



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

Division of Operations

Bureau of Recreation

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# **Buck Pond Public Campground**

## **Unit Management Plan**

### **FINAL**

Town of Franklin, Franklin County, New York

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## **October 2017**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Operations, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
625 Broadway, Albany, NY12233

Governor ANDREW M. CUOMO

Commissioner BASIL SEGGOS



## 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](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Record  
**FROM:** Basil Seggos  
**SUBJECT:** Buck Pond Campground

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The Buck Pond Campground Unit Management Plan has been completed. The Adirondack Park Agency has found the UMP to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The UMP 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: October 3, 2012

**BUCK POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND  
SITE SPECIFIC - VOLUME II  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**NOTE:** 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. Volume II is a site-specific 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.

Region 5 staff prepared this UMP. Any comments and/or information may be forwarded to Ronald Jock, copy to Tom Folts, 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**  
**BUCK POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND**  
**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

Goals include: managing recreation programs to ensure protection of the natural resources base 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 14 management actions are being proposed:

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\*Prioritized projects to be completed when funding becomes available

The beneficial effects of proposed actions include: compliance with state health codes, maintenance of physical plant 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: determining whether proposed activities avoid alterations of wetlands and topography; limiting vegetative clearing; preserving the scenic, natural resources of the area; and deciding 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 unrest, 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. Current care, custody, and control practices preclude choosing these alternatives at this time.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Overview

Buck Pond Campground is located on the western shore of 130-acre Buck Pond. The Lake Kushaqua and the Kushaqua Narrows form most of the western and northern boundaries of the campground. The remote northern Adirondack setting of this facility offers a relaxing, quiet beauty all its own. Campsites are large, well forested and private. Camping equipment from tents to 30' RVs can be accommodated. A picnic area is available adjacent to the beach.

Buck Pond Campground offers a variety of recreational opportunities including canoeing and boating. The pond is restricted to non-motorized boats, while Lake Kushaqua is open to all boats. Fishing opportunities also exist and species in Buck Pond include northern pike, yellow perch and brown bullhead. Lake Kushaqua offers these species as well, plus black bass and rainbow trout. Brook trout can be found in the North Branch of the Saranac River below Mud Pond.

Hikers can follow the eastern shore of Lake Kushaqua on the abandoned D&H railroad bed. Nearby hikes include St. Regis Mountain at Paul Smiths, and Debar Mountain at Meacham Lake and Loon Lake Mountain nearby, where excellent views are available of this part of the Adirondacks. Bicycling opportunities include paved roads within the campground and two abandoned railroad beds. Area attractions include the Six Nations Indian Museum located just outside the campground, the Adirondack Park Visitors Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths, and Lake Placid's Olympic venues 25 miles to the south.

### 1. Location

The campground is located on County Route 60, also known as Gabriels–Onchiota Road, .4 mile east of the hamlet of Onchiota in the Town of Franklin, Franklin County. It includes all or portions of Lots 293, 294, 295, 307, 308 and 309 in Township 10 of the Old Military Tract.

### 2. History

While the valleys of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Champlain were among the earliest regions in New York to be settled by Europeans, the rugged mountain character of the interior of what today is Franklin County delayed settlement long after other parts of the state. According to historian Frederick Seavers, the Algonquin and Iroquois tribes visited the area to hunt deer and trap beaver, but permanent lodges were located elsewhere, with the possible exception of along the lower St. Regis

## I. INTRODUCTION

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River. When counties were established in New York in 1683, the present Franklin County was once part of Albany County, a huge area which included all of upstate New York and Vermont. Subsequent divisions resulted in Clinton County being formed in 1788 and in 1808, Franklin County was split off from Clinton County. All of Franklin County is part of two very early land purchases. The lands upon which the campground is situated are in a portion of the Old Military Tract.

In 1786, 665,000 acres were set aside by an act of the legislature for satisfying claims of soldiers entitled to bounty lands promised by a prior act for enlistment and three years of service in the Revolutionary Army. Soldiers were to receive 500 hundred to 5,000 acres, depending on rank. The tract was surveyed in townships that measured 10 miles on a side, and Buck Pond Campground lies in a portion of Township 10. The legislature had also created other military tracts in central New York and in Ohio, and these lands being deemed more desirable by the veterans, not a single acre of Township 10 tract was ever claimed by a soldier. The State subsequently sold all of the lands to land speculators at about nine pence per acre.

The Town of Franklin was formed in 1836 and at the time, had a population of less than 200. The first settlement in the town was made in 1827 by Isaac McLenathan and William Wells who erected a sawmill and iron forge at Franklin Falls. All lumber and iron had to be hauled by teams to Port Kent, a distance of 34 miles, and the business did not endure due to its remoteness from markets. Besides the mill, there was a hotel, store and many dwellings.

In May 1852, a forest fire swept by high winds destroyed every structure in the settlement, including the mill and 23 dwellings. There are reports of dogs and cattle perishing in the streets from the rapidly spreading flames and many residents barely escaping with their lives. The settlement at Franklin Falls is now only a memory.

Historian Sievers also notes that the Town of Franklin boasted of a black population as early as 1846, resulting from the efforts of Gerrit Smith, an abolitionist, to resettle former slaves. Many Civil War veterans brought slaves home with them to further the cause of freedom and help them find homes. The local cemeteries contain many of their names.

This region, like most of the Adirondacks, experienced the great timber harvest that grew slowly after 1850 and peaked in about 1880. This second wave of development brought the need for workers from outside the area, along with improved transportation. Onchiota, just south of Buck Pond, was a mill town established in the late 1800s with a general store and the only phone in town. A steam-powered mill was constructed here in 1910 which reportedly cut 3 million board feet in the first year of operation.

A mill for cutting hardwoods was constructed between Lake Kushaqua and Loon Lake in 1915, a few miles north of the campground. Railroads were built and extended into this region to transport logs as well as passengers and freight.

The Chateaugay Iron Company created the Chateaugay Railroad in 1879 to build a narrow-gauge rail line from Lyon Mountain to Dannemora to move ore and charcoal for its iron-making operations. The line was extended to Saranac Lake in 1887, passing through what is today Buck Pond Campground. The Delaware & Hudson took control of the railroad in 1901, and, in 1903, combined the Lake Placid line with the main line as the Chateaugay and Lake Placid Railway. The D&H converted the entire line to standard gauge. The section north of Saranac Lake was abandoned around 1945 and has since been sold. Republic Steel Corporation purchased 13.7 miles of the right of way in 1952. The entrance road and road leading to Loops C & D are built on the railroad bed. A short spur line was built in 1887, connecting the D&H at Onchiota to the Roak Sawmill at Roakdale.

The New York Central Railroad had many railroad lines throughout the state. In Franklin County, a 40-mile stretch from Malone to Lake Clear Junction was a portion of the Adirondack and St. Lawrence or Mohawk and Malone completed in 1892 by Dr. William Seward Webb and then sold to New York Central. When built, this line was used to transport passengers and logs and the many spurs were used mostly to haul logs. The railroad was permitted to pass through state-owned lands as a result of a successful challenge of the state's acquisition of these lands through a tax sale. The section through Franklin County was abandoned in 1961 and is now owned in fee almost exclusively by the National Grid Corp., which has used the right of way for high-tension power lines. The original rail beds are west of Kushaqua Lake and visible at many road crossings in the area. Railroads made the removal of timber much easier and within a short time, areas in the vicinity of rails were devoid of trees. Hotel owners who built along the railroads for convenient transport of guests soon complained that the forests customers came to see no longer existed.

A spring drought in 1903 resulted in the worst fire year in Adirondack history, with over 406,000 acres burned, including a large portion of the Town of Franklin. A second large forest fire in 1908 burned areas just south and east of the campground. A 1916 fire map of the Adirondacks shows nearly the entire area surrounding Buck Pond as denuded and clear of slash. As you walk through the campground today, it is evident that the forest is relatively young, with many stands of softwood planted on barren ground left by the fires.

## I. INTRODUCTION

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After the timber was removed, much of the land fell into disuse, and, in the two decades between 1871 and 1890, the State began to acquire lands throughout the Adirondacks through sales for unpaid taxes. New York State purchased portions of Lots 293 and 294 between 1871 and 1887, and they would become part of the newly protected Forest Preserve lands. Additional lands were purchased including sections of the railroad right of way in 1961 and 1963 by eminent domain and a portion of Lot 307 was purchased in 1966 from a religious organization known as the White Fathers of Africa.

With the help of funding received from a Federal Lands and Water Conservation Fund grant, the Conservation Department began designing and constructing Buck Pond Campground in 1966, and the facility was opened to the public in spring 1968.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Buck Pond Campground Improvements</b>
<b>1968</b>	Campground opened; \$35,000 Federal Lands and Water Conservation Fund grant used for development of campsite.
<b>1975</b>	Park Ranger cabin moved to loop B.
<b>1989</b>	Additional lands at north end of campground and along D&H roadbed purchased.
<b>1990</b>	Two interior island campsites added to campground inventory.
<b>1993</b>	Recycle center constructed.
<b>1997</b>	Sewer pipe replaced in comfort stations #2, 6 and 8.
<b>1998</b>	Hundreds of trees damaged by devastating ice storm in January.
<b>2000</b>	Floor replaced in caretaker's cabin.
<b>2002</b>	Caretaker's cabin expanded, including addition of deck.
<b>2005</b>	Bathhouse receives accessibility improvements.
<b>2008</b>	Road reconstructed and loops paved.
<b>2014</b>	New waterline main installed in loop C.

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

### A. Inventory of Existing Facilities

#### 1. Camping and Day-Use (Picnic) Areas

Camping Area	Day-Use Area
116 campsites	Area – 3.2 acres
116 picnic tables	6 picnic tables
109 fireplaces	9 grills
9 fire rings	0 water spigots
15 water spigots	
Design capacity – 696 persons (116 x 6/site)	Design capacity – 36 persons (6 x 6/table)

#### 2. Roads and Parking Areas

The campground has a total of 3.4 miles of interior roads. These consist of 1.9 miles of two-way roads 16.5 to 24--feet wide and 1.5 miles of one-way roads 12-feet wide. Most roads were repaved in 2008. The main campground road was constructed on the old D&H railroad bed. Parking areas are located near the entrance (200' x 130'), Buck Pond boat launch (300' x 60'), Lake Kushaqua boat launch (160' x 160') and at the day-use area (500' x 210').

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

### 3. Buildings

Bldg #	Bldg Name/Function	Location/Description/Use	Size Sq ft	Condition	Year Built
(001)	Ticket booth	Near entrance	81	Fair	1967
(002)	Facility supervisor cabin	Near entrance	912	Good	1967
(003)	Garage and workshop	Near entrance	900	Good	1967
(004)	Comfort station #1	Near site #6	493	Good	1967
(005)	Comfort station #2	Near site #21	493	Fair	1967
(006)	Comfort station #5	Near site #71	440	Fair	1968
(007)	Staff cabin	Near site #68	192	Fair	1966
(008)	Comfort station #4	Near site #55	440	Fair	1966
(009)	Comfort station #3	Near site #47	440	Fair	1967
(010)	Comfort station #6	Near site #81	493	Fair	1966
(011)	Comfort station #7	Near site #88	493	Fair	1966
(012)	Pump house	Near entrance	100	Fair	1967
(013)	Bathhouse	Near beach	1,350	Fair	1968
(014)	Comfort station #8	Near site #108	440	Fair	1965
(015)	Recycle center	Entrance loop D	320	Good	1993

The building condition rating is from the (MMS) building inspection report conducted September 2014.

All comfort stations have 2 lavatories (one each sex), 2 showers (one each sex) and 1 urinal. Comfort stations #1, 2, 6 and 7 each have 7 toilets (4 female, 3 male) and 1 laundry sink. Comfort stations #3, 4, 5 and 8 each have 4 toilets (2 each sex). Comfort stations #3, 4 and 5 each have 2 laundry sinks, and comfort station #8 has 1. Comfort station #1 has accessible toilets (1 each sex). The bathhouse has 4 lavatories (2 each sex), 1 urinal and 3 toilets (2 female, 1 male). The caretaker's cabin has a shower, sink and toilet. The staff cabin has a sink. The recycle center has a sink. The caretaker's cabin and garage have a spigot. Totals for the campground are 58 toilets, 22 lavatories, 18 showers, and 12 slop sinks.

### 4. Barriers

Barriers are used to control campground use and are periodically opened or closed for this purpose. Department policy provides for the design and safety considerations of in-place barriers. Buck Pond has one pipe-gate barrier near site #114 which controls vehicle access on the hiking/snowmobile trail. This gate will be opened in winter to permit passage of snowmobiles.

**5. Sewage System**

All sewage disposal in the campground is by use of septic tanks and seepage pits or leach fields. Septic tanks are periodically pumped and effluent transported to the Village of Lake Placid sewage treatment plant under a contract arrangement. A NYSDEC SPDES permit #NY-023-9445 covers the systems listed below.

Bldg #	Building #/Type	Septic Tank Size (gallons)	Leach Field/ Seepage Pits	Construction Date
#001	Comfort station #1	2,000	3-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1967
#002	Comfort station #2	1,000	3-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1967
#003	Comfort station #3	1,000	2 - 40' x 2' trenches	1965
#004	Comfort station #4	2,000	2-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1966
#005	Comfort station #5	1,000	1-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1968
#006	Comfort station #6	2,000	3-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1966
#007	Comfort station #7	2,000	3-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1966
#008	Comfort station #8	1,000	2-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1965
#009	Bathhouse	2 -1,000	4-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1968
#010	Trailer dump station	2,000	2-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1967
#011	Caretaker's cabin	1,000	2-4' x 8' x 4' SP	1967
#006	Staff cabin	Holding tank		1975
#007	Recycle center	1,000	1- 15' x 17' trench	1995

**6. Solid Waste**

Annual refuse generated is approximately 14 tons. Waste is collected at the central recycling facility and hauled by staff in a department packer truck to the Lake Clear transfer station. Annual cost for disposal is about \$1,860. Approximately 1.6 tons of recyclables are collected and removed from the campground by contract. Annual cost for disposal is about \$660. Returnable containers are the responsibility of campers and not collected at the facility. Beginning with the 1992 season, all the day-use areas have been under the carry-in, carry-out policy. Appropriate signs have been erected to inform the public, the Albany Office produced a brochure.

**7. Telephone**

The main phone number for the campground is 518-891-3449, and calls will be 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 entrance, supervisor's office, bulletin board, traffic control, commemorative, regulations, picnic area, comfort stations and camping sites.

### 9. Electric System

The campground receives primary electrical distribution from an overhead transmission line on County Route 60. Electricity is distributed via 6,300' of overhead lines to three transformers located along campground roads. From these transformers, 5,400' of secondary underground lines provide service to comfort stations, staff residences, entrance booth, garage, pump house, bathhouse, recycle center and well. National Grid provides power and distribution to the campground. DEC owns and maintains all utility lines on the campground. The meter is located on a utility pole near the caretaker's cabin. Average yearly electric consumption is about 13,000 kWh at a cost of \$2,160. (See Exhibit #7.)

### 10. Potable Water System

There is a 130'-deep drilled well located near the garage that supplies water to the campground. The well yields 50 gallons per minute and has a 5 HP pump with a pumping capacity of 25 gallons per minute. The water is treated by chlorine injection at the chlorination building and pumped to a 2,938-gallon reservoir. From the reservoir, water is pumped through 2.1 miles of waterline to the water spigots, comfort stations, staff housing, bathhouse, garage and recycling center. (See Exhibit #5.)

### 11. Trails

The abandoned D&H railroad bed runs through the campground both as paved roadways and as a snowmobile/hiking trail that leaves the paved road near campsite #114. This trail follows along the shore of Lake Kushaqua and beyond. Popular hiking trails nearby include St. Regis Mountain at Paul Smiths and Debar Mountain at Meacham Lake and Loon Lake Mountain nearby. Each offers excellent views of the surrounding mountains and lakes.

**12 Fuel Systems**

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

Product Type	Tank Size Gal/Lb	Location	Annual Use
Fuel Oil	550	Comfort station #7	469 gal
Fuel Oil	550	Comfort station #6	
Fuel Oil	275	Comfort station #8	
Fuel Oil	275	Comfort station #3	
Propane	500 lb	Comfort station #5	291 lb
Propane	500 lb	Comfort station #4	
Propane	500 lb	Comfort station #1	
Propane	500 lb	Comfort station #2	
Propane	500 lb	Staff Cabin	
Propane	500 lb	Caretaker's Cabin	

**13. Swimming**

In most years, the beach at Buck Pond was operational for the core of the camping season and staffed by lifeguards. Since 2012, a lack of qualified lifeguards in the area has kept the beach closed for the season. It is DEC's intention to continue to recruit and test lifeguard candidates and open the beach if qualified staff become available.

**14. Boating**

Human-made facilities which enhance fishing and other water-related recreational opportunities at Buck Pond Campground include a boat launching site on Lake Kushaqua and a fishing and waterway access site on Buck Pond. Both facilities are consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and are listed in the *New York State Directory of State Access and Launching Sites*. The fishing and waterway access site on Buck Pond is listed as a hand launch, open year-round, electric motors only, with parking for 20 cars and trailers. There is a gravel parking lot with a grassy launch area and two small docks. The boat-launching site on Lake Kushaqua is listed as a hard-surface ramp, open year-round. There is a paved approach apron with a concrete ramp and a floating dock along the edge of the ramp. There is parking for 25 cars and trailer units. There is also a sandy area adjacent to the ramp for launching kayaks and canoes. This is the only public boat launch giving access to the Rainbow Chain. At both locations, the campground offers canoes, kayaks and rowboats for rent.

The Adirondack Watershed Institute Watershed Stewardship Program has conducted studies on Rainbow Lake. Data collected in 2014 includes the following: Of 607 boats inspected, 41% were motorized and 59% non-motorized, including 35% kayaks and 21% canoes. Twenty-five percent of

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

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boats inspected contained some form of organic material. Sixty-eight percent of organic material removed was grass and pine needles; 21% was native pondweed, 5% was bladderwort, 2% was water lily and 4% other. Eighty-seven percent of boats were registered in or from New York, and 13% were from eight other states and Canada. Visitors were asked what other bodies of water their boats had been launched on in the same season. The most common answers were Rainbow Lake, Lake Kushaqua and Buck Pond, but 52 other lakes also were mentioned.

### B. Inventory of Systems

#### 1. Staff

Total	Position Title
1	Conservation Recreation Facilities Supervisor II
1	Conservation Security Worker
1	Park and Recreation Aide 6
1	Park and Recreation Aide 4
2	Park and Recreation Aide 3

#### 2. Fee Schedule 2016

Daily Fees 2016 Open Dates: May 20 – Oct 9	
Camping/night – NYS Residents	\$20.00
Camping/night – Non-residents	\$25.00
Day Use - Auto	\$6.00
Day Use - Walk In	\$2.00
Day Use - Motorcycle	\$3.00
Canoes - Day	\$20.00
Kayaks - Day	\$20.00
Rowboats - Day	\$20.00
Empire Passport - Season	\$65.00

#### 3. 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 2016, no permits were issued.

#### **4. Off-season Use**

The entrance road and abandoned railroad bed are marked as a snowmobile trail in winter. This trail and other areas are also available to snowshoe and ski. No roads are plowed within the park, but the lakes are available for fishing.

#### **5. Junior Naturalist Program**

The *Junior Naturalist Journal* 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. It was offered for the 2016 camping season.

### **C. Inventory of Natural Resources**

#### **1. Physical**

##### ***a. Elevation***

The elevation of Buck Pond is 1,669'. Campsites rise moderately from the lakeshore to a maximum elevation of 1,720'. (See Exhibit #2.)

##### ***b. Water***

Buck Pond is 130 acres in area, with a maximum depth of 15 feet. Approximately 1.8 miles of the shoreline of Buck Pond are within the Intensive Use Area. There are 12 campsites in Loop A located near the shoreline of Buck Pond. Buck Pond's outlet enters Lake Kushaqua, which is 377 acres in area, with a maximum depth of 91 feet. Approximately 1.9 miles of the shoreline of Lake Kushaqua shoreline are within the Intensive Use Area. There are five campsites in Loop C near the shoreline of Lake Kushaqua and two island sites accessible only by boat. Lake Kushaqua offers boating access to Rainbow Lake Inlet and Clear Pond. These water bodies total 1,187 acres in area, with a maximum depth of 58 feet found in Rainbow Lake. Lake Kushaqua empties into the North Branch of the Saranac River, which flows into Lake Champlain.

### *c. Wetlands*

DEC and the Adirondack Park Agency inventory, map and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Within Buck Pond Campground, a 2.4-acre palustrine wetland has been identified adjacent to the Lake Kushaqua boat launch parking area. Other palustrine wetlands have been identified that extend within the southeast boundary and total about 11.4 acres within the campground.

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 of Adams - Colton, a glacial outwash soil, and Hermon - Becket, a glacial till soil. Most of the campground is located on the Adams – Colton association. These soils are generally poorly suited to crops or pasture because they are droughty, strongly acid and low in available plant nutrients. They are best suited for forestland. The Hermon – Becket association is located in the southeast corner of the Intensive Use Area. These soils are acid, stony and well drained to moderately well drained and are best suited for forestland. (See Exhibit #9.)

## **2. Biological**

### *a. Forest Type*

Seven different forest types are present in this area. Six of these have white pine as some component of the stand. Past events such as fire, wind and logging have exerted a strong influence on present day conditions. Much of the unit is plantation or open areas that have re-seeded to pine. In areas of northern hardwoods, immature hardwoods or over-mature pioneer species are evident. There are wetland areas as noted above in section 1c.

### *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 Buck Pond Campground.

### *c. Wildlife*

Wildlife communities in the vicinity of Buck Pond Campground reflect those species commonly associated with northern hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forests that are transitional to the boreal forests of higher latitudes. The bordering Debar Mountain Wild Forest contains significant lowland boreal forest, which represents 9.5% of all such forests within the Forest Preserve (second only to Saranac Lakes Wild Forest). These lowland spruce-fir habitats are important for a number of wildlife species with statewide distributions mostly or entirely within the Adirondacks (e.g., spruce grouse and other boreal birds, American marten).

In addition to lowland boreal forest, aquatic habitats are abundant and include lakes, ponds and wetlands. Together, these habitats support diverse wildlife communities, including rare animals and significant ecological communities. Terrestrial fauna are represented by a variety of bird, mammal and invertebrate species. The New York State Amphibian and Reptile Atlas Project (1990-1999) confirmed the presence of 30 species of reptiles and amphibians in USGS quadrangles within or partially within the bordering Debar Mountain Wild Forest. The avian community varies seasonally. Some species remain within the area year-round, but the majority of species use the area during the breeding season and for migration. The Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 Project (2000-2005) documented 112 species in atlas blocks within or partially within the bordering Debar Mountain Wild Forest. Large and medium-sized mammals known to occur in the central and northern Adirondacks are also believed to be common inhabitants of the vicinity of the campground and include white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, coyote, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, fisher, American marten, river otter, mink, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, short-tailed weasel, beaver, muskrat, porcupine and snowshoe hare. The variety of habitats that occurs within the Adirondack region also makes it home to an impressive diversity of small mammals. It is important to note that wildlife populations occurring here do not exist in isolation from other forest preserve units or private lands. The physical, biological, and social factors that exist on these other lands can and do influence the abundance and distribution of wildlife species in the vicinity of the campground. More detailed information of wildlife species can be found in the Debar Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

### *d. Fisheries*

Lake Kushaqua (377 acres) is an impoundment on the North Branch Saranac River, and Buck Pond (128 acres) flows directly into the lake. Lake Kushaqua was historically lake trout waters and

## II. INVENTORY of FACILITIES, SYSTEMS and RESOURCES

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stocked with trout from the 1920s through the 1950s, when the stockings were discontinued. An experimental lake trout stocking policy was initiated in 1996. In a recent netting, 26 lake trout ranging from 6-26 inches were captured. Shallow net sets revealed that yellow perch are still abundant in the lake. Also present are rock bass, white sucker, longnose sucker, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed and rainbow smelt. Similar species are found in Buck Pond as well as brown bullhead and smallmouth bass. DEC last reported stocking 1,900 lake trout into Lake Kushaqua in 2014. Ice fishing is popular on Buck Pond in winter. More detailed information of lake fisheries can be found in the Debar Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

### **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 base 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 GUMP/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 beach, day-use areas or visiting but not staying overnight). Camping attendance and day use at this facility for the latest five years are similar to levels experienced 20 years ago. Campground use during winter months occurs from snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and ice fishing.

Currently, there is no way of accurately tracking usage as there are no permits required or issued for off-season use, nor staff on site to monitor use.

Sixty-six percent of campers are from New York State, with a strong representation from the Capital Region and the larger cities of upstate New York. This is lower than the average of 82% for all campgrounds.

<b>Buck Pond Attendance</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Camping</b>	<b>Day Use</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016	17,993	866	18,859
2015	15,562	1,605	17,167
2014	14,857	1,454	16,311
2013	15,699	1,448	17,147
2012	16,384	1,484	17,868
<b>Avg</b>	<b>16,086</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>17,457</b>

Eighteen percent of campers come from Quebec and Ontario, and the remaining 8% from across the United States. Reasons for the slightly unusual demographic of visitors include proximity to Canada and the unique boating opportunities available to visitors. The average overnight stay for campers is 3.3 nights, and overall campground occupancy for the season is 42%. (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, boat rentals, sales of Empire Passports, peddler permits and returnable container deposits.

<b>Five-Year Revenue Totals for Buck Pond</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Camping</b>	<b>Day Use</b>	<b>Boat Rentals</b>	<b>Empire Passports</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2016</b>	\$140,495	\$2,028	\$10,560	\$650	\$0	\$153,733
<b>2015</b>	\$112,041	\$2,693	\$8,140	\$65	\$232	\$123,171
<b>2014</b>	\$109,400	\$2,235	\$9,780	\$325	\$489	\$122,229
<b>2013</b>	\$107,680	\$2,454	\$9,580	\$0	\$257	\$110,391
<b>2012</b>	\$107,200	\$2,288	\$9,300	\$130	\$375	\$119,293
<b>Avg</b>	<b>\$115,363</b>	<b>\$2,340</b>	<b>\$9,472</b>	<b>\$234</b>	<b>\$271</b>	<b>\$125,763</b>

Operating costs for Buck Pond average \$50,000. A camping fee increase in 2014 partially offset the drop in camping attendance.

## 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 day-use area lacks water spigots within a convenient distance from picnic tables. No comfort stations within the facility meet current accessibility standards.

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

Facility Infrastructure Capacity Analysis				
Facility Description	Design Standard*	Calculated Need	Currently Available	Deficiency
Campsites (116)	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	6,380 gpd	36,000 gpd	None
6 day-use picnic tables	5 gal/day/picnicker	180 gpd		None
Water spigots	1/10 campsites	12	15	None
	1/60 picnickers	1	0	1
Lavatories (within 500')	1 for every 15 campsites	8	16	None
	1 for every 60 picnickers	1	4	None
Toilets/Urinals (within 500')	2 for every 10 sites	23	52	None
	2 for every 60 picnickers	2	4	None
Utility sinks	Conveniently located	8	11	None
Showers	2 for every 25 sites	9	16	None
<b>*DEC design standards meet or exceed NYS Health Department codes</b>				

#### *b. Biological Carrying Capacity*

Many of the campsites 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, including the 6,000 campsites. 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 use for two camping seasons. Sites #44, 45 and 46 have been selected for restoration work and for closure in 2017 and 2018. Signs will be posted at the campground, and no reservations will be taken for these sites.

During the winter, campground roads are not plowed but are open for snowmobiling, snowshoeing and skiing. 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 within an acceptable social carrying capacity based on the expectations of our visitors.

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.

	# of Responses	# Good or Excellent	% Good or Excellent
2016	315	313	99%
2015	270	259	96%
2014	203	174	86%
2013	103	89	86%
2012	50	49	98%

***d. Unique Ecosystems, Historical***

The New York Natural Heritage Program maintains a comprehensive database on the status and location of rare species and natural communities found throughout the state. The northern end of Lake Kushaqua adjacent to the campground has been identified as an area of special concern for containing known breeding sites for the common loon.

The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that the campground is not 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.

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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#### *e. Adjacent Lands*

The northern portion of the campground which contains Loops C and D is bordered by both lakeshore and other State lands. The northwest side of this portion of the campground borders the shoreline of 377-acre Lake Kushaqua for approximately 1.8 miles. The southeast side of this portion of the campground borders the shoreline of 128-acre Buck Pond for approximately .8 mile. The northeast portion of this part of the campground borders the 73,000-acre Debar Mountain Wild Forest for a distance of approximately .33 mile.

The southern portion of the campground, which contains Loops A and B, borders lakeshore, other state lands and private lands. The northern side of this portion of the campground borders the shoreline of Buck Pond for approximately .9 mile. The eastern side of this portion of the campground borders Debar Mountain Wild Forest for approximately .12 mile and private lands for .5 mile. The southern side of this portion of the campground borders private lands for approximately .65 mile. The western side of this portion of the campground borders the Debar Mountain Wild Forest for approximately .53 mile.

The adjacent 73,000-acre Debar Mountain Wild Forest and nearby Kushaqua Tract Conservation Easement offer many recreational opportunities, including hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, mountain biking and snowmobiling. Popular destinations within the unit include Debar Mountain, Azure Mountain and Debar Meadows. Other popular activities are hunting, fishing, canoeing and boating.

#### *f. Invasive Species*

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

One common way insect pests are moved around the country—beyond their natural rate of spread based on biology and flight potential—is on firewood carried by campers, hunters and other users of our forests. This firewood may come from trees killed by insect pests and taken down wherever visitors originated. A regulation is in effect that prohibits the import of firewood into New York State unless it has been heat treated to kill pests. The regulation also limits transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source.

DEC's goal, in collaboration with other agencies and interested groups, is to establish a documented inventory of species by location within the campground and to implement an active invasive species management program to help contain and possibly eradicate further growth of these

species. It is through these continued efforts that a collaborative initiative among DEC, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry developed the *Adirondack Park State Campground Terrestrial Invasive Plant Management 2015 Program Report*. The report states that no invasive plants were found, but the campground should be monitored annually for new infestations.

#### ***g. General Operations***

Buck Pond Campground is a popular facility used during the summer season (mid-May through Labor Day) for camping, swimming, boating and hiking. The rest of the year, these campgrounds see some visitation for ice fishing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. A snowmobile trail that connects to other county trails passes through the campground along the entry road. 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 policy set forth in the *DEC Campground Guidance Manual*. The subject index of the handbook 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 (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had 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. Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to the services and programs of public entities, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden.

Title II also requires that new facilities, and parts of facilities that are newly constructed for public use, are to be accessible to people with disabilities. In rare circumstances where accessibility is

### III. INVENTORY of ISSUES and CONSTRAINTS

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determined to be structurally impracticable due to terrain, the facility, or part of facility is to be accessible to the greatest extent possible and to people with various types of disabilities.

Consistent with ADA requirements, the Department incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. This UMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible as long as the Department's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible. For copies of any of the above mentioned laws or guidelines relating to accessibility, contact the DEC Universal Access Program Coordinator at 518-402-9437 or [UniversalAccessProgram@dec.ny.gov](mailto:UniversalAccessProgram@dec.ny.gov).

In June 2014, the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center at SUNY Cortland conducted an accessibility assessment throughout Buck Pond Campground, and the following comments were noted.

Campground Beach – There are four steps to enter the beach area.

Restroom T1 – Distance of center line of toilet to wall does not meet requirements. There are no soap or paper towel dispensers in this restroom.

Shower-changing area not large enough for wheelchair maneuvering. No shower bench or chair provided.

Car top Launch - The step from the natural surface to the pier is 14 inches. There is no designated accessible parking at this location.

Picnic Area - There is no designated accessible parking at this area.

Trailer Boat Launch - There is an eight-inch step to get onto the pier. There is no designated accessible parking at the launch.

Campsite #4 – Fire-building surface of fireplace does not meet nine-inch minimum. Height of water spigot exceeds 36-inch maximum.

**IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

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

<b>Proposed Management Actions</b>	
<b>Management Actions</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1. Replace comfort stations #3, 4, 7 and 8.	\$400,000 ea
2. Construct addition on staff cabin in loop B and add leach field.	\$80,000
3. Replace ticket booth.	\$25,000
4. Improve boat launch on Lake Kushaqua.	\$200,000
5. Replace playground facilities in day-use area.	\$15,000
6. Rehabilitate four sites to universal design.	\$5,000 ea
7. Relocate trailer dump station to near recycle center.	\$25,000
8. Replace main water line.	\$600,000
9. Replace overhead electrical with underground system.	\$600,000
10. Rehabilitate 15 campsites.	\$5,000 ea
11. Install plantings throughout campground.	\$5,000
12. Extend water system to day-use area.	\$27,500
13. Relocate one remote campsite from island to campground	\$3,000
14. Construct universally accessible trail on old D&H railroad bed	\$1,000

These actions reflect the need to modernize facilities to comply with health, safety codes and user needs. They will also provide universal access and increase the efficiency of the campground management. Implementation of the proposed actions will reduce operating costs and generate revenues for DEC. Prioritization of management actions was based on the availability of funding, health and safety concerns.

**1. Replace comfort stations #3, 4, 7 and 8**

All restrooms are over 50 years old. None meet modern design or current accessibility standards. Toilet, sink and shower fixtures are not as water efficient as modern designs and are not easily drained for off season. Comfort station #3 will serve refurbished campsites meeting ADA guidelines.



## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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### **2. Construct addition on staff cabin in loop B and add leach field**

The current staff cabin does not contain a bathroom. This plan proposes to construct an 8' by 22' addition to the building which will allow for a bathroom with a shower, sink and toilet and additional storage space. A septic tank and tile field will be installed across the road at the location of the current grey water holding tank. The existing kitchen sink will be connected to the new wastewater system.

### **3. Replace ticket booth**

The existing ticket booth was constructed in 1967, prior to the need for computers, printers and ADA design requirements. Backups of campers and day users entering the facility are common. The building is undersized for today's needs and cannot check in campers and day users separately. The current roof is in poor condition and needs replacement. This management action proposes to construct a new ticket booth in the same location that will meet the needs of today's operations and improve customer service. There is plenty of room to expand the footprint of this building on the existing paved area.

### **4. Improve boat launch on Lake Kushaqua**

The launch area for Lake Kushaqua needs repairs. Much of the original pavement leading to the ramp is broken or missing, resulting in difficult launching for trailers. There is significant erosion along the edge of broken pavement. The parking area is not adequate for parking vehicles with trailers attached. This management action proposes to have the ramp repaved and to enlarge and pave the parking area. It also proposes installing a new dock with an accessible fishing pier at the end. The steps to the pier will be replaced with a ramp. In addition, it proposes providing dedicated space for stewards monitoring invasives at the launch site and for a boat-wash station if additional funding becomes available. It also proposes installing solar lighting to assist early and late access to the lake for anglers and other boaters.

### **5. Replace playground facilities in day-use area**

The existing playground facilities are weathered and worn and do not meet modern safety or universal design standards. This management action proposes to replace the existing structure with one that meets modern design standards and is constructed of natural materials to blend into the surroundings to the greatest extent possible.

## **6. Rehabilitate four sites to universal design**

Management action A proposes to replace the existing comfort station #3 in Loop B. This new building will be compliant with ADA design requirements. The grades and terrain in the vicinity of this proposed comfort station are ideal for developing ADA-compliant campsites also. This management action proposes to have two campsites in the vicinity of comfort station #3 and two other sites dispersed throughout the campground to be reconstructed to comply with all elements of universal design. These include providing a level, firm and stable camping surface, a picnic table with adequate clearances for a patron using a wheelchair, a fireplace with adequate height and cooking surface, a water spigot at proper height and faucet mechanism and proper grades and surfaces leading to parking and restrooms.

## **7. Relocate trailer dump station to near recycle center**

The existing trailer dump station is located adjacent to the Lake Kushaqua boat launch and results in congestion between users. Moving the dump station to an area near the recycle center should resolve this issue and eliminate any concerns of a potential spill reaching the lake. The existing absorption bed at this location will be adequate to handle the effluent.

## **8. Replace main waterline**

The main water line in the campground is the original three-inch line constructed in 1966. Over the decades, the piping, valves, drains and other components of the more than one mile of line have required many repairs made difficult by the asbestos content of the original line. This management action proposes to remove and replace the existing line.

## **9. Replace overhead electrical with underground system**

Buck Pond is widespread, with over 2.2 miles of primary and secondary overhead power lines running through a facility that is heavily wooded in many locations. Like all campgrounds in the area, it is subject to heavy storms with strong winds and lightning strikes. The overhead lines constantly need maintenance and have required emergency repairs several times resulting in the power being off for extended periods. Over time, the lines have had many splice repairs that further weaken their durability. This management action proposes to have the overhead power lines buried and the three pole transformers moved to a ground pad location.

## IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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### **10. Rehabilitate 15 campsites**

The concentrated use of campsites over time results in the need for rehabilitation. The Campsite Restoration Project is an effort to rehabilitate our 6,000+ campsites at all of our campgrounds, with an average of 2.5% of campsites being rehabilitated per year. An annual survey of each campsite is conducted and site conditions, including camping pad, screening, fireplace and table, are evaluated. In addition, the larger camping vehicles used today require some sites to be enlarged. From this survey, a list of campsite improvements is produced that will identify sites that need additional gravel and camping-pad hardening, removal of any hazardous trees and stumps, new plantings for screening, relocation or replacement of fireplaces, repair or replacement of picnic tables and improvements to drainage. When it is determined that taking a site out of use for a period of time is necessary to re-establish the vegetation, up to three sites per year will be closed to camping for up to two years. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the plan. New trees and shrubs are required to replace those lost to removal of hazardous trees and to establish trees in high-traffic areas where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur. Species will be selected that are both natural to the area and that will provide the needed shading and screening.

### **11. Install plantings throughout campground**

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. In addition to plantings needed for Action 10, other areas will be identified through the annual campsite survey. This management action is an ongoing process and the work identified will be conducted over the life of the plan.

### **12. Extend water system to day-use area**

In Section III-F of this plan, an analysis of existing design capacities as compared to NYS Department of Health codes and DEC design standards noted the deficiency of having water spigots within proximity to the day-use facilities. This management action proposes to extend the existing waterline from the bathhouse approximately 500' to the picnic facilities located in the day-use area.

**13. Relocate one remote campsite from island to campground**

Campsites R1 and R2 are located on an island in Lake Kushaqua and on lands classified as Wild Forest. These two sites currently do not meet the site-separation guideline for campsites located within this land classification. This management action proposes to relocate one of the campsites from the island to the camping loops within the Intensive Use portion of the campground. Site R1 will be been made into a group site (up to 12 people), and the new site 79A will be located in Loop C.

**14. Construct universally accessible trail on old D&H railroad bed**

The railroad bed leaves the campground road near site 118. From this point, a trail continues to traverse the old railway bed and intersects with other trails used in the winter by snowmobiles. The trail is already popular with hikers and mountain bikers in summer and the grades are ideal for developing a wheelchair accessible trail on an approximately a 1.25 mile segment both on campground property and the Debar Mountain Wild Forest lands. This management action will be coordinated with actions in the Debar Mountain Wild Forest plan which is currently in development.

**V. EXHIBIT INDEX**

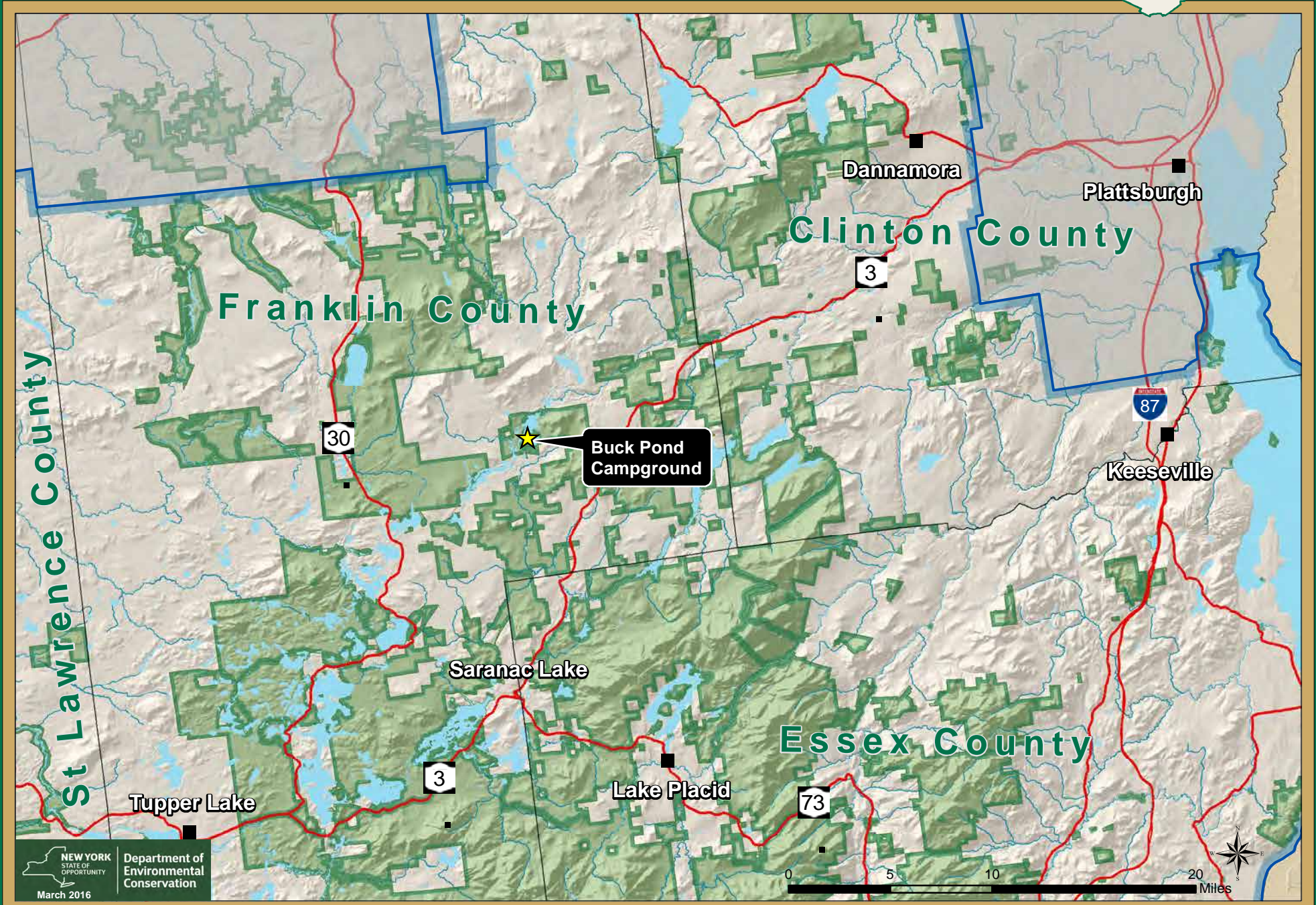
<b>Exhibit Index</b>
Exhibit #1 – Adirondack Park Location Overview Map
Exhibit #2 – Buck Pond Campground Contour Map
Exhibit #3 – Buck Pond Campground Orthoimagery Map
Exhibit #4 – Buck Pond Facility Map
Exhibit #4a – Buck Pond Loops A & B Facility Map
Exhibit #4b – Buck Pond Loops B & C Facility Map
Exhibit #5 - Buck Pond Campground Sewage System Map
Exhibit #6 – Buck Pond Campground Water System Map
Exhibit #7 – Buck Pond Campground Electric System Map
Exhibit #8 – Buck Pond Campground Forest Vegetation Map
Exhibit #9 – Buck Pond Soils and Wetlands Map
Exhibit #10 – Buck Pond Campsite Occupancy Graph
Exhibit #11 – Buck Pond Camper Demographic Map
Exhibit #12 – Buck Pond Management Actions Location Map
Exhibit #13 - Campground Photos
Exhibit #14 – Response to Public Comment
Exhibit #15 – APA Resolution

# Buck Pond Campground

Exhibit # 1 - Location Map



Adirondack  
Park

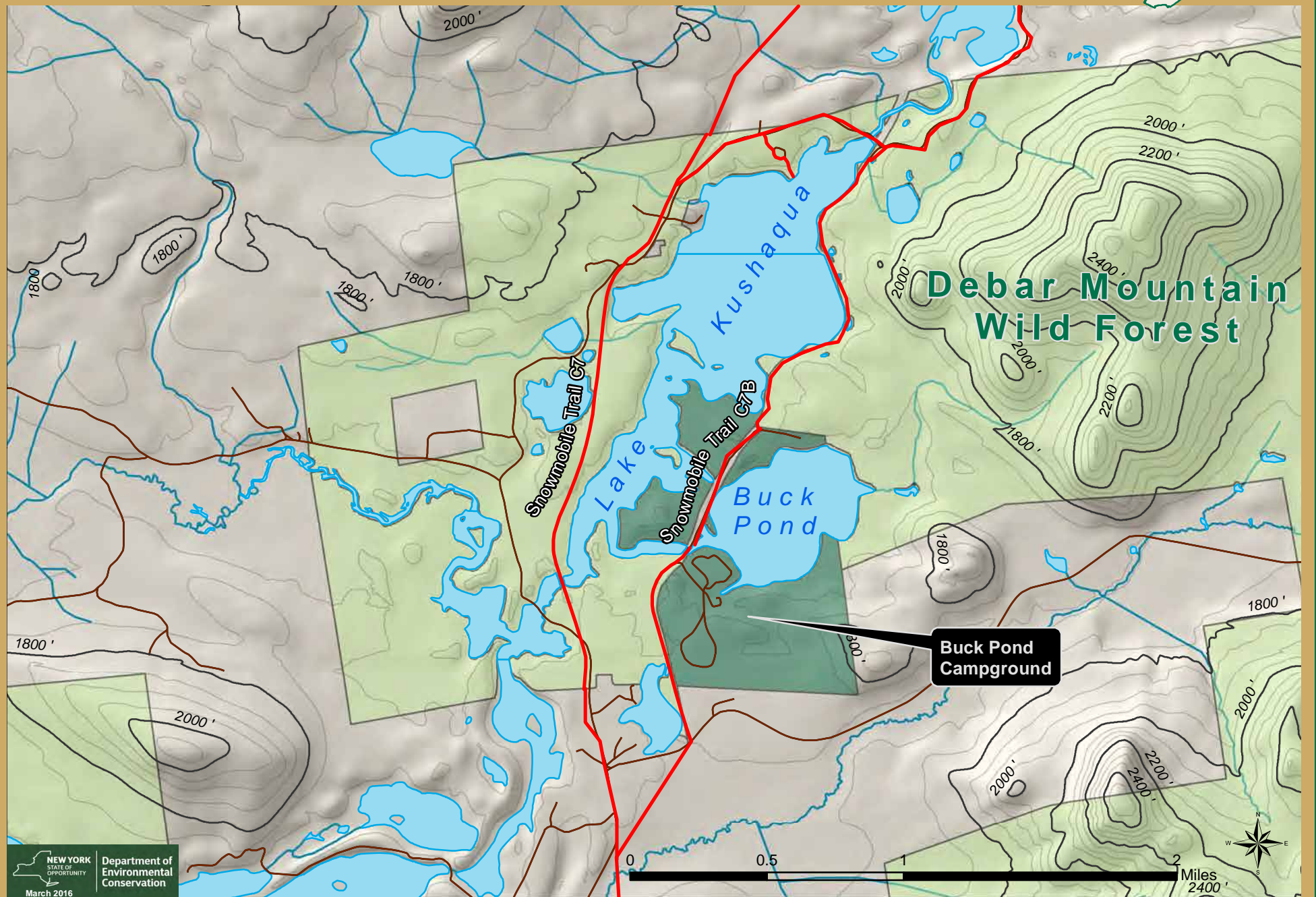


**Buck Pond  
Campground**



# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 2 - Topography & Trail Map

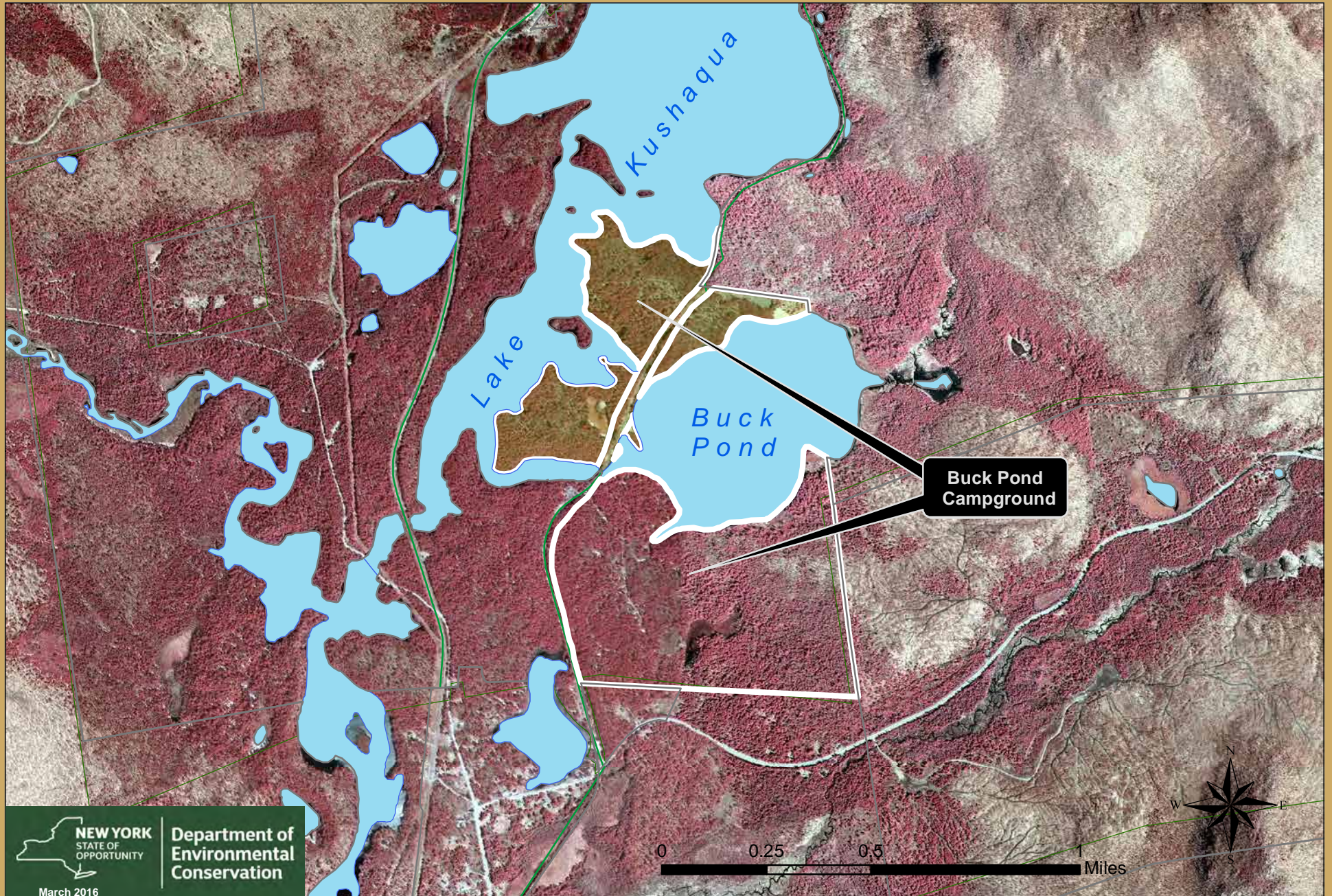


# Buck Pond Campground

Exhibit # 3 - Orthoimagery Map



Adirondack  
Park



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

March 2016

0 0.25 0.5 Miles














# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 4 - Existing Facilities Map

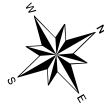
Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

### Legend

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  Bathhouse    |  Pumphouse      |  Garage      |
|  Boat Launch  |  Recycle Center |  Spigots     |
|  Dump Station |  Staff Housing  |  Picnic Area |
|  Parking Lot  |  Ticket Booth   |   |

0 250 500 1,000  
Feet











# Buck Pond Campground

Exhibit # 4a - Existing Facilities Map Loops A & B

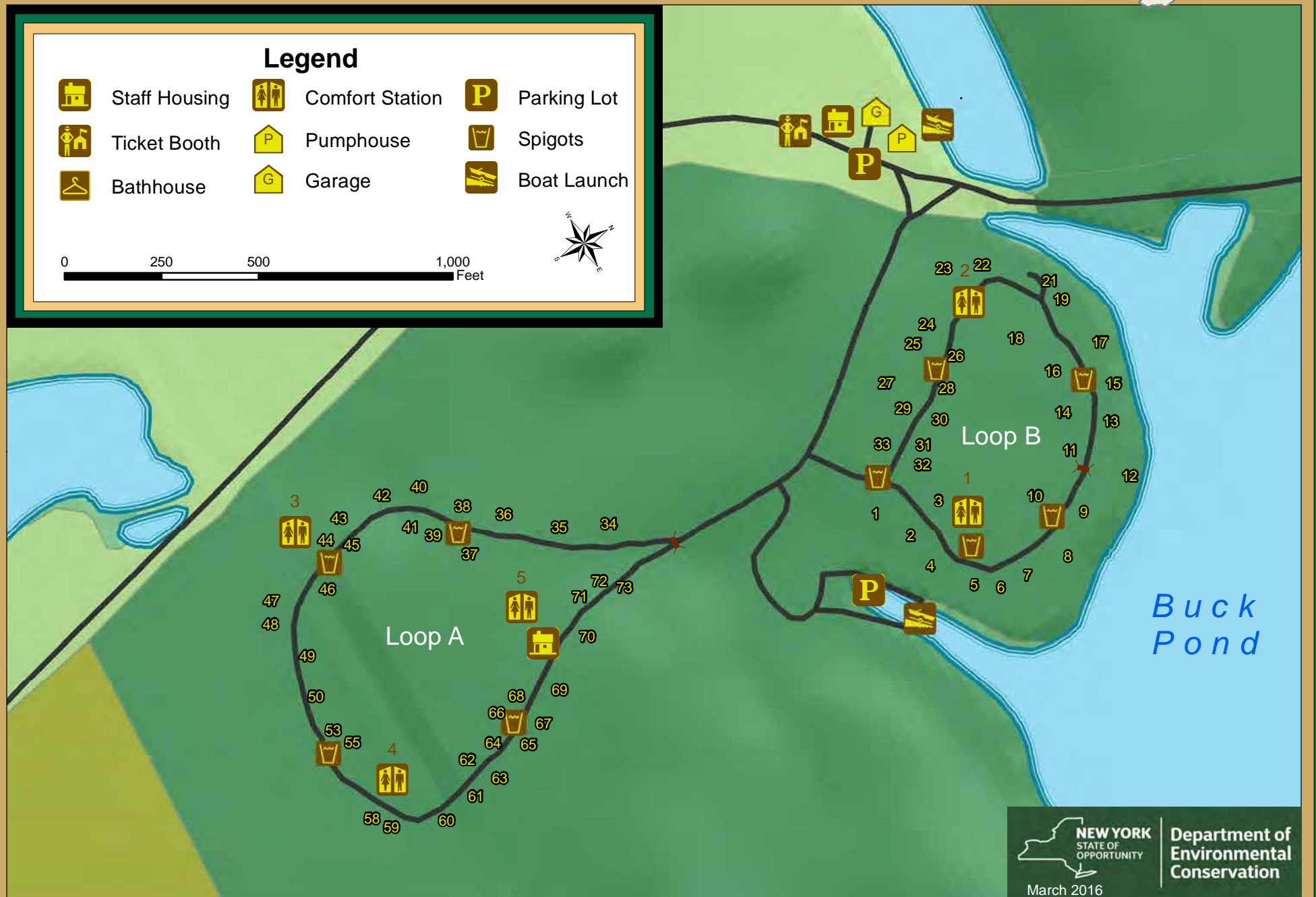
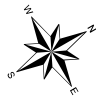
Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

## Legend

- |   |               |   |                 |   |             |
|---|---------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|
|  | Staff Housing |  | Comfort Station |  | Parking Lot |
|  | Ticket Booth  |  | Pumphouse       |  | Spigots     |
|  | Bathhouse     |  | Garage          |  | Boat Launch |

0 250 500 1,000 Feet










# Buck Pond Campground

Exhibit # 4b - Existing Facilities Map Loops C & D

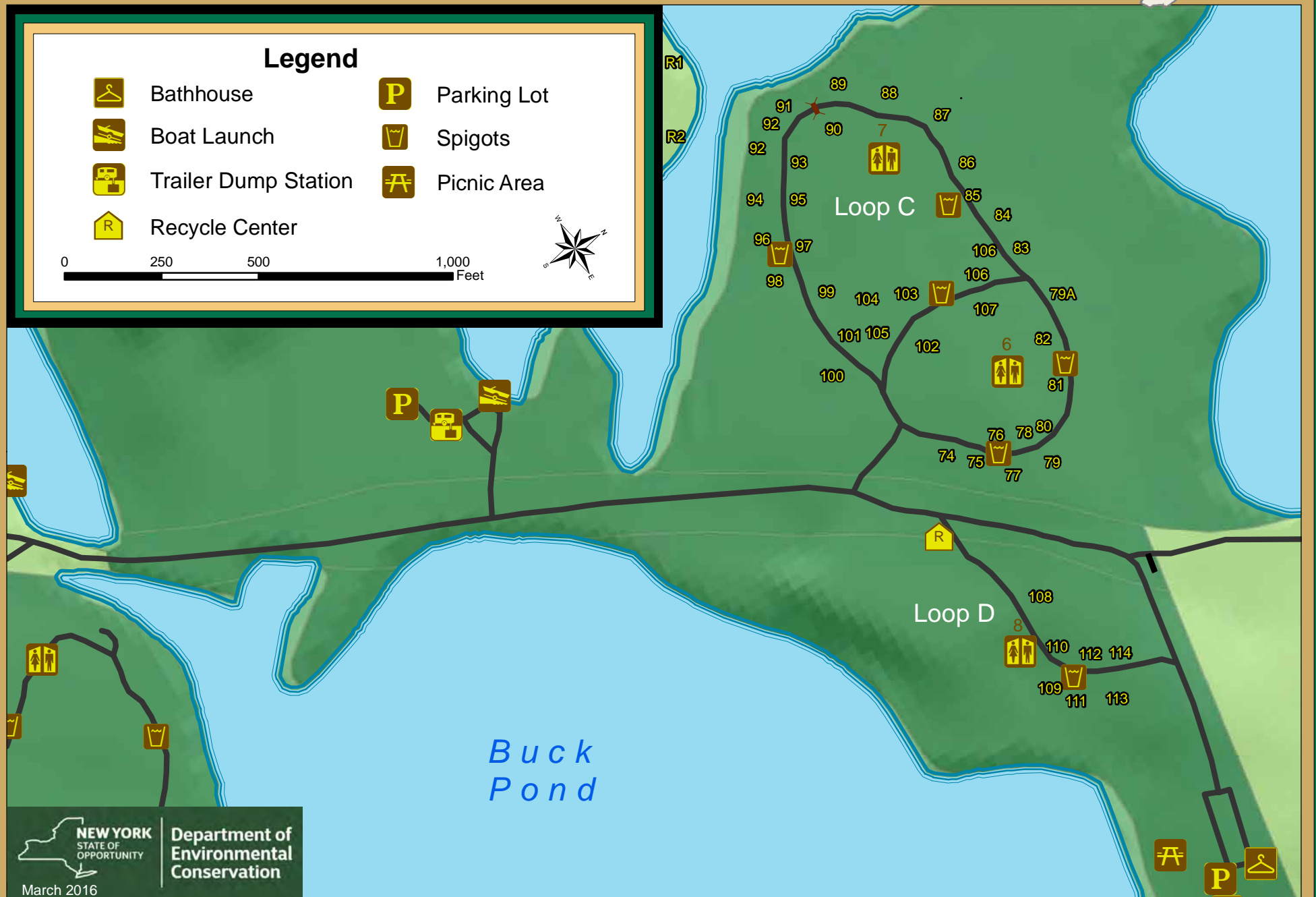
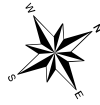
Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

## Legend

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Bathhouse            |  Parking Lot |
|  Boat Launch          |  Spigots     |
|  Trailer Dump Station |  Picnic Area |
|  Recycle Center       |   |

0 250 500 1,000 Feet



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

March 2016

# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 5 - Sewage System Map









Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

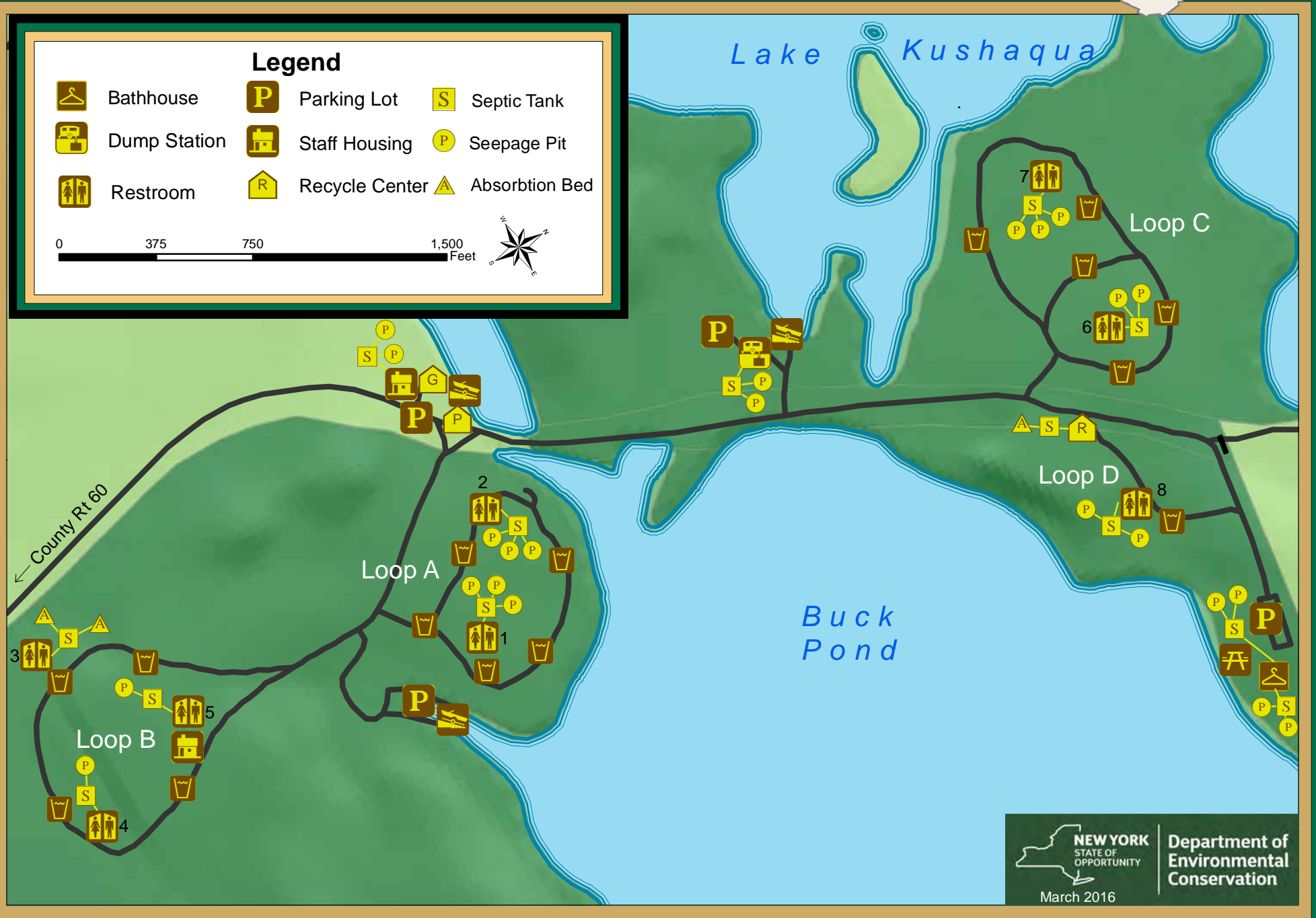
Lake  
Kushaqua

Buck  
Pond

### Legend

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  Bathhouse    |  Parking Lot    |  Septic Tank   |
|  Dump Station |  Staff Housing  |  Seepage Pit   |
|  Restroom     |  Recycle Center |  Absorbent Bed |

0 375 750 1,500  
Feet



# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 6 - Water System Map

Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park








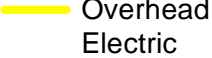


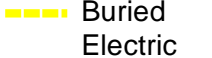


# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 7 - Electric System Map

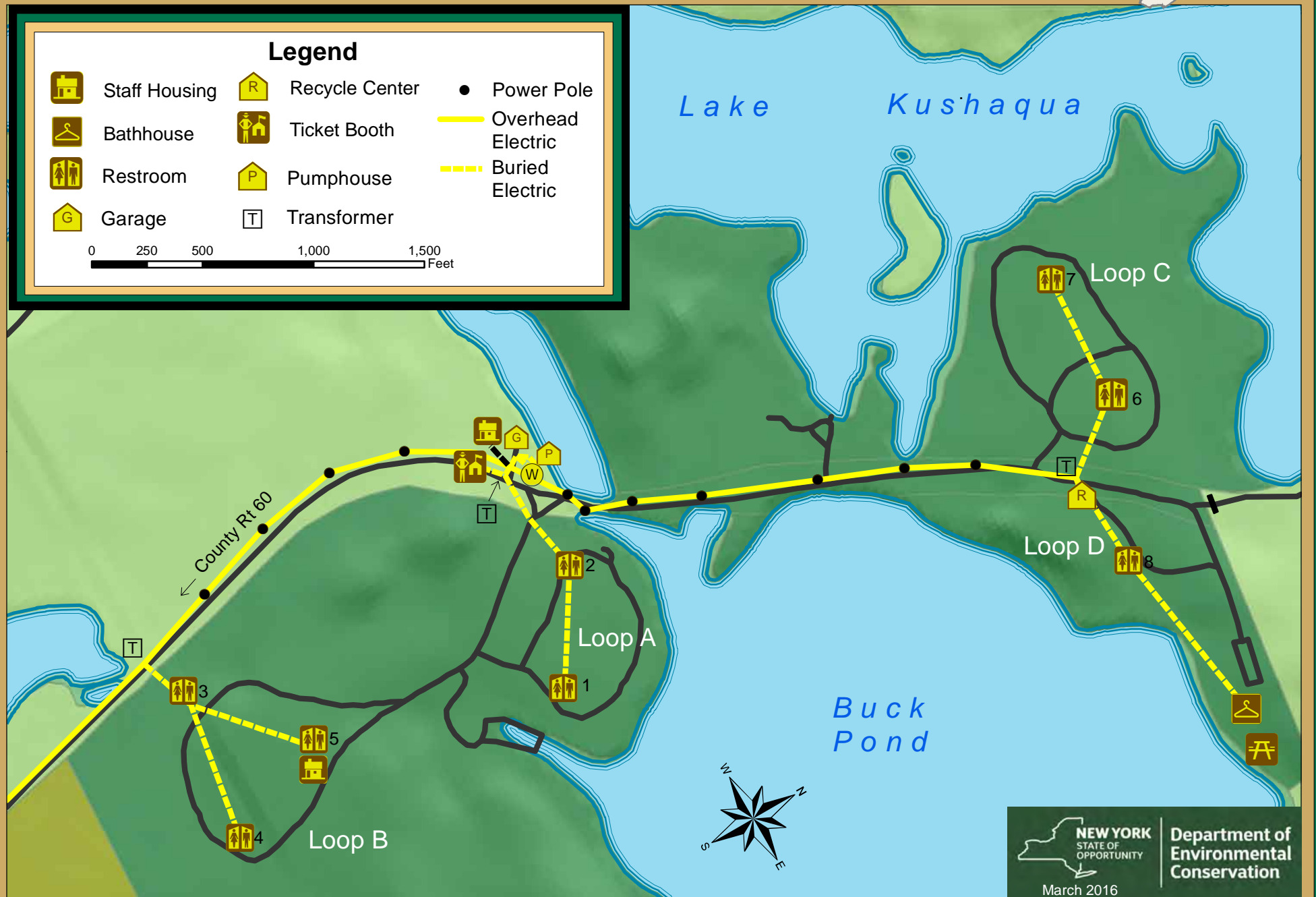
Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

### Legend

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  Staff Housing |  Recycle Center |  Power Pole        |
|  Bathhouse     |  Ticket Booth   |  Overhead Electric |
|  Restroom      |  Pumphouse      |  Buried Electric   |
|  Garage        |  Transformer    |   |

0 250 500 1,000 1,500  
Feet



# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 8 - Forest Vegetation Map

Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

### Legend



Planted Pine - Mixed Red & White



Pine Plantaion - Mixed Red & White



Northern Hardwood with White Pine



Open Areas reseeding to White Pine



Open Wetlands

0 500 1,000 2,000  
Feet



County Rt 60



# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 9 - Soils & Wetlands Map

Buck Pond  
Campground

Adirondack  
Park

### Legend

#### Soil Types

D-C-A

Duxbury - Colton - Adams Soils

T-L-B

Turnbridge - Lyman - Becket Soils

#### Wetland Types

Palustrine Wetlands

0 500 1,000 2,000  
Feet



County Rt 60

D-C-A

T-L-B

D-C-A

T-L-B

Buck  
Pond



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

March 2016



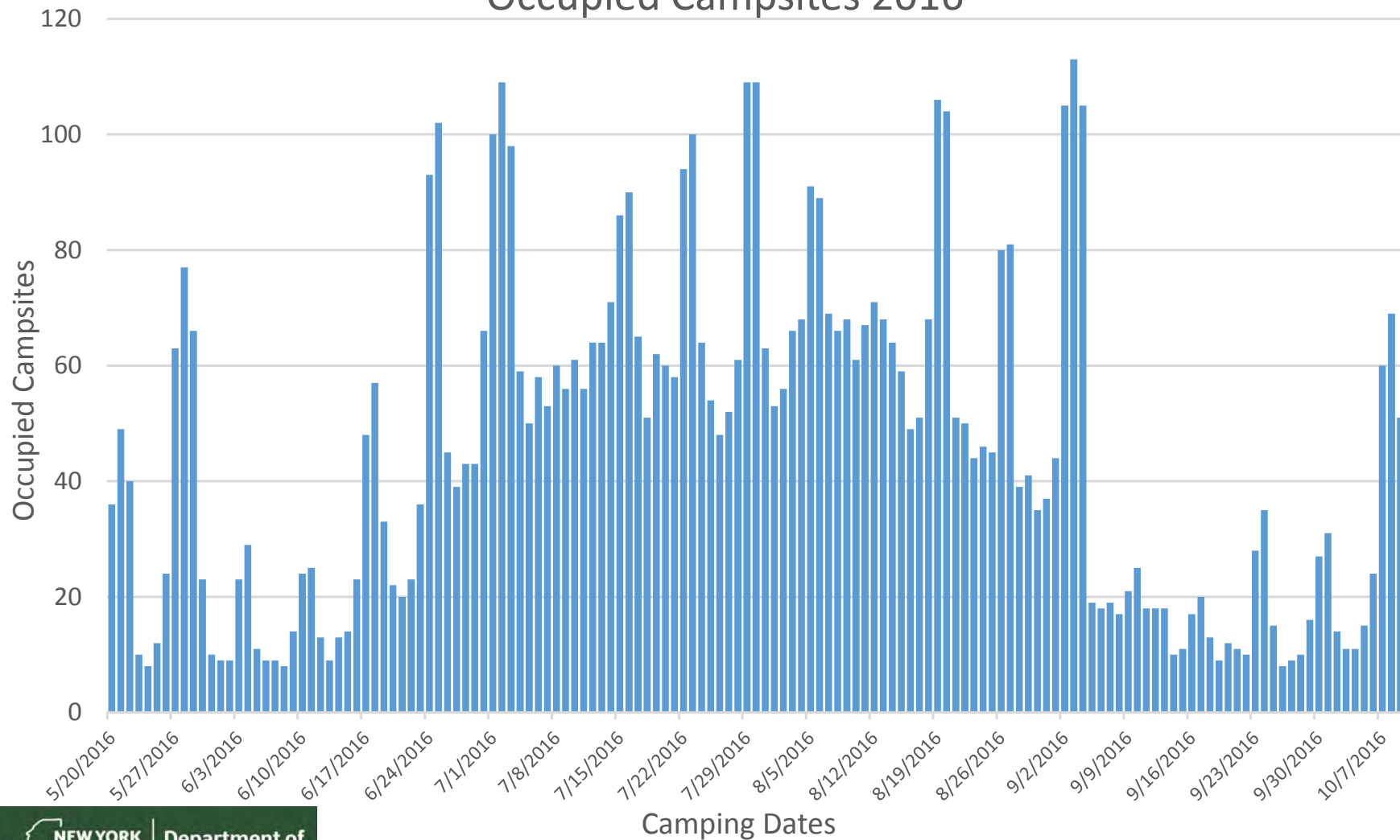
# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 10 - Campground occupancy 2016



Adirondack  
Park

### Buck Pond Campground Occupied Campsites 2016



Average Occupancy 42 %

Average Weekend Occupancy 55%

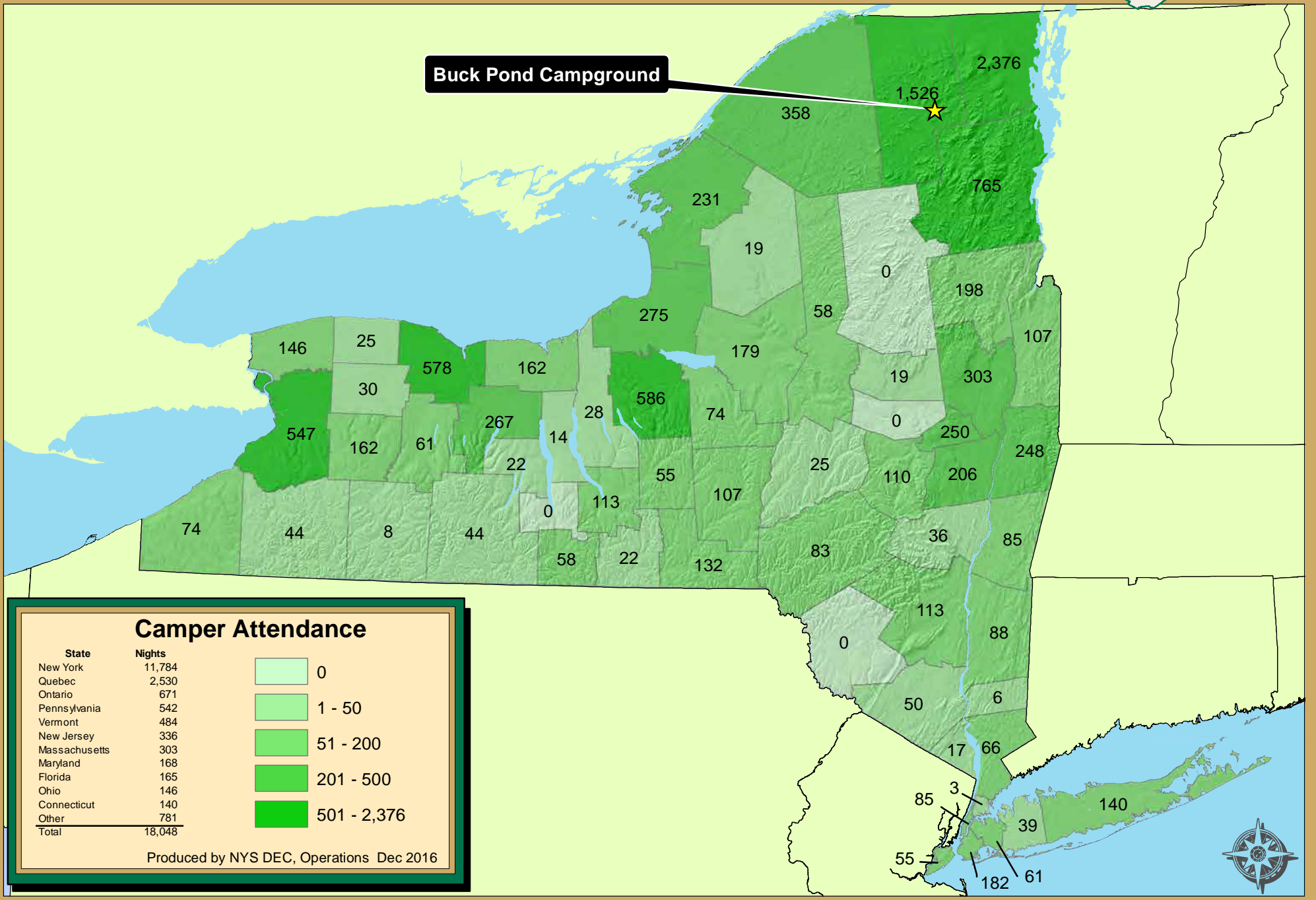
# Buck Pond Campground

Exhibit # 11 - Camper Demographics 2016



Adirondack  
Park

Buck Pond Campground



## Camper Attendance

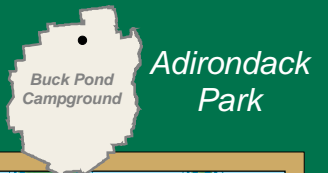
State	Nights	Color
New York	11,784	0
Quebec	2,530	1 - 50
Ontario	671	51 - 200
Pennsylvania	542	201 - 500
Vermont	484	501 - 2,376
New Jersey	336	
Massachusetts	303	
Maryland	168	
Florida	165	
Ohio	146	
Connecticut	140	
Other	781	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,048</b>	

Produced by NYS DEC, Operations Dec 2016



# Buck Pond Campground

## Exhibit # 12 - Management Action Map



### Legend

- |  |              |  |               |  |                |
|--|--------------|--|---------------|--|----------------|
|  | Bathhouse    |  | Parking Lot   |  | Recycle Center |
|  | Dump Station |  | Staff Housing |  | Boat Launch    |
|  | Restroom     |  | Ticket Booth  |  |                |

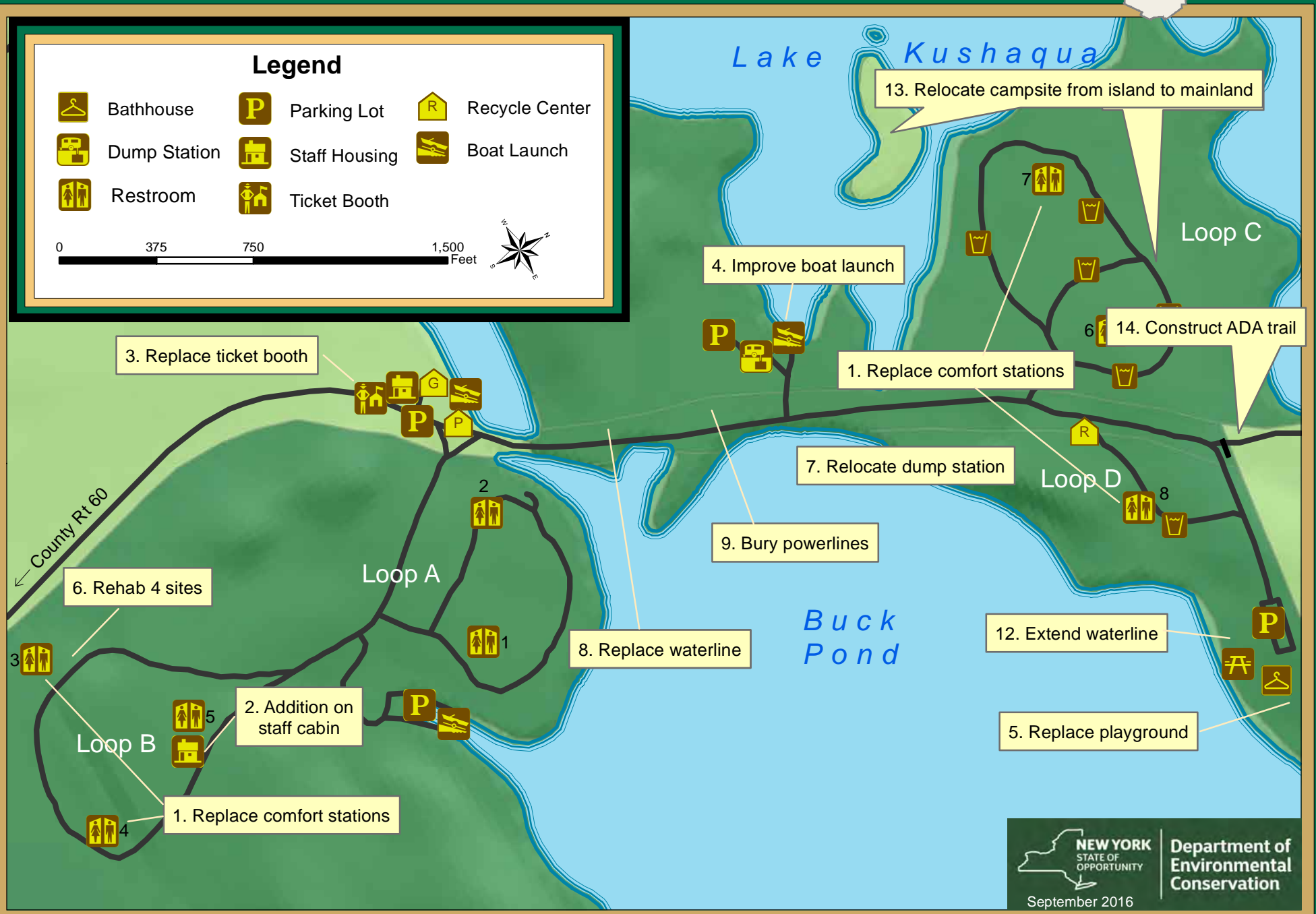


Exhibit # 13

► Photos of Buck Pond Campground





Caretaker Cabin



Entrance Area



Ticket Booth



Garage



Day Use Area



Beach



Bathhouse



Bathhouse Interior



Assistant Caretaker Building



Day Use Parking Area



Day Use Area



Entrance Parking Area



Chlorination Building



Recycling Building

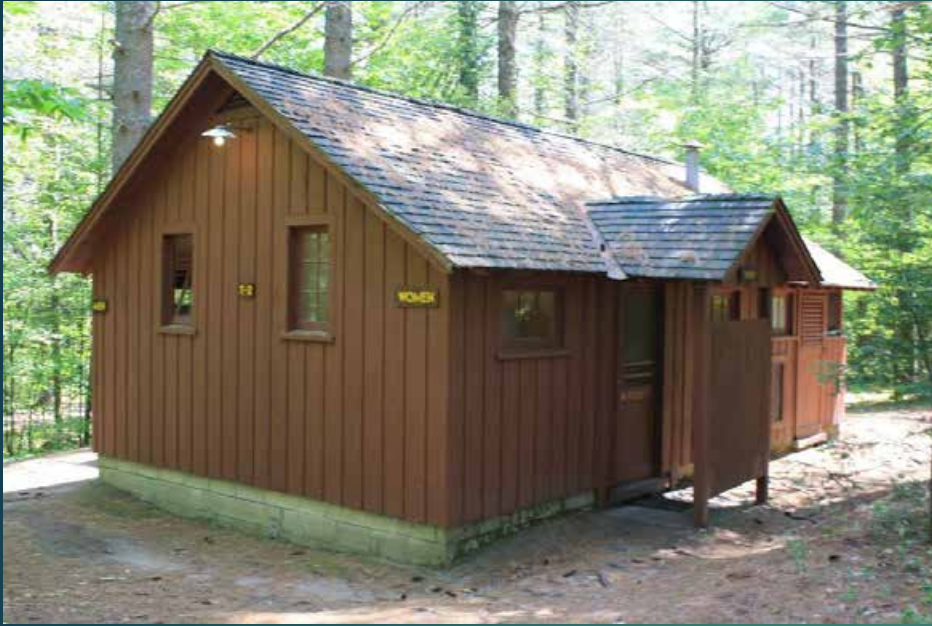


Comfort Station #1



Comfort Station Interior





Comfort Station #2



Comfort Station Slop Sink



Comfort Station #3 –Slop Sink Entrance



Comfort Station #4



Comfort Station #5



Comfort Station #6



Comfort Station #7



Comfort Station #8



Buck Pond Car Top Launch



Buck Pond Parking Area



Lake Kushaqua Boat Launch



Lake Kushaqua Parking Area

## Exhibit #14 – Response to public comments

Comments on the Buck Pond Draft Unit Management Plan were received until May 15, 2017.

All public comments were reviewed and the Department responses are posted here as part of the Final Unit Management Plan.

Comment: Upgrades to the bathrooms definitely needed and welcomed.

Response: This management action is consistent with the Generic Unit Management Plan which states that facilities found to be contributing to the degradation of physical, biological and sociological resources of the recreation area will be rehabilitated so as to upgrade and/or stabilize resource values.

Comment: Moving the dump station away from Lake Kushaqua is necessary.

Response: The new location should eliminate congestion and insure compliance with environmental regulations.

Comment: Strongly object to removing one of the campsites on the island and allowing twelve people to camp at the one remaining campsite as a group site! This is directly across from loop C and very close to the water front sites situated there. That many campers will entice noise and possibly drinking parties.

Response: The island campsites are located on lands classified as Wild Forest and do not meet the site-separation guideline for campsites located within this land classification. The proposed single group site is consistent with regulations for primitive sites. All users will be required to be registered with the campground resulting in additional management controls of the site.

Comment: Consider putting in an area strictly for bicycle tourists. Other campgrounds provide an area with raised gravel beds for tent sites, a rack to lock bikes, maybe a work stand, and a gazebo to eat under as the tents are so small.

Response: Campsites are designed to accommodate as many user types as possible. Installing sites strictly for bicycle tourists will limit the occupancy of the sites and the availability for other user types.



**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

**SHERMAN CRAIG**  
Chairman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

July 14, 2017

Honorable Basil Seggos  
Commissioner  
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12233-0001

Re: **BUCK POND CAMPGROUND UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

I am writing on behalf of the Adirondack Park Agency Board to advise you that at the July 13, 2017 Agency meeting the Board approved the enclosed Resolution finding the Buck Pond Campground Unit Management Plan in conformance with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

As always, we appreciate the continued commitment of your staff to these important plans and to the consultative process in which we engage.

Sincerely,

Terry Martino  
Executive Director

TM:sas  
Enclosure

cc: Venetia Lannon, Deputy Secretary for the Environment  
Rajiv Shah, Assistant Secretary for the Environment  
Kathleen Moser, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources, DEC  
Robert Davies, Director, Division of Lands and Forests, DEC  
Karyn Richards, Forest Preserve Coordinator, DEC  
Mark Malinoski, Director, Operations  
Robert Stegemann, Director, Region 5, DEC  
Judy Drabicki, Director, Region 6, DEC  
Kathleen Regan, APA  
Agency Members and Designees





**SHERMAN CRAIG**  
Chairman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY  
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
WITH RESPECT TO BUCK POND PUBLIC CAMPGROUND  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**JULY 13, 2017**

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

**WHEREAS**, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan conforms to such general guidelines and criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a site-specific unit management plan for the Buck Pond Public Campground in the Town of Franklin, Franklin County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the final Buck Pond Public Campground Unit Management Plan (the Plan), dated June 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the management actions proposed within the Plan are Type II Actions pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 618.2; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency has found the Final Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Public Campgrounds and Day Use Areas complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency is requested to determine whether the Plan is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Plan; and



**WHEREAS**, the Plan recognizes the need to rehabilitate individual campsites degraded by intensive public use according to the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan's objectives include upgrading and otherwise improving the campground's utilities and playground facilities, rehabilitating four tent sites to universal design, and relocating a remote campsite and other infrastructure in order to provide all visitors with enhanced recreational opportunities while minimizing resource impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation recognize the practice of consultation with each other as set forth in a memorandum of understanding and will continue to review management proposals not detailed in this Unit Management Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Buck Pond Public Campground Unit Management Plan, dated June 2017, complies with the Final Generic Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Public Campgrounds and Day Use Areas, and conforms to the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan including the Guidelines for Management and Use of Intensive Use Areas and Campgrounds; and,

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

Resolution adopted on this date, July 13, 2017.

**AYES:** Sherm Craig, Chairman, Chad Dawson, John Ernst, Art Lussi, Barbara Rice, William Thomas, Dan Wilt, Brad Austin, Lynne Mahoney, Bob Stegemann

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Karen Feldman