



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

Bear Spring Mountain Public Campground

Unit Management Plan

FINAL

Towns of Walton & Colchester, Delaware County, New York

October, 2015

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Operation 3rd Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233

Governor **ANDREW M. CUOMO**

Acting Commissioner **MARC S. GERSTMAN**

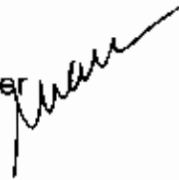
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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

OCT 15 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record
FROM: Marc Gerstman, Acting Commissioner
SUBJECT: Bear Spring Public Campground



The Bear Spring Public Campground Unit Management Plan has been completed. The Plan is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

**BEAR SPRING MOUNTAIN PUBLIC CAMPGROUND
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II
FINAL UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

NOTE: Volume I is a generic plan and contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria which pertains universally and are in common to all Adirondack and Catskill Public Campgrounds and Special Day-Use classified Intensive Use Areas. Volume II is a site specific document containing inventories of physical, biological, and manmade 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.

Unit Management Plans are prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to cover the next ten year management period.

For information, contact Michael Buzzelli, Campground Program Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233, telephone 518-457-2500.

**FINAL UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN/
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR
BEAR SPRING MOUNTAIN PUBLIC CAMPGROUND**

The Department of Environmental Conservation operates 52 public campgrounds throughout the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. Bear Spring Mountain Campground stands alone as the only public campground operated by the Department outside the Forest Preserve and the only public campground surrounded by a Wildlife Management Area. While Bear Spring Mountain campground is administered and operated in a similar manner to the Forest Preserve facilities, the laws, guidelines and policies to operate this facility are different from those located in the Forest Preserves resulting in the ability to offer diverse year round recreational opportunities to the visitors of this facility and the adjoining Wildlife Management Area.

In keeping with the constitutional provisions and criteria referenced in the Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Campgrounds and Day Use Areas(GUMP/EIS) and Department of Environmental Conservation Management Policy for Forest Preserve state-owned lands the department has established a management plan for the ten (10) year operation of the Bear Spring Mountain Public Campground.

Goals include: manage recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resources base in accordance with Environmental Conservation Law and offers 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; and manage the program to enhance economic benefits to local communities and the state.

The Department's management of Bear Springs Campground and proposed actions will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the GUMP/EIS, and do not require any separate site specific environmental review (see 6 NYCRR 617.10[d]).

Any action taken by the Department on this unit that is not addressed in this Unit Management Plan and is not addressed in the GUMP/EIS may need a separate site specific environmental review.

Management actions are proposed at this campground and are discussed in Section IV. The beneficial effects of these proposed actions include: compliance with state health codes; maintenance of physical plant investment; modernization of facilities which enhances a satisfactory recreational experience by users; upkeep of facilities to contribute to public safety; and providing conditions in a setting and scale that is in harmony with the character of the Catskill Park. Determination of conformance to criteria established in the GUMP/EIS includes: determining whether proposed activities avoid alterations of wetlands and topography; limiting vegetative clearing; preserving the scenic, natural resources of the area; and ensuring the plan contains an adequate assessment of actual and projected public use.

Mitigation measures to minimize environmental impacts of the proposed management actions have been considered. Proposed modernization projects will stay within constitutional interpretation limits for vegetation removal. This measure minimizes clearing and results in approximately the same visual impact. Architectural designs will be selected to achieve a harmonious blending with the character of the recreation area and surrounding forest. Seeding and mulching of construction sites will reestablish vegetation readily which effectively stabilize soil. Adjacent forest cover will not be altered. The proposals concentrate on improving and updating facilities to accommodate present peak use periods rather than accommodating increased population projections.

Various alternative actions to those favored and selected, such as full campground build out, campground abandonment and no-action, were considered. Public opposition, adverse effect on local communities, and uncontrolled use of state lands would sharply increase, should recreation planning and management efforts be reduced or dissolved. The care, custody, and control precedent preclude selection of these alternatives at this time.

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	6
A. Overview	6
B. Area Description	6
1. Location	6
2. Working Circle.....	6
3. Acreage	7
4. History.....	7
II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES	8
A. Manmade Facilities	8
1. Camping Areas.....	8
2. Day-Use (Picnic) Area.....	8
3. Boating Facilities	8
4. Vehicle Parking Areas	9
5. Swimming.....	9
6. Roads.....	10
7. Buildings	10
8. Horse Stalls	11
9. Potable Water System	11
10. Sewage System	11
11. Electrical System	12
12. Solid Waste	12
13. Fencing.....	12
14. Bridges	12
15. Barriers.....	12
16. Sign Inventory.....	13
17. Dams	13
18. Telephone.....	13
B. Inventory of Systems.....	13
1. Staff.....	13
2. Fee Schedule 2014	13
3. Permits	14
4. Off- Season Use	14
5. Special Events and Programs.....	14

C. Inventory of Natural Resources.....	14
1. Physical.....	14
2. Biological.....	16
3. Archeological Sites.....	17
4. Critical Environmental Areas.....	17
III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS.....	18
A. Environmental Conservation Laws.....	18
B. Recreation Program Goals.....	18
C. Public Use.....	18
1. Inventory of Public Use.....	18
2. Carrying Capacity.....	19
IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.....	24
A. Repair and Repave Camping Loop Roads.....	24
B. Construct New Road from Parking Lot to Pier & Replace Accessible Fishing Pier.....	24
C. Replace existing entrance booth.....	25
D. Relocate trailer dump station.....	25
E. Construct playground in day use area.....	25
F. Construct accessible paths from parking lot to pavilion and amphitheater.....	25
G. Improve 15 existing campsites.....	26
H. Create 15 remote campsites along Launt Pond.....	26
I. Repair and pave Spruce Grove camping loop road.....	26
J. Replace vault toilet with shower and flush toilet facility.....	26
K. Provide electric hookups at 14 sites.....	27
V. EXHIBIT INDEX.....	27

I. INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview

Bear Spring Mountain Campground was established in 1986 as the fiftieth Department of Environmental Conservation campground. The campground is located on a 31 acre parcel of land, which is part of the 7,141 acre Wildlife Management Area by the same name in Delaware County. The surrounding area is a haven for sports people and is well known for its excellent hunting and fishing opportunities. There are 26 miles of well-marked multi-use trails accessible from the campground leading to the adjacent wildlife management area along the two ridges. They are used by hikers, mountain bikers, hunters, snowmobilers and equestrians.

The campground offers swimming and rents canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, and rowboats for use on the 11 acre Launt Pond. Area attractions are numerous. The nearby villages of Walton & Downsville offer shopping and restaurants. In addition, the Delaware County Fairgrounds are located in Walton. The fairgrounds host a number of activities throughout the summer, including the Delaware County Fair. Antique and craft shops, golf courses, horseback riding, canoeing, and tubing are all available in the immediate area.

There are several privately owned campgrounds in the area and state public campgrounds include Little Pond and Beaverkill. The Pepacton Reservoir, a New York City watershed reservoir, allows sport fishing with a special permit available from New York City Board of Water Supply.

B. Area Description

1. Location

Five miles south of Walton and five miles north of Downsville, off Route 206, on East Trout Brook Road, Towns of Walton and Colchester, Delaware County. Launt Pond is situated in Lots 10 & 11, Division 63 and un-allotted portion of Division 64, Great Lot 36, Hardenburgh Patent. Spruce Grove is situated in Division 58, Great Lot 36, Hardenburgh Patent.

2. Working Circle

DEC Region 4 – Schenectady

3. Acreage

Developed area - 25 acres; undeveloped area - 6 acres.

4. History

The campground consists of two primitive areas, Launt Pond and Spruce Grove. It is a small part of the Wildlife Management area known by the same name. The Wildlife Management Area was acquired by the Federal Rural Resettlement Administration in 1937. It was leased to the then NYS Conservation Department in 1941, and habitat work and recreational use began in 1942.

The NYS Conservation Department took ownership of the area in 1961 and an informal camping program began. In 1966, development of beach, bathhouse, picnic areas and parking facilities were undertaken. In 1985, the decision was made to upgrade the facilities and the campground officially opened in 1986. The Spruce Grove area with 14 campsites was upgraded to become the Spruce Grove Horse Assembly and Camping Area in 1994.

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

A. Manmade Facilities

1. Camping Areas

The Spruce Grove Horse Assembly and Camping Area is located 5 miles south of Launt Pond on East Trout Brook Road, and has 14 campsites of the 41 total. Two campsites are universally accessible. For equestrians, Spruce Grove has 24 horse tie stalls, an accessible horse ramp, 2 manure storage pits for campers to deposit manure in, one stud pen and trailheads leading to 23.6 miles of designated horseback riding trails.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 campsites • Design capacity - 246 people • Carrying capacity - 181 people • 41 picnic tables • 41 fireplaces • 7 water spigots

2. Day-Use (Picnic) Area

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
Day Use Area	Picnic Pavilion - 24' x 36'	Amphitheater - 75' x 85'
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx ~ 1 ac. • 12 picnic tables • 7 grills • 9 fireplaces • 2 water spigots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 picnic tables • 1 large grill • Electric outlets • 1 water spigot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating capacity 200 • Stage 20' x 30' • Electric outlets

3. Boating Facilities

Mechanically propelled vessels are not permitted on Launt Pond. Boat rentals are administered by the Department and are located at the swimming beach from a 6' x 23' floating

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

dock. The boats are rented on a daily basis and revenues are included in the campground day-use revenue. Bear Spring Mountain Campground has an inventory of 4 canoes, 4 rowboats, 3 single kayaks, 2 double kayaks and 4 paddle boats. Daily rental includes the use of life preservers for each occupant and paddles and oars as needed. Daily rentals are \$15 for single kayaks, \$20 for double kayaks and canoes, \$25 for rowboats and \$6 per hour for paddle boats.

4. Vehicle Parking Areas

The Launt Pond day-use area has a 13,750 square foot (55' x 250') gravel parking area that will accommodate 45 cars. Currently there are two accessible parking spaces in the Launt Pond parking area. A 23,520 square foot (122' x 210') gravel parking area is located across the road from the Spruce Grove Horse Assembly and Camping Area, and serves as day-use parking for the Horse Trail System. Currently there are no accessible parking spots or paths from the parking lot to other facilities.

5. Swimming

For 2015, Bear Spring is operating the swim area under Supervision Level IV standards of the New York State Sanitary Code for bathing beaches. Under this standard, the beach will be open to patrons without lifeguards being on the premises. The campground is required to post certain signs, supply equipment, provide telephone communication and provide a printed handout to each patron concerning the rules and regulations. Beach depth cannot exceed 5 feet and bathing perimeter must be less than 50 yards from shore. Staff trained in CPR/AED must be on the premises when the beach is open. Department needs and the availability of funding may result in staffing lifeguards at the beach in future years.

Swimming Area Capacities		
Location	Size	Capacity
Swim area < 4' deep	64' x 40'	102
Swim area 4' – 5' deep	64' x 10'	8
Beach	50' x 64'	100

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

6. Roads

A paved administrative loop road, 445' in length, provides access for persons with disabilities to the accessible fishing pier, day-use area and campsite. This administrative road is typically barricaded and is only opened upon request for persons with disabilities. Please refer to the management actions section for details regarding future pier access projects.

The campground has 1/3 mile of paved road and the Spruce Grove has a 1,000' gravel road. All roads are in disrepair and require resurfacing.

7. Buildings

OGS #	Building Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size	Condition	Location
035	Caretaker Cabin (Enlarged 2014)	Living space – 667 sq ft Office space – 180 sq ft	667	Fair	LP
037	Lifeguard cabin	Living space	608	Fair	LP
040	Ticket booth	Entry control	71	Fair	LP
036	Maintenance shop (Enlarged in 2013)	Maintenance shop Wood storage	800	Good	LP
042	Storage building	Storage- Former beach toilet	332	Poor	LP
038	Bathhouse		750	Fair	LP
039	Vault toilet	W=1T* M=1T*	152	Poor	LP
034	Launt Pond composting toilet	W=2T* M=2T 1U*	165	Fair	LP
	Vault toilet	W=3T* M= 3T*	199	Poor	SG
065	Shower building (new in 2008)	M= 1T 1U 2S W= 2T 2S Un= 2Sh* Un=1T 1S*	531	Good	LP
047	Chlorinator building (new in 2011)	Pressure Tank and Chlorination	70	Good	LP
045	Filtration building	Pressure Tank and UV filtration	35	Good	SG
041	Pump House Off Rt 206 (not in use)	Well and pump house	80	Fair	

W-Women, M – Men, Un-Universal, T-Toilet, U-Urinal, S-Sink, Sh-Shower.
** - Denotes universally accessible infrastructure*

8. Horse Stalls

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 2- 6 horse capacity (300 sf)
- 12 horse capacity (600 sf)
- Studpen (120 sf)

9. Potable Water System

At Launt Pond, a new well was drilled in 2011 which yields 20 gallons a minute. Water is pumped to a pressure tank and chlorination building and then to a 4,000 gallon storage tank. Treated water is distributed to the new shower building, caretaker and lifeguard cabins, and water spigots formerly supplied by the old well system. At Spruce Grove, a well supplies water to pressure tank and UV filtration system. The water is distributed to spigots located on the horse stalls and throughout the campground.

10. Sewage System

Waste water from the caretaker's cabin, lifeguard cabin and trailer dump station is directed to a septic tank and tile field. Vault toilets at Launt Pond and Spruce Grove are pumped as needed. A new septic tank was installed in 2008 adjacent to the shower building and is currently being pumped as needed. Due to low permeability of native soils and space limitations, a raised bed was constructed but subsequently heavily damaged by Hurricane Irene in 2011. Engineers are currently evaluating usage figures to determine what facilities can be connected to the raised bed if repaired. An alternative gravity sand filter system is also being considered if the completion cost and future maintenance of a subsurface treatment system is determined to be excessive.

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

11. Electrical System

At Launt Pond, an overhead power line was constructed in 2008 from Rt 206 bringing electric service to a transformer located along East Trout Brook Road. From this power pole, buried service lines bring power to the campground, servicing the caretaker's cabin, lifeguard cabin, maintenance building, entrance booth, composting toilet, pavilion, amphitheater, 1 light pole, shower building, well and chlorination building.

At Spruce Grove, an overhead electric service line provides power to the pump house and three light poles. Service is provided by New York State Electric and Gas Co.

12. Solid Waste

Two dumpsters are located adjacent to the maintenance building. Contractors are employed to remove and dispose of solid waste. Recycled materials are collected at the maintenance building. A trailer dump station is located adjacent to the maintenance building.

13. Fencing

Fencing is installed around the propane tank. A split rail fence, approximately 600 feet long, runs along the road at the Spruce Grove.

14. Bridges

The top of the Launt Pond dam acts as a foot bridge to provide visitor access to a hiking trail that runs the perimeter of the pond.

15. Barriers

At Launt Pond, one steel gate barrier controls access east of East Trout Brook Road and three gates control access to the day use area. One gate controls access to the leach field. At Spruce Grove two gates control access to the camping area and stone barriers outline the horse trail parking area.

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

16. Sign Inventory

A variety of messages are conveyed to public users by means of standard (yellow on brown) signs. Subjects include directions and information for entrance, the supervisor's office, bulletin board, traffic control map, water spigots, dumping station, comfort stations, picnic areas, speed limit, beach rules, campsite numbers, recycling and refuse, and directional signs.

17. Dams

There is one dam that controls the outflow of Launt Pond. This dam was reconstructed in 2001 and is in good condition.

18. Telephone

Phone service is provided Frontier Phone Company. The phone number is 607-865-6989. Satellite service provides administrative internet service.

B. Inventory of Systems

1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor II
1	Parks Maintenance Helper
2	Park and Recreation Aide

2. Fee Schedule 2014

Daily Fees	
Camping (NYS Resident)	\$18.00
Camping (Non- Resident)	\$23.00
Day Use - Auto	\$6.00
Day Use - Walk-In	\$2.00
Picnic Shelter Rental	\$50.00

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

Boat Rental - 1 seat Kayak	\$15.00
Boat Rental – 2 seat Kayak	\$20.00
Boat Rental – Canoe	\$20.00
Paddle Boat Rental (hr)	\$6.00
Boat Rental – Row Boat	\$25.00
Firewood – per bundle	\$9.00
Empire Passport - season	\$65.00

3. Permits

No peddler permits or temporary revocable permits have been issued in recent years.

4. Off- Season Use

In 2014, the camping facilities were open from mid-May until Labor Day weekend. There will be no staff on site and gates will be locked after the camping season. Horse riders will continue to have access to the large parking lot across from Spruce Grove camping area. A portion of this lot will be plowed in the winter for snowmobilers to park vehicles and trailers. The Spruce grove camping area is open for camping during the fall hunting season. The pit toilets will be unlocked but the water system will be shut down. Visitors must self-register at the site and camping will be monitored by the Forest Rangers.

5. Special Events and Programs

Several years ago the Department worked in conjunction with the Delaware Heritage Group to construct an amphitheater and historic plays were presented for several seasons. There have not been any special events in recent years.

C. Inventory of Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

This unit is located in the Catskills Transition ecoregion which shares some of the characteristics of the Catskills High Peaks as well as the surrounding Northern Allegheny

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

Plateau. The relatively resistant strata of Devonian shale, sandstone and conglomerate create an elevated platform and a perimeter of foothills for the Catskills High Peaks. The topography in this part of the ecoregion is dominated by rounded, rolling hills made up of Pleistocene glacial till, exposed bedrock, kame deposits, glacial lacustrine sand, silt and clay and fluvial outwash sand and gravel. Average annual precipitation varies from 35" to 60". Please refer to the East Branch Unit Management Plan for more details and maps.

b. Soils

The Launt Pond camping area contains slopes ranging from nearly flat along the edge of Launt Pond to steeper slopes at the eastern edge of the unit. On the flatter areas, Willowemoc and Willdin soils, which are very stony, are found on slopes 2-15%. Lewbeach Channery loam soils are found on slopes 8-15%. Lewbeach and Lewbath soils are found on slopes 15-35%, which also are very stony. The flatter areas at the Spruce Grove camping area consist of Tunkhannock and Chenango soils on slopes 0-3%. Lackawanna and Bath soils are on 3-15% slopes. These soils are very stony.

c. Terrain

Both Launt Pond and Spruce Grove lie in the bottom of a valley roughly aligned north to south and cut by East Trout Brook. To the east lies a ridge known as Trout Brook Mountain with a maximum elevation of 2,470'. To the west lies a ridge known as Fork Mountain with a maximum elevation of 2,481'. The elevation in Bear Spring Mountain Campground ranges from approximately 1,940' at the water storage tank above the camping portion of Launt Pond to approximately 1,330' along Trout Brook in the Spruce Grove camping area.

d. Waters

Surface waters lying within the Bear Spring Mountain Campground include East Trout Brook which flows from the north into Launt Pond and then below the spillway continues south for about 4 miles before flowing past the Spruce Grove camping area and joining West Trout Brook just south of the camping area. The dam at Launt Pond impounds approximately 11 acres of water. Maximum depth of the pond is 10 feet.

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

e. Wetlands

While there is one regulated wetland just north of Spruce Grove along East Trout Brook, there are no wetlands located within the boundaries of Bear Spring Mountain Campground.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

Bear Spring Mountain Campground is the only campground managed by the Department that is not located in the State Forest Preserve and therefore is not protected by the “forever wild” clause of the New York State Constitution that prohibits the cutting or removal of timber. The state lands surrounding the campground are being managed for multiple purposes which include the production of timber, wildlife management, watershed protection and recreation. At Launt Pond, areas around the beach and pavilion are mowed to allow for open areas for the public to congregate and recreate. The camping and administrative areas in Launt Pond are a mix of hardwoods and softwoods with portions of the campground, day use area and land adjacent to the dam forested with soft wood species. As the name implies, the Spruce Grove camping area is forested in a stand of Spruce. Please refer to the East Branch Unit Management Plan for more details and maps.

b. Wildlife

State sponsored activities surrounding Bear Spring Mountain Campground are impacting the composition and structure of forest habitats and are some of the primary factors influencing the distribution and abundance of wildlife species. Certain timber harvest strategies, including clear cutting, result in a variety of habitats and stages of succession in the areas surrounding the campground. Wildlife management activities which include mowing of some fields, removing mature stands of Aspen, releasing and pruning apple trees, piling brush over a log, rock or stump all contribute to an improved and more diverse wildlife habitat. In 2010, 100 apple trees were planted in small orchards throughout Bear Spring Mountain WMA.

For a comprehensive listing of breeding birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals refer to Tables 1-3 in the Appendix II section of the East Branch Unit Management Plan.

II. INVENTORY OF FACILITIES, SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

c. Fisheries

Fishing opportunities exist within the unit and throughout the adjoining Wildlife Management Area. Fishing for trout at Launt Pond and on all streams is open April 1 - October 15. Launt Pond is stocked annually. Annual fisheries surveys are performed by regional staff.

3. Archeological Sites

There are no listed sites within the unit which contain areas of archeological sensitivity.

4. Critical Environmental Areas

There are no listed sites within the unit which contain critical environmental areas.

III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

A. Environmental Conservation Laws

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, GUMP/EIS and established Policies and Procedures for the administration of the lands involved.

B. Recreation Program Goals

- Manage recreation programs in a manner which ensures protection of the natural resources base in accordance with all applicable laws.
- 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.

C. 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 (the number of people using the beach, day use areas or visiting campers) but not staying overnight. The campground was shut down in 2009 and did not reopen until July 4th 2010 due to fiscal constraints. The 5 year trend in camping attendance indicates an increase in visitation that may be directly related to the

Bear Spring Attendance			
Year	Camping	Day Use	Total
2014	4,096	743	4,839
2013	3,637	1,026	4,663
2012	3,581	938	4,519
2011	3,082	873	3,955
2010	2,587	362	2,949
2009	<i>Facility Closed</i>		
<i>Average</i>	<i>3,397</i>	<i>788</i>	<i>4,185</i>

III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

completion of shower facilities. Attendance is up nearly 40% since the completion of this facility while attendance in the other 7 campgrounds in the Catskills is down 5% for the same period. Overall attendance is showing a steady increase since 2009 at Bear Spring Campground.

b. Revenue Trends

Camping Revenue is derived by the rental of the 41 campsites. At one time the campground operated from April 1st to mid-December, but the requirement of revenues to meet operating costs has reduced the shoulder season. The campground now operates mid-May through Labor Day weekend. Camping revenue has steadily increased since 2010, which may be due to a combination of increased attendance as well as fee increases. Day use revenue is a combination of vehicle day use charges, boat rentals, pavilion rental, firewood sales and Empire Passports sales. Total day use revenue has fluctuated over the last several years.

Bear Spring Revenue			
Year	Camping	Day use	Total
2014	\$23,123	\$5,326	\$28,449
2013	\$20,709	\$5,143	\$25,852
2012	\$20,493	\$4,261	\$24,754
2011	\$17,626	\$7,377	\$25,003
2010	\$13,662	\$5,006	\$18,668
2009	<i>Facility Closed</i>		
<i>Average</i>	<i>\$19,122</i>	<i>\$5,422</i>	<i>\$24,545</i>

2. Carrying Capacity

Bear Spring Mountain Campground facilities should be operated within the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the site. Operation within these limits will grant continued character and integrity to intensive recreational use at this location and will assure that the public use is consistent with 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 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation design standards. The existing infrastructure of the campground and day use area with respect to the quantity of potable water and sanitary facilities is sufficient to support current attendance levels.

III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard *	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites	1,250 sf/ site*	1,250 sf/ site	1,250 sf/ site	None
Trailer dumping station	1 for every 100 sites*	1	1	None
Potable water Supply	55 gal/ day/ site 5 gal /day/ picnicker	2,225 gal 600 gal	2,225 gal 600 gal	None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites 1/60 picnickers	5 2	7 2	None None
Lavatories (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites 1 for every 60 picnickers	3 2	5 0	None 2
Toilets/ Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites 2 for every 60 picnickers	9 4	13 5	None None
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	2	1	1
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	4	2	2
* DEC design standards meet or exceeds NYS Health Department codes				

b. Biological Carrying Capacity

There is little evidence suggesting that current types and levels of recreational use are having a negative impact on soils, vegetation, or wildlife. July and August are the heaviest months for use of this facility. During winter, this campground is closed for camping. Most vehicular traffic occurs on paved surfaces which also helps limit compaction, rutting, and erosion. Years of visitor use and weather damage has impacted some camping sites and these sites will be rehabilitated as necessary.

The original forest cover was cleared during the early history of settlement in this area. Some of the reforested areas were cleared during construction of the facility but the campground remains partially forested.

While hazardous trees are removed on a regular basis, in accordance with established policy, natural regeneration, replanting, and growth of residual trees compensate for any losses.

III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

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 within an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors.

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

Bear Spring Mountain Camper Survey		
Year	Number of Respondents	Good or Excellent Rating
2014	65	90%
2013	64	94%
2012	55	93%
2011	25	88%
2010	28	100%
2009	<i>Facility Closed</i>	

d. Adjacent Lands

The two camping areas are bounded on all sides by the Bear Spring Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) which consists of over 7,000 acres of upland habitat in Delaware County. It is located in the Towns of Colchester and Walton along Route 206. East Trout Brook Rd and West Trout Brook Rd run through the heart of the property from Rt 206 and join at the southern end of the property. Parking areas providing access can be found along each of these roads.

This large parcel of public land affords multiple uses for outdoor recreation including hunting, trapping, angling, hiking, horseback riding and snowmobiling. Launt Pond and Spruce Grove camping areas serve as staging areas for access to the 23.6 miles of marked horse trails in the WMA. There are 17.6 miles of marked snowmobile trails and two trails which meet the requirements for people with disabilities.

e. Invasive Species

The threat of invasive species at Bear Spring Mountain is of concern to the Department both for its destructive effect on our environment and its associated financial drain on revenue and resources. Although the exact type and location of invasive species threatening Bear Spring

III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

Mountain have not been clearly documented, it is our goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups to work 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. New York's forests are under attack from numerous invasive exotic insect pests. A regulation is in effect that prohibits 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. Quarantines exist which further restrict firewood transportation. A firewood storage building was recently completed to permit the sale of heat treated wood that complies with state regulations.

f. Accessibility Guidelines

Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act(ADA), the Department incorporates accessibility into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. This UMP contains an accessibility assessment within the inventory of the facilities and programs offered. Current ADA construction standards or guidelines will be utilized in the design of all new projects and will be implemented unless structurally impracticable due to terrain. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

g. General Operation

Bear Spring Mountain Campground is used by visitors during the summer season (mid-May through Labor Day) for camping, swimming, boating, fishing, horseback riding and hiking. The rest of the year, the surrounding Wildlife management Area is used for such recreational activities as hunting, fishing, snowmobile riding, hiking and horseback riding. The continued maintenance and upkeep of this facility helps ensure safe operation of the campground for both visitors' and employees' use. A well maintained facility promotes an increased interest in campers' use of this campground and its amenities for continued recreational use. Day-to-day operations of this campground are guided by policy set forth in the DEC Campground Guidance

III. INVENTORY OF ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS

Manual. The subject index of the Handbook is referenced in Volume III, Appendix D, of the 1990 GUMP/EIS.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

MANAGEMENT ACTION	YEAR	COST
Actions at Launt Pond		
A. Repair and repave camping loop roads.	3	\$285,000
B. Construct New Road from Parking Lot to Pier & Rehabilitate Fishing Pier	2	\$60,000
C. Replace existing entrance booth	4	\$10,000
D. Relocate trailer dump station	5	\$25,000
E. Construct accessible playground in day use area	1	\$42,500
F. Construct accessible paths from parking lot to pavilion and amphitheater	1	\$7,500
G. Improve 15 existing campsites	3	\$20,000
H. Create 15 remote campsites along Launt Pond	5	\$60,000
Actions at Spruce Grove		
I. Repair and pave Spruce grove camping loop road	3	\$180,000
J. Replace vault toilet with shower and flush toilet facility	5	\$350,000
K. Provide electric hookups at 14 sites	2	\$12,000

A. Repair and Repave Camping Loop Roads

The existing .33 miles of paved loop roads are in poor condition with many stretches of broken road surface. Repaired roads will improve safety for driving, cycling and walking. Potholes, wet areas and dust issues will also be mitigated.

B. Construct New Road from Parking Lot to Pier & Replace Accessible Fishing Pier

The current access to campsites and certain day use facilities west of East Trout Brook Road are on a road without any controlled access. This results in some users entering the facilities without registering or paying fees. Often campsites are occupied that others have a reservation prior to their arrival. The proposed new road will connect the day use parking lot

approximately 400 feet to the existing fishing pier and campsite road, requiring users to pass through the entrance booth. The proposed road will be gravel and may be paved at a later date. The new road will allow for universal access to the aforementioned facilities by the public. In addition, the accessible fishing pier will need to be replaced. The paved surface is deteriorating and the wood retaining walls have shifted. This may be accomplished concurrently with the road construction, if deemed feasible.

C. Replace existing entrance booth

The existing 70 square foot ticket booth is in fair condition and too small to house the current ticketing and electronic equipment required. A new building will resolve these issues and will also comply with ADA requirements. The size of the new building will be determined based on site conditions and campground equipment needs at the time of construction.

D. Relocate trailer dump station

The existing trailer dump station is located in close proximity to the maintenance building and recycling center. The tight turning radius is difficult for larger trailers to negotiate. The tank must be monitored for available capacity and pumped when full. The proposed new dump station will be located at the south end of the Launt Pond camping loop where there is existing space to create a safe and easily negotiated pull-off. The new tank will be connected to the wastewater system and treated on site.

E. Construct playground in day use area

Camper and user surveys have determined a need for more recreational activities for visitors at Bear Spring Campground. The proposed playground will be located in the day use area for visitors. The structure will be ADA compliant.

F. Construct accessible paths from parking lot to pavilion and amphitheater

The existing pavilion and amphitheater would be universally accessible if paths leading from the parking area met ADA design guidelines. Approximately 300 feet of new, ADA compliant paths are proposed for construction.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

G. Improve 15 existing campsites

Several existing sites have inadequate camping pads which are not level or lack proper material for drainage and erecting tents. Parking areas are too small or improperly graded. This plan proposes to improve 15 sites over several years, some of which will be universally accessible.

H. Create 15 remote campsites along Launt Pond

Camping sites located near water are very popular and the shoreline of Launt Pond contains several areas which would offer remote access to camping either by boat or walking in on the existing trail. Each campsite would be improved to provide a level pad for erecting a tent and include a picnic table, fire ring and outhouse. The proposed sites would be staggered along the shoreline around the pond with adequate site separation and partially screened from the water.

I. Repair and pave Spruce Grove camping loop road

The existing gravel road at Spruce Grove requires constant maintenance to fill in low spots and provide a safe driving surface. During dry periods, road dust creates an annoyance to campers. Paving the .2 miles of road in the camping area will reduce maintenance and improve safety for driving, cycling and walking. One universally accessible parking spot will be paved and marked adjacent to the accessible horse mounting platform.

J. Replace vault toilet building with shower and flush toilet facility

Attendance trends since the construction of the shower/toilet facility at Launt Pond have demonstrated the public's interest in camping where these facilities are offered. The proposed shower/toilet facility at Spruce Grove would replace the existing vault toilet building which is in poor condition. The building would provide 2 shower and 2 unisex toilet units and would meet ADA guidelines. A septic tank and tile field will be located after soil permeability tests are conducted and are deemed suitable to support the proposed building. The building will be located in the vicinity of the existing vault toilet facility unless engineering considerations require another location. It will have a universally accessible path to access the facility.

K. Provide electric hookups at 14 sites

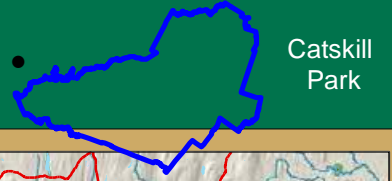
Electric hookups are a popular convenience for campers. Since Bear Spring Mountain is located outside the State Forest Preserve, there are no restrictions to providing this service. The proposed action would install 50 Amp service hookups at each site in Spruce Grove. Campers will pay an additional charge with their camping fee for this service.

V. EXHIBIT INDEX

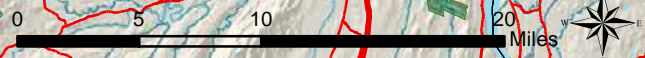
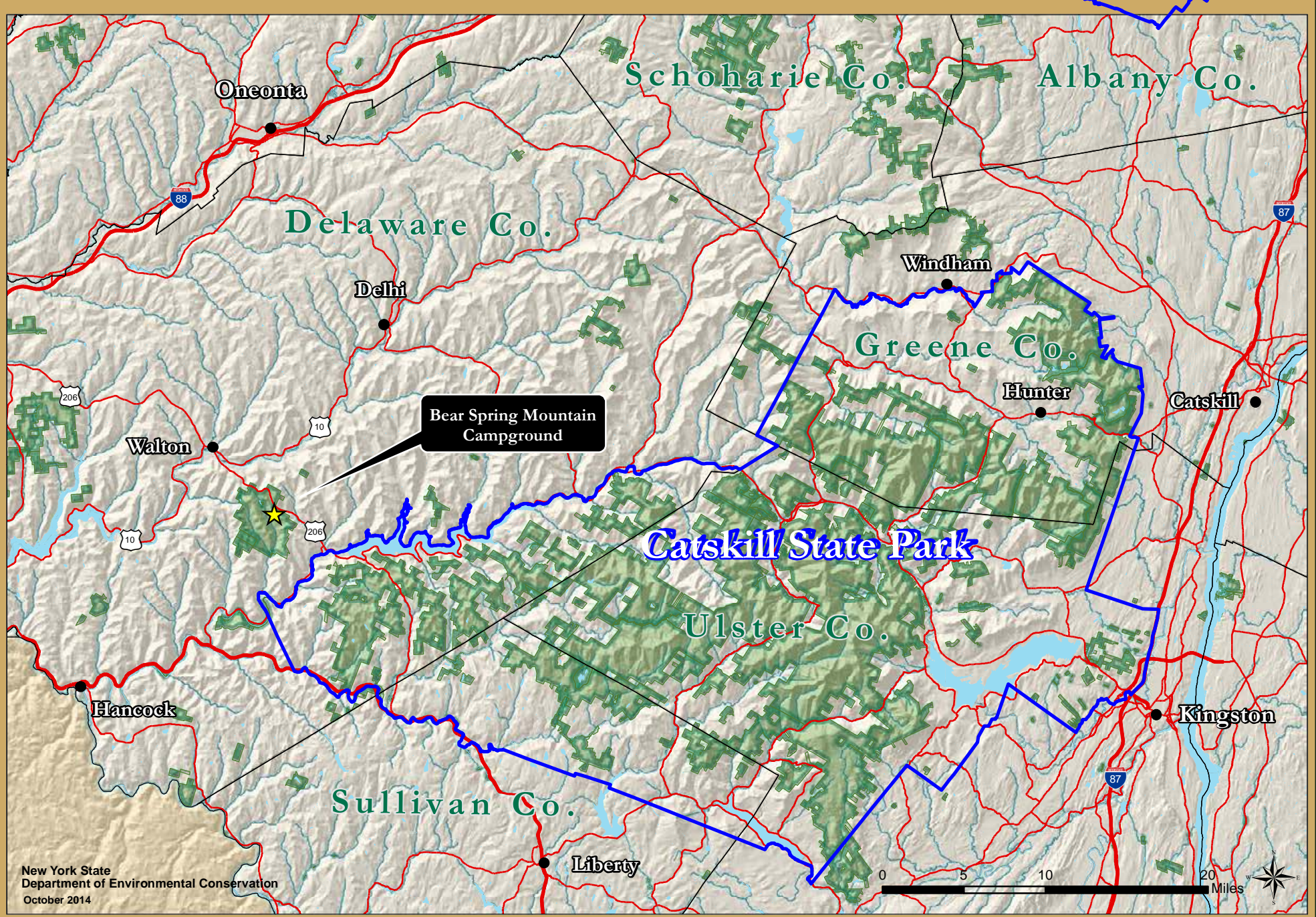
Exhibit Index
Exhibit #1 - Bear Spring Mountain UMP Location Map
Exhibit #2 - Launt Pond Facilities Map
Exhibit #3 - Spruce Grove Facilities Map
Exhibit #4 - Bear Spring Mountain UMP Contour Map
Exhibit #4a - Bear Spring Mountain UMP Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4b - Launt Pond Soil & Wetlands Map
Exhibit #4c – Spruce Grove Soil & Wetlands Map
Exhibit #5 – Launt Pond Water System Map
Exhibit #6 – Launt Pond Electric System Map
Exhibit #6a – Launt Pond Sewage System Map
Exhibit #7 – Spruce Grove Water System Map
Exhibit #8 – Spruce Grove Electric System Map
Exhibit #9 – Bear Spring Mountain Daily Attendance
Exhibit #10 – Bear Spring Mountain Attendance Graph
Exhibit #11 – Bear Spring Mountain 2014 Camper Demographic Chart
Exhibit #12 – Launt Pond Management Action Location Map
Exhibit #13 – Spruce Grove Management Action Location Map
Exhibit #14 – Campground Photos
Exhibit #15 – Public Comment and Department Response

Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map

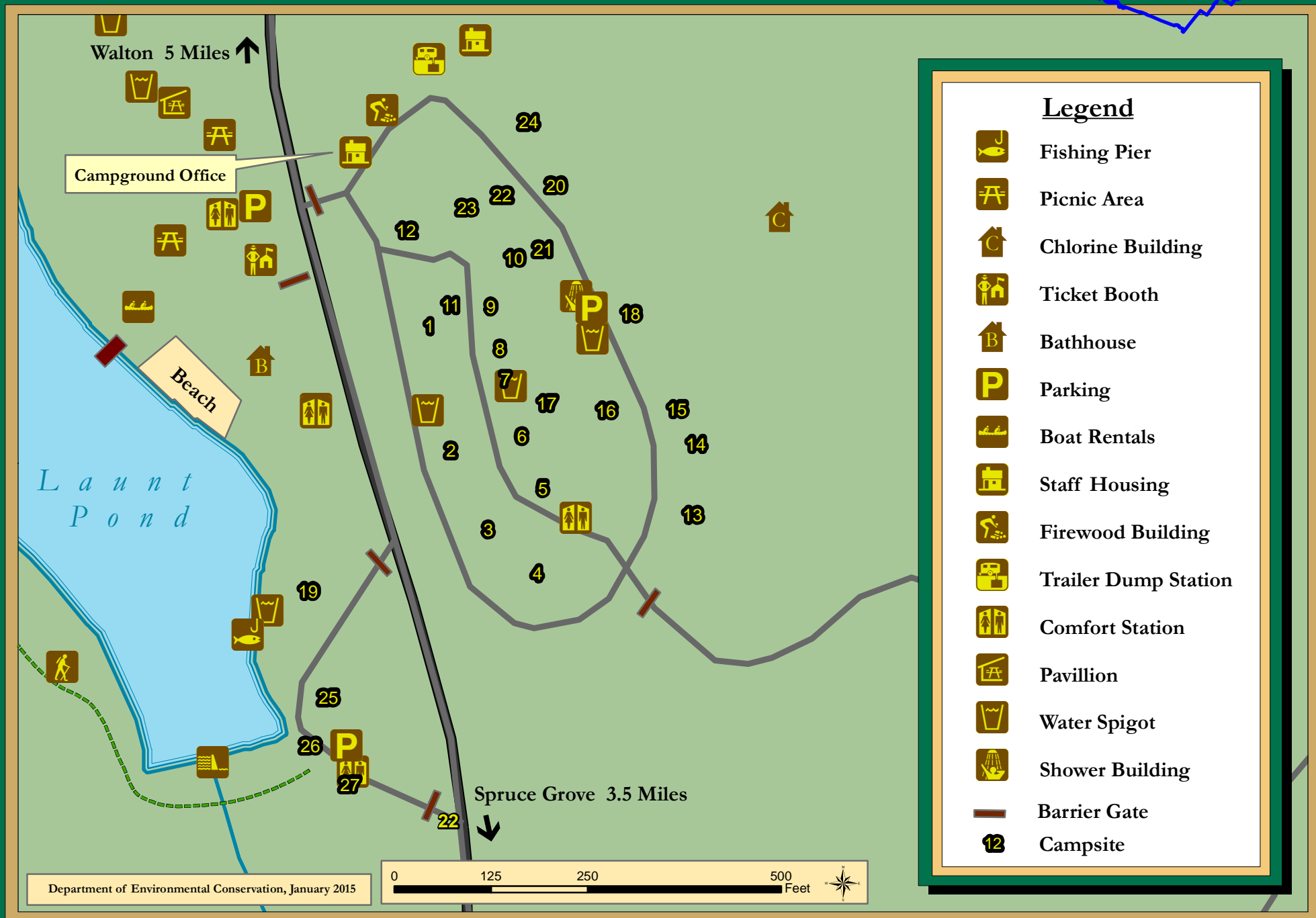
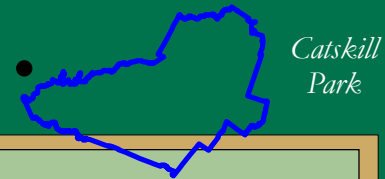


Catskill
Park



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 2 - Launt Pond Existing Facilities Map



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

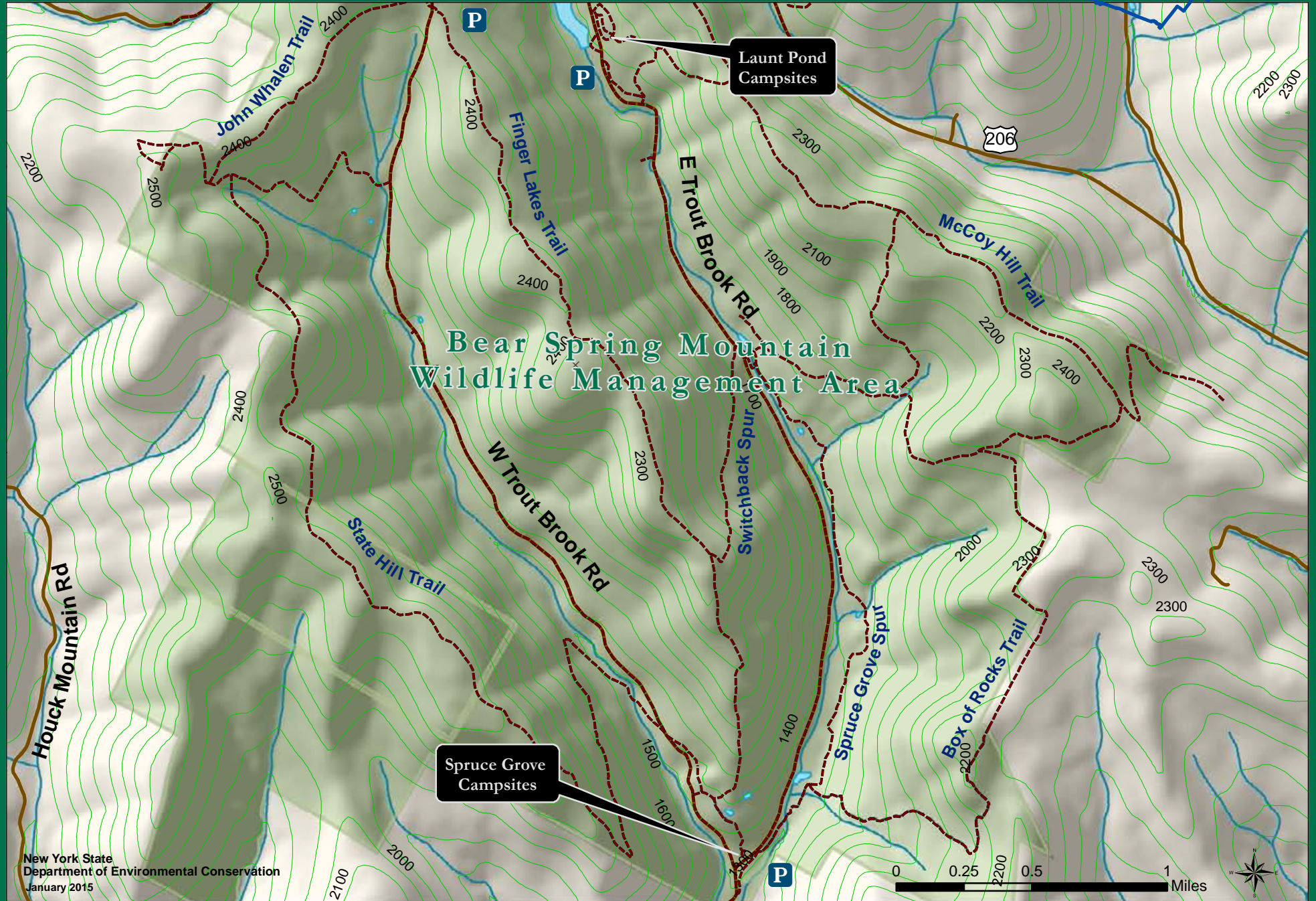
Exhibit # 3 - Spruce Grove Existing Facilities Map

Catskill
Park



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

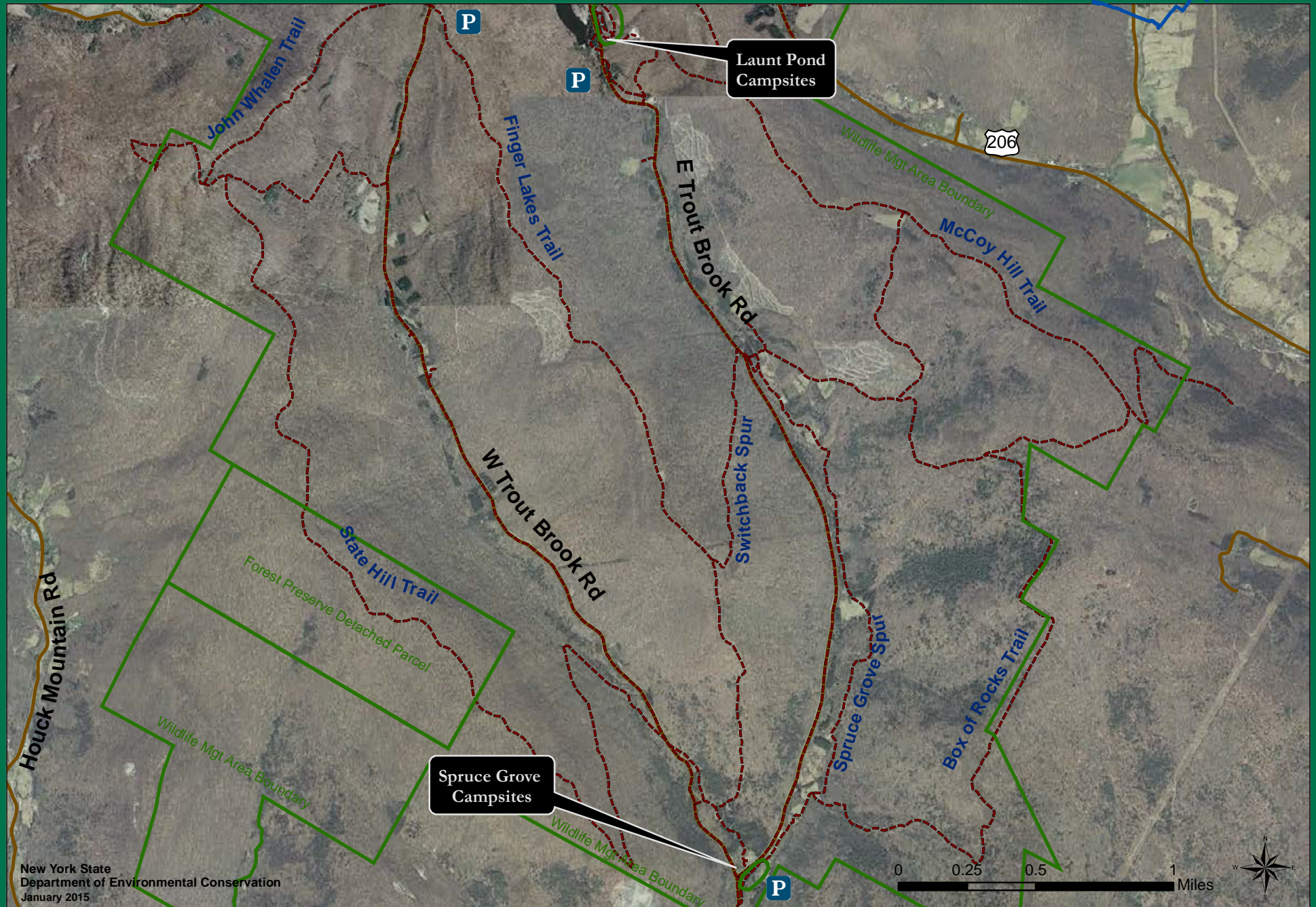
Exhibit # 4 - Topography & Trail Map



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

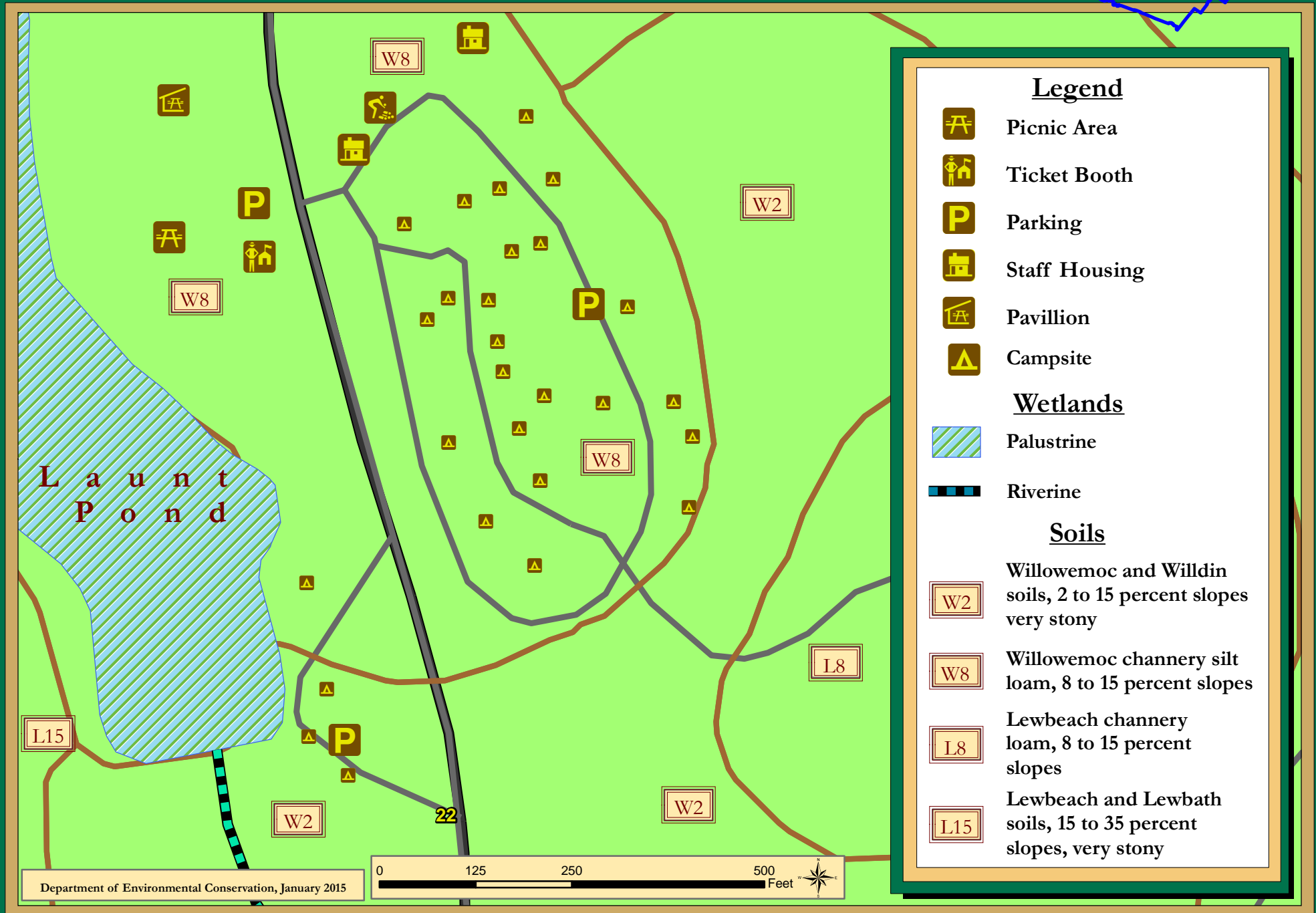
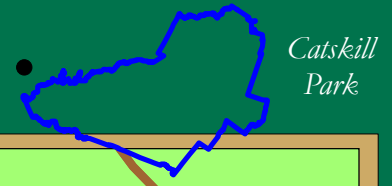
Exhibit # 4a - Orthoimagery Map

Catskill
Park



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 4b - Launt Pond Soils and Wetlands Map



Legend

- Picnic Area
- Ticket Booth
- Parking
- Staff Housing
- Pavillion
- Campsite

Wetlands

- Palustrine
- Riverine

Soils

- Willowemoc and Willdin soils, 2 to 15 percent slopes very stony
- Willowemoc channery silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Lewbeach channery loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Lewbeach and Lewbath soils, 15 to 35 percent slopes, very stony

Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 4c - Spruce Grove Soils and Wetlands Map

Catskill
Park



Legend



Parking



Comfort Station



Campsite

Wetlands



Palustrine



Riverine

Soils



Lackawanna and Bath soils
15 to 35 percent slopes
very stony



Tunkhannock and
Chenango soils, fan
0 to 3 percent slopes

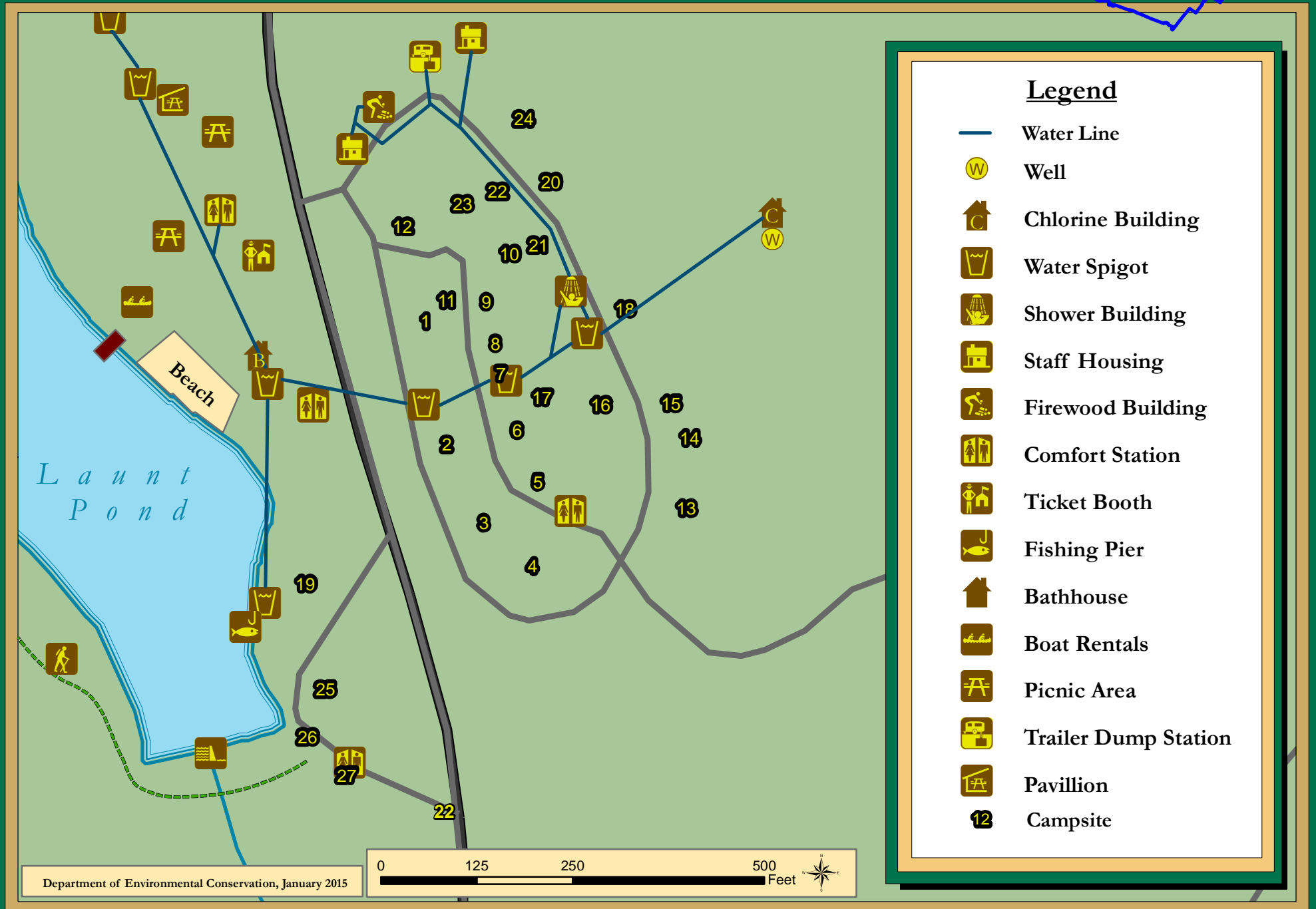
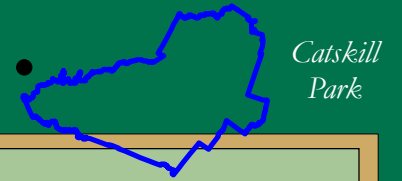
Department of Environmental Conservation
January 2015

0 100 200 400
Feet



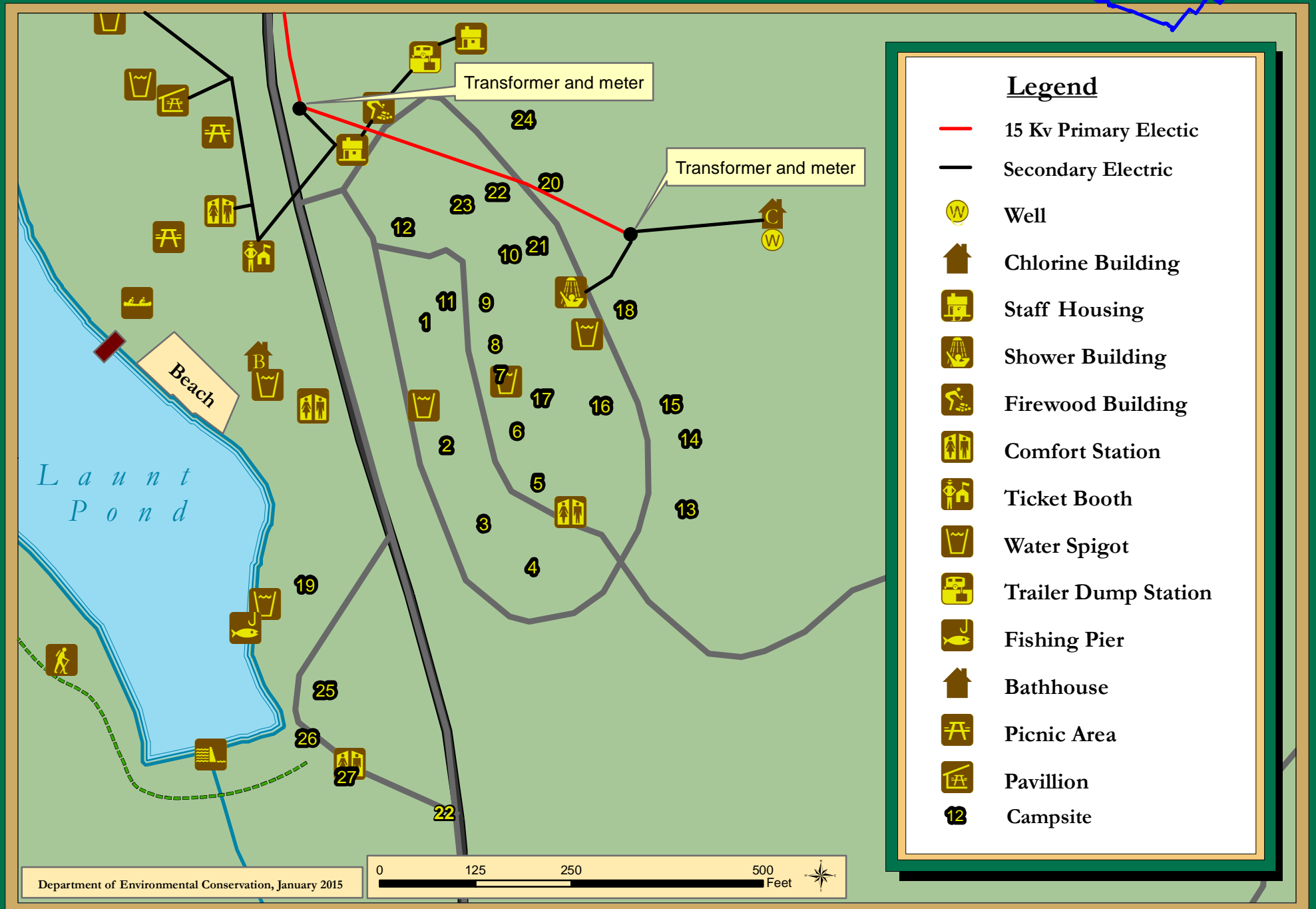
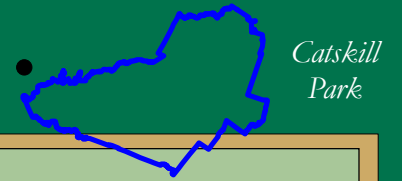
Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 5 - Launt Pond Water Facilities Map



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 6 - Launt Pond Electric Facilities Map

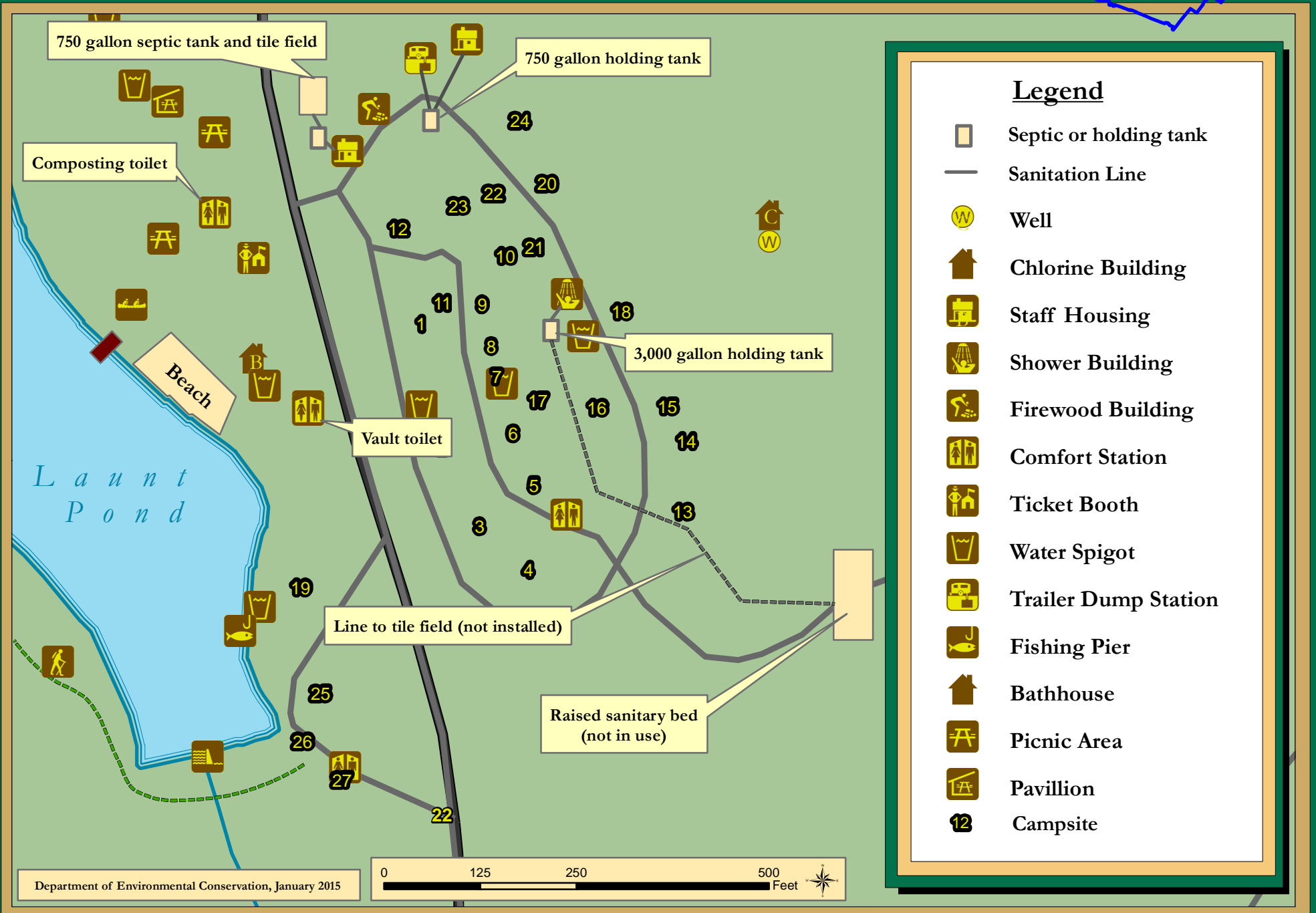
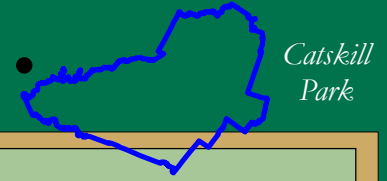


Legend

- 15 Kv Primary Electric
- Secondary Electric
- W Well
- C Chlorine Building
- Staff Housing
- Shower Building
- Firewood Building
- Comfort Station
- Ticket Booth
- Water Spigot
- Trailer Dump Station
- Fishing Pier
- Bathhouse
- Picnic Area
- Pavillion
- 12 Campsite

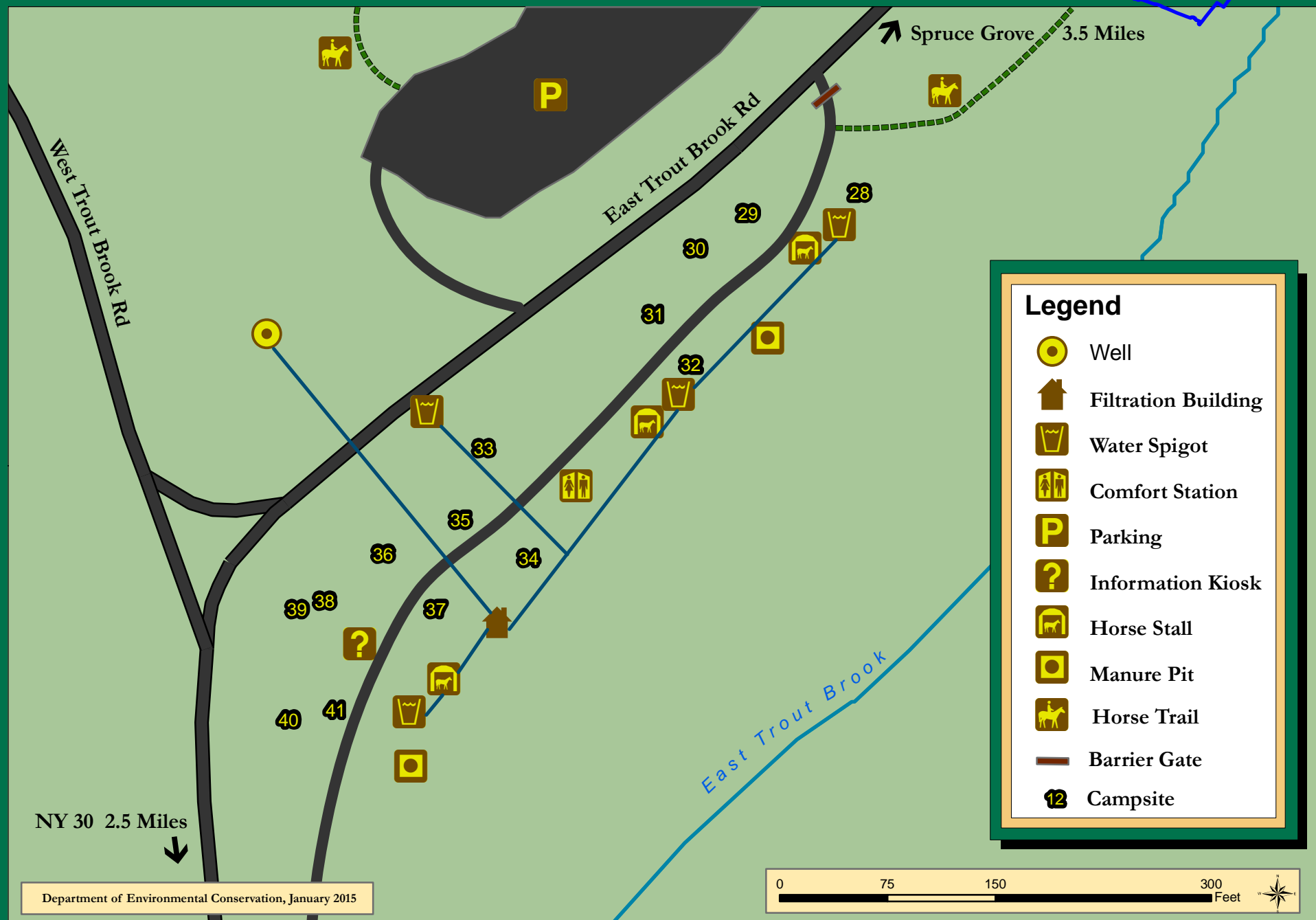
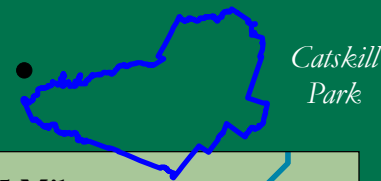
Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 6a - Launt Pond Sewage Facilities Map



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 7 - Spruce Grove Water System Map



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 8 - Spruce Grove Electric System Map

Catskill
Park



- ### Legend
- Transformer
 - Well
 - Filtration Building
 - Water Spigot
 - Comfort Station
 - Parking
 - Information Kiosk
 - Horse Stall
 - Light Pole
 - Horse Trail
 - Campsite

Department of Environmental Conservation, January 2015



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 09 - Campground Daily Attendance 2014



BEAR SPRING MOUNTAIN CAMPGROUND DAILY ATTENDANCE 2014

Date	Camping	Day Use	Total	Date	Camping	Day Use	Total	Date	Camping	Day Use	Total
Friday, May 16, 2014	39	0	39	Saturday, June 21, 2014	60	16	76	Sunday, July 27, 2014	67	72	139
Saturday, May 17, 2014	46	3	49	Sunday, June 22, 2014	14	20	34	Monday, July 28, 2014	11	0	11
Sunday, May 18, 2014	11	0	11	Monday, June 23, 2014	4	7	11	Tuesday, July 29, 2014	14	0	14
Monday, May 19, 2014	0	3	3	Tuesday, June 24, 2014	7	0	7	Wednesday, July 30, 2014	4	3	7
Tuesday, May 20, 2014	0	0	0	Wednesday, June 25, 2014	4	0	4	Thursday, July 31, 2014	11	3	14
Wednesday, May 21, 2014	0	0	0	Thursday, June 26, 2014	14	0	14	Friday, August 01, 2014	81	0	81
Thursday, May 22, 2014	7	0	7	Friday, June 27, 2014	89	0	89	Saturday, August 02, 2014	106	3	109
Friday, May 23, 2014	67	0	67	Saturday, June 28, 2014	92	16	108	Sunday, August 03, 2014	60	3	63
Saturday, May 24, 2014	135	7	142	Sunday, June 29, 2014	14	13	27	Monday, August 04, 2014	25	3	28
Sunday, May 25, 2014	131	29	160	Monday, June 30, 2014	7	3	10	Tuesday, August 05, 2014	28	10	38
Monday, May 26, 2014	7	26	33	Tuesday, July 01, 2014	14	7	21	Wednesday, August 06, 2014	25	0	25
Tuesday, May 27, 2014	4	0	4	Wednesday, July 02, 2014	28	3	31	Thursday, August 07, 2014	28	0	28
Wednesday, May 28, 2014	0	0	0	Thursday, July 03, 2014	92	16	108	Friday, August 08, 2014	103	10	113
Thursday, May 29, 2014	0	0	0	Friday, July 04, 2014	135	13	148	Saturday, August 09, 2014	135	23	158
Friday, May 30, 2014	14	0	14	Saturday, July 05, 2014	131	46	177	Sunday, August 10, 2014	28	23	51
Saturday, May 31, 2014	18	0	18	Sunday, July 06, 2014	39	28	67	Monday, August 11, 2014	28	3	31
Sunday, June 01, 2014	4	7	11	Monday, July 07, 2014	21	7	28	Tuesday, August 12, 2014	28	3	31
Monday, June 02, 2014	0	0	0	Tuesday, July 08, 2014	14	3	17	Wednesday, August 13, 2014	32	0	32
Tuesday, June 03, 2014	4	0	4	Wednesday, July 09, 2014	11	0	11	Thursday, August 14, 2014	39	0	39
Wednesday, June 04, 2014	0	3	3	Thursday, July 10, 2014	18	0	18	Friday, August 15, 2014	78	7	85
Thursday, June 05, 2014	0	0	0	Friday, July 11, 2014	85	17	102	Saturday, August 16, 2014	131	25	156
Friday, June 06, 2014	28	0	28	Saturday, July 12, 2014	99	20	119	Sunday, August 17, 2014	57	10	67
Saturday, June 07, 2014	25	7	32	Sunday, July 13, 2014	25	7	32	Monday, August 18, 2014	7	3	10
Sunday, June 08, 2014	7	3	10	Monday, July 14, 2014	7		7	Tuesday, August 19, 2014	7	0	7
Monday, June 09, 2014	4	0	4	Tuesday, July 15, 2014	0	0	0	Wednesday, August 20, 2014	11	0	11
Tuesday, June 10, 2014	0	0	0	Wednesday, July 16, 2014	7	13	20	Thursday, August 21, 2014	18	3	21
Wednesday, June 11, 2014	0	0	0	Thursday, July 17, 2014	14	3	17	Friday, August 22, 2014	81	0	81
Thursday, June 12, 2014	0	0	0	Friday, July 18, 2014	81	10	91	Saturday, August 23, 2014	131	3	134
Friday, June 13, 2014	21	0	21	Saturday, July 19, 2014	120	20	140	Sunday, August 24, 2014	43	7	50
Saturday, June 14, 2014	32	0	32	Sunday, July 20, 2014	60	32	92	Monday, August 25, 2014	28	10	38
Sunday, June 15, 2014	7	13	20	Monday, July 21, 2014	25	0	25	Tuesday, August 26, 2014	21	3	24
Monday, June 16, 2014	4	7	11	Tuesday, July 22, 2014	21	33	54	Wednesday, August 27, 2014	14	0	14
Tuesday, June 17, 2014	7	0	7	Wednesday, July 23, 2014	25	0	25	Thursday, August 28, 2014	18	0	18
Wednesday, June 18, 2014	7	0	7	Thursday, July 24, 2014	14	21	35	Friday, August 29, 2014	81	3	84
Thursday, June 19, 2014	7	0	7	Friday, July 25, 2014	85	13	98	Saturday, August 30, 2014	135	7	142
Friday, June 20, 2014	39	0	39	Saturday, July 26, 2014	120	3	123	Sunday, August 31, 2014	110	0	110

Bear Spring Mountain Campground

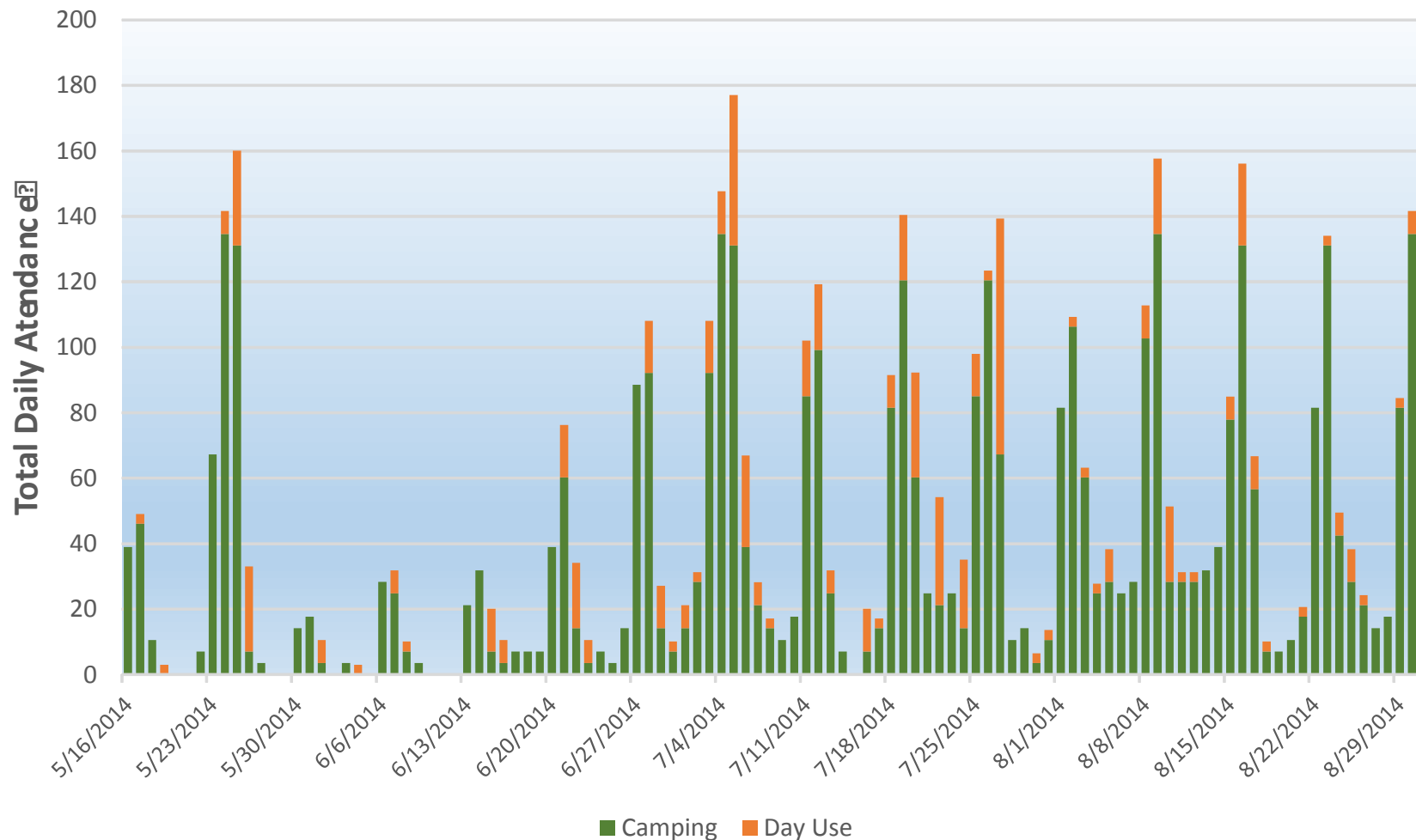
Exhibit # 10 - Campground Daily Attendance 2014



Bear Spring Mountain Campground Daily Attendance 2014

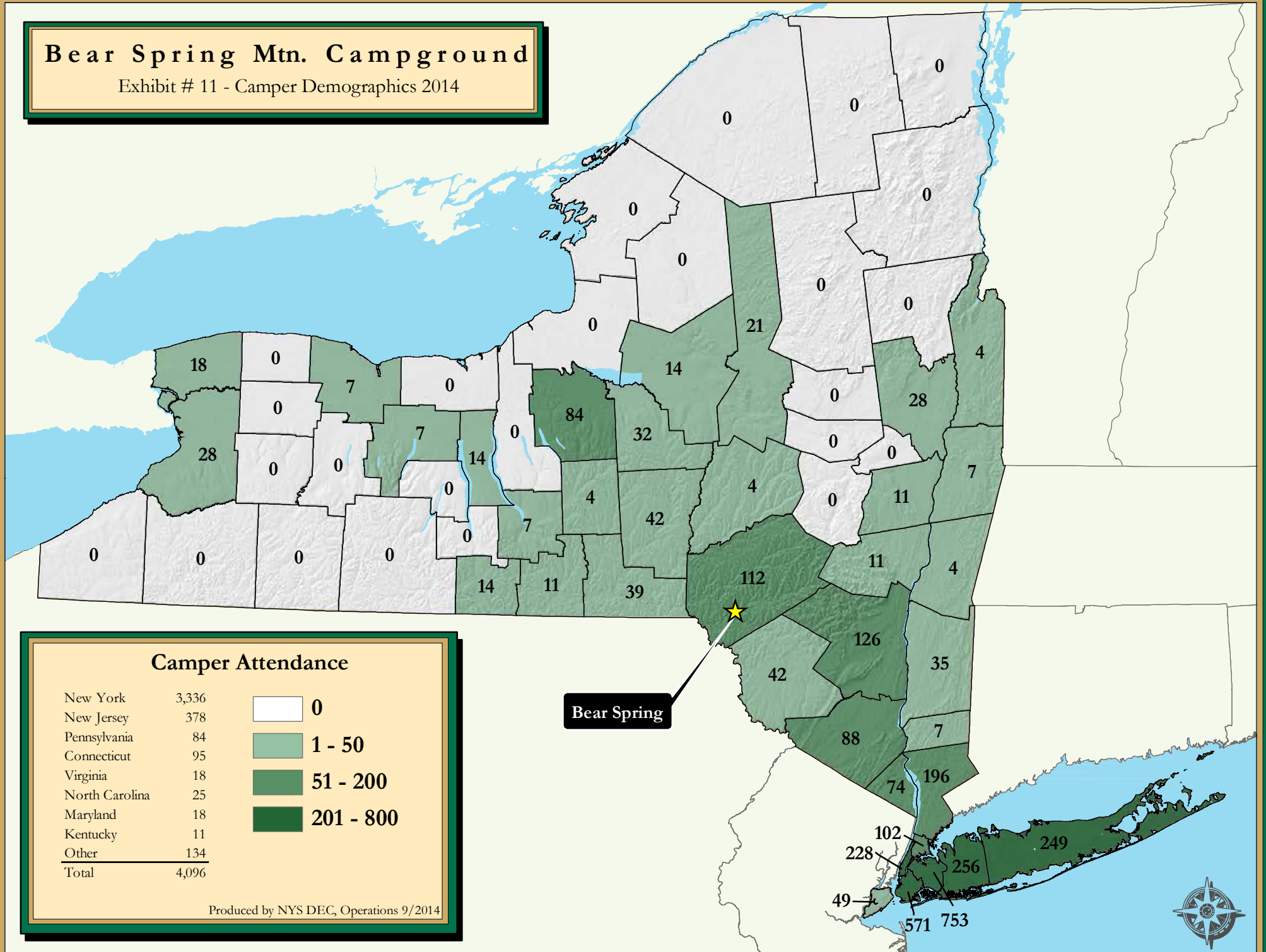
Total Camping 4,096

Day Use 738



Bear Spring Mtn. Campground

Exhibit # 11 - Camper Demographics 2014



Camper Attendance

New York	3,336
New Jersey	378
Pennsylvania	84
Connecticut	95
Virginia	18
North Carolina	25
Maryland	18
Kentucky	11
Other	134
Total	4,096

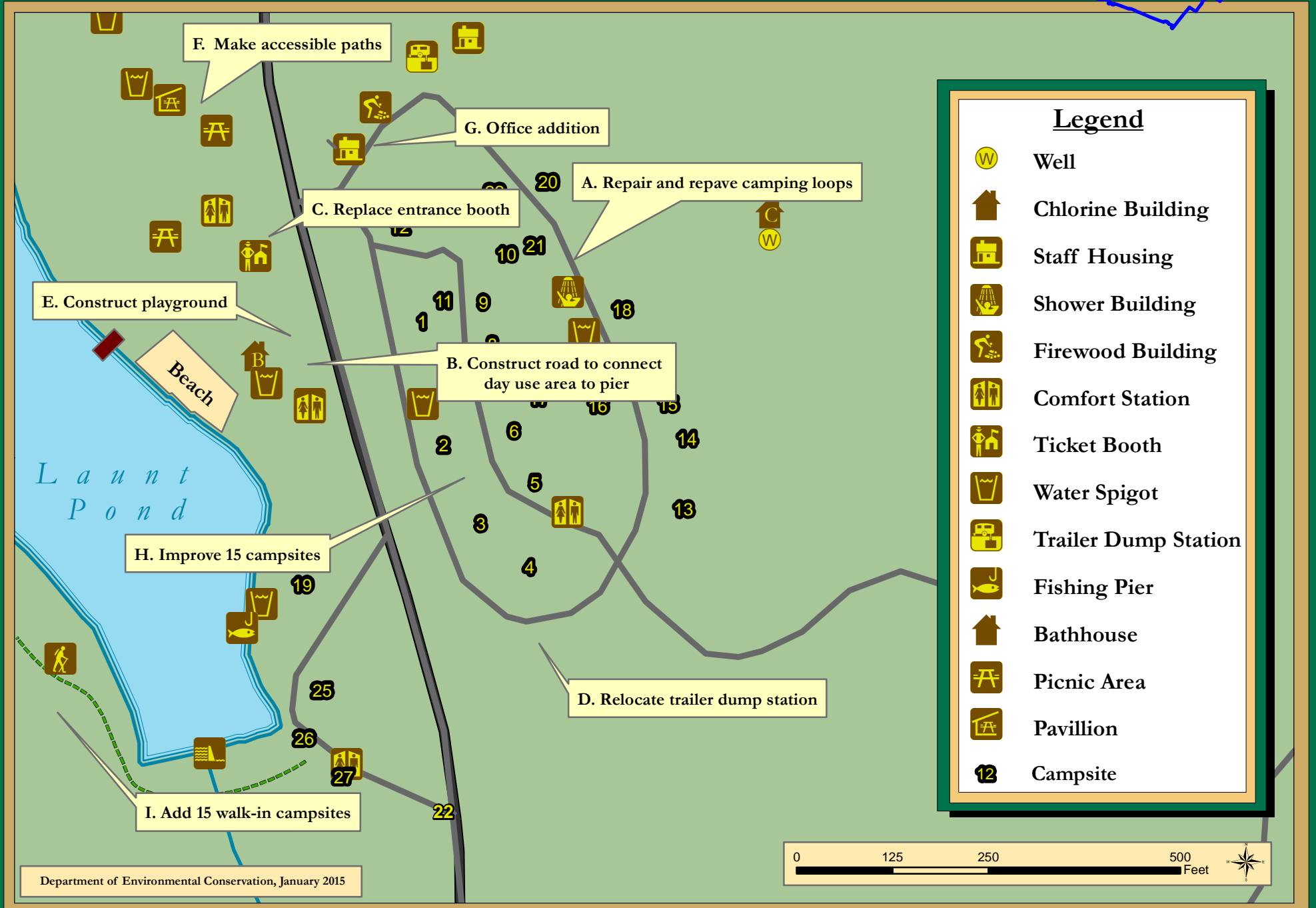
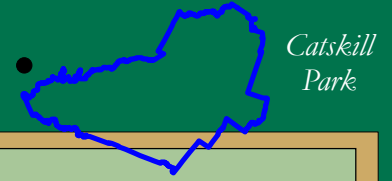
0
1 - 50
51 - 200
201 - 800

Produced by NYS DEC, Operations 9/2014



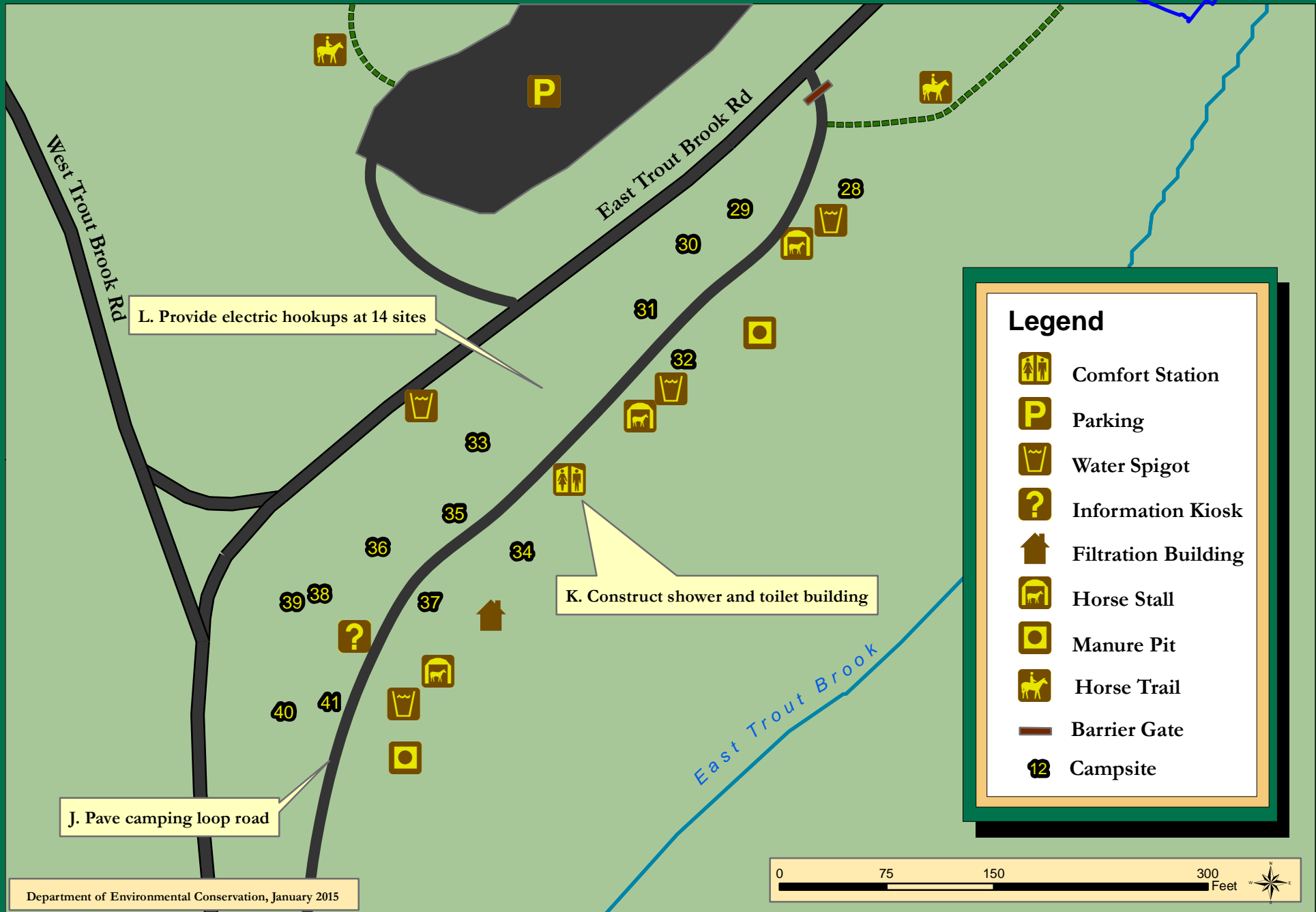
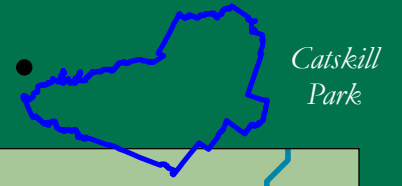
Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 12 - Launt Pond Management Actions Map



Bear Spring Mountain Campground

Exhibit # 13 - Spruce Grove Management Actions Map



Bear Spring Mountain
Public Campground UMP
Exhibit #14
Facilities Photo Inventory

Building Inventory



Figure 1 Caretaker Cabin



Figure 2 Bath House



Figure 3 Maintenance Building



Figure 4 Ticket Booth



Figure 5 Lifeguard Cabin



Figure 6 Composting Toilet Building

Building Inventory con't



Figure 7 Storage Bldg (Old Pit Toilet)



Figure 8 Shower Building



Figure 9 Chlorinator Building



Figure 10 Spruce Grove Pit Toilet



Figure 11 Spruce Grove UV Filtration Bldg

Other Structures and Assets



Figure 12 Amphitheater



Figure 13 Stud Pen



Figure 14 Water Tank



Figure 15 Accessible Horse Mounting Ramp



Figure 16 Horse Stall



Figure 17 Boat Rental Dock

Other Structures and Assets con't



Figure 183 Accessible Fishing Pier



Figure 19 Launt Pond Camping Loop Road



Figure 20 Info Board and Off Season Registration Box



Figure 21 Swimming Area



Figure 23 Spruce Grove Camping Loop Road



Figure 24 Bathing Beach

EXHIBIT # - 15

Public Comment Response

Public Comments are grouped by category and summarized below.

Bear Spring Campground Public Endorsement Comment (2)

Comment- General endorsement of the Department's efforts at the Campground and surrounding State Land.

Response – Thank you for your support of the Department's efforts. We hope to improve the Campground's facilities in the future to increase public use and enjoyment of the Bear Spring Mountain Campground.

Bear Spring Campground Regional Economic impact (2)

Comment- Importance of the Campground to local towns, villages and businesses.

Response – The Department recognizes the importance of the campground to the surrounding communities and also the local economy to the campground and its patrons. The Department encourages patrons to explore local attractions, purchase supplies from area businesses and attend events in all host communities.