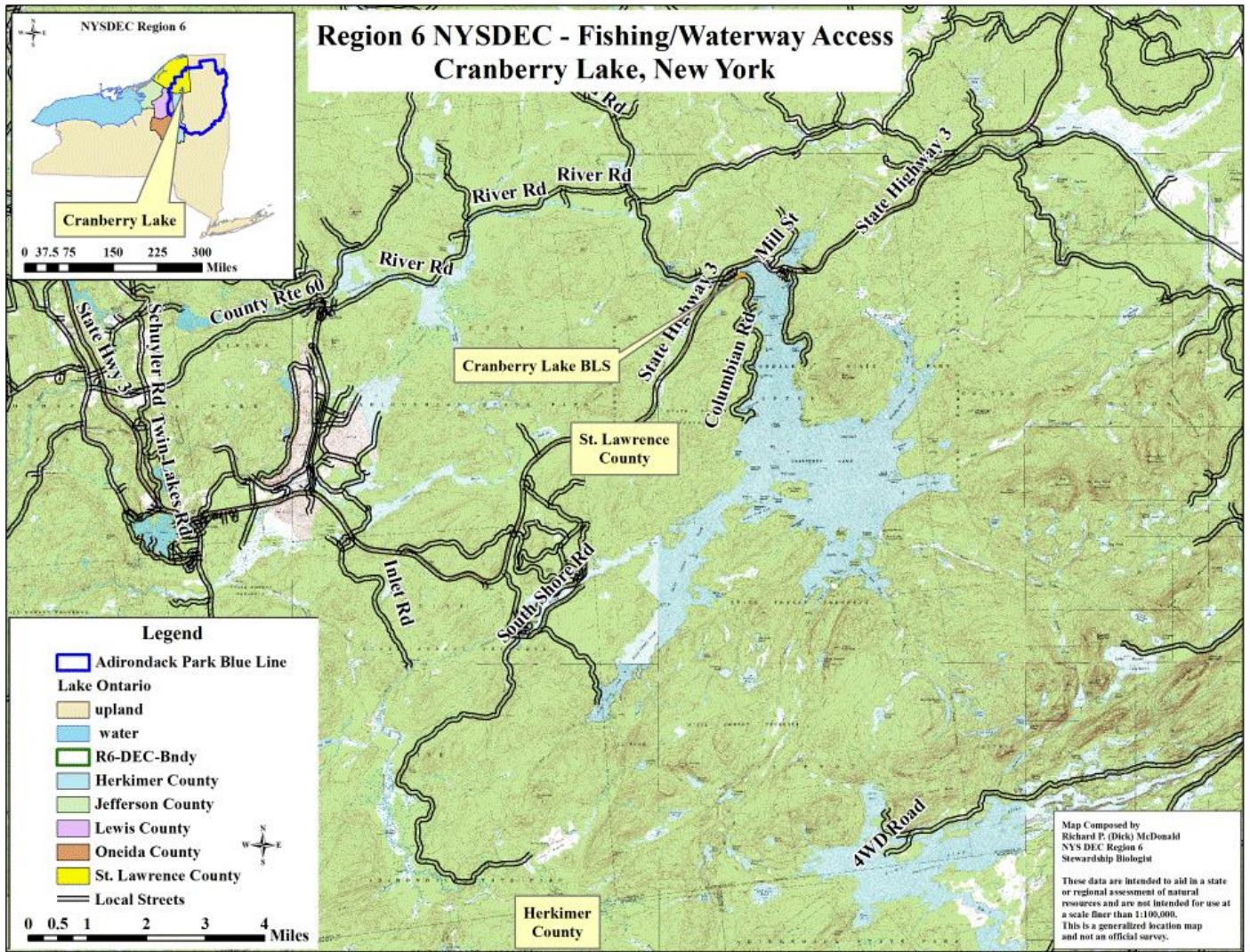


Figure 2. Location and topographic Map of the Cranberry Lake BLS with local streets.

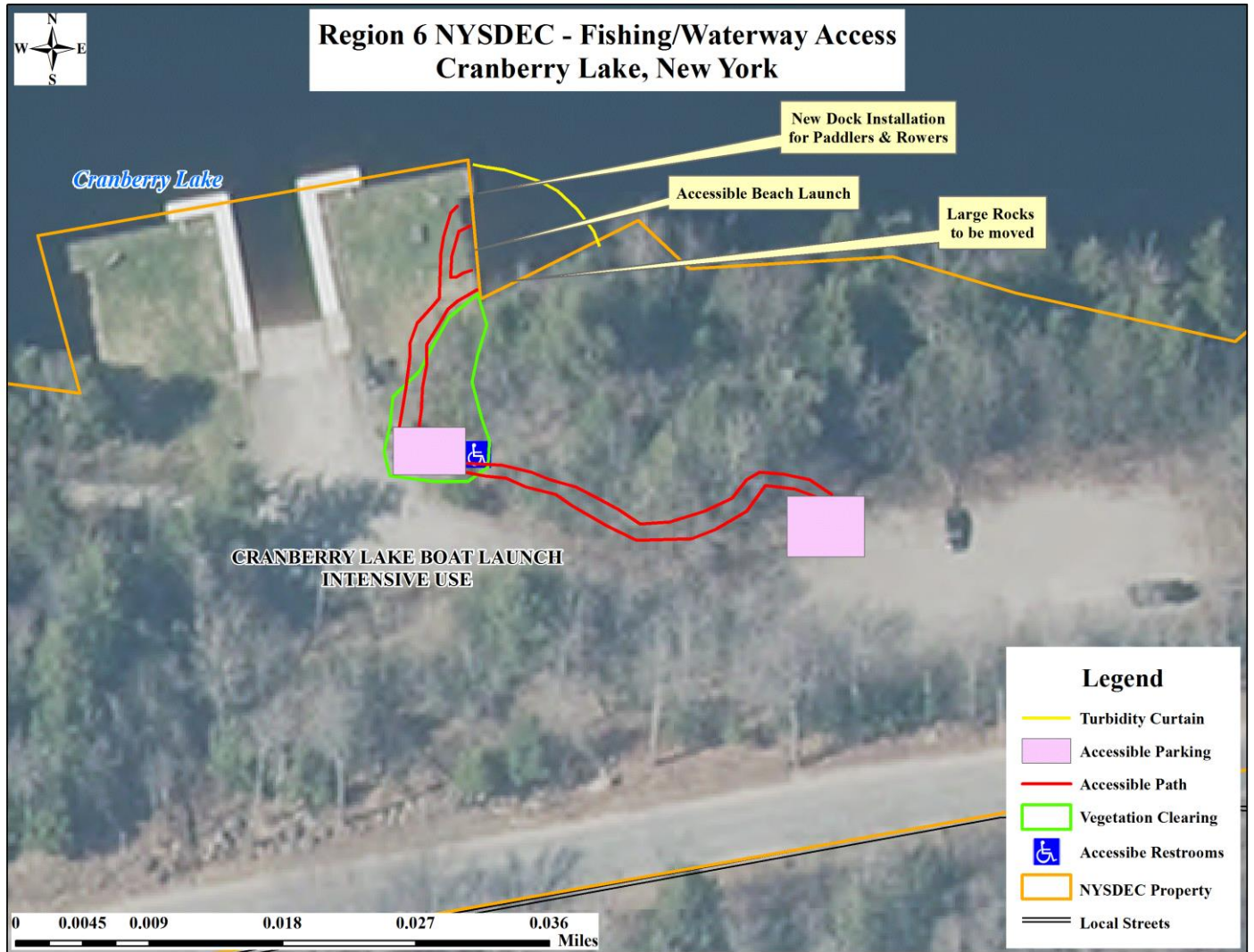


Figure 3. Orthoimagery map of the existing Cranberry Lake BLS with site plan details.

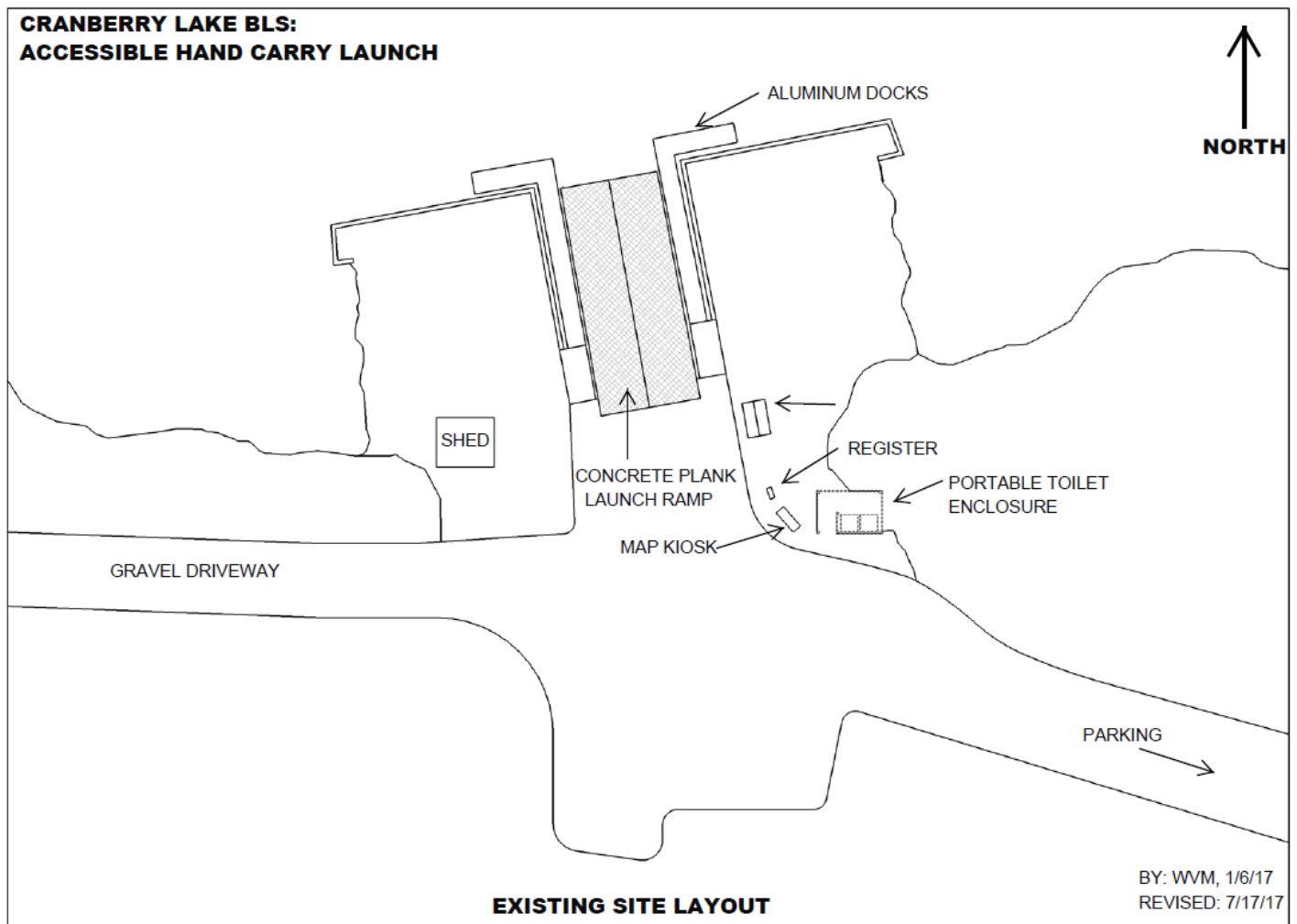
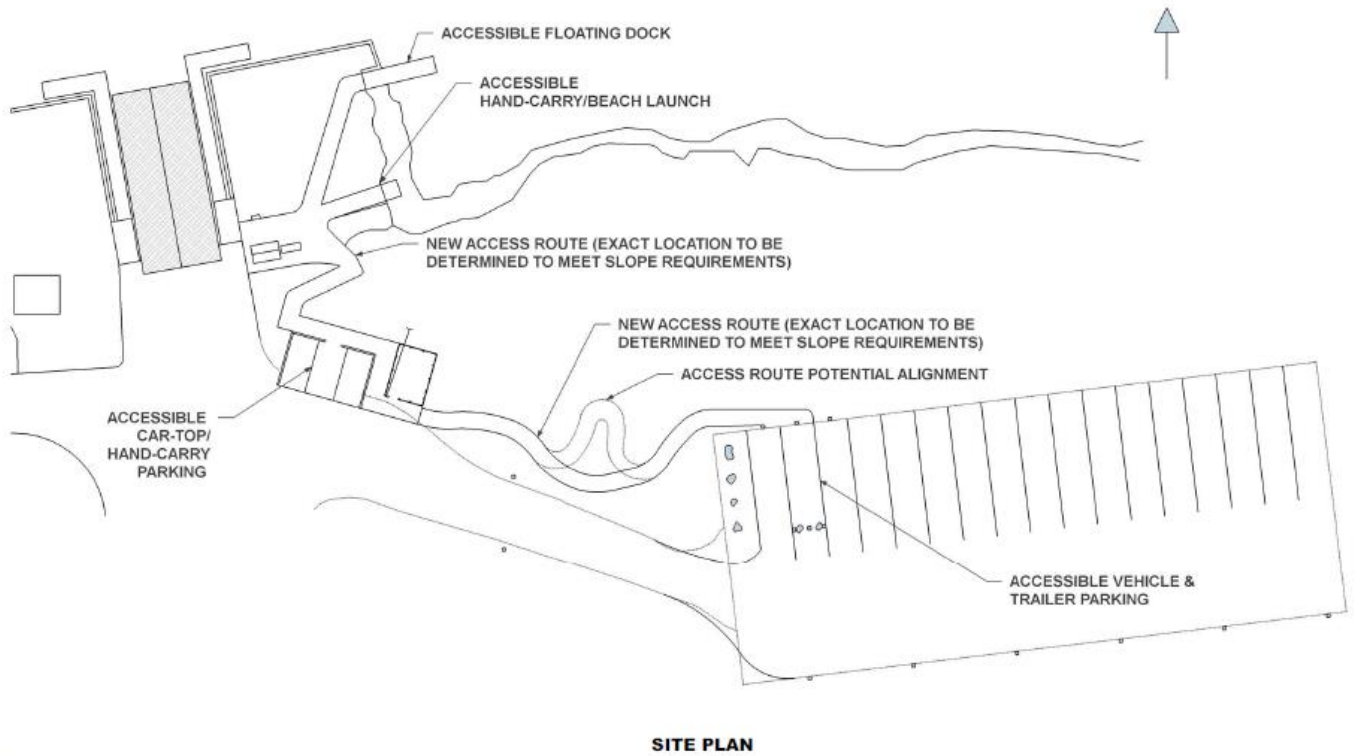


Figure 4. Existing site plan layout.

**CRANBERRY LAKE BLS - ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**



By: WVM  
Date: 9/18/17

Page 1 of 3

Figure 5. Site plan details for the construction of the accessible beach launch and accessible parking at the Cranberry Lake BLS.

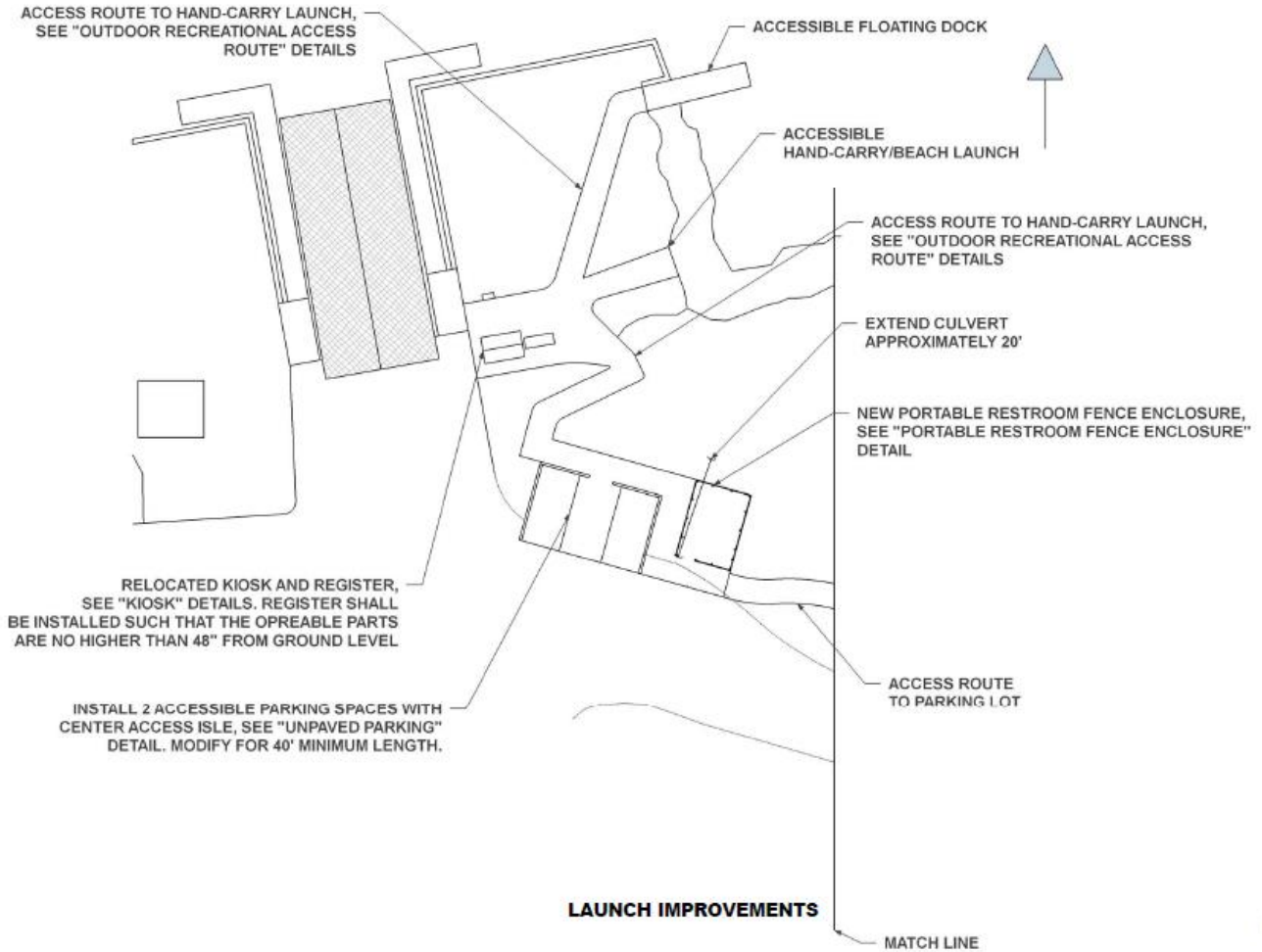


Figure 6. Site plan details for the construction of the accessible beach launch and vehicle parking at the Cranberry Lake BLS.



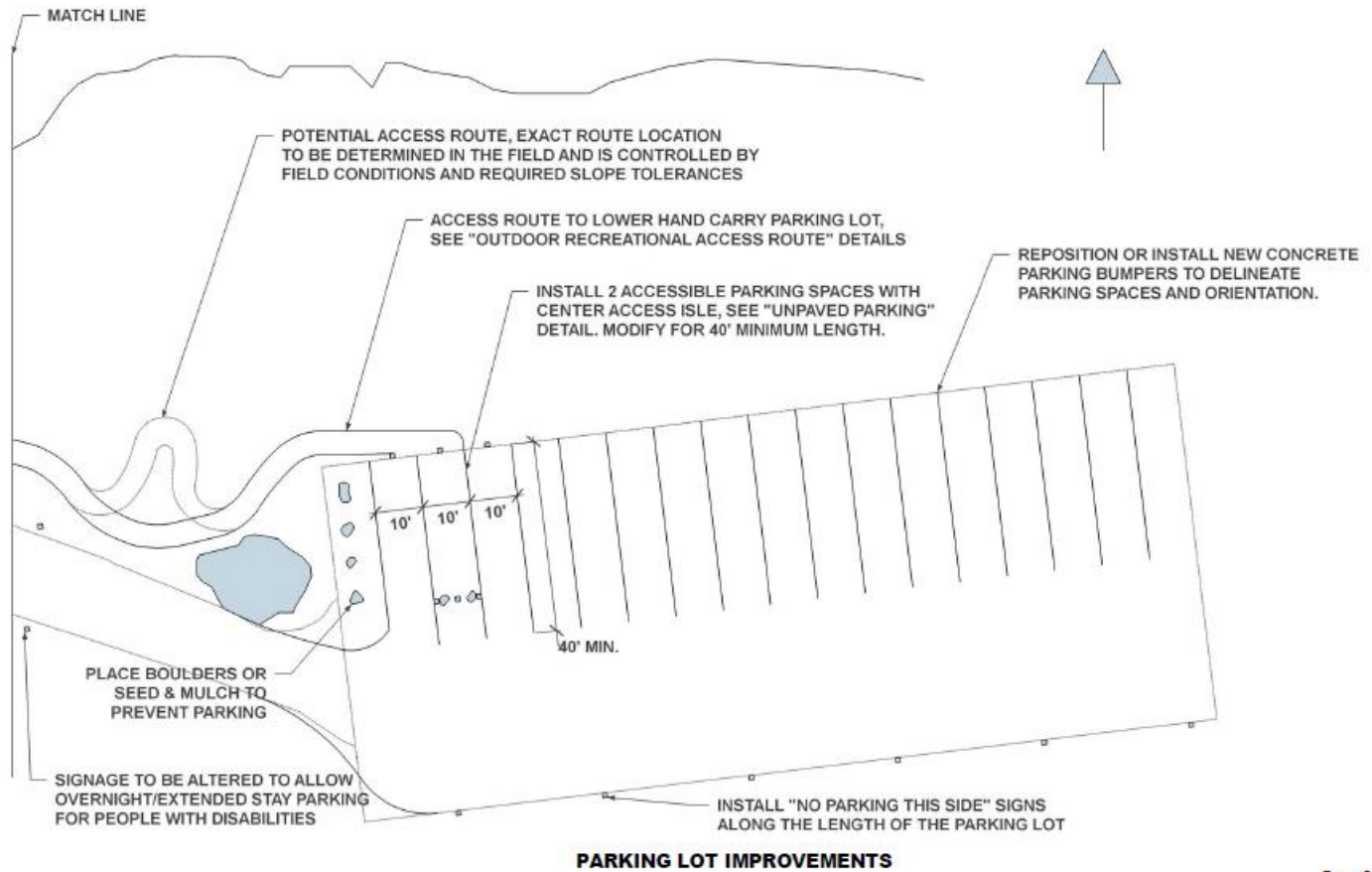


Figure 7. Site plan details for the construction of the accessible parking spaces for vehicles with trailers at the Cranberry Lake BLS.







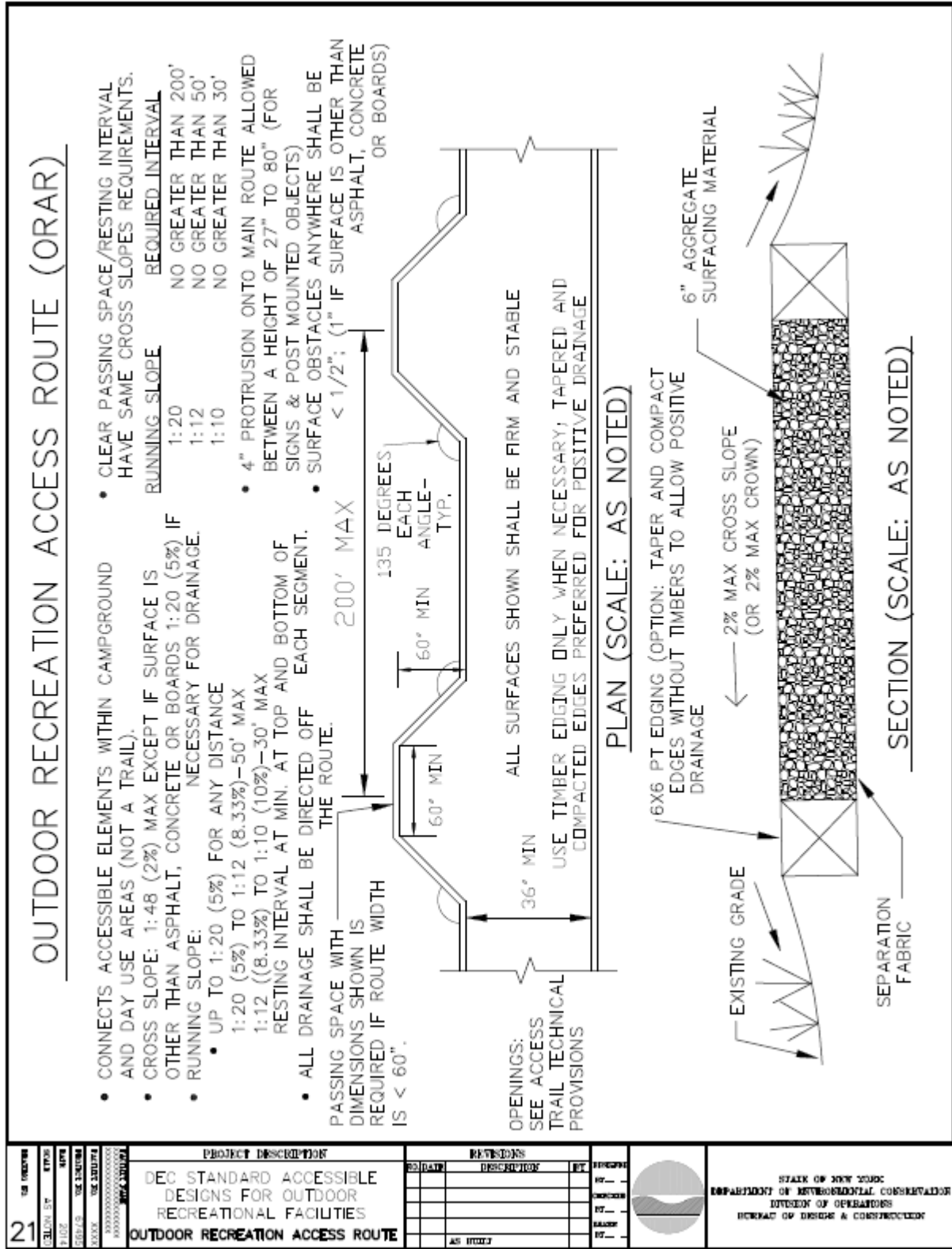


Figure 11. Accessible outdoor recreation path details.



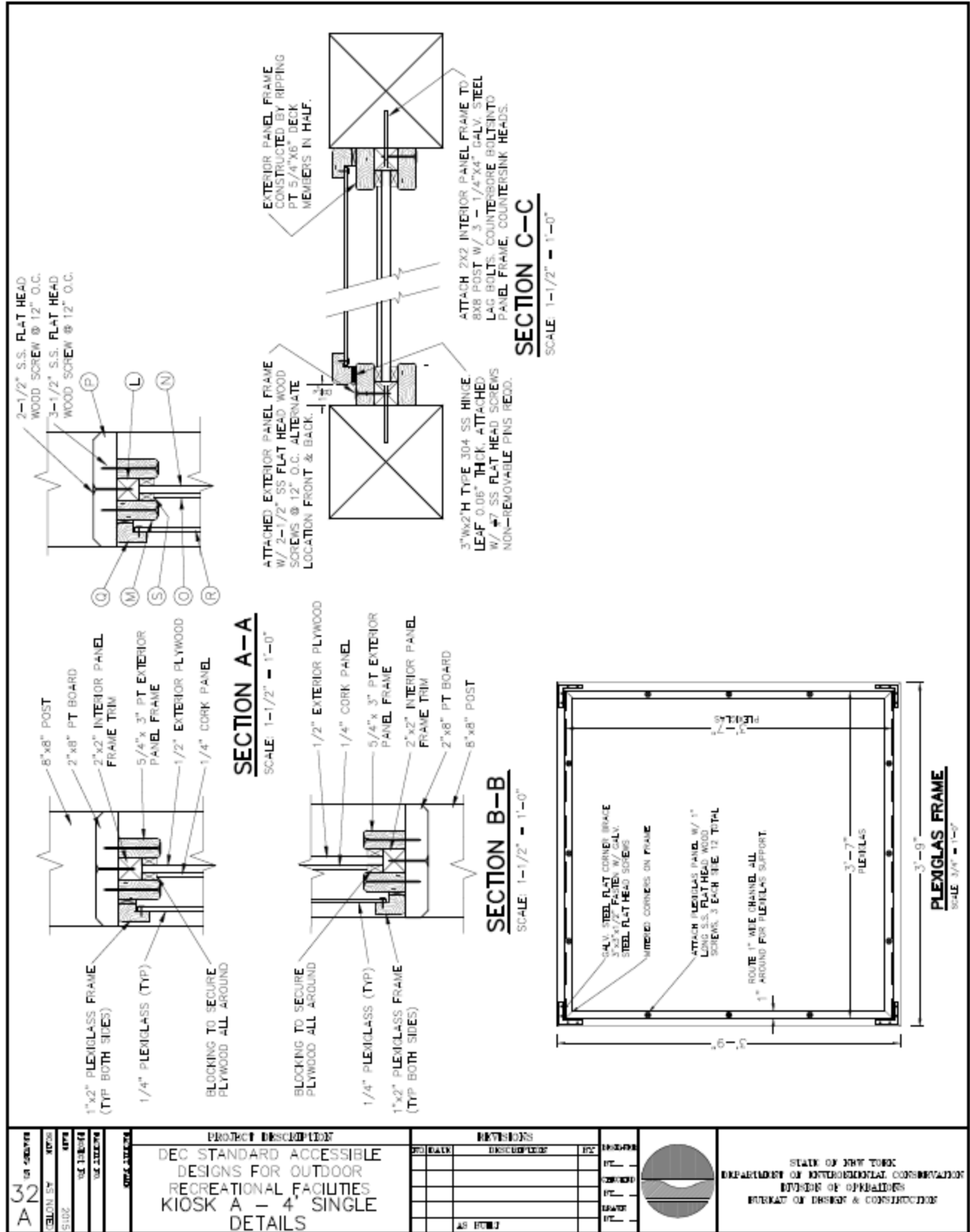


Figure 13. Accessible kiosk design and construction details.







Photo 1. The Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Site (looking north/northwest).



**Trees and vegetation clearing for Accessible Parking**

Photo 2. General location of the trees to be cut for construction of accessible parking spaces and accessible trails to the accessible beach launch at the Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Site.

**Attachment B. Public Comment Summary and Responses**  
**UMP Amendment #1 – 1996 Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Unit Management Plan**

**Comments on the 2018 Draft UMP Amendment**

The following is a summary of the public comments that were received during the creation of the draft Cranberry Lake Boat Launch Unit Management Plan Amendment. A presentation to the Adirondack Park Agency was made on April 12, 2018 and was open to the public.

The public comment period ended on April 27, 2018. A total of four (4) comments were received through e-mails with one of them being after the closing of the comment period. **Comments** are in bold text, with the NYSDEC *responses* in italics.

**1. An e-mail was received on April 22, 2018 which stated; “I understand that there are two Primary Objectives of this Amendment. 1) To provide an alternate launch site for car top canoes and kayaks in an effort to reduce the congestion at the existing launch ramp and 2) Improve Handicap Access to the site. I am concerned that the allowed parking at the new hand-carry launch site (shown on page 11) will compromise its success. Assuming that anyone with a handicap sticker can park there, I suggest that the spaces will quickly fill up forcing the next car top customer into the driveway or launch ramp like today. At a minimum this area should be a Loading Zone only. I also suggest that anyone in a wheelchair is going to be dropped off and picked up down by the launch site not up in the parking lots and this there is no need for the trail shown. If you want a smooth path just pave a 5’ wide section of the driveway between the lower lot and the launch site.”**

*Response: The primary objective of this UMP Amendment is to create an Accessible Beach Launch for use by persons with disabilities who wish to launch car-top boats, canoes, or kayaks. This must be accompanied by Accessible Parking with an Associated Access Aisle and an Accessible Outdoor Recreation Route to connect the parking with the Accessible Feature (the Accessible Beach Launch). In addition, we do have users with disabilities who launch trailered boats and that is why two Accessible Vehicles with Trailers Parking Spaces and an associated Access Aisle are being created in the lower lot parking area with an Accessible Outdoor Recreation Route connecting the Accessible Parking with the launch area as shown on page 11. Safety will be increased as a result of placing the Accessible Beach Launch to the right (northeast by east) of the motorized launch ramp so paddlers and rowers of all abilities do not have to cross in front of the motorized launch ramp.*

**2. An e-mail was received on April 23, 2018 which asked for a copy of the Unit Management Plan and the proposed changes.**

*Response: The 1996 Cranberry Lake Unit Management Plan (UMP) and Amendment #1 was e-mailed to the requestor on April 23, 2018.*

**3. An e-mail was received on April 23, 2018 stating; “There needs to be consideration of a second launch site, likely at the Wanakena area of the lake. I know there has been some discussion about this in the past. Can you bring me up to speed on the current thinking about such a project?”**

*Response: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) have worked with local residents in the Wanakena area of Cranberry Lake to identify an affordable and suitable site for another boat launch.*

**4. An e-mail was received on April 29, 2018 which stated; “I support the Cranberry Lake boat launch project.”**

*Response: The NYSDEC thanks you for your support.*